



Learning Committee: Minutes Monday, Sept 8, 7pm via Zoom

Attendees:

**Heather Edwards
Joe Zimmerly
Patti Stouch
Lorraine Carpenter
Lisa Saner**

Note: Julie Fenandez announced prior to the meeting she has to decline serving on the LC committee due to her need to reduce responsibilities due to her work load.

1. **General check-in** – highs and lows and Bright Spots

Prayers for Lisa Saner ongoing outpatient surgery for Kidney stones.

2. **Staffing updates** - church council approved hiring Inger (thank you interview team - Tiana, Lisa, and Heather!)
 - a. She will be working Sunday evenings for youth group and Wednesday evenings at confirmation. We will be working on a schedule of her availability for other programs.
3. **Safe Gathering**
 - a. Discuss follow ups from last meeting: (1) driving policy re: # adults; (2) plans for tracking/documentation
 - i. 2 deep leadership - 2 adults at all times
 - ii. In vehicles - 1 adult in each car as long as they are NOT 1 on 1. 2 adults must be on said travel trip.
 - b. Confirmation leaders have been/are in the process of being trained.
 - c. It tracks expirations of the certifications as well (it lasts for 2 years)
4. **Listening Post**
 - a. What programs do you need from the church?
 - b. What help do you need?
 - c. What help do your kids need?

Ideas:

Kona Ice again, Mr. Softie, natural hike, more porch talks with Joe Z., pajama party, crazy hat night, bike ride, Geocaching, Scavenger hunt, craft mini pumpkin succulent gardens.

- d. How can the church help you and your family out?

Ideas:

1. **Memorialize Covid-19 Experience with Wall, or other collaborative artwork project for kids and all church members driven by kids. Mosaic, painted or other medium. Could be a great fundraiser to “Buy a square”**
2. **Checking with Awanee, not correct spelling), re Doodle Art Design**
3. **Big Buddy system older teens trained to do “Porch visits” with younger teens and kids to provide support.**

4. **Involve youth in music ministry during Sunday services to uplift and sing or play more contemporary approved selections, Youth choir, “Joyful Noise” was name of MC prior children’s choir. Several youth guitar or other instrumentalists as well. Can be pre-recorded via Zoom. General consensus that families with children would like / prefer one Sunday service a month with a more contemporary service.**

5. **Fundraiser**

Jody DeVere volunteered to help. Suggested Joe Zimmerly apply for project grants on ELCA website as well here: <https://www.elca.org/grants> Youth Ministry at St John’s used this many times for youth programs.

Memorialize Covid-19 Experience Mosaic, painted or other medium. Could be a great fundraiser to “Buy a square’

- a. We need to do a fundraiser. Who wants to help?
 - i. Toppers Dine Out
 - ii. Yolanda’s Gift Cards
 - iii. Envelope Fundraiser - Numbers 1-50

6. **“Use Your Voice”**

- a. Kickoff event with Stacey Upcoming dates
 - i. September 20th - 5pm (High School Youth)
 - ii. September 23rd - 6:30pm (Middle School Youth)
 - iii. September 23rd - 7:30pm (Parents of Youth)
- b. Additional event with Tristen Vance? And/or Tracy Bennett?
- c. Other ideas?

7. **Upcoming Events**

- a. Intro to Bible Class - Wednesdays at 5pm - Sept 16 and 23
- b. Intro to Holy Communion Class - Wednesdays at 5pm - Sept 30 and Oct 7
- c. Let’s Ride - September 17th - 4pm
- d. Kona Ice Truck - September 20th - 4pm
- e. Family Faith Night - Sept.. 29th at 7pm
- f. Upcoming birthdays
 - i. Jessica - Sept. 10

8. **Ongoing Programs**

- a. Children’s church (Sundays at 11am?)
 - i. Working on this. Kits will be made for this month by Sept, 20th.
- b. FWF (Wed, 5pm) / Bible Verse of the month?
- c. Confirmation / middle school - Wednesdays at 6:30pm in person
- d. High School Youth Group (will continue Sundays at 6pm) in person
- e. IDEA - We need a parents group. Mom’s group or Dad’s group or mixed. We need something. Any ideas?

9. **COVID-19 check-in / ideas to stay connected**

- a. Check in on small group socially distanced gatherings

10. **Debrief Past Events**

- a. Family Faith Night in August
- b. VBS - huge success!
- c. Family Drive In Movie Night

11. **Preschool/CDC connection** - some VBS kids are from the CDC

- a. Sent flyers to the parents during orientation
- b. Will communicate with Cathy about best ways to get their parents involved

12. **Church Council / Staff Report**

13. **Closing Prayer**

Other topics

MINISTRIES served:

1. Preschool
2. Elementary School, FWF
3. Confirmation/Middle School
4. High School YG (9th – 12th grade)
5. Young Adults
6. Nursery - **Not yet**

DRAFT committee member roles - *thank you!*

1. Chair – Tracy (is there interest for a “chair elect”?)
2. Communications Lead (minutes, newsletter/bulletin updates) - Jody
3. Budget/finance/staffing expert - Heather
4. Events lead - Lorraine
5. Liaison to each ministry
 - a. Nursery and preschool
 - b. Elementary
 - c. Middle school
 - d. High school
 - e. Cross-generational / Outdoor Ministry - Julie

Next meeting: first Monday is Oct 5

Future topics: (Running list for record keeping)

1. *Church Council / church staff report*
 - a. *Need to clarify for hiring process, what are the roles and responsibilities of church staff vs LC vs personnel committee vs church council (ie nursery staff)*
 - b. *New hiring process. Much easier.*
2. *Other event ideas: Trunk Feast Potluck and wheels*
3. *Young adult group (on hold until we can meet in person)*
 - a. *Meet monthly/ 10 members (4 from Mount Cross)*
4. *Tracy Bennett seminar (Thrivent Action Team? And no childcare)*
 - a. *Try for a mid-Sept back to school event*



Learning Committee: Minutes Monday, Aug 3, 7pm via Zoom - Jody DeVere

Attendee: Jody, Joe, Tracy, Heather, Patti, Lisa and Heather

1. **General check-in** – highs and lows and Bright Spots
Thank you Joe for the Yolanda's Gift Cards
Thank you from Jody for Prayers for son Joe, he is fully recovered
2. **Safe Gathering**
 - a. Under our insurance provider, we have been recommended to use Safe Gatherings as our training for volunteers to participate in CYF activities. This training is very thorough and well done.
 - b. Cost is \$41 per person. It provides a 2 hour training (stop and go at your own pace). Includes, training on child abuse, background check, etc.
 - c. Church has an admin account under PJ and my email and we get sent the test results for each person who gets “Safe Gathering Approved”
 - d. All new staff members have to take this training when they start.
 - e. Joe Zimmerly and Jody DeVere Completed SafeGathering Certification

- f. Suggestion to review certifications every six months for Safeguarding and SafeGathering certifications and enroll new. Track cert dates and people in a Google spreadsheet
 - g. Fingerprinting is moving forward via Pre-School and can also be done at the UPS Store.
 - h. Question that needs clarification, needing to update/modify our children and youth policies to make sure that they align with the current procedures at Mount Cross".
 - i. Discuss knowledge management database- Pushed for discussion in September
 - j. All VBS teachers are certified.
- 3. "Finding/Using Your Voice"**
- a. Update on Patti's cousin to host a virtual workshop for kids - Date set for 9/20/2020 for 1st one hour slot. 3 slots total dates for High Schoolers, Middle Schoolers and parents. TBA. Cost \$240.00 for all 3 sessions.
 - b.
 - Stacy Germundson
 - BOLD Inc. Founder/Exec. Director
 - girlsarebold.org
 - (From her website) Stacy Germundson - Executive Director/President

My name is Stacy Germundson. I have been a school counselor for middle and high school students for 16 years. I worked in the Prior Lake-Savage School District for 14 years. This will be my 3rd year in the Pillager School District. I absolutely love working with adolescents. I am extremely passionate about supporting and empowering my students to be their best selves and pursue their goals. I have been married to my husband, Dan, for 13 years and we are blessed with 2 amazing children, Gaje and Ellen. We live in the beautiful northwoods of Nisswa, MN. We absolutely love living and raising our children in the Brainerd Lakes Area. I have created BOLD Inc., because I am convinced that if young women have courage, confidence and conviction, they can achieve great things. I am so excited and humbled by the opportunity to work with young women and help empower them to develop these skills. Girls Are Bold!
 - c. Other actions: Tracy/Joe will schedule dedicated time for brainstorming and Jody will start a Google doc for all to share thoughts/experiences/resources re: racial injustice
 - d. Additional event with Tristen Vance?
- 4. Virtual programs / summer schedules**
- a. Children's church (Sundays at 11am)/ FWF (Wed, 5pm) / Bible Verse of the month
 - i. Jessica is creating a full FWF/children's church calendar based on the liturgical calendar
 - ii. Preparing activity boxes/kits for children based on each story - Starting September the kids will get a monthly kit for Sunday School materials.
 - 1. Who needs a children's bible to follow the stories? Church will purchase them.
 - b. IN PERSON YOUTH GROUP August 9th - Youth Group (will continue Sundays at 5pm and Thursday mornings)
 - c. Other programming ideas/notes/actions:
 - i. More scavenger hunts! These are a hit.
 - ii. Will schedule mix of virtual and safely social distancing (if/when safe and allowed to do so)
 - iii. Youth Band
- 5. COVID-19 check-in / ideas to stay connected**
- a. Feedback from 3-month quarantine check-in survey
 - i. 8 responses
 - ii. Majority of the responses are positive both in response, but also for productivity moving forward.
 - b. *Other ideas to discuss:*
 - i. What can we do "in person" but SAFE. Safety is the priority.

- ii. *Buddy system – would this be useful?*
 - iii. *Do we want to do any more letter writing?*
 - iv. *Discussed using church pavilion for small max 10 youth fun nights.*
6. **Debrief Past Events**
- a. Family Faith Night
 - b. Preschool/CDC connection - Working on sending flyers again for the Fall
 - i. some VBS kids are from the CDC
7. **Upcoming Events**
- a. VBS - Aug 10-14 (“On Earth As In Heaven”)
 - i. Was Registration Full? - 22 registrants
 - ii. Committee = Joe, Jessica, Jody (thank you!)
 - iii. Drive In Movie Thursday Night at 8:30pm - watching “Up” - \$10 suggested donation goes to LRCC 18 cars total. Need to create sign up.
 - iv. Food Drive Tuesday 8/4 from 11am-1pm - Food goes to St. Columba’s
 - v. Do you have all that you need for the week? - We have everything we need. Craft videos are prepped
 - vi. 8/4 Food Drive or donate for World Hunger VBS fund.
 - b. Family Events - ***anything to discuss/plan?***
 - i. *Family Faith Night August 19th - Trivia Style*
 - ii. Family Drive In Movie Night - Listen through your radios (reservations). Priority goes to VBS kids, but will have room for extra cars) THANK YOU United Methodist Church of Camarillo. \$150 donation on behalf of supplying a person to run it and the equipment to do this.
 - iii. Chalk the church - times during the week where families can bring their own chalk or the church supply chalk and families can decorate parking spots. Dates TBD and discussed additional Paint the Town chalk project for future.
 - iv. Trunk feast potluck with wheels (bikes, scooters, etc) - Timing TBD
 - v. Fun with Faith Hike - any Sunday post-pandemic – Timing TBD
 - c. Birthday parades and/or video clips for each upcoming youth birthday
 - i. Which ones are coming up in August/September?
 - d. Do we want to plan a virtual Tracy Bennett seminar?
8. **Reminder - Pastoral intern starting in August will help with**
- a. Intro to Bible class (Pastor Julie, Amanda, Joe will be team) - Fall 2020
 - b. First Communion Class – select date (Fall with Pastor Julie)
9. *6 Month Financial Report and initial budget planning*
10. *CYFM Roster - anything to discuss?*
11. **Closing Prayer**

Other topics

MINISTRIES served:

1. Preschool
2. Elementary School, FWF
3. Confirmation/Middle School
4. High School YG (9th – 12th grade)
5. Young Adults
6. Nursery

DRAFT committee member roles - *thank you!*

1. Chair – Tracy (is there interest for a “chair elect”?)
2. Communications Lead (minutes, newsletter/bulletin updates) - Jody
3. Budget/finance/staffing expert - Heather
4. Events lead - Lorraine
5. Liaison to each ministry
 - a. Nursery and preschool
 - b. Elementary
 - c. Middle school
 - d. High school
 - e. Cross-generational / Outdoor Ministry - Julie

Next meeting: first Monday is Labor Day - do we want to do Aug 31 or Sept 14?

Future topics: (Running list for record keeping)

1. *Church Council / church staff report*
 - a. *Need to clarify for hiring process, what are the roles and responsibilities of church staff vs LC vs personnel committee vs church council (ie nursery staff)*
2. *Nursery Hiring / update – on hold / Playground*
3. *Young adult group (on hold until we can meet in person)*
 - a. *Meet monthly/ 10 members (4 from Mount Cross)*
4. *Tracy Bennett seminar (Thrivent Action Team? And no childcare)*
 - a. *Try for a mid-Sept back to school event*



Learning Committee: MINUTES– May 26, 2020, 7:00pm via ZOOM

Attendees: Joe Z, Lisa S, Tracy B

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

1. **General check-in** – highs and lows
 - a. More prayers needed for decisions
 - b. Kylan's birthday on Friday!
 - c. Change in scenery!
2. **Share BRIGHT spots!**
 - a. YOU ALL! Thank you for the surprise drive by! You made my weekend!
 - b. JESSICA IS AWESOME! She has taken on a lot Children's Ministry (~5 hours /wk)
 - c. We have the best Learning Committee!
 - d. Our church staff!
3. **Virtual programs are switching to summer schedules**
 - a. Devotion Zoom Calls are now Mondays and Fridays at 9:15am
 - b. FWF (Wednesdays at 5pm)
 - c. Confirmation (Thursday evenings until this week)
 - d. Youth Group (will continue Sundays at 5pm and Thursday mornings at)
4. **COVID-19 check-in / ideas to stay connected**
 - a. Buddy system – would this be useful?
 - b. Pen pal program between youth and seniors?
 - c. *Life Groups* - 5-7 people per group - we could do family life groups or we could kid and parent ones. Great idea - would need a template and topic/theme to guide the discussion. Use Taking Faith Home for discussion questions + prayers.
 - d. Letter Writing / picture drawing – debrief - share Julie's video - it's amazing!
 - e. Preschool / CDC connection:
 - i. *Virtual Chapel* with Preschool weekly - Cathy, Celine, and Melissa are continuing this - discussed possibility to use this for marketing and greater awareness - Joe will discuss with the preschool especially given TK budget cuts
 - ii. Lunch bunch reinstated virtually - this is a hit!
 - f. What has been working virtually? What hasn't been working virtually?
 - i. Bright spots - what we could start or continue well:
 1. Easter Egg Hunt
 2. Birthday parades

3. Daily devotion zoom calls
 4. New ways to connect with new families/youth
 5. Ability for family members, homebound, and former Mt Cross members out of the area to join church
 - ii. What have we paused and miss:
 1. Virtual youth group is hit or miss
 2. Family event
 3. Other answers TBD
- 5. *Safety*: what does a safe Mount Cross look like post-pandemic/during pandemic?**
- a. This is an opportunity to update our food safety and cleaning protocols
 - i. Working dish sanitizer needs fixing (Currently have one that produces brown water) - Joe has notified Property Committee
 - ii. Require anyone working in the kitchen to get Food Handler Safety certificates?
 - iii. Establish ground rules and protocols- ie no kids in kitchen ever
 - iv. Post new hand-washing signs in bathrooms and kitchen
 - v. Because of the numbers of kids on campus, we need to ensure we have robust cleaning protocols and services
- 6. Upcoming Events – what needs to cancel vs can switch to virtual vs wait and see**
- a. Confirmation
 - i. Confirmation Sunday - October (TBD, when deemed safe to gather)
 - ii. Surprise celebration for 8th graders May 31 (welcome to youth group)
 - iii. Blocks have been made for 8th grade confirmands
 - b. Graduation Sunday and yard signs
 - i. Patti made design (amazing, thank you!). They are being printed. 15 signs.
 - ii. We have a list of the graduates and we will play their photo and bio on our June 14th grad recognition (5th, 8th, 12th, College) at MC and at the Synod worship.
 - iii. Graduating seniors (plus 8th and 5th graders)– driveby graduation ceremony and/or parade of cars/families on Sunday, June 14 (Joe will confirm)
 - c. VBS - Aug 10-14 (“On Earth As In Heaven”)
 - i. **Decision** to switch to virtual only due to COVID
 - ii. “On Earth As It Is On Zoom” - Pre-recorded open/close sessions
 1. 9am-11am Aug. 10-14
 2. 20 min opening session
 3. 30 min class time - with volunteer teachers and high school youth
 4. Rotations (crafts, games, bible story) - 15 min each session
 - a. Time adjusts on how many rotations we have
 - b. would need to make kits to have people grab the week before
 5. 20 minute closing session
 - iii. Opportunity for community connection and service projects
 1. Drive through canned food drive
 2. Pull weeds at Abundant Table
 3. Write letters
 - iv. **Things to do:**
 1. **Determine price point to break even**
 2. **Create FB/YouTube video announcement**
 3. **Develop kit contents (t-shirt, art supplies, book, snacks, etc)**
 4. **Work with Carina to create registration**
 5. **Consider age appropriate adaptations**
 - d. Summer Camp - **discuss next meeting or via email**
 - i. Canceled – discuss alternative plans.
 - ii. Mount Cross Day Camp - Jody help explain vision (different day age groups)
 - e. Family Events - **discuss next meeting or via email**
 - i. Family Drive In Movie Night - Listen through your radios (TBD with COVID restrictions)
 - ii. Chalk the church - times during the week where families can bring their own chalk or the church supply chalk and families can decorate parking spots
 - iii. Trunk feast potluck with wheels (bikes, scooters, etc) - Timing TBD

- iv. Fun with Faith Hike - any Sunday post-pandemic – Timing TBD
- f. Birthday parades and/or video clips for each upcoming youth birthday
- 7. Pastoral intern starting in August will help with:**
 - a. Intro to Bible class (Pastor Julie, Amanda, Joe will be team) - Fall 2020
 - b. First Communion Class – select date (Fall with Pastor Julie)
- 8. 6 Month Financial Report** - Joe will send out offline
- 9. CYFM Roster**
 - a. Updated roster with active members and new families – bright spot!
 - b. Empower youth to reach out to their friends for joining virtual events
- 10. DRAFT committee member roles - *thank you!***
 - a. Chair – Tracy (is there interest for a “chair elect”?)
 - b. Communications Lead (minutes, newsletter/bulletin updates) - Jody
 - c. Budget/finance/staffing expert - Heather
 - d. Events lead - Lorraine
 - e. Liaison to each ministry
 - i. Nursery and preschool
 - ii. Elementary
 - iii. Middle school
 - iv. High school
 - v. Cross-generational / Outdoor Ministry - Julie
- 11. Children’s church / Wednesday night programs / Bible Verse of the month**
 - a. Jessica is creating a full FWF/children’s church calendar based on the liturgical calendar
 - b. Preparing activity boxes/kits for children based on each story
- 12. Closing Prayer**

Other topics

- 1. *Nursery Hiring / update – on hold*
- 2. *Young adult group (on hold until we can meet in person)*
 - a. *Meet monthly/ 10 members (4 from Mount Cross)*
- 3. *Tracy Bennett seminar (Thrivent Action Team? And no childcare)*
 - a. *Try for a mid-Sept back to school event*

MINISTRIES served:

- 1. Preschool
- 2. Elementary School, FWF
- 3. Confirmation/Middle School
- 4. High School YG (9th – 12th grade)
- 5. Young Adults
- 6. Nursery

Next meeting: schedule dates for June-July via Doodle and start Mondays in Aug

Future topics: (Running list for record keeping)

- 1. Future nursery / playground
- 2. Church Council / church staff report (standing agenda item)
 - a. Need to clarify for hiring process, what are the roles and responsibilities of church staff vs LC vs personnel committee vs church council (ie nursery staff)
- 3. Youth Group Programming
- 4. Youth Leadership Planning Meeting during the Summer
 - a. Parents, Youth gather to help set a plan in place for the year

Learning Committee: MINUTES – Jan 12, 2019, 11am

Attendees: Joe Zimmerly, Patti Stouch, Tracy Blois

Share BRIGHT spots!

EVENTS

1. Recap past events

- a. Cookie Jars (thank you to the Saner Family!)
- b. Wreath making at St. Columba's (huge Mt Cross turnout...great event!)
- c. NAMI presentation
 - i. Kids' side went very well! Very real!
 - ii. Would be worth planning a follow-up
 - iii. Parent attendance was low - pre-event communication to the parents could be emphasized it will be important to attend – ways to do this?
- d. Christmas Program

2. Upcoming Events

- a. Jan 17-20: Family Winter Camp—> **18 people are going!**
- b. Parents Night Out – Feb 14, 6-10pm
 - i. Must be potty-trained
- c. Confirmation Sunday – May 31
- d. Summer youth trip—> San Diego
- e. Midnight Madness in the future! (possible Ventura County outing)
- f. Tiger McLuen seminar on January 30th at Ascension Lutheran, Thousand Oaks.
- g. Family Events
 - i. Week of March 6-8 (pick a date and event at next meeting)
 - ii. May/June: trunk feast potluck with wheels

TOPICS TO DISCUSS:

1. Nursery

- a. Budget: 1 paid nursery staff has been included in the 2020 budget
 - i. Jessica will be the 2nd adult for nursery and children's church
 - ii. Nursery lead will also be the 2nd adult for children's church when Joe is out of town (with Jessica as primary)
 - b. Hiring: need to post, interview, and hire the 1 paid nursery staff
 - i. Joe updated draft of job description (commitment is at least 3 out of 4 Sundays a month)
 - ii. Will post this externally (INDEED, Facebook) and pursue leads through CLU, CDC
 - c. Patti will check for an old binder in the nursery (sign-up sheet, medical information for all children)
 - d. Joe will ask someone to join the interview team who will use the nursery
2. Check in on children's church and Wednesday night programs
 - a. It was very positive to have the extra week post winter break before starting
 3. Annual report – missed submission for this report – will improve next year
 4. Safe Guarding God's Children
 - a. This has now been completed/updated – yay!
 5. VBS
 - a. Joe starting to plan now and reach out to potential volunteers
 - i. Including recruiting an assistant director!
 - b. Pastor Julie is on vacation first week of Aug, her pastoral presence is important – will try for the 2nd week of Aug instead (Aug 10-14)
 - c. Could potentially hire for things like a "Snack Master"

6. Church Council / church staff Report (standing agenda item)
 - a. Need to clarify for hiring process, what are the roles and responsibilities of church staff vs LC vs personnel committee vs church council (ie nursery staff)
 - b. Would be great to ensure the online calendars on church website are all up to date
7. VCIC- Ventura County Interfaith Community – young adult group
 - a. Anything to discuss?
8. New schedule
 - a. Do 2nd Thursday's work? Discuss next meeting with rest of committee.
9. Tracy Bennett seminar (Thrivent Action Team? And no childcare)
 - a. Discuss next month for timing
10. Multiple camps/conferences in Jan/Feb weekends:
 - a. Family winter camp: Jan 18-20
 - b. HS camp: Jan 24-26
 - c. Extravaganza (will miss church retreat because of this): Jan 31-Feb 3
 - d. Middle school camp: Feb 28-Mar 1
 - e. Joe's priority is to attend these camps (reiterate with anyone concerned that Joe's role is Director of Children, Youth, Families not Director of Ministries)

MINISTRIES served:

1. Preschool
2. Elementary School, FWF & Joyful Noise
3. Confirmation/Middle School
4. High School YG (9th – 12th grade)
5. Nursery

Future topics: (Running list for record keeping)

1. Future nursery / prayground
2. Youth Group Programming
3. NAMI follow up program
4. 2020 Goal Setting (youth ministry / young adult team)

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: Feb 13 (switching to second Thursdays / discuss next meeting)

Learning Committee: AGENDA – Nov 4, 2019, 6:30pm

Attendees: Lisa Saner, Heather Edwards, Joe Zimmerly, Patti Stouch, Tracy Blois

Share BRIGHT spots!

EVENTS

3. Recap past events

- a. Oct 20: Pumpkin Patch
- b. Oct 20: Camp Sunday
- c. Nov 3: Pastor Julie installation
- d. Nov 3: Feast of Faiths dinner

4. Upcoming Events

- a. Nov 15: rescheduled Parents Night Out (PNO)
 - i. CLU Disc Golf Club—> teach disc golf in parking lot
 - ii. Adults (Joe, Jessica, Maia Berg, Jasmine Jones)
 - iii. Food=pizza, veggie trays
 - iv. Music, games, crafts, movie
- b. Dec: Cookie jars—> Lisa and Joe ordered Thrivent Team
 - i. Sales on Dec 1, 8, and 15th
 - ii. Will assemble on Wed, Nov 20
Dec 15, 7pm: Children's Christmas Program—> Found last years, want to modify.
Working on incorporating piano recitals! Will include Children's Play + Music performances (adults and kids).
- c. Jan 17-20: Family Winter Camp—> Joe will be going!
- d. Summer youth trip—> San Diego or Western States at CLU?
- e. Dec 1: Wreath Making at St. Columba's on Dec. 1st at 5:30pm!
- f. Suicide Prevention course led by Deacon Lynn Bullock on Dec. 4th at 6:45pm (part of confirmation class)
 - i. Children's and adult courses offered (small adult group)

TOPICS TO DISCUSS:

11. Check in from last meeting on nursery, children's church, Wednesday nights
 - a. need at least one more nursery attendant (for flex support)
12. Budget submission – Joe submitted! Discussed select line items to ensure clarity.
13. Safe Guarding God's Children/Best Policies and Practices
 - a. Need to ensure this is reinstated ASAP (if not already active)
 - b. Through our church and casualty insurance we have access to several HR trainings and resources (ThinkHR), including modules to build Employee Handbook document/policies
 - c. Ensure multiple users are added to ThinkHR for use
 - d. Check ThinkHR for Safeguarding God's Children options
 - e. Need to check minimum age to count as adult for ratios
14. Church Council Report (standing agenda item)
 - a. Need to replace computers (not an LC responsibility but suggestion made for property committee to submit an MBC funds request)
 - b. Church Council Rep.
 - i. Tabitha & _____? (Do we want to two high schoolers or one high school one middle schooler)
 - ii. Agreed we want two high schoolers – one early high school and one late school for continuity planning.
15. Summer Trip to San Diego!
 - a. LC Decision to do San Diego, Joe will finalize dates ASAP
 - b. Determining whether this will be Mt Cross only or with other churches
 - c. Next year the National Youth Gathering is in Minnesota
16. Youth Group day/time
 - a. Consensus says Sunday from 5pm-7pm (will start this time in the new year)
17. VCIC- Ventura County Interfaith Community
 - a. Joe is Young Adult Representative
 - b. Pastor Julie also looking for WIN representative from Mt Cross

18. CDC Breakfast at Applebee's
 - a. Went well! Preschoolers remembered me on Wednesday at chapel!
19. Need furniture in youth room and we need a name!
20. Paint is on the way!

MINISTRIES served:

- 6. *Preschool***
 7. Elementary School, FWF & Joyful Noise
 8. Confirmation/Middle School
 9. High School YG (9th – 12th grade)
 10. Nursery

Future topics: (Running list for record keeping)

5. VBS planning
6. Tracy Bennett seminar (Thrivent Action Team? And no childcare)
7. 2020 plans for nursery / playground (ask Moraga family)
8. Youth Group Programming

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: Skip December and consider switching to another day in the new year (depending on Joe's day off schedule and other committees timing)



Learning Committee: MINUTES – April 8, 2019, 6:30 pm
Heather Edwards, Meredith Smith, Patti Stouch, Karen Cherry, Tracy Blois

SHARE BRIGHT SPOTS:

New activity bags and watching Erica thoroughly enjoy them (huge success!)

EVENTS to discuss:

1. Recap past events
 - a. Meredith's conference – amazing!
 - i. Topic: "Why Christian". Protestant church lacks the culture share our stories, express our experiences – church needs to be relevant – instead of a place you have to be "put together" shift to a place you can be broken (ask call committee to ask candidates their philosophy on worship)
 - ii. Need to continue to support Meredith on these topics
 - b. Others
2. Upcoming calendar of events:
 - a. Easter - discuss timing – Meredith will send another follow up reminder and include sign-up in Friday email (all ages are welcome to help)
 - b. Missions Trip (June) – 2 adults (Meredith, Katie) and 2 youth are signed up
 - c. VBS curriculum (Jul 29-Aug 2) – discuss registration fees, timing, staffing
 - i. Theme: "Won't you be my neighbor?"
 - ii. Size: Reduce the total size to 100 total

- iii. Cost: Increase to \$50/child (last year was \$30 and \$60/family)
 - 1. \$5 off per sibling (ie \$45 2nd child; \$45 3rd child)
 - 2. Will offer \$10 discount per day for helping to increase volunteer staff; will also leverage LRCC staff (~4-5) as supplement help
- iv. Scholarships will be available
- v. Will ensure sufficient time for all volunteers to be set up through Safeguarding God's Children
- vi. Future meeting: will need to discuss housing and dinners for LRCC staff

TOPICS to discuss:

1. Update on Nursery and Children's church
 - a. Check in on current state and discuss long term plan of action
2. Discuss the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations printout
 - a. Discuss **next meeting** and keep in mind for all our discussions
 - b. Karen will send electronically
3. Discuss collaboration with Adult Education team
 - a. Tracy to connect with LaJean – re-brand our committee?
4. Articulate/assign roles and responsibilities for committee members
 - a. Patti will set up google doc with list of all committee responsibilities and who's doing what
 - i. Tracking Wed Night Dinners: Patti
 - ii. Budget tracking: Heather (incl Wed night dinners)
 - iii. Meeting logistics: Karen (dinner reservations and informing Sheri of meeting date)
 - iv. Special topics: Karen
 - v. Agendas, minutes, Shutterfly site management: Tracy
 - vi. Will assign responsibilities by ministry too (**next meeting**)
 1. Children's church / nursery
 2. Wed night programs (FWF, confirmation, dinner, adult ed)
 3. Youth group and youth council rep
 4. Adult Ed?
 5. Devotions at each meeting
5. Budget tracking (youth/family line items): standing agenda item
 - a. Wednesday night dinners – funds were low; several confirmation families hadn't paid suggested donation; sent reminder and have since received \$400. Will need to track families and send more reminders. Tracy to do Thrivent Action team
6. Council Report and Call Committee questions (standing agenda item)
 - a. Ask call committee to ask candidates their philosophy on worship (youth and congregation participation?)
 - b. Need back-up support for Meredith to "shut off" when out of office – rules for text, email (auto-reply with back-up support instructions)
7. 2019 goals – LC (standing agenda item to check in on this)
 - a. New committee members (where everyone has a specific focus role)
 - b. Add more youth service opportunities
 - c. 5th Sunday of the month – YOUTH Sunday
 - d. Build cross-generational connections
 - e. Continue to execute successful regular programming
 - f. Assign roles and tasks to existing committee members

MINISTRIES served:

1. Elementary School, FWF & Joyful Noise
2. Confirmation/Middle School
3. High School YG
4. Nursery
5. Intern?

Future topics: (Running list for record keeping)

1. Speaker topic for families – how to teach children the concept of “giving”

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: May 5, 11am (post-meeting note: switched to May 6 at 6:30pm)

Topics:

- Assign ministry responsibilities
- Discuss Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations



Learning Committee: MINUTES – March 4, 2019, 6:30 pm

Attendees: Karen Cherry, Ivan Fernandez, Patti Stouch, Meredith Smith, Tracy Blois

SHARE BRIGHT SPOTS:

- 11 Mount Cross middle schoolers at winter camp (compared to none in 2018 – huge improvement!) and there was snow!
- New activity bags are in church!
- Open sharing on confirmation night about confession with Pastor Jim: tons of questions from the youth about mandated abuse reporting – great they were comfortable to be so open.
- Melissa Henry providing updates to the youth group on service and missions

EVENTS to discuss:

1. Recap past events
 - a. Feb 24: Joint youth group with Methodist church was a success (about 7-8 from each church): Henry's spoke on CROP walk and they made GPS kits
2. Upcoming calendar of events:
 - a. Easter - discuss timing
 - i. Easter breakfast is still a youth trip fundraiser
 - ii. There will only be 2 services
 - iii. Meredith will be in charge of the breakfast
 - iv. Will do a volunteer sign-up for set-up (service day on Palm Sunday, weekday, Saturday, set-up, during breakfast, clean-up, egg hunt)
 - v. Action: Meredith will have information on the fundraiser on tables

- vi. Aaron will lead the egg hunt – between services and during 2nd service
- vii. Will do as much set up and prep in advance as possible
- b. Missions Trip (June) – *no update*
- c. VBS curriculum (Jul 29-Aug 2) – *no update*

TOPICS to discuss:

1. Nursery replacement plan of action
 - a. Activity bags:
 - i. Heather replaced the children activity bags – **thank you!**
 - ii. Action: Meredith will email ushers to remind them to offer to children and will put out an easel with a sign announcing new activity bags this Sunday
 - b. Playground updates – will pause for now and take a phased approach
 - i. Will check if there is another location by the usher seats
 - c. Will hold Children’s Church in the nursery with activities for toddlers too
 - d. **Action:** Meredith will draft a bulletin insert communicating updates on our nursery replacement actions (activity bags, concurrent children’s church with younger age activities) - COMPLETE
2. 2019 goals – LC (Action: Meredith will also send her DOM goals)
 - a. New committee members (where everyone has a specific focus role)
 - b. Add more youth service opportunities
 - c. 5th Sunday of the month – YOUTH SUNDAY
 - d. Build cross-generational connections

- e. Continue to execute successful regular programming
- f. Assign roles and tasks to existing committee members
- 3. Youth Group check-in – new time
 - a. Successful joint youth group – see above
 - b. Youth group will get more involved in the service (Time and Talent)
- 4. Reaching out to families – during and after Lent, we should all share with others an open invitation to join for a community dinner on Wednesday
- 5. Budget tracking (youth/family line items): standing agenda item
- 6. Council Report (emphasize which items are critical to discuss) and Call Committee questions (standing agenda item)
- 7. (Closed Session) Director of Ministries Annual Review – collecting feedback; Pastor Jim will conduct the review (doing this for all staff)

MINISTRIES served:

- 1. Elementary School, FWF & Joyful Noise
 - a. Will always ensure 2 adults are present in Children’s Church
 - b. Safeguarding God’s Children – Meredith will ensure all information is current and refreshed
- 2. Confirmation/Middle School
- 3. High School YG
- 4. **Nursery** –thank you card and gift – Meredith will collect from families and get Starbucks gift cards with reusable coffee cups
- 5. Intern?

Future topics: (Running list for record keeping)

- 1. Speaker topic for families – how to teach children the concept of “giving”

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: Monday, April 8 at 6:30pm (will try switching to Sundays in the summer)

- **Action:** Karen will make reservation and communicate meeting date/time to Sheri for the bulletin
- **April Meeting Topics:**
 - o Discuss the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations printout
 - o Discuss collaboration with Adult Education team
 - o Articulate/assign roles & responsibilities for committee members



Learning Committee: MINUTES – Feb 5 2019, 7:00 pm
Attendees: Meredith, Tracy, Karen, Ivan

SHARE BRIGHT SPOTS (New!) – Karen and Tracy shared rewarding conversation at Leadership retreat on WHOLE LISTENING.

EVENTS to discuss:

- 1. Recap past events (Winter camp, others?)

2. Leadership Retreat – Karen and Tracy shared insights from the Feb 2 leadership retreat. Discussed how unfortunate the timing is to fall conflict with the high school winter camp (a key event for our HS youth group) and the HS youth and Meredith should have the opportunity to attend the leadership retreat. Request that church council look into a different weekend in 2020 if the dates conflict again. We want to ensure the youth voices are heard in our annual planning too.
3. 2019 Calendar –full year events plan is posted online
4. Upcoming calendar of events:
 - a. Easter – switching two services only, will adjust breakfast plans accordingly (also there is no budget for moving preschool – will instead use patio/PLC)
 - b. VBS curriculum (Jul 29-Aug 2): ELCA world hunger theme “who is my neighbor” (ELCA world hunger VBS curriculum is all FREE and excellent content!).
 - c. Missions Trip

TOPICS to discuss:

1. Nursery reduction plan of action – discuss alternative plans and how to make families with young children feel more welcome to be in church
 - a. Usher training for notifying Children’s Church when offering starts – *discuss next time*
 - b. Refreshed activity bags – Girl Scout troop is taking this on (thank you, Heather!)
 - c. Co-locate Children’s Church to nursery room – need to make sure always 2 adults
 - d. **PRAYROUND!!** Thank you, Karen, for bringing the idea and info!
 - i. **Decision to proceed** because....we all love it, we have a place for it, we have families who would use it, it fills an immediate need to have a welcoming, open place for families with young children, it can be an opportunity to strengthen ties with preschool families.
 - ii. **Communication plan (Meredith)**
 1. Tracy to draft email to church council in advance of their March meeting – will also invite Sheri to attend and speak to the Holy Trinity experience with having a Prayground – share article and pictures
 2. Plan for inclusion in April newsletter
 3. Meredith will draft communications for weekly email and bulletin, as well as an updated pew card w/ explanation
 4. Will need to update the bulletin info page – remove nursery and add Prayground
 5. Karen will send talking points for change management (post-meeting note below):
 - The goal is critical - ie: Our goal is to be welcoming to young families
 - Focus on the why - it unites people (to be budget-conscious, innovative, and welcoming to young families)
 - The 'what' and the 'how' are divisive.
 - Change is difficult but worth it.
 6. MS will invite preschool families to blessing/kickoff
 7. Chalkboard easel with “Come check out our new prayground!”
 8. Note to parents of young children “Welcome to our Prayground!” with explanation and feedback request
 - iii. **Execution plan (Meredith/Tracy)**
 1. What we need: rug, small table, maybe a cubby bookshelf

2. What we have: toys, Meredith will check with Cathy Channels for anything that's available
3. Targeting kickoff/blessing event on Mar 31
4. Set-up/work day on March 30 (MS will ask youth for help)

iv. Feedback loop (Ivan)

1. Request input from preschool families
 2. Include suggestion cards in pews
 3. Ask visitors for their reactions (becomes a conversation starter for welcoming visitors)
2. Director of Ministries Annual Review – timing?
 - a. Tracy exchanged with Meredith and Pastor Jim – will meet as a closed committee in March to provide feedback to Pastor Jim who will conduct formal review. LC will also share openly with Meredith.
 3. 2019 goals – DOM and LC – *discuss next time*
 4. Youth Group check-in - implemented many of the changes discussed at Jan 2019 LC meeting (switched time to 11:30-1:30 Sundays, switched apps, actively reached out to several youth); attendance has improved; planning many joint opportunities with Methodist and also reached out to St Columba's (although they don't have much active youth)
 5. Reaching out to families – *discuss next time*
 6. Budget tracking (youth/family line items): standing agenda item
 7. Council Report (emphasize which items are critical to discuss) and Call Committee questions (standing agenda item)
 - a. See Leadership Retreat debrief above.
 - b. LC has concerns to hear there are no church staff meetings (that seems like a critical opportunity to connect and coordinate – need to ensure staff are a community and team just as much as the congregation).
 - c. Would like partnership between LC and Church Council on strengthening ties with the preschool (can Meredith join Pastor Jim in preschool chapel every week and strengthen relationship with the students and their families?).

