

MINUTES OF CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
March 11, 2008

“As Christians based on the solid foundation of God’s Word, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we strive to live out, lift up and share our faith in Jesus Christ – welcoming all into our family of believers.”

Attending: Tom Burton, Bill Cochran, Elvera Cordes, Shirley Fingerson, Kay Fockler, Michael Harvey, Pastor Jim, Judy Lee, Lynora Miller, George Poch, Joel Pralle, Pastor Rance, John Sprenger, Roger Toomey, Dick Valde, Ruth Weispfenning, Dorothy Zemke, Anita Werle, and Elaine Gittus. Attending the first part of the meeting were Principal Henry Pahlkotter, II, Principal of Rochester Central Lutheran School, Lynn Schoppers, Director of the Pre-School Program at RCLS, and a representative from the RCLS Board of Education.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Bill Cochran. Bill Cochran gave the opening devotion.

Minutes of the February meeting were approved as printed.

New Business:

The first item of New Business was a presentation by the above-mentioned representatives from Rochester Central Lutheran School. They have submitted a Proposal to Redeemer to open a **Satellite Pre-School Program** using our facilities. Their Proposal is as follows:

“Rochester Central Lutheran School is proposing to join with Redeemer Lutheran Church, Rochester, in establishing an RCLS Satellite Preschool Program within their church. RCLS would provide the program. The program would be monitored by RCLS. Redeemer would provide the facility and on-site pastoral ministry. The preschool would be named “RCLS Preschool, Redeemer Campus”.

Redeemer would provide the following:

- The facility and the funds required to bring the space to code according to guidelines set by the MN Department of Human Services
- Rooms for a minimum of 8 preschoolers, and a maximum of 20 preschoolers
- Space to operate Monday through Friday, during the hours of 6:30 am-6:00 pm (most likely half day)
- The church would work in partnership with RCLS to advertise and promote the preschool program
- The church would meet monthly with the preschool staff to discuss any issues or needs
- Major janitorial needs
- Assist in finding initial start up funds (\$10,000)

RCLS would provide the following:

- RCLS would provide and staff the preschool program. This staff would work in cooperation with the RCLS on-site staff to meet the goals set by the curriculum
- RCLS would monitor the program
- RCLS would work in partnership with the church to advertise and promote the preschool program
- RCLS would work together with Redeemer to procure the start up salary of approximately \$10,000 for a licensed preschool teacher. This will be raised through grants, donations, and “Simply Giving”
- RCLS would provide start up materials to meet MN licensing requirements (approximately \$2,000)

- RCLS would provide the preschool program and staff for Before and After Care according to the needs of the children who are enrolled
- RCLS would provide additional storage units as needed
- Daily minimal janitorial needs
- RCLS would provide a cell phone for parent-preschool communications

Profit:

- For the first 3 years, all profits will go back into the program (if any)
- After 3 years, the church and school will share all profits, after setting aside the cost of the teaching staff for the following year

Lynn went over the Proposal indicating that it would be a September through May Program, primarily for 3 and/or 4 year olds, and they would be licensed for 20 children maximum for now. The facility would have to be brought up to Fire Code specs, but since we were just inspected by the Fire Department in the not too distant past, there would probably be few upgrades needed at this time. George Poch interjected that our Redeemer Board of Education, at their meeting tonight, voted to support this venture.

Mr. Pahlkotter talked further about why Redeemer was selected, and their goals in starting a program here. Our facility best lends itself to this program, and the people of Redeemer are a forward-looking congregation, and several members of our congregation already have their children attending RCLS, among other things.

Redeemer's share of funding for this project was also discussed at length with several possibilities being presented. After considerable discussion, the Council decided they needed further clarification in these three main areas: Insurance coverage, boiler licensing coverage, and fire inspection, and Pastor Jim will be in contact with RCLS to obtain answers. A motion was made, seconded, and carried that the Church Council support this Satellite Pre-school Program Proposal pending further clarification of the above 3 points. A special Voters' Meeting has been set for 6:30 P.M. on Sunday, April 6, 2008, when this will be presented to the congregation for their approval. We will hope to have final clarification on the 3 main questions we now have when we present it to the voters.

