

**Church Council Meeting  
Bethany Lutheran Church  
January 27, 2009**

**Present:** Pastor Ron Glusenkamp, Pastor Ruth Ann Loughry, Doug Aldrich, Kevin Dempsey, Kevin McAuliffe, 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

Doug opened with devotions and prayer and called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**December minutes** were approved as written.

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

1. Pastor Ron reported that he, Pastor Ruth Ann, Pastor Patrice and Kirsten had spent the day at the Theological Conference in Colorado Springs. He encouraged Council members to attend the Lenten Retreat which takes place March 5-7 as well as participate in the Lenten devotional. The theme for Lent this year is the Psalms – God’s Positioning System. Pastor Ron highlighted the youth service on January 25<sup>th</sup>, celebrating the Second Century Club, and the energy surrounding the day. His dream is to have a “family life celebration” at the 10:30 service once a month.
2. Pastor Ruth Ann said that one event which is currently taking place which ties into the “family life celebration” concept is the quarterly family ministry gatherings which include worship and which have been well attended. She reported that she had attended the Middle School Youth Gathering with 30 youth and 9 adults and that it had been a positive experience for everyone. Confirmation family nights include discussions regarding healthy relationships. Eighteen people are attending the Wednesday night Disciple class. There was discussion about the draft ELCA Statement on Human Sexuality. Pastor Ruth Ann will be leading a conversation on the statement on February 22. It will then go to the ELCA Church Council. On April 19, Pastor Ron and Kirsten Nelson Roenfeldt are scheduled to lead a discussion on the statement before it goes to the Synod Assembly in April/May.

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

1. In addition to the monthly financial report and analysis chart, Joel and Kevin provided a financial primer and summary of Bethany’s 2008 financial results. The primer includes an overview of the financial framework, Council financial responsibilities, the approved 2009 six-month budget, the allocation of the projected savings from the Founders Campaign, a “strawman” 2009/10 budget, and a timeline for the preparation and approval for the 2009/10 budget. (See handout.)
2. Joel and Pastor Ron emphasized that part of Council’s responsibility is to understand the financial information provided each month and be able to communicate it accurately and uniformly to the congregation when questions arise.
3. A key focus area for the 2009/10 budget will include stewardship and increased giving/pledging, with particular emphasis on those who currently give nothing financially; Fellowship Team (involving new members in the life of the church) as well as utilizing the Spiritual Gifts inventory to increase involvement.
4. There was discussion regarding the status of Founders Campaign giving, new programs, communication with the congregation, the reduction in the spend plan.

**Adult Education Ministry Team:** Karen Witt

1. Karen explained that the purpose of the Adult Learning Team is to monitor, plan, implement and evaluate adult education, working in conjunction with the pastors, to provide adults with opportunities for spiritual growth.
2. Following discussion, the motion to adopt the Adult Learning Team charter was approved unanimously.

**President's Discussion Items:** Doug Aldrich

1. Workshop Reflections – Doug thanked everyone for their time and work at the workshop and referred to the 2009 Guidelines for Norms & Expectations (handout).
2. Liaison Positions
  - a. WELCA and the Garden Task Force were removed from the list of positions. The senior groups (currently XYZ and Young at Heart) were added.
  - b. A sign-up sheet was passed around.
3. A rough draft of future agenda items was provided.
4. Discussion regarding the 2009 format for Council devotions.
  - a. Continue Slice of Life with those Council members who didn't have an opportunity to participate last year (Maren, Doug, Sherri); new "revised" version renamed Walk with Jesus in keeping with this year's stewardship emphasis.
  - b. Pastor Ruth Ann suggested implementing the four keys (caring conversations, devotions, service and rituals & traditions) and/or using Faith Talk cards.

**Unfinished Business**

1. Resolution/Line of Credit/Wells Fargo - A motion was made and passed authorizing Pastor Ron, Doug, Kevin D. and Joel to execute banking procedures.
2. A motion approving the housing allowance for Pastor Ron (\$36,000), Pastor Ruth Ann (\$22,000) and Pastor Patrice (\$18,700) passed unanimously.
3. Audit Committee Appointment – a motion approving Denny Ahlman for a 3 year term to the Audit Committee passed unanimously.
4. Joel provided a memo which will go to staff members regarding the budget preparation and timeline for Fiscal Year 2010 (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010).

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.  
Pastor Ron closed with prayer.