



The GLC Voice

August 2010

God' Work, Gethsemane's Hands

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STEWARDS AND CONSUMERS

You were informed at a combined coffee and informational meeting on July 18th of the financial situation mid-way through this year as a congregation. You were also told that your council is planning a Stewardship emphasis for this fall. When we mention that word 'stewardship' most immediately click into a financial mode. Stewardship is more than financial. Stewardship is our how we measure our entire relationship to God. Adam and Eve and everyone one since have been and are stewards of that which we do not own. We are stewards.

In our consumer driven society, what we own has become another way of defining who we are. In Philippians 4:11, Paul suggests that we 'learn to be content with whatever we have'. Today's consumer-based society tries to keep us dissatisfied,

not content with what we have, but striving after that which proves often to be empty promises to give us what will ultimately satisfy. We are like the dog in racing on the track that is always seen chasing a rabbit that it never catches.

Not too many years ago, a computer company urged us to 'buy tomorrow's computer today.' This is a never-ending promise. What will we do when tomorrow comes and the computer we bought yesterday is replaced by tomorrow's computer? We are urged to buy another. We have all been there. Tomorrow's products and visions are always better, faster, and promising more than what we bought yesterday for today.

Remember the Coke ad that represented a global community on top of a hill holding hands singing of 'buying

a home for the whole world, and furnishing it with love.' Then the next verse went on to suggest a promise for the future that most people endorse, but at the same time tie it into a product for us to purchase;... 'I'd like to teach the world to sing in perfect harmony. I'd like to buy the world a Coke and keep it company'. Summing it all up with 'It's the real thing. Coke is what the world wants today.'

Remember? Today's consumerism is so tied to visions that promise what we don't currently have, and in many cases, provides a bridge between product and promise that is misleading but very easy to make us become be-

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Informational Meeting of July 18, 2010

(information shared at meeting with congregation on Sunday, July 18th)

Two years ago the council called for a meeting to inform the congregation that we were headed for a drastic shortfall of income to cover our debts. You responded and that was averted.

Last year more ground was made despite a downturn in the economy. We were looking at a shortfall of estimated giving of \$16,000 but had totaling \$5556. We were holding our own, but to avoid trouble we had a "ketch-up" drive in February which was a challenge that was met enthusiastically. Which brings us to this year. We are pleased to say that we have unpaid bills totaling \$1,835. To date we have continued to chip away at our debts. We hope that we can see our way toward working on our debt to Gifts and Memorials of \$11,000 that was used to keep us afloat two years ago.

So as not to talk about money any more, at this time

I will just mention that a stewardship drive is in the planning stages for October. We need to be aware of some repairs that will be needed for when this heat gives way to Winter. These repairs include a section of fascia, the roof, and the door near the choir room (that has been in need for over a year). We also need to consider a seal-coat on the parking lot to prevent deterioration.

Motion sensor switches have been installed, higher efficiency bulbs will continue to be put in as bulbs go out, and we will continue to make changes to our efficiency as we go along.

We can all be pleased with the progress that we are making while continuing to keep on keeping on.

The Church Council

WE NEED YOU! Gethsemane is serving the Tuesday Community supper on August 3 and we need help with cooking, serving, cleaning up and pans of bars. There is a sign-up sheet on the sanctuary door.

ANNUAL AUGUST BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP – Come and enjoy a potluck brunch, bible study and fellowship on Wed., August 4, at 9 a.m. We will eat first and then Pastor Paul will have bible study. Men are also welcome!

DO YOU HAVE A FLAG THAT NEEDS RETIRING? Bruce Davidson, a member here at GLC writes: “A few years ago I was visiting with an elderly friend. . . and I noticed several American Flags on a shelf. He knew the flags needed to be retired and being a veteran he also knew that putting them in the trash was wrong. He wasn’t a member of any veteran organizations and his involvement with the Boy Scouts had ended years earlier (his sons being in their 40s and 50s now) so those avenues were not readily accessible to him. Knowing these facts I offered to take the flags and retire them for him. He was very happy to let me do it.