MINISTRIES served:

1. Elementary School, FWF & Joyful Noise
2. Confirmation/Middle School
3. High School YG – Next joint youth group is Feb 24. Meredith is doing a mini Time and Talent with youth for worship assistant jobs. Karina is also introducing praise band opportunities.
4. **Nursery** – need to discuss a thank you gift at Mar 4 meeting. We have funding to keep nursery through early/mid-March.
5. Intern?

Future topics: (Running list for record keeping)

1. Speaker topic for families – how to teach children the concept of “giving”
2. Spring break VBS – discuss with church council
3. Check in on LC 2018 focus areas and goals – new committee members, middle school age service opportunities

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: Monday, Mar 4

Discussed request to move meetings earlier – could do 6:30pm Mondays or 11am first Sunday of the month – will message on Shutterfly site.



Learning Committee: MINUTES – Nov 5, 2018 7:00 pm

Attendees: Patti, Karen, Meredith, Tracy, Nichole (youth director from Trinity in Ventura)

EVENTS to discuss:

5. Recap past events (Parent's Night Out, Pumpkin Patch, 3rd-5th grade bible class)
 - a. Parent's night out – good turnout, had lots of families via posting to local FB group
 - b. Pumpkin Patch – no advanced signups, but had 15 people join! Works well to be doing the same events every year to look forward to these and simplify planning
 - c. Bible Class – great success with 13 kids total (9 on Wednesdays, 4 on Sundays). Bibles were an awesome pick. Scott made a great legacy! Meredith is considering adding a similar program for adults. Will also repeat in spring 2019. Next time invite VBS families.
6. Upcoming calendar of events:
 - a. Wednesday night programs – continue to go really well – 20 confirmation kids are registered – wonderful that John is cooking each week – between family funding and anonymous donation c
 - b. Dec 16 (evening) Christmas Program – Jayne requested children to be part of choir Christmas programs.
 - i. **Action:** Meredith will confirm time with Jayne, earlier is better (4pm?).
 - c. December – Cookie jar fundraiser – Lisa Saner is organizing (thank you!)
 - d. 2019 Congregation Mission Trip – guest presenter: Nichole
 - i. Nichole presented booklet of her experience (shared that those running the orphanage do an amazing job)
 - ii. Melissa Henry would like to partner to expand to HS + adult
 - iii. Dates: June 27th – July 2nd
 - iv. See attachment on page 2 for details
 - v. Program cost includes insurance, trip is fully organized by LRCC, including bringing everything – food, cots, etc (Nate Maxwell-Dougherty who has organized this trip multiple times)
 - vi. The trip is almost fully funded by MBC tips for teens – would need to raise \$500 (if 10 attendees) and could then do further fundraiser for service project supplies
 - vii. Explore how to make the connections longer-lasting (ie how to follow up after the trip to continue the relationships)
 - viii. **Next steps: committee is supportive to proceed**
 1. Nichole and Meredith present to Nov church council
 2. Advertise dates ASAP to congregation (HS and adults)
 3. Meredith presenting to Service and Missions meeting
 4. Schedule info sessions to anyone interest (Wed + Sun)
 - a. Include Nichole and Nate
 - b. Share a video during an upcoming service
 - c. Will include program details on brochure

TOPICS to discuss:

8. 2019 Budget Planning – budget looks really good!

- a. Committee reviewed line item by line item and made some minor adjustments (reduced Senior High Summer Trip, Meredith will ask Pastor Jim to check if chef salary is fair market value)
 - b. Meredith had previously reviewed with Heather
9. 2019 Calendar
- a. Meredith and Sheri already built 2019 calendar of events
 - b. Action: Meredith will send out and LC will discuss next meeting
10. Budget tracking (youth/family line items): monthly review item
11. Council Report (“The Ivan Show” – emphasize which items are critical to discuss) and Call Committee questions (standing agenda item)
- a. The backs of the pews are not being replenished (ie envelopes, info brochures, etc) – is this covered by a committee (Worship & Music, Altar Guild, or Sheri?)

MINISTRIES to discuss:

- 6. Elementary School, FWF & Joyful Noise
- 7. Confirmation/Middle School
- 8. High School YG
- 9. Nursery
- 10. Intern – future plans?
- 11. Anything else

Future topics: (Running list for record keeping)

- 4. Speaker topic for families – how to teach children the concept of “giving”
- 5. Spring break VBS – discuss with church council
- 6. Check in on LC 2018 focus areas and goals – new committee members, middle school age service opportunities

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: Monday, January 7 (no December meeting!)



Learning Committee Minutes – Sept 10, 2018 7:00 pm

Attendees: Karen, Ivan, Meredith, Patti, Heather

EVENTS to discuss:

- 7. Recap past events (Dodgers, Interfaith Harvest, VBS)
- 8. Upcoming calendar of events:
 - a. First week – Wednesday night programs
 - i. Confirmation – proposed changes
 - ii. Fun with Faith
 - iii. Bible Class
 - b. Make Bake Celebrate
 - c. Spring Break VBS- tabled
 - d. Youth Trip 2019 – LRCC Connections trip? - tabled

TOPICS to discuss:

- 1. 2018-2019 goals for school year programming – see above topic

- A. Confirmation Program
 - In lieu of families taking turns providing meals for the Confirmation program for the 2018-2019 school year, the program will now implement a fee of \$95 per child in the confirmation class. This fee will cover the cost of a cook to come and prepare meals for the confirmation class each week. Adults and other family members are also welcome to enjoy these cooked meals at a recommended donation of \$5 per person. This new structure will ease the cost and time burden on many families who were previously required to bring meals twice a year and spent closer to \$200-300.
 - B. Bible Study Class (3-4 session class; Wed+Sun)
 - Meredith will be starting a new bible study class for children in 3rd -5th grade. Classes will be held on Wednesday and Sunday's, giving the families different options to attend.
 - C. Wednesday programs
 - Discussed the possibility of having Fun with Faith, Confirmation, and Adult Bible Study at the same time on Wednesday evenings in the future. This would allow parents to attend bible study while children of different ages were attending either Fun with Faith or Confirmation. This would also allow families with sports and other activities before dinner to come to enjoy dinner together before heading off into their respective classes. This was tabled for future discussions.
 - D. Sunday morning Children's Church
 - b. First Communion – Meredith is working on setting up a date for this. She is looking into what families might be eligible for their first communion and will identify a time to meet with these families to prepare for their first communion. Meredith has a new curriculum that she will also be utilizing for this.
2. VBS Survey Results – results were all very positive and the animal theme seemed to be the highlight of the program. The suggestion was made to have snacks on the patio rather than in the classroom for future VBS programs. The suggestion was also made to have an earlier start/end time. Many attendees really enjoyed the idea of giving to a case (animals) and a total of \$981 was raised as a result of this.
 3. Adopt a Grandparent – tabled for future meeting
 4. Budget tracking (youth/family line items): monthly review item – budget remains tight for the remainder of the year. Meredith, will continue monitor how much she has left in order to stay within budget. Most of the major expenses for the year have already been incurred, therefore there should be little needed for the remainder of the year.
 5. Council Report (“The Ivan Show” – emphasize which items are critical to discuss)
 6. Mission Exploration Team questions (standing agenda item)
 7. LC 2018 focus areas and goals – new committee members, middle school age service opportunities
 8. Call Committee Nominations – Meredith will recommend Tabitha as our youth representative/nomination for the Call Committee.
 9. Braiding Class – Meredith proposed holding a hair braiding class and open it to the community and/or Mt. Cross youth and families. This would be a really fun way to invite community members to our church and to have some fellowship within our church community. Details will be announced in future months.

MINISTRIES to discuss:

12. Elementary School, FWF & Joyful Noise

13. Confirmation/Middle School
14. High School YG
15. Nursery
16. Intern – future plans?
17. Anything else

Future topics: (Running list for record keeping)

7. Speaker topic for families – how to teach children the concept of “giving”
8. Spring break VBS – discuss with church council
9. VBS – ideas to leverage this as community outreach opportunity and pull in more families
10. Youth mission trip in 2019

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: Oct 8, 2018 at 7:00pm - Yolanda's



Learning Committee: Minutes – Aug 6, 2018 7:00 pm

Attendees: Karen, Ivan, Meredith, Patti, Heather, Tracy

EVENTS to discuss:

1. Recap past events (Movie in the Park, Summer Camp, VBS)
2. Upcoming calendar of events:
 - a. Other Summer Activities
 - i. August 7: Youth day at the Ventura County fair
 - ii. August 12-14 High School Camping Trip
 - iii. August 25: Lutheran Night at Dodgers Stadium
 - iv. Sept 3: Labor Day Interfaith Harvest (The Abundant Table)
 - b. Make Bake Celebrate
 - Movie night on Friday
 - o Preschool will join in with the Friday night movie night and split the costs
 - o Meredith will get a Thrivent action to cover church portion of costs
 - o Action: Patti will look into doing the projector DIY
 - MBC on Saturday – Karen Fanner and Meredith have already connected on the youth involvement but will connect again soon on the specifics: greet as attendees arrive, escort them to tables, family-style food serving. Will check to ensure Karen has knowledge transferred from Tracie.
 - Tent Sunday – idea for “Unity Sunday” instead of Rally Day this year (see church council update below)
 - c. Puerto Rico trip (synod-wide, updated dates: Dec 20, 2018-Jan 6, 2019)
 - Decision to postpone until at least 2020 - need to wait for more stability in the church
 - Youth are keen to do a missions trip in Mexico (border issues and/or orphanage) – would do an LRCC-led trip - consider airline mile donations?

TOPICS to discuss:

1. 2018-2019 goals for school year programming

- Primary concern is budget given 2018 financial shortfall across the church
- **Action:** Thrivent action team – Tracy will submit for elementary class bibles
- **Action:** Meredith will plan for a temple talk on Thrivent Action Teams
- Next meeting Meredith will bring summary next meeting of programming at stake for the

- a. Confirmation Program
- b. Bible Study Class (3-4 session class; Wed+Sun)
- c. Wednesday programs
- d. Sunday morning Children's Church
- e. First Communion

2. VBS Debrief – Survey to Volunteers? Parents?

- Collecting feedback – two formats: (1) Meredith does a great job collecting live, real-time feedback directly from volunteers throughout the week; (2) survey
- **Action:** committee will also draft an online survey
 - o Option for parents

- What worked well?
- What would you improve in the future?
- Would you send your child(ren) next year?
- Option for volunteers/staff – similar questions as above
- Option for congregation – did you participate in any capacity? If no, why not? (Wasn't asked, wasn't aware of these options, too busy, not interested, etc)
- Discussed key changes for next year:
 - Raise rates (church council has expressed interested in this)
 - Try for more shared teaching throughout the week (worked well this year)
 - Need to focus on pulling in more parents and more members to volunteer
 - If there was still a Welcome Team would be great to coordinate this with them
 - Will send emails to all families who attended VBS the past 3 years on upcoming programming
 - Will also include information about school year programming with survey email ("extension of VBS")
 - Offer registration discounts per volunteer
 - Hire LRCC staff to supplement (\$250)
 - Promote Wednesday night school year programming as VBS follow up
- Overall very smooth and well-run – lots of positive feedback. All 5 staff members are interested to be involved next VBS. Worked very well for Sheri to do all registration and during the week to have a First Aid station in the office. Raised a lot of \$ for ELCA world hunger – great to have a tangible concept.
- Spring Break VBS in 2019 – potential revenue-generating idea. Could hire LRCC staff. Potentially longer hours? Discuss at future meeting and with church council. - **Action:** Tracy to solicit "bright spots" from committee member VBS experiences – Meredith will compile for Grapevine newsletter.
- **Action:** LC committee members to present these "bright spots" one Sunday at both services?

3. Adopt a Grandparent

- Meredith to partner with Susan P and the Caring Committee (CC) to start this through the card ministry (ie match up families with recipients through the CC)
- Could also consider tapping families to sponsor new families/members of the church (example Stouches – Fishers)

4. Budget tracking (youth/family line items): monthly review item

5. Council Report ("The Ivan Show")

- Tracy to check last 3 meeting minutes for any summary list of bullet points for what Ivan should report (and always include Meredith)
- VBS update
 - Will share summary of survey feedback and bright spots with church council
 - Have LC present their "bright spots" in an upcoming Sunday (
- Outreach: See significant value in reviving formal approach to outreach and new members (ie revive Welcome Team, asking pastor to match existing families with new families)
- Concerns with finance/budget status of the church impact to youth programming
 - Wednesday night dinner subsidy
 - Bibles for elementary bible class
 - New curriculum for high school youth group
- Tent Sunday – instead of Rally Day idea to do a Unity Sunday focused on bringing the church back together, focus on kindness and community as a congregation all together

- Concerns that Contemporary Service is no longer as engaging to families and youth – need worship and music committee to ensure they have Contemporary Service representation (from both congregation + praise band) at their meetings
6. Mission Exploration Team questions (standing agenda item)
 - Concerns with losing members during the process and setting up the candidate to walk into a challenge if we continue to let the dysfunction in the congregation get out of control
 - Steps of the process are very productive, but concerns with the timing and why it couldn't be done while former pastor still in role (ie succession planning)
 7. LC 2018 focus areas and goals – new committee members, middle school age service opportunities

MINISTRIES to discuss:

1. Elementary School, FWF & Joyful Noise
2. Confirmation/Middle School
3. High School YG
 - Youth group timing – will be discussing at beach camping planning trip
 - Need to revisit youth involvement in Sunday service (ie lector, usher, etc)
4. Nursery
5. Intern – future plans?
6. Anything else

Future topics: (Running list for record keeping)

1. Speaker topic for families – how to teach children the concept of “giving”
2. Spring break VBS – discuss with church council
3. VBS – ideas to leverage this as community outreach opportunity and pull in more families
4. Youth mission trip in 2019

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: Sept 10



Learning Committee: Minutes – July 9, 2018 7:00 pm

Attendees: Meredith Smith, Heather Edwards, Karen Cherry, Tracy Blois

EVENTS to discuss:

1. Recap past events (ELCA youth gathering, beach day, others?)
 - a. Youth Gathering – overall went extremely well
 - i. Powerful speakers with powerful messages – church has a place for anyone – empowered youth, came home wanting to be involved
 - ii. Council member raised concern over one speaker
 1. Parents were informed of speakers in advance (with no concerns)
 2. Meredith will check in again following the gathering
 - iii. Will make a youth-specific Sunday where they share about the event
 - b. Church potluck (June 25) – received excellent feedback – huge thanks

for everyone who jumped in to help – should try to do more of these

2. Upcoming calendar of events:
 - a. VBS (July 30-August 3) – see below
 - b. Other Summer Activities
 - i. July 13: Movie in the Park watching Toy Story – Meredith will go early to get an area with Mt Cross sign and will send reminder via text
 - ii. July 15-20: Summer Camp at El Camino Pines – 11 kids so far!
 - iii. July 22: Work day after worship – everyone can help!
 - iv. July 25: Vacation Bible School Workday – see below
 - v. July 29: Vacation Bible School Training Day – see below
 - vi. August 7: Youth day at the Ventura County fair
 - vii. August 12-14 High School Camping Trip – planning retreat for the school year – discuss what they want in the call process - at least 2-3 adults will be there
 - viii. August 25: Lutheran Night at Dodgers Stadium
 - c. Puerto Rico trip (synod-wide, updated dates: Dec 20, 2018-Jan 6, 2019)

TOPICS to discuss:

1. Youth Programming Next School Year
 - a. Confirmation Program – suggestion to hold Confirmation Sunday as a single service
 - b. Bible Study Class – will kick off the school year with this 3-4 session class (both Wed and Sun)
 - c. Wednesday programs
 - d. Sunday morning Children's Church
 - e. First Communion – Meredith presented new curriculum that she will try, can extend beyond First Communion too – maybe with the whole congregation as a reminder on why we do communion
2. VBS
 - a. T-shirts: exploring options for new shirt companies (Heather sent local contacts)
 - b. Supplemental staff for remaining 4 teachers needed: Meredith will reach out to LRCC if camp counselors can be an option
 - c. Additional volunteers are well covered (snacks, crafts, etc – thank you!!)
 - d. Training:
 - i. Meredith has been planning a training day with simple First Aid, curriculum, and community
 - ii. Each teacher will get a backpack with supplies, binders, First Aid
 - e. First Aid / Water Station in the office / Rick Mann will bring a cooling machine
 - f. Offerings – donations for purchasing ELCA world hunger farm animals and school kit items
 - g. Information to parents will be sent the week prior (where the offering goes, what to bring, general information)
3. Budget tracking (youth/family line items): monthly review item – Heather checked in on this and Meredith is under budget on everything (balanced budget on the youth gathering – way to go!)
4. Council Report (standing agenda item to prepare for Ivan)
 - a. Suggestion following the one service church potluck – since there are 4 months with a 5th Sunday – should take that opportunity to have one

- service with a potluck and open it up to the neighborhood – next one will be Tent Sunday on Sept 30th and then
- b. Find opportunities to increase communication throughout the congregation – ie youth sharing about the gathering, giving ideas/suggestions for worship, etc
5. Mission Exploration Team questions (standing agenda item)
 6. LC 2018 focus areas and goals – new committee members, middle school age service opportunities

MINISTRIES to discuss:

1. Elementary School, FWF & Joyful Noise
2. Confirmation/Middle School
3. High School YG
4. Nursery
5. Intern – future plans?
6. Anything else

Other Event ideas: (Running list for record keeping)

1. “Adopt a grandparent”
2. Speaker topic for families – how to teach children the concept of “giving”

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: Aug 6 (Topics: 2018-2019 goals for school year programming, “Adopt a grandparent”)



Learning Committee: Agenda – June 18, 2018 7:00 pm
Attendees: Meredith Smith, Patti Stouch, Karen Cherry, Tracy Blois

EVENTS to discuss:

1. Recap past events
 2. Upcoming calendar of events:
 - a. Next Sunday – June 24 – **should be a great day!**
 - i. **Blessing of youth travelers**
 - ii. **Jessica’s baptism**
 - iii. **Church picnic**
1. **MEREDITH NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!**
 - b. ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston (6/26-7/1/18)
 - c. VBS (July 30-August 3) – see below

- d. Other Summer Activities
 - i. July 8: High School Beach Day at the Ventura Harbor.
 - ii. July 13: Movie in the Park watching Toy Story.
 - iii. July 15-20: Summer Camp at El Camino Pines.
 - iv. July 22: Work day after worship.
 - v. July 25: Vacation Bible School Workday.
 - vi. July 29: Vacation Bible School Training Day
 - vii. August 7: Youth day at the fair.
 - viii. August 12-14 High School Camping Trip
 - ix. August 25: Lutheran Night at Dodgers Stadium
- e. Puerto Rico trip (synod-wide, **updated dates: Dec 20, 2018-Jan 6, 2019**)

TOPICS to discuss:

- 1. Welcome Karen Cherry!
 - a. Gave overview of the committee - Christian Education for youth and families, scoped and led the call for Meredith's position
 - b. Dynamics of the families and youth have changed as families get older without many younger families joining (variety of reasons)
 - c. Need new ideas to increase young families, separate group covers Adult Ed (Meredith well connected to them too)
- 2. Youth Programming Next School Year
 - a. Confirmation Program
 - i. Need to ensure there is more emphasis on the learning
 - ii. Upcoming year curriculum = Lutheran Living (will periodically have adult speakers from the congregation)
 - 1. Each student will receive their own catechism to keep at the church
 - 2. Meredith will also explore the curriculum offered from ELCA
 - iii. Ask Ivan if interested to help, Brian + Patti also willing to help
 - b. Bible Study Class – will kick off the school year with this 3 week class
 - i. Will offer same programming on Sundays + Wednesdays
 - c. Wednesday programs – will keep confirmation, 3rd Grade Bible Study Class and FWF on Wednesdays but will try to offer similar programming on Sundays too
 - d. Sunday morning Children's Church

- i. Karen Cherry presented ideas from books on next generation children's Christian education
 - ii. Meredith will send a brochure on a new children's church curriculum
- 3. VBS
 - a. Theme = ELCA World Hunger
 - b. Instead of doing classroom time, will have farm animals tied to each of the verses for each day's theme
 - c. Volunteers:
 - i. Meredith will send out sign up and volunteer request (will do a background check for Safeguarding God's Children) – "final plea"
 - ii. Decision to shift "plate" art project (\$1000) budget to hiring staff members to supplement volunteers
 - iii. Meredith will include a flier in Sunday bulletins with a specific ask to engage volunteers from across the congregation (cross-generational)
 - d. Next year will visit a fee increase (with a member discount)
 - e. Next LC meeting – explore when and how to follow up with VBS families with specific information about church programs
 - i. Staff an LC member to take sign-ups for those interested in future programs: "Are you interested in.....(preschool programs, grade school programs, 3rd grade bible study class, etc)?"
- 4. Budget tracking (youth/family line items): monthly review item
- 5. Council Report (standing agenda item to prepare for Ivan)
 - a. There seems to be a need for a revitalized Welcome Team when we prepare for a new pastor
 - b. Discuss ideas for supporting and encouraging youth and families
 - i. Green sheets – would be great to revisit these as a congregation for families to share how they use them ("temple talk"). Stouch family uses these for discussion and prayers at family dinners.
 - ii. More temple talks / announcements for engaging the congregation
 - iii. Youth Sundays – where youth stay in the church for the entire service and perform all congregational roles (or an entire family could do each Sunday)
 - c. Mark Storer reached out to Meredith to lead a support group at Cam High focused on youth support for anxiety and stress (and potentially Rancho Campana)
- 6. Mission Exploration Team questions (standing agenda item)
 - a. Important for the call process to include someone who can be forward thinking in addition to maintaining status quo as needed
- 7. LC 2018 focus areas and goals – new committee members, middle school age service opportunities

MINISTRIES to discuss:

- 1. Elementary School, FWF & Joyful Noise
- 2. Confirmation/Middle School
- 3. High School YG
- 4. Nursery
- 5. Intern – future plans?
- 6. Anything else

Other Event ideas: (Running list for record keeping)

- 1. Speaker topic for families – how to teach children the concept of "giving"

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: July 9 (does this work?) Confirmed (topics: post-VBS follow up, adopt a grandparent, Puerto Rico trip)



Learning Committee: Minutes – May 7, 2018 7:00 pm

Attendees: Heather, Meredith, Ivan, Tracy

EVENTS to discuss:

1. Past events:

a. Variety Show – March 11

i. Lots of positive feedback!

ii. Should definitely plan for this to be an annual or biannual event

iii. Could adjust the fundraising in future years if there is not a large

iv. Food – Establos was good, but could order far less (this was ordered for 100 people with 120 tickets sold) or consider a catering.

v. Need more events for people to come enjoy each other without being asked to give.

vi. Summary – next year plan on the event with a nominal ticket fee to strictly cover catering costs.

b. Spring Break week of service – March 28

c. Easter morning festivities – April 1

d. Parents Night Out – May 4

2. Upcoming events:

a. Confirmation Sunday – May 20

b. Middle School Midnight Madness – May 18

c. National Youth Gathering (6/26-7/1/18)

i. Fundraising efforts are complete (kudos to all of the hard work!) – no endowment funds needed!

d. VBS (July 30-August 3)

i. Registration Numbers - reached max in 3 days!

1. Sheri has been a huge help with the planning!

2. Marilyn Gardner generously volunteered to be craft lead!

ii. Adult Volunteers

1. Send a Sign Up Genius with # of slots that are needed to all registered children and to the entire congregation (specific requests by day, age group, activity) – to run a safe and successful camp

a. Emphasize urgency and that registration spots may be at risk

2. General Ideas:

a. Provide mandatory CPR training in advance for all VBS teachers (are there funds to cover this?)

b. First Aid Station (any parents or members who are nurses or leverage a nursing student?)

c. Option to train all VBS teachers (for anyone new, feel prepared, build comradery)

d. Consider hiring staff (CLU students or other contacts)

3. Divide and Conquer for 1:1 asks:

a. Will exchange via email who we can approach –

Meredith will initiate

- b. Meredith will send email, bulletin and newsletter
- iii. Anything else? Should consider raising registration fees next year.
- e. Puerto Rico trip (synod-wide, January 2019, will be open to the congregation)

TOPICS to discuss:

1. Recap recent events – see above
2. Bible Study Class – will discuss this next month – think about Wed FWF format
 - a. Expand to 3rd and older, teach in segments
 - b. Open to new ideas and change for what will work best for most
 - c. Solicit feedback from all attendees in the final Wednesday
 - d. Adult ed wants to help with dinners (have all attendees sign up)
3. Budget tracking (youth/family line items): will add this as a monthly review item
4. Council Report (standing agenda item to prepare for Ivan)
 - a. Puerto Rico trip recap – Meredith will give a slideshow at church on June 3 and at synod assembly – idea/opportunity to adopt a sister church in Puerto Rico? There is a synod-wide trip in January 2019 (dates will be sent ASAP).
 - b. Need more events for members to come enjoy each other without being asked to give- consider the idea for a “Congregational Life” budget.
 - c. Concerns with the vitality and engagement of the congregation, ideas:
 - i. Repurpose Rally Day to a Thank You or Volunteer or Appreciation day with a butcher paper wall of “What I do at Mt Cross”
 - ii. Gratitude box, Kindness challenge
 - iii. Slideshow of photos highlighting all of the random acts that a variety of volunteers do all across the church – add photos to committee minutes
 - iv. Focus on events that will pull people in
 - v. Figure out ways to holistically address the issues of criticism – how to increase kindness, gratitude, assume good intent - can Pastor Jim tie messages to any of this?
5. Mission Exploration Team questions (standing agenda item)
6. LC 2018 focus areas and goals – new committee members, middle school age service opportunities

MINISTRIES to discuss:

1. Elementary School, FWF & Joyful Noise
2. Confirmation/Middle School
3. High School YG
4. Nursery
5. Intern – future plans?
6. Anything else

Other Event ideas: (Running list for record keeping)

1. Speaker topic for families – how to teach children the concept of “giving”

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: June 4 (assess status of VBS parent volunteers, Wednesday programs in the fall, upcoming calendar of events)

Learning Committee: Minutes – March 5, 2018 7:00 pm

Attendees: Ivan, Patti, Meredith, Tracy

EVENTS to discuss:

1. Variety Show – March 11
 - a. Sheri set up online registration form
 - b. Fundraising model is all set (Meredith has script, cards with multiple levels of support, organized payment options, giving follow up)
 - c. 2 Thrivent Action Grants (Thank you, Lucille Miley!) to partially cover the dinner costs,
 - d. Meredith will order with Establos ASAP (order for 65 if 100 RSVPs)
 - e. Specific needs (Meredith will tap people):
 - i. Pick up Establos at 5pm
 - ii. HS youth will bring salads
 - iii. Set out food and servers (Tracy)
 - iv. Youth will be servers and assigned to tables
 - v. Taking tickets (and payment) at the door (Patti)
2. March 14 – LC is hosting Wednesday Lenten soup supper
 - a. Tracy will check with Valerie on soup sign ups (Anne, Patti, and/or youth can make soups if needed)
 - b. Meredith will have older youth help with set up
3. Spring Break week of service (Mar 27-29, 10am-2pm) – property committee provided project list, Easter egg hunt set up, breakfast prep and set up.
4. Easter morning festivities
 - a. The only item needed is candy
 - b. Egg hunt – will need someone to lead
5. National Youth Gathering (6/26-7/1/18)
 - a. 3 main days with worship every night: synod day, service day, community life day
6. Any others?
 - a. Upcoming events in May: PNO, Confirmation Sunday
 - b. No PNO in March (replaced by Variety Show)

TOPICS to discuss:

1. Recap recent events
2. Council Report (standing agenda item to prepare for Ivan)
 - a. Suggestion for the patio pavilion to be a community site that can be rented out (benefits of both income + community exposure) – need to consider this in all project phases. Could market as wedding venue?
 - b. Also, idea for the capital campaign to take a tangible approach (ie purchase family tiles or specific items such as heaters, projectors, wind shades, etc)?
 - c. Concerns that the lack of contemporary in the second service could deter visitors from coming back (ie little cups at communion) – there seems to be too much focus on tradition at the contemporary service.
3. Mission Exploration Team questions (standing agenda item) – not started yet
4. LC 2018 focus areas and goals – new committee members, middle school age service opportunities

MINISTRIES to discuss:

1. *Elementary School, FWF & Joyful Noise*
2. *Confirmation/Middle School*
3. *High School YG*
4. *Nursery*
5. *Intern – future plans?*
6. *Anything else*

Other Event ideas: (Discuss next time)

1. Speaker topic for families – how to teach children the concept of “giving”

Closing Prayer and Adjournment –

Next meeting: May 6 (skip April due to Easter)

Learning Committee: Minutes – February 12, 2018 7:00 pm

Attendees: Meredith, Ivan, Kate, Patti, Tracy

EVENTS to discuss:

1. Update from Meredith’s ELCA Youth Workers Extravaganza in Houston
 - a. Meredith attended several workshops relevant and useful to Mt Cross, including (1) tithing and (2) fundraising. She is continually applying the learnings.
2. Variety Show – March 11
 - a. Need a decision on MBC – **ACTION:** Tracy will email Brian and copy Meredith and Ivan
 - b. Open to anyone to bring talents, including adults (ie a “baker” to do desserts)
 - c. Ticket prices: agreed on \$10/ticket; \$35/family
 - d. Meathead Movers will move on Friday (only \$100)
 - e. Event needs:
 - i. Will add photobooth – someone to run?
 - ii. Meredith will check with Anne re: details on electronic payment details (Craig also has Square and can help)
 - iii. **ACTION:** All to promote share FB event (to MOC?) to promote
3. National Youth Gathering (6/26-7/1/18)
4. High school summer trip idea for 2019 and 2020
 - a. Western States Youth gathering may not happen again
 - b. Other options to discuss further (service-oriented): Puerto Rico (through LRCC)
5. Spring Break week of service
 - a. For the three days before Easter, Meredith will organize service projects around the church for Easter preparation and open it up to the community.
6. March 14 – LC is hosting Wednesday Lenten soup supper
 - a. Tracy will check with Valerie for details and send via Shutterfly
 - i. Need volunteers for making soups and setup or cleanup
 - b. Meredith will involve the youth during Fun with Faith (ie make a soup)
7. VBS: July 30 – Aug 3 (will discuss more after Easter)

TOPICS to discuss:

1. Recap recent events (Christmas program, cookie fundraiser, PNO, others?)
2. Council Report (standing agenda item to prepare for Mike)
 - a. Make Bake Celebrate decision (see #1 in EVENTS)
3. Will replace Devotional standing agenda item with Mission Exploration Team questions for next several months
4. Southwest Synod grants (Mission Outreach, Facilities for youth) – will apply next year

5. LC 2018 focus areas and goals – Discuss next time, other ideas include increasing service opportunities for middle school youth (and publicize to community – they all need more opportunities for service at that age).

MINISTRIES to discuss:

1. *Elementary School, FWF & Joyful Noise*
2. *Confirmation/Middle School*

3. High School YG
4. Nursery
5. Intern – future plans?
6. Anything else

Other Event ideas: (Discuss next time)

1. Speaker topic for families – how to teach children the concept of “giving”

Closing Prayer and Adjournment –

Next meeting: March 5th.....discuss.....do first Mondays still work?



Learning Committee: Minutes – November 13, 2017, 7:00 pm

Attendees: Heather Edwards, Lisa Saner, Meredith Smith, Patti Stouch, Tracy Blois

TOPICS to discuss:

12. Recap recent events (LSS walk, Youth Girls event, Pumpkin Patch, others?)
 - a. HS girls event with speaker Tristan Vance – huge success, brought up serious issues with open, healthy dialogue
13. Council Report (standing agenda item to prepare for Mike)
 - a. **Communication will be critical during transition period.** Discussed the need to ensure complete effective communication to the congregation – 2 ideas:
 - i. Empower Sheri to ask standard set of questions with any request she receives for bulletin, email, or newsletter:
 1. Do you want this included in all communication channels or which ones (bulletin, email, newsletter, FB)?
 2. How long do you want this included (ie 1, 2, or more weeks, months, etc)?
 - ii. Standing staff meeting topic to discuss weekly communication items (and if anything needs to be added)
 - b. Encourage a shift in thinking from “this is how we’ve always done it”, how to empower lay leadership and others in the congregation. Great progress with decision to hire high schoolers to run the sound system Sunday mornings (“win-win”)
14. Budget update (standing item to review current ledger) - updated format for 2018 to easily track how much money is left in each account
15. Devotional (standing agenda item)
16. DOM communication and transition plan
 - a. Announcement was made in church and in one email – now need to ensure communication continues in all channels (FB, newsletter, bulletin) - Tracy to ask Stan, Brian E, and Sheri
 - b. Transitioned Children’s Church and Fun With Faith planning activities to Katie
 - c. Requested slight hours increase for 2018 budget – awaiting response
17. Southwest Synod grants – discussed ideas to use potential grant money

- a. Meredith will draft grant applications for committee review at Dec mtg. Meredith will also seek ideas from other committees.
- b. Grant #1: Mission Outreach – \$500-\$5K grants
 - i. Discussed multiple outside speaker events – CPR training, more youth topics with Tristan Vance, Tracy Bennett (Getting Kids Internet Safe), teaching youth about giving, “Rethink church” topics
- c. Grant #2: Facilities for Sunday school and youth education
 - i. Elements for Patio Phase 2 (or beyond) for VBS, youth group, children’s church, other youth events
 - ii. Large benches for youth group and children’s church
 - iii. Speaker system and/or projector
 - iv. Wind flaps or heat lamps for year-round use
 - v. Need to consider mobility, but also to store securely (ie chain down?)

EVENTS to discuss:

- 9. Christmas Program – 12/17 (during 10am service)
- 10. National Youth Gathering (6/26-7/1/18) – 9 kids signed up! At next meeting, discuss Meredith’s 2018 Fundraising Plan (took a seminar on fundraising – importance of fewer, bigger ones)
- 11. Cookie Fundraiser – Lisa got Thrivent Action grant for supplies
 - a. Sell 11/26 and 12/3
 - b. Assemble at FWF 12/6
 - c. Pick up 12/10, 12/13, 12/17
 - d. Lisa will send communication request to Sheri
- 12. Upcoming winter retreats (family, high school & middle school)
- 13. Other Event ideas:
 - a. Possibility of children singing for the Christmas concert and at any of our local senior homes.
 - b. Speaker topic for families – how to teach children the concept of “giving” (not just financial, but time too) - see grant topic above

MINISTRIES to discuss:

- 18. Elementary School, FWF & Joyful Noise
- 19. Confirmation/Middle School
- 20. High School YG
- 21. Nursery
- 22. Intern – future plans?
- 23. Anything else

Closing Prayer and Adjournment – Tracy prayed and meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: December 4th, 7pm (do first Mondays still work?)

- **Discuss Meredith’s 2018 Fundraising Plan**



Learning Committee: Agenda – October 2, 7:00 pm

Attendees: Meredith Gardner, Heather Edwards, Tracy Blois

TOPICS to discuss:

- 1) Recap recent events
- 2) Council Report (standing agenda item to prepare for Mike)
 - a) DOM updates? **Confirmed committee full support for next steps.**
- 3) Budget update (Standing item to review updated ledger)
 - 2018 budget discussion on training/professional resources:**
 - a) Should include budget for professional resources (ie emergency training, CPR certification).
 - b) Action: Determine if there are any other similar training to budget for.
 - c) Include Extravaganza (youth workers national convention – held every year, but Meredith plans to attend at least every 3 years when location is same as national youth gathering later that same year).
 - d) \$500 discretionary fund – used this year for professional counseling to advise on youth incidents that occurred.
- 4) Future event planning – see below
- 5) Devotional (standing agenda item)

Covered more from [Growing Young: 6 Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church](#)

- a) Unlock keychain leadership – empower all to be leaders (need to let go of things being perfect)
- b) Empathize with younger generations – bridge gap between generations who don't necessarily know how to connect
- c) Take Jesus' message seriously – what do you go out and do, how do you live the message every day – need to keep this as an active conversation!
- d) Fuel a warm community – focus on relationships, not #s
- e) Prioritize young people and families everywhere – how?? continue this conversation!!
- f) How to engage the entire congregation in some of these conversations (brainstorm out-of-box ideas)

EVENTS to discuss:

1. LSS poverty walk – 10/8
2. "Healthy Boundaries" Youth girls event with speaker Tristan – 10/15
 - a. **Boys will meet separately with Katie and potentially all together for a portion**
3. Pumpkin patch – 10/22
4. Christmas Program – 12/17 (during 10am service)
5. Event ideas:
 - a. Speaker topic for families – how to teach children the concept of "giving" (not just financial, but time too).
 - i. **Stewardship Committee is working on this for 2018.**

MINISTRIES to discuss:

1. Elementary School, FWF & Joyful Noise
2. Confirmation/Middle School
 - a. Implementing intergenerational pairing of Middle School and High School youth (“Adopt a Grandparent”)
3. High School YG
 - a. See update on Middle School above.
 - b. Huge turnout at youth group (13 on 10/1!)
4. Nursery
5. Summer intern
6. Anything else
7. Next meeting: Updates on MOPS, Job Fair

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: November 6, 7pm (will likely be rescheduled as Meredith will be gone)

Learning Committee: Minutes – August 31, 2017, 7:00 pm

Attendees: Lisa Saner, Heather Edwards, Patti Stouch, Anne Valencia, Tracy Blois, Meredith Gardner, Brian Edwards, Jim Prosser, Gayle Johnson

TOPICS to discuss:

1. Council Report (standing agenda item)
 - Meredith gave update on interim process
2. Budget update (Standing item to review updated ledger)
 - Motion approved: request \$750 (up to 5 sessions) for 2018 budget to keep Tristan Vance, MS, LMFT on retainer for professional resource when tough youth issues arise
 - Heather will be helping with the full 2018 budget preparation (not just LC) – thank you!!
3. Director of Ministries Proposal (modified since July meeting) – follow up discussion to prepare formal input and recommendation for Church Council
 - Personnel committee provided background/sequence of events (Fall 2016 – now)
 - Oct 2016: Meredith had proposed updated job description (prepared with LC to capture expanded responsibilities) and salary increase/request. Review did not happen at that time.
 - June 2017: LC met and prepared summary input of Meredith’s performance in role and the position in general – sent to personnel
 - July 2017: Meredith proposed expanded position and Pastor John announced retirement
 - Aug 2017: Pastor John conducted Meredith’s performance review
 - Meredith shared her vision for the position – to be the connector at the church across programming and across generations
 - Full discussion on proposal
 - Nothing has changed any contractual obligations
 - Discussed concerns that had been raised
 - Focused on position and not just on Meredith (all agreed she’s been God’s gift to the role)
 - LC Committee members stayed and prepared a summary recommendation from Learning Committee: **overall supportive of the position as discussed (modified proposal) and recommend approval, recognizing that exact details around specific responsibilities may adjust.**

- Strong alignment that church's future is our youth and families
- Recognition there is a deep need to evaluate current ministries and programming and match to the current needs of the congregation
- Need to formalize and recognize the increased responsibilities already occurring relative to original position
- Lastly, we recognize the importance of this leadership role to help guide the congregation through the upcoming transition period.

