Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting

JANUARY 31, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President, Mike Steltenpohl, and began with Pastor Ted leading the congregation in devotions and prayer. There were 75 members present to conduct business.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the January 25, 2006, Annual Meeting of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, were reviewed. A motion was made by Halena Anderson and seconded by Charlotte Peters to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Marlene Graap presented the Treasurer's Report and answered all questions regarding her report. A motion was made by Irv Bork and seconded by Carol Allen to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

Auditing Committee Report: The books for the year 2006 were audited on Monday, January 22, 2007. The Auditing Committee, consisting of Linda Osness, Dan Bowen, and Judy Stockowitz-Kaehne, found everything to be in order. A motion was made by Kathy Szulczewski and seconded by Shirley Engel to accept the Auditing Committee Report. Motion passed.

Nominating Committee Report: Mike Steltenpohl stated that the congregation nominated 52 people to serve on the Congregation Council. After contacting these people, seven agreed to be on the ballot for Congregation Council. Three of the seven candidates completed vitas for the congregation to review. There were three candidates, Eugene Bondioli, Tina Kiefer, and Korrine O'Malley, on the ballot for Crossways Ministries Representatives, but no candidates for the other positions on the ballot.

Elections: President, Mike Steltenpohl, asked three times for nominations from the floor for Congregation Council, as well as for the other elected positions. There were no additional nominations from the floor for Congregation Council. Parishioners volunteered to fill the other elected positions. Four volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee were Kathy Szulczewski, Russ Leyk, Carol Allen, and Peggy Fruend. Volunteers for the Crossways Ministries Representatives, in addition to Eugene Bondoli, Tina Kiefer, and Korrine O'Malley, were Karen Mann, Anna Gulhaugen (alternate), and Irv Bork (alternate). Volunteers for Homme Home for the Aging Representatives were Halena Anderson, Lyle Anderson, Rudy Schleif, Emily Schleif, Ruth Nelson-Lau (alternate), Kathy Peterson (alternate), and Julie Borchardt (alternate). Volunteers for serving as ELCA Synod VI Assembly Delegates and Wisconsin River Valley Conference Assembly delegates were Charlotte Peters, Rudy Schleif, Emily Schleif, Dan Szulczewski (alternate), Kathy Szulczewski (alternate), and Marilyn Jirovec (alternate). A motion was made by Ruth Dietrich and seconded by Lana Strasman to close the nominations. Motion passed. A ballot vote was taken for Congregation Council. The other candidates were accepted with a unanimous vote. The five candidates receiving the most votes and elected to serve on the Congregation Council were Gene Bebel, Eugene Bondioli, Brenda Mueller, Steve Strasman, and Paul Wegener. At the next monthly Congregation Council meeting, it will be decided which one of these five will fill the remaining two years of Anne Torkelson's term, since she resigned. The remaining four will fill three-year terms. Doug Allen and Peggy Fruend also ran for Congregation Council. We will keep their names on file in the event that one of the Council members may be unable to complete their term.
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Pastors' Reports: Pastor Ted and Pastor Jeff's written reports are included in the Annual Report. Pastor Ted addressed the congregation. God is present to be honored and worshiped. God's presence and blessing will not change. He is why we worship and saves us from our sins. We are to focus on his love and mercy and do everything in his name. Pastor Ted also informed the congregation that something different would be done once a month at the 10:30 service. Pastor Jeff thanked the congregation and asked if anyone had questions for him to address. There were none.

Congregation Council Report: Mike Steltenpohl addressed the congregation. The written report is in the Annual Report. He focused on some of the accomplishments of the Council. The Council is completing the task of revamping the committees into teams and writing a Personnel Policy Manual for all employees. He asked that we pray for the leadership of our church.

Committee Reports:
Evangelism: They are hoping to reach out by calling inactive members and assisting the Volunteerism Committee with home visits.
Worship and Music: The WAGS program was unsuccessful. The committee is going back to the old way of calling people to serve as worship assistants and need volunteers to make calls.
Christian Education: The committee appreciated and thanked all who assisted with the Christian Education programs.

