

**St. Mary's Lutheran Church**  
**Congregation Council Meeting**  
November 19, 2009

|                 |                      |                      |                |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| <b>Present:</b> | David Buggs          | Kate Dischler-Noreen | Andy Schroeder |
|                 | Barbara Campbell     | Dennis Eirich        | Steve Seymour  |
|                 | Sharon Corso         | Marilyn Jensen       | Ken Winkle     |
|                 | Laura Dietrich       | Gail Musolf          |                |
|                 | Pastor David Raben   | Pastor Carl Johnson  |                |
|                 | Pastor Brian Alberti | Jerry Willing        |                |

**Not Present:** Randy Hansche, David Mielke, Janet Schoettler, Jon Svatek

**Call to Order:** Council Vice-President, Steve Seymour, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Devotions:** Dennis Eirich led the evening devotions with excerpts from the 2009 Daily Guideposts Devotional.

**Congregational Forum:** Ken Nelson presented a report from the Homeland Ministries committee on how the church will celebrate veteran's who are in attendance at the upcoming Sunday service. He also spoke about service time and how important it is that the soldiers fighting in the foreign countries now are not forgotten. Care packages for Christmas will be sent out shortly & he passed around a list of items that are needed for those packages. Council members were encouraged to talk about this to other congregational members in order to fill the barrels for collection in Fellowship Hall.

**Approval of November 19, 2009 Agenda:**

**Motion:** David Buggs

**Second:** Barbara Campbell

**Passed**

**Approval of October 15, 2009 Minutes:**

**Motion:** Marilyn Jensen

**Second:** David Buggs

**Passed**

**Financial Secretary Report:** Sharon Corso, Financial Secretary, made note to two changes in the Finance Committee report for October that was e-mailed to Council members. She also made note that the Finance Committee encouraged Jerry Willing, the Business Manager, to obtain more banking re-financing quotes for the intended roof & parking lot projects. At present the Finance committee is looking at three (3) policies/procedures to see if any changes need to be made or the policies re-written.

- Policy Number F-001 – Title: **Committee Financial Management, Responsibility and Accountability.** Sharon expressed concern that this is an organizational policy plan that a committee needs to get moving on. After discussion, a committee was formed consisting of Pastor Raben, Laura Dietrich and Ken Winkle.
- Policy Number F-002 – Title: **Management of Financial Gifts.**
- Policy Number F-003 – Title: **Management and Funding of “Dedicated” Accounts.** Mike Jones, a member of the Finance Committee, will be rewriting these two policies with t

additions that Council put into place this past year. It was recommended that when the policies are changed that it should be noted on the policies if they are being replaced, rewritten, etc.

- Suggestion from Sharon Corso to help with the cash flow; change payrolls from every other week to semi-monthly. It was discussed that this should be brought to the attention & discussed at the next Personnel meeting.
- New members are needed to serve on the Finance Committee
- Income and expense sheet reports were sent via e-mail to council members

Sharon reported on the October Treasurer's statement. Average attendance for October was 541. Year-to-date attendance was 491.

### **Pastor's Report:**

Pastor Brian thanked everyone for the "meet & greet" which was held last month. He is settling in and will be preaching Thanksgiving and Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>. His Ordination service will be held Nov. 22, 2009 at St. Mary's with a potluck to follow.

Pastor Carl expressed his excitement and gratitude for the work that the E-Team has put in with all the various evangelism projects. He shared two evangelism stories with the Council.

Pastor Raben passed out information sheets with possible vision goals for the future. Each area of Caring, Pray, Love & Serve contained visionary ideas and council members spent time discussing them in groups and as a whole. His most important question was, "Is this God's vision for us"?

**Business Manager Report:** Jerry Willing, Business Manager passed out a preliminary budget for council members to look over. Discussion followed.

He stated that regarding the re-financing proposal passed at the congregational meeting on November 16, 2009, 3 banks expressed interest in working with the church. In the past few weeks, only the M & I Bank has responded. Jerry hopes to make contact with two more banks. Bidding along with revised specifications for the roofing project continues and bids to the specs will be open again.