EVENTS to discuss:

1. High school girls group session with Tristan Vance MFT: coping with high school and pressures and social media, how to deal with difficult situations and set boundaries. Small a. Huge need for this with youth; Tristan as a professional has a wealth of knowledge. Will be Sunday evening, Oct 15, 6pm.
 - b. Anne will apply for Thrivent action group
 - c. Will do concurrent event for the youth boys (Patti's?).
2. MOPS group (putting together a military group and a regular mops group)
 - a. MOPS approached Mt Cross to start a group here since they don't currently have a Camarillo location. They have a preschool moms, teen moms group, military moms,
 - b. Committee agreed this is win/win for the church – Meredith will work on making this happen.
3. Job Fair with potential "Job Coaching Program" sessions after/before the fair.
 - a. ChurchJobFairs.Org would come set up, no fee to Mt Cross, but they charge for vendor tables – this would be congregational-wide.
 - b. All committee members to check out the organization and Meredith to solicit more information.
 - c. Potential timing: spring 2018 at earliest

MINISTRIES to discuss:

1. Elementary School, FWF & Joyful Noise
2. Confirmation/Middle School
3. High School YG
4. Nursery
5. Summer intern
6. Anything else

Next meeting: Sept 11, 7pm; will resume first Mondays in October (due to labor day in September)

Next agenda topic: evaluate intern job responsibilities – send to Personnel Committee

Learning Committee: Minutes – July 10 2017, 7:00 pm Attendees: Meredith, Heather, Tracy

TOPICS to discuss:

1. Recap recent events (Middle School “kidnap”, WSYG,)
2. Council Report (for Mike)
3. Budget update (Standing item to review updated ledger) – Meredith sent updated ledger for review offline (worked well to collect VBS payments online!).
4. Future event planning – see below
5. Devotional (new standing agenda item)
 - a. Discussion from the "Growing Young" book and the strategy to "Empathize with today's young people. Instead of judging or criticizing, step into the shoes of this generation." What are ways that we already do a good job at this, and how can we improve?
 - b. Excellent discussion about the importance of **listening!**
6. Katie send-off party
 - a. UPDATE: Katie is now with us until January – yay!
7. Job description updates – discussed Meredith's proposal for growth of her role. Also discussed importance of covering counseling charges, especially in response to youth issues that arise (and ensuring protection against “caretaker burnout”). Additional point

raised by LC about covering cell phone costs (essential tool for the role) – to discuss in future.

EVENTS to discuss:

1. Summer Camp Scheduled for July 16 – 21
2. VBS Dates (Super Hero!): Jul 31 – Aug 4
 - a. Decision to do cupcake social instead of dinner at Thursday night performance this year (lack of volunteer to lead + patio construction both make dinner too difficult). Discussed optimal start time – 6 or 6:30pm.
 - b. Logistical challenge for the layout of all activities due to patio project, but will make do and leverage the fence for the superhero décor!!
 - c. Craft prep – Meredith sent dates for decorating and craft prep in weekly email
3. Resiliency youth follow up with speaker Tristan – targeting fall 2017
4. Event idea – speaker topic for families – how to teach children the concept of “giving” (not just financial, but time too).

MINISTRIES to discuss:

1. Elementary School, FWF & Joyful Noise
2. Confirmation/Middle School
3. High School YG
4. Nursery
5. Summer intern
6. Anything else

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: Sept 11, 7pm; will resume first Mondays in October (due to labor day in September)

Learning Committee: Minutes – June 5, 2017, 7:00 pm

Attendees: Patti Stouch, Anne Valencia, Heather Edwards, Lisa Saner, Tracy Blois

Note: As Meredith couldn't attend the meeting, the committee primarily focused on the CYFD annual review. Remaining agenda items to be covered at July meeting.

Reviewed and Approved Minutes from May 8, 2017

TOPICS to discuss:

1. Recap recent events (PNO, LRCC “Take a Hike”, Confirmation Class, Joyful Noise)
2. Council Report (for Mike)
3. Budget update (Standing item to review updated ledger)
4. Future event planning – see below
5. Devotional (new standing agenda item) Meredith to share devotional for discussion
6. Check in on New Shutterfly Site (testing as a no-cost Basecamp alternative)
7. Schedule LC meeting(s) for summer months
8. Katie send-off party
9. Staff Review – CYFD position: committee discussed in-role performance strengths and development areas, as well as feedback for the position in general. The review document was collectively prepared and Tracy sent to head of personnel committee following the meeting for review and sending to Pastor John. Committee will discuss prepared feedback

with Meredith in future LC meeting (timing will be determined by timing of review discussion with Pastor John).

EVENTS to discuss:

1. Middle school “kidnap” – date set to June 11
2. Western States Youth Gathering- June 27th-July 2nd
3. Summer Camp Scheduled for July 16 – 21
4. VBS Dates (Super Hero!): Jul 31 – Aug 4
 - a. Still need a craft lead?
 - b. Craft night with LC?
5. Resiliency youth follow up with speaker Tristan – targeting fall 2017
6. Event idea – speaker topic for families – how to teach children the concept of “giving” (not just financial, but time too).

MINISTRIES to discuss:

1. Elementary School, FWF & Joyful Noise
2. Confirmation/Middle School
3. High School YG
4. Nursery
5. Summer intern
6. Anything else

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: July 10 or 24 (will discuss with Meredith); then resume first Mondays in Sept.



Learning Committee: Minutes – April 3, 2017, 7:00 pm

Attendees: Heather Edwards, Lisa Saner, Meredith Gardner, Tracy Blois

Reviewed and Approved Minutes from March 6, 2017

TOPICS to discuss:

- 6) Recap recent events (middle school hike, Crop Walk, Lenten Soup Supper)
Good Lenten soup supper turnout and team effort (thank you!)
- 7) Council Report (for Mike)
 - a) **Concerns remaining with high cost just to use Luther Hall for Easter Breakfast (and other church events)**
 - b) **Need to identify a long term solution**
 - c) **LC is concerned about the impact to our future programs**
 - d) **Great to hear support from church council that Meredith cannot do everything!**
- 8) Standing budget update (new standing item to review updated ledger)

- a) Meredith brought printouts of updated ledger (nicely done, Heather and Meredith!)
 - b) Working well as a tool to stay organized!
 - c) Will still add (1) Katie and Nursery staff salaries; (2) remaining budget column; (3) Notes column
 - d) Need to adjust the naming/grouping of budget line items that Children's Education to include Sunday School + Fw/F and Children's Events to capture off-site events
- 9) Future event planning – see below
- 10) Devotional (new standing agenda item) Meredith to share devotional for discussion
- a) [Link to Devotional on Basecamp](#) - NEXT TIME
- 11) New Basecamp Account – since there is no budget this year for the church, suggestion and decision to try out Shutterfly shared site (can customize settings) – Heather
- a) Heather will set up the site
 - b) Tracy will send the 17 current Basecamp team members
- 12) Meredith has a summer intern joining – will be planning the curriculum for VBS and prep for next year

EVENTS to discuss:

6. Easter
- a. Breakfast – Jack Rose (Meredith already ordered food)
 - b. Egg Hunt – Aaron Laskey w/ Maddie, Katie
 - c. Meredith will include elementary school kids in addition to youth group (can raise \$ for camp) – she set up Signup Genius.
7. Tent Movie Night – April 28 (Tracy received approval for Thrivent Action Team)
8. Make Bake Celebrate (April 29) – Youth Donations – Tracy to post the below on Basecamp
- a. ART – Meredith will have supplies for this week's FWF
 - i. Watercolor and salt cards
 - ii. Canvas with scrolling values as stems with thumbprints
 - iii. Melting Crayon canvas with HS youth group
 - b. Hosted dinners
 - i. Youth Group (HS-only?) host a group dinner
 - ii. Learning Committee members host 1-2 dinners
 - iii. Need ideas and input on themes (Anne, any good ones from past years that could be used again?) and audience (adults-only or families?)
 - 1. Make-Your-Own Pizza Dinner
 - 2. Meredith and Katie can provide child care for an adults-only event
 - 3. Would Gramacki's host the Sports BBQ again (family event?)
 - a. Youth could host this; involve families and all church members
9. Youth "Global Hunger Dinner" with LSS at Ascension- May 7th
10. Western States Youth Gathering- June 27th-July 2nd

11. Summer Camp Scheduled for July 16 – 21
12. VBS Dates (Super Hero!): Jul 31 – Aug 4 (Registration opens May 1 – Sheri is managing all of this, will be done online). NEED A CRAFT LEAD (maybe summer intern?) – repurpose June LC meeting to be a craft night!
13. Parents' Night Out – May 12
14. Camp Sunday (Lutheran camps will present on Sunday morning) – May 7
15. Resiliency youth follow up with speaker Tristan – targeting early June – Meredith will reach out to Tristan for potential dates and then discuss with joint youth workers group (Sunday evening). Idea proposed to incentivize the youth to bring a friend.
16. Middle school “kidnap” – date TBD

MINISTRIES to discuss:

8. Elementary School, FWF & Joyful Noise
9. Confirmation/Middle School
10. High School YG
11. Nursery
12. Anything else

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: May 1 at 7pm



Learning Committee: Minutes – March 6, 2017, 7:00 pm
Attendees: Julie Fernandez, Meredith Gardner, Tracy Blois

Approved Minutes from February 13, 2017 (thank you, Anne!)

TOPICS to discuss:

- 13) Recap recent events (parents night out, middle school winter camp, Parenting Resilient Teenager)
 - a) Parents night out – smaller turnout than past but still positive experience (lesson learned: avoid holiday weekends in future)
 - b) MS winter camp – kids had a blast, especially Jake!! Great teamwork among the Mt Cross attendees (3 in total).
 - c) Parenting a Resilient Teenager – unanimous interest to bring Tristan back! Meredith will explore dates in late May, early June for a youth event and then September/Autumn for a broader event for all parents (title ideas: “Raising a Resilient Child”, “How to Talk so Your Kids Will Listen”)
- 14) Council Report

- a) Stan has personally addressed the concern raised regarding knowledge transfer to past to current church council members. Work in progress with last year's CC will continue.
 - b) Will ensure Mike has Feb and March minutes in advance of Mar 14 CC mtg
 - c) CC idea: intra-church survey to collect feedback on the interests/wants of the congregation for programs (ie for each type of programming ask if someone wants more, same, or less).
- 15) Standing budget update (new standing item to review updated ledger)
- a) Meredith shared via BaseCamp – ask LC members to review
 - b) Heather created template – will add column to capture “remaining 2017 budget”
 - c) Review as a committee together at next meeting
- 16) Future event planning:
- a) Bring Back Family Dinner theme? Not specifically needed. Paired confirmation families for remaining Wednesdays of the year.
- 17) New standing agenda item: Meredith to share devotional for discussion - due to low number of attendees, will start this in April.
- 18) Meredith will add 2017 LC meetings to her weekly emails and send to Sheri for including in the bulletin
- 19) Outreach grant – almost complete, ~\$200 remaining. When depleted, can apply for new grant.

EVENTS to discuss:

- 17. Middle School Hike- March 19th
- 18. Tent Movie Night – April 28 (Tracy to do another Thrivent Action Team)
- 19. Make Bake Celebrate – April 29
- 20. Youth "Global Hunger Dinner" with LSS at Ascension- May 7th
- 21. Western States Youth Gathering- June 27th-July 2nd
- 22. Summer Camp Scheduled for July 16 – 21
- 23. VBS Dates: Jul 31 – Aug 4 Theme selected: Super Hero. Multiple local churches sharing the theme and will share decorations.
- 24. Crop Walk- March 12th (Ask all LC members to publicize via social media – Mt Cross is hosting!)
- 25. Lenten Soup Supper – Tracy to post to Basecamp to select best date for the committee to host.

MINISTRIES to discuss:

- 13. Elementary School, FWF & Joyful Noise
- 14. Confirmation/Middle School
- 15. High School YG
- 16. Nursery
- 17. Anything else

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: April 3 at 7pm



Learning Committee: Agenda – February 13, 2017, 7:00 pm

Attendees: **Heather, Aaron, Meredith, Anne, Tracy**

Opening Prayer

Approval of Minutes from January 9, 2017 – **Approved as written.**

Prior to agenda topics, we wanted to celebrate the huge compassion and support shown at the Annual meeting for Meredith and her position. We give thanks that her position is now part of the annual budget. Learning Committee (LC) will work with her on her continuing education.

TOPICS to discuss:

- 20) Grant money – what was the outcome after discussing ideas from basecamp? **Community Outreach Grant for Synod. We will be applying again. Currently \$900 approx. remaining.**
- 21) Family Events in Spring
- 22) Council Report – **Minutes will be distributed on a timelier manner to allow our Council liaison time to review prior to council meetings. Action Items for Council:**
 - a) **What is plan/protocol going to be for using Pre-School area for events?**
 - b) **Whose budget does the set-up come from? Huge concern for events i.e. Easter Breakfast**
 - c) **Please see note below regarding Meredith's CC. Important that Council understands that it is a reimbursed amount for the most part.**
 - d) **We have a concern that Meredith's position does not become a "fall back". While she is more than willing to go above and beyond, we need to make sure that people do not assume she is there to do anything needed. IE – dishes/set-up at annual meeting dinner as just one example. Committees need to schedule volunteers. Just as we do not want her setting-up/cleaning up every event that falls under LC. This relates back to watching her hours and how they are spent.**
- 23) Budget update (new standing item to review updated ledger) – **template? Heather and Meredith working on on-gong ledger for meetings. Meredith's credit card total was a high amount in annual budget due to charges such as camps etc. that are pre-paid by church and parents write checks directly to church.**

- 24) Parent's education on sacraments, milestones (ie First Communion) We need to get information out to parents about milestones and what the process/protocol is so that they can make the best decision for their family/needs.
- 25) Meredith has been doing Children's church at first service with success!!

EVENTS to discuss:

26. Parent's Night Out – Feb 17 – On schedule. Please advertise via FB.
27. Parenting a Resilient Teenager, Tristan Vance– Feb 26 5:30 set-up, Heather checking with Nothin' But Bundts for desert.
28. Easter Breakfast – See concerns for room set-up on Council Report. Aaron will help with egg hunt.
29. Make Bake Celebrate – April 29 – Movie night on Friday 4/28 in tent!
30. She Rises – next date? Not scheduled yet.
31. VBS Dates: Jul 31 – Aug 4
32. Family Camp was a huge success! Possibly due to the time of year and "sports break" in winter. Meredith will let people know about Memorial weekend but we will not be organizing a group.
33. Meredith will add our mtg to weekly email/bulletin and calendar with contact info incase others want to join!
34. Summer Camp Scheduled for July 16 – 21
35. FUTURE EVENTS – Bring Back Family Dinner theme. We will discuss next meeting.

MINISTRIES to discuss:

18. CLU Intern – No intern for this semester
19. Elementary School, FWF & Joyful Noise
20. Confirmation/Middle School – We would like an official Acolyte class or session. Feedback has been that the Middle Schools are nervous and would benefit from a hands on training. Choir is willing to work with us on a Wednesday night.
21. High School YG
22. Nursery

OTHER topics:

- LC to reach out to families that our on our roster that haven't been attending
 - o **Do we want to still do this? – Yes but tabled for now.**
- Mom's group – tabled until June
- Meredith will add a devotional to Basecamp that the LC can ponder/discuss and touch base at our meetings.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: March 6 at 7pm

Learning Committee: Agenda – January 9, 2017 7:30 pm

Attendees: Tracy, Heather, Julie, Lisa, Aaron, Anne and Meredith

Approval of Minutes from November 29, 2016

Topics to Discuss:

- New Chair: Tracy! Welcome to our new leader, Tracy Blois!
- 2017 meeting schedule: new meeting days/time?? First Monday @ 7 pm

Feb 6

March 6

April 3

May 1

June 5

- Having another speaker come out: dates? Aaron has contacted Tristan Vance, owner of Mission Oaks Counseling & Wellness Center. A few of our members have personal experience with her and she comes highly recommended. Aaron will confirm date – possible 2/26, 3/5 or 3/12. No dinner, possible desert after. Free to community.

- Annual Report – Please review on BaseCamp and make suggestions/changes.

Due by Wed.

- Children's Church for Sunday Help is needed in the coming weeks while Meredith is at Winter Camps with the youth. Lisa & Tracy will touch base.

- Moms Group – Very small interest at time. We will revisit at a later date.

- Attendance at the Annual Meeting Jan 29th. Everyone is encouraged to attend for multiple reasons.

1. Important Church wide information for the upcoming year.
2. Support decisions that MAY be brought up concerning certain positions
3. Help ensure we have a church wide quorum for voting.

- Council Report about Meredith's job – Is this Meredith's job or do we need to have a member of our committee reporting.

- CLU intern Waiting for confirmation from CLU regarding a new intern, Alicia

- Other? Suggest having an Acolyte class to help confirmation students understand process & duties.

We need a monthly budget report to make sure we are transparent, in line with our budget and able to adjust where needed. Also a running tab of Thrivent \$s.

Heather will work with Meredith to create a simple on-going ledger.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment



Learning Committee: Agenda – October 25, 2016 7:30 pm

Attendees:

Approval of Minutes

Topics to Discuss:

1. Budget – Looks good with some questions, clarifications for Susan Prosser regarding MBC/Endowment funds and planning.
2. Christmas Program December 4th, 2016 – Practice will be Wednesday prior to event. Yes it is early, but it is the date that works for the volunteers and helps us start the season out with the Children.
3. Family Winter Camp January 14-16th – Exciting opportunity. We are hoping families will join us at El Camino Pines.
4. Update on Meredith Position – *Patti* – Pastor John agreed with our assessment and it has been submitted to Budget and Finance for review. At this time, unless B&F have any questions for us, the negotiations will be directly between Meredith and B&F. Meredith was greatly appreciative of the support.
5. NOTE: Master Calendar Review in August after VBS

NOTE – Clarification is needed regarding Simply Giving vs Auto Bill Pay and costs associated with both.

EVENTS to Discuss:

1. 50th Anniversary/Pumpkin Patch Review – Successful with a great turnout!
2. Bible Class Review – Meredith shadowed Scott Fajnor and will do a Spring session. We not have the supplies. Thank you to Scott for doing on “last” class to allow us to continue this amazing ministry.
3. She Rises Review – 13 people from Mount Cross of various ages attended. It was very successful and all who attended look forward to the next meeting on 12/9. 60 total people with 5 churches participating.

Ministries:

1. Elementary School, FWF & Joyful Noise – Performing at the Hanging of the Greens
12/4
2. Confirmation/Middle School
3. High School YG

4. Nursery Kayla & Shawn possibly moving on – **No, they are happy for now.**

5. Council Report –

Other Topics:

- LC to reach out to families that our on our roster that haven't been attending

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: November 29 NO DECEMBER MEETING.



Learning Committee: Minutes – September 19, 2016 7:30 pm

Attendees: Meredith, Courtney, Patti, Anne, Tracy

Approval of August Minutes

Topics to Discuss:

1. New Chair for Committee –

Tentative plan: Patti will continue through end of 2016 and transition to Tracy. Tracy will lead for 2017 – will need to identify successor for 2018 early in 2017 and make a rotating chair (like previously done with VBS).

2. Moms Group Formation – **inaugural gathering scheduled for Sept 25 (then postponed to Oct 8). Also collecting feedback via survey. Will continue with group only if there is sufficient interest and it fills a need at the church.**

3. Meeting day/time – **based on most attendee's schedules, decision made to shift meetings to TUESDAYS at 7:30pm. Will remain at Yolanda's (potential idea to discuss in future: meet quarterly at church for a check-in?)**

EVENTS to Discuss:

1. Back to Church Night - **successful, lots of positive feedback**

Wed night dinners: just need to ensure the same few families are not always signing up (will continue to watch and revise as needed).

2. Parent's Night Out*

Ministries:

1. Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Director - Funding/ Description Modification
 - a. Meredith presents UPDATE – **committee discussed, made modifications, and sent off to Pastor John.**

2. CLU Intern - **Cole will take over sending weekly emails.**
3. Elementary School, FWF & Joyful Noise - **Karen Fanner drafting 3-year curriculum to align with lectionary calendar (huge thank you, Karen!!)**
 - a. Scott's Bible Class Update - **starts this week!! One month of classes.**
4. Confirmation/Middle School*
5. High School YG*
6. Nursery*
7. Council Report*

***little/no discussion - programs running smoothly**

Other Topics:

- LC to reach out to families that our on our roster that haven't been attending

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 18, 7:30pm
(then Tues, Nov 15, no meeting in Dec, Tues, Jan 17)



Learning Committee: Minutes – August 22, 2016 7:30 pm
Attendees: Meredith, Allison, Anne, Patti, Heather, Julie, Tracy

Topics Discussed:

Quick background of committee provided to new attendees Julie and Heather

1. EVENTS: (RECAP)

- a. VBS Evaluations
 - i. Overall very positive! Only minor points were made.
 1. Discussion of classroom as last session – explore possible solutions (age, snacks – timing/sugar)?
 2. Abundance of t-shirts
 3. Next year Sheri to do registrations
- b. Camps
 - i. Concerns with dwindling #s from other churches (still high attendance from Mt Cross)
 - ii. Winter camps – Meredith will send out dates.
- c. Summer Trips
 - i. Sleepover – very successful follow-on from HS houseboat trip.

- d. Meredith currently preparing new brochures with all school year event dates
2. Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Director - Funding/ Description Modification
 - a. Meredith presents – Meredith provided a very detailed report of her goals and accomplishments to the committee. Heather is helping with comparisons of jobs and compensations for the area and Julie will be helping summarize the job description.
3. CLU Intern – CLU is sending an intern (volunteer) for 10 hours per week. Cole will be intern for fall semester. Interested in youth ministry, experience as a camp counselor, grew up at Ascension. Will train on admin aspects as well: mail chimp, signup genius, ipad contact set-up, etc. Plan is to continue the intern program for future semesters as well.
4. Elementary School, FWF & Joyful Noise
 - a. Scott's Bible Class (3rd grade bible class on "how to use the Bible") – need to identify someone (Meredith?) to shadow Scott this fall to facilitate future classes (i.e. "train the trainer").
 - b. Wednesday evening programs – changing structure for several reasons, will keep the multi-generational aspect (shared dinner 6-6:30) like summer → try it for the fall and then evaluate. Logistics will be the challenge – potentially do themes for dinners (please send ideas!!).
 - Joyful Noise → 4:30-5pm
 - Fun with Faith → 5-6pm
 - Dinner → 6-6:30
 - Confirmation → 6:30-8pm
 - c. Sunday School Program ("Children's Church") – will stay the same as last year (as one large group), which worked very well. Plan is to expand to other discussion leaders beyond just Meredith.
5. Confirmation/Middle School – see above under Wednesday evening programs. Plan for Meredith to teach one week, CLU intern to teach one week, Pastor John to teach 2 weeks.
6. High School YG – forming a leadership group
7. Nursery – running smoothly. Nothing to report.
8. **Council Report** –

Up Coming Events:

- Weds Evening Program Update

Other Topics:

- New Chair for LC- Tracy offered to shadow for one year if someone is willing to lead for the next year knowing there is a successor. Anyone??
- Create a Mom's Group – Tracy
 - Meredith and Tracy meet on Thursday to discuss group details

- *LC to reach out to families that our on our roster that haven't been attending*

New ideas/business:

- Discussed Group Me (app for group text messaging)
- Add to the bulletin and children/youth/family brochure how families can add themselves to the children/youth/family emails and group messages
- Plan for a presentation of all 2016 Thrivent Action Teams at annual meeting

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: September 19, 2016 @ 7:30 pm



Learning Committee: Agenda – May 2, 2016 7:00 pm

Approval of Minutes

Topics to Discuss:

1. 3rd Grade Bible Class – Scott Fajnor *Scott joined us in the beginning of our meeting and agreed to do a 1 time class on Wednesday. Tentatively in Early Fall. We are excited that he is willing to do this and hope to find someone he can train to do the class going forward.*

2. EVENTS: (RECAP)

- b. Parent's Night Out 3/18 *Success!!!*
- c. Easter 3/27 *Well organized and went smoothly. Lots of helpers earning points towards youth events.*
- d. High School Magic Mountain 3/31 *Fun!*
- e. Luther Glen Retreat 4/15-17 *Ended up with less children than expected. While it was a great experience, being closer to home is more advantageous.*
- f. Tent Event Weekend *Very successful. Friday night had a great deal of people enjoying the movie. MBC had plenty of help, almost too many. We will asses having 7th graders next year and are leaning towards 8th grade up. Kids earned almost \$3000 in Tips for Teens!*

3. Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Director - Funding/ Description Modification *We are in agreement that the position has exceeded our expectations beyond our initial thoughts. We would like to see it grow and continue to be a staple with in the budget of the church. We have asked Meredith to create her version of the job description for our review.*

4. CLU Intern – 10 hour a week next fall *Very Excited!!!*

5. "Family" – in relation to position title

- a. How do you "family" in the position *Concerns that it is limiting.*
- b. What are the things that are going well with the children's program *FWF!!!*

Joyful noise, Youth groups.

c. Where can there be improvement? (milestone ministries, etc.)

6. Elementary School, FWF & Joyful Noise **Great attendance! Plans to continue is some capacity in the summer.**

a. Next Performance 5/15 @ 10:00 am

7. Confirmation/Middle School **Confirmation Sunday is coming up!**

8. High School YG – **Sunday seems to be working well. They will be kidnapping the 8th graders for breakfast and welcome to HS in June. Kids like the “small” group because it is a safe zone. Some even hesitate to bring friends because it might take away from the safety of the group.**

9. Nursery – **Things are going smoothly. No changes.**

10. VBS – Olympics – **On-line registrations are a success! Things are in motion.**

11. Council Report –

Up Coming Events:

- End of Year Events
- Summer Schedule
- Family Events

Other Topics:

- New Chair for LC- **Still looking! Patti will be stepping down at some point soon and we need to have someone take her place. Please search your hearts and decide if this is your calling.**
- LC to reach out to families that our on our roster that haven't been attending

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: May, 2016 @ 7:00 pm



Learning Committee: Agenda – March 15, 2016 7:00 pm

Approval of Minutes – Anne (2/16)

Present: Patti, Tracy, Meredith

Topics to Discuss:

1. EVENTS: (see below)

- a. Parent's Night Out - **all is set and covered by a Thrivent Action Grant. Will be a game night. 800 views on FB thanks to all the sharing! Lots of youth helping.**
- b. Easter

- i. Breakfast: Jack is the chef, will make Easter decoration at FWF, all paid by Thrivent Action grant (Lucille Miley's)
 - ii. Egg hunt: Meredith will contact Courtney and Aaron who are helping.
 - iii. HELP NEEDED with set-up on Saturday (there is already a sign-up genius).
 - c. MBC Tent Event – any items request or funds?
Craig Blois requesting a Thrivent Grant to cover Sunday hot dogs. Tracy will request one for the Friday movie night screen and snacks. Patti will contact Mt Cross member Jason Godon (Coastline Audio Visual) for quote too.
 - d. Thrivent Action Funds: Future Events Meredith has 18 ideas for action team funds. Will speak about this on Sunday and have sign-up sheet for Thrivent members.
- 2. Continuing Education for Meredith – “The Vine” at CLU
 - a. Meredith completed all three sessions.
 - b. Highlights:
 - i. Sociologist speaker covered what makes it worthwhile for a youth to attend an event → they need clear expectations set for them to meet.
 - ii. Now have a social media plan for Mt Cross (and it's working....CROP walk pic has 2000 views!!)
- 3. Elementary School
 - a. Easter Sunday – egg hunt and breakfast: Aaron and Courtney Leads (See Above mins)
 - b. Luther Glen Retreat April 15-17
 - c. Children's Sunday program working well → able to go deeper with the children's message, even if only 15-20 minutes and with all ages.
- 4. FWF & Joyful Noise – Review anything we can do to support Katie - planning to give flowers to Katie on last joyful noise of the school year (June 5).
- 5. Confirmation/Middle School - Going well. Meredith has been teaching more. 6 middle school girls went to Magic Mountain.
 - a. Discussed acolyte issues (as kids are getting busier).
Recommendation: Need to set expectations of commitment, assign schedule for larger time period at a time and provide a “friendship list”. Meredith to take on training and scheduling.
- 6. High School YG – Magic Mountain March 31st - has a friend driving and helping out – 8 sign ups already. Sunday night youth group is increasing with 7 regulars now. Nora

Fajnor scheduled to teach youth how to make a “fancy” dinner for Mother’s Day. Vibs planning to lead a lacing craft. (this might be for FWF as well)

7. Nursery – going well, no updates to discuss. Zoe is now helping for community service hours.

8. VBS – Olympics Ordered curriculum. Logo and back-drop in progress. International flags already exist in attic. Planning and prep will pick up full swing after Easter.

9. MBC – crafts for kids to work on to auction off? crafts for kids. Conversation on Basecamp (see for full details). Ann and Patti organizing a photo craft of hands and/or feet. Need ideas on what words/phrase to use on final image prints.

10. Council Report – Liaison is Mike Laskey. There are two youth reps now on council.

Events:

- Social Media Training: February 28th - Review very successful, awesome. Only hiccup was the calendaring of rooms that day. Great to have so many youth help out with childcare (really helped foster relationships between age groups). Discussed a follow up event with speaker presenting to the youth directly.
- Crop Walk: March 13th – Review 41 walkers, Facebook pic had 2000 views after only 2 days thanks to Meredith!
- Meredith Day – 2nd Sunday in March! – appreciation Sunday went well with platters of chocolate covered strawberries, a craft gift from the congregation and flowers.
- Parent’s Night Out- Game Night: March 18th
- Easter March 27th
- Tent Event Weekend: Movie Night April 22nd & MBC April 23rd
- Other community outreach ideas: CPR training for youth and/or babysitting training (include lunch).

Other Topics:

- New Chair for LC-
- Schedule for the summer
- Camping this summer – location?
- LC to reach out to families that our on our roster that haven’t been attending
- Intergenerational buddies?
- Mentorship
- Youth Director scope adherence

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: April 25, 2016 @ 7:00 pm



Learning Committee: Agenda – February 23, 2016 7:00 pm

Present Patti, Anne, Tracy, Meredith

Approval of Minutes – Anne (1/16) – *Approved as written*

Topics to Discuss:

1. EVENTS: (see below)

- g. Internet Safety Training– need help with decorating tables after second service. Baked goods and Salad needed – Signup Genius **We have a great response for our night. Planning on over 100-120 ppl including children. Meredith has ordered Wood Ranch and Anne will pick up. NO Good Will Offering will be requested. We want it to a free service to our community. \$250 covered by Thrivent \$\$.** We will set up after 2nd service.
 - h. Parent's Night Out- Game Night: March 18th. **Games planned etc. Help get the word out!**
 - i. MBC Tent Event – What movie? **Good dinosaur – close to Earth Day and will be a good message. Meredith renting a screen that includes popcorn. Thrivent funds being used for this event as well.**
2. Elementary School
- d. Easter Sunday – egg hunt and breakfast: Aaron and Courtney Leads. **Meredith contacting Jack Rose to see if he will participate again in Kitchen. Meredith will have egg hunt set up for Leads.**
 - e. Luthern Glen Retreat April 15-17, - **It will be a great weekend! We know many kids will be unable to attend due to sports. We have 4 HS students on the Synod Board. They will be helping to put on the retreat**
3. FWF & Joyful Noise – performing Feb 28 – **Things are going well!**
4. Confirmation/Middle School – Magic Mountain March 12th
5. High School YG – Magic Mountain March 31st
6. Nursery – **Do we have things that they can do when no-one is in the nursery? Any organizing items etc.?**
7. VBS – theme and buy in on recycling older VBS themes – **OLYMPICS! Timely with summer Olympics! Meredith is on it!**
8. MBC Funds – Did the tablet get ordered? **Tablet purchased and in use!**
9. MBC – crafts for kids to work on to auction off? **Meredith working on ideas for all ages.**
10. Council Report – Liaison?

Events:

- Social Media Training: February 28th
- Crop Walk: March 13th
- Parent's Night Out- Game Night: March 18th
- Easter March 27th

- Tent Event Weekend: Movie Night April 22nd & MBC April 23rd

Other Topics:

- New Chair for LC -
- Special Note – (Meredith will need to step out) => **Meredith appreciation Sunday. Chocolate covered strawberries. Anne, Patti, Kate will divide and conquer strawberries. Patti working on special gift.**
- Schedule for the summer
- Camping this summer – open it to families? **Opening to families. Carp is full. Checking into other locations such as KOA in Santa Paula.**
- LC to reach out to families that our on our roster that haven't been attending

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: March ??, 2016 @ 7:00 pm



Learning Committee: Agenda – January 25, 2015 7:00 pm

Call to Order – **Present Patti, Anne, Aaron, Courtney, Lisa, Tracy, Allison, Meredith**

Approval of Minutes – Anne (12/15) **Approved**

Topics to Discuss:

1. Meredith Gone for retreats: Sun - 1/31, 2/7, 2/14, 4/17 and Wed 2/3 -need to find volunteers to fill in 2/7 Kate will assist: 1/31, 2/14 **Allison and Lisa will help on 2/7**

2. Elementary School- Lutheran Glen Retreat April 15-17, Easter Sunday – egg hunt and breakfast? **We have 4 HS students on the Synod Board. They will be helping to put on the retreat. For Easter, Meredith will concentrate on the breakfast. Aaron, Tracy and Courtney will help with Egg Hunt.**

3. FWF & Joyful Noise **40 additional people at Contemporary service the day they sang! Off to a great start!**

4. Confirmation/Middle School – Magic Mountain March 12th \$35 Group Rate

5. High School YG – Magic Mountain March 31st \$35 Group Rate

6. Nursery – We need to have 2 people due to our Safe Guarding our Children

7. VBS – theme and buy in on recycling older VBS themes – We all agree that would be a great plan to cycle through the themes and reusing. Feedback cards will be going out to help improve next year.

Is there space for a storage unit anywhere on property? Build One? Tuff Shed? It could be dedicated to youth/VBS etc.

8. MBC Funds – we have unused funds from MBC – New iPad with those funds. Earmark Apple Store Credit for software? Anne moved to purchase an Airpad 2 plus Youth ministry application. Courtney 2nd. It can be used for various functions including checking children in and out of functions. Allocated and approved remainder to support Church Van – Registration etc. We feel this is a huge asset to youth functions.

9. MBC – crafts for kids to work on to auction off? Meredith working on ideas.

10. Council Report – Liaison? We need to have an official liaison. We will discuss at next meeting.

Events:

- Annual Meeting January 31st
- Leadership Workshop Sat February 6th
- Social Media Training: February 28th – Wood Ranch Catering
- Easter March 27th
- Tent Event Weekend: Movie Night April 22nd & MBC April 23rd

Other Topics:

- Parent's Night Out? Between now and May13th? Spring break? March 18 is next Parent Night Out!
- Worship times for families
- New Chair for LC- Patti has served our Committee with dedication and years of service. It is time for a new leader and Patti would like to hand over the reigns to someone else. She has asked members to consider this important leadership role.

- Schedule for the summer
- Camping this summer – open it to families? **Yes but still have HS in an area**
- LC to reach out to families that are on our roster that haven't been attending
- **We would like to push offering via Stewardship – reach the children and the Parents often follow!**

Announcements

10 mins

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: February 22, 2015 @ 7:00 pm



Learning Committee: Agenda – December 14, 2015 7:30 pm

Present – Anne Valencia, Meredith Gardner, Patti Stouch, Aaron Laskey

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes – Anne (10/26/15)

Topics to Discuss:

1. Meredith Review: **Discussed prior to Meredith's arrival and Patti has formal details.**

.

2. New Recruits for LC ideas? **We will reach out to Allison Elk, Loraine Carpenter, Tracy Blois. Are night time meetings still the best option? Currently for the board, yes.**

3. Faith Journeys – Attendance is low. We will adjust to more of a “group” concept. Leave after Children’s message and discuss what they heard while it is fresh. Come back after or just before offering.

4. FWF - Continues to grow. Need volunteers for snacks. Meredith will send out email.

5. LC Budget Due 10/30/15 – Status Meredith

6. Confirmation – Concern with opening at confirmation. Would Katie be interested in staying for opening and running music? Ben doing a great job with guitar we just need a strong voice to lead the singing and motivate. Open for suggestions.

7. High School YG – Sunday nights have been receptive. They have been gathering for dinner. Nora Fajnor joined them to help with cooking one night.

8. Nursery –

9. Council Report – Need a liaison – Mike Laskey?

10. Christmas Program Review– Well received. Parents appreciated that not a great deal of additional practice was needed. A few thought it was too early while others thought it started out the season! Simple and well liked.

Events and Other Topics:

- Parents Night Out Dec 19th – Planned and ready!

- Annual Meeting January

Other Topics:

- Meredith relationship with synod youth committee and being a practice discipleship coach
- Children's Choir or Music Program, leadership, when? **Practice on Wednesday 5:30 – 6:00 directly after FWF. Sing on the 4th Sunday of the month.**
- Worship times for families
- Parent's night out (event together)/ Childcare event
- Schedule for the summer

We would like to invite Devin to a meeting.

Parent Night – Discuss Social Media / Internet. February 28. Dr. Tracy Bennett with come at no charge (She loves our church/CDC). Anne will contact Thrivent for Call to Action funds. It will be an outreach to CDC and the community.

Announcements

10 mins

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: January 25, 2015 @ 7:30 pm



Learning Committee: Agenda – September 28, 2015 7:30 pm

Present – Patti, Meredith, Aaron, Anne & Courtney

Caring Conversation: Taking Faith Home – **Talked about the salt of the earth and our various interpretations.**

Call to Order - Patti

Approval of Minutes (06/23/15, 7/22/15 & 9/1/15) - *Approved*

Topics to Discuss:

1. Meredith Personal Education

Extravaganza \$500, Youth Workers retreat \$50 – **Agreed that Meredith should have funds to continue her education and increase her knowledge of nurturing our youth.**

2. Sunday School/FWF – Offering

Bring up BaseCamp Conversation - **After discussion, we would like to do something local that can be tangible for the children. Habitat for Humanity could be a field trip to the site – bring refreshments for the workers, see what their money actually bought. Kids are too young to work but could still be part of the process. Meredith will talk to Melissa and Gordon to see how we could incorporate into HFH and report back on Basecamp.**

3. Communication – **Weekly emails are great source of information as long as we are getting to everyone. Email list is constantly evolving.**

4. Budget – Meredith & Patti

Learning Outreach Funds - \$? What it's for?

