

**The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd  
Council Meeting  
Draft Minutes**

Meeting Date: 19 December 2017

Meeting Location: Choir Room 7 PM

In Attendance: Pastor Teal Anderson, Gordon Brown, Larry Burkhardt, Pastor Greg Fetzer, Blair Fetzer, Gail Fricke, Sallie Gartside, Ken Lorentzen, Gina Miller, Lauren Rein, Dave Stark, Patty Resnik (via phone)

Excused: Stuart Goemmer and Chris Poling

| Topic                               |  | Action/Follow-up   |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Call to Order</b>                | Meeting was called to order at 7:10 by Pastor Greg   |  |
| <b>Opening Prayer</b>               | Pastor Teal led us with an opening prayer.   |  |
| <b>Mission Group Reports</b>        | See appended reports.  |  |
| <b>Devotion<br/>Pastor's Report</b> | <p>Pastor Greg led us in this month's "Mission Moments".</p> <p>Forward in Faith campaign is supported by LCGS and we give what we can, but Synod is asking us to endorse giving more. Capital money for Seminary, Mar-Lu-Ridge, Hunger and ELCA. Synod goal is 3 million by 2018</p> <p>A Motion was made to allocate a \$500 gift to the Forward in Faith campaign along with \$100 honorarium received by Pastor Greg. A motion was made to donate up to \$1,0000 out of any surplus we may have at 2017-year end after consideration of restoring Facility Budget cuts for 2018. The motion was seconded and approved.</p> | <p><b>Action Item. Council members are asked to re-read the handout and to give it some additional thought prior to January's meeting. Attached.</b></p> <p>Informational</p> <p>Motion approved.<br/>Action Item for Treasurer. Bring recommendation to the group for additional giving if surplus at year end.</p> |

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| <b>Assoc. Pastor's Report</b>              | Revised youth group meetings and the calendar for 2018.  |   |
| <b>Elections</b>                           | Pastor Greg explained the process of Ecclesiastical ballot and the election of council president and vice president commenced. Patty Resnik was elected President and Blair Fetzer was elected Vice President for 2018.                      | Informational.  |
| <b>President's Report and New Business</b> | Contract Approved for the Emergency Egress from the Sanctuary. Work to commence Dec/Jan with Fred Ward Associates.   | Informational   |
| <b>Worship and Music</b>                   | Sharlene reminded us that additional communion assistants are still needed for 4:00 service. There will be communion in the front and back of the Sanctuary as well as in the Celebration Hall.  | Informational   |
| <b>Facility's Report</b>                   | Nothing in addition to the attached report.  |   |
| <b>Stewardship</b>                         | Blair will be meeting with Yvonne Lembo again in 2018 to line up an educational seminar for the congregation about planning, estate planning and giving beyond your weekly giving.   | <b>Action Item: Blair to contact the office in 2018.</b>  |
| <b>Office Manager</b>                      | CLAS is the Mission Group Spotlight for January and host of coffee social the first Sunday.<br>Continuing resolutions outlining Mission groups are needed for January.<br><br>Please turn in your annual report ASAP if you haven't already. | Informational<br><br><b>Action Item for Executive Committee</b><br><b>Action Item for Mission Group leaders</b> |
| <b>Next Meeting</b>                        | Tuesday, January 16th  |   |
| <b>Adjournment</b>                         | Motions made and seconded to adjourn meeting.<br>Meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM  | Motion approved   |



## Senior Pastor's Report

### Visits:

- Made 1 home visit
- Made 2 other visits

### Meetings:

- Led 4 Staff meetings
- Participated in Worship and Music meeting
- Participated in Mutual Ministry meeting
- Led 2 Faith Group gatherings
- Attended Daytimers gathering

### Worship:

- Presided at Thanksgiving Eve service
- Led 2 Advent Mid-week services

### Coaching:

- Received coaching in 2 conversations
- Offered coaching in 2 conversations

### Synod:

- Met with 2 pastoral colleagues new to synod
- Led Baltimore Northeast and Harford Conferences meeting

## **Mission Moments for December 19, 2017**

### **A Steady Decline**

On the whole, congregations of main-line denominations such as ours have been steadily declining in membership over the last few decades. The reasons for this are manifold, but one stands out particularly: we now exist within an unchurched society.

