

FIRST FORUM Newsletter

226 North Putnam St.
PO Box 516
Algona, IA 50511-0516

FEBRUARY 2012

Visuals in the Church

You all know we took the steps to add screens and projection in our sanctuary a little over a year ago. I think it has gone well, with the expected glitches along the way. One of the main reasons churches are adding screens and projection is because of the wider change in our society. We have become much more a visual culture in the last 50 years, in particular our younger generations. As a pastor I think it is a good thing as all of us learn and experience worship better if we use more of our senses.

The funny thing is that there really hasn't been a time when we didn't have visuals in worship spaces. Sanctuaries often include banners, paraments, candles, paintings, flowers, statues, etc.

Perhaps you noticed we have a number of candles sitting on the altar at this time. They are there to represent the Church season of Epiphany. Epiphany is about the revelation of Christ to the world. Think John, *"In the beginning...What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did no overcome it."* We are using the candles to remind us of Christ being that light.

Did you know that early on stained glass was used in windows to teach laity the Bible stories? Dating back to the 7th century churches have been found to have stained glass windows. During that time period the majority of the laity did not know how to read and the liturgy was in Latin.

In addition many church buildings in general and sanctuaries specifically, have been very ornate. Depending upon the time in history, styles include the Byzantium, the Romanesque abbey churches, Gothic cathedrals and Renaissance. They may have statues, paintings, gold inlays, or very ornate altars. As you probably know Orthodox sanctuaries include many icons, usually an abstract painting of a Bible character or saint of the church.

When I visited Israel, it was interesting to see a good number of very old churches and the variety of their styles, depending on the age of the church as well as the denomination who built it. Have you ever noticed many sanctuary spaces are in the shape of a cross? Or the ceiling is in the shape of an upside down boat? The cross is obviously to represent Jesus' cross. The boat represents the idea of the church as a life boat in this stormy and turbulent world, think Jesus walking across the stormy Sea of Galilee to save the disciples.



ANNUAL MEETING

January 22, 2012

The 2012 Annual Congregational Meetings was held on Sunday, January 22 with 63 voting members present. The following actions were taken:

- Approved the 2012 budget of \$281,153 as recommended by the Congregation Council.
- Elected:
 - Fred Johnson, Mary Rahe, Bruce Kitzinger and Jodie Knoner to three-year terms on the Congregation Council.
 - Ray Nielsen and Dave VanDeventer to three-year terms on the Mission Endowment Board.
- Appreciation expressed to those Councilpersons whose terms have ended:
 - Mark Meyer, Jean Davis, Donna Meyerink and Kevin Benschoter
- Voted and approved the bylaw for membership (see next page for the full revised bylaw)

At a special meeting following the Annual Congregational Meeting, these members were elected as the 2012 Council Officers:

President: Keith Dwire
Vice President: Al Buyck
Secretary: April Braun
Treasurer: Derald Goetz
Financial Secretary: Judy Hansen

It was in the early 1900's that many Protestant sanctuaries became very simple. One of the reasons was the belief that God didn't want us "wasting" our resources on building, but instead we should be using it to be out in the world serving others. Even the more ornate sanctuaries followed suit, often painting over decorative work. The funny thing is in most recent times the pendulum has swung back, many of those sanctuaries have brought in artists to restore the original art.

In our sanctuary, we do not have many human created ornate decorations but instead the beautiful creation of God. I love our tall wide windows. I find it helps me focus my attention to what is going on in the worship service. I occasionally get distracted by a squirrel or rabbit, but even that experience helps me recognize God as our creator.

We are actually quite fortunate that our sanctuary was designed with such great windows and clean, simple lines. It was designed and built in the late 1960's, which is pretty early for that design style. As well, the benefits of clean and simple lines are that we can add and take away objects as Church seasons and styles change.

I hope you enjoy the style of our sanctuary but also the styles of other buildings you visit.

Pastor Marsha Smith

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."

~ Anne Bradstreet

NEW BYLAW

Below is the revised bylaw that was accepted at our annual meeting on January 22:

BE IT RESOLVED by the congregation of First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iowa, that the following Bylaw be added to the Constitution of First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Algona, Iowa:

Membership: E.1.