5. Fun With Faith – Assistant – Search is on to find an assistant. Possibly a CLU student. We hope to have one in place asap. The youth programs are growing!

6. Faith Journeys – Meredith & Patti

7. Confirmation – Meredith – Discussed the possible need of having Meredith remain in Confirmation and moving the High School Group to another night. Her energy is contagious and the kids love to see her.

8. Nursery – rethink our needs for assistants, volunteers? – Tabled for next month.

9. Council Report – Dottie or Meredith
Someone willing to be council representative?

Announcements

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: October 26, 2015 @ 7:30 pm Anne will lead next meeting.
(Can someone else lead?)



Learning Committee: Minutes – September 1, 2015 7:30 pm

Present – Patti, Meredith, Lisa, Aaron and Kate

Call to Order - Patti

Approval of Minutes (07/22/15) *No minutes to approve*

Topics to Discuss:

1. VBS August 3-7 Reveiw

Feedback on week:

Positives

- Overall theme was great
- Arts & Crafts leaders enjoyed the extra time
- Rotations we less complicated.
- Bible time during the opening was a wonderful change.
- Thursday evening dinner was great and kids performance was a successes
- Loved the video that was put together from the week.
- Crafts and experiments were great
- Music was appropriate
- Rec was fun for older kids

Things to work on:

- a few teachers requested to have a bit more classroom time
- Our Music Leaders need to be trained in leading children in music
- Provide a link or a CD of the music the children will be learning
- Just playground time for Pre-K and 1st. verses going out for rec
- Raffle – would like to see the focus on giving not receiving.
- Work on promoting offering and the message of the service project
- look at revising the schedule
- Send out an email/letter letting attendees know what the menu will be for snack to prevent dislikes and allergies concerns. Bring there own if there is an issue.

2. Master Calendar- Discussed events for the programs and made modifications. Look for updates in communications. Meredith will be working on the spring calendar this fall. The spring calendar will be available in Late November.

3. Fun With Faith – Meredith Working on hiring Katie a CLU student. Meredith is working with budget and finance to get unused Sunday School funds to help pay for Asssitant. FWF will be expanding to include Pre-School and Kinders. The new assistant will be focusing on the younger ages. We are requesting 2 parent volunteers to help with snack each Wednesday and stay for extra hands if needed. Meredith will send out a snack ideas within the Signup Genius. She will have sign-ups on Rally Day on Septemer 13th.

There will be three groups.

Preschool and Kinder: Sign-in Snack Luther Hall, play ground, Message & activity, Highs and Lows, Clean-up, Closing in Chapel with PJ (parents welcome!)

1st-3rd: Sign-in meet on Play ground, Snack, Highs and Lows, Message & activity, Clean-up, Closing in Chapel with PJ (parents welcome!)

4th-5th: Sign in and meet in Parish Life Center, Snack, Message & activity, Highs and Lows, Clean-up, Closing in Chapel with PJ (parents welcome!)

4. Faith Journeys – Meredith

Starting September 16th!

Still meeting at 9:45 in sanctuary for Announcements and songs

10:00 – 10:20 Worship with family/friends

10:20 Exit church with Meredith for Faith Journey's

1st Sunday Announcements, celebrations of birthdays, monthly themes introduced, monthly challenge.

2nd Sunday – Break into three groups in the PLC to dig deeper in the Bible Message for the month

3rd Sunday – Science or craft project to go along with the theme

4th Sunday – Children will be involved in whole service and invited to be a part of intergenerational activity at 9:45 on patio

5th Sunday – when applicable Service project..

10:40: Back to worship with families

5. Confirmation – Meredith

Ordered new curriculum for this year. Update was needed.

Starting September 16th!

Same schedule.. Pastor John will be leading along with Guides

Dinner, announcements and songs, message, highs and lows, prayer concerns, closing.

6. High School – Meredith

Will be held on Wednesdays and lead by Meredith. Will be having dinner with confirmation, announcements and songs, highs and lows, prayer concerns, Hot Topics and Closing.

Hot Topics: Meredith will be going really deep with the the Hot Topics: issues like suicide, sex, drugs and abuse will be some examples that might be discussed.

Meredith will be notifying families and caregivers prior.

7. Nursery – rethink our needs for assistants, still are in need of feedback from council and other church member. On going conversation.

8. Council Report – Meredith None

Announcements – We will be holding our meeting generally the 4th Monday of the Month in the evening. Please see dates below..

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: Monday, September 28, 2015 @ 7:30 pm

Dates for Meetings this Fall and Spring

Monday, October 26, 2015 @ 7:30 pm

Monday, October 26, 2015 @ 7:30 pm

Monday, November 30, 2015 @ 7:30 pm

NO DECEMBER MEETING

Monday, January 25, 2015 @ 7:30 pm

Monday, February 22, 2015 @ 7:30 pm

Monday, March 21, 2015 @ 7:30 pm

Monday, April 25, 2015 @ 7:30 pm

Monday, May 23, 2015 @ 7:30 pm



Learning Committee: Minutes – July 22, 2015 10:00 am

Present – Patti, Dottie, Yvette, Meredith?

Call to Order - Patti

Approval of Minutes (06/23/15) *No minutes to approve*

Topics to Discuss:

Notes are minimal: no one to record at this meeting..

1. VBS August 3-7

- Meredith has revised the schedule to be a bit less complicated. Eliminated the Bible Story Time in Tent and include this portion at the opening.
- All areas are taken care of at this point.
- All areas have increase station time by 10 minutes from previous years.

- Deadline to register was July 19.
- Art & Craft excited to gain more time

2. Master Calendar- Meredith will finalize the dates with the input we gave and have it available during VBS.

3. Fun With Faith – Meredith Working on hiring an assistant for the fall to expand program to the Kinders and Pre-K. Figuring out the funds.

4. Faith Journeys – Meredith & Patti Work in progress. On Hold until after VBS

5. Confirmation – Meredith
Ordered new curriculum for this year. Update was needed.

8. Nursery – rethink our needs for assistants, still are in need of feedback from council and other church member. On going conversation.

10. Council Report – Dottie None

Announcements – Council has asked to help with Church Picnic. We will bring bubbles, chalk and small games. Fishers will bring Volleyball net.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 19, 2015 @ 10:00 am



Learning Committee: Minutes – June 23, 2015 7:30 pm

Present – Patti, Dottie, Meredith??

Call to Order - Patti

Approval of Minutes (05/26/15) - *Approved*

Topics to Discuss:

1. Summer Activities – Meredith

Meredith created a list of events:

June 26th – E. Water games and picnic in the park

July 1st – HS Beach Day

July 8th – MS Hike to Wildwood
July 10th – E Pool Party at Laskeys
July 13-19th – HS National Youth Gathering in Detroit
July 23rd – EVERYONE VBS Set Up Day
July 25th – LRCC Summer Banquet
July 26th – 31st – LRCC Music and Arts Camp
Aug 2nd – Pre Reg for VBS and Setup Sanctuary
Aug 3rd- 7th : Son Spark VBS
August 7th – Youth Day at the Fair
August 12th – MS Overnighter at the church
Aug 16th – Picnic and water games at the park after church
August 20th-22nd – HS Camping in Catalina

2. VBS August 3-7

- 90 kids
- Need more teacher volunteers
- Need names for Rec
- What charity to give proceeds to? LWR or Forever Found. Decided to give to LWR. Forever Found wasn't appropriate for the VBS. Will keep the organization in mind for HS related events. Canned food and pantry items will still be collected for the Food Pantry.
- Music: we found music volunteers!! Katie and her friend David will lead music. These are people outside our church and have no relation to Mt.Cross, but love working with children and are musically talented.

3. Master Calendar- Meredith will work on this in July and have a brochure put together for dates the fall CYFM events. This will be handed out during VBS.

4. Fun With Faith – Meredith Working on hiring an assistant for the fall to expand program to the Kinders and Pre-K. Hold until after VBS.

5. Faith Journeys – Meredith & Patti Work in progress. Pastor John and Meredith are working with the idea that each Sunday will be focused on the theme for the month.

1st Sunday – celebrations, and announcements, into to theme of month

2nd Sunday – Dig deeper into Bible message

3rd – Sunday – Science or craft

4th – Sunday – Children involved in the service

5th – Sunday Service Project

6. Communication – no more shutterfly, all communication comes from the MailChimp

7. Confirmation – Meredith

God Stories went well during the services.

8. Nursery – rethink our needs for assistants, our Sundays aren't that well attended by young families needing nursery care, this is a topic that will be need to be discussed with council. Dottie will bring this up during council. Do we ask volunteers, to assist the nursery? This money can be better utilized in other programs for CYFM. Issue: we love our nursery attendants and both Kayle and Shawn have been dedicated. Can we use them on Sundays else where when children aren't in the nursery? Meredith was to talk to both of them to see if they would be willing to take on other tasks.

10. Council Report – Dottie

Announcements

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 22, 2015 @ 10:00 am



Learning Committee: Minutes – May 26, 2015 7:30 pm

Present – Meredith, Lisa, Courtney, Patti, Anne

Caring Conversation: Thank you for being here and being part of this important ministry!

Call to Order - Patti

Approval of Minutes (04/30/15)

Please use Basecamp even if its an "X" in the response so we know people are reading the information.

Topics to Discuss:

1. Summer Activities – Meredith

Meredith will send out calendar.

Events for the rest of the summer
for all age groups:

June 26th: (elementary) water games and picnic in the park

July 1st: (HS) Beach Day

July 8th: (MS) Hike to the Wildwood Canyon Waterfall

July 10th: (Elementary) Pool party at the Laskeys

July 13th-19th: (HS) National Youth Gathering in Detroit.

July 23rd: (everyone) VBS Setup day

July 25th: LRCC Summer Banquet

July 26th-31st: Music and Arts Camp

August 2nd: Pre-reg for VBS and setup sanctuary

August 3rd-7th: VBS

August 7th: Youth Day at the VC Fair

August 12th: MS Overnighter at the church

August 16th: Picnic and water games at the park after church

August 20th-22nd: (HS) Camping in Catalina

2. VBS August 3-7 Meredith will need help with last minute set up etc since she will be gone most of July.

Simple Dinner or just dessert Thursday? Last year was a wonderful meal but needed to many volunteer hours since so many people are served. Keep it simple.

Music Helpers? Ideas? Various ideas were discussed and we will all seek out musical ideas.

3. Time & Talent Request – Meredith New time and talents with specific items allowing people to choose “easy” volunteer items that are not too detailed.

4. Fun With Faith – Meredith Work in progress.

FWF Assit - 40 weeks or 80 hours per week = \$960

Request \$1000 from B& F

Music Christmas Program??

5. Faith Journeys – Meredith & Patti Work in progress.

6. Meredith Review – please add question to BC, Patti to contact Desta to see if there are resources.

7. Communication

8. Confirmation – Meredith

Update on God Stories

9. Nursery – rethink our needs for assistants, volunteers?

10. Council Report – Dottie

Announcements

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 23, 2015 @ 7:30 pm



Learning Committee: Agenda – April 30, 2015 9:00 am

Caring Conversation: Short meeting today.. Let's get going..

Present: Pastor John, Patti, Dottie, Meredith, Anne

Call to Order - Patti

Approval of Minutes (03/25/15)

5 mins

Topics to Discuss:

Fundraising will be going towards all events and building the account. And not just 1 event fundraising.

1. Recap – Easter, Tent Weekend

Easter – \$775 was made. Thrivent paid for the supplies. Very Successful. Family Movie Night – 40+kids, 32 adults – VERY SUCCESSFUL!!! CDC embraced the event.

MBC

2. Meredith Review

Review Process – Need to clarify in description of “Who does Meredith report to officially?” Learning Committee, Pastor John Council. Learning will create

questionnaire to solicit feedback. #6 – How can we be inclusive with Non-traditional families? How do we make them feel welcome and connected to the church? To become part of our larger Mount Cross Family. Meredith is going to reach out to various families and ask how we could learn from their experiences and help.

3. Faith Journeys – Meredith & Patti This Sunday is the Bible Challenge between 3rd and Jr, High

Faith Journey Guide Recognition May 3 Meredith has this covered and will call if help needed.

Last Day of FJ May 17 Also Confirmation Sunday. Plan is to do prayer bracelet.

4. Fun With Faith – Meredith Planning on next year every Wed. Need to reach out to more parents to help especially next year\.

5. Nursery Meredith working with them.

6. Confirmation –Meredith

Confirmation God Stories May 17

Meredith has requested funds for T-shirts for Confirmation kids and HS Suggested that Meredith do quick Videos. Could be used for Time & Talent.

7. Summer

VBS August 3-7 – July 19 is Deadline to register

Camps – End of May Deadline to register for El Camino Pines

August 20-22 High School Catalina Trip

8. Council Report – Dottie

9. Time and Talents – Pastor John

Reviewing Pastor John's Handout –

Revising Time & Talent – removing some options. Meredith will then contact and have caring conversations with them.

What is Learning long turn planning – due to Pastor May 22. Meredith will work on master calendar and post to Basecamp. LC to give input on Calendar at meeting and BaseCamp.

10. Adult Education 5 week session at 11:10 on Sundays. Well attended. Dottie to work with PJ on filling in.

Announcements

Meredith will meet with Kate to discuss Google Docs in more details and the advantages.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 @ 7:30 pm at Yolanda's



Learning Committee: Minutes – March 25, 2015 9:00 am

Patti, Dottie, Anne & Meredith

Caring Conversation: Recall a sacrifice you have made for someone else. Is there something that another person has sacrificed for you? - Patti

Call to Order - Patti

Approval of Minutes (02/24/15) *done*

Topics to Discuss:

1. Resource Center – Meredith *The resource center has been handed to Meredith to approve. Dottie would like to be part of it as a rep for Adult Education. Rick Mann gave Meredith plans to review. Consider- outlets to be hidden and tucked away for safety, cabinets should be able to be locked, easy access to equipment and plugins, (for laptops, streaming devices, etc)*
2. Faith Journeys – Meredith & Patti - *Resources are emphasizing inter-generational "Sunday School". We really want to concentrate on the actual Bible and having the kids opening the bible and referring back to it often. Contemplating Sunday School being a shorter more concise form - what that looks like is still be determined with input from all generations. Meeting will be held on April 19th to futher discuss.*

Forms – touch base with Kate Fisher - *Patti will send link to Basecamp to help Kate check documents that have been created on Google Docs. Digital signature needed etc. We will fill out "fake" ones to test.*

Mt. Cross El Camino Pines Summer Camp Dates
July 26-31
Discuss format

3. Fun With Faith - Meredith - *Running same program for this year staying with calendar that is set. And evaluating going forward.*
4. Nursery Coordinator – Anne Report - *Officially handed over to Meredith. Kayla and Saun have been great letting us know when they get subs. Binder in Nursery closet needs to be updated.*
Holy Week – 4/2 Thursday, 4/3 Friday 7:00 pm,
Vigil Sat 7:00 pm, All three Easter Services
5. Confirmation – Pastor John & Meredith *Doing both High School and Confirmation. Dottie will try to come and help guide on her nights off.*
6. Easter - Egg Hunt, Breakfast? *Jack Rose is running kitchen. Marilyn & Harry are helping as well.*
7. Make Bake Celebrate April 25 – Anne and Meredith *Anne & Meredith will meet and report back.*
Movie Night, Youth helpers *We are concerned about the number of helpers.*
8. VBS August 3-7
Update
9. Council Report – Dottie *50th anniversary celebration. . Concentration on reaching out to each other within church.*

Open discussion

Motion for Meredith to purchase laptop out of Director position as well as GoPro from Sunday School technology funds. – Approved by committee

Announcements

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 @ 9:00 am



Learning Committee: Agenda – February 24, 2015 9:00 am

Present - Dottie, Patti, Meredith, Aaron, Anne

Caring Conversation: The weeks of Lent are a time to refocus our lives on God. Is anyone making a commitment to God during Lent? - Patti

Call to Order - Patti

Approval of Minutes (01/24/15) *Approved as written* 5 mins

Topics to Discuss:

1. Lent Soup Supper – need sign ups for 3/11

Needs: Dinner Rolls, Room Set-up, Vegetarian Soup,
Room Clean Up

<http://www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/809547996093>

Learning has been asked to be in charge of the night. Spread the word. Please go to the site and sign up.

2. Resource Center – need a representative from learning

Building shelving in Parish Life - **Meredith will be the rep. Learning vision is more towards technology resource with some " library section".**

3. Faith Journeys – Meredith & Patti

Faith Journeys Coordinator – Patti

Forms – touch base with Kate Fisher

Mt. Cross El Camino Pines Summer Camp Dates -

Dates are July 27 - 31

Meredith has ideas for formatting Faith Journeys and will solicit feedback from current, past and potential teachers and any others who want to give input. April 19th.

4. Fun With Faith - Meredith

60 mins

What will this look like during Lent? Kids will be doing a project during FWF lent time. FWF & Confirmation will eat 6-6:30 then 6:30 - 7 will be project time. 3/11 & 3/25.

Snack Helpers? Not needed during lent.

5. Nursery Coordinator – Anne Report - Danielle Holtorf to see if she is interested.

Lent Services Attendants

2/25 - Nick Ponce (available all Wed. if needed) & Danielle Holtorf

3/4

3/11

3/18

3/25

Holy Week – 4/3 Friday 7:00 pm, Vigil Sat 7:00 pm,

All three Easter Services

6. Confirmation – Pastor John & Meredith - Involving high school in an appropriate manner that is beneficial to both Jr & Sr High. Meredith will be meeting with Sr High kids during confirmation and joining at the end for the rest of this year. She will work on a 7th grade guide. John will guide 8th.

7. Make Bake Celebrate April 25 – Anne and Meredith Anne & Meredith will meet separately to discuss details and work with Tracey Fickenscher.

How will youth be involved? Items for auction? Meredith is planning youth items to be auctioned. Friday night will be a family movie night in the tent.

EASTER - Newsletter information has gone out about egg hunt. There will be 2 that Sunday. Breakfast - Meredith working on finding a parent to "over see" event.

8. VBS August 3-7 - Son Spark Labs. Meredith will be gone at camp week prior. Will need people to step in week prior.

Ordering Materials – Meredith completed
Coordinators? Theme? Registration?

April 19 - May 3 - Church Registration

May 4 - Open to CDC

May 30 - Open to public

July 19th Registration Closes

9. Council Report – Dottie

Working on Time & Talent type form to go out in May.

50th Anniversary - 50,000 hours of community service.

Thrivent is starting new program with members applying for \$250 gift cards twice a year

Announcements

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 @ 9:00 am



Learning Committee: January 4, 2015 11:15 am

In attendance: *Mike, Dottie, Kate, Patti, Courtney, Bob B., Gayle, Bev, Susan, Anne, Randy*

Caring Conversation: d365 think - Patti

Call to Order

Patti

5 mins

Approval of Minutes (12/2/14) - *Anne 1st, Dottie 2nd. Approved.*

Topics to Discuss:

1. Children Youth and Family Director – update (Patti)

Task-Force Recommendation - *Greg declined due to monetary and additional responsibilities. KC was offered and declined. After some time to think, she has decided to enter the seminary. Committee felt the 2 other candidates were not the correct fit. Meredith Gardner approached committee on Dec. 21 inquiring about position and has submitted résumé. Questions regarding her resume have been requested to be addressed at formal interview. What are the highlights and specifications she has been doing? What is her faith formation direction? Does she have the commitment to create programs that will minister to our children and grow. The suggestion was made to re-open the application inquiry and majority of committee disagreed. We have a viable applicant that based on current information would have been in the top from the beginning.*

If everything aligns and she answers our concerns:

- 1. Interview Candidate weekend of 1/10 - 1/11*
- 2. If questions are answered, offer position.*
- 3. Negotiate salary*
- 4. If hired, Send to Detroit for Synod Conference end of January - request approval of \$1200 to cover expenses.*
- 5. Work with New Hire to develop clear view and description for the congregation.*

2. Faith Journeys – overall thoughts - *Need to look at over all time in May/June. Continue birthday celebrations in opening. Can food/offering - have children bring it up during offering time and place on alter.*

Patio Coordinator - Aaron

Faith Journeys Coordinator – Patti

3. Fun With Faith - Pastor John - *Keep dates on 1/7 & 1/21*

Anne will do snack & Courtney craft on 1/7. Patti & Courtney on 1/21

Craft helper and Snack Provider
Coordinator Needed

4. Nursery Coordinator – Anne Report - *Need to find subs for nursery. Anne will have her nephew Nick Ponce complete paper work. He is 18 and has worked at Christian camps with children.*

5. Confirmation – Pastor John - *confirmation will meet and end @ 7:30 during Lent.*

Coordinator – Anne with Admin needs - *John will work with Sheri to send out update and schedule for confirmation.*

Winter Camp - Kate will contact El Camino Pines and find out details regarding both Jr. High 2/13-2/15 & High School .

6. Council Report – Bev or Dottie *Council is appreciative and supportive of the work this committee has done and continues to do for our congregation.*

7. VBS Feedback - *To be discussed at next meeting.*

Coordinators? Theme? Ordering Materials? Reg?

Announcements

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 20, 2015 @ 11:00 am

Learning Committee: Minutes – December 2, 2014 11:00 am

Present: Aaron, Patti, Pastor John, Yvette, Anne, Bev, Erik, Dotti

Caring Conversation: Pause: To wait and Hope. We should live every day in a way that expresses our hope and expectation that Jesus might return on this day. Because we anticipate the coming of Jesus, we should live in a way that brings hope to others every day. d365

Call to Order Patti

Approval of Minutes (10/28)

Topics to Discuss:

1. Children Youth and Family Director – update (Patti) Task-Force Recommendation –We have been on this journey for over 11 months now. Majority of committee had the opportunity to meet with recent applicant. Based on recent developments, Task Force is recommending offering Greg the position with an additional \$12,000 due to additional responsibilities will be added. Anne moves that letter presented by Task force be presented to council. Aaron Seconds. Patti will be presenting at next Council meeting. All are welcome to come support.

12/3: A conversation with Gregg occurred and he declined our verbal offer total package of \$67K, due to the additional responsibly and added living expenses here in California. Patti will be contacting other top candidates in the next few days to see if there is still an interest.

2. Budget – Review with Committee – Patti and Bev has put together budget, submitted on 11/5/14.

3. Faith Journeys – overall thoughts

Patio Coordinator – Aaron – Seems to be going along successfully. Everyone is adjusting as we go. Teachers appreciate the warning if service going long/short etc. Aaron will post a calendar on Shutterfly to get people to help with patio coordinator.

Faith Journeys Coordinator – Emergency Cards - Sheri will put on the website. Patti will ask Kate to see if a secure online form can be created and managed by Sherri (Office Assistant).

Shutterfly – Yvette Duhamel – Excellent work and appreciate the time and effort to set this site up. To answer Council's question, only invited church members can be added to site. Yvette will set up meeting to work on pictures etc. Sheri has been a huge help. If members could add tags to

children they know, it would help a great deal. It is an ongoing program. Hope to have fully functional prior to new hire. Need to encourage members to utilize the site for current information.

4. Fun With Faith

Coordinator? Pastor John? We need to ask Pastor John if he will take on this role until we hire someone. We currently need someone to coordinate for that role.

5. Christmas Program – need 4-5 additional volunteers for Christmas program to create masks for costumes. Next Wednesday will be Christmas program practice and make the costumes (masks). 12/10 from 4:00-5:30. All ages are welcome. Bev and Susan will have a special prayer (take away) to hand out during Christmas program

6. Nursery Coordinator – need – current nursery staff needs names to call substitutes if they can't make it. Also, need to find staff for Christmas Eve service

7. Council Report

8. Confirmation Coordinator? Pastor John? – Anne will assist in administrative coordination during transition.

9. VBS Feedback

Thinking about Coordinators?

Announcements

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 20, 2015 @ 11:00 am

2014 August 21 Learning Meeting

In Attendance: Patti S, Karen F, Bev R, Anne V, Aaron L, Courtney B, Yvette D, Pastor Erik, Susan P

Light of Christ: Leader reads Matthew 5:14-15

Response: *"In the same way, let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and praise your God in Heaven"*

Where did you see Christ's light shine this summer? Or what was one bright spot of your summer?

Topics to Discuss:

Church Picnic..... who is doing what games? Please promote it with friends!

-several committee members said they would bring some lawn games, several members also said they would make an effort to being there and supporting the event

Sunday School

-Spark curriculum has been ordered (see attachment)

-Do we need a snack?

-There was discussion on this topic and concluded that because of earlier start time we didn't need a formal Sunday School snack. The group we might think about having some snack items on hand, however, to help supplement the regular hospitality table

-Schedule....and format of Sunday School

-The committee discussed this topic at length. In the midst of the conversation the idea came up of changing the name of "Sunday school" in order to give Sunday School a new look and feel along with the new schedule. The group arrived at consensus on calling our new Sunday morning kid's ministry "Sunday Faith Journeys". Instead of having classes and teachers, we will now have "small groups" and "guides". Everyone felt this language would remove the "school" association and also perhaps make the ministry seem less intimidating to potential volunteers. The group also really felt like the new language better captured what we hoped to be about in terms of faith formation.

-After much discussion in regards to the Sunday morning Schedule and how it would go, the group arrived at meeting in the sanctuary at 9:45am for the opening and one of the pastor's setting the theme form the day. This would be what the children's message usually was. At 9:55am kids would go with guides to small groups based on ages. At 10:00am the contemporary worship would start. At 10:35 a timekeeper will come around and give a five minute warning to the small groups to entering the church at 10:40 so that worship concludes with communion and everyone, kids and adults, together.

Teachers? Who has committed to teach?

-Karen Fanner ...sub

-Patti Stouch.....Pre-K-K

-Megan Wikholm....willing to help

-Teri Crawford.....1st to 2nd grade

-Scott Fajnor.....willing to do Third Grade Bible Class, needs a partner

-Courtney Burke

-Some names were suggested of people who might be good to call. Pastor Erik said he would follow up on recruiting Faith Guides and ask for people to more suggestions of people to call if they thought of others.

Fun With Faith

-Draft Calendar attached

-Does Fun With Faith need a new look or format? Could we try Thursdays? Two sessions approach as opposed to twice a month?

-This was tabled due to lack of time. Pastor Erik was to meet with Patti to follow up with finalizing calendar and follow up with the time change proposals via email.

Milestones

Rally Day...Blessing of the Backpacks, Sunday School Start Date

Third Grade Bible class, Blessing and Gifting of Bibles in Worship

Beginning of Confirmation Blessing

-Pastor Erik to get dates on calendar.

Christmas Program

-Tabled until next meeting

Potential Candidates for Children Youth and Family Director

-need one or two people to help with interview process...need dates to set up interviews

-Patti volunteered. Pastor Erik to follow up with Kate Fisher and Mike Laskey because they were both on the original task force that put together the job description. Pastor Erik gave a sense of who some of the candidates were who applied.

Good meeting times? Day or Evening? Day of the week?

-Basecamp...does the team want to use this as a tool?

-Patti spent some time talking about what Basecamp is and how it works. The group thought it was worth trying. Pastor Erik thought we could find a budget for it.

Learning Committee Coordinator - ideas here???

-no one at this time

VBS... Pastor Erik has met with Lisa and worked with Sheri to record feedback

* We can discuss more at later meeting

Any other old or new business?

-Both Susan Prosser and Bev Rueckert explained how they were shifting how Vibrant Faith is integrated away from an emphasis on council and more towards supporting youth and families. They said they could both help events and help bring resources to better connect families and the church. Bev stepped forward to be a liaison to council for Learning.

Send off with Prayer

February 25, 2014 LEARNING COMMITTEE MEETING

To know God through care, compassion and creative worship.

Present: Lisa Saner, Gayle Johnson, Pastor Erik, Anne Valencia, Stacy Mathis, Karen Fanner, Patti Stouch and Deborah Goebel.

Not Present: Courtney Burke, Aaron Laskey and Carmen Bucholz.

Call to order: 7:16 pm

Scripture: Taking Faith Home handout

January 21st Minutes reviewed and approved.

Sunday School discussion:

Refining Schedule 9:45 am Snack under the yellow umbrella
10:00 am Opening song, children=s sermon, then to class
10:15 am Class time

Opening/Curriculum: - Coordinating the children=s sermon with the SS curriculum for continuity.

- There was concern that the current curriculum may not have enough activities to support a 1 hour Sunday School.
- Spring curriculum to start 03/09/14.
- Have the SS children return to church for communion maybe not every Sunday but 1 or 2 Sunday=s a month.
- Having the offering baskets up front to save time.
- Rotating ALL SS classes into church to help, developing accountability; do a 4 Sunday rotation and if there is a 5th Sunday, skip.
- Bringing back the children=s choir.

Middle & HS Classes: - Rotating into church to help; usher with teacher

- developing a HS youth to Middle school youth mentoring program
- More training for acolytes

Tent Sunday: - March 30, 2014; Learning Committee not assigned to any particular activity

- Council will be providing the hotdog dinner

Council Communications:

- No report made at this time as Learning Committee has been updated on a regular basis of council=s meetings, which have been focused on the scheduling issue.

Pastor Communications:

- Pastors request committees have > Listening Ears= & >inviting voices=
- Have conversations and get feedback; Are changes making a difference?
- Council is generally traditional but are very focused on what they can do for our younger families.
- LC suggests we stop focusing on > One hour Sunday=. Focus on program not time.
- Discuss exciting changes planned for Mount Cross with enthusiasm.
- Speak with one voice; come up with a catch phrase that gathers families and builds support of these exciting changes.
- Report back to Pastors all comments & caring conversations.

Children=s Ministry Coordinator subcommittee report:

- Committee members: Karen Fanner, Desta Goehner, Mike Lasky, & Patti Stouch.
- Committee requests clarification of position; F/T v. P/T
- Committee is refining exactly what the position feels like.
- Can committee request make it bake it funds for initial set up of program? Learning Committee to put in request.
- Committee to provide 2 proposals; F/T & P/T to assist council in making determination.

Easter Sunday: - Service times 8:00 am, 9:30 am & 11:30 am.

- SM to organize Easter Egg hunt.
- Learning Committee members to provide support to SM.
- Take song from VBS & have children learn it in Sunday School so they can perform it in church.
- DG to obtain & provide organizational information on Easter Egg hunt to SM.
- High & Jr High youth to provide pancake breakfast fundraiser.

Action Items: - GJ will look into supplementing curriculum currently being used.

- GJ to email LS survey for modification and distribution to the Sunday School teachers for return by Memorial day
- PE Rotation proposal - 1st Sunday (1st & 2nd grade)
- 2nd Sunday (6th - 8th grade)
- 3rd Sunday (3rd - 5th grade)
- 4th Sunday (High School)
- PE to communicate/propose with teacher and High School youth the schedule; report findings to Learning committee.
- AV to communicate with KG re: acolyte rotations

- Learning Committee (LS) to put in request to > Make it Bake it= for \$75- - \$1,000.
- DG to obtain & provide information on Easter Egg hunt to SM.

Future Newsletter Deadlines:

March 20, 2014
 April 18, 2014

Next Meeting Dates:

March 25, 2014 @ 7:00 pm at church
 April 22, 2014 @ 7:00 pm at church
 Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm with closing prayer.

January 21, 2014 LEARNING COMMITTEE MEETING
To know God through care, compassion and creative worship.

Present: Gayle Johnson, Pastor Erik, Anne Valencia, Aaron Laskey, Patti Stouch and Deborah Goebel.

Not Present: Courtney Burke and Carmen Bucholz.

Gayle opened the meeting at 9:30 am with Prayer and the Learning Committee=s Light of Christ candle.

Caring Conversations& Bright Spots - Confirmation Class Magic Mountain Day

November 19th Minutes reviewed and approved.

Council Communications:

- email sent to all Learning Committee members.
- importance of reporting back to council on recommendations from reviews of the Pilot Program & staffing.

Annual Meeting:

- This Sunday. Meeting at 4:30 then 5:30 pot luck.
- Stouch family will give testimonial on impact of Vibrant Faith in their routine.
- GJ & PE will contact a few other families to have them give testimonials also.

Goals for 2014 with an eye towards the Pilot Program, staffing:

- Building Communities & working with what we have
- reconnecting with members; develop foundation to help us in reaching out
- Leadership / Designated staffing
- Volunteer base
- Strong focus on our Youth and Youth families - making them a priority
- Survey - caring conversation
- Engaging parents to get youth here

- Transport to help get kids here
- Caring Conversations with our current youth to find out what makes you feel connected to Mount Cross. Get an honest response to what we do right , what they would like to see changed.

Pilot Program Review:

- positive response to 2 services
- fellowship has been thriving
- Sunday School has been short changed
- Sunday School teachers have expressed dissatisfaction with current schedule
- we need to reach out to members that are not attending to find out why
- Contemporary Service has not changed and needs to be
- PJ=s Phase II proposal only gives the SS teachers the traditional service
- Goal of bringing in new families had not been realized.
- visitors are not making an immediate connection that makes them want to come back
- Focus of contemporary service, maybe make it a more blended service

Staffing Position:

- discussion on PT v. FT children=s ministry person
- need clarification on staff and what they are doing to see where changes can be made
- make proposal to council
- we should interview in March then hire by April.
- recommendation that Ann Valencia, Patti Stouch, and Kate Fisher interview candidates.

Faith Formation/Milestone Ministries:

- due to time constraints a Milestone Ministry manual, Congregational Report on Enhancing Leadership Capacities and Faith Formation Tool 14 worksheet was given to committee members in preparation for this agenda item at the next committee meeting.

Learning Budget for 2014:

- this agenda item became part of the staffing position discussion.

Sunday School:

- this agenda item became part of the Pilot Program and staffing position discussion.

Future Topics to discuss, address:

Tablets purchase
Confirmation
First Communion
Nursery
Fun With Faith
Vacation Bible School
Young Adults
2014 Christmas Program

Next Tentative Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 9:15 am.

Newsletter Deadline: January 23, 2014

Tentative Meeting Dates for 2014

- February 25, 2014 @ 9:15 am
- March 25, 2014 @ 9:15 am
- April 22, 2014 @ 9:15 am
- May 27, 2014 @ 9:15 am

Meeting adjourned at 12:04 am with closing prayer.

November 19, 2013 LEARNING COMMITTEE MEETING

To know God through care, compassion and creative worship.

Present: Gayle Johnson, Pastor Erik, Anne Valencia, Aaron Laskey and Deborah Goebel.
Not Present: Patti Stouch, Courtney Burke , Josh Graziani, and Carmen Bucholz.

Gayle opened the meeting with Prayer and the Learning Committee=s Light of Christ candle..

Pre Conference Call B Discussion and Questions:

- Desire to empower parents
- review of current job description
- needing a bridge for the volunteers, but with a focus on the youth programs
- understanding the definition of the role, are we expecting to much?
- hiring within? Or without?

Conference call with Jim LaDoux from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 am:

Highlights from conversation:

- *discussion on direction candidate pool should take;*
 - bringing a person on board that provides some of that outside energy, and at the same time equipping other people as much as possible, so we don=t just become dependent on paid staff.
 - getting a nice mix of covering where we truly can=t cover without paid staff, but also making sure we maximize as much of our volunteer help as possible.

.... We would need to look for a candidate that can think outside the box. If they are from the congregation, JL is inclined to think they might find some practices outside the congregation, and might challenge the basic assumptions we have on how the program has been run.

- *discussion on Children=s Ministry position:*

.... Jim looks for 4 key traits that he recommends from a job description standpoint.

.... Break it down to > **primary**= - these are the things we just can=t afford to drop, that are really critical; and >**other responsibilities**= - these are nice, but if these things don=t get done, we can live with that.

.... often what he see is a laundry list of expectations that there is just no way one person can get it all done

- *4 Key Elements we should look for in a candidate:*

- 1) **Faith** - a person who has a solid grounded faith, so that they really have something to offer in the way of being equipped, supporting and modeling faith for other people. So he starts with this as requirement one and asks the candidate to tell him a little bit about their own faith life. How is it with your soul? What might you be modeling for other people to help them grow in their faith? The candidate should be a person of faith, who is comfortable sharing their faith journey with other people.
- 2) **Cheerleader** - This person must be able to communicate information with youth and family ministry and be able to equip people in faith and helping them grow. I think you need a strong person to communicate those pieces as intentionally as possible.
- 3) **Organized Delegator** - This is a crucial element. You need a person that can excel at delegating to other people, who can find volunteers with skills and divided tasks into administrative pieces. When delegating, be able to find out what volunteers do well, what do they have a passion for, and what are the things that person doesn=t do well or isn=t passionate about and delegating that task to someone else who might have that skill or talent. If the person has a delegation skill, that gives them a lot more flexibility, then you know that person will find other people to do it.
- 4) **Visionary** - The last key is to set up a system or have a plan on how we/candidate is going to help people grow in their life of faith. So it isn=t just matter of going from one event to another. Making it strategically about the time, so that when a young person is graduating from high school these

questions have been addressed; What do we want them to know? What do we want them to value? What do we want to have them experience? What are practices or habits we want to instill in their life? You need a person that can work a plan, see the bigger picture and work with the Pastors to help create that vision.

- ***discussion on Volunteers and volunteering:***

.... his experience has been that the vast majority of people do want to help in some capacity, we just don't always make it easy for them. We need to think about:

- 1) **Convenience** - How do we make it in sizeable time chunks? How do we make it convenient? Can we find places where they can do this at home or at the church or wherever?
- 2) **Personal Invitation** - rarely do we ask, the majority of people don't say yes because we they haven't been personally asked. If we know a person well enough, and we know what their gifts and talents are, and we ask, most of them will say yes, but follow through is critical.
- 3) **Define Need** - often we don't know people, and we don't really know what we are asking them to do. We don't personally ask, we tend to make a broad blanket statement and then we only have very few people who will get involved. We need to be very specific about our needs, there are a number of people who would volunteer, but do not want to be a member of a committee. However if there is something that they can do in a couple of hours once a month in their home or is flexible, then just about everyone will say yes to something like that. We need to lay out a menu of possibilities, and different ways of involving people
This is why the delegator role is so critical. It is the only way you can continue to grow that ministry is to grow more people that are doing bits and pieces of it.

Relevant Questions Jim LaDoux posed:

- What role do we want that person to play?
- Would the position be limited to only young people or across the board for faith formation?
- What is this person's vision for this ministry. Have them lay out a very specific vision for children and youth ministries. Is this a Learning Committee role or are we asking the Children's Ministry director to do this?

Follow up to conference call - discussion and formulate recommendation for staffing:

- Anne will edit the current job description using Jim's recommendations and send it to the Learning Committee for review/suggestions.
- Gayle will submit the proposal to the Executive Committee to present it to the upcoming Church Committee meeting on December 10, 2013.