“A thunder storm in June did a number on my flag and I replaced it so now I have a flag to retire. Thinking back to my friend, I wonder if there is anyone at church that has a flag or flags that need to be retired and could use my help to get it done. I will be retiring my flag and doing others at the same time wouldn’t be any more effort. To that end, would you be willing to place a notice in the church bulletin and/or newsletter letting folks know I can retire their flag(s) that are in need of being retired. I do realize that local VFW’s and Boy Scout troops do this also, but I’m an option too. And if the church is willing, I could bring a box in and give people a place to bring them until I can pick them up. Let me know what you think, ”
YES, WE WILL BRUCE — TO EVERYONE — THE BOX IS IN THE NARTHEX.

ACCOMPANIST FOR SR. CHOIR NEEDED

We will need to find an accomplished person on keyboard to provide accompaniment for the choir at practice and when they sing on Sundays. Melody provided that needed service when she was able. Directing the choir and accompanying at the same time is difficult and not a desirable situation. Contact Vicky Lovestrand with possibilities.

AN ARTICLE FROM OUR MISSIONARIES some introductory comments....

(Complete copies of the article, ‘The Female Body of Christ’ can be picked up the office.)

Serving in South Africa comes with challenges to the church there as well as here. Organized religion there has challenges not unlike those that challenge the church universal. The article begins with these words: “One of the primary reasons women and men around the world ignore organized Christian religion is due to a perceived disconnect between who Jesus was and what churches of the 21st century have become. In other words, there are many who are incredibly fascinated with the way of Jesus, yet the same individuals refuse to participate within churches due to observed levels of hypocrisy, closed-mindedness, and self-righteousness among Jesus’ (supposed) followers. As I have been told on countless occasions, there are many who love Jesus, but just as many who dislike – or even despise – the Christian church. While my first reaction as an ordained pastor is to defend churches, I have come to the harsh reality that many of its practices are quite different from what Jesus taught and embodied through his earthly actions recorded in the Bible.”



Brian Konkol goes on to describe the situation he sees around him.....”When I examine the four Gospel narratives which serve as the foundation for Christian faith, I am confronted with a Jesus who promoted equality of women with men, a person who not only spoke empowering words about women, but he also accompanied women as human persons and willingly risked his life through disobedience of social customs in order to promote a prophetic stance.”

The promotion of equal rights between the sexes is crucial to the future life of the church, there or here, then or now. Read on — pick up your copy today.

MELODY BOERSMA-BRUE'S RESIGNATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED

In these last days Melody has decided to move on from her duties here at Gethsemane as Director of Education. We wish her well. Her duties will be continued through the Education Committee until a replacement is found. We ask everybody's help and cooperation in this time of transition.

REMEMBER TO MAKE DONATIONS DURING COFFEE

Sunday morning coffee donations have gone down. The decorated bag on each table was intended for that purpose. We are trying bowls be put on tables from now on for your coffee money. In looking at the guidelines for the serving of coffee bowls placed in the kitchen, bowls are suggested. Perhaps the decorated bags hid the fact that we are still inviting your financial support. Perhaps the bowls will help. We will try it for a time to see if the coffee money donations increase.

LUTHER POINT SUMMER CELEBRATION

Sat., Aug. 14, 2010 -- A Fundraiser to Celebrate and Support the Ministry

There will be something for everyone—you won't want to miss this opportunity to celebrate Luther Point and support its ministry! Join us and enjoy a variety of handcrafted items including woodcrafted items, pottery, and artwork as well as a Silent Auction, Farmers' Market, and Quilt Store. Bring the family! Fun youth activities including swimming, crafts and games will be provided. Join the summer staff for a campfire worship around 4pm!

Attention youth groups!! **New this year!!** There will be a volleyball tournament held all day. Mark your calendar and start recruiting your team today!

Idea of the Month: This year a new feature of the Summer Celebration will be theme baskets. Theme baskets can be for either the Silent Auction or the Auction block depending on their value. Consider assembling a basket—get a group of a friends, youth group, Bible study, or family together and see what your creativity can come up with! Some ideas include hobbyist baskets (fishermen, quilters, scrapbookers, etc), sports theme baskets with game tickets, or get away packages with lodging.

Contact Becky at 715-689-2347 or Becky@LutherPoint.org with questions or for more information.