Removal from the roll due to inactivity demonstrated by having not completed both of the following for a period of four years:

- a. participated in Holy Communion
- b. made a contribution of record to this congregation's treasury

Said member shall be given written notice that their membership is about to terminate and the reasons for said termination of membership shall be clearly stated.

Membership may be maintained if a response is received from the member within the 30 day timeframe indicating a desire to remain a member. However, both of the above acts must be completed for membership.

If at any time, after due and diligent search, a correct address is unable to be located for any existing member, the member will be automatically removed from the roll.

ASH WEDNESDAY TACO BAR

The youth are serving tacos on Ash Wednesday, February 22, from 5:00 to 6:45 p.m. Join us before service for a great meal and fellowship. The menu will include hard and soft tacos, burritos, bars, nachos and lemonade and coffee.



The youth will be handing out grocery sacks to fill on February 4 & 5 after worship services. Please bring back your sacks filled with grocery items to the church by Sunday, February 12. Some facts about hunger in our nation: Poverty is at its highest level in America in 52 years. One in seven households in our nations is food insecure, which affects 16 million children.

In 2011, more than 260,000 youth participated in Souper Bowl of Caring, collecting more than \$9.5 million in dollars and food for local hunger-relief charities. That's a total of more than \$81 million collected since the movement began in 1990! This year's goal is to empower 275,000 young people to collect \$11 million for charities in their communities.

There are close to 14,000 groups collecting food and donations during this year's Super Bowl. Food collected by these groups goes directly to their local food banks and all food collected by the youth at FLC will go to the Kossuth CARE Team.

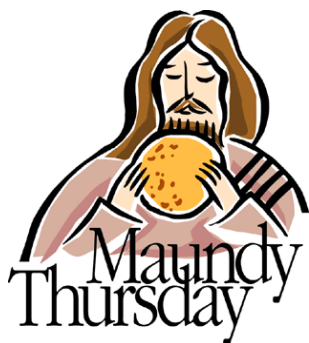


Ash Wednesday,
February 22, 2012
 Holy Communion Worship
 6:30 p.m.
 (Preceded by Taco Bar
 @ 5:00 pm)
 Acolyte: Rachel Meyer

Lenten Worship in the
 Chapel
 will be held @
 7:00 p.m. on:
 March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29



**LENTEN
 SERVICE
 SCHEDULE**



Maundy Thursday
April 5, 2012
 Holy Communion
 Worship
 7:00 p.m.
 Acolyte:
 Jacob Mechler

Good Friday
April 6, 2012
 12:00 p.m. @ First
 Lutheran

Ecumenical Worship at
 First Congregational
 Church
 Time: To Be Announced



GOOD FRIDAY



February 22, 2012

4:45-5:30 p.m.

New Beginnings Handbell Choir Rehearsal

5:00-6:15 p.m.

Taco Bar served by the Youth

5:30-6:15 p.m.

Senior Handbell Choir Rehearsal

No Confirmation Classes or Youth
 Activities—attend Ash Wednesday worship
 with your family.

6:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Holy Communion Worship

7:30-8:30 p.m.

Senior Choir Rehearsal

**Please take note of the time changes
 in you are in a choir!**

LENTEN SELF-DENIAL OFFERINGS

Lenten folders will be available the
 weekend of February 18/19 for those who
 would like one. Another option available will
 be a Lenten
 Offering folder
 that you may
 give your Lenten
 gift. Still
 another option
 is using one of
 the envelopes available in your packet of
 envelopes mailed in February.



**LENTEN
 OFFERING**



KICK

Kids in Christ's Kingdom
Grades 1-5

Early Out Fun Days

- February 1: 1:45-5:00 p.m.
- February 15: 1:45-5:00 p.m.