- Jim will send forms, > Four Key Event Planning= & > How to delegate= that also has samples of different things a person can delegate, to Gayle and Pastor Erik.

Christmas Program for Sunday, December 15, 5pm-7pm

- Volunteer recruitment underway
- Play parts, music, script & costumes are being handled by PE & DG with assistance from high school youth
- Communications will be handled via email
- Anne, Gayle & Deborah will assist with organizing the Pizza and Salad Dinner
- Dessert will be served with dinner and will only be cookies
- Sign-up table will be out on Sundays beginning December 1 through December 8, 2013.

Sunday School B Sunday, Dec 1, Christmas giving

- due to time constraints this agenda item will be handled via emails.

Future Topics to discuss, address:

Approval of October 29, 2013 Minutes
Resource Center
Faith Formation
Milestone Ministries
Confirmation
First Communion
Nursery

Next Tentative Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at 9:15 am.

Newsletter Deadline B December 11, 2013

Tentative Meeting Dates for the remainder of 2013 through May 2014

- December: NO MEETING
- January 28, 2014 @ 9:15 am
- February 25, 2014 @ 9:15 am
- March 25, 2014 @ 9:15 am
- April 22, 2014 @ 9:15 am
- May 27, 2014 @ 9:15 am

Meeting adjourned at 10:48 am with closing prayer.

October 29, 2013 LEARNING COMMITTEE MEETING
***To know God through care, compassion and creative
worship.***

Present: Gayle Johnson, Pastor Erik, Courtney Burke and Deborah Goebel.

Not Present: Anne Valencia, Patti Stouch, Aaron Laskey, Josh Graziani, and Carmen Bucholz.

Gayle opened the meeting with Prayer and the Learning Committee=s Light of Christ candle.

Caring Conversations& Bright Spots - members shared their highs and lows.

September 17th Minutes reviewed and approved.

Communications Center

- Moving from listening for comments to the Pilot Program schedule to soliciting comments. Idea to approach those at church on Sunday mornings with a few quick questions and to also have ways for those not attending Worship/Sunday School to respond.

Staff Position Recommendation

- Discussion on position requirements and having a conference call with Learning Committee and Jim LaDoux - Assistance with staff position recommendation. Pastor Erik will arrange a conference call with Jim and the Learning Committee for our next meeting, Tuesday, November 19.

Learning Budget for 2014

- budget concerns and recommendations were reviewed, and discussed for all the programs under the >Learning= umbrella=

Sunday School

- Discussion on new pilot program schedule and importance on relationships and connections.

- update on Staff and teacher situation, Opening, Snacks B Desta Coordinating and umbrella here, Signs, Map, offering envelopes or other, class time, order more curriculum, 3rd grade Bibles given, birthday gift, monthly focus and special events.

Sunday School Christmas program

- Program is on Sunday, December 15, 5 p.m. Rehearsal will be Saturday December 14, time To Be Announced

- Recommended and approved decision to break down responsibilities for program and get recruits. Pastor Erik will provide a list needs for assistance and committee will help recruit.
- PE will finalize the > Lucy the Lost Angel= script and forward it to Deborah.
- Menu for the dinner part of the program will be the same pizza dinner as last year. Gayle will email or call to coordinate salad donation.

Family Retreat at El Camino Pines

- November 9 B 11. Coordination and Scholarships

Fun With Faith

- Update: Jessica Webster was hired for additional hour. Raised pay to \$60 for event (3 hours prep and 2 hours on campus)

Vacation Bible School

- Recap and update re: coordinator; Children=s Ministry position and how it relates to VBS.

Card Sender

- Susan Prosser has volunteered. Patti Stouch made new graphic work for cards and miss you cards for Sunday School.

New Business

- no new business raised at this meeting.

Future Topics to discuss:

Resource Center - Making progress but now waiting on Ron Ertel to be available and to schedule time for project. Bill Stoll is representing committee.

Faith Formation

Milestone Ministries

Confirmation

First Communion

Nursery

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2013 at 9:15 am.

Newsletter Deadline B November 13, 2013 & December 11, 2013

Tentative Meeting Dates for the remainder of 2013 through May 2013

- December: NO MEETING
- January 28, 2014 @ 9:15 am
- February 25, 2014 @ 9:15 am
- March 25, 2014 @ 9:15 am
- April 22, 2014 @ 9:15 am
- May 27, 2014 @ 9:15 am

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

September 17, 2013 LEARNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Rooted in God's grace, to joyfully witness and serve.

Present: Gayle Johnson, Josh Graziani, Pastor Erik, Patti Stouch and Deborah Goebel.

Not Present: Anne Valencia, Aaron Laskey, Courtney Burke, and Carmen Bucholz

Gayle opened the meeting at 9:30 am with Prayer and the Learning Committee's Light of Christ candle.

Caring Conversations & Bright Spots

Members shared their happiest memory from either their childhood or something more recent.

August 13th Minutes reviewed and approved.

Communications:

- New secretary: Sheri Groenveld
- New Praise Band Leader: Hannah Tasker
- Stewardship Season is beginning
- Comments Cards are in the Narthex, leaders should encourage members to fill them out
- Pastors will collect them on an ongoing basis and give them to the executive board.

Sunday School

Recruitment:

- Gayle is still trying to find a coordinator, or secretary or a couple of volunteers to share the responsibility; she is looking for assistance in filling those positions.
- There was discussion on what the role of the coordinator would be; organizer, marketing specialist, promoter. Someone to make sure that attendance is taken, money counted, signs are out, etc.
- Gayle will approach member who expressed an interest in being a Sunday school teacher.
- We are still in need of teacher for Kindergarten, 3rd & 4th, and at least 2 for middle school.
- The high school students will alternate between going somewhere and going to the park.
- Attendance for the 15th was: Adult Ed – 14, Sunday school – 38.
- Committee members discussed the Sunday School Coordinator posit & job description

Installation of Sunday School Teachers:

- Should be done this Sunday, September 22, 2013

Overall – time, opening, calendar

- Positive comments from members; the first Sunday of the pilot program seemed very organized.
- The consensus was that the teachers should be at the opening with their students, especially for the younger grades. This is an area that needs to be evaluated to ensure that the teachers have this opportunity.
- Having the children carry the grade signs can be used as a milestone opportunity. Signs should be carried to the back of the church and left there so we do not have to try and locate them after service. The middle & high school signs are not needed as they will not be going to classrooms.
- Discussion on the opening in the Parish life center and how to make it less intimidating for young and new member's children.
- keeping snacks simple worked well. We can even cut the snack time down as the kids were done quickly and were in the playground, this will help get the children into the church faster.
- Need to prepare snacks for 40 kids. Patti & Deborah to make a snack list and organize the snack schedule.
- The bell could not be heard because of the crowd on the patio. Having one of the kids ring the small bell after snack would work better.
- Sunday School will get a colorful umbrella for the children's snack area. They will let property know of our purchase.

Offerings:

- Having students at the door with baskets worked well, however there was a suggestion to do the offering when they bring deposit cans.
- Need to solicit assistant to process offering and count attendance.
- PE to check on church's commitment to the African Children's Choir as the idea was to continue the VBS Service Project theme and donate to Good Gifts.

Christmas Program:

- Pastor Erik has 2 programs he will email to the committee members for their input before deciding which one will be presented.

Fun With Faith

Assistant, Volunteers, Curriculum, Calendar:

- Committee discussed the FWF assistant position. Evaluated needs & wants for the position. Anne & PE will review the current job description to determine if any changes need to be made.
- PE will talk to Jessica to determine if she is interested in the position before deciding path to fill the position. Committee agreed that this position is an important and necessary one.

Family Faith Nights:

- no discussion other than the Youth & Children's ministry Coordinator would coordinate these events.

Family Retreat:

- PE to check on availability of scholarship

Vacation Bible School

- Starter Kit has been reserved & will be delivered mid December.
- There is a credit on the Gospel Light books from returns of unused 2013 materials

Staff Recommendation

Youth and Children=s Ministry staff discussion:

- PE, Anne, Patti & Aaron to prepare and present a proposal to council. PE will email the current job description to committee for input.
- There is a credit on the Gospel Light books from returns of unused 2013 materials

Confirmation Classes

Overall and Guides:

- PE is comfortable he is ready to go on Wednesday, and has the help he needs, although he would always welcome more.

Nursery

- No discussion

Additional Business

- Patti suggested that the committee keep make an effort to approach members for comments/suggestions regarding the new worship times and Sunday School format and come to next month meeting with those commits or suggestions
- Committee needs to be listening for comments about the parking situation; think about solutions so this agenda item can be discussed at the next meeting.

Tentative Meeting Dates for the remainder of 2013 through May 2014

- November 19 @ 9:15 am (a week earlier, but before Thanksgiving)
- December: NO MEETING
- January 28, 2014 @ 9:15 am
- February 25, 2014 @ 9:15 am
- March 25, 2014 @ 9:15 am
- April 22, 2014 @ 9:15 am
- May 27, 2014 @ 9:15 am

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 at 9:15 a.m. at the church

Newsletter Deadline: Sunday, September 22, 2013

Meeting adjourned at 11:33 am.

August 13, 2013 LEARNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Rooted in God's grace, to joyfully witness and serve.

Present: Gayle Johnson, Anne Valencia, Josh Graziani, Aaron Laskey, Susan Prosser and Deborah Goebel.

Not Present: Pastor Erik, Patti Stouch, and Courtney Burke.

Gayle opened the meeting at 9:42 am with Prayer and the Learning Committees Light of Christ candle.

Caring Conversations& Bright Spots

Members shared their thoughts and feelings about VBS which included joy at the number of children; that no child was turned away, the Chili dogs (!); the Prayer cubes handed out, open people to having caring conversations and praise for Mount Cross and the program; there was a definite community feel to the Thursday night program; the number of non-members that attended VBS & attended the Thursday Night program.

July 16th Minutes reviewed and approved.

Communications: *New Service and Sunday School Schedule, Rally Day* *Need to write a Faith Formation letter to the congregation*

- Rally Day is September 8, 2013.
- Gayle will ask PE to write a ‘Faith Formation letter’ to the congregation & non-members.
- Gayle will request 3 tables for Sunday School, VBS, Confirmation, Youth programs
- Learning committee will have popcorn and cookies.
- Nursery and playground help will be needed. Gayle will send email to Carmen about asking the nursery attendants if they are available before reaching out for volunteers.
- there was discussion on the proposed idea of ‘allergy’ slips and their use at all functions with food. (i.e. peanut free oil for popcorn, etc.)
- AV will bring her Wheel of Fortune to Rally Day.

Sunday School

Teachers and Staff Meeting – Monday August 26, 7 to 8 PM

- Discussion led to the decision to hold the New Schedule and Orientation meeting on Monday, August 26, from 7 to 8 at the church.
- Deborah to check with Pastor Erik about having sample curriculum materials available for the teachers to decide on what curriculum and materials they will use.

All Sunday School Parent/Family Meeting – Rally Day September 8th, Faith Formation - Dinner at 5 PM

Hosted by the Learning Committee - Child Care available - we especially want Sunday School families but the invitation is for everyone.

Basically we will cover new schedule and how it will work; and all the Faith Formation opportunities for children and adults. Hopefully inspire households to make a commitment to support our Pilot Program and Faith Formation process in general.

Dinner: Look into pasta, salad, and bread. Deborah to obtain pricing from Octavios & Presto for pasta and rolls. Anne to check on salad donation. Committee members will bring cookies and prepare beverages.

Sunday School Basics

- Discussion on the Sunday School Coordinator; JG will approach potential candidates.
- Josh Graziani volunteered to do the Opening. He would like to teach a Jr. High class, and believes (but will ask) his brother if he will continue to teach the older Sr. High Class.
- Email to teachers re: meeting date & time
- obtain last year's class lists from Marilyn to get an idea of class sizes.

Introduction to the Bible class with Scott Fajnor

- This class needs to be promoted with postcards & with a presence at Rally Day.

Tablets

- Members agreed that purchasing the tablets should be put on hold and introduced later, once the teachers have decided their curriculum and programs to incorporate them are proposed.

Vacation Bible School

- Members agreed to move this to the next meeting.
- Suggestion was made to review and make changes to the registration forms to include a check box for 'members' & 'non-members'

Fun With Faith/Family Faith Nights

Schedule:

- Discussion with Patti Stouch and PE regarding evaluation of needs, especially as it relates to the FWF assistant.
- Suggestion was made to keep the same schedule and events as we had last year to simplify the process, as there is a lot on the table right now. Gayle will talk to PE.
- Discussion on the frequency, while there was a desire to see this increased from the twice per month with 1 family night per month, it was agreed that this can and should be revisited after the New Schedule has had time to run.

Communications Person:

- Desta was the communications person last year. We will need to find out if she would like to or be able to continue providing this support.

Staff Recommendation

Youth and Children's Ministry staff discussion from last meeting

- No discussion at this meeting due to time constraints

Confirmation Classes

Schedule, Guides, and Activities, etc.

- Discussion will need to continue next meeting as PE was not present
- An 'ad' needs to be put in the upcoming Newsletter for Sunday School teachers, Confirmation Guides and youth helpers. AV & DG will make sure it is submitted to Marilyn by the August 18 deadline.

Church Picnic

Games for picnic on August 25. Service at 10:30 a.m

- AV & DG will take care of the arrangements for the games.

Games & activities proposed:

- Water balloon 'volleyball' – need beach towels, net, tub & water balloons
- Donut race – donuts, string, pvc rack
- Boccee Balls
- Bingo for entire congregation
- crafts area for kids
- no prizes awarded, just want to keep it fun and games.

Vibrant Faith

- Faith Box station will be set up for families to make their own 'Faith Box'. A sample box will be set out to inspire families.
- Learning committee will start collecting boxes
- Faith Infusion bracelets – Susan will look into acquiring more

Birthday & Celebration Card Person

- There is still a need for a volunteer to fill this position. Gayle will recruit.
- AV suggested using "YouSendIt.com" to recognize milestones. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Vibrant Faith

- Susan & Jim Prosser will be getting a new banner with the 'Church logo' & the new mission statement.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 9:15 a.m. at the church

Newsletter Deadline: Sunday, August 18, 2013

Meeting adjourned at 11:43 am.

Learning Committee Meeting of July 16, 2013

9:15 Nancy Bush Park

Present: Gayle Johnson, Courtney Burke, Aaron Laskey, Patti Stouch, Anne Valencia and Beverly Rueckert

Gayle lit a candle and introduced our caring conversation topic.

Gayle distributed the printed handout from Pastor John that was the first description of the new Connection proposal changes. She then reviewed Sunday's meeting of July 14, the Learning Committee meeting of July 8th and also described some of the Sunday School teachers concerns that were received.

It was stated that the priorities of these changes are the children and young families, as well as, to enhance faith development for all.

General Discussion was then encouraged. Comments included:

It takes courage to step forward and make change and it is not easy.

Change has not been seen as needed by the Sunday School teachers.

Change was needed and that curriculum had only been used as a subject reference.

A strong concern was voiced for "drop off" children and the families from the traditional services.

Desire to see attention and support given to increasing the bond among kids and teachers.

The Mormon Church is so successful in giving their children responsibilities and opportunities to present during church services. This makes the children feel important in the worship of God and develops their sense of ownership in the church community. It also increases bonding among the children as they work together on their duties.

Desire to see a Children's choir.

Another confirmed the need for a children's choir and the need for the children to feel safe at church.

The Praise Band is very supportive of the proposed changes.

Desire for the integrity of the service.

Suggestion children could perform in the traditional service, as well as, the 2nd service. It was also stated it is a misconception that all the young people want a contemporary program.

Revised Time Proposal discussion: Specifics to address

Create a space for snacks for the Sunday School before class time from 10-10:15

Classes to begin at 10:15 sharp! Visiting and snacks should begin 10:00. It needs to be stated that all students need to arrive by 10:00 for fellowship time.

We discussed how the snacks could be managed.

At the Contemporary service the closing would be for all.

Goal of today – Solutions and long-range plan developed for concerns to be addressed.

A lot of concern for the Jr. High and Sr. High

Work on how the format will work

Have parent commitments

Parent info nights

“Connection Time” theme

All present agreed to support the new schedule

Youth program developed with the Pastors involved

The Learning Committee strongly recommends we need a person to oversee volunteers in the Learning and Youth areas. The desire is for a paid position at more than the current \$15 an hour – a professional or intern from Cal Lutheran. We need families to connect and create bonds.

There was a consensus of those present to support the revised proposal with the concerns that were stated.

Family Night for August 18 beginning at 5:30 – Pizza will be delivered and donations accepted. A movie will be shown in Parish Hall for the children. The parents will be presented with a positive presentation of our vision. The committee today will be responsible for the evening.

Learning Committee has Hospitality, Sunday, August 4th. Vacation Bible School theme.

Church Picnic: Sunday, August 25 – Anne Valencia, Aaron Laskey and Deborah Goebel volunteered to plan and implement a few children’s games.

Adjourned 11:45.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Bev Rueckert

Editions by: Gayle Johnson

June 18, 2013 LEARNING COMMITTEE MEETING
To know God through care, compassion and creative worship.

Present: Gayle Johnson, Pastor Erik, Patti Stouch, Anne Valencia, Carmen Bucholz, Josh Graziani and Deborah Goebel.

Not Present: Courtney Burke and Aaron Laskey.

Gayle opened the meeting at 9:30 am with Prayer and lighting of the Learning Committee’s Light of Christ candle.

Caring Conversations - In honor of Father's day, members shared their memories of the male in their family they felt had the most impact in/on their lives

Bright Spots - BBQ on the patio was a success. We had a number of CDC parents come. There seemed to be a number of caring conversations taking place.

May 19th Minutes reviewed and approved.

Vacation Bible School

- Deborah expressed concern over volunteer registrations received but also was optimistic that we would rally prior to VBS.
- Deborah sent a reminder email to 2012 participants that have not registered yet that registration is open and they need to get forms in to reserve their spot. As of June 18, registration is down almost 40% from what it was at this time. Committee agreed that putting a banner up to boost registration was a good idea. Deborah will handle it. Deborah will also ask Marilyn to put a call for help out in the bulletin or her next publication.
- PE will check with Desta to finalize recommendation for the service project to be chosen for this year's VBS.
- Workshop set for Sunday June 23, 2013. Deborah sent email reminder to all volunteers, also sent a solicitation email to 2012 Volunteers that have not volunteered this year yet.
- Anne Valencia, Patti Stouch, Gayle and Pastor Erik will assist in trying to boost volunteer participation.
- Ideas were shared on ways to make vibrant faith a part of VBS; give out prayer cubes, bedtime cubes, and vibrant faith materials for the service project raffle.
- There was a discussion on the proposal of doing a recruitment / promotional video of VBS. The concept was positively received. Members agreed that we need to change the culture of the feeling about volunteering for VBS.

Sunday School - Hybrid Service Concept

- Gayle updated members on the progression of the new concept of changing the format of the services. The concept was brought up at Council last Tuesday and the concept and idea generated positive feedback. Council is open to the idea and there seems to be an understanding that there needs to be a change.
- PE shared that he and PJ had talked about the concept and they feel that everyone does long for the 2 service Sunday. They would like to propose the

continuing the summer schedule and having the 10:30 be the new format of this hybrid service where we have Sunday School be a part of the worship.

- The sermon time may focus more on a teaching style following the lectionary and could be interactive. There might be a breakout time, having people form small groups.
- The format could change allowing people to turn to their neighbors and have a discussion. There is a feeling that a sense of community is missing from the services.
- The attendance is struggling at both Sunday School and the Contemporary service and that asking for a 2 hour commitment as it is set up now (Sunday school and worship) may be too much to ask.
- The Pastors both agree that what needs to happen next is to get an endorsement of the concept from the other committees prior to taking it to council. Present the concept to Music & Worship, Praise Band, staff and teachers to get their endorsement and work the format out later.
- There was a question as to whether there were any other congregations that had moved to this kind of a format and what their experience had been. Members of Learning did acknowledge that by having the current 3 services we seem to have created this disconnect between each of the services.
- The committee's desire is to create a stronger sense of community; a new sense of value for the church; and to create energy and accountability.
- There was a consensus that we do need to involve the children in the worship service to give it that family connection. There was also concern expressed that the volunteers (Praise Band, teachers) would still get worship time. PE also felt that with this new concept we could reduce the demand on the Praise Band and that would be a positive.
- Learning discussed and agreed that the congregation has shown that they are willing and open to entertaining new ideas and concepts. They embraced Vibrant Faith and are sharing the positive energy this has generated.
- PE and committee would like to bring the concept to Council at the July meeting. Learning felt that it should be broached with the other committees and Council. The committee suggested having some trial services over the summer at Contemporary worship as well as the Traditional to give everyone a sense of this learning and worship concept.
- There is concern about the timing as the start of Sunday School is fast approaching. Members feel that Sunday school needs to change to make it feel less like a classroom and be more engaging for the children. It was

agreed that instead of following the same format we try a new idea of having stations or centers for Sunday School. This idea can be tried regardless of what format is decided for the fall.

Meeting with Jim LaDoux and Vibrant Faith Ministries

- Concern for positive spirit for VBS director and volunteers.
- The concept of the hybrid and how to present it should be discussed with Jim to get his feedback.
- Gayle suggested getting dinner for the meeting, keeping it simple. As it will be for the Learning Group, she is expecting a small group. Executive Board will be invited.
- What are our personal faith formation goals?

Social Media

- Anne is still looking into the best deal for acquiring the tablets. She should have more information for Learning at the next meeting regarding pricing and product.

Church Picnic

- Gayle requested Learning committee to host one event for the church picnic. The idea is to have each committee host one event, i.e. pie eating contest, etc, that would make it less burdensome for any one committee.
- Patti expressed the need to look for a coordinator who can orchestrate the entire event and be a liaison for the other committees. This was demonstrated at the CDC Sunday.
- The location still needs to be chosen. Suggestions were Heritage Park and Mission Oaks Park. If we have it at Mission Oaks Park, we need to look into the cost of Golf Carts.

Agenda items to be discussed at next meeting:

Milestone Ministries

Nursery

Resource Center

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, July 16, 9:15 AM at Nancy Bush Park

Newsletter Deadline: Sunday, June 23rd

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

May 21, 2013 LEARNING COMMITTEE MEETING
To know God through care, compassion and creative worship.

Present: Gayle Johnson, Pastor Erik, Patti Stouch, Anne Valencia and Deborah Goebel.

Not Present: Courtney Burke, Josh Graziani, Linda Frantz, Aaron Laskey and Karen Emery.

Gayle opened the meeting with Prayer and the Learning Committees Light of Christ candle.

Caring Conversations & Bright Spots - members shared their thoughts and feelings about the week. Happenings at Confirmation were shared.

April 16th Minutes reviewed and approved.

Summer Kick Off Lunch (bbq, picnic)

- Date: June 9, 2013
- Learning Committee to host BBQ.
- Coordinators: Patti Stouch and Deborah Goebel
- Menu was decided: Hot dogs, Hamburgers, Chips, ice-cream cups, otter pops, strawberries, watermelon, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, and condiments. Patti will decide on whether to use signupgenius.com. Deborah will assist Patti with flyer.
- Playground help needed. Members agreed on the decision not to have Bounce House. Pastor Erik will contact Josh regarding entertainment ideas.

Sunday School

- Gayle will follow up with Josh regarding the Thank You, Evaluations, and curriculum. We need to get a definitive idea on how the Sunday School teachers felt about the curriculum. Did they use the online tools?
- Money from Make it Bake it approved for tablets, so Ann will move forward with research and proposal for obtaining them.

Fun With Faith

- Discussion on Family Faith Nights. Dates scheduled will be June 6, 13, 20 and July 11, 18 & 25. Pastor Erik will generate emails and postcards to promote these nights. There will be snacks, not dinner.
- Pastor Erik updated members on progress of recruitment for Summer Help, posting position, and generating a job description.

Vacation Bible School

- Discussion on concerns with getting the word out and making sure registration and volunteer recruiting are progressing.
- Further discussion on how to get volunteers for the Director and Assistant Director positions; how to change the perception and get them excited about filling the position.

- Discussion on looking forward to next year and seeing if VBS can be promoted better as an outreach to the community to give them an opportunity to attend.

Nursery

- Approval to pay Shaun for previous week's hours.

Vibrant Faith Ministries

- Concerns were voiced for improving our faith formation and lifelong learning, Sunday school attendance, commitment and participation.
- There is also concern for the Contemporary Worship Service. The committee decided to bring to the next church council meeting some of our discussion regarding a different format for Sunday School with more of a connection to the Contemporary worship service or other possible ideas.
- We want to brainstorm and receive feedback this is not a recommendation at this point.

Committee Goals/Statement of Mission

- No discussion at this meeting due to time constraints

LRCC

- Mount Cross promotion dates: July 14 through July 19.
- Discussion on promoting the scholarship differently and well in advance for next years Summer Camp.

Confirmation

- No significant discussion on this topic. More of a caring conversation about last week's celebration.

Resource Center

- No discussion at this meeting due to time constraints

Social Media

- No discussion at this meeting due to time constraints

Adult Education

- Members voted to separate Adult Ed from Learning Committee as suggested at the Learning Committees meeting last month.
- Pastor Erik will organize and recruit for this important new committee.

Agenda items to be discussed at next meeting:

Confirmation

Vibrant Faith Ministries

Resource Center

Committee Goals/Statement of Mission

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 18, 9:15 AM at Nancy Bush Park

Newsletter Deadline: Sunday, June 23, 2013

Learning Committee to Host Summer Hospitality: Sunday, August 4th

Meeting adjourned at 11:22 am.

April 16, 2013 LEARNING COMMITTEE MEETING

To know God through care, compassion and creative worship.

Present: Gayle Johnson, Pastor Erik, Patti Stouch and Deborah Goebel.

Not Present: Anne Valencia, Courtney Burke, Josh Graziani, Linda Frantz, Aaron Laskey and Karen Emery.

Gayle opened the meeting with Prayer and the Learning Committee's Light of Christ candle.

Caring Conversations& Bright Spots - members shared their thoughts and feelings about the Boston Marathon tragedy.

March 19th Minutes reviewed and approved.

Communications Center

- Gayle brought to the committee's attention that the "information" page on the inside of the bulletin still references the Library on the patio. She will review and make necessary changes.
- The importance of reviewing the church's publications for accuracy and updating should be added as something to look at when changes or improvements are made.

Resource Center

- The library will be part of what is now the Resource Center. Request in to Make Bake Celebrate for \$3,000 for the Resource Center.. Book giveaway continuing, TV & cart still need to be disposed of.

Confirmation

- space to be discussed before next year as space is an issue, especially during Lent and with FWF. Suggestions included renting heaters so they could use the patio. This issue will be revisited before next year.
- attendance has fluctuated since Christmas (17 & 18) but the group seems to be a faithful group and about 16 attend.
- 8 Jr High Students will be confirmed this year. Pastor Erik has volunteers lined up for the traditional celebration.

- Pastor Erik has gotten a positive response to their being involved during Lent and their involvement during service.

Nursery

- decision to have Thank you to Jordan Dowe on the power point in church on Sunday 21st. Patti will give thank you card and \$50 check to Jordan Dowe.
- Pastor Erik will follow up on obtaining information for the background check on interested applicants, so they can do a trial run for a few Sundays.
- proposal by Pastor Erik that we keep the advertisement open until mid May, and if we get additional interest, we could set up a rotation schedule for the position.
- Patti sent an email to Carmen inviting her to the Learning Committee meeting and to touch base regarding her taking over as Nursery.
- Pastor Erik will take over the responsibility of signing the time cards for the attendants due to the inconsistency of finding someone to approve them on Sundays. Time cards will be put in his in box and he will sign them on Tuesday.
- Patti brought to the committee's attention the need to have the nursery sign posted to enforce the age limit for the nursery, due to the number of older children going into the nursery.

Adult Education

- Gayle put the word out and has solicited volunteers. She will contact some of the people who came to the Vibrant Faith and she will continue to work on this, but would welcome suggestions.
- Pastor John has a bible study scheduled for May on the book of Ruth.
- based on the suggestions from last June's forum, adult ed was offered at different times, however the results were mixed.
- bright spot with Adult Ed would be the Women's Bible study is very popular.
- further discussion on separating Adult Ed from the Learning Committee /Children's ministry; Prospect for the separation was met with unanimous approval.
- Pastor Erik is willing to meet with the newly formed committee. Suggestions were made of possible volunteers that would be good candidates to approach to lead, promote and plan Adult Ed.

Young Adults

- no discussion at this meeting

Media Workshop or Retreat

- Ann& Patti are still researching the VFM Media Workshop and will update as they obtain more information.

Sunday School

- Tent Sunday, Special Sunday - plans for the movie night were scratched as we have run out of time to plan effectively. Decision to plan this event at next year's Tent Sunday early was met with agreed upon.
- Tent Sunday will be handled by Pastor John and Pastor Erik. Attempts to make this a family day has not worked out as hoped. Looking to next year's Tent Sunday and finding a way to promote it more as a family day.
- participation geared more for kids and their parents as opposed to the older members of the congregation, and promoting it as such.
- Mother's Day camp out - suggestion to combine Sunday school classes due to attendance concerns. No definitive decision made.
- discussion on having the youth more involved in the church services, which led significant discussions and ideas on how to get the youth more engaged, how to utilize the caring conversations into the Sunday School.
- the need to discuss and address the concept of making a change to how the services are conducted and being open to change and revitalize the services and Sunday School.
- members agreed that this should be discussed and evaluated prior to making a recommendation and bringing it to the attention of the Worship and Music Committee.

Vacation Bible School

- Registration opens up on the 22nd.
- Starter kit received.
- discussion on the changes to the volunteer forms with the ability to indicate 1st , 2nd and 3rd choices.
- Enthusiasm of Gail and snack staff was discussed. They will be trying new snacks that fit the theme of VBS. We also discussed the response from volunteers to our being open to suggestions and ideas.
- get orientation dates to Pastor Erik so we can coordinate the youth volunteers.
- Service Project - Service Project theme was discussed and research is still being done on whom to choose. Heifer National or ELCA has their own service project, but a decision has not been made yet.

Fun With Faith

- Summer activities schedule - further discussion on ideas and suggestions for activities to do. Get 3 events.
- Discussion on Assistant position and how it worked this year.

- children will be working on a picture on April 17 which will be completed and submitted for Make it Bake it.
- update to Pastor Erik on his request for funds to add 2 college students to assist during the Summer FWF activities. Council approved the concept and dollar amount requested, but would like an update so they can make the amendment.

Vibrant Faith Ministries

- Gayle will email the Goal 2 objectives for March and April. She will also send a list to solicit feedback on what the committee members were able to accomplish and which objectives still need to be done.
- Gayle will also send a "How God has shaped me" to all the committee members.
- Gayle will email Jim to find the Faith Formation Field Guide as she was unable to find it.
- inserts have gotten a good response so far.
- Pastor Erik will send a list on the Milestones and Ministries Mount Cross currently celebrates to compare to the VFM list and see what we intend to incorporate.
- Gayle to contact Jim re: ideas brought up at the committee meeting and where we go from here. The need for clarity on the direction we are moving toward has become a necessity.

Our Goals and Mission Statement for the Learning Committee

- Pastor Erik put the question of whether (1) Our purpose as a church to perpetuate Sunday School, in the model it has been or (2) Is our purpose to excite families, children and adults about living their faith out in their lives. - and once we determine if that is our main goal (#2) and mission, then it becomes more about how can we do that as creatively as possible to make it happen.
- We need to define the goals of how to make the church engaging, to help our own members to grow in a way that excites them and integrates their faith into their lives, and also to bring others to an environment that is engaging and inviting and connects in this culture.
- unanimous consensus that this is definitely an area we need to discuss and work on.

New Business

- Discussed encouraging students to attend Bible Camp this summer through LRCC and offering \$50 scholarship per student and assistance as needed.

Future Topics to discuss, address:

Confirmation - space, especially during Lent

Tent Sunday - making it more of a family day. Ideas, and plans for promoting the Friday movie night.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at 9:15 am.

Newsletter Deadline – Sunday, May 19th

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.

March 19, 2013 LEARNING COMMITTEE MEETING

To know God through care, compassion and creative worship.

Present: Gayle Johnson, Pastor Erik, Patti Stouch, Anne Valencia, Deborah Goebel, Courtney Burke, Josh Graziani, and Karen Emery.

Not Present: Aaron Laskey and Linda Frantz.

Gayle opened the meeting with Prayer.

Reagan Burke lit the Learning Committee's Light of Christ candle.

Caring Conversations - members broke into groups of 4 and participated in a caring conversation.

Bright Spots - council members are going out each month to ask a couple of people what their bright spots are.

February 19th Minutes reviewed and approved.

Council Communications

- discussion on having our Mission Statement be a prominent part of meetings and gatherings. Patti proposed having the Mission Statement put on the wall of the Parish Life Center above the TV. Suggested company - Uppercase living.
- happenings from church council meeting re: caring conversations and bright spots will be shared in an upcoming newsletter article.
- Gayle will email the report from Jim Ladoux to Learning as we have a major part in the VFM process. Gayle touched on the 3 Goals, but emphasized that Learning will be very involved in Goal 2.
- Goal 2 - Gayle will be working with church council and learning as Learning has a major role.
- Assignment of roles for Gayle & Deborah. Gayle is the Vibrant Faith person and will also still chair the Learning Committee Meetings. She will assign tasks to Deborah as needed so she is not overburdened. We will both be learning committee liaisons with council. Roles will be refined and responsibilities reassigned over time.
- Gayle showcased the Caring Conversations materials received from VFM.

Vibrant Faith Ministries

- Committee members should review objectives in Goal 2 (Enhancing our Faith Formation Activities) to get a head start on VFM process and have exchange of discussion and ideas.
- ran through all the objectives, discussion on each objective and how to implement ideas into each area of the church, especially learning. In the Vibrant Faith Kit is a notebook for Milestone Ministries. Milestone Ministries is something we will be working at enhancing. That includes baptism, first communion, school back pack blessing, graduation and so on.
- discussion on where we already have the objectives in place and what is being done to enhance that. Josh & Pastor Erik shared what they are doing in Sunday School. The ball that was used at the VF workshop was brought up and Josh expressed interest in either obtaining one or making one for Sunday School.
- discussion on VFM flyer being a separate insert or part of bulletin. Learning vote leaned to a separate insert.

Sunday School

- Easter Egg hunt plans solidified ie puzzle pieces instead of candy, coloring pages, and cards. Pastor Erik will rally youth help for Josh. Gayle will assist in getting helpers for Easter Sunday.
- Tent Sunday, Special Sunday - discussion on assigning an organizer, ideas for promoting event were made - door hangers, flyers.
- Pastor Erik to put in request to Make It Bake It for tablets. Ann will look into prices. Discussion on application of tablets with the current Sunday School curriculum.
- Mother's Day campout - suggestion to combine Sunday school classes due to attendance concerns. No definitive decision made.
- Make it Bake it would like something from children and youth.

Vacation Bible School

- Courtney and Deborah are moving things along.
 - Starter kit ordered.
 - Reminder/Recruitment flyer will be in April's newsletter and in bulletin.
 - Service Project - obtain ideas for service project tie in with Sunday School. Pastor Erik to ask Desta if she would like to be Service Project organizer again.

Fun With Faith

- Summer activities schedule - discussion raised to gather ideas and suggestions for activities to do. Get 3 events. Need to evaluate if Jessica doing enough to justify rate.

Nursery

- Nursery to be moved to Pastor John's because of painting. Deborah to provide bumpers for Pastor John's desk corners.
- Patti to follow up with Carmen about taking over as coordinator, or if anyone else knows of someone.
- discussion to allow Karl to help as volunteer.

Library/Learning Space (discussion ended up morphing these 2 agenda items into 1)

- Josh updated committee on removal of library carts and storage of materials
- during discussion of obtaining donations for the library and purging existing materials, Ann posed question of whether church still needed a traditional library. After much discussion, a general consensus was reached that the library should be converted to a resource center.
- Josh and Patti volunteered to look at existing material and decide which materials to keep and arrange for disposal of materials to be excluded from resource center.
- plans for the shelving in the Parish Life Center will continue for the Resource Center.

Media Workshop or Retreat

- Summer FWF Media Workshop
- obtain 2 - 30" televisions.
- Ann & Patti to look into VFM Media Workshop.

Communications: Newsletter, E-mail, Grapevine, Bulletin, Text.....

- procedure change to have all committee members cc'd on all email communications with subject stated to reduce overload on members having to read all emails.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 at 9:15 am.

Newsletter Deadline - Sunday, April 21st

Proposed and approve: Following Agenda items moved to next meeting currently scheduled for April 16, 9:15 am: Confirmation, Adult Education, Young Adults, Ours Goals and mission statement for learning committee, New Business - Additional business

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.

Learning Committee minutes Feb. 19, 2013...9:15am **Next meeting= March 19, 9:15 at church office**

Those present: Gayle Johnson, Pastor Erik, Patti Stouch, Anne Valencia

Those unable to attend: Deborah Goebel, Courtney Burke, Aaron Laskey, Karen Emery, Linda Frantz and Josh Graziani

-Gayle opened in prayer at around 9:25am...previous minutes were reviewed and approved

Council Communications

-Vibrant Faith Weekend is coming up...encouraging folks to attend the Faith Formation workshop and learning luncheon...have had a good response on the luncheon so far

-discussed childcare arrangements for workshop and luncheon...*Gayle and Patti to follow up on confirming childcare*...Lisa Higginbotham of Thrivent is going to provide lunch

Goals for the committee

-spent some time talking about Sunday School attendance...how do we make it fun so kids want to go? If kids want to come then parents more likely to come, but we also talked about need to motivate parents in getting active in their spiritual life since kids need to see that to realize that it is important.

-discussed the idea of surveying the kids to see what they might like to see in Sunday school

-talked about the idea of having a slumber party in the tent before make it, bake it, or a neighborhood movie night...*PE to follow up on this*

-There was consensus that we need more ways to young families to connect outside of Sunday morning

Fun With Faith

-attendance is up this year which is exciting, we are having 15-19 kids

-we are changing the time during Lent to see if families will come...this is an experiment this year to encourage attendance at Lenten soup suppers and worship...Anne said she would co-ordinate soups for two nights that Fun with Faith hosts

-Pastor Erik asked about whether or not we needed Jessica for the Lent nights. The committee agreed we did and decided she could help with childcare in Nursery while the kids are in worship

-need to make sure that junior high or high school helpers are being calm with the kids on the playground and not getting too rough....Pastor Erik to follow up with this

Vacation Bible School

-things are moving along

-need to check with Courtney and Deborah to make sure we are lined up to start getting the word out about registration and to ask about what support they might need from the committee...Gayle to follow up with this

Social Media Workshop

-Anne said that Cam Heights is doing a presentation...she will know more about how we might do something similar at church once it is over

-Pastor Erik asked about the idea of doing something with this topic possibly at an overnight retreat at one of our church camps

Sunday School

-talked about declining attendance and how to appeal to kids to want to come...mentioned maybe having 3-5th grade combining to make a bigger class

-Pastor Erik shared about a rotational style Sunday School at a church in South Dakota...out of this discussion arose the idea that we could do something similar at Mount Cross in a modified style to accommodate our lack of space...like instead of having a dress up and re-enactment room we have a clothing rack with "Bible clothes" that goes to each room to used on different Sundays

-Anne came up with the idea of maybe having the church purchase several I-pads or a less expense tablet that could be used in the classroom on a rotational basis...Anne suggested that Make it, Bake, it could be a source of income to do this

-Gayle said she would follow up with Josh on the Easter Egg hunt for Easter Sunday

Nursery

-it was brought up that we need childcare for Lenten Wednesday night suppers and worship and Holy week...Patti said she would follow up on organizing this

-discussed developing different jobs the staff could do if there are not any kids in the nursery...things like organizing toy and craft closet

Church Camping Trip

-Patti reported that there are 60 people signed up. She hesitates to add any more because of space issues

-Pastor Erik said maybe he or Pastor John could lead a worship service on Saturday night...Pastor Erik mentioned the idea of maybe having High School Youth come up since it is on a coffeehouse night anyway

(no real discussion on Adult Education, Library or Young Adults)

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am.