NEED FOR PERSON TO LEAD MUSIC THIS COMING WEEK AT VBS

After further thought, Melody is unable to fulfill this commitment. Beginning August 1, we will need a person to take her place in leading music for VBS that begins August 1 and runs through Thursday, August 5, 4:45 p.m.—8 p.m. This is a short segment at the beginning and ending of each day. The music is on cd's provided. The Education Committee is in the process of securing a person and it is hoped that a replacement will have been found by this time, but this announcement is made just in case that is not the case. Contact Pastor Paul at 715.684.2984 if you would like to help or with names.

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lievers and consumers of that which does not satisfy.

Augustine of the 3rd Century began his prayers often with, 'You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you, O God.' Looking elsewhere to find ourselves is useless, or as the New Testament writer put it....'a useless striving after nothing.' Maybe the country western song had it right after all...'we're looking for love in all the wrong places.' We attempt to fill our hearts with purchases, and continuing to do so, our hearts continue to be restless. The psalmist recognized this as well, and suggests to us, '....lead me to the rock that is higher than I.'

How much is enough? We are all entrusted as stewards of that which we do not own. If we focus on dollar signs and what we own, it will come to own us. If we focus on the things of God above all else as 'good and faithful stewards,' all things in our lives will find their proper place.

---- Pastor Paul ----

Dear Sisters in Christ,
 Wow! The fair is over and it is time to get ready for school, which reminds me — watch for sales for school supplies for the school kits. Also, think of the other kits too, and put your things in the supply room so we know what has to be added. The lists are in your book.

The books will be made soon, so let me know of any changes. If anyone would like to work on the altar lists, let me know. The funeral lists will remain the same unless you want a change.



Women
 of the
 EVANGELICAL
 LUTHERAN
 CHURCH
 IN AMERICA

Dates to Remember:		
Aug. 4	9 a.m.	W/ELCA Bible Study/Potluck
Aug. 5	9 a.m.	Quilting
Aug. 19	9 a.m.	Quilting

Gethsemane is serving the Tuesday Community Supper on August 3, and we can use some help cooking, serving, cleaning up and making a pan of bars. Use the sign-up sheet on the door leading into the sanctuary.

On August 4 we will have our Bible Study Brunch starting at 9 a.m. We will eat first and Pastor Paul will have bible study. Everyone is invited.

Our St. Croix Valley Conference summer retreat is August 17, 8:30 a.m. to noon at Ezekiel Lutheran in River Falls. Let's get a car load to go. Busy month, come and enjoy.

Love in Christ
 oise

About People We Know . . .

- ✠ On June 27 the bulletin was sponsored by Lori & Doris DeYoung in memory of Elmer DeYoung who passed away thirty years ago on June 26.
- ✠ On July 11 the altar flowers were provided and the bulletin was sponsored by the children and grandchildren of Ed & Phyllis Hanson in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary which was July 15.
- ✠ Please keep Lynda Geurkink and her family close in your thoughts and prayers during these days and weeks after the death of their husband and father, Ray.

INTERESTED IN RINGING BELLS?

If you are interested in joining the Gethsemane Bell Choir this coming year, please come to a potluck picnic at the Vobejda's. The date and time will be announced in the Sunday bulletin or call the church office or Joan Vobejda at 715.698.2340. If you can help us out by subbing, ringing part-time or being a full-time ringer, we have a spot saved for you! Hopefully, we can answer any of your questions! Joan will provide the beverage and the choir will provide meat for grilling. R.S.V.P. to Joan. The choir is directed by Greg Birdwell.

THOUGHTS ON HUNGER

- ◆ Two billion of the world's six billion people who live on planet Earth live on less than \$2 a day.
- ◆ Today 35 million Americans live below the poverty level in one of the most developed and affluent countries in the world.
- ◆ We often feel that world hunger is too big and how can we simply do something that will make a difference on our level?
- ◆ In today's average American household, it is estimated that between 15-20% of the total food purchase is wasted.
- ◆ That represents approximately 130 pounds of food that goes into the landfills in a given year per person.
- ◆ If that wasted food could be diverted, approximately 49 million people could be fed with our wasted groceries.

AUGUST AT GETHSEMANE

ANNIVERSARIES . . .