Stewardship: The Stewardship Drive was unsuccessful this year in comparison to the response received last year. A new approach to the Stewardship Drive is being looked at for next year.
Social Concerns: They have nothing to add to the written report.
Youth and Family Ministry: Due to Angela's resignation, this was a year of transition. Without Angela's leadership, many previously outlined activities were not accomplished.
Property and Maintenance: The security system is about ready for installation. The flat roof needs attention and will be replaced soon.
Volunteerism: The Committee has been discussing a home visitation program and has revised the Time & Talent Survey. Carie Truckey has volunteered to be the Volunteer Coordinator.

A motion was made by Doug Allen and seconded by Scott Severt to accept all of the Committee Reports. Motion passed.

Old Business:
1. 2004 Revision of Constitution – 2nd Vote: This item was taken care of last year.
2. Scrip Program: Barb Maahs addressed the parishioners and reported that in 17 months, the $5,000.00 loan had been repaid. Approximately $3,300.00 of Scrip is sold each week, for a profit of about $175.00/week. $1,000.00 has been given towards the security system from the Scrip profits. The program is doing very well and she encouraged everyone to participate.

New Business:
1. Worship and Music – Use of Designated Funds for Worship: The designated Choir Fund has approximately $4,000.00 in the account. A motion was made by Kathy Szulczewski and seconded by Irv Bork that $2,000.00 of the designated Choir Fund be moved to be used for other Worship and Music purposes, such as a processional cross, banners, or candles. During the discussion, it was pointed out that the people who designated their money for the Choir Fund wanted it spent for this purpose. A motion was made by Halena Anderson and seconded by Ruth Nelson-Lau that we take a ballot vote. Motion passed. Ballots were distributed. 22 people voted to use the money for other worship and music purposes; 49 people voted that the money should stay in the Choir Fund. The money designated for the Choir Fund will stay in that fund.
2. New Hymnal Book Recommendation: Pastor Ted informed the congregation that a new ELCA hymnal is available. It is the recommendation that we do not purchase the new hymnal. We can make use of some of the new hymns with our current license. New hymnals would cost about $4,500.00 to $5,000.00. A motion was made by Charlotte Peters and seconded by Marian Wegener that we accept the recommendation not to purchase new hymnals. Motion passed.
3. Listening Post: The Executive Committee, along with Bishop Jim Justman, met to discuss the staffing issue, but could not make a decision. Bishop Jim Justman felt that the Listening Post would be a good tool to discern congregation concerns. Associate with the Bishop, Joy Mortenson-Wiebe, was present to discuss the Listening Post. It is a tool to help the congregation say what's on its mind. Two teams from the synod would be here for two days, from approximately 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Groups of six would sign up for 45-minute sessions. Everyone would have about five minutes to talk about their concerns regarding our church and the staffing issue. A member of the synod team would summarize what was said and present a report to the congregation. A motion was made by Russ Leyk and seconded by Carol Allen to approve going ahead with the Listening Post. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Referendum on Youth Ministry: The Staffing Needs Task Force made two recommendations: 1) Full-time pastor, second full-time pastor with youth ministry portfolio, part-time business administrator, part-time parish nurse, full-time secretary, full-time custodian, and rest of part-time staff would remain the same. 2) Full-time pastor, second full-time pastor, part-time youth director, part-time business administrator, part-time parish nurse, full-time secretary, full-time custodian, and rest of part-time staff would remain the same. Since Angela's resignation, the youth program has faltered. The question was asked, "Would the Congregation be interested in pursuing a part-time youth director and the funding involved with this, at a figure not to exceed $15,000.00 for the year 2007?" Approving this item would give flexibility to add a part-time youth director if one could be found. A motion was made by Charlotte Peters and seconded by Bob Opsahl that $15,000.00 be added to the budget for the possible addition of a part-time youth director. Motion passed.

Finance Board (Report and Presentation of Proposed 2007 Budget): Russ Leyk addressed the congregation. With adding $15,000.00 for a proposed youth director position and an additional $1,500.00 benevolence (10% of budget obligation), the total budget for 2007 would be $397,588.00. There was little discussion regarding the budget, since we had the Preliminary Budget Meeting in November. A motion was made by Bob Opsahl and seconded by Marian Wegener to approve the proposed 2007 budget. Motion passed.

Pastor Jeff closed by leading the congregation in praying the Lord's Prayer. A motion was made by Irv Bork and seconded by Josh Burton to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Jannusch
Congregation Council Secretary