LEARNING COMMITTEE MINUTES – JANUARY 15, 2013

The meeting opened with prayer at 9:45 AM at the home of Gayle Johnson.

Attendance: Courtney Burke, Karen Emery, Pastor Erik Goehner, Joshua Graziani, Gayle Johnson, Patti Stouch and Anne Valencia.

Absent: Linda Frantz, Deborah Goebel, Aaron Laskey, and Bill Stoll.

Reviewed and accepted Minutes from our last meeting November 27, 2012.

Communications from church council:

The Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held Sunday, January 27 at 4 PM. Following the meeting at 5:30 PM will be a Vibrant Potluck to continue energy for Vibrant Faith Ministries. Church council gave the authorization to donate or sell the Library book carts, TV, and audio cart currently in the Parish Life Center.

Vibrant Faith Workshops will be on Saturday and Sunday, March 2 and 3.

1) Goals for 2013

Discussion centered around the desire to grow and strengthen all of our Learning Ministries. Sunday School attendance needs to improve, as do other areas of our ministry. We look forward to Vibrant Faith Ministries assisting us with our concerns. More on our goals will follow at the next meeting.

2) Sunday School

Shared ideas for increasing Sunday School attendance – More communications in all media forms, take pictures of students at S.S. for communications, contests, an achievement goal, and increase commitment of parents.

Also discussed having the Vacation Bible School outreach project continue for the year through Sunday School. Have students and classes engage in communication with outreach organization.

3) Library

Joshua is starting to pack away library books so we can dispose of the book carts as authorized by the church council.

Anne and Joshua will check with the Technology committee to purchase 2 approximately 30” TV’s for the Pastor’s offices to use for power point and DVD’s. No information from the Property Committee regarding the bookshelves.

4) Social Media Workshop

Anne will be finding out more through the Pleasant Valley School System and update us next time.

5) Vacation Bible School

Son West Round Up is the theme for VBS July 29 to August 2. Courtney will coordinate and Deborah Goebel will assist. Anne shared using the 'Drop Box' application for coordinating information.

6) Fun With Faith

Patti will update the calendar of activities. The family camping trip is planned for Mother's Day weekend May 10 -12. Sign ups are slow so this will be opened up to the entire congregation. FWF will change their meeting time on Wednesdays, March 6 and 20 to participate in the Lenten Soup Suppers and Service. The time will be 6 to 7:30 PM. Patti will check with Desta Goehner to have families volunteer to bring soup for two soup suppers – March 6 and 20. The evening will include an activity for students.

7) Confirmation

May 19th is Confirmation Sunday. All is going well.

8) Nursery

Patti will be looking for a new coordinator at the end of the school year.

New Business

There was a request for a First Communion Class this spring. Pastor Erik said he would check the calendar.

Reminder: Use our Mount Cross Learning e-mail for creating sign ups and other communications.

NEXT MEETING:

TUESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 19, 9:15 AM – AT THE CHURCH.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES: SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, and FEBRUARY 17, 2013

Respectfully Submitted, Gayle Johnson

LEARNING COMMITTEE MINUTES – NOVEMBER 27, 2012

The meeting opened with prayer at 9:25 AM. Met in Pastor Erik's office.

Present: Pastor Erik, Joshua Graziani, Anne Valencia, Karen Emery, Deborah Goebel, Gayle Johnson, and Bill Stoll.

Absent: Aaron Laskey, Linda Frantz and Patti Stouch.

Communications from church council – Approval to move forward with Vibrant Faith Ministries to begin in early 2013; new treasurer bookkeeper, Tim Schneider; Annual Report due the end of the year; annual meeting January 27, 2013.

1) Budget for 2013

Went over Learning Budget Request for 2013. Everyone on board with requests.

2) Sunday School

a) Christmas Program – Sunday, December 16, 5-7 PM

Pastor Erik and Joshua Graziani are working on the play and the music for the program. Deborah Goebel is assisting with the costumes and other details. The play titled, "It is Better to Give", written by Pastor Erik, will have a rehearsal on Saturday, December 15, 10 AM to 12 noon. " Pizza and Salad dinner will begin at 5 PM – Program at 6 PM - Dessert to follow.

Sign ups will be taken on Sundays December 2 and 9 for number of guests for the pizza order and for those willing to bring bars and cookies for dessert. Gayle Johnson will make sign up sheets and Joshua Graziani has a poster. Karen Emery will take sign ups after first service and Anne Valencia will take sign ups after second service.

There was discussion to publicize transportation coordination for the program as well. Gayle will also make a sign up sheet for people to request and provide transportation.

Gayle will make arrangements and place pizza order for the dinner (cheese, pepperoni and mushroom pizzas). Anne will check on a donation for the salad greens. Gayle will see to beverages – water, coffee, and apple juice (cider or punch). Gayle will also purchase paper goods.

Set-up request for the Luther Hall is in. We would like to do our set-up part at 10:30 AM.

b) Mini evaluation of curriculum, opening and attendance.

Josh will survey teachers about the curriculum in general and also the online curriculum. He will check if teachers would like a mini forum for assistance with online curriculum.

c) African Children's Choir

The Sunday School through the church at large continues a connection with the African Children's choir through financial assistance. It is recommended to lift up our connection and communicate this to the Sunday School children. Josh will do this and investigate who are the individual children we are currently supporting so we can show pictures, exchange letters and so on.

3) Library

Bill Stoll volunteered to get a meeting together with the Property Committee representative, Librarians (Karen Emery and assistant Linda Frantz), and interested parties to work on design ideas and the scope of work for bookshelves in the Parish Life Center. Hoping next Wednesday, December 5th will work for everyone.

4) Fun With Faith

The program is going well with good attendance and synergy. Jessica Webster as Activities Assistant is a nice addition.

5) Nursery

We voted to start providing Nursery care for the 8:15 AM service this coming Sunday. There is a need and there is money in this year's budget. Childcare for the 8:15 AM service is in our budget request for 2013.

6) Vacation Bible School

Courtney Burke will be the lead director for 2013. Courtney and Deborah Goebel choose Gospel Light's curriculum 'Son West Roundup'. VBS will take place the week of July 29 – August 2, 2013.

7) Confirmation

Confirmation students will participate in "Never Ending Night" on Friday to Saturday November 30 to December 1.

8) Social Media Workshop

Anne Valencia will get more information to us about a workshop at Camarillo Heights School. We can invite parents to attend or possibly work to have our own workshop for 'Parenting and Social Media'.

9) Adult Education

Attendance is low. We need to work on ideas to increase participation.

10) Young Adults

Pastor Erik said he is planning a Christmas Party for December 30th for all Young Adults. This is a good time while college students are home.

11) Annual Report

Gayle will write the annual report and requests input from members.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday Morning, January 15, 9:15 AM at the home of Gayle Johnson.

A simple brunch will be served. The January meeting is a time for Goals for 2013 and a Committee Mission Statement.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Sunday, December 16!

Respectfully submitted, Gayle Johnson, Chair

LEARNING COMMITTEE MINUTES - OCTOBER 16, 2012

Present: Patti Stouch, Bill Stoll, Pastor Erik, Gayle Johnson

Absent: Aaron Laskey, Anne Valencia, Deborah Goebel, Joshua Graziani, Karen Emery, and Linda Frantz.

The meeting began with prayer at 7:07 PM.

Committee reviewed and accepted minutes from the September 18th meeting.

1) Communications

Gayle shared information from church council regarding moving forward with Vibrant Faith Ministries.

2) Vibrant Faith Ministries

Reminder the Forum with Jim La Doux is Sunday, November 4, at 4 PM. A Potluck will follow the information and questions. Childcare will be provided. Gayle will do a sign up sheet for the forum and potluck. Helpers are needed for set-up and take down. Bill will communicate to the church council and Gayle to the rest of the Learning Committee. Pastor Erik will take care of getting sitters for childcare. Communications need to go out in the bulletins, newsletter and e-mail Grapevine.

3) Fun With Faith

Attendance has been good. At the first meeting of the school year there were 23 students.

Desire to complete the calendar for FWF for the year. Checked in with Anne Valencia to get the date for the Make Bake Celebrate for 2013. It will be on Saturday, April 27th. That leaves a couple weekends in May for the FWF camping trip. **Patti and Pastor Erik will check in** with FWF families to see what dates work best camping weekend.

Activities Assistant

We have one new applicant. She will attend the FWF session tomorrow (Wed. 10/17). The committee gave the go ahead to hire her if she wants the job.

4) Sunday School

The fall classes have started off pretty well. The teachers are happy with the new curriculum. Attendance has been good with as many as 60 students one Sunday.

Christmas Program – December 16, 5-7 PM

Josh is in charge of the program assisted by Deborah Goebel. Pastor Erik has ideas for the program. Pastor Erik will get together with Josh and make a final decision. There was a lot of discussion to keep the Christmas program simple and the rehearsal to a minimum.

One Saturday rehearsal should be sufficient. **Bill Stoll offered assistance in organizing as well.**

A Pizza Dinner is planned prior to the program. **We need committee members to assist in coordinating and implementing the dinner.** Need a sign up sheet to figure out order for pizza, space, tables, beverages and so on. Communications need to be done to get this out to the congregation!

5) Budget

All areas are to give Gayle information to turn in for the 2013 Budget. It is due November 6th.

6) Social Media Workshop

Anne Valencia is working on this workshop possibility.

7) Adult Education

An Adult Bible Study booklet is available. Pastor John and Pastor Erik have added three new one month long studies to the schedule.

8) Confirmation

Affirmation of faith for confirmation class students will be Sunday, May 19, 2013.

Next Newsletter Deadline: Sunday, October 21, 2012

Next Meeting: Tuesday Morning, November 27, 9:15 AM

Hope to take off December - No meeting!

LEARNING COMMITTEE MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 18, 2012

The meeting began just after 7 p.m. with prayer. Met in Pastor John's office.

Present: Pastor Erik, Patti Stouch, Deborah Goebel, Anne Valencia, and Gayle Johnson

Absent: Bill Stoll, Josh Graziani, Aaron Laskey, Linda Franz and Karen Emery

1) Communications

Discussed the approval for a Fun With Faith Assistant position. Vibrant Faith Forum was also given a go ahead for Sunday, Nov. 4. There was also a VBS transfer of funds to square the books. We are also requested to work on our Budget requests for 2013 at our October meeting,

2) Vibrant Faith Ministries

Plan to move forward with a forum on Sunday, November 4, at 4 p.m. Jim LaDoux one of the directors will be out here at another church and has offered to come speak to us. This will be informational as well as a question and answer session. Then we can decide if we choose to have assistance to create more effective ministry.

The committee decided to invite the entire congregation and have a potluck after the session. Gayle will make a sign up for the potluck. It is also important to have lots of communication on this to the congregation. Possibly a temple talk or show some of the video from VFM.

3) Fun With Faith

Currently advertising for a FWF Assistant. Desta Goehner has agreed be the communication coordinator for FWF. The first session will start Wednesday, October 3rd.

4) Sunday School

Plan to have an installation for teachers this coming Sunday, September 23rd. Pastor Erik will get the word out to teachers and staff.

The Sunday School Christmas program will be Sunday, December 16, 5-7 PM. There will be a pizza dinner in Luther hall followed by the program in the church. Cookies will be served following the program. Gayle will speak to Josh Graziani and see if he is planning to coordinate the Christmas Program. We need to have a couple people involved in assisting whoever coordinates. Pastor Erik will assist with selection of a program.

The High School curriculum for this year is *Faith Lens*. Need some additional e-mail addresses for the Sunday school teachers and staff.

5) Vacation Bible School

There was a transfer of funds from former designated funds to cover the expenses for VBS. This is basically a bookkeeping issue due to our new format.

VBS for next year is July 29 to August 2, 2013. Courtney Burke will assist Deborah Goebel as coordinators.

6) Library

Karen Emery, Linda Frantz and myself need to meet with Stan Patscheck of the Property committee to see what we can build in the Parish Life Center. Anne recommends we have representative from the Technology committee as well.

7) Social Media Workshop

Anne Valencia is going to do some research before we move forward.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Gayle Johnson

LEARNING COMMITTEE MINUTES – August 21, 2012

The meeting began at 9:07 a.m. with prayer. Met in the parish Life Center.

Present: Pastor Erik, Deborah Goebel, Patti Stouch, Josh Graziani, Karen Emery, Linda Frantz, Anne Valencia and Gayle Johnson

Absent: Aaron Laskey, Bill Stoll

1) Information Faire: Learning is scheduled for Sunday, September 16

The committee will participate with displays for all areas of Learning including Sunday School registration. Gayle will see that tables are set up and members are to request their need for space. Members are to have visible signage for their displays.

Pastor Erik and Gayle will see an insert is included in the bulletin highlighting the Learning areas in the Information Faire.

The committee will also host the Hospitality for the day. Gayle will take care of coffee and cold beverage. Josh will get out the popcorn cart and make popcorn. Anne will bring the popcorn paper sleeves and Patti will bring cookies.

2) Advisor for Staffing and Congregation Overview

Pastor Erik, Bill, and Gayle reported back from Church Council concerning the advisor consultant progress. The committee recommends moving forward with the Vibrant Faith Ministries proposal. The question posed to Council was whether they are supportive of the recommendation of Vibrant Faith Ministries for an overall congregational review? This will involve staff, council and leaders in the church as part of the review. Church Council was very supportive.

The committee is tasked with coming back to the Council with a specific proposal including costs. The committee is also requested to check with other area congregations to see if they are interested in a Vibrant Faith Ministries review at the same time to reduce our costs. Pastor Erik with assistance from Gayle will move forward with the research and proposal.

3) Faith Infusion Information

Faith Infusion handouts were given to members. The committee brainstormed ideas for infusing faith in our ministries. **Decided to use 'Faith Infusion' as our Learning theme** for the school year. **Decided to order silicone bracelets** for children and adults with 'Faith Infusion' and something like 'Jesus every day' or 'Infuse God in life' written on them. The bracelets will be for the congregation as a reminder but especially as a teaching tool for children and adults. Gayle

will check on funds and Patti will order. Desire to have bracelets available to give out on Sunday, September 16th.

4) Budget News communication from Council

The committee was informed the church budget is doing well so far this year.

5) Sunday School

Teachers and Staff - Josh reported we have most of the teachers and he is trying to fill in the last spots.

Curriculum – It was a unanimous vote of the committee to order the Spark materials from Augsburg Fortress. Teachers were polled as well. Pastor Erik will order materials and check on hard copies as well as an online subscription. We will also order 8 Spark Bibles. These Bibles are to be available as a teacher resource as they go along with the curriculum. Student Bibles will be discussed with the teachers.

Registration will take place for students on September 16. Emergency forms are ready. Teacher orientation is scheduled for Sunday, September 9th at 9:30 a.m. Linda Frantz volunteered to assist with presenting the new curriculum and a sharing of teaching ideas. Pastor Erik will see that a letter and calendar approved by the committee is sent out to the Sunday School families.

6) Fun With Faith/ Family Faith Nights

The survey results of FWF families requests the Wednesday afternoon program continue as well as some Family Faith Nights throughout the year. Patti presented a calendar for the school year 2012-2013. The calendar was accepted.

Parents of students involved will be encouraged to participate by bringing snacks and assisting with the crafts for as many events as they have children participating while being sensitive to parent work schedules.

Desta Goehner volunteered to assist in coordinating the volunteer parents. This will involve scheduling and reminders via e-mails and e-vites.

Pastor Erik requested authorization to order curriculum from Gospel Light. It was approved. He will also send out the calendar for FWF for the school year with the S.S. mailing.

7) Fun With Faith Counselor

Members request to employ a young adult as a 'Fun With Faith Counselor' for this school year. This could be of great assistance as we move forward without a Children's Ministry Director.

There is a strong desire to maintain the energy in the program a young person can bring; and save time for our Pastors. The request is for the Counselor to plan and implement crafts, games or recreational activities. They will work alongside a Pastor, assisted by a parent volunteer.

The request is to pay \$40 to \$50 per event that would equate to around \$650 for the year. These funds could come out of the Children's Ministry Director line. Patti will work on job details.

Gayle will check with Executive Board, Personnel and Church Council.

8) Confirmation

Pastor Erik is getting things organized for this school year.

9) New Business

Anne requested we look into having a social media event for families. The event would inform and assist parents and children with the do's and don'ts regarding this area of communication. We will discuss at our next meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday evening, September 18, 7 p.m. at the church.

Most meetings for this school year will be held on the third Tuesday evening of the month at 7 p.m. Future meetings: October 16, November 27 (change due to holiday), and no meeting scheduled for December.

Next Newsletter Deadline: Sunday, September 23rd

Respectfully submitted, Gayle Johnson

LEARNING MEETING MINUTES - August 14, 2012

Opened with prayer at 9:05 a.m. Met at church in the Parish Life Center

Present: Pastor Erik, Bill Stoll, Josh Graziani, Patti Stouch, Linda Frantz and Gayle Johnson

Absent: Deborah Goebel, Aaron Laskey, Karen Emery

Possible Members: Anne, Valencia, Linette Angelastro, Sharon Korzan

Review Minutes: The committee accepted the minutes from June 19, 2012 with one addition.

The addition is the committee approval for Vacation Bible School offerings and raffle donations to go to the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area. This outreach is in line with the VBS theme Sonrise National Park.

1) Communications

Faith Infusion for Learning

Pastor Erik explained the emphasis for strengthening and growing our ministries. Ideas were discussed about how to be more intentional reaching out to our community and energizing our ministries. Beginning with ideas like 'Bring a Friend to Confirmation' and 'Visitor Sunday' for Sunday School the discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Time and Talent Sheet 2012

Committee wants to keep the current form for this year while we are in transition.

Rally Day

Rally day may have a different format this year. Awaiting the decision, Sunday School Registration will be Sunday, September 16 and the first day of Sunday School will be September 23.

Pew Bibles

The committee was informed new pew Bibles are being donated by an anonymous giver. The committee suggested donating the former Bibles. Pastor Erik mentioned the possibility of donating to local prisons or overseas. The discussion also led to having new Bibles for Sunday School classes that are all the same version and look.

Church Picnic - Sunday, August 26 – 11:45 a.m. at Nancy Bush Park.

2) Consultant or Advisor

The committee reviewed three consultant ministries: Vibrant Faith Ministries, Center for Youth Ministries at Luther Seminary, and Faith Incubators. The consensus was Vibrant Faith Ministries stood out in their approach and reviews.

Vibrant Faith Ministries goal is to help our households and congregation to nurture spiritual vitality while assisting in laying out a roadmap particularly in staffing and structure. They also offer the congregation's current reality and coaching sessions. These customized strategies will need the involvement of lay leaders, staff and ongoing ministry volunteers. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the committee to go to church council and see if the whole congregational approach is of interest.

Pastor Erik, Bill Stoll and Gayle Johnson will take to church council

3) Sunday School

Thank you to Josh Graziani for volunteering as Coordinator for this year.

The staff is almost complete.

Preschool: Gary Wikholm and family

Kindergarten: _____

First Grade: Mike Laskey and Melinda Sheller

Second Grade: Teri Crawford and Peggy Campbell

Third Grade: Scott Fajnor and _____

Fourth and Fifth: _____

*Kate Fisher, Dottie Keough or Linette Angelastro available for 3rd, 4th or possibly Middle School

Middle School (6th – 8th): _____

High School: Tracie Fickenscher and _____

Adult Class:

Substitutes:

Snack:

Jeremy Graziani and friend Crysol Carmona will teach either Kindergarten or teens. Additional names were given to check out for commitment.

There was a suggestion to have a third person per class as an additional teacher, helper or permanent substitute. The Manns are not continuing as snack coordinators and names were suggested to fill this job.

One of our High School students has volunteered to teach a class. There was discussion as to whether this is acceptable due to having a high school class. The committee decided we are not reaching out to recruit high school students to teach but if they volunteer and are a minimum of 16 years old we are happy to accept their service. Concerns are to not deplete the high school class but encourage participation in the class. On the other hand, it is better to keep students

involved and learning as a teacher if they filled called to teach. Students will be paired with an adult for teaching.

Curriculum

After review and discussion a decision was made to choose one of two curriculums. **Spark – Augsburg/Fortress, ELCA or Crossings – LOGOS Productions, Inc.**

Pastor Erik is to e-mail the committee the links to further research the materials and we will have an e-mail vote by this coming Friday, August 17.

Josh and Gayle will work on what materials are needed and place an order by early next week.

Teacher's Meeting

Linda Frantz will offer a teacher orientation for the Sunday School staff. The curriculum will be available and a time for teachers to interface. This will take place Sunday, September 9th at 9:30 in the PLC. Linda request suggestions on what to cover.

Dates: September 9 - Teacher's Meeting; September 16 - Sunday School Registration; September 23 - first day of Sunday School classes.

4) Confirmation

Pastor Erik informed the committee preparations are going well. There will be approximately 25 students for classes on Wednesday evenings. Guides still need to be recruited. September 12 is Guide orientation; September 19 is student and family orientation; and September 26 is the first session for the 2012-2013 class year.

5) Fun With Faith and Family Faith Night

The format was discussed as to whether to keep the Wednesday Fun with Faith or the Family Faith Nights or a combination of both. Considerations were given as to quality, attendance, consistency, frequency and outreach. Patti Stouch is going to survey many of the families involved with some of the suggestions and see what may work best for the core group going forward.

To get something started and on the calendar a Family Faith Night is planned for Friday, September 21, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

6) Adult Education

Pastor Erik and Pastor John will teach the Sunday morning Bible class. We need to recruit a lead person to get this area to grow going forward.

Next Meeting: Tuesday Morning August 21, 9 a.m. at the church

Newsletter deadline: Sunday, August 19th

Respectfully Submitted,

Gayle Johnson

LEARNING COMMITTEE MINUTES – JUNE 19, 2012

Present: Deborah Goebel, Josh Graziani, Gayle Johnson, Aaron Laskey, Bill Stoll and Pastor Erik and Tracie Fickenscher joined in last part of the meeting

The meeting began with prayer just after 7 p.m. Reviewed minutes from June 5th.

1) Communications

An e-mail letter was sent by Gayle Johnson to all the Personnel Committee to inform them of progress on the Children's Ministry position and resolve Nursery employee agreement and pay question. No response at this time.

A letter was sent to Property Committee chairperson Rick Mann with a request from Learning regarding the nursery closet to be re-keyed and keys given to nursery employees. Also was a request for approval to build bookshelves for the church library surrounding the new TV and cabinet in the Parish Life Center.

2) Vacation Bible School

Deborah and Aaron were working on VBS as we met. In need of at least one teacher and two would be even better. Other positions are filled. Several teachers that traditionally teach each year are out of town this year making staffing more challenging. The June 24th staff orientation meeting went well and materials and supplies were handed out.

Curriculum, T-shirts and crafts supplies ordered.

The Learning Committee is eager to assist as needed.

3) Sunday School

Josh Graziani has volunteered to serve as Sunday School coordinator for the 2012-2013 school year. The committee will support and assist.

The committee will request a list of the returning Sunday School teachers and students. Interested in an e-mail list for all Sunday School. Also would like a review of the teacher evaluations.

Action: Gayle and Josh

Action: Josh and committee will work on recruiting necessary staff for upcoming year. Discussed making it possible for students to register and fill out emergency cards online. **Action: Josh to check with Marilyn.**

Pastor Erik presented some curriculums for review. The committee will look into curriculum materials and cost and make a decision at the next meeting. **Action: Committee to review and make a decision at next meeting.**

4) Adult Education

Need volunteers to work on this area of ministry.

5) Library

Karen Emery and Linda Frantz could use some assistance with the carts and cleaning books. The book cart is difficult to move in and out of the PLC. Waiting to hear about the shelving to proceed.

6) Fun with Faith/Family Faith Night

Had a good pool party with 6 families at the Laskey home June 13th.

Dodger Game for June 30th – 48 people will be attending.

The July event has been changed to Tuesday, July 24, 5:30 -7 p.m. at Pitts Ranch Park as part of the service in the park/ the church has left the building.

7) Staff Position

Pastor Erik has been researching a consultant to assist in deciding what position formula will be best for our congregation. So far spoke to Faith Incubators, Luther Seminary and Vibrant Faith Ministries. Cost depends if consultant comes onto our sight and how many visits. **Action: Committee will review and recommend after further information at our next meeting.**

Newsletter Deadline” Sunday, July 22nd

Next Meeting, Tuesday, July 31st, 7 p.m. at the church

Respectfully Submitted, Gayle Johnson

LEARNING MINUTES – June 5, 2012

1. Welcome and Prayer

2. Review Minutes

3. Library

-recommend to property to build book shelves around new tv, other books either given away or few left on a small cart that could be pulled onto patio to promote, but could be stored in closet in sanctuary rather than in the parish life center

-check to see if any budget for library

4. Nursery

-Patti Stouch is pre-school advisor and co-ordinator interim before we get new staff, she has tweaked job description, develop procedures so new childcare staff know what to do, and created a binder to make things more clear...Patti has created forms in Word documents to pass on to church Secretary

-Patti and Gayle met with Jourdan Dowe about procedures, got her input and questions,

-developed summer schedule...Jourdan and Kayla should be available throughout the summer...if attendant cannot make it then they are to help find a sub and then communicate that to the nursery advisor

action- need to create an incident report in case of injury or accident (probably should do this for all learning ministries)

-recommend to adjust and clarify pay scale for nursery attendants...\$12.00 per hour for “lead position” (over 18, CPR certified, etc.) for total of \$36 on a Sunday morning, any High School subs will be paid \$8.50 per hour,

Action...Gayle to make sure any budget ramifications are covered for this adjustment

Action...Gayle/ Bill to ask property about possibility of new lock on nursery closet, and hideout location in nursery or with door keys in sanctuary so ushers could help if necessary

Action..need to schedule updated trainings, and orientations, for nursery attendants and subs at least once and maybe twice a year

6. Vacation Bible School

-registration is well underway...Hollers are ordering t-shirts, Jim Gucciardo is doing design...still recruiting teachers

-preparing for orientation after church on Sunday on June 24

Action...need to look at updating VBS co-ordinator’s book to include reminders about deadlines for registration

Action...need to find some snack/ maintenance volunteers who Rick and Jan Mann could mentor...get Rick and Jan to write down what they do at VBS so we can create a job description and make sure something doesn’t fall through the cracks

9. Review Visioning Session - Survey, Ratings, and Comments

10. Staff Recommendation to church council

-we would like to recommend that we look at getting an outside consultant to help us discern what we are currently doing and what might need to change and how best to staff it

Action...Pastor Erik to call consultants

7. Fun With Faith and Family Faith Nights

Swim Party, Dodger Game

-for Dodger game we can ask High School but need to get check in soon, so make deadline soon

Action...need to get the calendar put together by August

8. Sunday School

11. New Business

12. Next Meeting Date

Newsletter Deadline – Sunday, June 24th

LEARNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – MAY 1, 2012

Present: Karen Emery, Linda Frantz, Deborah Goebel, Pastor Erik Goehner, Gayle Johnson, Aaron Laskey, Bill Stoll, Patti Stouch

The meeting began with prayer, introductions, orientation and review.

1) Children's Ministry Coordinator

There was discussion regarding how to proceed in the evaluation process. Pastor Erik will do an exit interview with Linda Tandler.

Request the Church Council to give input into the evaluation process.

The committee seeks a staff position that supports the children and youth of the congregation. There is also a desire to create an atmosphere of energy and enthusiasm in our Children's Ministries.

It is the intention of the Learning Committee to have a recommendation prepared for a specific staff position to the Church Council by the June 12th council meeting.

2) Picnic on the Patio – Learning Visioning Event, Sunday June 3, 11:30 a.m.

Committee needs to be fully organized for this event:

Picnic –

The Learning Committee will provide hamburgers, veggie burgers and beverages. Bill Stoll will head up crew to barbecue the burgers. Pastor Erik mentioned a couple possible volunteers.

There will be a sign-up sheet for the picnic at the VBS table on the church patio. Gayle Johnson will prepare sign up sheet. There will also be an online sign up at: signupgenius.com. Patti Stouch will take care of the online set up and coordination.

Activities for the children – There will be childcare provided. Pastor Erik will recruit childcare for the event. The planning for the activities is unresolved. Possibly a jolly jump or other planned activities. Gayle will talk to Pastor Erik to assist in completing plans.

Visioning -

Prepare some staff position scenarios and survey questions. Pastor Erik will work on survey questions and e-mail them to the committee for comments. Gayle will organize preparations for staff position scenarios. Patti Stouch is doing the artwork and information for a bulletin insert/flyer for the picnic and survey.

Plan to have information in the bulletin, newsletter and grapevine. In addition there will be an e-mail sent to the Sunday School families.

3) Sunday School

Need coordinator to complete the last three weeks. Pastor Erik to ask Karen Fanner.

On Mother's Day, May 13th the classes will be combined due to expectation of low attendance. There will be pre-school and kindergarten, 1st and 2nd, 3rd through 5th and the teen class. Pastor Erik will send an e-mail to notify the Sunday School staff.

Sunday, May 20th is the last day of school for this term. A postcard will go out to all the Sunday School. Pastor Erik to oversee.

Students will participate in making and signing a thank you card for Linda Tandler on Sundays May 13th and 20th. Patti Stouch will organize.

On Sunday June 3rd there will be a thank you in the worship service for Linda Tandler (if available) and all the Sunday school staff. At the last Learning meeting there was an action item for \$ for a gift for Linda Tandler. Deborah Goebel and Patti Stouch will make cookies to give to teachers for their thank you gift. Gayle Johnson will write personal thank you notes to teachers (No certificates this year as requested by Scott Fajnor).

Teacher and staff evaluations need to get out. Include a section for a commitment for the next school year. Pastor Erik to see if there is a current form to use. Gayle Johnson will assist to get this out.

Linda Frantz volunteered to assist in teacher training and tips for our Sunday School staff.

4) Vacation Bible School - Sunrise – National Park VBS – July 30 to August 3, 2012

Deborah Goebel is taking the lead for VBS. Aaron Laskey has volunteered to help as able with the organization for VBS. Still looking for any additional assistants.

Registration and recruiting information has started for Mount Cross members. Registration is going well. Expect more in the next few weeks.

Communications are out in bulletins and newsletter.

5) Fun with Faith and Family Faith Nights

Patti Stouch and Gayle Johnson volunteered to plan three events for over the summertime. It looks like Wednesday evenings will work well. There is a possibility of a Dodger game for families on Saturday, June 30th. Pastor Erik will call for more information.

6) Confirmation – May 20th at 10:45 a.m. service

Pastor Erik stepped out to lead chapel at this point. Committee willing to assist if necessary.

7) Library

Karen Emery has volunteered to revive the church library. Linda Frantz has volunteered to assist her with this task. Some ideas floated as to how to proceed.

8) Children involved in serving

Received a request from the church council to involve children in more serving opportunities. Great idea. Will spend more time on this later. Encourage this request go to all committees of the church.

Newsletter deadline is Sunday, May 20, 2012

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 5th, at 10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Gayle Johnson

LEARNING COMMITTEE MEETING - April 18, 2012

The start up group for the committee formation met at the church. Present: Pastor Erik, Bill Stoll, and Gayle Johnson

1) Linda Tandler the Children's Ministry Coordinator turned in her resignation letter dated April 16, 2012 giving two weeks notice.

- Evaluation of the position: The group recommends study by the Church Council and Learning Committee (in forming process). Input from the congregation before proceeding in a new hiring process is desired as well.
- Exit interview by Pastor Erik.
- Thank you to Linda for her service: Request to Sunday School teachers to have students make cards or one large card for Linda. Pastor Erik to e-mail or contact teachers to make card(s). Also planning to thank Linda in front of the congregation and hope she is available for Sunday, June 3 (Sunday School Summer Picnic and Learning Visioning – see later). Pastor Erik will check to see if Linda will be present at church June 3.
- ACTION ITEM for Church Council: Request \$ to purchase a gift to thank Linda for her service.
- Linda will notify the congregation of her resignation in the next newsletter. Pastor Erik will write a thank you to her from the congregation to go in the newsletter.

2) Vacation Bible School

- Concerns for Vacation Bible School plans. Courtney Burke, one of the coordinators has a health issue. Pastor Erik will speak to her and offer to relieve her of duty. Deborah Goebel is the other coordinator and seems to be moving on track with plans. Pastor Erik will speak to her as well. In light of Linda's resignation the goal is to put together a team of 2-3 volunteers to assist Deborah with VBS. Gayle Johnson is to make calls for volunteers.
- VBS registration is to begin this coming Sunday, April 22.

3) Sunday School

- Need a temporary coordinator to finish school year. Pastor Erik will contact Karen Fanner and see if she can fill in the last three Sundays of the year: May 6, 13, and 20.
- Last day of regular Sunday School is May 20.

4) Sunday School Summer Picnic and Learning Visioning Event
Sunday, June 3 at 11:30 a.m.

- Sunday, June 3 following the Contemporary worship service will be a Sunday School Summer Picnic at the church. We will piggyback this activity with a Learning Visioning session for all interested members of the congregation.
- The goal is to receive ideas from all who are interested in the many areas of Learning for children and adults. This is to be a brainstorming session. What are our strengths and weaknesses? What is desired in our ministry at this time? What are the expectations for staff assistance?
- Pastor Erik to write an article for this event to go in the May newsletter.
- We will work on preparing thoroughly for this activity at our next meeting.

5) Confirmation

- Affirmation of Baptism – Sunday, May 20 at the 10:45 Contemporary worship service.

Other items:

Gayle Johnson to contact persons interested in being on the Learning Committee.
Discussed concern for Nursery staff oversight falling on Pastor Erik.

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 1, 10 .m. at the church

Respectfully submitted, Gayle Johnson

Learning and Youth Committee - Reboot and Reorganizing Brainstorming Meeting: Pastor Erik and Gayle Johnson

February, 17, 2012

Thoughts:

Learning area needs to Regroup, Refocus and Restructure

Be more Intentional in having committee, Visioning and Goals

Communication needs to happen clearly and often

Focus – make a central focus

Need for structure – have a meeting to present new structure wanting input and evaluation

Learning area needs to be stronger in Teaching

Provide more opportunities for Learning

Come up with new names for specific groups such as *Sparks* for 3 years through 3rd graders. This gives a reference for all their activities such as Sunday School, Fun with Faith and so on.

Brainstorm name suggestions.

Assist volunteers to Lead and Teach. Empower and Support them.

Work on Communication between staff and volunteers: Be Specific and Clarify areas of responsibility.

Divide responsibilities:

Children's Ministry Team, Learning, and Youth

Children's Ministries: Children's Ministry Coordinator, Linda Tendler

Sunday School

Vacation Bible School

Fun with Faith

Family Faith Nights

Special Programs – such as Christmas Program

Church nursery/Childcare

Learning: Rename so *Learning* is the overall umbrella?

Confirmation

Middle School Activities

Adult Sunday School

Bible Studies – Men's Breakfast, Ladies with Jenny Christensen, Sarah Circle

Young Adults

Library

Additional Bible Studies and Education classes

Technical area for using new technology and equipment

Communication with Child Development Center (CDC)

Other

Youth: Under the leadership of Pastor Erik

High School Youth Meetings - Coffee House and Activities – Youth Leadership Team

Summer Trip

Sunday School

Other specifics:

Children's Ministry Team – Leader of Chair – Like a coach to all the team players

Linda Tandler – Children's Ministry Coordinator (CMC) on committee.

Other committee members come from Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Fun with Faith and interested volunteers.

Learning – Leader or Chair, rest of committee from various areas of ministry and interested volunteers.

All groups meet a minimum of twice a year together under the overall learning umbrella.

Where does Faith Journey recognition go in the 3 areas? Other areas I missed?

Reasons for Ministry Teams Committees: No specific order

Organizing and Planning

Divide workload

Support

Resource

Appreciation to each other and all volunteers

Recruiting Volunteers

Coordination with other areas of ministry (within and without Learning)

Evaluation

Ideas, Visioning and Goal setting

Decisions on expenditures

Collective decision on curriculum and resources

Keeping current

Eyes and ears to the congregation

Becomes a small group

Report to church council

My personal thoughts are that committees need to meet monthly as much as possible. There may be some exceptions but the monthly meeting maintains focus, keep progress moving, and the work getting done. Lots of work happens due to the impending meeting. It is just a fact of life!

The monthly meetings will assist in better communication and the desired goal for intentionality, teaching and empowerment of volunteers. Regular monthly meetings can also provide the small group that works better together creating trust and development of continued goals. So -another goal is to teach how to have a productive meeting in an hour or hour and a half!

Respectfully submitted, Gayle Johnson

Learning Committee
February 22, 2010

Present: Pastor Erik, Sharon Korzan, Josh Graziani, Kris Korzan

LRCC:

- 1) Staff from LRCC will visit Mount Cross on March 7 to promote camping/retreats. Anthony will give a short talk in service and will do a parent Q&A on the patio; LRCC staff will also be present and visit SS classes.
- 2) Anthony will also visit confirmation to promote camp.
- 3) Pastor Erik indicated that he is looking at the schedule to determine the best “camp week” this summer. He is considering beach camp for the confirmation class.

Sunday School:

- 1) The middle school teacher resigned and as Josh was having a difficult time recruiting for the position, he has decided to teach the class and instead get a volunteer to man the patio and SS table. He has had 2 volunteers.
- 2) The high school has very low turnout this year and we discussed ways to increase their numbers. Considering a fun activity such as ultimate Frisbee during SS hour or following church. Coffee house numbers have been high and we need to get some of that energy into the SS hour.

FWF:

Attendance numbers have been high this year; discussing possible changes next year to dates – mixing it up a bit.

VBS:

Andrea and Erin are on track with VBS. Pastor Erik expressed concern that Josh hasn't been as involved in that program and wants to make sure that he is kept up to date. The issue isn't the program being on track or running, simply that Josh be kept informed and current as to status and would be able to jump in if needed.

