

Hosanna Lutheran Church
Council of Ministries Minutes (preliminary)
July 9, 2008

Present

Tim Boettcher, Linda Marsh, Pastor Greg, Bob Hille, Amanda Utecht, Diane Obialero, Marge Drew

Opening Prayer

Pastor Greg offered the opening prayer.

President's Report

Items for the President's Report will be covered in other agenda items. Our financial status improved during the month of June.

Previous Minutes

Bob Hille made a motion to accept the May 7, 2008 Minutes as presented. Second, Pastor Greg. Minutes approved.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Greg gave a brief summary of his recent trip to China. The Lutheran Church is very active throughout China. Interestingly, the schools are managed by the Lutheran Church, but the facilities, salaries, and other operational costs are paid by the Chinese government. Pastor Greg has approximately 1400 photographic slides that were taken on his trip that will be shared with the congregation during the month of September. September, 2008 will be Missions Month at Hosanna. Several guest speakers have been invited during September to give a "temple talk" and lead the Sunday morning Bible Study. Many mission opportunities are available for our congregation. Pastor Greg would like to plan a mission trip for our congregation in 2009. Panama is one of the possibilities.

October will be Stewardship month. Pastor Greg is now reviewing several different stewardship programs that may be used.

The Missions Committee is struggling and has lost some members. We are presently looking for other Missions options.

Pastor Greg plans to attend a family reunion in South Dakota. He will leave July 20th, after the 9:15 am service and plans to return for the Saturday service on July 26th.

Summer schedule of services will end on Sunday, August 31. Our Fall schedule will begin on Sunday, September 7th. Traditional Sunday service will begin at 8:00 am and the Praise service will move from 9:15 am to 10:30 am.

Pastor Greg continues to recover from his surgery; in fact he is half way there! Pastor Greg needs to sleep in a chair which is very uncomfortable deprives him of restful sleep.

PMC Report

Bob Hille, Head Elder, reported that the Faithful Service Award has been reinstated. Ruth Dawes received the current award that included a gift certificate for Starbucks Coffee. The Faithful Service Award will be awarded on a monthly basis.

Committee Reports

Sunday School Report A written report was received. Summer schedule is underway averaging 10 children per week. We are contacting teachers from last year to see if they are planning to teach classes in the fall. Plans for Rally Day have begun.

Youth Group Amanda Utecht, Youth Minister, attended the Council Meeting to discuss her concerns regarding the Youth Group. Presently, the Youth Group is not doing well. Attendance is low for regular meeting and planned special events. Amanda feels she has no support and questions whether she is the right person to lead the Youth Group. The Youth Board is not meeting. Amanda is seeking ideas to help save the Youth Group. Pastor Greg told Amanda the Youth Group has experienced various problems for years. He asked Amanda not to take the problems of the Youth Group personally and thanked her for her dedication and service. Pastor Greg said he is sorry for the struggles and frustrations that Amanda has experienced and asked her to explore other options for our Youth Group. There may be a larger youth group coming and to focus on members of the God Squad. Suggestions included: combine our Youth Group with another church; visit churches with a successful youth group and seek their ideas and assistance. Pastor Greg and Amanda will meet, with assistance from Tim Boettcher, discuss this problem and concerns further.

Early Learning Center Diane Obialero, Early Learning Center Chairperson, reported that currently 38 children are enrolled for the coming school year. Diane is concerned that the Early Learning Center is a bare bones operation. Teachers are under paid. The annual auction proceeds are used primarily for teacher salaries. No money is available for teacher supplies. The teachers and Board are good. Presently, only 2 children are enrolled for the Toddler program. More children are needed to make the program self sufficient. A decision needs to be made quickly if the Toddler program is going to be cancelled. Parents need to be notified immediately. Diane is seeking sources of free or inexpensive advertising for the Early Learning Center. A suggestion was made for Diane to contact Guy Larson regarding internet use and appropriate internet links. The Early Learning Center is better organized. Financial checks and balances are now in place.

Old Business

Capital Campaign Committee Still needs to identify committee members.

Memorial Accounts Continue to contact people and seek their decision regarding the use of funds remaining in these accounts given in memory of their loved

Building Soffit Repair Don Stewart will be out of town on business and unable to do the soffit repairs. We are seeking someone that can make the necessary building soffit repairs.

Re-vote on Thrivent Grant The original vote on the Thrivent Grant included a second and votes from individuals are ineligible to vote, according to our new Bylaws. A re-vote is necessary. Pastor Greg made a motion to use Thrivent Grant monies for Missions Ministries. Second, Bob Hille. Motion approved.

New Business

Volunteer Coordinator This person would work closely with Pastor Greg and the President to coordinate various Ministries and provide assistance as needed. Please contact Pastor Greg or Tim Boettcher with names of people that may be interested in accepting this position.

Pictorial Directory The pictorial directory is one of Tim Boettcher's priorities. Tim is working with Guy Larson to select the software that will be used.

Treasurer's Report

Linda Marsh reported that financially, the month of June was better when compared with the month of May. It will be Christmas season before we are back on track. We are approximately short \$2,000.00 when compared with last year. The current economic situation may be a part of the problem.

The necessary funds to cover the deficit for the Vacation Bible School program have been provided.

Tim Boettcher asked if it would be a good idea to get Jonathan Kennedy, Treasurer-elect, involved with Treasurer duties now. Linda Marsh said that usually just a short time is necessary since the Treasurer-elect is familiar with accounting practices.

Pastor Greg reminded Linda that the Finance Committee, comprised of the President-elect, Treasurer-elect and 2 congregational members, can be activated to provide assistance to the Treasurer as needed.

Open Concerns

Apparently, our custodian has quit. The custodian talked with Linda Marsh regarding her decision to quit. The custodian wants a higher salary even though the salary paid was is considered fair salary. This may be a good position for a high school or college student.

Pastor Greg continues to be on "light duty". He is in the office daily in the morning and makes visits in afternoon. Presently, no members of the congregation are hospitalized.

Prayer Concerns

Tim Boettcher reported that his employee that suffered a heart attack recently is improving.

Calendar

The next Council Meeting will be September 10th, 7:30 pm.

Closing Prayer

Pastor Greg offered prayer to close the Council Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Marge Drew

Council of Ministries Secretary