The next item on the Agenda was picking a date for our May Voters' Meeting, which is primarily to elect officers for next year and any other items that might need discussion, and also for reports from all the Boards, etc. The date set is Tuesday evening, May 20, 2008, at 6:30 P.M.

Old Business:

Ruth Weispfenning told us the **Planning for the Future Committee** will meet again next Tuesday. They have chosen for their Vision Statement the following acronym: S.M.A.R.T. vision:

- Specific
- Motivating
- Awe-inspiring, yet Attainable
- Reality based
- Time sensitive

They will present this to the congregation to get their feedback, also feedback from Boards and Committees. Their next meeting is scheduled for March 18, and in the meantime, they will test the S.M.A.R.T. vision on some groups for their feedback.

Ruth reported that because of other demands of Darryl Schultz, he has been unable to commit the time to the **Expense Review Committee**. at this time. She has contacted Andy Hanson, and he has agreed to take chairmanship of the Committee. He will convene a meeting of Committee members in the near future.

Pastor Jim reported that there is nothing new in regard to the celebration of our **75th Anniversary**. The Committee is continuing to work on plans.

Ruth Weispfenning reported that the **Emergency Preparedness Team** has nothing further to report at this time.

Members of the **Nominating Committee** are as follows: Tom Werle, Randy Hellickson, Mary Hepinstall, Bill Cochran, George Poch, Pastor Jim and Ruth Weispfenning. They will have their first meeting on Tuesday, March 18, and need to know by that time how many people need to be replaced on the various Boards and Committees. If you did not have the number tonight, please see that Ruth has that information before Tuesday.

As a result of Redeemer agreeing to be a pilot congregation in the Synod's **Fan Into Flame** program, Pastor Jim has already attended one meeting. The local congregation will receive back 15% of the total funds contributed to this program from Redeemer.

There was no other Old Business.

Officer, Board and Cabinet Reports

President's Report: **Ruth Weispfenning**
Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report **Tom Burton**
Tom had copies of the Treasurer's Report available for distribution. He also handed out a Summary Sheet of all of the Individual Accounts we have and which Board has the responsibility over these funds. There are several with a zero balance that could be deleted, however, he and Anita don't want to be the ones to make the final decisions. He asked that you come prepared to the next Council Meeting with a list of those that can be deleted.

Church Growth **Judy Lee**
Church Growth is working on new ways to bring more attention to the Welcome Center. Some suggestions were for the SCRIP Sales to be sold from the Center, also perhaps when the youth sell Subs, this could be done from the Center. Our next New Member Sunday is set for April 20 with a possibility of 3 to 5 new members being welcomed into membership at Redeemer. Two members of this Committee will need to be replaced next year.

Board of Education **George Poch**
The majority of their monthly meeting was spent discussing the proposal for a Satellite Pre-School at Redeemer. The Board voted in favor of the proposal and George brought this information to the full Council. They also briefly discussed the VBS Program, Weekday Program and the Adult Education Program.

Board of Elders **Joel Pralle**
Randy Hellickson will be the Elders' representative to the Nominating Committee. The Elders have 3 members whose terms are up this year, but all three have agreed to stay on at this time. The Synod has sent out letters to all congregations requesting the Boards of Elders to review Holy Communion practices at the various churches. The Pastors and Staff will be working with the Elders at upcoming meetings to educate and review our practices.

Family Life **Shirley Fingerson**
An Easter Egg Hunt has been scheduled for Saturday, March 22, at 10:00 A.M. A Roller Skating event has been scheduled for Sunday, April 6, from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. at Harmony. A room has been reserved at the Pizza Ranch in Stewartville so if some people want to eat there after church services and then travel to Harmony, they can do so. The Board is not planning to meet until the end of June and at that time will plan games for the VBS Picnic. They are in need of 3 or 4 people to join their Board, but have not found anyone interested at this point.

Fund Development **John Sprenger**
The revision of the Fund Brochures is in its last revision. When completed, they will be placed in the wall display rack in the Narthex. They will need one new member on their Committee.