3rd Grade Bibles:

Pastor Erik introduced a new Bible (Spark Bible from Augsburg Fortress, NRSV translation) that he would like us to consider for 3rd grade. We discussed that it may be a good idea to use it (or other) as a "Mount Cross" bible which would be given in 3rd grade and continued to be used through confirmation. When confirmation rolls around, most kids would already have the same format and new Bibles would only be given to those who haven't yet received them. Currently, we give Bibles in 3rd grade and again in 6th when Confirmation begins.

Nursery:

We discussed changing the nursery employee hourly rate to \$10/hour. This will put it in line with the "flat" Sunday morning rate. Committee agreed and asked that Josh run this through personnel for their approval. We also discussed if we should offer a guaranteed minimum rate of \$25 or \$30; decided to table that for now.

Communion:

Pastor Erik would like us to consider changing the first communion age to around Kindergarten age. He discussed his reasoning for it. Committee members agreed that this is an issue best decided upon by the Pastors.

Learning Meeting February 5, 2009

Attending: Josh, Sharon, Pastor Erik, and Tracie

1. Sunday School

- ➤ Josh held a teachers meeting on January 11th. Most Sunday School teachers were in attendance. Josh presented a copy of the teacher's meeting agenda along with some of the items discussed. Of importance to Learning were the following: (items discussed by the Learning Committee were bulleted appropriately.)

*Dates where there will be group activities for Sunday school were discussed. Josh will get a master calendar to the teachers. There will be group activities on President's Day Weekend, Mother's Day and Memorial Day. The last day of Sunday school will be June 7th.

*Josh will advertise for more substitute teachers. Perhaps asking parents from the classes, and make a universal list. He will give _____ copies of this list to teachers

*Opening will be 10-15 minutes only aimed toward all Sunday school age groups.

*Teachers like the curriculum. Josh was reminded that new curriculum needs to be ordered. It was suggested that he order the _____ rest of the year's curriculum now.

- ➤ Josh reported to Learning that the new High School Sunday school teacher liked the online AKALOO resources.

*Lynette suggested 5th/6th grades go back together to increase class size.

- ➤ (Learning discussed this and Tracie felt strongly that 6th should stay with the middle school. Josh felt strongly 5th and 6th should be combined. Tracie suggested that 3rd grade be by itself and 4th and 5th combine. This will allow for the yearly teaching of the Bible along with First Communion information. This idea will be revisited in the Fall.)

*Teacher's feel that we need to change our signs and advertising that says "Sunday School for all Ages" to "Sunday School for _____ ages 4 and up" to prevent children who are too young from being _____ in the preschool class.

*Teacher's would like to see Josh have an assistant for the first part of Sunday School. During opening, they would like _____ someone to hand out information and registration to new students, greet the families, and help new students find their _____ classes. It was acknowledged that if Josh is doing the opening, he can not do those jobs appropriately.

*Teachers seemed open to the idea of rotating representatives into the Learning meeting. Josh will follow up.

2. VBS

- ➤ Tracie realized she left off Jessica's timeline for VBS on last month's minutes. Jessica created a new timeline of what needed to be done and when. Josh was given a copy. Josh will be in contact with Jessica and Andrea so he can learn how our VBS runs. Jessica and Andrea seem organized and ready to go. Learning requested that Jessica give special attention to training Josh and

informing him about all the duties that are involved in VBS's success. It was noted that Josh has never attended a VBS at our church. Learning agreed that we should keep two key volunteers for VBS every year. (Sorry for the omission last month Jessica.)

- ➤ Dates for VBS are August 3rd-7th
- ➤ Josh attended a VBS information meeting at the Christian bookstore. He thought this was a good time to see a lot of curriculum. He has a few ideas about what the curriculum should be. It was noted that Jessica and Andrea would prefer Gospel Light. Josh will discuss and make a final decision with them.

3. Fun With Faith

- ➤ FWF Budget was discussed. Learning agreed that Josh should not be covering "no shows" with his own money. During the Bowling Bash, Josh had students not show up and he had to pay for them anyway. Ways to prevent no shows and no payments were suggested. One suggestion was to ask for payment before the event occurred. Pastor Erik suggested Josh set up a designated account for such a situation. Josh can use this type of account as a rolling account. Overages that Josh pays out of his own pocket should always be submitted for reimbursement by the church.
- ➤ Josh also asked Learning for approval to use funds as a deposit for future events. Learning agreed noting that the April Bash requires a \$100 deposit and is \$295. for 25 children. Learning ask that Josh consider if he will be able to get 25 children to this event. If it does not look like that many will be in attendance, Learning asks that he consider doing a different event so he will not lose his deposit. Josh will take this into consideration.
- ➤ Josh's future Friday Bashes were discussed. Josh is pleased with the turn out for the last Bash. The cost of the Bashes was briefly discussed. Josh will monitor if cost may be an issue for some families not attending.

4. Nursery

- ➤ Josh will make a sign for the Nursery stating ages as 3 months to 5 years to clarify for parents.
- ➤ Josh will make a list of nursery subs.
- ➤ Council agreed to let Learning "sweeten the pot" for nursery workers. Workers will work for the last two services only making the same amount. PE will email Marilyn about the change. Josh will make a draft for Marilyn so it is clear. This change should be made on the website and on the worship folders. It was also suggested that anyone who used the nursery during first service last year be called and told about the change.
- ➤ Josh expressed concern for late and no show nursery workers. He stated that, with Learning's permission, he will address this issue.
- ➤ Sharon asked if buzzers might be a possibility for the nursery. Parents would be given a buzzer when children were dropped off. If a parent was needed during the service they would simply be buzzed. This would prevent a worker from being left alone in the nursery and uphold our Safeguarding policies. (Tracie

note...would cell phones on vibrate be an alternative? Sounds cheaper. We should discuss at next meeting.)

- ➤ Parents should be signing their children in and out. (Reminded to put phone on vibrate and leave number.)
- ➤ It was again discussed that the nursery should be shut down if two people are not available to work. This upholds our Safeguarding policies. Josh was told he could ask available people on the patio between services to fill in and keep the nursery open as long as they are on the Safeguarding list.

5. Middle and High School

- ➤ Winter camp had 18 students attending. There was one full girls cabin and ½ a guys cabin.
- ➤ Confirmation had a problem with food fights. Pastor Erik said the covenant would again be discussed. Kids will not be allowed to go into the parking lot as a consequence and for safety reasons.
- ➤ Golf and Stuff will be on February 20th. Pastor Erik is hoping between 7-10 kids will go. The cost is \$15. a student
- ➤ Pastor Erik would like to conduct Confirmation interviews with Confirmands. This would be a time for him to meet with students one on one to discuss why they want to be confirmed. Their God Stories could also be reviewed and help given.
- ➤ Easter Breakfast was discussed. This is a fund raiser for both middle and high school. Pastor Erik needs to confirm if Kevin Churchill still would like to be in charge. A second coordinator is also needed.
- ➤ Summer events for middle and high school were discussed. Pastor Erik would like one event a month for both groups while he is on Sabbatical. Sharon suggested she host a ping pong tournament at her house. Tracie agreed to have a pool party at her house.
- ➤ The high schoolers are going to RAIN project. This is a chance for them to interact with school age children and a valuable community service.
- ➤ High school continues to enjoy Ultimate Frisbee. Pastor Erik and the Kids would love to see a cross-denominational tournament to occur. There is a lot going on this year and it was uncertain if it would occur this year. The kids love the practices and hope that this time together will continue!

Respectfully Submitted: Tracie Fickenscher

Learning Meeting January 8, 2009

Attending: Josh, Sharon, Pastor Erik, Jessica and Tracie

6. Sunday School

- Josh will be holding a mid year teacher debrief on Sunday Jan. 11 at 10:30. This will be a time for teachers to discuss what is going well and where areas of need may be.
- Josh has added new teachers and has a substitute list ready for all teachers
- It was discussed that Learning would like to implement a rotating representative from the Sunday school teachers to attend Learning meetings. Learning feels the teachers input will help to keep Learning aware of any needs that may arise.
- The last date for Sunday school this year will be June 14th. Josh will get a current calendar for Sunday school teachers so they know what to expect and when.
- Sunday school curriculum was discussed. Josh is aware he should order the rest of this year's curriculum. He will also look into Akaloo web resources for the new high school teacher. Josh had currently been using "Faith Lens" for the high schooler, which has been put out by ELCA. Learning agreed this was a good curriculum but that the church had paid for the year of Akaloo and Learning preferred the high school teacher used that. Josh was reminded that all curriculum choices should go through Learning.
- Josh has put together a "Children's Board" which will be out every Sunday. It will include upcoming events for FWF as well as Sunday school announcements, contests, and recognition. There will also be a place for handouts. This board should help with communication between parents, teachers and students.

7. Fun With Faith

- Josh likes the curriculum he is currently using.

- Attendance has been about 12 students. Josh hopes to raise this by possibly suggesting a carpool to parents.
- There are 8 more Wednesdays for FWF this year and 5 more Friday bashes. Josh gave out a list of possible ideas for the bashes.
- Josh was reminded that parent should be signing their kids in and out.
- Josh will post sign ups for snack, craft and help on the “Children’s Board.” It was brought up that the help should be a female. It is strongly felt that there should be an adult female available to protect Josh and the Church from any possible liabilities.

8. Nursery

- Josh would like to compile a list of subs to be available as workers need to be absent. Josh is aware that there should always be two workers in the nursery so the church is in compliance with Safeguarding God’s Children.
- It has also be noticed that there are sometimes children in the nursery that are not within the age guidelines. It was suggested that Josh make a sign to display that states ages 3 months to 5 years to clarify for parents.
- COUNCIL ACTION ITEM: Learning discussed ways to “sweeten the pot” for nursery workers. Learning would like to pay the nursery workers the same amount to only baby-sit for the last 2 services. It was suggested that we advertise, “Nursery care is provided for the 9:30 and 10:45 services.” Learning also felt that this would keep Mount Cross from paying its youth to miss worship because they are working in the nursery during all three services.

9. Middle School:

- There are currently 3 students and 2 volunteers going to Winter Camp. One more call will go out to invite Confirmands to Winter Camp.
- Pastor Erik talked about having some sort of parent workshop for the middle and high school youth’s parents. He sees this as an area of need and networking among the parents. A possible time may be during confirmation (a video night) or high school coffee house.

10. High School

- Fund Raising for the summer trip was discussed. Pastor Erik will be having a parent’s meeting to further discuss this. The High School Leadership team has discussed different fund raising opportunities they would like to investigate more. One is the envelope fund raiser. It is hoped that AT LEAST half of the cost is covered by fund raising.
- Pastor Erik is hoping some parents will step up to help organize High School events while he is in sabbatical.
- Caroline Hobbs had expressed interest in organizing a rummage sale as a fundraiser.
- It was noted that maybe Gail Weed and Kathy Berg might be willing to organize a camping trip for all the High Schoolers. This would be an event for all High

Schoolers . The group is so strong Learning would love to see this sense of community continue for all High Schooler.

11. Adult

- Jenny Christenson is continuing a woman's bible study in the spring. They will be having a 10 week Thursday evening study.

Learning Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2008

Attending: Sharon, Tracy, Josh, Caroline, Pastor Erik joined us after youth band practice

Council item:

Next year's budget needs to be turned in to council by 10/14. Josh needs to get this info to our council liaison, Paul Fickenscher, before 10/14. Learning advised Josh to review Renae Rhodes old info to determine budget requirements for each area he is in charge of.

Adult ed – Jenny Christensen requested an extra \$350. to the adult ed budget for women's bible study.

Josh@mountcross.com

Josh needs Renae Rhodes old notes. We were unable to locate her packet, left for us in his box.

Sunday school. Josh is planning to budget to buy bibles for 3rd grade students. He will buy a case.

Sharon and Josh discussed who is doing what? What does Josh need Sharon to do? Josh would like to focus on increasing attendance. Josh will ask teachers to leave attendance charts in baskets. Advised Josh to put "poster theme of the month in the grapevine"

Sharon had a teacher team request that one of the pastors lead prayer in the SS opening.

Christmas Play – We should be working on this now. We gave Josh some referrals for people to lead the Christmas play. Caroline will give Josh "friendly beasts" play, cd, etc.

Josh to do a letter of introduction to parents & list SS teachers in each class.

FWF

Halloween party to be changed to a trip to Moorpark to Underwood Farms. Josh to advise parents of change.

We discussed with Josh how things are going to date, for him. He asked that we could be direct with regards to our expectations of him. We also asked him to let us know when he isn't getting what he needs. Asked Josh to do a report monthly for learning to outline where he is spending his 20 hours per week.

Discussed with Josh about how to contact students (no personal or individual text messages) Group texts are fine.

High School –

Concert trip last week to see Third Day/Switchfoot. Great time, great fellowship opportunity.

Relay for life is scheduled for 10/12. Sharon reports there is a lack of involvement, lack of commitment this year.

CLU trip scheduled for 10/19 has 10 kids signed up to date.

Confirmation - Good group of guides. Skating event next weekend. Kits are due this coming Wednesday.

Next meeting Thursday, November 6th @ 7:00.

Minutes prepared by Caroline Hobbs

Learning Commission Meeting Minutes September 16, 2008

Meeting began @ 7:00

Attending: Tracy Fickenscher, Pastor Erik, Sharon Korzan, Caroline Hobbs, Josh Graziani

Pastor Erik led prayer and a devotional, written by George Barna.

Welcome to Josh Graziani, our newly hired Director of Children's Ministry (DCM). Our plan for tonight's meeting is to bring Josh up to speed on all of the programs he will oversee as our DCM.

Action item

Properties Committee asked if Learning had anything that needed special attention. We discussed that the van needs some care, as follows:

- It has a growing rust spot on the top back, which has grown this past year.
- The side door does not close properly. Seems like a problem with the door seal. This should be repaired.
- The check engine light comes on, which is explained in the handbook in the glove box. It has been an ongoing problem for years, and is probably just a computer glitch. This should be corrected, or a note left in the van for guest drivers. It created some concern while we were on the Adventures on the Coast trip (until we read the handbook)
- The van needs to be cleaned & buff shined. It will look good as new when this is done.
- We need to advertise the church on the side of the van. Caroline will research magnetic, removable signs. These are very inexpensive, and not permanent. Caroline will help with the design of the sign, as needed Tracy would like the Lutheran Handbook at her coffee Sunday.

Additionally, but not an immediate action item:

- We discussed PE & Josh getting their class C license, so they can transport more people in the van. Caroline has the third row seat, which will increase the van to an 11 passenger, but a class C license is required with this many passengers.

Council/Budget info (Pastor Erik & Josh reported)

Council wanted committees to be aware that Budget/Finance overestimated the income that the church would receive on loose plate offerings for the 2008 income figures, and this is a contributing factor in why we are running at a deficit (approx. 3K per month.) Our spending is on target, but the congregational giving is down. Pastor Erik & Josh report that council has discussed proceeding cautiously with budgeting & spending for 2009. We reviewed each area of the budget as it pertains to learning. Advised Josh to contact the recent/former leaders of each area he is responsible for to find out what was, or was not, included in the budget.

Reviewed Time & Talent sheets and made changes as necessary.

Sunday school (Sharon Korzan, coordinator / Josh Graziani, DCM : both reported)

Sharon and Josh report that Sunday school went well 9/14, with great feedback reported. Great attendance figures -70 students (not including staff.) Josh plans to launch a new monthly program, and we discussed this at length. Josh would also like to encourage inviting guests to increase attendance & grow our programs. Josh would like to do monthly contests which will include participation from each class in the making of a monthly themed board. PE stressed importance of incorporating a biblical theme for each board, and everyone concurred. This concept will be launched in October, introduced at the opening, and then it will be worked on in the individual classes. Each class will receive a reward (most creative, etc.) Josh will coordinate with teachers. We discussed the openings. Who will do the opening music? Linette Angelestro had offered to lead, the opening. Sharon feels strongly about having pastor as a presence a couple times per month. We discussed pastor's availability. Josh would like to mix things up and do a fun game as an option other than singing every week. Josh and Sharon will coordinate the opening with pastors, Linette, etc. We discussed making the student/parent flow into the PLC smoother and having the teachers a visible presence at the opening. For the high school SS class, Josh would like Tracy to continue with the coffee house Sunday once a month, which she agreed to. Josh will use this week to pop into each class. Tracy would like the Lutheran Handbook at her coffee Sunday. Josh gave the name "Savage" to his high school class (Sunday's are very awesome-God's education). Name tags will be implemented for teachers to wear weekly. Caroline suggested Josh order business cards.

Fun with Faith (K-5th) Tracy Fickenscher (former coordinator) reporting

Deborah Goebel volunteered to lead F.W.F. Josh will be in contact with her to discuss her availability.

After much discussion, we decided (for the remainder of the year) on a once a month Elementary Youth Event. Josh will be Strategizing, researching and planning for the long term. Josh will plan an All Saints Day/Halloween party (promoted to our kids/bring a friend) slated for 10/29. Also a Thanksgiving and Christmas event. Regular program (2x month) will plan to be launched after first of year.

High School (Pastor Erik)

Briefly discussed. Orientation this coming Saturday, 9/20. Youth Band concert planned for November. Relay for Life in October. Sharon Korzan is spearheading this event. Brief

discussion about New Orleans national youth gathering in 2009 and fundraising will be necessary. Cost will be approx. \$1,000 per child.

Nursery (Tracy reported on status, & Josh will take over from here)

Briefly discussed. Heather is paid staff. Kevin Rhodes is a paid assistant.

VBS

Tabled until next month.

Confirmation

Briefly discussed which translation of bible we use in this class. No other discussion this month.

High School Youth (Michael Fickenscher provided written report, as follows)

Michael Fickenscher reports 'The high schoolers are still excited about Switchfoot, Sept. 26. At this point all tickets are sold. We have outstanding balances from 2 of them. We purchased enough for two car loads and will have 3 adults going.

Pastor Erik met with a group of high schoolers who will form a "Leadership" group for the year. We discussed fund raising ideas and when we are to meet. It seems like a great group to guide activities throughout the next year.

We are ready to begin the New Year in Youth Group. We are looking forward to coffee house and Starbucks Sunday. Respectfully submitted, Michael Fickenscher'

Next Meeting: The first Thursday of every month (7:00 PM/Pastor Erik's office) will be our NEW official meeting date. **Next meeting is Thursday, October 2nd 7:00pm.**

Meeting adjourned with prayer approx. 9:30pm

Minutes prepared by Caroline Hobbs

Learning Meeting August 11, 2008

Pastor Erik, Caroline Hobbs, Sharon Korzan, and Tracie Fickenscher in attendance

- **Sunday School**

Sharon Korzan has agreed to be our Coordinator for Sunday School....yeah!! She will be calling Sunday school teachers from last year to confirm who will be returning this year. She will let Learning know if she needs help filling teacher positions. Sharon needs dates for Rally Sunday and the first day of Sunday School.

Curriculum was looked at. Both Sharon and Tracie felt very strongly that "Akaloo" material from Augsburg would be great for middle and high schoolers. Tracie suggested the bible background contained in the "Akaloo" curriculum may be appropriate for our 3rd/4th grade class. The committee considered "Akaloo" for the entire Sunday School Program. "Akaloo" can be accessed from the computer for both teacher and students. This was found as both a positive and a negative. Those teachers who had easy access to computers might find this format very quick and easy and like the flexibility of arranging their lessons this way. Caroline noted that it might be harder for those without computer and printer access. Pastor voiced a possible concern with printing unneeded material through the church office. Sharon will research "Akaloo" further and find out about prices and options for materials. Possibly, we will begin trying the program for middle and high school depending on the price. Other materials were considered. Gospel Light was Karen's favorite. Sharon and Tracie preferred Lutheran curriculum. It was noted that the Hands On curriculum was liked by some teachers. Learning would prefer to try "Akaloo" for the entire Sunday school for the first quarter with the option to change the younger grades if it doesn't work out.

- **Director of Children's Ministry**

As there have been a few applicants for the position, Learning would like to formally request that they be very involved with Personnel in the hiring of this position. Learning would like to have a strong input into who is hired. It was felt that since Learning has the clearest idea of what is needed and ultimately would be working closely with this person, Learning would like to help Personnel hire the correct person for the position

The hours of the position were discussed. The idea of 10 hours a week to just oversee Sunday School, VBS and the nursery might be a possibility. Cutting the hours by 50% would then cut the salary by 50% and possibly open the position to others who were looking for a job with fewer hours.

- **Nursery**

Tracie would love to find someone to take over the scheduling of the nursery! It was suggested that perhaps a parent of a child who uses the nursery might be more appropriate. Tracie will look into this possibility further. Currently, the nursery is scheduled through the end of August.

- **VBS**

Karen phoned in a report to Tracie. There were 126 kids total (118 in the program, 8 in the nursery.) they had 30+ youth helpers and 50+ adult volunteers. Since Thrivent gave a sliding grant, we will have \$500. donated to our program. There were snack donations of \$410. Gospel Light donated all the student books an expense of around \$320. For these reasons we may under budget. Karen will

have the numbers for the next meeting. Jessica is working on recruiting someone to help her with next years VBS. Thank you Karen and Jessica for a great job!

- **Fun With Faith**

We still need a coordinator if this program is going to run this Fall.

- **High School Youth Report**

The high schoolers are excited about Switchfoot, Sept. 26th. After handling fees, ticket master fees, and some other fee, tickets that we thought would be \$19.95 each are actually \$30.00 each. We purchased enough for two car loads. One adult driver and 7 youth for each. It was also decided that since the concert was the inspiration of middle schoolers Brett Crocket and Kevin Fickenscher, they would be allowed to purchase tickets the same time as the high schoolers. High schoolers can purchase tickets until September 7th when sales will be open to middle schoolers. At this point all but 3 tickets have been sold. It was made clear that purchases were nonrefundable and a check holds your spot. Heather and Jay were hoping to purchase 7 tickets for themselves. They will be trying to purchase another block close to the original blocks so we can all still go together.

The high schoolers had a great summer trip. We enjoyed both our play time and our service time. A special thanks to Pastor Erik, Ris Anderson, and Caroline Hobbs for chaperoning.

Respectfully submitted, Michael Fickenscher

- **Next Meeting**

The time and date of the next meeting needs to be discussed. Tracie will send an email out to confirm a date and time.

Respectfully submitted, Tracie Fickenscher

**Learning Meeting
June 2, 2008**

Pastor Erik, Caroline Hobbs, Sharon Korzan, Roman Spandrio, Karen Thomton, Linette Angelastro, and Traci Fickenscher in attendance

- **Children's Ministry Position update.**

Council agreed with Learning that it should be a salaried position. We will see what the personnel committee says. Pastor Erik to get job announcement advertised.

Concern was voiced about the job description of this position. Pastor Erik and Tracie will take the lead with input from Sharon and others on the committee to get the job description up to date and as clear as possible for the Personnel Committee.

- **Sunday School**

Luncheon this Sunday. Linette needs a headcount and menu suggestions. She will do shopping and set up on Saturday. Sunday, Caroline and Tracie will host the event. Pastor Erik will lead discussion with teachers. Sharon will run the Sunday school student's craft time. She will enlist the help of the high schoolers.

We need to look for a Key Contact for next Fall.

- **Nursery**

Tracie didn't understand that Jessica was only doing nursery for May. ..so we need someone to take over. Jessica has purchased snacks. Tracie will temporarily take over during the summer. We need to find someone else to do this in the Fall if we do not have the Children's Ministry position filled yet.

- **VBS**

105 kids so far. Pre K and K are closed. June 9th we will open to the public. Karen needs a coordinator for the Thursday night dinner. Maybe the cooks club could help out? Thrivent has given VBS a \$500. donation. Thank you Thrivent.

- **Fun With Faith**

We need a Key Contact for next year as Tracie will be unable to do it. Some ideas were Monica Duran, Anne Valencia, Laurie Hall, Angela Spandrio. Tracie will begin talking to people.

- **High School Youth Report**

The high schoolers are excited about Switchfoot, Sept. 26th. They are also looking forward to Ultimate Frisbee. We are curious how summer camp signups went and if Pastor needs help making phone calls to have more sign up. They would like to get together soon to make T-shirts and perhaps organize the concert. They would have a small group meet with Pastor to schedule the upcoming year and include both a trip to Magic Mountain and Disneyland. (If we get 10 or more to Disneyland we can qualify for group discounts.)

Respectfully submitted, Michael Fickenscher

- **High School and Confirmation**

The high school trip has the largest number signed up for a summer trip this year. Pastor will let high schoolers know when he needs help from them.

- **Library**

Charlene Sakioka has done a great job getting the Library out there. We need to follow up with her to find out if she has any needs.

- **Adult Ed**

Woman's bible study is on track for Fall.

Although Roman voiced concerns that he may not be the right person for the Adult Ed "job" the committee encouraged him to stay on Learning and consider continuing to try and get a men's bible study together. It was suggested that Roman be allowed to speak in church about what bible study can mean to a Christian man and father. Learning committee thinks Roman is actually the perfect advocate for this position and hopes he stays on.

- **Other Buisness**

Learning would like it to be known that this committee would love to keep the church at 2 services throughout the year. If that ever came up in a council meeting we would encourage to look at the possibility very closely.

- **Next Meeting**

Monday, July 28th

**Learning Meeting
May 5th, 2008**

Those in attendance were Caroline Hobbs, Tracie Fickenscher and Pastor Erik

§ **Learning's recommendation for the Children's Ministry Position**

A lengthy discussion about the job description took place. Learning would like to emphasize to council that we feel this is a **professional position** needed to help grow our youth programs and should be treated as such in terms of hours and salary. Learning would like to recommend that the yearly salary remain what has been budgeted. (\$15,000/year.) Included in the job description, Learning would like to include a "Milestone Ministry" as well as the continuation of current programs per the original job description. Pastor Erik will edit the current job description to Learning's specifications in time for the May council meeting.

§ **Nursery**

Tracie will check with Jessica to see how the nursery is going. Nursery is scheduled through May, but we need to make sure June and the summer are also taken care of.

§ **Sunday School**

Pastor Erik suggested that we have a "Dessert and Discussion Night" with those involved in Sunday school. The idea would be that we could both thank our teachers and get their input for next year at the same time. We also would like to give them an opportunity to give their input on the Children's Ministry position. This will also be a time to get teachers to commit for another year if they wish. This thank you will take place on Wednesday, May 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Life Center. Tracie will take care of invitations. Caroline will take care of food for that

night. Pastor will take care of a bribery gift to get people to attend.:)

§ **Fun With Faith**

Attendance for this program is still down but the group we had last time seemed to have a really good time together. Parents currently attending have stated that they really aren't crazy about the nighttime idea or even the once a month idea for next year. Learning discussed perhaps "revamping" the program for those still interested and Caroline suggested really pushing it during Sunday School and VBS this year. Pastor would still like to incorporate a once a month family event. It was overall felt that the friendships formed at this young age can only benefit the children as they enter Confirmation and High school.

§ **High School Youth Report**

The youth would still like to put on a fundraiser to help fund a trip to the youth gathering in New Orleans. We are planning on performing a concert in early Fall to help raise the money that we would need. On that topic, Switchfoot tickets have just gone on sale for their concert sometime soon, and there are tons of high schoolers who would like to go to that. We were hoping to buy about 15 (the same as the Fishfest tickets) and then sell them to the high schoolers (and maybe middle schoolers.) Finally, it would be nice to have a Teen Recreation Day where we could make T-shirts, play Ultimate Frisbee, and maybe plan out the year ahead.

Respectfully submitted, Michael Fickenscher

§ **High School/Confirmation**

The last Confirmation will be on May 14th with the Rite of Confirmations occurring on Sunday, May 18th. The last night of Confirmation will go approximately a half hour longer than normal so they can watch the first "Narnia" movie and have a short discussion afterwards. Pastor has planned for the current high schoolers to kidnap the Confirmands on the Friday before to welcome them into the high school youth group. At this time both the high schoolers and middle schoolers will go to see "Prince Caspian" returning to church for again a brief discussion of the biblical influences.

§ **Library**

Charlene Sakioka has stepped up to do the library....yeah. She should be turning receipts in to get the library back up to speed. Her goal is to have it out there 2-3 times a month....which is wonderful...

§ **Adult Ed**

Jenny Christenson asked and Learning approved a new Women's Bible study by Kay Arthur.

Learning talked about some ideas for a men's Bible study and will continue to work on developing something that the men of Mount Cross might be interested in.

§ **VBS**

VBS sign ups are underway. Teachers and volunteer positions seem to be under control. We look forward to a more thorough report next month.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 2nd At 7:00pm....please ink it in!!!

Respectfully submitted: Tracie Fickenscher

**Learning Meeting
April 7, 2008**

Those in attendance were Pastor Erik, Karen Thomton, Roman Spandrio, Jessica Guzman and Tracie Fickenscher

§ **Learnings recommendation for the Children's Ministry Position**

After a lengthy discussion about the pros and cons of rehiring this position as well as discussions about salary and hours, the Learning Committee has

decided to recommend rehiring the Children's Ministry Coordinator position. It was acknowledged that the Children's Ministry Coordinator position might need to be reformulated and education to other church members about what the position actual does may be required. It was felt that since it was already budgeted for 20 hours a week, Learning would like to see it continue at 20 hours a week. Learning would very much like to see this position filled by early July 2008 so the new person could participate in our VBS program. We also acknowledge that the Fun With Faith program will be undergoing some changes and this could change the job description of the Children's Ministry Coordinator. Learning would like to review the job description after council's approval to rehire.

§ **Nursery**

Before her leaving, Renae hired a full time nursery worker. The second person in the nursery will have a rotating schedule of existing helpers. Jessica agreed to take on the scheduling of the nursery workers. She also felt she could find someone to do the shopping for the nursery snacks and supplies.

§ **Sunday School**

Linette Angelastro has agreed to take over as Sunday school coordinator. Linette will be unavailable on Mother's Day and sent an email out to find a replacement for her. No one has yet to step forward, so Learning has decided to cancel a formal Sunday school for that one day. As an alternative and to encourage families to go to church, it was decided that we would be requesting Sunday School kids to attend church to help hand out a special surprise for the mothers that are attending. We hope this will prevent people from feeling like it is a day off from church.

§ **Fun With Faith**

Attendance for this program is still down with only 4 attending the last meeting. Tracie has agreed to coordinate the last 3 meetings. Learning feels that next year we will need to look at alternative ways to run this program. Currently, monthly family nights or events as well as evening programs are being considered. It was suggested that the focus remain on the kids so they will continue to form Christian relationships as they enter Confirmation and High School, but perhaps offering something for the parents at the same time may help to form bonds among the parents as well.

§ **High School Youth Report**

Youth Rep. Report

The high school youth is really looking forward to the 2009 summer youth gathering in New Orleans, and it is time to start thinking about fundraisers to cover the costs for this trip. The high-schoolers liked the idea of having the church youth band put on a concert for a source of funding. Perhaps selling youth based Mt. Cross T-shirts and CD's would be a way to include the entire youth group in the fund raising.

High school would also like more social time together. (e.g. getting together to play Ultimate Frisbee, etc.). They love the Coffee House on Saturday nights and would like to get together more often like that. They also like the Coffee Sundays and working in the church services and would like to see more activities like that as well. We feel we have a strong bond and would love to find ways to make it even stronger.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Fickenscher

§ **High School/Confirmation**

Pastor Erik reported that both High School and Confirmation are doing well.

§ **Library**

Ways to get the library out on a more regular basis was discussed. No one has stepped up to be the library coordinator, so Learning has decided to make the library less formal. When members arrive at church and see that the library is not out they will take it upon themselves to pull it out. Who ever pulls it out will then be responsible to make sure that it gets put away. Checking out of materials will also be less formal. Tracie will make a sign out/sign in sheet for people to check things out. The library will basically be run on an honor system. Learning figures it is better to make the library available to those who wish to use it than to worry about things being in perfect order.

§ **Adult Ed**

It was acknowledged that the woman=s bible study was again a huge success. Learning is hoping these studies will continue. Roman brought up the need for a men=s bible study and the committee agreed there was a strong need. Possible ideas to make this happen are family nights and small men's group bible studies. It was acknowledged that the families in our church need to be forming supportive Christian bonds. Adult Ed may be contacting the fellowship committee to realize ways to make this happen.

§ **VBS**

Learning acknowledges that this is Karen's 3rd year and Jessica's 2nd year coordinating VBS. Although Jessica said it could be a possibility that she run it one more year, Learning feels that someone new should be brought in and trained to take over at a future time. Karen and Jessica will contact possible people. VBS is running on schedule. They are ready for student sign ups. Karen feels they will be able to fill open teaching/helping positions as sign ups occur.

§ Meeting ended in prayer about 8:30. Next meeting will be Monday May5th at 7:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracie Fickenscher

Learning Meeting
March 11, 2008

Present: Pastor Erik, Tracie Fickenscher, Renae Rhodes

Meeting began about 9:15

The majority of the meeting dealt with Renae Rhodes departure from her current position as Children's Ministry Coordinator. Renae has done a wonderful job of updating each position, making recommendations and having packets ready for individuals to easily take over each area.

- **Fun with Faith**
 - Fun With Faith is currently down to 5 or 6 attending each week. This is somewhat typical for this time of the year. We have lost kids to soccer, Cinemagic and just busy schedules. Of concern to Learning members is the knowledge that some kids are no longer coming because of personality conflicts with those that are attending. Renae and Tracie have noticed that the picking on each other and name calling has begun happening with increased frequency. Learning is concerned. Should we still have a program? How do we deal with personality issues? Renae recommends more weekend events

that included the whole family to create a more family oriented fellowship. Maybe more offsite activities during the weeks would also help. She also suggested perhaps trying a Fall FWF that breaks at Christmas, and then just offer a few family events in the Spring. Learning will follow up in future meetings.

- FWF Renae's report. Renae has FWF organized until the last party. There is a need for recreation and craft the last meeting in April and the first meeting in May. The final party also needs to be organized. Tracie has agreed to take over FWF for the last 3 meetings.

- **Sunday School**

- Renae again submitted a detailed packet of where the program is at and what needs to be done.
- Renae reports that the PreK -2nd are pretty self sufficient. Both the teachers and the children seem to really enjoy the "Hands On" Sunday school curriculum. The 3rd-5th grades seem to work out the teachers and who does what between themselves just fine. They are also enjoying their curriculum. It was recommended by Renae that we order the Hands-On Bible Curriculum for the elementary grades again next year.
- It was noted that Josh is doing a fantastic job with the middle schoolers. (Yeah Josh!) Renae recommended that we approach Josh about possibly teaching the high schoolers next year. Josh is using Augsburg Fortress as a guideline for his class. He makes up his own student material. Learning all agreed that whatever he is doing must be working as his class is well attended and faithful. Renae recommends that we ask whoever teaches middle school next year what material they would like to use
- Renae noted that the high school seems to be the problem class. The High Schoolers seem to enjoy the offsite "refueling" events, but not the traditional Sunday school. It was noted that perhaps we should look at less organized lessons for this group. High school is also in need of Subs for the 4th Sunday of the month. It has been a real problem for Renae to find adults to take this week. It was recommended that perhaps we offer the High Schoolers two offsite events a month instead of traditional, weekly Sunday school. Learning will address again in the future.
- Learning discussed what will be done to cover the last 8-9 weeks of the Sunday school year. Learning feels it would be ideal to have one person take over for the remainder of this year and potentially next year. The names of Marta Hernandez, Chris Rebbe and Sharon Korzan all came up. Pastor Erik and Tracie will approach these people. If no new coordinator comes up, it

was agreed that the members of Learning may each take a Sunday acting as coordinator.

- It was briefly discussed as to whether a volunteer could permanently attend to Renae's duties. . Renae felt that that she liked having the position because everything in Children's Ministry is coordinated and run the same. The down side was that she felt people became "wary" when she walked by and most didn't want to volunteer to help. PE feels the position is nice, but perhaps some people didn't view Renae as a coordinator but more of the person who does everything and because it was a paid position, people didn't need to volunteer. If we have the position it should be because our program is so big that we need it. It was acknowledged that VBS is a huge volunteer project and was the reason that the position was created in the first place. Whether we have the position or not, more volunteers are direly needed!

- **VBS**

- Again, Renae submitted a detailed packet of where things are and what still needs to be done. Jessica Guzman is currently signed up as the VBS coordinator. It was hoped that Karen Thomton will act a co-coordinator since she has experience having done it last year. Learning will ask her immediately. Renae strongly suggests that she meet with the coordinators as soon as possible to go over individually what needs to be done as she will not be available after April 5th.
- A designation for the VBS offering was discussed and approved. It was decided that LRCC be the recipient of the monies to use for possible camp scholarships. Learning wanted to note that this recommendation came from Renae and not as a recommendation from Desta. LRCC camps are as close as an amusement park as Renae could find and it is felt that LRCC really needs financial help. The committee thought it was a great idea and cause because the camp is fairly local and used often by our own youth.
- Renae wanted to make sure that in her VBS report it was noted that an asterisk next to a volunteers name means these people need to be called when registration starts. They have been grandfathered in because of past full time volunteering. Before they register their children however, they need to commit to volunteering again this year.
- It was also recommended that as far as youth volunteering goes, we keep it to 7th graders (as this has been an understood promise to them) and mature high schoolers. We need to watch some youth in the Recreation area, especially if only youth are assigned to that area. Recreation would be best with either 4 mature adults or 1 adult with 2-3 mature youth volunteers.

- It was also suggested that the coordinators meet with snack people in early July to decide snacks. Then the coordinator should go out and buy snacks for the week. This should help prevent going over budget again in this area.
- Renae will write up budget for each area of VBS.
- **Nursery**
 - Renae reports that there is still no permanent nursery care worker. We received two applications for the position. Renae's top choice is Heather Anderson. The children seem to love her and she is responsible. Heather is only 17 years old until December though. Pastor Erik will call our insurance to clarify any age requirements regarding a permanent nursery worker. Learning is greatly concerned about the nursery situation and is afraid the current nursery might need to be shut down if a permanent, insurable worker can not be hired.
 - It was suggested that the other applicant be rotated in as a second helper with the other current helpers. Renae will make sure there are names down for workers through the end of April.
 - Learning has determined that we really need an adult in charge as key contact for the nursery. They would be in charge of buying juice, crackers, and disinfectants. They would also make sure we always have two attendants per service. Debbie Goebels name came up as a possibility.
- **Learning Committee**
 - Finally, Learning discussed our own committee. We need to follow up with Roman Spandrio to find out if he is still interested in being in charge of Adult Ed. We would also like to ask Andrea Peoples if she is interested in becoming a member. We believe Caroline Hobbs is going to continue as a committee member and Tracie has agreed to help the Council Liaison by being the unofficial chair.

Meeting closed approx. 11:00.

Next meeting will be Monday, April 7th at 7:00

Minutes prepared by Tracie Fickenscher

#update after Council Meeting: Linette Angelastro has agreed to be our Sunday School Coordinator at least through the end of the year.