8/02 Gary & Randi Hoffman
Jon & Allene Eggen
David & Karen Hanson
8/08 John & Mary Onkka
8/09 Jerry & Jodi Wolski
8/10 Jim & Lisa Kaiser
8/13 Larry & Mary Lokken
8/16 Mark & Gail Perry
8/18 Shawn & Kathy LaFavor
8/23 Duane & Lorna Lewis
Allen & Shelly Borgeson
8/25 Jerry & Audrey Goossen
8/27 Jerry & Amy Geurkink
8/31 Mike & Marsha Nadeau

Sun., Aug. 1 — Communion

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Coffee
4:45-8 p.m. VBS

Mon., Aug. 2

4:45-8 p.m. VBS
5 p.m. Mission Comm.
7 p.m. Worship Comm.

Tues., Aug. 3

4:45-8 p.m. VBS
5 p.m. Community Meal

Wed., Aug. 4

9 a.m. W/ELCA Bible
Study/Potluck
4:45-8 p.m. VBS

Thurs., Aug. 5

9 a.m. Quilting
4:45-8 p.m. VBS
8 p.m. AA

Sun., Aug. 8

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Coffee
7 p.m. Ed. Committee

Tues., Aug. 10

7 p.m. Council

Thurs., Aug. 12

8 p.m. AA

Sun., Aug. 15 — Communion

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 Coffee

Thurs., Aug. 19

9 a.m. Quilting
8 p.m. AA

Sun., Aug. 22

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 Coffee

Mon., Aug. 23

9 a.m. Quilt Club

Thurs., Aug. 26

9:15 a.m. Newsletter Assembly
8 p.m. AA

Sun., Aug. 29 — Communion

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 Coffee

. . . AND BIRTHDAYS

8/02 Tanya LaFavor	8/20 Ruby Thompson
8/03 Ruth Cheney	8/21 Virginia Moulton
8/05 Loren Zillmann	Bart Foerster
Ryan Benoy	8/22 Nick Zillmann
Cooper Bensen	8/23 Roger Veenendall
Cody Brightbill	8/24 Vinnie Campbell
8/07 Jim Weiss	Bailey Peterson
8/12 Deb Veenendall	8/26 Dorothy Phernetton
8/13 Peder Hoffman	8/27 Nicole Larson
8/15 Ed Hanson	8/28 Marilyn Kozeliski
8/17 Julie McConnell	Catherine Hunt
8/18 Doris Boldt	8/30 Erling Lestrud
8/19 Amy Haney	8/31 Kevin Newton

	August 1	August 8	August 15	August 22	August 29
Altar Guild					
Coffee	Lydia Circle	Mary Circle	Mary Circle	General Board	General Board
Counters	Phyllis Chapin/Margaret Wolske				
Worship	Greg Birdwell	Mervil Heins		Cornie & Linda Z	Micki Place
Welcome Ministry	Dale & Gloria Fern	Keith & Marvel Gregerson	Ken & Louise Peterson	Troy & Annette Peterson	Gordon & Micki Place
Video Tape	Kathy Kuhn	Aaron Esanbock	Brent Nelson	Cody Berends	David Burge

COUNCIL — June 29, 2010

Present: Jodi Peterson, Tedd Drenth, Dan Bensen, Margaret Wolske, Jody Wolski, Rodger Preble, Pastor Paul.

Meeting was called to order, Pastor Paul opened with a prayer.

Special meeting to discuss the pros and cons of Bridge Builders.

A Bridge Builders program was done at Gethsemane in '88 or '89. Margaret discussed this with Duane Russett.

- Bridge Builders may interfere with a Fall Stewardship program
- It could interfere with planning the July Congregational meeting
- It could interfere with the Luther Point drive in the spring
- Potential for staff changes

Jodi P. discussed a Bridge Builders type program with a person not from Gethsemane, this person felt the process worked well at their church, it did not necessarily go the direction this person expected.

- It is necessary for the congregation to step forward in a positive direction
- Where do we see Gethsemane in 5 years?
- Long-term congregational goals (some were set when Pastor started at Gethsemane)
- Tedd D. stated we should "plan your work, work your plan"
- Will this help the council in representing the congregation?

A council retreat is another option that was discussed

A motion was made and seconded to look into the cost of Bridge Builders, and a council retreat. Motion passed.