**Fiscal Year Change Effects** - A proposal will be presented at the annual meeting concerning changing the church fiscal year to July 1 – June 30. The change would be effective July 1, 2010. The benefits of changing the fiscal year would be that budget planning and financial reporting would align with the church program year. Other implementation plans and timelines were discussed.

Jerry also reported for the Property Committee that the Sanctuary would be getting waxed and buffed this coming week. The Health Room is nearing completion with more work to be done on the walls & the phone system.

Jerry asked council members to return to their committees and notify them that the Annual Report will be assembled in December and all committee reports should be turned in as quickly as possible.

### **Old Business:**

**Call Committee:** Andy Schroeder, Call Committee member thanked everyone for their prayers and those who worked on the committee & Pastor Brian for accepting the Associate Pastor position at St. Mary's.

**Parish Fellowship:** Laura Dietrich announced there will be another "Chili Cook-off" on January 10, 2010.

and it will be a fundraiser for the Slidell trip.

**Welcome Potluck:** Marilyn Jensen passed a sing-up sheet around for council members to help at the Sunday potluck following the Ordination service for Pastor Brian.

**Communications Task Force:** Sharon Corso reported that Ashleigh Henrichs is considering taking over this committee. David Buggs also expressed his desire to help.

**Natural Church Development:** Ken Winkle announced that another survey would be taken the first part of December. This survey should give us some idea of how things are improving, or not improving at St. Mary's and indicates where our strengths or weaknesses still lie.

**Seminary Assistance:** Steve Seymour reported that Deb Hartfield was very honored to be receiving monetary assistance as she pursues her seminary studies. When we present her with the monetary gift at the upcoming church service, she also expressed a desire to give a short "faith talk".

**New Business:** Steve Seymour informed the council that Pastor Gary Grindeland did not wish to accept a stipend for his services on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>. He requested that any monetary stipend be donated to Lutheran Social Services. A motion was made by Dennis Eirich to give \$150.00 to Lutheran Social Services. Seconded by Barbara Campbell. Motion passed.

**Council Connection:** Sharon Corso reported on the following items that were brought to her attention by congregational members.

- Members were pleased to see the Council minutes published on the web page.
- Complaints of bathrooms in the Youth area needing more attention (cleaning)
- More details on the proposed budget – Many "want to know where their money is going." Want separate line items for staff salaries – not lumped together.
- Adamant question from a member of the congregation as to why the Council had not responded to the recent Church-wide Assembly's acceptance of a gay or lesbian in the position of leadership at an ELCA Church, and St. Mary's possibly limiting its contributions to the ELCA. (A brief discussion followed, and the Council referred this situation to the Synodical Affairs Ministry. Kate Dischler-Noreen, a member of that committee will report to us at the next council meeting.)

**Announcements:** Kate Dischler-Noreen noted an article in the Kenosha News stated that the Southern WI All Airborne Chapter, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association is seeking donations to aid a soldier who sustained serious injuries and is in need of financial support. Individuals should contact the chapter if they wish to donate to this cause.

Two thank you cards were read. The first was from Chaplain Robin from the Jail Chaplaincy Program and the other from the ELCA Urban Outreach Center for our gift of \$572.58.

Ken Winkle announced that the Christmas Concert would be on Sunday, December 13, 2009. Council members will again assist with the High Tea following the concert and Ken reminded those in attendance to e-mail him and let him know if they will be able to help. He also reminded everyone of the Advent Recitals which will be held at St. Mary's during the Advent season.

Thanksgiving Eve service will be held on Wednesday, November 24, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Everyone is encouraged to bring food items for the Shalom Center. Pie & ice cream will be served following the service.

**Calendar:**

- December Council Meeting will be Thursday, December 17, 2009 in the Lounge.
- December Council Connection - Randy Hansche.

**Adjournment and Closing Prayer:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. and closed with The Lord's Prayer in unison.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Jensen, Council Secretary