

Pastor Glusenkamp September 2009 Report to Church Council
9/22/09

Pastor Ruth Ann and I have been asked by the Exec Committee to send our written reports to you in advance of the council meeting. If one was to summarize what we have been up to since we last met, it could and would most likely be condensed into just two words "***faith formation.***" For it is in, with and under (to borrow a line from Dr. Martin Luther) the elements of ***faith formation*** that we find ourselves, preaching, teaching, leading, listening and serving. The sermons on August 23, 30th, September 6 & 13th have all been expositions about what it means to have one's life transformed by Jesus Christ. ***Faith Formations*** an intentional life-long process of equipping, empowering and unleashing people for an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus Christ through worship, learning, service, prayer, community and life experiences in order to live out one's baptismal calling.

A significant part of ***faith formation*** is working with confirmation students and parents. This year all incoming 7th grade confirmation students and their parents are receiving a home "faith talk" visit from members of the confirmation team. We kicked off the season on the 8th with a wonderful service and this last Wednesday we entered the world of chaos and formlessness only to be illuminated by the light and word of God. We are new creations in Christ! Dr. Paul Hill continues to coach members of the team. He will be with us at Council on October 27th as a key presenter.

The pastoral staff coupled with the Exec Committee has monitored the various press releases and pastoral letters from Bishop Hanson and Bishop Allan. Your continued willingness to be "non-anxious" leaders during anxious times is a blessing for our congregation and community. I received five written responses from council members as to their thoughts and comments regarding the CWA action on human sexuality.

Covenant Village has posted the position of a "parish nurse" (Health and Wellness Director). The job posting will be in place until at least the end of September. Earlier today we had representatives from Covenant make a "Heart and Soul" presentation to XYZ. They will be back in October as the presenters for Young at Heart.

Accompanying the reports is a resolution to become a Book of Faith congregation. I would like very much if we could and would affirm this at tonight's meeting.

You will also see in your packet a "Report and Recommendation from the Worship and Music Ministry Team" to the Exec Committee regarding traits and characteristic of the person who would be hired as "organist/minister of music." This report is not a job description per se, but rather a distillation of our reading and conversations.

I continue to meet with the music staff as we study THE SUNDAY ASSEMBLY. It is my intention to create a "blitz" during a one month period in order that we might get traction and intensity regarding team building and consensus regarding MVG.

Kirsten Nelson Roenfeldt has begun her contract work among us. I will share with you a Scope of Work. I'm grateful that we can make significant headway regarding Stewardship, Spiritual Gifts Assessment and Faith Formation with our youth through this approach.

October promises to be an amazing month. I highlight just a few of our offerings:

- October 4 Race for the Cure, Blessing of Animals, Lutheran College Fair
- October 7 A View from the Underside- BONHOEFFER
- October 11 Confirmation Sunday
- October 18 St. Luke's Sunday and All Lutheran Candlelight for Mental Illness
- October 25 Reformation Sunday, Dr. Jim Echols, preaching
- October 27 Dr. Paul Hill presenting at Church Council

As you are aware this coming Sunday we will be celebrating Kathy Eggleston's significant ministry among us. I've shared the following prayer with members of the Exec Committee and requested that it be on our prayer chain for the next two weeks:

CHURCH MUSICIANS AND ARTISTS

God of majesty, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be with your servants especially Kathy and Kent Eggleston who have made art and music for your people, that with joy we on earth may glimpse your beauty, and bring us to the fulfillment of that hope of perfection which will be ours as we stand before your unveiled glory. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. (197) amen

William Bridges who has written extensively around the topic of "Transitions" has identified that there are three phases/stages during times like this: (1) Beginnings; (2) Endings; and (3) the times in between. It is important to give plenty of attention, time and intentionality to all three phases, especially the "times in between."
May God continue to bless our congregation as we

- Worship Meaningfully in the Lutheran tradition, with a variety of liturgical and musical experiences
- Grow Spiritually in diverse Christian education programs, for all levels of understanding and stages of life
- Serve Purposefully those in need who live in our local, regional and global communities
- Share Fellowship with one another that builds connections and strengthens bonds
- Witness Intentionally to all those who seek God and a welcoming, embracing church