Upcoming Youth Fundraiser Dates

Soup-off ~ February 11
Ash Wednesday Taco Bar ~
February 22

IN BETWEEN SERVICE TREATS

Assignments to date are as follows:

- February 5: Teeuwe family
- February 12: Gilbert family
- February 19: Schmidt family
- February 26: Urban/Sadler family



Grades 6-8

February Meetings for Campaigners

- February 1: 7-8:00 p.m.
Chaperones & Snacks: Urban/Sadler family
- February 8: 7-8:00 p.m.
Chaperones & Snacks: Denner family
- February 15: 7-8:00 p.m.
Chaperones & Snacks: Colleen Teeuwe
- February 22: NO Campaigners
Attend Ash Wednesday Worship @ 6:30 p.m.
- February 29: 7-8:00 p.m.
Chaperones & Snacks: Peterson family



Wisconsin Jr. High Mission Trip

A reminder to get your registration forms into Colleen. Forms are available through



her or on our website.

Dates for the Middle School trip is August 4 thru August 11. Our trip will be thru Camp Crossways Camping Ministries which will provide

sleeping, food, & equipment.





BASIC

Brothers & Sisters in Christ Grades 9-12

February Meetings for BASIC

- February 8: 7-8:00 p.m.
 - Snacks: Colleen Teeuwe
- February 22: NO BASIC
 - Attend Ash Wednesday
Worship @ 6:30 p.m.



Soup Off!

Saturday, February 11, is the Middle School/High School annual Soup Off and Auction fundraiser to raise funds for the mission trips this summer. Sign up on the clipboard for the live auction to donate your time by babysitting, yard work, snow shoveling, running errands, dog walking, etc.



DenUM Mission Trip

A reminder to get your registration forms into Colleen. Forms are available in her office or on the website. Dates for the Senior High mission trip are June 2-9. Our trip will be through Urban Plunge which includes our service work and opportunities such as: white water rafting, zip lining, golf, Elitches, etc.

BASIC Skiing/Tubing @ Mount Kato

When: Sunday, February 26, 2011

Leave Church: 10:30 a.m.

Return to Church: 8:30-9:00 pm

Prices and options:

Lift Ticket & Equipment Rental*: \$20.00

Tubing /Snowboarding*: \$20.00

**Includes dinner, beverages & snacks for our group.*

Additional food/beverages will be available from the main lodge if desired, but the additional cost will be the responsibility of the individual making the purchase.

Recommended Attire:

Any warm, water resistant clothing will work just fine. Remember to dress in layers so you can easily add or remove layers depending on the weather conditions. Remember to bring your hat and water resistant gloves/mittens.



Sunglasses/goggles are highly recommended.

We will have a central location in the Main Lodge for you to leave extra/personal items while skiing/tubing and non-skiers to help watch your personal belongings. However, please be aware that a lot of people will be using the Main Lodge so bring valuables at your own risk.

We will need parent volunteers to help drive and if you would like to ski/tube you are invited to do so at the same prices.

RSVP: By Wednesday, February 22, to Colleen at 281.701.4202 or youth@netamumail.com so that we have enough transportation and food for all who are going. There are always scholarship funds for all youth events. Please contact Colleen for more information.

For the Family

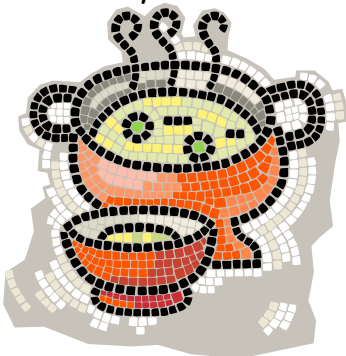


Soup-Off

Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 11 for the 7th Annual Soup-Off!! It'll begin right after worship at 6:30 p.m. with the Soup-Off first and a chance to bid for your favorite item in the Silent Auction. Afterwards is a Live Auction with many great items of which to bid.

So start thinking of your favorite soup to bring to this time honored competition and see your name on the coveted Soup-Off plaque! Sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex for bringing a soup, dessert, or donating an item for the Silent/Live Auctions. Items that have been donated in the past are: baskets, jewelry, sports themed items, bath items, etc.

Both Middle School & Senior High youth are participating in youth trips this summer which include the ELCA Youth Gathering, Urban Plunge, & Backpacking in the Porkies. It's a great opportunity for them to serve and build community.