### **The Founding and Spread of Christendom**

This is a different situation than the generations preceding ours. A little bit of history: in the fourth century, the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great declared Christianity to be a state religion. While other religions were still tolerated, Christendom was founded. Church and society then later became further entwined in Europe during the Middle Ages. While establishing a separation between church and state, the United States continued a close relationship between church and society: an overwhelming majority of the population considered itself to be Christian. Church attendance was high, mission congregations sprang up, and financial goals were met easily “in the good old days” primarily because people were raised and naturalized in the Christian faith.

### **The Demise of Christendom**

This relationship between church and society began to break down in our nation sometime in the late 1960’s through the 1980’s. We now live in the post-Christendom era. There are today consequences of this on the surface: the school day is no longer begun in prayer, the Ten Commandments are removed from courthouses, etc. Other consequences are deeper: Biblical illiteracy is at an all-time high and many in the latest generations are not baptized.

### **A Changing Society**

These dire consequences are due somewhat to the forces in society that are marginalizing Christianity such as relativism, narcissism, pragmatism, and consumerism. However, it must be said that these consequences are also largely due to Church’s loss of what it means to be the Church. Historically, the Church packaged its message for those who already were believers. In fact, meeting members’ needs was the assumed, primary goal of the majority of its ministries and resources. We acted as though the only non-believers were overseas, and so we sent missionaries to places far away. That seemed to work when the majority of people in our society were born into churched families or joined later in life as a matter of course. But now, in an age when most in our own society are unchurched, we do not know how to function as a missional body.

## Now What?

There are several possible responses to these changes and the subsequent diminishing of the Church:

- We can deny that there is anything wrong and continue as we always have. This approach is flawed, of course, because denial of a force of change rarely, if ever, halts or reverses the change.
- We can attempt to recover Christendom. This is an attractive approach as well. We might realize that there is something amiss, yet pine away for the “good old days.” The problem with this approach, however, is that, in some ways, the good old days weren’t all that good:
  - When the Church becomes so integrated with culture and society, we lose much of the prophetic call and power to address the false wisdom of the world.
  - While the Church as an institution can and has achieved much good, it can get reduced to a vendor of religious goods and services.
  - For many people in the churching society, faith was shallow. Church became a matter of lifestyle rather than faith. People were not ‘rooted in the gospel’ but were instead rooted in a social class or a lifestyle.
- Or, we can “...accept the fact of the church’s belittlement, ...look for positive meanings in this historical event, and ...live out of the model of the church which emerges from this reflection.” (Hall, p. 33) As Leonard Sweet writes, we can face the tidal wave of change in our times and say, “Surf’s up!” We hoist the sails to catch God’s Spirited-will for the future of the Church. (Sweet, p. 21)

May we affirm the third response! May we see the disestablishment of Christianity as a wake-up call to be intentional about our mission. Because, truth be told, our main concern should not be that Church membership is declining, but that people in our community are not being reached with the life-giving gospel of Jesus Christ.

## The Great Commission

According to the Gospel of St. Matthew, some of Jesus’ last words to his disciples were “...go and make disciples of all nations....” These words have become known as the Great Commission, and they charge us exactly with what we are to be about as the body of Christ: we are to be disciples and to make disciples. If we do not claim this as our central purpose, we are not the Church, and our organization’s demise is certain and deserved.

## **Associate Pastor's Report**

### Meetings

- Staff meeting, 11/21, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12
- Getting Ready planning meeting, 11/30
- Youth Leadership, 12/10

### Events

- Reformation Fair, 11/26
- Advent Festival, 12/3
- CIA Getting Ready session, 12/3
- Cookie Walk, 12/10
- Christmas Pageant, 12/10

