

**Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting**  
**Monday, August 11, 2014**  
**7:00 PM**

Excused: Stephanie Feaser, Jim Ingraham, Chad Foltz,

Absent: Tinky Keen, Bruce Matson, Ferrell Newman

Present: Heather Heckel, Faith Hobson, Ernie Foltz, Gerald Ransone, Glen Kellogg, Shannon Fleming, Paul Quel,

Devotions - Faith Hobson

1) Approve July's Minutes; Moved and accepted, with one correction

2) Pastor's Report—

- a) Document mailed regarding young families (included at the end of this document).
- b) Sunday school, Asked 4 educators (members) to meet to develop a program that works for our children; do it well, publicize it well.
- c) Request from Jennifer John to cover the t-shirt fees for Rally Day to come from the Christian Education Budget. This shouldn't impact the Christian Education budget in any negative way, or make it go over.
- d) Youth Ministry
- e) Couples and Singles
- f) Village Nights activities
- g) Men's group (report later on). Met with Forrest Feaser about the remodel of the playground. Decided it is best to remove all of the old playground equipment and that we consider making a playground in a much more visible/accessible area. Forrest will present a proposal for the playground to be installed in a new location. Discussion of how to inform and get input from congregation for consideration of moving the playground (in the parking lot closest to Woodman Rd) or in the grassy area adjacent to that part of the parking lot. Funds we can allocate for funding of the project were discussed. Heather and Pastor Eric will work on a draft document to the congregation.
- h) Vacation 9/11 through 9/16

3) Ministry Team Reports

- a) Stewardship report document circulated. Timeframe 10/12/2014 kick-off. 10/5/2014 Pastor Eric will be pulpit swapping with the interim pastor at St. Luke's, to discuss inter-congregational connections and do stewardship talks. 11/2/2014 Dedication Sunday. Will piggy back with the cottage meetings, and we will be doing something like the Saddle Bag campaign. Distributed 10/12 and dedicated 11/2.

- b) Men's group report—Start with prayer and devotion shared list of projects and who is in charge of them.
  - c) Shannon—Vision Team: Jennifer John talked with principal of Moody Middle about issues important to the community, Kathi and Shannon are working on contacting people to agree to host the meetings, and who would be willing to attend. Considering having people sign up by zip code after church. Or, once hosts are identified, have them contact the people in their area.
- 4) Treasurer's Report
- a) Lower expenses this year
    - i) Some items of note:
      - (1) Utilities are high due to warm weather
      - (2) Maintenance is somewhat larger, Paul will check if this is a one-time expense, or if several projects are going on at once.
- 5) Old Business
- a) Budget Group Report
    - i) Met on August 8/6/14 to develop a strategy
    - ii) Trying to develop realistic income projections, will look at linking income projections to historical attendance
    - iii) Save \$ from Pray it Forward for initiatives for the church, need to meet with visioning committee to develop long term strategies
    - iv) Richard will come up with a list of long term issues (like the parking lot, malfunctioning lights, etc)
    - v) Develop a long-term strategy to move the church forward
    - vi) Be able to meet our benevolence
    - vii) What to do about salary increases when we have a flat budget.
    - viii) Keeping the congregation informed about the fate of the Pray it Forward campaign (splitting between benevolence and reserve)
  - b) Council Nominations for 2015
    - i) Tear-off sheets were included in the last two Sundays
  - c) Congregational Meeting
    - i) 9/21/2014; One service @ 9:30, meeting to follow the service.
      - (1) Discuss/vote on constitution
      - (2) Vote for council members
      - (3) Preliminary budget presentation

