

Monthly Communication

President's Report

Dear Members of Our Savior Congregation,

It's been a busy summer with vacations and being involved in other activities, but your church council has been actively working to find solutions to problems, exploit opportunities, and make congregational life something in which everyone will want to participate. If you aren't involved in committee or board work, please search yourself and decide where your talents may be useful.

We will have a voters' assembly meeting on August 13th after the Divine Service, followed by a barbeque. There will be a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall for people to bring food. We need to do a little district business, get everyone up to date on what is being done to clean and repair the property and have a few short reports.

Pastor and I have revised Mary Erdman's contract so that she can help out with the care of her grandkids. Her hours at church are now: Tuesdays & Thursdays – all day (8 hours per day); Mondays and Wednesdays – 2 hours from home checking and answering email and typing the bulletins and newsletter.

The district has finally gotten back to us about our constitution. The representative gave input (mostly legal comments). Len, Ellyn and I will take the district representative's comments under advisement and finalize the draft to be re-submitted to the Southern District. Hopefully, we will have a new and approved constitution by the end of the year.

I've asked the boards to come up with 3 to 5 written objectives to achieve before the end of this year. The goals and objectives I have suggested for the council are as follows:

Goal:

Effectively represent and raise awareness of Our Savior Lutheran Church as a confessional

Lutheran congregation which is centered upon Jesus Christ and the forgiveness which flows freely from His crucifixion and received through His Word and Sacraments in the Divine Service.

Objectives & Strategies:

1. Increase member participation by 25% by end of 2017. We have gotten into bad habits by having the same people doing the work of the congregation. All boards need to seek new blood and work with volunteers! All boards should set measurable objectives for the year and involve people outside of the board membership.

Boards will hold monthly meetings (make these times when your board members can meet. If they work, don't hold meetings during work hours). All boards will give the council secretary the minutes of those board meetings at each monthly council meeting. All council meeting minutes will be published in the monthly newsletter.

2. Find solutions and costs to our problems with sanctuary lighting, sanctuary humidity, air conditioning, and maintenance of buildings.

NOTE: The good news is that we have low-cost solutions to the sanctuary lighting and humidity problems and that the air conditioners are in good shape. However, we need to have a service contract on the AC units so that we won't have to replace them any time soon! The Not-so-good news is that we have got to repair, repaint, and in some instances replace the fascia and wood on both buildings, and replace both the back door to the church building and the back door to the fellowship hall.

3. Site clean-up – a clean and well maintained site will help attract people to our facility. Work with outside organizations such as Boy Scouts and Softball/Baseball Teams, which will also grow outreach and awareness of congregation among the community. All new landscaping should be low maintenance.

Council Minutes for May 2017

Council Meeting

May 10, 2017

Council President Pat Hartman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Council members in attendance were: Marion Stoltenberg, Pat Hartman, Craig Erdman, Marilyn Walters, Joan Christiansen, Len Christiansen, Sheila Midgette, Jason Vogeler, Ann McGowan, Marlys Snyder

Len opened the meeting with prayer.

Treasurer report presented by Marion Stoltenberg. Marion stated she needed the computer fixed. Pat Hartman to send her tech guy. Joan Christiansen made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Marilyn seconded and it was passed. Treasurer's report to be attached to minutes

Financial secretary report- Ann McGowan said she will look into church members being able to use electronic giving, ie. credit card, bank draft, etc.

Elders report- Len Christiansen reported: Guest pastors are needed. An usher's duties list to be created. New photographic directory- Photos to be taken on Sept 11, 2017 from 2:00-9:00 p.m. It is time for nomina-

tions for 2018 District convention due by November

Trustees report-Craig Erdman reported that there is no head trustee at this time. The trustees are working on getting prices on new A/C unit and lighting & fans in sanctuary, so that amount of 2nd mortgage can be determined. Trustees said that fire extinguishers must be replaced at a cost of \$438.30. Sheila Midgette made a motion that new fire extinguishers be purchased. Ann McGowan seconded and it was passed. Pat said we need to move on flooring for the narthex and asked that the Trustees take care of it.