Family Skiing/Tubing Mount Kato

When: Saturday, February 18, 2012

Leave Church: 9:30 am

Return to Church: 6:30 pm

Prices and options

Lift Ticket & Equipment Rental*: \$20.00

Snow/Tubing*: \$20.00

**Includes dinner, beverages & snacks for our group.*

Additional food/beverages will be available from the main lodge if desired, but the additional cost will be the responsibility of the individual making the purchase.



Recommended Attire:

Any warm, water resistant clothing will work just fine.

Remember to dress in layers so you can easily add or remove layers depending on the weather conditions. Remember to bring your hat and water resistant gloves/mittens. Sunglasses or goggles are highly recommended.

We will have a central location in the Main Lodge for you to leave extra/personal items while skiing/tubing and non-skiers to help watch your personal belongings. However, please be aware that a lot of people will be using the Main Lodge so bring valuables at your own risk.

If you are interested in driving, please contact Colleen.

RSVP: by **Wednesday, February 15** to Colleen at 281.701-4202 or youth@netamumail.com so that we have enough transportation and food for all who are going. There are always scholarship funds for all youth events. Please contact Colleen for more information.

THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR

February 2: 9:00 a.m. Quilt Work Day. Judy Hansen is the hostess.

February 2: 7:00 p.m. General Meeting. "Ties That Bind" will be the theme for the evening as we learn from the Quilters of First Lutheran Church what it takes to prepare a quilt for Lutheran World Relief. Joan Wiemann and Jeanine Haack are the hostesses.

February 14: 9:30 a.m. Rebecca Circle meets at the church. The group will discuss the lesson together.

February 16: 1:30 p.m. Sarah Circle will meet at the church with Judy Hansen serving as hostess and Betty Johansen leading the Bible Study.

February 21: 7:30 p.m. Priscilla Circle will meet. Pam Goetz will be the hostess and will lead the Bible Study.



"I thank thee, O Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth..." (Matthew 11:25)

As I write this, small flakes of winter are falling from the sky. I guess it is the best of both worlds. I have truly enjoyed our days of record-breaking heat & sunshine, while for the others who long for those snowy hills to ski, snowboard or tube down, we finally have their wish, as well. Either way, we had good weather for traveling during the holidays. The animal wildlife is much more able to survive without overabundant snowdrifts, etc. You see where I'm going with this. No matter what, we can't forget to say our Thank You's for

what He continues to do for each of us, every day.

I hope you remembered to NOT show up for a January meeting. That's right; we did redo the calendar and our meetings for 2012. I hope that you spent the evening with your family, your friends, or just you and your Bible on that night. *"Now set your Heart and your Soul to seek the Lord your God."* Have you already messed up on your New Year's resolutions? How about still making one to read the Bible more, or to spend more time with God, or how about spending more time learning about Him? *"See the Lord and his strength, seek His face continually." (I Corinthians 16:11)*

I believe that we will again have our meeting on the first Thursday of February. Program has already been planned, as I'm sure our hostesses are getting ready, too. Please plan to attend! Come prepared to be surprised with what's going on. I trust that the Lord will return our unexpected warm winter. If not, we ask for safe travel, whether in the car, or while walking to or from the car.

"And the churches shall know that I am He." (Rev. 2:23)

In Christ's Love,
Dr. Judy Reinking



- Laundry detergent
- Dish detergent
- Peanut Butter & Jelly

Items may be placed in the grocery cart in the south hallway or delivered to the Algona Food Pantry.

WORLD HUNGER QUARTERS



12-25	\$12.75
1-1	\$12.00
1-8	\$17.50
1-15	\$17.50
1-22	\$19.00
1-29	NA

TOTAL GIVEN IN 2011: \$866.50!

TOTAL GIVEN IN 2012: \$66.00!

**TOTAL GIVEN SINCE AUGUST 2001:
\$9,139.25!!**

WORSHIP ATTENDANTS

In November we begun a new 'worship attendant' program whereby a short checklist of items is prepared by a volunteer before each worship service. This allows our services to progress smoothly and for Pastor Marsha to greet members and guests and attend to additional tasks before worship.

We are in need of several individuals who are interested in serving as worship attendants so that a rotating schedule can be planned. The worship attendant volunteer would arrive 30 minutes prior to each worship service and complete the checklist (gathering materials, testing microphones, checking supplies, etc). A brief training session will be provided.

