

## Bethany Lutheran Church Council Report

1. Reported By: Pastor Ruth Ann Loughry
2. Organization: Clergy
3. Date: March 22, 2011
4. Report Purpose and Scope:  
Pastoral and Programmatic
5. Summary for Council:
  1. Lent - Blessed to be a Blessing
    - a. Lenten Retreat - 30 participants with a renewed sense of connection between Luther's Small Catechism and daily living. We laughed, learned and relaxed at beautiful St. Malo's.
    - b. Confirmation students and mentors: more mentors from out of state. Utilizing technology to be connected (skype, email). Fascination and faith formation with blessing cups and labyrinths and silence during Taize.
    - c. Faith Formation Team is also working through the Mentor/Student booklet so that we are practicing what we are expecting of others.
    - d. Great website support from Brenda for the Lenten themes.
    - e. Check out the 'How to give a blessing' video. Pass this onto your friends!
    - f. Wednesday noon worship and soup provides fellowship with others.
    - g. We are excited about Dennis Dewey's return. See Pr Ron's report. Please help us get the word out for his presentations.
  2. Stephen Ministry - we have multiple Stephen Ministers open right now to Care Receivers. If you know someone in need of a Christian caregiver, please send them my name and contact information.
  3. Pr. Rick Rouse - We had a great day of visioning with staff and lay members on March 19-20. The process will unfold. It excites me to see how God will move as we open ourselves to the Spirit.
  4. Director of Health and Wellness - I had personal conversations with both candidates for the position. We are blessed that God brought these two individuals to interview at Bethany.
6. Detailed Plans or Next Steps:
  1. Continue through Lent with planned activities.
  2. Blessed to be the Blessing: planning team is doing excellent work! Support them and work on the two worship pieces, May 21 and May 22 (10:30 service).
  3. Continue to plan the Family Retreat, April 29 - May 1

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4. Synod Assembly, May 12-14. I am working on a task force to improve communications about the Synod structure and ministries. It's fun and I believe will help people understand more fully the nature of Synod activities.
5. Mission Partners: This Synod committee is working to facilitate improved relationships with Mission Partner Congregations. We are starting small and will work outwards. This group meets twice a year.
6. How are you practicing the Lenten disciplines? What support do you need in order to do so? Take a booklet or check it out online. May God bless you faith formers!