

**CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**October 17, 2011**

The Council met on October 17, 2011 beginning at 7:30 p.m. A copy of the meeting agenda is attached.

Those in attendance were: Mark Baker, Juli Benson, Rev. John Bradford, Deb Cantrell, Tom Cooper, Ernie Ferguson, Bill Hiatt, Mitch Neaves, Peter Saba, Charles Schwab, Liz Spoto, Victoria Wagner, David Whelan, and Steve Wilson. Absent were: Susan Boruff, Kary Froscheiser, Donna Kiffe, and Mike Swineford.

The Council gathered initially in the sanctuary. Led by Rev. Bradford, the Council welcomed Tracey Shenk as the new Director of the King's Kids Preschool and blessed her with a laying on of hands. Rev. Bradford then led a devotional based on the "Power Surge" program he has been introducing to the congregation. He discussed the need for leadership and inclusiveness in achieving discipleship.

David Whelan called the business portion of the meeting to order in Luther's Lounge.

Minutes of the September meeting were reviewed and approved. A copy is attached.

Rev. Bradford submitted a written Pastor's Report. A copy is attached. Pastor Bradford also:

- \* noted that he is stepping down from the board of Lutheran Social Services, which has proven to be too great a demand for time and travel;
- \* noted that he would be serving as Spiritual Director for a coming Women's Via de Christo Weekend;
- \* noted that he would be gone the week of October 31 for a regional ELCA leadership event and ordination of a new pastor on Nov. 5;
- \* noted plans for a Thanksgiving service sponsored by the Great Falls Ecumenical Council at Christ the King on Nov. 22;
- \* outlined plans for Eucharists at noon and 7:30 during the four Wednesdays of Lent;
- \* noted that his day off will change from Fridays to Mondays; and
- \* discussed changes in the deadline for submissions to the monthly Christ the King newsletter.

Deb Cantrell presented the Director of Youth and Family Ministry Report. Ms. Cantrell:

- \* noted that 14 youth, four chaperones and one visiting guest had signed up for the national ELCA youth conference in New Orleans during the summer;
- \* discussed plans for the Nov. 20 chili potluck and pie auction to raise funds for the above New Orleans trip;
- \* reported that the first Gift Night went smoothly and was a success, with approximately 40 people in attendance;
- \* reported that training for acolytes would be forthcoming; and
- \* noted her desire not to take on additional detailed program responsibilities given her current workload.

Mike Swineford was absent and there was no Office Management Report. However, Rev. Bradford noted that Mr. Swineford had become involved in a church administrator organization that was proving to be helpful and praised Mr. Swineford's work on the new Christ the King website.

Bill Hiatt presented the Treasurer's Report. A copy is attached. Mr. Hiatt:

- \* noted that as of Sept. 30 the church as at 73.12% of income and 78.69% of expenditures as compared to the 2011 annual budget;
- \* noted that in September expenses exceeded income by about \$10,000;
- \* projected an operating loss of approximately \$20,000 for 2011;
- \* stressed the need to watch spending carefully for the remainder of 2011;
- \* noted that September giving had been relatively low;
- \* noted that the balance sheet shows that Christ the King has cash reserves of less than one month's expenses; and
- \* noted that the current financial trend is not sustainable.

The Council discussed the church's weak financial condition at length and the need to bring that condition to the attention of the congregation. There was discussion of the need for more communication with the congregation about financial needs, more giving (in particular pledged giving), and the negative impact on giving from the fact that Christmas falls on a Sunday (making that Sunday a low collections day). It was agreed that the Executive Committee would subsequently meet to address the immediate financial needs so as to get the church on stronger footing going into 2012. (The Executive Committee subsequently met and agreed to have Mark Baker talk at both Sunday services about these needs and to publish more information about finances in various Christ the King communications to the congregation.)

It was noted that Susan Boruff had moved from the area, leaving an open position on the Council.

Donna Kiffe presented the Fellowship Report. Ms. Kiffe noted that plans were in place and ready to go for the Fall Festival.

Liz Spoto presented the Learning Report. Ms. Spoto noted that there has been strong attendance throughout the Sunday School classes and work is underway to develop more website content about Christian Education opportunities at the church. She also noted that plans for Vacation Bible School in 2012 were being reviewed.

Tom Cooper presented the Property Report. He discussed the potential use of church facilities for a Great Falls seniors group that is being formed, although the prospects for this are only preliminary at present.

There was discussion of the impact on church facilities of the annual math camp that has previously leased space, resulting in a motion by Victoria Wagner to provide the math camp director with a polite notice of termination. The motion was approved by a vote of 8-5, subject to a 30-day waiting period before the letter is sent.

There was discussion of the need to address drainage problems in the rear courtyard and adjacent to the rear door to the education building that adjoins the courtyard. The Council approved an expenditure of \$2750 to install a French drain, clean gutters, repair concrete, and undertake related steps to address these problems, per a proposal received from a qualified contractor who agreed to accept delayed payment for the work in 2012.

It was agreed that the church would solicit bids for a new cleaning service due to the poor quality of the current service.

Victoria Wagner presented the Witness Report. She noted that six new families had joined Christ the King, discussed plans to acquire a new type of more permanent nametag for members, and noted that she has assumed responsibility for coordinating church-wide publicity. Ms. Wagner also discussed a "Church Council Host Covenant" she had found on a website for another church, though no action was taken on that item. A copy is attached.

Juli Benson presented the Service Report. Ms. Benson presented a list of upcoming services dates. A copy is attached. She highlighted the upcoming Walk for the Homeless and food drive.

Mitch Neaves presented the Staff Relations Report. There was recognition of the need to pray for Amy Swineford as she undergoes surgery and to obtain volunteer coverage for Mike Swineford during this period. Mr. Neaves reported that work on job descriptions for all staff is underway.

Charles Schwab presented the Worship & Music Report. Mr. Schwab reported a positive response to the acolyte/crucifer training, congratulated service participants on their good work, and highlighted the organ recital by Andrew Dobos on November 13.

Ernie Ferguson, along with Rev. Bradford, presented the Stewardship Report. The theme will be "Fearless Giving in Fearful Times, with the program kicking off formally in November and culminating with Commitment Sunday on November 20. The campaign would consist of a mailed devotional, letters to the congregation, and talks at Sunday services coordinated with Rev. Bradford's sermons on giving themes.

The meeting was then adjourned.