

Faith Lutheran Church Council Report

By: James Synatzske, Congregation President

December 1, 2016

Your church council met on Tuesday November 29th for its monthly meeting. Here are some highlights from that meeting:

- Most of the meeting was devoted to reviewing the Proposed FLC 2017 Budget submitted by the Board of Stewardship. The Board of Stewardship brought forth a very detailed and well-thought-out proposal that trims over \$20,000 from last year's budgeted expenses without cutting any of our awesome ministries. The Council did some minor tweaking to the numbers after Faith School agreed to help fund a portion of the Music and Christian Education salaries. The Council voted unanimously to recommend the modified budget proposal to the Voters Assembly at our December 11, 2016 Voters' Meeting. The recommended budget leaves us with some still-challenging but realistic stewardship opportunities.
- Pastor Tom reported that the theme for this year's Advent worship is, "From Heaven Above" based on the simple children's hymn by Martin Luther. He also reported that the Stephen Ministry training has been going very well and he anticipates this ministry being a real asset to both our congregation and those who are training for this ministry. Pastor & Cheryl will be going off of the Concordia Health Plan on January 1 with their enrollment into Medicare. He expressed his appreciation to the congregation for funding their health coverage all these years. Their opting for the Medicare and supplemental insurance coverage will save FLC about \$10,000 per year going forward.
- Besides their normal business of caring for our members and overseeing our worship activities; the Board of Elders reported that they are contemplating how they can show more love to our members; and they recognize a need to call on our members more often.
- Faith School reported:
 - ✓ They are reviewing the School's tuition discount policy to standardize it and make it more consistent than it has been in the past.
 - ✓ The Faith School Board & staff were very pleased with and appreciative of the turnout and support of our Congregation at the Faith School Fellowship meal held on November 18. It was estimated that over 200 people enjoyed that wonderful meal and fellowship.
- The Board of Stewardship reported that they have received 3 more Sowing Seeds promise sheets since the October meeting, for a total of 31. They met on November 1 to work on the proposed budget for 2017—see budget notes at the beginning of this report.
- The LWML reported that the Advent by Candlelight event was a wonderful success with 75 in attendance that enjoyed a fantastic program under the leadership of Cindy and Arnold Ramming. The LWML will be preparing 70 children's bags to be handed out at the December 11 Christmas Program.
- The SAIL group expressed their appreciation (echoed by the Church Council members) for Lynann Simpson's untiring efforts in leading that organization for several years. Jeanette Quade has now assumed the leadership role for SAIL. They continue to meet at Good Tree and had 11 members and 3 guests at their November 2nd gathering with Pastor Tom leading them in a Bible study. In November they also shared a pizza meal with the Faith Lutheran Youth Group, and created several snack boxes for the college students studying for final exams.
- Emily Lansmon reported that the FLY (Faith Lutheran Youth) Fall Carnival was both fun and successful—generating \$706 for FLY mission trips and camp. FLY worked with SAIL on the snack boxes for the college students studying for final exams—they put together 18 boxes. Emily also reported that youth activities are being well-attended and expressed her appreciation to FLY volunteers who worked on the highly successful Big Brothers Big Sisters Thanksgiving dinner.

- Treasurer's Financial Report:
 - ✓ October was a record month for Offering Receipts so far in 2016. This can be partially credited to the month having 5 Sundays; but it is also a reflection of the stewardship exhibited by our membership AND the hard work put forth for the past several months by your Board of Stewardship.
 - ✓ The monthly budget deficit for October was the lowest among the first 10 months of this year due to members' stewardship mentioned above AND the staff & administration's continued watchful eye on expenses.
- With Rueben & Mary Walter relocating to St. Louis; the Council took constitutional action and voted to fill the Financial Secretary position that Rueben has held. I spoke to Rueben by phone and accepted his resignation. Rachel Moravec who has very ably performed as the Assistant Financial Secretary has been selected to fill the Financial Sec position. Subsequent to our Council meeting I spoke to Sheila Small who has agreed to fill-in as the Asst. Financial Sec. until the next election in June. Both of these positions will be on the ballot for our June 2017 officers' election.