Jodi P. voiced concerns about

- VBS fund raising
- Facebook usage (postings)
- Amount of work that gets done, work not done in a timely manner.

Motion made to adjourn, motion seconded and passed.

Next meeting July 13.

COUNCIL — July 13, 2010

Present: Jodi Peterson, Tedd Drenth, Dan Bensen, Jim Wall, Margaret Wolske, Roger Evans, Jody Wolski, Rodger Preble, Pastor Paul, Kris M.

Meeting was called to order, Tedd had devotions. Minutes of the June 15th, 2010, meeting were reviewed. Motion made and seconded to approve, motion passed

Treasurer's Report: motion made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report, motion passed.

Committee reports: Motion made and seconded to approve, motion passed

Pastor's report:

- Quarterly reports are due to be sent, send a letter? In the newsletter? Motion made to include a letter and publish in the newsletter, motion seconded and passed.
- Records management, Pastor Paul looked it up, the synod assumes most congregations do their own archiving. Gethsemane has the capability to scan to a file. Terrie will be taking care of this over the summer.
- Church management software, the council was presented with various options, motion made and seconded to form a committee to look into the various programs and make a recommendation to the council. The committee will consist of Pastor Paul, Terrie and we will ask Leroy E. and Greg B. to help.
- Shrubs in front of the church are looking overgrown. One option would be to pull them out and replace with wood chips. A motion was made and seconded to ask Claire S. and Aaron V. to check the landscaping out and offer suggestions.
- Members removed from the membership roll, anyone can have access to this information.

Affirmations, Concerns and Clarifications:

- Jodi P.'s letter about Melody's summer job description was reviewed; concern was raised about past duties.
 - A letter was received from Melody explaining her summer duties.
 - Motion made and seconded to have the Ed. Committee meet with the Executive Committee to discuss the job description. Motion rescinded.
 - Nicole B. and Melody will meet to work out communication between the Ed. Comm. and Melody.
- A discussion was held about members of other

DOLLARS & CENSUS		
July 2010		
	Attendance	Offering
7/4	116	\$4,179
7/11	172	\$4,104
7/18	141	\$1,858
7/25	<u>153</u>	<u>\$3,440</u>
Total	582	\$13,581

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boards attending the council meeting and council members attending the other board meetings

Executive Committee Report: the committee did not meet

Old Business

- Bridge Builders -- a discussion about the pros/cons, help in setting goals, the congregation will go thru a self study when Pastor Paul leaves. Motion made and seconded to hold a special meeting on July 20th, Pastor Paul will call the synod to ask Todd Iverson to attend. We will also invite Dan B.'s brother and Duane Russett to attend and give us input. Motion passed.
- Gethsemane will not be participating the National Night Out
- Fall Stewardship drive, motion made and seconded to hold a Stewardship drive in Oct. The committee will consist of Rodger P., Jim W., Pastor Paul and Margaret W.
- Tabled the video camera update
- We still owe Gifts and Memorials \$13,000, it was suggested we consider using interest to pay back. No motion made.

New Business:

- Congregational meeting positive points to be made: show Jan. to now improvement, Ketchup fund success, garage sale success, the council is pleased with the progress we have made financially. October Stewardship drive will be mentioned.
- Mentoring Ministry: Pastor Paul and Margaret met and a motion was made and seconded to accept their recommendations motion passed.
- Altar Guild revisions were presented. Continuing Resolutions IX-Altar Guild, motion made and seconded to accept the revisions, motion passed.

Next meeting, July 20. Randi Hoffman will have devotions.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting, approved

Unapproved Minutes

COUNCIL — July 20, 2010

Present: Jodi Peterson, Tedd Drenth, Dan Bensen, Jim Wall, Margaret Wolske, , Roger Evans, Jody Wolski, Rodger Preble, Pastor Paul, Evelyn Peterson, Duane Russett, and Todd Iverson.

Meeting was called to order, Paul opened with a quote from Marshall McLuhan and then a prayer.

Todd Iverson, an Assistant to the Bishop, presented information about the synod program called Bridge Builders. He explained the Bridge Builders process. 13 general areas of concern/trouble in congregations have been identified by the author of this program, Peter Steinke. He has written several books including "Understanding Congregations," "Healthy Congregations" and "Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times."

