

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

Present: Pastor Ruth Ann Loughry, Doug Aldrich, Kevin Dempsey, Peggy Furgason, Deb Bayles, Don Abram, Andy Gift, Michelle Stone Kraus, Sherri Koelbel, Joel Halvorson, Becky Godec, Bill King, Kevin McAuliffe, Heather Kekstadt

Excused: Pastor Ron Glusenkamp, Terry Pickett, Maren Diercks, Karen Witt

Pastor Ruth Ann opened with prayer.

Doug called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

February minutes were approved as written.

Nominating Committee Report: Andy Gift

1. Andy reported that the Nominating Committee took the Spiritual Gifts inventory, which will be helpful as they consider candidates for Council, Foundation, etc.
2. Andy asked Council members to consider potential candidates for Council and reflect on desirable characteristics and qualities for leadership.
3. Discussion included beginning the nominating process earlier in the year; ideally, the roster of candidates would be finalized no later than August. A suggestion was made to offer an adult class on church leadership and what's involved in serving in a leadership role.

Memorial Garden Task Force Update: Joel Halvorson

1. Joel provided a handout of the guidelines proposed by the Memorial Garden Task Force. The document will be incorporated into the current paperwork for Bethany's Memorial Garden.
2. The task force consisted of Andrea Spronk, Irene McLean and Bill & Karen Martin.

Clergy Report: Pastor Ruth Ann

1. The Fellowship Team is meeting monthly and has assigned ten more groups to take the Spiritual Gifts inventory; many groups have already taken it. The data is being entered into Bethany's database.
2. Pastor Ruth Ann invited and encouraged Council members to the Hein-Fry lecture on March 28th.
3. Dedication of 500 new pew Bibles took place on Sunday, March 22nd at the 9:00 service. The Bibles were donated by three Bethany families through memorials.
4. Pastor Ruth Ann thanked Joel, Doug and Kevin for facilitating the town hall meetings dealing with the 2009-10 budget.
5. The next conversation on the proposed ELCA Statement on Human Sexuality and recommended Social Statement is scheduled for Sunday, April 19, from 10:30a.m. to 12:30p.m. with Pastor Ron and Kirsten Nelson Roenfeldt.

Financial Update: Kevin Dempsey, Joel Halvorson

1. See handout for February and year-to-date updates.
2. The Audit Committee approved a proposal from Capin Crouse LLP to complete the 2008/09 18-month audit and recommended that Council formally appoint Capin Crouse as the independent auditor for Bethany Lutheran Church. A motion for approval was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Council voted to go into executive session at 7:35p.m.