If you are attentive to details and have an interest in this type of ministry, please contact Julie Murphy (515-341-0109), Jeanine Haack, or Pastor Marsha for more information or to volunteer.

Volunteer
Opportunity



CHILDREN TO SING!

Joanne Roepke Bode has been leading the Sunday School children in grades Nursery through Sixth Grade in song each Sunday morning during the time of opening.



Children's Choir

On Sunday, February 12 at the 10:30 a.m. worship, your son/daughter will be sharing with the congregation a song or two that they have learned in Sunday School. The songs will all center around the "Love" theme.

Please check your calendar and plan to attend worship on February 12. Thank you!

The Christian Education Committee



This number appears many times in Scripture, often indicating a time of trial or testing, or simply marking something significant. It rained 40 days and nights during the Great Flood. Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus fasted for 40 days and was with the disciples for 40 days between his resurrection and ascension. Taking this symbolic number to heart, the Christian church has long observed 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays).



Our records show that the following members celebrate birthdays and anniversaries in February. We pray for their health and happiness as we share in their celebration. We appreciate being notified of any errors or omissions.

- 2-1 Mikaela Cooper
- 2-2 Sara Cook, Christian Parker
- 2-3 Josh Buyck, Gen Blumer
- 2-4 McKenzie Talib
- 2-5 Jeremy Herrick
- 2-7 Derek Buyck, Shirley Habeger
Whitney Mills, Chloe Sheakley
Laura Severson
- 2-8 Amy Dreyer, Torsten Arnold,
Alexa Gilbert
- 2-11 Justin Davis, William Dunkley
- 2-12 Steve Cauley, Scott Von Muenster
- 2-13 Karen Boyken, Thor Phelps,
Tate McCurry
- 2-14 Steve Schaffer, Maggie Schuttler
Courtney Pityer
- 2-15 Paul Doster
- 2-16 Charlotte Carson, Brett Conner,
Sandy Peterson, Shirley Johnson
- 2-18 Shannon Herrick
- 2-20 Cindy Schmidt
- 2-21 Harry Sabin, Connie Mechler,
Paityn Forgey, Caleb Omdahl
- 2-22 John Nordman, Dianne Whitacre,
Don Christensen
- 2-23 Diane Kleineweber

- 2-25 Becky Warren, Bob Snider
Gracey Gunderson
- 2-26 Eliza Doster
- 2-27 Sarah Valetti, Nathan Schmidt
- 2-28 Mitchell Davis, Tana McCurry
- 2-29 Tim Rodemeyer, Linda Plum



- 2-7 Rick & Margo Adams (36 years)
- 2-14 Bill & Joyce Lenz (14 years)
- 2-18 Scott & Deb Loge (35 years)
- 2-25 Josh & Kelley Helmers (6 years)



FIRST COMMUNION- JANUARY 15

A First Communion class for young people and their parents was held on a Saturday, January 14. Those completing the class and having their First Communion on Sunday, January 15 were:

- Sadie Klein*
- Cort Klein*
- Declan Braun*
- Ryan Merrill*

May God nourish these young people as they receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.



Holy Communion

February 4 & 5, 2012
 February 18 & 19, 2012
 February 22, 2012 ~ Ash Wednesday

Bake Bread

February 4/5 & 18/19: Joanne Roepke Bode
 February 22: Jean Davis

Preparation

February 4/5 & 18/19:
 Donna Kitzinger, Kathy Jansen
 February 22: Jean Davis

Clean-up

February 4/5 & 18/19:
 Julie Collison, Cindy Schmidt
 February 22: Jean Davis

Communion Assistants for February

February 4 (5:30): Kevin Benschoter
 February 5 (8:00 am): Bill Lenz
 February 5 (10:30 am): Chris VanDeventer
 February 18 (5:30 pm): Jim Hefti
 February 19 (8:00 am): Keith Dwire
 February 19 (10:30 am): Ray Nielsen
 February 22 (6:30 pm): Larry Legore