- The Bridge Builders program includes a team of three people from within the synod; they will first meet with the council.
- The team will conduct 20 interviews.
- People not interviewed personally can share with the team by letter, all letters must be signed.
- There will be a group meeting during this meeting there will be a 90 minute sharing session. Everyone who wants to speak will have 2 minutes and need to follow some basic ground rules.
- The team will make several recommendations in their report, very detailed plans
- The council will sign off on the teams recommendation
- A congregational meeting will be held and the congregation will sign off on the report.

The process takes 4 to 6 weeks.

This report could help us shape our Stewardship drive.

Margaret asked about a seminar for councils, "Healthy Congregations" was mentioned.

The cost of Bridge Builders is based on average weekly worship attendance. Less than 200 people \$1,500.00. 200 people or more \$2,000.00

This program involves a significant amount of time.

At this point, having answered our questions, Todd Iverson left.

Motion made and seconded we invite Bridge Builders to come to our next meeting with a contract ready for us to sign. Motion passed.

Roger E. asked if Pastor Paul had talked to Melody about previously discussed concerns. Pastor Paul stated that

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WORSHIP COMMITTEE — July 6, 2010

Members present: Cornie & Linda Zevenbergen, Greg Birdwell, Mervil Heins, Jody Olson and Pastor Paul

Linda had devotions. Jody will have devotions in August. The following corrections were made to the June minutes:

- 1) The June 6 service ... should read: The June 6 Mission service. . .
- 2) Under Digital Camera a change was made to read: we would like to recommend to the Council to buy a digital camera only if training will be provided to whomever runs the camera.

The minutes were then approved. Motion by Mervil, second by Cornie.

- ◆ Music – most of the summer music is filled.
- ◆ Fine Arts –
- ◆ Tape Ministry—
- ◆ Altar Guild – Lynn Nelson has volunteered. We looked at the resolution and discussed changes.
- ◆ Worship Assistants – going well
- ◆ Pastor’s Report –

Old Business

Children’s time – trying to figure out what ages it is for and find the natural break in ages. Maybe try various activities instead of a children’s time every Sunday. Decided Pastor should decide what fits or works for each Sunday.

New Business

Make our own communion bread? – Probably not.

Assignments for August:

- Aug. 1 Greg
- Aug. 8 Mervil
- Aug. 15 Jody
- Aug. 22 Cornie & Linda
- Aug. 29 Micki

Inventory: Wine – 1 gallon, Grape Juice – none, Wafers – 1500, Cups – plenty.

Motion to adjourn – Mervil, second by Linda.

Next Meeting, August 2, 7 p.m.

(Unofficial minutes)

YOUTH AND EDUCATION — July 7, 2010

Attendance: Nicole Borgerson-Burge, Lori Hillstead, Lisa Lovestrand, and Allison Spradley
Guest: Pastor Paul, Jody Peterson, and Jim Wall

DEVOTIONS: Nicole

MAY MINUTES: Reviewed and approved.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Theme: High Seas Adventure

- ◆ Registration forms were sent out and are located in the bulletin.
- ◆ List of supplies is posted at Nilssen’s Super Valu for people to purchase and give as donations.
- ◆ There was a Root Beer Float

stand at Nilsson’s as a fund raiser for VBS.

- ◆ Details of actives were discussed.

LUTHER BIBLE CAMP: Discussed if all requirements have been met for confirmation.

CONFIRMATION: Sept. 26, 2010 (Always last Sunday in September). Discussed robe rentals and flowers - Will confirm details at the August meeting.

FAITH TREK:

- ◆ Rally day will be Sept. 12, 2010. (Same as grandparents day – may try and combine this is some way). Discussed songs, snack, lesson and maybe a scavenger

hunt. Will meet again in July to finalize ideas and details.

