



October 18, 2011 Council Report

Council President Bonnie Ehrke opened the meeting at 6:37 p.m. Present: Bonnie, Elizabeth Kaashagen, Jaime Lewellin, Karen Hayes, Peggy Luther and Kristen Lien. Not present: Pastor Jim Schwarz, Kurt Klemp, Steve Wagner.

OPENING DEVOTION & PRAYER: Bonnie's devotion was about thankfulness, a fitting theme as we approach Thanksgiving. Including 1 Thess. 5:18, there are 138 Bible references to giving thanks. Also of interest was the origin of "Now Thank Thee All Our God", a (favorite) hymn composed by a Lutheran pastor way back in 1636. Bonnie led the group in an opening prayer.

CONSENT AGENDA: Financial Secretary Elizabeth presented the various monthly financial reports, making a comment that September 2011 contributions were down by about \$2,000 from one year ago. A couple adjustments need to be made (VBS dedicated account and Pastor Social Security).

Secretary's Report (Council Minutes from September) were reviewed, with mention made of a typographical error.

Property Committee A used riding lawn mower with snowblower attachment has been found. The Cemetery Association graciously offered to make the purchase. Night time lighting: discussion about inadequate outdoor lighting; Kurt will check this out prior to the November 22 Thanksgiving service hosted here at EKLC. Recall that a huge tree damaged the parsonage in early September. The estimate of damage was submitted to Church Mutual (insurance company) and approved. Paul Kaare will repair the damage.

Sunday School Lots of kids enrolled this year! The kids will be singing the first Sunday of each month. Proposal and subsequent discussion about a Family Worship Room. More good news: people are stepping up in leadership roles. Christmas pageant: looking to recruit a few adults to make this happen.

Stewardship The stewardship committee consists of only 2 people this year: Kristen Lien and Brenda Schroeder. Being that we are more than \$20,000 in arrears, Kristen and Brenda are working on creative solutions. Medium term theme: "Just Ask." Let's get different people sharing their gifts and participating in the life of the church. Long term: Let's ask ourselves, "What can we be? What should we be best in the world at?" How can we get more people to want to attend EKLC because we are filling something missing in their spiritual lives?

Call Committee They are reviewing audio/visual materials for four candidates. Some visits have been made.

Worship Committee/Other SS teachers & helpers installation will be on November 6. Pastor and Ann Marie Schowalter to visit EKLC on November 13. There will be a 7 p.m. ecumenical Thanksgiving worship service on November 22 (for the benefit of holiday travelers); clergy and members of other congregations in the Cambridge area are invited to participate. PNG missionaries John & Amy Lindstrom to visit EKLC on December 4.

Pastor's Report There are 17 confirmands in Grades 6, 7, and 8. Although Wednesday evening attendance has been excellent, few confirmands are attending weekly worship services. Heidi W. filled in for Pastor Jim in early October when he attended an event at Luther Seminary in Minneapolis. The Sunday service on October 30 will recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Confirmation Class of 1961.

President's Report Bonnie mentioned that October is Pastor Appreciation Month and that we are **very, very** thankful for Pastor Jim. On October 18, school/sewing/health kits, soap, blankets and quilts were loaded on a box car for Lutheran World Relief. Former intern Nathan Strong has accepted a call to serve 2 churches in North Dakota! His ordination took place at his home congregation in Fremont, Nebraska, on October 16! Best wishes to Pastor Nathan!!!! Due to a continued shortfall in giving, \$10,000 needs to be transferred from the Endowment Fund. Joy Graffin asked if she could purchase a stone bench to be placed in the playground area in memory of her Mom. (Of course she can.)

Motion made by Peggy, seconded by Karen, to approve all financial and committee reports of the Consent Agenda.

OLD BUSINESS:

* **David Danielson Memorial:** The Danielson family has requested a breakdown of memorial monies used. This breakdown will include previous decisions and amounts for ELCA Good Gifts, Sunday School, Library/Historical Room, Military Roll of Honor board, and a new amount to be decided by the Worship Committee for the missionary visit of the Lindstroms in December.

* **Personal Protection Act** (a/k/a Concealed Carry) becomes effective November 1, 2011.

NEW BUSINESS:

* **Budget 2012:** We need to think about forming a proposed budget for 2012.

* **Assignment for Council Members:** Come to next month's council meeting with thoughts on "What should EKLC be best at?"

There being no other business, we closed with the Lord's Prayer. Motion made by Kristen, seconded by Jaime, to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Luther, Recording Secretary