

**Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church
Council Minutes for Aug. 11, 2011**

*Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church
5801 Minnetonka Boulevard
St Louis Park, MN. 55416*

Attendance: Nicole Goerges, Carolee Cohen, Dave Latvala, Nancy Malone, Bruce Wuollet, Pastor Wes Syverson, Kevin Roetzer, Sara Blood, Karla Larson, Anne Kraft, Joan Lakedon, Jason Goerges

I. Devotions

Pastor Wes Syverson opened with a prayer. Member-at-Large Bruce Wuollet shared the devotion.

II. Approval of Agenda

No additions to the agenda.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes for the July council meeting.

Vote: M/S/C

IV. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Dave Latvala reported while income and expenses are down, the General Fund remained in the black at \$512.03 in July. Payments due to the Minneapolis Area Synod are up to date. A discussion was held as to whether benevolence to the synod should be a higher priority, but it was noted that Spirit of Christ (SOC) salaries and expenses should be paid first. President Anne Kraft asked Latvala to flag when benevolence is not paid.

V. Pastor's Report

Pastor Syverson reported that worship is set up through the end of August. Mailings were sent to 87 new residents throughout the city. He also spoke to a man recently released from prison who is looking for a home church. Syverson also took classes on the changing church climate in Madison, Wis.

VI. Ministry Team Reports

a. Mission & Social Action

Vice-President Carolee Cohen reported that the food drive for STEP (St. Louis Emergency Program) is complete with 150 donated hours and the most cash donations in the drive's history. Member Joanne Stone is working on the Walk for Water slated for Oct. 2 at Wolfe Park. Lutheran Church of the Reformation is having a service and brunch on fall kick off day Sept. 11 and is having a speaker coming in to discuss water so some members from SOC may attend the service to promote the walk.

Kraft asked about the Sept. 11 date, noting that it's not only Rally Sunday but also the 10th anniversary of 9/11. Syverson said it will be addressed with special prayers and litany, but also noted people may reach out to church on that day to reflect on the tragedy as well as to heal.

- b. Children, Youth & Families:
Team Lead Nancy Malone has volunteers signed up to do grilling for Rally Sunday. Day Camp is coming up the last week of August.
- c. Fellowship
Team Lead Nicole Goerges said the Redeemer Jump Crew held its concert at SOC Aug. 8 that resulted in a nice turnout. Six volunteers participated in the painting project at nonprofit Wayside House Inc. and they received a nice note from the women's addiction and mental illness treatment center. Another gathering was held for the young adults and Goerges said she hopes the group will evolve to include some sort of service or education component. Member-at-Larger Kevin Roetzer asked if the group plans to meet more often and Goerges said that is up for discussion. The next fellowship event is the annual hayride and Goerges will coordinate.
- d. Worship & Music
Kraft reported that Jeanne Worm is going to partner with Team Lead Rod Gulbro on Worship & Music through the end of the year, and that the team plans to meet Aug. 28 following the service. Latvala said Gulbro asked if we could look into a cabinet to store the choir folders. Latvala said he has something that can be installed.
- e. Other Reports
 - i. Women of Spirit
Team Lead Karla Larson said the annual bazaar is slated for Saturday, Nov. 19. Larson also asked for access to the storage shed so she can paint the signs. Larson is going to ask if member Glen Soderberg can make his famous lefse. They are still planning to do the salad supper with the youth group this fall, and the team will also clean up the storage room while the Children, Youth & Families team cleans up the classrooms. Larson said she is also planning to do a mailing for the women to do a potluck.
 - ii. Mission Outreach Coordinator
Kraft provided the council with e-mail from Kristina Fruge prior to the council meeting. It can be found following the minutes.

VII. Old Business

- a. Other Old Business
Latvala is looking for money counters for October-December.

