

**JOURNEY LUTHERAN CHURCH
ALL-TEAM MEETING MINUTES
November 27, 2012**

Opening Prayer was led by Pastor Steve at 6:30.

Prior to meeting as individual teams, all ministry teams met as a large group.

Our goal is to have all ministry teams meet quarterly to help with good communication. We will continue working on better communication as a group, however; to be effective we need feedback from members as to how we can improve.

- 1) There was a brief review of our guiding principles.
- 2) We are the largest church in our synod that continues to grow; however, we are “under-staffed” compared to congregations larger than us.
- 3) “At-a-glance” review of the finances ... they look good. As a rule we expect to spend the same amount of money in 2013, but to grow our ministry efforts, we need to reduce our mortgage.
- 4) Amanda “Ace” Aakre is currently being paid for five (5) hours /week, but is working closer to 10+ hours / week. She is working out great and the kids love her.

Questions / Suggestions / Comments

- 1) What is in the Reserve Fund? George Berry Estate
- 2) What is our current mortgage interest rate? Approximately 6%, this is very good for a commercial loan?
- 3) It would be nice to see the offering each week and the number in attendance. It was suggested that we could post it on the bulletin boards and on the web. It is also nice to see income compared to budget.

One of the challenges that make it difficult to communicate as well as we’d like is not having a full-time administrative assistant. Stephanie is willing to work more hours, hopefully we can gradually increase her hours which would help with communications.

A lot is dependent on how effective we are in reducing our mortgage. Each team should take a careful review of their expenses and review their individual 2013 budget needs.

Also, we need team leaders to be sure their team minutes are posted on our webpage in a timely manner.

Individual Team Reports: Each ministry team was asked to give a brief report:

- Accomplishments
- Hopes for the Future
- Any cooperative projects with other teams

Outreach: Kristie Tweed / Dave Denson

Big accomplishment: Ad campaign / commercial. Was played / posted with Century, Charter and on the Internet.

JourneyFest, which was collaboration with other teams was a great success ... thank you to all! This is something we want to explore and possible expand.

Upcoming – would like to have “testimonials” from congregation members: Tell your story, why do you come to Journey? What draws you here? May eventually include videos via YouTube.

Faith Formation: Michelle & Amy Denson

- 1) The group of youth that went to New Orleans did not have much out-of-pocket and had a great time.
- 2) Youth Band – they work hard to share their faith through music
- 3) Drama – The Christmas Program is Inter-generational this year.
- 4) Vacation Bible School was combined with Halfway Creek Church.
- 5) Sunday School –
 - a. Have 50 kids enrolled; 25-30 attend on a “good” day
 - b. There are three very dedicated teachers. It is very hard to recruit new teachers. Welcome ideas as to how to get people. We don’t want to work people “to death” on teams – don’t want them to feel trapped.
- 6) Michelle Renkas is working to form a Birth-3 year old “faith” group
- 7) Amy Denson would like a count of how many bibles were given out to the youth recently.

Faith Chests – need to start production. Carla Amundson will touch base with Ben Sykora.

Fellowship: Deanna Hafner

Volunteer coordination is really tough. There is a strong plea for people to sign up to serve.

Worship: Deb Welander

- 1) Fortunate to have a very large team
- 2) Coordination is needed every Sunday for music, musicians, band, etc. so we can have a service.
- 3) Wedding, Baptism and Funeral policies are posted on Journey’s website and a custodian policy is being worked on.
- 4) Future item: hope to have a budget for music

Pastor Steve attended a rummage sale of a church going “out of business” and purchased a file cabinet

Just another reminder that our facility is a “gift”. Thank you to John Lindgren for coordinating the custodial duties.

Alter Guild: Diane Hoch

- 1) The team runs like a well-oiled engine – have a very dependable team
 - a. Set-up / clean-up for communion
 - b. Baking of communion bread
- 2) Very low expenses as the wine and bread are both donated. Communion cups need to be ordered and wafers are ordered for use about once a year.

Please join us for church decorating on Saturday, December 1st at 10:00 a.m.

Property: Bob Tracy

A big thank you to Ken Firl for taking care of the lawn and the grounds ... it looks good!

Thank you to the following businesses - please remember and support them: Forrest Moe and Schomburg Refrigeration, John Oliver (small engine repairs), and Every Plumbing.

Getting lots done:

- Cleaned out, sorted & organized various rooms within the building
- Spring clean-up outside: trimmed the trees by the road, put new posts with reflectors on the bottom of the driveway, put a fence around the air-conditioning unit
- Have a few “code” issues ... will have an electrician evaluate them
- Have some plumbing issues to resolve

Next Year: Need to stain the building and the garage

Service: Mike

Lots of projects

- Assembled 52 personal care kits
- Gathering information for volunteering at the winter warming center
- Holmen’s Hope: April & September
- Festival Foods: No longer accepting receipts
 - Looking into a Scrip program to subsidize the fleece for caring blankets
- Caring Blankets meet twice a month
- Crop Walk coming up
- New Horizons Donations – looking into for next year
- Caring Tree for Christmas ... tags are in the rear of the fellowship hall
- Visitations to the Home Bound
- Mission Interpreters ... looking into
 - Synod office has some training

Please check bulletin boards and website for on-going information regarding volunteer services.

Synod Assembly will be in La Crosse in April of 2013 with speaker, Tony Campolo. Western Technical College will be hosting the event. This is open to the community.

Individual Team Time Talking Points

- Summary of year for annual report
- Preliminary budget work (check year-to-date spending)
- Brainstorm on how to involve others
- Concerns to share with the Vision Board or other ministry teams

Note regarding Holmen's Hope: You might hear that they are "part" of Journey. The previous umbrella organization, "Point of Grace", closed and Holmen's Hope needed a new umbrella organization in order to be non-profit and they approached us asking if we would be interested in setting-up a partnership. They are an independent group and there will be no cost/expense to Journey.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Amundson
Vision Board Member