Communion Assistants for March

March 3 (5:30): Brian Meyerink
 March 4 (8:00 am): Don Hansen
 March 4 (10:30 am): Susan Legore
 March 17 (5:30 pm): Tony Wiita
 March 18 (8:00 am): Mark Meyer
 March 18 (10:30 am): Rodney Davis

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Alex Habeger, in Iraq
Erik Kloster, in Oklahoma
Paul Lenz, in Washington (state)
Brian Thacker, in Germany



SIXTY PLUS POTLUCK

The next potluck for those "Sixty Plus" will be held on Friday, February 10 at 12:00 p.m. No program or hosts have been assigned. If you would like to be a part of a friendly group, please join us during the noon hour on February 10! Please bring a dish to share as well as your own table service.



Sixty Plus



During the flu season, whenever you are greeting one another or when you're sharing the peace, if you're concerned about germs please feel free to refrain from shaking hands.

**BULLETINS FROM
TRAVELING WORSHIPPERS**

If you have been traveling and would like to share the bulletin from the church of which you visited, please drop it off in the church office at your convenience. Every month in the newsletter we will note all our travelers.

December 4, 2011: Merlin & Marlis Beenken attended the Harvest Festival at the Wesley Community Church in Wesley, Iowa.

December 24, 2011: Bruce & Becky Warren attended the Summit Evangelical Free Church in Alta, Iowa.

December 24, 2011: The Al Klepper family attended Christmas Eve worship at the First Lutheran Church of Duluth, Minnesota.

December 24, 2011: Robert & Karen Speich attended the Candlelight Service at Trinity Lutheran Church in Algona.

January 8, 2012: Bill & Betty Holtz attended the First Lutheran Church in Maquoketa, Iowa.

January 15, 2012: Ray & Marilyn Nielsen attended the St. Peter Lutheran Church in Greene, Iowa.

January 15, 2012: Pastor Mark & Linnea Holmer attended the Unity Lutheran Church in Berwyn, Illinois.



WORSHIP CANCELLATION

In the case of inclement weather this winter, any announcement regarding the cancellation of worship will be on KLGA. For the 8:00 a.m. worship, cancellation will be announced by 6:45 a.m. For Sunday School and 10:30 a.m. worship, cancellation will be announced by 8:30 a.m.



**UPCOMING CONTEMPORARY
WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

February 4, 2012
February 18, 2012



"No, Henry. 'The Feeding of the Five Thousand' is not another one of the pastor's fish stories."

SATURDAY

SERVERS

GREETERS

Feb. 4	Dennis & Pam Schuttler
Feb. 11	Frank & Carol Merrill
Feb. 18	Bill & Betty Holtz
Feb. 25	Jim & Becky Gates

GREETERS

March 3	Don & Beth Egel
March 10	Frank & Carol Merrill
March 17	Betty Murphy, Jen Sadler
March 24	Julie Collison, Connie Farnham
March 31	Bill & Betty Holtz

ACOLYTES

Feb. 4	Myra Meyer
Feb. 11	Ally Merrill
Feb. 18	Hannah Sadler
Feb. 25	Bekka Voss

ACOLYTES

March 3	Myra Meyer
March 10	Levi Penning
March 17	Dayne Meyerink
March 24	Hannah Sadler
March 31	Rachel Meyer

LECTORS

Feb. 4	Lynn Jenson
Feb. 11	Clark Conner
Feb. 18	Gen Blumer
Feb. 25	Bruce Sundet

LECTORS

March 3	Bonita Meyer
March 10	Carol Merrill
March 17	Don Christensen
March 24	Jodie Knoner
March 31	Emilie Nelson

USHERS

Feb. 4	Brian & Sande Rodemeyer
Feb. 11	Gerald & Laura Zwiefel
Feb. 18	Larry & Gen Blumer
Feb. 25	Bruce & Marcia Sundet

USHERS

March 3	Larry & Gen Blumer
March 10	Jim & Sharol Hefti
March 17	Brian & Sande Rodemeyer
March 24	Gerald & Laura Zwiefel
March 31	Bruce & Marcia Sundet

Please remember that if you can't serve, you are to find your own replacement and notify the Church Office so the change may be printed in the bulletin.

