

**Church Council Meeting**  
**Bethany Lutheran Church**  
**February 24, 2009**

**Present:** Pastor Ron Glusenkamp, Pastor Ruth Ann Loughry, Doug Aldrich, Kevin Dempsey, Peggy Furgason, Deb Bayles, Don Abram, Andy Gift, Michelle Stone Kraus, Sherri Koelbel, Karen Witt, Joel Halvorson, Maren Diercks, Becky Godec, Bill King, Terry Pickett, Heather Kekstadt

**Absent:** Kevin McAuliffe

**Guest:** Forrest Guittar

Pastor Ruth Ann opened with prayer; Maren shared her “Walk with Jesus” reflection and devotion. Doug called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

**January minutes** were approved as written.

**Clergy Report:** Pastor Ron, Pastor Ruth Ann

1. Pastor Ron spoke about Lent and the 2009 Bethany calendar handout. The theme for Lent is the Psalms GPS: God’s Positioning System and emphasizes a different Psalm each week. He explained that life is made up of stages of orientation, disorientation and reorientation and the Psalms help us on the journey. He said that the Stations of the Cross will be part of the Labyrinth experience. In highlighting the yearlong calendar, he stated that Dr. James Echols will be the preacher for Reformation Sunday, and preaching on Consecration Sunday will be Rev. Mark Ramseth. A workshop entitled “Where Do Pastors Come from?” is in the planning stages.
2. Pastor Ruth Ann talked about the evening Lenten taize services and invited Council members to attend. She explained the contemplative nature of the service. She said she is excited about the Lenten mentoring program. She met with 15 congregation members on February 22<sup>nd</sup> regarding the revised Statement on Human Sexuality. The Fellowship Team met prior to the council meeting and is on their way to administering the Spiritual Gifts surveys.

**Guest Speaker** Forrest Guittar, Director of Festival of Faith and the Arts

1. Forrest told the history of the Festival program and how the building came to be used as a form of community outreach since both outside groups as well as Bethany groups utilize the building on a regular and continuing basis.
2. He explained that the Festival of Faith and the Arts has adopted a new, more refined vision which emphasizes all the arts, not just music.
3. The new vision supports the MVG of Gathering, Preparing, Energizing, Connecting and Enabling. He explained that the program’s three areas of focus are Inreach, Outreach and Upreach.
4. He explained that remuneration depends upon the group but that most outside groups pay a fee to utilize space.

**Financial Update:** Kevin Dempsey, Joel Halvorson

1. January was a “yellow light” month with both giving and expenses below budget (see handout).
2. Joel provided a budget planning handout for the 2009/10 budget. He pointed out that if it’s assumed that the congregation’s support of the General Fund remains at \$2.1 million, a major challenge is the personnel budget (see handout). He explained that the Founders Campaign funds are not intended to be used for General Fund shortfall.
3. There was discussion regarding:
  - a. The Founders Campaign savings allocations of 60-30-10 still remain a Council decision.
  - b. Regarding Council’s responsibility to make budget decisions, more detailed information is needed.

- c. Doug stated that decisions may need to be made based on which programs are working and growing and which ones might be diminishing or in need of change. Sherri asked if a list of defunct or obsolete programs could be put together, including costs.
  - d. New member growth is another part of the conversation around budgeting and contributions.
  - e. Doug would like the budgeting discussion to include what the contingency plan would be should contributions be lower than budgeted.
4. Council will need to be prepared to discuss the budget at the March meeting with approval at the April meeting.
  5. A motion was made, seconded and passed (13-1) recommending that staff use \$2.1 million as the budget.

Doug closed the meeting with prayer at 9:35 p.m.