### Conference

- Harford/Baltimore North/East conference meeting, 12/7

### Synod/Wider Church

- Narrative Lectionary pericope group, 11/21, 12/13

### **Revised Calendar of CIA Youth Group Events**

- December 29, 4-9 pm Jurassic Golf & Arcade, ELCA Youth Gathering fundraiser
- December 29, St. Paul's, Aberdeen, Youth Night [open to all Harford Conference youth], Christmas party at Pr. Stuart Luce's home in Bel Air
- January 7, 6:30-8:30 pm - Youth Group Meeting – Youth Sunday planning
- January 13, 4:00-8:00 pm – Chili Cook-off, ELCA Youth Gathering fundraiser
- January 14 – Souper Bowl of Caring food drive kick-off. Youth will make signs for two Super Bowl teams. Food will be collected for the Sharing Table.
- January 19-21 RoadTrip for DE-MD Synod high school youth in Ocean City
- January 25, 6:30-8:30 PM - Youth Group Meeting – Youth Sunday planning
- January 26 – 6:00-10:00 pm – youth night at St. Paul's, Aberdeen, open to all Harford Conference youth
- January 28, 12:30 pm – Youth Group Meeting - Getting Ready session
- February TBD – Letter-writing, ELCA Youth Gathering fundraiser
- Friday night in February TBD - Snow tubing. Open to congregation. At Avalanche Express/Heritage Golf Club in York.
- February 4, 8:30 am - Leadership Meeting
- February 11, 12:30 pm - Youth Group Meeting – Getting Ready session
- February 13-Faschnaut at 7:00pm-Celebration Hall
- February 18, 6:30-8:30 pm – Youth Group meeting – Youth Sunday planning
- February 23 – 6:00-10:00 pm – youth night at St. Paul's, Aberdeen, open to all Harford Conference youth
- February 24, 7:00-10:00 am – Flapjack Fundraiser at Applebees, Bel Air, for ELCA Youth Gathering

- February 24, 11:00 am-1:00 pm – group-building time for ELCA Youth Gathering participants
- February 25, 12:30-2:30 pm – Youth Group meeting – Youth Sunday planning
- March TBD – McGerks, ELCA Youth Gathering fundraiser
- Friday night in March TBD - Bowling at APG. Bowling 9:30-10:30, with pizza beforehand.
- March 4, 6:30-8:30 pm - Youth Group meeting – Youth Sunday planning
- March 11, 12:30-2:30 pm - Youth Group meeting – Youth Sunday planning
- March 18, 6:30-8:30 pm – Youth Group meeting – Youth Sunday planning
- Early Spring TBD – Car Wash, ELCA Youth Gathering fundraiser
- March 25-Youth host Coffee Social
- March 25, 12:30 pm - Youth Group meeting – Getting Ready session
- March 30 – Tree Planting (Good Friday)
- April TBD – Paint Night, ELCA Youth Gathering fundraiser
- April or May TBD – Planting at First Fruits Farm
- April 7, 9:30-11:00 am – “Dress rehearsal” for Youth Sunday
- April 8-Youth Sunday (both services-reserve Celebration Hall for breakfast in between services)
- April 13-15 – Transformers Retreat for DE-MD Synod middle school youth at Mar-Lu-Ridge
- April 15, 8:30 am - Leadership Meeting
- April 22 – Youth Group meeting – Escape Room?
- April 27 – 6:00-10:00 pm – youth night at St. Paul’s, Aberdeen, open to all Harford Conference youth
- April 29, 12:30 pm -Youth Group meeting – Getting Ready session
- May TBD – “Stock certificates,” ELCA Youth Gathering fundraiser
- May 6, 7:00 pm -Youth Group meeting – Getting Ready session
- May 11-13 - Confirmation Retreat at Mar-Lu-Ridge
- May 20, 7:00 pm – Youth Group meeting – Escape Room?
- May 25 – 6:00-10:00 pm – youth night at St. Paul’s, Aberdeen, open to all Harford Conference youth
- June TBD – Swimming party
- June 3 Leadership Meeting
- June 10, 12:30 pm – Youth Group Meeting – Getting Ready session/final details
- June 15-17 - LYO High School Leadership event at United Lutheran Seminary’s Gettysburg campus
- June 24, 11:30 am – Final logistics meeting for Gathering group and parents
- June 27-July 1 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston (LCGS group departs 6/26, returns 7/2)

## **General Facilities Report December 2017**

### Facilities Review

1. Celebration Hall light cover repaired.
2. Christian Ed Storage closet rearranged by Glenn Garbinski and volunteers.
3. Electrical upgrades completed by Raynor Electric.

4. County Electrical Inspection for Raynor project completed and passed.
5. Light bulbs replaced in Blue Preschool room.
6. Volunteer request sent out to Facilities crew for Christmas Overflow setup.

Action Items for next meeting

1. Need commercial contractor to review filter for Boiler.
2. Clean parsonage basement shower.

Items for discussion in Council session

N/a