Thank you!

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE NOTES

The Congregation Council met on January 10, 2012 for a Congregation Council meeting. Present: Al Buyck, Donna Meyerink, Brian Meyerink, Jim Hefti, April Braun, Nathan Countryman, Keith Dwire, Tony Wiita, Jean Davis, Mark Meyer, Kevin Benschoter, Pastor Marsha Smith and Colleen Teeuwe. Absent: Bill Lenz

Old Business

- **Nominating Committee Update:** There are four candidates for four positions. Ideally, we would like to have more. At this time we have Fred Johnson, Bruce Kitzinger, Jodie Knoner, and Mary Rahe. For the Mission Endowment Board: Dave VanDeventer and Ray Nielsen have agreed to another term.
- **Injury Policy:** Tabled to a later date.
- **2012 Budget:** In order to correct the negative balance in the checkbook at the end of the year, a recommendation was made from the Stewardship/Finance Committee to move \$3,100 from savings to the checkbook to eliminate the negative balance for the beginning of the new year. Motion carried. There will be no wage increases and we will decrease our benevolence to the Synod to \$20,000 annually.
- **Performance Reviews:** Pastor Marsha's review has been completed and Colleen's reviewed is scheduled for January 15. Jeanine's review will hopefully be completed before the end of January.
- **Committee Task List:** Each committee is being asked to completed a "time line" of basic tasks

performed throughout the year. Deadline is the end of February.

New Business

- **Council Members/Committee Chairs:** Discussion was held regarding committees and who the chairperson should be as well as the secretary. Each committee will have to do what is best for their group. Having a Committee Task List will be helpful in carrying out the tasks of the committee and hopefully nothing will be missed.
- **Pastor's Housing Allowance:** There was a motion made to approve the Pastor's housing allowance for IRS purposes as agreed upon the by Council chair and the Pastor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Worship and Music

Eight members present. Discussed contracts for musicians and templates were started. Need to make sure that all areas are covered and wages are competitive to other congregations in the area. This task was tabled until February. Christmas decorations will be removed on Saturday, January 15. Pictures were taken for future placement. Decorations on the new pencil trees seem disproportioned with the size of the tree. Will look into new ornaments for 2012. Need to be thinking about Lenten services.

Stewardship/Finance

Seven members present. Discussion was held on the checkbook balance. See above notes under Old Business.

Property Committee

Seven members present. Clean up of some old equipment needs to be done. There has been a request of the Pastor to use the library for Adult Sunday School. Will have to relocate some items in that room to make this work. Discussed shed location when finances are secured. Sign Works is still working on our sign proposal.

Christian Education

Seven members were present. A work day for the Bible Adventure room is set for February 12 at 1:00 p.m. Our goals are to paint and add lighting to the canopy. Possible window treatments will also be added. A date was set and approved for a Cake Raffle fundraiser for March 24-25. This will be for Vacation Bible School.

Youth Ministry

Five members present. Family bowling will take place on January 15 in Humboldt. Ski trip is planned for February 18 for families and another on February 27 for the BASIC youth. Soup Off is set for February 11. Auction items are needed and sign-ups have begun. A taco bar is planned for Ash Wednesday. Easter Breakfast planning has begun.

Evangelism/Social Ministry

Four members present. Sponsors will be found for all new members. Discussion was held on being more diligent about recycling all items that can be recycled.



Attendance and Offering Report

JANUARY 2012

ATTENDANCE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
12-24	(4:00) 142	(7:00) 148	290
12-25	NA	46	46
1-1	53 (CW)	44	97
1-8	40	118	158
1-15	43 (CW)	116	159
1-22	31	95	126
1-29	NA	NA	NA

2011/2012 OFFERINGS

12-24	\$9,243.00
12-25	\$1,586.75
End of Year	\$3,739.71
Received in 2011	\$263,092.48
Pledged in 2011	\$289,906.00
1-1	\$2,481.00
1-8	\$3,199.50
1-15	\$4,773.50
1-22	\$3,257.15
1-29	NA
Received in 2012	\$13,711.15
Pledged in 2012	\$281,153.00

First Lutheran Church

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