- ◆ Installation of teachers that Sunday as well – Suggestion was made to include parents in service.
- ◆ Curriculum: Ideas discussed. Pastor Paul to update Melody. Discussion to continue at next meeting, July 21, 7 pm.
- ◆ Teachers needed for PreK, thru 5th and confirmation grades 6th-8th. Room assignments discussed. Lisa to put up a sign-up sheet for volunteers to teach and make an announcement during a service.
- ◆ 3rd Grade Bibles to be given in October. Date to be deter-

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YOUTH AND EDUCATION — July 21, 2010

Attendance: Nicole Borgerson-Burge, Lori Hillstead, Lisa Lovestrand, Kari Hoefler and Allison Spradley, Guest: Pastor Paul

Curriculum and Rally Day

FAITH TREK: Discussion of Curriculum

- A. Discussed last year's Faith Trek – Pros /Cons
- Length of time needed to get music started and get the kids into the classrooms to start lesson – some days took too long for various reasons, etc.
 - Used the same classrooms for the kids, etc.
- B. Ideas:
- Want to keep lessons simple yet educational and interesting for the kids.
 - Incorporating the Ten Commandments, doing one Psalm a week.
 - Getting the kids to use their Bibles more.
 - Incorporating the lesson in Faith Trek with the gospel during the service.
 - Would like to focus on getting the kids to learn the stories of the bible.
 - Game show trivia for older kids.
- C. Discussed various types of curriculum: Pastor Paul presented examples.
- Cornerstones (Last year's curriculum)
 - Website: www.cstones.com
 - 6-year rotation, workshop model, can customize plans, each year different subject. Did not follow lectionary
 - "The Group" website - www.group.com
 - Augsburg: website - www.augsburgfortress.org
 - Lectionary based curriculum "Spark" www.activatefaith.org
 - Easy to follow lesson plans – workbook and activity based one workbook per student per grade. Each workbook lesson ties in with the Gospel lesson for each Sunday. Can order age appropriate bibles. Divided into 3 semesters – Fall, winter and spring. Discussed that may not need to order Winter lessons as most of that time will be filled with practice for Christmas program. Rest of the semester can be created by the education committee.
 - Pastor Paul will order a sample pack of "Spark" (with all grade levels thru 6th grade including bibles) for committee review.
 - Concern was brought up about ordering time frame; making sure that material is available to order when needed.
 - Cost and number of students were also discussed.

D. Music:

- Pastor Paul will place a request in the bulletin for musically inclined people to help with Faith Trek music. Music not needed every Sunday. Will try and incorporate music from VBS.
- We will continue to discuss the music needs at the next meeting.

E. Confirmation:

- Discussed: That currently 6th, 7th and 8th grades are included. Suggestion was made to change it to only 7th and 8th grade – we will continue to discuss the possible change.
- Pastor Paul to teach a portion of the Sunday School class.
- Reviewed discussion cards - very nice for ice breaker to get the kids talking. Doing a Bible study type class.
- Would like to see Curriculum for confirmation class. Pastor Paul to research and bring examples to next meeting.
- "Divine Drama" geared toward young teens. Based on visual learning. May have to purchase visuals.
- Teachers - Nicole has a few names and she will be contacting them.
- Discussed expectations of students. That will be monitored and a letter will be sent to the parents if not being met and what can be done.

Rally Day: Sunday September 12th - Will tie in Grandparents day.

Ideas for activities:

- Have kids make cardboard lockets with pictures of themselves and/or grandparents. Write how their grandparents helped them grow in their faith.
- Invite the grandparents to the service and participate with the lesson/activity. Doing a large group activity. In rooms hang up all the special names that the kids have for their grandparents. Scavenger hunt with grandparents looking for items in the church. Snack.
- Request that all students sit with parents and grandparents during the church service so that a dedication can be made by Pastor Paul to include teachers, parents and grandparents.

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MISSION COMMITTEE — July 5, 2010

Present: Pastor Paul, Gary Hoffman, Barb Thompson, Ruth Cheney, Gloria Fern, and Cindy Wall

Minutes of last meeting approved.