Health Cabinet **Roger Toomey**
Cholesterol screening was done on Sunday, February 10, with 25 people being screened. Ten of those screened has cholesterol levels of 200 or more. They will be notified and rescreened in September. The Sunday Health Forums

have been completed with very positive comments and a good attendance. This Cabinet is in need of new people as some of the people on the Cabinet now have been there since the Cabinet's inception. Two to three people would be great.

Human Concerns

Kay Fockler

These people have been discussing ways to raise funds for Redeemer's share of the budget, and the opportunity to have input on the need for a replacement van for grand dollars. Most of the people who indicated an interest on the Time and Talents Survey Sheets have been contacted, resulting in many new people working in the Community Food Response Program and also IHN. Garageworks provides an opportunity for volunteers to provide car maintenance to people in need at no charge. They discussed ways to find volunteers and also how to get the word out to the people who may need it. After more details are received, the program will be more widely publicized.

They discussed the needs of Single Parent Families and how Redeemer might facilitate meeting some of those needs within our congregation, and this Board will cooperate with the Stewardship Committee on helping to make aware of each Board's responsibilities, etc., to the congregation.

RLCW

Dorothy Zemke

They are planning the special dinner that will be served during our 75th Anniversary Celebration on June 29th. They also donated \$100 to the Lutheran Blind Mission; \$200 to the youth who will be going to Bethesda this summer, and \$200 for LWML mites.

Board of Stewardship

Elvera Cordes

The Board was very pleased with the response to the Time and Talent Survey completed last Fall and most names have been contacted with very positive responses. This is surely a blessing. Also, the Stewardship Committee had a representative on hand to explain the duties and responsibilities of the Committee at the services on March 1 and 2. Other Boards and Committees will be invited to participate to get the word out as to what each Board, Committee does.

Board of Trustees

Dick Valde

The Trustees approved outsourcing the Redeemer newsletter printing to start with the July issue of the Resource. The cost of printing will be covered by advertising on the back page of each newsletter.

The Redeemer Spring Cleanup has been scheduled for April 26 with the usual list of work to be done. Please come and enjoy a half day of fun/work with a coffee and donut break mid-morning. The work will begin at 8:00 A.M. Trustees are also meeting with RPU to see if there are things we can do to lower our utility bills and to see if there are rebates available for the new air conditioning units installed last summer. Seven of the eight members of the Trustees will stay on for next year.

Youth Ministry

Lynora Miller

The Senior Youth recently had a progressive dinner, and have also made two blankets for the Ronald McDonald House. The Youth Group served over 200 at their Lenten Supper. The Creation Seminar went very well, thanks to people for some very good help. Some of the youth went skiing afterwards overnight. A bowling outing is being planned for March 15, and they will be doing a servant event in Rushford on Saturday, April 19. In preparation for this servant event, the youth will be collecting cans on April 6 from around their neighborhoods, and turning the cans into cash with which they will purchase Menard's, Home Depot gift cards to distribute in Rushford. Dave Zarling and Al Hein have again agreed to help with the Easter Breakfast this year. The youth have adopted a child from Africa and have sent notes, gifts and pictures to her. We have received a note back which will be shared at the next youth meeting.

Staff Reports

DCE Report

Michael Harvey

Among Michael's many activities with the youth, he has put together a group of seven people for his first KINDLE Group. These people are Bryce Beckman, Marcia Cochran, Pat Fitch, LuAnn Haack, Paula Kuisle, Lynora Miller and Tim Strohschein. These are very dedicated people who have accepted the KINDLE challenge.

DPM Report

April Beckman

April was not present at tonight's meeting, but she has had a Recital at Concordia last Friday, and will have another one at First Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, which have taken much of her time in practice. She also has many services coming up during Holy Week, and continues her organ lessons at Concordia.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Jim

Because of the lateness of the hour, Pastor Jim did not have anything to add to his earlier statement about Fan Into Flame meeting.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Rance

Pastor Rance is looking forward to First Communion Sunday for 8th graders; has been preaching at all the Lenten Services, and is helping plan for New Member Sunday and also Confirmation Sunday, besides all of the Holy Week and Easter Services.

A motion was made seconded and was carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 P.M.. Pastor Jim gave the closing prayer.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2008, beginning at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Gittus, Secretary