VIII. New Business

- a. Banner Storage
Member Joan Lakedon catalogued all of the banners that belong to the former Ascension and First Lutheran churches. A group of church members will review the condition of the banners, and a discussion was held on where to store the banners and what to do with the damaged or duplicate banners. Kraft proposed the room off the Narthex, and Lakedon asked that two racks been installed to accommodate the different lengths of the banners. Secretary Sara Blood suggested they put together a

calendar to note when they use banners, and that a recent story in *The Lutheran Magazine* reported that churches are having a hard time finding banners to purchase or people to make them. Could some be donated? The choir robes could be stored on a rolling rack and covered with plastic.

- b. Audubon Society – 1st Tuesday each month
Syverson said he was approached by a local Audubon Society chapter to use Fellowship Hall for meetings the first Tuesday of each month. There currently are no conflicts on the calendar.

Motion: to allow the local Audubon Society chapter to use the Fellowship Hall the first Tuesday every month.

Vote: M/S/C

- c. TNT: Timeline & Task Force
Kraft presented a draft timeline and task force needed to accomplish several tasks in the next few months, specifically: completing a church profile; activating a call committee; rounding out the Worship & Music, Adult Education and Youth Group; Fundraising/Stewardship; Building Spruce Up; and discussing the future of the Ascension property.

Kraft said the executive committee had met and discussed the idea of overlapping two pastors versus Pastor Syverson retiring, hiring an interim pastor and then hiring a full-time pastor. Syverson could then mentor the new pastor. Latvala said this assumes that SOC would hire a younger pastor because a pastor with 15 years of experience would not need to be mentored. Cohen said a profile would help determine what kind of pastor the church needs. Member Jason Goerges and Larson asked about Syverson's retirement date and Kraft noted that this has not yet been confirmed. Cohen said regardless of Syverson's retirement date, the church has some tasks to do no matter what, such as the profile.

Kraft segued to the need to develop some task forces to accomplish the tasks. Kraft will lead the church profile and noted she may want to participate in the call committee. Blood said she is still trying to confirm that a class from Luther can do a reading on the church, where seminary students will interview members of the church and will provide a report, and suggested "town hall" meetings to gather opinions after worship and during the evening. Larson said she could help as a facilitator.

Kraft said she would put together an e-mail on how to tackle the profile.

J. Goerges said he is interested in the call committee.

Kraft and Blood will work on Worship & Music in 2011, and Kraft said she would talk to member Steve Solmonson about participating in the Adult Education and Youth Group.

For the Ascension property, care will be taken to ensure a plan is in place for the funds generated from the sale.

d. Other New Business

Latvala contacted an insurance company to get a quote for the church. The rate from Continental Western Insurance was \$3,907, whereas the rate from the existing insurance provider is \$5,900. He compared the two plans and they are the same and confirmed that Continental has a local broker based in Minnetonka. The next quarterly payment is due Sept. 1, and the broker at Continental could have the policy written in time to switch policies without a lapse in coverage. Latvala confirmed that no other insurance providers were contacted.

Motion: to switch to Continental Western Insurance.

Vote: M/S/C

Discussion: Latvala confirmed that non-church groups meeting at SOC would be covered under the new policy.

IX. Next Council Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 8

X. The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara N. Blood

Mission Outreach Coordinator:

Following is the e-mail Anne Kraft provided with Kristina Fruge's report on 8.11.

CYF - TreeHouse meal dates needed for fall are now available, watch for email/newsletter requests for volunteers

Listening Project/Re:Vision Tool - Full Circle Training Oct. 29 9-2:30 @ Westwood, tool ready to distribute more widely to congregations at that month and published online through FeAutor (online publishing for ministry resources, copyright protection, created by one of my Luther profs.)

Homeless Youth - Fulltime program manager hired and starting Sept. 1! We also received a major grant from United Way which we expect to cover about 70% of our budget for 3 years. This is a game-changer - gives Host Homes a great shot at becoming a sustainable program to house youth in our communities.

Joint Ministry Proposal 2012 - Team will meet again this week, council can expect more detailed information in preparation for Sept. council meeting.