Board of Education-Jason Vogeler reported that there will be no VBS this year. High schoolers are attending adult Sunday school

Board of Missions-Marlys Snyder reported that food pantry hours have changed to Wed. & Thurs from 10-12. Also the food co-op is going well

LWML- Joan Christiansen reported that 3 delegates will go to the convention. Yard sale will be 1st week in August. Pat said there needs to be a policy for funeral receptions & special events and ask for the LWML to work on a proposal

on how the events are to be handled and report back to the council at July meeting

Finance committee-Pat Hartman asked the finance committee about the upgrading of Pastor Witt's health insurance or having a HSA account. Marion Stoltenberg stated that Karsten Riebesel was working on that and she would check to see what information he has received and report back to the council.

Pat Hartman presented the council with a list of Goals, Objectives & Strategies for 2017 composed by herself and Pastor Witt. (These will be attached to the minutes)

Pat Hartman asked that each board come with a list of 3-5 Goals, Objectives and Strategies to be presented at July council meeting.

Len Christiansen made a motion at 7:15 p.m. to close the meeting, seconded by Marion Stoltenberg. Len led the council in closing prayer

Minutes are respectfully submitted by,

Sheila Midgette

Recording Secretary

President's Report continued...

4. Increase outreach to the community by adding four more community activities. Outreach to the community through activities sponsored by the church will help increase awareness of our church in the area. Activities such as the Bethlehem Walk and the Car Show will introduce us to the community we serve and allow us to witness. We need new ideas including some that should be aimed at families with children. Continued collaboration with Scouts and Baseball/Softball teams will also increase awareness and outreach.
5. Work together to help determine needs within the congregation and help meet the needs of our home bound, sick, and elderly.
6. Increase giving by 2 - 5% by end Dec. 2017 through an ongoing stewardship program.
7. Utilize website, Facebook page, newsletter, phone committee, and email for better internal communication.
8. Ascertain the cost of what is now being donated (such as work done on building for free, donations of supplies, etc.) so we can get a more accurate estimate of what costs are involved in the upkeep and running of the congregation.

I am looking forward to the fall when everyone is back from vacation and a little cooler air will allow for work parties and much more congregational fellowship! If you have suggestions, insights or comments, either drop me a note in the president's mail box, or hunt me down on Sunday after church, or email me at pathartman@imagerymarketing.com.

Yours in the Risen Christ!

Pat Hartman

Bethlehem Update

Oh, little town of Bethlehem.....

In my last message, I talked about Mary's visit to her cousin, Elizabeth. The Bible tells us that Mary spent three months with Elizabeth until the birth of John the Baptist. I'm sure it was a comforting time for the women; both of them were carrying babies who would be so important in carrying out God's plan of salvation for us.

This month we come to the time of Mary's return to her home. So the journey to Bethlehem continues according to God's plan.








We are coming to the time that we need commitments for workers for the Bethlehem walk. We need a minimum of about 25 people. We will also need people to come out for the setup and takedown of the village.

The walk will be early in December and will be a Thursday-Friday-Saturday night occurrence. I need to know if you will be able to work all or some of those nights and/or if you have any friends or family who would be willing to be part of our village. We use people of all ages and we need some of you younger folks to step up. Many of the people who have participated in this event for several years are into their late 70's or 80's and would like to be relieved of their responsibilities.

I pray that we will be able to take advantage of this opportunity to bring the true meaning of the Christmas season to people in our community.



August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
			9 -12 Food Pantry 11 am Board of Miss 6 pm Bible Study	10 -12 Food Pantry Food Co-op  Evangelime Vogeler Hunter Smith Paula Sherman	AA 7 pm 10 -12 Food Pantry LWML Yard Sale 7 am—2 pm	
6 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	7 6:00 pm Elders	8	9 10 -12 Food Pantry 10 am Bible Study 6 pm Council Meeting	10 10 -12 Food Pantry  Constance Vogeler	11 Church Cleaning— Blindauer & Richards	12
13 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sun. School 11:30 Voter's Meet- ing & BBQ  Jack & Marilyn Walters	14	15	16 10 -12 Food Pantry 10 am Bible Study 6 pm Bible Study  Boomer Blindauer	17 AA 7 pm 10 -12 Food Pantry	18 Church Cleaning— Erdman	19
20 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	21	22	23 10 -12 Food Pantry 10 am Bible Study	24 AA 7 pm 10 -12 Food Pantry  Bill & Carol Sevier	25	26
27 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	28	29  Randy Meyer	30 10 -12 Food Pantry 10 am Bible Study 6 pm Bible Study	31 AA 7 pm 10 -12 Food Pantry Food Co-op  Joe Ann Doyal Janet Blindauer		