Committees Areas of Responsibility:

1. Prayer Chain—going well
2. Missionaries—Pastor has received a packet from Global Mission, covenant with the Konkols has been renewed
3. Food Pantry—continues; nothing new to report
4. Community Meals—going well, however, is beginning to have some financial needs; donations have been requested, as the program is beginning to use some of their excess funds. Envelopes are available at the Worship Center.
5. Sunday Coffee —
 - a. Gary to call for volunteers for the last 3 Sundays in September
 - b. July 25—Stones and Brunch scheduled—the circle serving that day will take care of the brunch.
 - c. Concern that donations at the coffee time are down. We will try having a bowl on the tables instead of the gift bags in hopes that it is more visible. Will begin immediately.
6. Welcoming Committee—nothing new to report
7. Groups using the church—nothing new to report
8. Mhkota Parish—Gloria received an e-mail—Independence Day in Malawi was celebrated with National Prayer

Old Business:

1. Pastor's Report
 - a. Pastor has been working with Annette P. and Thrivent- has been a work in progress for the last 5 months to have Annette registered as our contact person
 - b. Habitat for Humanity workday is scheduled for July 10. We are sharing the workday with Peace Lutheran.
2. Evaluation of Offering of Letters
 - a. 52 letters were written and sent, including some letters written by children
 - b. Suggestion for next year to do Offering of Letters before the end of the Sunday School year so that the Sunday School children are encouraged to be involved

New Business:

1. Gethsemane is struggling with our role as a missional church
 - a. What is our long range plan? Where does Gethsemane want to be 2, 5, or 10 years from now? We have as our mission statement that we will try to equally balance our emphasis between three areas: 1) Church, 2) Community, and 2) World
2. The Council is in charge of the church's direction—our mission as well as our financial well-being.
 - a. Committees (Worship, Education, Mission) are all under the direction of the council. Suggestion made that there is a unified effort

of the Council and these committees in working together toward common goals.
 b. Committee members are encouraged to be thinking about what our goals are for further discussion.

Meeting Adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: Monday, August 2, 2010, at 5 pm **Devotions:** Barb Thompson

Recorded by C. Wall, Secretary

Unapproved Minutes

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- mined. Book covers?
- ◆ 3-year-old bibles discussed.
 - ◆ Faith Trek offering decided that – 1st half of the year will go to adopt-a-family. May check with habitat for humanity for names.

BUDGET: Discussed

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Organized by Worship Committee: Discussed

YOUTH GROUP: Discussed

YOUTH DIRECTOR: Job duties discussed.

PRAYER: Pastor Paul

Next meeting, Wed., July 21, 7pm. to discuss Faith Trek Curriculum and Rally Day.

August Meeting: Sunday, August 8th at 7pm

(Unofficial minutes)

(Continued from page 8)

Melody had resigned her position on Wed., July 14th, she will work through VBS and her last day at Gethsemane will be August 5th. Margaret W. made a motion that the Ed. Committee handle Sunday School. No second, motion rescinded.

Roger E. shared information on digital video cameras. Pastor Paul will present this to the Worship Committee.

Next meeting, be Aug. 10. Randi Hoffman will have devotions.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting, approved.

Unapproved Minutes

(Continued from page 10)

Pastor Paul to work with Jennifer on drafting a letter to be mailed to the parents and requesting that grandparents/special older adult attend on rally day. Will also include info on ordering Children's Bible with the letter.

Other Business

- ◆ Discussed getting a Treasury report: Allison will contact Kris M.
- ◆ Discussed areas of responsibility for the Education Committee. Allison to check with Pastor Paul re: template.
- ◆ Pastor Paul to:
 1. Bring ordered sample curriculum for Faith Trek - Spark
 2. Example of curriculum for Confirmation

3. Check with Teri for a list of students and grade level
- ◆ Allison to:
 1. Get treasury report from Kris M.
 2. Get template from Pastor Paul for future minutes.
 - ◆ Nicole to: Check with prospective teachers for Confirmation
 - ◆ Jennifer to: Get with Pastor Paul to draft letter to be sent to the parents.

**August Meeting:
Sunday, August 8, 7pm.**
(will finalize Faith Trek curriculum and Rally Day details)

Unapproved Minutes

**Billy Graham's Prayer For Our Nation -
for your thought and consideration**

'Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, 'Woe to those who call evil good,' but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values. We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery. We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare. We have killed our unborn and called it choice. We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable. We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem. We have abused power and called it politics. We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition. We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression. We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment. Search us, oh God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Amen!'

[Commentator Paul Harvey supposedly aired this prayer on his radio program, 'The Rest of the Story,' and received a larger response to this program than any other he has ever aired. What are your thoughts...and perhaps show it to others and discuss it among your family and/or friends.]