

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Voters' Meeting

July 22, 2007

President Ken Arndt called the meeting to order at 10:22 a.m. Pastor Bitter opened with a prayer. (Copies of all reports are available from the church council secretary.) 19 voters were present.

Secretary's Report

MSP: To dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept them as written.

Membership

MSP: To ratify Jared R. Searl's transfer to Trinity Lutheran Church in Neenah.

Pastor shared a report comparing church attendance for 2005, 2006, and 2007. It has dropped each year. The February snowstorm this year was a factor.

A letter from Pastor Dave Liggett, WELS Ministry of Christian Giving Director, was passed out. Our WELS Mission Commitment for this year is \$39,000. This is the same as 2006.

Christian Growth Committee

Vacation Bible School was a success with 14 students. Thank you to those who served as teachers and helpers.

Outreach Committee

Art Pahnke reviewed the information about the video projector proposal.

Plans are being made for our annual Mission Festival. It is tentatively scheduled for early October.

Lutheran School Committee

Mr. Miller reported that there will be a PACK meeting on Monday, August 6. This will include a potluck dinner, registration, and possibly a guest speaker.

Ed Marley has been working on the re-keying project. If anyone has questions or needs a key, please, contact him. The church key in the garage will be removed once the garage lock matches the church interior locks.

Mr. Miller, Ed Marley, and Dan Flood attended a conference at WLA on Saturday, June 9. Many ideas for school improvement were presented and discussed.

Shepherding Committee

The committee met on Tuesday, July 17, to discuss strategies to deal with members that have not attended communion in a long time. There are 28 that haven't attended since the records have been kept on the computer starting in 2004. Letters will be sent out, telephone calls will be made, and visits scheduled to reach out to these members.

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:25

Properties Committee

- Lakeview Electric has not yet upgraded the service at the parsonage. Dave will contact them again.
- Ideal Glass has been asked for an estimate to replace the broken exterior window on the church.
- The exterior NW outlet has wires, but no power.
- The trees in front of church have new mulch. Does anyone know whom we can thank?
- Bob Fretschel will clean the interior of our lighted sign in front of the church.

WLA Representatives

Jim Bilitz said that the transition to a new principal at WLA is going smoothly.

WLA had a booth at the Fond du Lac County Fair.

The incoming freshman class has 83 students.

Anniversaries Committee: Ken Arndt

- The celebration is September 23 in both services with a dinner and program after the second service.
- The tickets for the meal will be about \$12 for adults.
- Dale Witte from WLA will be our guest organist.
- Rev. Bill Finn has been contacted to see if he's available to be our guest speaker. (He was scheduled to preach the evening the tornado hit and was also the guest speaker at our evening service on Dedication Sunday.)

- Sunday School and Bible Class will still be held between services, providing there are no complications with the anniversary celebration.
- The Council has authorized the committee to spend up to \$1000 on expenses. e.g. flowers, mailings, complimentary dinner tickets, and invitations, etc.
- John & Ione Panzer will be providing the table decorations. Thanks!
- A special Thank Offering will be taken. The monies will go to the Parish Improvement Fund.
- A mailing will go out to all members with information and a Thank Offering envelope.
- The committee meets again on Wednesday, August 1.
- More details are available on the kiosk in the church narthex.

Finance Committee: Tim Panzer

As of June 30 the General Fund was \$11,842.69 behind the budget. That has grown to \$16,963.76 by July 15. While offerings are down slightly from last year, the bigger problem seems to be that the 2007 budget was adopted with a deficit of \$25,173.

Treasurer's Report: Dan Rosenau

Dan corrected his report to show a receipt of \$3506.73 from the Baehler Trust Fund. Expenditures for the first half of year are 50.16% of the budget.

The decline in summer offerings has made it necessary to temporarily use money from the Parish Improvement Fund to cover operating expenses. Unfortunately not even that is enough to see us through in the short term. That's why the Council is recommending opening a line of credit at the Bank of Oakfield.

MSP: To approve the Financial Secretary and Treasurer's reports.

Baehler Trust Fund

- Current investments are \$87,541.16.
- \$13,257.21 was paid out to St. Luke's in the first six months of 2007.
- Our mortgage balance is \$77,692.10.

Unfinished Business

None

Church Council Recommendations

A. That the voters authorize a line of credit (or loan) for up to \$20,000 at the Bank of Oakfield.

After discussing the current financial situation, a motion was made and seconded to approve the Council's recommendation. The motion passed. Repayment of the loan will have to be addressed when the Council prepares the 2008 budget.

B. That the voters approve up to \$5000 from the Parish Improvement Fund to buy a portable video projection system.

MSP: To deny the Council's recommendation at this time. It was suggested that the letter with the anniversary Thank Offering could ask for individual donations towards this project or that the Thank Offering could be used to fund it.

C. That the voters approve up to \$2500 dollars to have the church cleaned and the landscaping updated from the Parish Improvement Fund.

Ken Arndt pointed out a number of areas in need of care before we open our doors for the tenth anniversary. Bill O'Laire suggested that there was still some Thrivent money available if members participated in the project. MSP: To approve the Council recommendation.

Ken will prepare a list of items to be taken care of and will get estimates.

New Business

Summer Monday evening services currently begin at 7:30 p.m. All of our other evening services begin at 6:30 p.m. MSP: To change the time of summer evening services to 6:30 p.m. beginning next year.

It was noted by several voters that the parking lot needs to be resealed and the lines repainted. MSP: To authorize the Council to spend up to \$5000 from the Parish Improvement Fund to have the work done. Estimates will be gotten and hopefully the work can be done before the anniversary celebration.

After a MSP to adjourn, the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

John Sankey
Church Secretary