- (4) Update from the vision committee
- (5) Preview of Stewardship activities
- d) Child Safety Policy/Background Check/Sexual Misconduct Form
  - i) Heather presented a revised document, reflecting comments from council
  - ii) Moved, seconded and voted unanimous vote
- e) Janitorial service—Richard has put out bid requests with several companies (~3)
- 6) New Business
  - a) Space Use Request from Dogwood Alliance
    - i) Non-profit environmental organization, want to use our facilities for meeting on 8/27, they need internet access and want to set up a PowerPoint presentation.
    - ii) Our internet access doesn't extend to the central classroom.
    - iii) This group is probably outside the mission and use policies of our church.
  - b) Jennifer John would like to establish a small free library spot at our church. A little structure on a post (like a house or barn), and books are put inside, register on the site and take or leave a book. This is something we could build and put up on the service day. There may be Thrivent funds available; they approved \$800 for Gods Work/Our Hands. Moved, seconded and unanimously approved. Thinking that keeping it on our property (visibility issues aside) avoids having to get permissions. Issues with liability? Coming into the parking lot shouldn't represent too much risk.
  - c) Update on organ and handbells. There is only one major issue with the organ, and Linda is able to work around that. The handbells have been returned from the vendor.
  - d) Someone raised an issue that the ladies' rooms were not quite clean.
- 7) Next Meeting: September 8
- 8) Remarks for the Good of the Church/Closing

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

**Pastor's Report**  
**YOUNG FAMILY GATHERING CONVERSATION**  
*“Creating Hearts for Jesus”*  
**Christ Lutheran Church**  
**July 22, 2014**

It seems that our conversations, especially in the previous gathering, draw us to a need for cohesiveness in our children's ministries. So the collective umbrella has been labeled, “Young Family Ministries.”

**Why and What Are Young Family Ministries?**

Christ Church as seen by some of our young families as a place of: Not being “shushed;” community of all the baptized; having the children feel a sense of ownership; where others care about “my child;” connections.

- 1.) To form faith within children and strengthen the faith of parents
  - Learn the language and lifestyle of a Christian
  - Learn significance of Bible stories as a way to understand our own stories
  - Create a heart for Jesus
- 2.) Develop support relationships among Christ's children and parents
- 3.) Simple fun together

**Discussion of Eagle Scout Project (Playground) by Forrest Feaser**

- Move the location to the area beside the Worship Building
- This project would have several steps to completion
- Initial Priorities: Swings; Slide; Fenced in
- Next Steps for initial phase:
  - Present to Council (Forrest Feaser)
  - Estimate Time of work: Fall, 2014

**Nursery Needs**

- Volunteers only or paid person? Paid person was the preference
  - Consistently one person would help make children & parents more comfortable & removes a possible barrier for parents & visitors
- Trial time: September thru May
- Infant to age 3
- 8 am – 12 pm
- Safety Policy Goal: To have 2 people (1 paid; 1 volunteer) with children

**Junior Church**

- A ministry OF the church, so volunteers need to come from entire church
- Preschool – 1<sup>st</sup> grade (3 year olds could leave nursery to attend)

## **Village Nights**

- Presently: Meal, Confirmation & Adult Bible Study, worship. (5:45-7:45 pm)
- May be opportunity for more intentional participation by our young families
  - See this evening as a Cool Christian/Littlest Lutheran event
  - Linda Keener offered children's music time (15 min.) every other Wed.
  - Children need ownership, so Cool Christian age could help lead worship
  - Over for Young Families by 7 pm

## **Sunday school**

- Struggles: Lack of meaning to get families here; needs more participation
- Use Bible stories that progress from little on up.
  - Preschoolers & early schoolers need the Bible stories & activities to help them get to know the stories.
  - Older children need the Bible stories & activities to help them understand their own stories/lives.

3 levels of learning/classes:

- Preschool
- Kindergarten thru 2<sup>nd</sup> grade
- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Suggested to ask other churches what works for them.
- Time to worship at their level, in their way

## **Littlest Lutherans/Cool Christians**

- Traditionally the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday, but may want to vary to Saturday evening and/or Sunday evening depending upon the event.
- To be a time of faith formation, relationship building and fun
- Other activities like Trunk or Treat & Easter Egg Hunt need to have increased leadership, possibly a number of people responsible for parts of each event.

## **Worship**

- More participation from Cool Christian age
- Use Village Nights as "on-the-job training"
- Noted: We need one person to serve on the Worship Planning Group to be an advocate/planner for children's participation.

Participating Families: John; Hamer; Keen; Huffer/Leighton; Jacobson; Heckel; Hizer; Bahen.

Thanks to Dawn Mottet & Danielle Bosdell for taking care of our children; Linda Keener for offering them music; & Donna Moehring for seeing to the meal.