**Learning Commission Meeting
Minutes November 20, 2007**

Present: Pastor Erik, Renae Rhodes, Tracie Fickenscher, Roman Spandrio, Caroline Hobbs

Pastor opened meeting with prayer approx. 7:45.

We welcome Roman Spandrio, who is considering the leadership role for our Adult Education Program.

Sunday School – Renae reports the average weekly attendance is 50-60 children. The Sunday School Christmas play is being coordinated by Char Wall, and all is reported to be going well. Question was raised about whether AI-Anon had been cancelled for the Saturday rehearsal. Renae reports that AI-Anon will not be cancelled. Caroline and Tracie voiced concern about a large number of children being onsite at the same time as adults who are not their teacher or parents. Renae to bring this concern to Char. Caroline reported that in years past AI-Anon had been asked to hold their meeting offsite on this day, to allow the children to safely move about the church grounds and bathrooms, as well as dress for rehearsal in their own familiar classroom with their teacher closely supervising them (this especially important for the youngest children.)

Renae reports that she has implemented that on Sunday mornings the playground is to be used only by grades 5th and under. This will help to ensure the safety of the younger children. The older children will be allowed a teacher supervised play area on the blacktop (which Renae will cone off).

Fun With Faith – Renae reports all going well. A reminder to consider bringing back Christmas Caroling as a FWF December activity for 2008. Please calendar this reminder for 08.

VBS – Renae shared the Augsburg Fortress program for 08. On the surface, the bible lessons appear to be bible stories that make mention of plants. The theme is Rain Forest/ Recycling. The review of all publishers' materials will again be in January. Renae may not need to attend if we review the products online ahead of time. Renae will email to all of learning committee the websites of the 4 top VBS publishers so we can review the materials/subject theme and report our preferences at the January learning meeting.

Library – Still in need of a coordinator. Caroline needs to advertise and actively seek someone to run or revamp the library.

Nursery – Renae reports the 2 staff positions in the nursery are still not filled. They have been open for several months, with volunteers watching the kids. The committee advised that we must advertise to fill the positions in the local paper. Tracie suggests putting up a notice at CFS. We discussed the salary range being \$8.50-\$10.00 per hour, with the personnel committee needing to approve the increase up to \$10. (currently approved for \$8.50) PE will obtain approval from Personnel Committee, and Renae will place the advertisement in the paper.

Adult Ed. – PE and Caroline briefed Roman on Adult Education, explaining who has recently run the program, as well as what his role as leader of the program would entail.

Pastor Erik presented materials for 2 group studies that he and Pastor John would like to implement after the first of the year. The first focuses on parenting younger children, and the second is focused toward parenting teens. Both are bible based. We discussed at length which evening of the week might work best for a majority, as well as what setting would work best. For the teen program, Roman suggests securing a core group of 3 couples who can commit to the 6 week program, and build from there. Also suggested was holding the program on Wednesday evening, during Confirmation, targeted to the parents of Confirmation kids.

The study for younger children could include the Child Development Center, Renae suggests.

Pastor Erik will take suggestions and review them with Pastor John.

PJ is looking into a 2-part Spirit Café which examines the holocaust.

Close of business - Caroline will conclude her time on the committee in January 08, as both Chair and as Liaison to Church Council. Tracie will also be at the end of her commitment period. We discussed that the Learning Committee should be comprised of several volunteers, as well as Renae & PE. Historically, Learning has been made up of the leaders of our youth and adult ministry programs; however, now that Renae leads the children's programs, the congregation has less of the congregational input into the development of our youth ministry programs. We discussed recruiting new volunteers to serve on the learning committee, preferably people who are active in the youth ministry programs.

Next Meeting – We discussed the date for the next meeting. Roman will check his calendar and see if he is available Tuesday, January 8th, however we need to verify this is not a church council night.

Meeting closed with prayer approx. 9:45.

***Please come to the next learning meeting having reviewed the VBS programs so that we can make an informed decision.**

Minutes prepared by Caroline Hobbs

Learning Committee Meeting Minutes 9/11/07

Attending: Pastor Erik, Renae Rhodes, Caroline Hobbs, Karen Thomton, Tracie Fickenscher

VBS- Renae provided breakdown of expenses and income. Also a breakdown of children and helpers (attached). Renae provided a breakdown of the volunteer comments. The majority of feedback was very positive, with a few suggestions for change. 118 children (similar to previous year.) 16 kids turned away this year. May have to revisit the number of youth helpers next year as there were so many on site. We again discussed and determined that we all agree that Mt. Cross should continue charging a fee for this program, as paying a fee secures the commit. The fee is needed to cover the costs of cd's, t-shirts & plates. Pastor Erik suggested being more intentional in making people aware of scholarships.

Sunday School – SS starts Renae reports we are all set to go. We have only 1 teacher in middle school. We discussed the pro's & con's of having the Sunday school opening in sanctuary and how to make the logistics work for all. We again discussed revisiting a 2 service schedule, reviewing the pro's and con's. Caroline suggested that anyone who would like this looked into should draft a letter to church council. PE will bring forward to council the idea to have SS opening during 2nd service.

FWF- All going well. VBS theme will continue. Tracie is doing craft. Pastors are doing bible story and opening. Sign in at 3:45 w/ start at 4:00. Parents to do snack and drink & will be volunteer for the day to lead games and recreation.

Confirmation - Pastor Erik reports parent Orientation 9/19. 1st confirmation starts 9/26. PE reports being a little short on guides, but enough to run the program. We have completed our 1st time having gone thru a 3 year cycle. We discussed the discipline procedure, as Tracie noted it might be best for the children to have positive discipline, rather than negative. Additional guide training might be the solution to this, per PE. Never ending night on Oct. 5th. PE would like to see PLC have all the stuff cleared out to allow for more floor space and less cramped quarters for the kids. Some ideas are to remove older podium, eliminate all tv's by returning them to their old storage areas. Library carts need a different home. PE will discuss with Properties.

High School youth – Pastor Erik reports they are planning 2 evening events per month. One at the Peace Lutheran Coffee house. The other will be youth gathering or a service event. Trying to promote Sunday mornings as part of youth time. A youth leadership committee will be discussed at the Orientation on 9/15.

Adult Ed. Need a replacement for Carol Paul, who stepped down as coordinator. (thank you to Carol). The job description would be for someone who could step up as an occasional leader, Coordinate Sunday mornings and schedule Spirit Café's. Caroline to put an ad in the grapevine. & thank you to Carol.

Strategic Planning feedback- It had been so many months since we originally discussed planning, that we were a little at a loss for what Strategic planning was looking for. We discussed that we would like to recommend that we have more space, specifically a youth room. We discussed that we would like Strategic Planning to look into putting in portables for the time being. This could be where youth meet, Sunday School opening, High school SS group. There was some discussion about the storage shed that Rick Mann had mentioned was being permanently built on back of lot. PE didn't know about it, and Caroline and Renae only had limited info on it, having just been told by Rick Mann about it at church the past Sunday. PE to address at council tonight. After discussion, everyone on learning questioned the need for a permanent structure, rather we should look into a tuff shed or other type of movable /portable structure. This could then be sold off or moved as needed. We would also like a portable building to be looked into as an option to get us thru the time of capital campaign.

Library – Put ad in grapevine requesting library coordinator. Renae suggests that we tailor the job description. Caroline will work on this.

Need replacement for Caroline Hobbs as chair on learning after December 2007. Caroline asked Tracie to consider being chair of the committee. We would still need a council liaison.

Next meeting Tuesday, October 2nd @ 9:00am

Minutes prepared by Caroline Hobbs

Council items:

*We discussed the dates of VBS to the week of July 21-July 25. This would allow PE to attend the Youth Gathering the following week, also for Mt. Cross to participate in the National Block Party (date for 2008 needs to be confirmed). We feel that pushing off VBS to the week of Aug 4-8th is pushing it back into the month too far. Caroline to advise council of dates, also request Fellowship to look into fitting the block party into their schedule for 2008.

*Ask council for feedback on some candidates for Adult Education leader.

Learning Commission Meeting May 1, 2007
Minutes

Present: Pastor Erik, Caroline Hobbs, Karen Vieira, Karen Thomton (went home sick), Renae Rhodes

Council Communications:

Budget deficit – We reviewed the current income/budget situation, as requested at council.

Possible/Proposed change to summer schedule - discussed that Worship & Music and council need to discuss a request to change to 2 summer services.

Charging for Educational Opportunities: Karen Thomton gathered some info together. Padre Serra charges \$100. per child/per year CCD. Little Church (4&5 yr old) \$50. per child during Sunday Service. She reports that all other churches charge for VBS. Upon reviewing minutes when this topic was presented last year, the minutes fro Learning 10/03/06 state as follows: *We discussed the totals from VBS 06. There was an increase in the cost of materials & supplies, etc. The actual cost of VBS 05 was \$3822. / 06 was \$4548. Due to this, the committee decided unanimously that the VBS needs to be increased to \$20. per student (up \$5.00 from prior years).*

Renaë to provide spreadsheet showing what other churches charge, etc. We all maintain that charging for our programs is needed to keep them to the quality level that they are at.

***New Members** – Renaë is making contact with and welcoming all new families.

Strategic Planning: We brought the committee up to speed. We discussed that building issues are coming up and need input from Learning on the needs of our youth programs. PE asked “What are we doing & what do we plan for in the next 10 years”.

We discussed and prioritized with the most important being as follows:

- 1st *Large multi-purpose room that can be divided & used for several youth functions. We see a current ability to grow FWF. We would like the option to be able to separate the 7 & 8 grade Sunday school classes from the High School classes. We suggest considering utilizing the upstairs of the church offices.

- Additional areas of concern that need attention :

*Library area

*The Craft room now used only for CDC – no exit

*The PLC free of everything but chairs & tables – cluttered.

*Portable storage for chairs & tables.

*Meet with CDC to discuss their needs and how we might better work with them.

*Media storage & designated spaces for items

What do we want to accomplish for our ministry? Nurture the next generation into their Christian faith.

Adult Ed.

Approx. \$130. (suggested donation) raised at Tim Smith event to offset the \$500. cost. His lecture was well received. Approx. 25 people attended. A cross section of people attended.

Renae mentioned that Carol Paul may be relocating out of state? Caroline to check with Carol.

Possible topic of Spirit Café' has been requested to be presented by a member of the congregation– Healing homosexuality. We discussed that both sides of topic could be presented as we felt that not everyone feels it is a "condition' requiring healing. We discussed that the ELCA has not made a firm stand on the position of the church on this topic, so both sides would have to be presented. We discussed that this topic might best be held at the home of the person who would like to make the presentation. PE will take our suggestions and discuss further with PJ.

Youth & Confirmation:

3 confirmations left. PE will set up a time for 8th grade kids to practice their God Story speech. Kidnap breakfast for kids on Saturday morning- May 19th. PE wants to help the 8th grade kid's transition into high school so he will possibly set up a get together immediately following confirmation Sunday.

El Camino Pines summer camp– small group has said they are going.

VBS

- Need to arrange the weekend before the start of VBS for support groups to not be on premises.
- June 8th/June 9th date set for Caroline & Karen T. to work on backdrops
- Hot Dog BBQ before VBS program, rather than ice cream social afterwards. Renae to work this into budget.
- Service project: canned goods daily also, the daily offerings plus basket to raffle with proceeds going to food share.

Sunday school

Easter Sunday: No volunteers to help with egg hunt. Renae doesn't feel a craft is necessary next year as not too many kids showed up. Tracie emailed that the breakfast went well and she had plenty of help, both kids and parents.

Video for Memorial Weekend.

Mother's day craft – no one has volunteered

Father's day craft & volunteer brunch – no volunteers to help.

In future maybe do a "Family craft". Renae will review. She still needs help with Mothers and Fathers day activities.

FWF

Propose we start at 3:45 next year. We will discuss this at the next meeting.

Tracie's "term" with FWF is up. We thank her for her contribution to our church family. Learning would welcome her continued attendance and input at our Learning meetings, as we feel we need a larger "group" to help make decisions that affect the learning programs at Mt. Cross. We hope she will prayerfully consider staying on as an advisor at Learning, but understand if she has other commitments.

Library

Karen to check on times PLC is available for her to clean up and set up the library. Also, she will set up a return box in church office.

Next meeting June 5 @ 9:30.

Minutes prepared by Caroline Hobbs

Learning Committee Minutes
March 6, 2007

Attending: Pastor Erik, Renae Rhodes, Tracie Fickenscher, Caroline Hobbs

- Barbara Burrow started a new job at CSUCI. She had to resign early from learning due to her new job. We thank her for her dedication to the learning committee and the children of Mt. Cross. We wish her much success at her new job.
- Caroline volunteered to Chair Learning, unless someone else wishes to chair the committee.
- Council Communications: New janitor company now cleaning the church. They will not be doing table set up. We all need to be aware that we will need to put tables back into the positions needed for the following activities.
- Lenten Supper: Learning is on for 3/14 Lenten supper. We have the following people preparing the following soups: Tracie-Bean Soup, Renae-Lentil Soup, Caroline-Chicken Noodle & rolls Karen T.-(open) Carol P (open). We are asked to have one vegetarian soup. Arrive at 5:00. We'll need to do set up, serving and clean up. Also return the tables for CDC the following day.

VBS-

- Caroline reminded all that in past years, the Learning committee had to approve the curriculum selected, not just the directors. We all discussed that Learning did

approve of the theme for 07, and this was just a matter that needed to be of record.

- We discussed and approved that previous years volunteers can register their children with church members if they have worked VBS week full time the year before, or in the past.

Adult Ed –

- Caroline advised & confirmed thru previous minutes (10/3/06) that Carol had requested \$1,000. for her 07 budget. Minutes reflect that this was to allow for 10 speakers per year at an average of \$50.-\$150. per speaker.
- 3/27 Tim Smith, speaker date set. Carol requesting RSVP's. PE to confirm (newsletter) that we are advertising that a person must RSVP for child care. Child care will be provided to members only at the upcoming Spirit Café. The event is being advertised on radio, church newsletter, The Acorn and other places. No one has RSVP'd yet. \$5.00 per person, \$8.00 per couple.
- Word & Worship workshop- PE reports approx. 8 people attended.
- Funeral workshop – PE reports approx 40 showed up. May do another in the future.
- New sexuality study on hold for the time being.

Youth/Confirmation:

- Renae & PE working with Thrivent to match funds for Easter Breakfast. Reese Anderson working to co-coordinate with Tracie & PE.
- H.S. Youth trip – 8/12-8/18. Backpacking/Rafting/Hiking trip near Placerville. Rockin'Water Christian camp. PE estimates 20 kids with 2 adult chaperones and 3 guides from the camp.
- Crop Walk coming up. Gordon Henry to speak to confirmation class to get more youth signed up.

Sunday school –

- Renae looking to buy (4) CD players. \$\$ coming out of designated. Renae researching new SS materials 07/08. She would like all classes to be learning the same theme weekly.
- We confirmed that SS is cancelled on 4/29 due to the Santa Paula campout.
- Revolution 2, video curriculum for teen class in Fall 07.

FWF-

- Renae would like to set up next year with both whole groups and centers. Bible telling, music, art, recreation, snack. Renae researched 2 new curriculums and recommends the Gospel Late curriculum. It would follow the same theme as VBS, including the same music. It will be advertised as a continuation of the VBS program. Learning approved the use of this new 13 week program for Fall 07. Great way to tie VBS & FWF together.
- We discussed if a children's choir is going to form. We discussed different scenarios in which this might work. Nothing definite at this time. Mothers day perhaps. We discussed that the SS kids could sing at the end of 1st service, beginning of 2nd then go to SS, & beginning of 3rd.

No April Learning meeting.

May 1st for next Learning meeting 9:30am. NOTE NEW TIME

Caroline to send email reminders out prior to meetings.

Minutes prepared by Caroline Hobbs

Learning Committee Minutes

December 5, 2006

Attending: Barbara Burrow, Pastor Erik, Renae Rhodes, Caroline Hobbs, & Scott Ingram (filling in for Carol Paul)

Council communications: Discussed budget for 07. Discussed annual reports needed by 12/31.

High School – Christmas party this coming Saturday at the Avery's. Christmas nativity, Renae is heading up & all going well. The Nativity Story movie & H.S. & Jr. High movie, followed by dinner at church – Friday 12/15

PE will be meeting w/youth minister from Northridge to plan summer trip.

Event in San Francisco – Battle Cry. Leave on Friday evening, come home Sunday morning. PE considering this as an event for February 07.

Confirmation- Caroling next Wednesday 12/13. Winter camp signups are started.

Youth band will be playing at the Jr. High Winter Camp.

Sunday School – Christmas play on target. Attendance figures lower for November. SS Kids singing at Hanging of the Greens.

VBS – Renae will request Diana R & Karen T to write up annual report. She still needs final accounting for 2006 from them. Jessica Guzman will attend VBS info meeting in January with Renae & Karen

FWF- 12-14 onsite. 14-18 offsite, average attendance.
Western Institute of Zooligy, in Camarillo. Scott suggests this as a place for a field trip. Native plant garden. New Camarillo library and revamped Camarillo swimming pool.
Library – No new coordinator to date.

Adult Ed.- Still working on minor prophets. Scott suggests having a blurb in each week's Sunday bulletin what the topic is and where being held.

Good discussion at last Spirit Café. Topic was separation of church and state. 8-10 people attended.

Roman & Angela Spandrio expressed interest in starting an in home bible group.

Women's bible study starting Jan 9. Video driven. Tuesday evenings 6:30pm.

Scott mentioned possible Spirit Café speaker. World affairs council – Dr. Herb Gooch. PE to research. Barb also mentioned child and family speaker. PE to research.

Skipping January meeting.

Next meeting February 06, 2007. 10:00am.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00.

Minutes prepared by Caroline Hobbs

Learning Committee Meeting

Minutes 11/07/06

Present: Pastor Erik, Caroline Hobbs, Barbara Burrow, Renae Rhodes.

We reviewed last months minutes and approved.

We discussed council communications. We discussed what impact PJ's sabbatical will have on learning programs. It may affect VBS, but Renae has a backup for bible storyteller.

High School & Confirmation

HS. Event w/relay for life. PE would organize it a little differently next year.

14-15 kids at the Avery's house for first bible study night

Food share event 7 kids helped.

Confirmation event at Trinity Pres. Church. Approx. 14 kids attended. New family attended. They found us through our website.

Caroling at Christmas time and food share project in December for Confirmation.

Christmas party planned at the Avery's house.

Youth Band has been happening on and off. PE trying to book them playing at Winter Camp. PE doesn't feel the band is ready to play yet at Sunday service, so they will continue to practice. There is a faithful group but has had some hit and miss at practices because of sport events, etc.

Winter Camp in January. Sign ups in December. 6-8th grades & 9th-12th grades groupings.

Renaë suggests doing fundraisers to help fund camps.

Sunday School

Attendance fluctuations. Attendance awards planned for perfect and almost perfect attendance.

Snack discussion – decided to do outdoors (during Christmas play song practice time) rather than cut into class & song time.

Christmas play: Advertise to CDC & do sign at end of street.

PLC opening PE likes better. He asked us to keep in mind having the opening in the church, during the 2nd service, in the fall.

FWF

Going well. 13-16 core group. 1st – 5th grades. Renaë was asked to lower to Kindergarten. She will open up to Kindergarten in January. Learning thinks a good idea. See how it goes and open to Kindergarten in the fall 07.

VBS

Workshop in January. Camarillo Community. Karen Thomton, Jessica Guzman and Renaë will attend. \$10. per person.

Adult Ed

Spirit Café – Prop 86 was last topic. Tonight: separation of church and state issue. Need more planned for the coming year. Need to come up with a grabbing topic.

Adult SS. 10 people average attendance. Minor prophets topics.

Womens Bible Study possibly in the spring. Jesus, The One & Only. Barb is researching this.

Library

Need coordinator.

Minutes prepared by Caroline Hobbs

Learning Committee Minutes 09/05/06

Attending: Pastor Erik (Confirmation & H.S. Youth), Barbara Burrow (Chair and Library), Tracie Fickenscher (Fun With Faith), Caroline Hobbs (recording secretary), Diana Rose (outgoing VBS coordinator).

Also attending: Welcome to Carol Paul (Adult Ed) and Renae Rhodes (newly hired as our Children's Ministry Leader), both now (re)joining the committee.

Opened with devotion lead by Barbara.

Council communication: Caroline had not attended the July council meeting. Council minutes were reviewed and little pertaining to learning appeared to have been addressed.

Safeguarding God's Children – Program to do background check on all adults working with children in our Children's Ministry Programs. A program is set in place, per Renae. Background checks will be done using Social Security number rather than fingerprints. Cost is \$30-\$40 per person. Pastor John will be the only person who will enter the data and see results. A form will be filled out by adult volunteers and given to Renae (so Renae can keep track of things.) Renae will converse with volunteers who might be unwilling to fill out the necessary paperwork to determine issues. In addition to the form, there is an online training seminar on what to watch out for, how to spot child abuse, etc. available thru the Boy Scouts of America website. We will be modeling the Boy Scouts program and will be using their online seminar and certificate. This will satisfy the requirements of our insurance company, as well as provide the training felt necessary to insure we have done due diligence in training our volunteers. The test is a 25-question test. Certificate will be printable and is necessary for all volunteers to do. Renae has a packet prepared for all volunteers and will follow up with all volunteers who do not attend the SS training seminar.

High School Youth – Pastor Erik reporting

- Megan Burrow and Kelsey Rhodes from Mt. Cross attended the National Youth gathering this past summer (they went with the Northridge youth group). PE would like them to share with the congregation their experience, and thank congregation for the funds provided for them in attending the gathering
- Rafting trip summer 06. The group stayed in downtown Sacramento and got to go to the state capitol and tour with a Lutheran representative.
- Spirit Central at Cal Lutheran. Regional wide @ T.O. “Silver Ring Thing” abstinence awareness concert/seminar. Sept. 24. PE to promote this event. Learning advises advertising start ASAP.
- Regarding H.S. youth group, (1st & 3rd Saturdays per month) PE would like to have family’s host 2 nights per year for in-home gatherings. Learning suggests both not be in the same month. PE trying to decide if there should be additional get togethers.
- Youth band is starting up again. Fridays twice a month 4-5:00.
- PE looking into the Boy Scouts program called “Venturing” and how we might tailor it to work for Mt. Cross. This might provide some formal training and structure.

Confirmation – PE has enough guides, but would like to have a couple others as backup.

Rally Day Sunday 9/10/06 - Renae reports that all is set for Rally Day. There will be registration for FWF and SS. Tracy will man FWF table and Diana and Karen/VBS will have a table for VBS plates.

Sunday School – Renae reporting:

- Snack signups at SS table on Rally Day and after. Jessica Guzman overseeing snacks. Monetary donations preferred. Healthier snacks planned.
- Concordia curriculum is ordered but not in yet. (It did arrive later in the day after our meeting)
- We reviewed the SS calendar prepared by Renae, and discussed dates that there would be no Sunday school (due to Memorial day camping, Mothers Day, Fathers Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, etc.
- SS currently over budget. Renae will review spending and identify needs for coming year.
- Renae will be handling weekly SS craft, as no one has volunteered. Additionally, no one has stepped forward to be Renae’s “key” volunteer for SS. Diana suggested that the teachers keep track of weekly attendance and depositing of offering. This will free Renae up to make contact with parents, especially of new students.
- SS opening – We discussed that the leaders would be PE, PJ and Jim Gucciardo, all on a rotation schedule. I asked Renae to check with Louise Loftquist to see if she is available. The opening can be held in the PLC after 11/06. (Scott Fajnor will be holding his annual “introduction to the Bible” for the first 3 regular weeks of SS, utilizing the PLC) Caroline asked that there be a more intentional opening, with the days lesson previewed and addressed. The music leaders should know what the lesson of the day is so they can select appropriate songs and perhaps provide an intro to the lesson.

- Guests of SS will receive a “welcoming bag” filled with the schedule, registration form and treats. A great way to introduce our program/church to guests.
- Birthday bags for birthday/anniversary.
- No “stock store” this year. Gift certificates for attendance and teacher awarded attitude. Renae has procured many donations from restaurants/retailers for this.

Fun With Faith – Tracy reporting.

- Tracy and Renae have met and determined roles.
- T-shirts to be made at the first meeting. Postcards will be going out to students inviting attendance.
- 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month for FWF. One pastor will teach onsite. Renae will be here onsite at beginning of gathering. She will not attend the offsite events.
- Renae will be handling the administrative tasks.
- Discussed inviting the neighborhood by handing out flyers door-to-door, utilizing the youth group and/or confirmation kids for this task. Also discussed hanging a large banner on the Tuesday before FWF to remind the neighborhood we are having FWF and all are invited.

VBS – Diana Rose reporting

- \$1359.63 raised for Project Peace. Full report at next Learning meeting. Diana will have numbers together, as well as information for Caroline to take to Council, pertaining to continuing/changing the student cost for VBS in the future.

Adult Ed. – Carol Paul reporting.

- Location of Adult SS? We discussed trying out the patio again, displaying the topics for discussion on the display board on the patio each Sunday.
- Carol needs an assistant. Suggested she ask pastors to introduce her to empty nester, newer members who may have careers in education.
- We discussed Spirit Café and felt that every other month was a reasonable gap between sessions.
- PE will be researching starting an ongoing evening adult bible study group, as he now has Tuesday evenings available due to Jon Vevia leading the praise band.

Library – Barbara Burrow reporting.

- Need 2 more volunteers. Carts are getting heavier. Suggested asking high schoolers to volunteer on library cart, towards their service hours. They could wheel the books into the smaller kids and read them a story.

Additional Discussion: Renae Rhodes as Children's Ministry Leader

- We must introduce Renae to the congregation with a formal welcome. We suggested Rally Day Sunday.
- Renae to work with CDC to invite kids to SS and FWF (older siblings).
- There was discussion that Renae has not been able to procure a "key" volunteer for SS. Also, need volunteer (s) to run the Christmas program. We discussed how we might help her to procure volunteers. We discussed that newer members need to be asked to volunteer and Renae needs to be introduced to them. Caroline suggests that Learning, as a group, go thru the church directory and identify new members and/or members with children, who are not currently volunteering in any way. Christmas program planning needs to be started in early October.

Meeting closed with a prayer led by Pastor Erik.

Next meeting date not noted. Ask that Barbara please confirm with Learning members.

Minutes prepared by Caroline Hobbs

Learning Committee Minutes June 16, 2006

Attending: Pastor Erik, Karen Thomton, Diana Rose, Tracie Fickenscher, Caroline Hobbs, Barbara Burrow

Council Communication: Children's ministry Leader. Caroline advised that the ad is currently running in the grapevine. PE says he believes there are applicants at this time. It is also being advertised to the CDC at this time.

Also, Caroline did not take the increase of VBS fee to council at the last meeting because she planned to take it directly after VBS ends. It was mentioned that 2 churches are now charging for VBS (Crossroads and Trinity Pres.)

Learning restructuring- CML would be taking the place of the "coordinators", so how would learning be structured? Who would be left to be on the Learning "committee"? Barb likes the idea of having reps from the congregation as a guidance committee. Caroline reminded everyone of the important decisions and changes made to children's ministry, which have taken place due to the input of the "learning committee". If we do away with the committee, who would provide input for sound changes? Would we need monthly meetings? Also noted was that the CML would need someone from each position to guide them thru the 1st year in each position. We discussed that the CML will have a key assistant(s) in each position to help them effectively run the

programs, and free the CML up to promote and encourage attendance, greet children and parents, etc.

Personnel committee action item: Regards to the CML – Thanks to Karen and Paul for their work on preparing for the hiring and interviewing. How many applicants to date? When will we open the position to the public? Learning feels we should look outside of our church for applicants. One of the strong requirements of the job is someone who is outgoing with an emphasis on public relations skills, and Learning wants to reiterate this. Since we are looking for someone who also is a Christian and attends church, Karen T. suggests Christianjobs.com (her husband has dealt with them in the past.) Also, Cal-Lutheran might be a great place to find someone who is just starting out in ministry. Also, an ad at Christian Family Supply (contact Paul or Jane Rudd) would be helpful. Caroline will ask Paul and Karen for status and input on all of these ideas, as well as follow up on these suggestions for advertising. Caroline will Email status to Learning members as things progress. We discussed that Caroline was welcomed by personnel to sit in on the interviews, but would have no voting right.

Safeguarding God's Children – VBS was asked by PJ to implement the SGC with this year's VBS volunteers. Diana and Karen feel they have their hands full with running the VBS program and getting ready for the upcoming teachers meeting to fully implement the SGC. We discussed how we could explain why and advise the volunteers that our goal is to get everyone fingerprinted, etc. for the future. Could the mobile unit come out to our teacher meeting? PE explained we need to show the insurance company to that we are doing due diligence to implement the SGC. PE says he and PJ can mail or hand out the forms to the VBS volunteers and fully explain the need to get this

done. He may have Marilyn mail them out. Caroline asked if perhaps someone outside of learning would be willing to head up the SGC program, as everyone on learning is heavily active in their own area of ministry. Learning feels the SGC task is an enormous one, and will require one person's full attention. Perhaps a new person who has joined the church or someone involved in law enforcement? Perhaps someone retired?

Footnote for clarity – Who has determined that Learning is felt to be the committee, which would best handle the SGC – Personnel, pastors, council? I was not able to provide this info to Learning, although I was at a meeting of Personnel where we discussed this topic.

VBS –

- Music to PE. Diana asked if Erik could have the songs sorted out per class in time for the meeting. Jon Vevia will be on board this year to help with music.
- All is in order and on schedule. Teacher meeting upcoming June 28th.

Sunday School –

- Next year PE would like to see the opening in the PLC.
- Caroline suggests that the new CML should promote songs to the kids, with the intention of getting the kids into church to sing once a month. This will increase attendance at worship by their parents.
- SS sign up at VBS Thursday night program. PE reminded us that we needed to make sure this happens. We will know by our July 11 learning meeting if the CML leader will be doing this or if we need someone else.
- Teacher recruitments for Fall? Barb will call Travis and Hilleri to ask them if they can start recruiting for Fall 06.

- Diana suggests a reminder to come back in the fall and save the date for Rally Day & 1st day of SS. We needed to confirm these dates, and didn't have the church calendar in the PLC to do so.

FWF –

- Slide in attendance down to 10. Tracie was concerned with how we might restructure. Would a different time be better? PE reminded us that this was designed as an opportunity to have our own kids to come back to church to build relationships with church kids. We discussed it being broken down into (2) 6 or 7-week segments.
- Caroline suggested inviting the neighborhood kids to attend (next year)– also the kids at the Las Posas school military housing area.

Confirmation & Youth –

- 5/17/06 is the last confirmation of the season.
 - Beach day in July. Perhaps hooking up with Trinity pres. For a beach day.
 - 2 going to national youth conference in San Antonio. Kelsey Rhodes and Megan Burrows. 10th –17th of July. Perhaps have them do a presentation to the church upon their return and departure.
 - June 25th – Pool party at the Burrows home.
-
- There are 15 youth going rafting/3 adults. Rafting in Sacramento 1 ½ days to the capital & service projects. 2 days rafting on the American river, then return home.
 - Bible studies are in people's homes. PE enjoys having the studies in homes. 5-10 people regularly attend.

- Confirmation kids, who have graduated out, should have regular jobs at church – greeters and communion assistants. This would keep them and families coming to church after graduation.
- PE put out an idea for the future of our Confirmation. Youth group at 6th, 7th, 8th and have Confirmation later in 9 & 10 grades. 11th & 12th come back as helpers.
 - 1) this would keep the kids involved in church later,
 - 2) 2) Older kids are more focused on their faith. Some members of learning voiced concern. This will be discussed further at a later date.

Adult Education – Barbara reported there is a women’s Bible Study Living Free this coming June. It was also mentioned there could be a morning bible study during preschool hours.

Library – Hospice and healthcare tapes donated by Norm Williamson. Barb feels like the library needs to be rethought or restructured. It is not being used very much. Caroline suggests the SS teachers bring their classes to the library. Also suggested that the 1&2 grades use the Early Readers Bibles. We have so many of them and they are not being used.

Next meeting July 11th. Minutes prepared by Caroline Hobbs
Meeting adjourned approx. 9:45

Learning Committee Meeting Minutes 4/4/06

Attending: Caroline Hobbs, Diana Rose, Travis Carlsen, Hilleri Jennings.

Council Communications

Pastor Erik and Diana Rose were concerned that the wording in the CML job description has been changed Learning Commission's original intent of the job. Diana and Erik feel that the CML should take the place of the coordinators. They requested that the wording "assist key volunteers" be corrected to "recruit volunteer assistant". Learning wants to clarify that there will not be "2" coordinators. Diana and Erik feel that this person is to take the place of each coordinator, not be in addition to a coordinator.

**On 4/5/06 P.E. and Caroline spoke regarding this issue. Caroline went back through her notes and was able to remind PE that the CML position was originally taken to Church Council, and approved by church council, as being that of an overseer and manager of these programs. The CML will have the important task of bringing more children into the programs, as well as facilitate growth and vitalization of the programs. This will be best done by the CML overseeing the programs, rather than running them alone. The help of key volunteers in each program will be critical to the CML being able to work on growth and (re) vitalization of the programs.

Sunday School

We discussed changing curriculum in the coming year. Current curriculum is reported by many of the teachers to be poor. Liturgical calendar is currently being followed, but

it was discussed that many children don't go to church after Sunday school, and the impact of following the liturgical calendar may be lost to a number of the children. We would like the new CMC to research new curriculums and bring them to Learning to discuss and approve prior to changing. Group, Gospel Light, Augsburg Fortress, Concordia.

No Sunday school on Easter, Mothers Day, or Memorial Weekend.

Also, too many teachers missing on June 4th, due to Santa Paula campout. A movie day is planned instead.

Need to get a SS calendar for the rest of the year in the Grapevine, and a letter to all teachers telling them the dates for the rest of the year.

Teacher appreciation? List names in newsletter and acknowledge at worship on June 11th.

Teen class needs to do a thank you for Pete. Hilleri to handle this.

Caroline will not be returning to lead the opening, but is happy to play guitar if needed. She will discuss with Jim. PE says to discuss in the fall moving the opening to the Parish Life Center.

FWF

All seems to be going well. Not sure if fire station trip has been rescheduled and also if pool party has been scheduled.

VBS

Registration starts April 30th.

Teacher workshop is proposed for June 28th @ 7 PM

Sharon Korzan wrote a letter to Learning (attached) asking Learning to reconsider an increasing in charging for VBS. Trinity Presbyterian, United Methodist, Camarillo Christian Church, Family Baptist. All offer a free program.

We agreed to leave the charge this year at \$15. this year, but agreed to discuss offering the program for free in the future. We discussed the impact this would have on the church budget. Increase of approx \$1800. This change will be looked into in the fall.

Confirmation

Easter breakfast. Barb burrow and Rene Rhodes are in charge and report all is going well.

Lent confirmation 3rd week of May will be the last confirmation night. Confirmation Sunday is May 21st.

Push for camp July 23-28th.

High School

Joining first Lutheran in Northridge this coming Sunday. 2 students from Mt. Cross will be going to the National Youth Gathering. Possibly white water rafting for the 8th graders starting high school in the fall.

Tijuana trip. PE needs to make phone calls.

Youth Bands- A 2nd group met this past Friday. PE discussed combining the 2 groups into one solid. He would like them to, on occasion, lead worship and possibly help with the SS opening in the fall.

Future Council item: May offer VBS for free in the future. This will be an item for further discussion at council in the fall.

Item for Personnel Committee:

CML – Rewrite description to change wording of “assist key volunteer”

Meeting adjourned approx 9:15.

Minutes prepared by Caroline Hobbs

Learning Commission Meeting

Minutes 03/07/06

Attending: Diana Rose (covering VBS for herself and Karen Thomton) Tracie Fickenscher (FWF) Caroline Hobbs (Council Liaison/secretary) Pastor Erik (Youth & Confirmation) Barbara Burrow (Chairperson)

Not Attending: Scott Ingram (adult Ed), Hillary Jennings (Sunday School-out with the flu)

Council Communications from Council retreat 2/06

A reminder that funds requests from Make-it-bake-it fundraiser dinner are to go to service& missions group (attention Cy Johnson) Deadline is 3/10/06.

WELCA – “Passing the torch” – distributed to Learning as follows:

*Lutheran world relief kits (formerly handled by WELCA) – this is a project for Fun With Faith. Info passed on to Tracie. Contact Mary Goodenough for more info.

*Bake sales fine for Sunday School project, as recently held by Pete Johnson & the Teen Sunday School class.

Info for Caroline to take to council or pass on info to other committees:

*Children’s Ministry Leader position– recommendation stands that Learning still wants the position filled, regardless of research into church wide strategic planning& studies. Learning feels the children’s programs are suffering and need the leadership the CML position will bring.

*Warren fund – special ELCA fund to provide \$\$ for educational purposes to congregations. Ask properties to research. We need canopies for VBS. (Per conversation w/ Rick Mann, he has been advised and will be researching canopies this spring. I will ask Marilyn to get him Warren fund info, he will take it from there)

*Learning would like to ask Fellowship Committee to coordinate with Learning committee if a campout is planned, so we know if we need to cancel Sunday School or not. In the past, and planned for this year, we have not held SS on Memorial weekend and if many teachers/families go to the Santa Paula June 4th campout, we may also need to cancel SS again. We will need to know how many teachers will be attending Santa Paula so we can cancel Sunday School if necessary. We would like to ask Fellowship to, in the future, promote the Memorial Day campout as a fellowship event. No “planning” is necessary, just advertising& a local per to contact with questions (for new people attending) Caroline will volunteer to be the contact person. We would like to support LRCC, as they are in a restructuring status and need our support to continue to operate. (Caroline will email this info to Melinda, rather than take it to council)

Sunday School

*Teen Class - Pete Johnson needs to step down from teaching teen class due to new job and studying for the California Bar exam. We wish him much success. Barb to ask Scott Fajnor and Kevin Churchill to possibly cover for him.

*Need Sunday school attendance numbers brought to the Learning Committee meeting every month.

*Where is the Sunday School book to hand off to Hilleri & Travis?

*Need info about Easter morning given to Hilleri & Travis. Easter Egg hunt & craft need to be advertised in the grapevine. Hilleri can ask Caroline or Barb for this info.

Youth and Confirmation

*Jr. & Sr. Summer camp date needing to be set. PE wants to promote ASAP.

*Easter breakfast \$\$ split between Jr. & Sr. high camp trips.

*PE requested \$1500 from Make it bake it. This will go for scholarships for the National Youth Gathering.

*\$2,000. set aside from the endowment fund to go toward the youth summer trip (may include the NYG or a summer trip)

*Confirmation kids will be helping out with Lent services. They will be eating dinner there, and greeting and doing skits for Lent.

*High School Youth still meet once a month in people's homes. This is going well. Crop walk is planned for this weekend, 3/12/06. Last meeting planned in May. PE wants to promote the upcoming 8th graders, so may plan a special event to include them.

*PE will have the youth band do 1 song on Easter. Jam session planned on March 31st, with invite letter going out to all confirmation and high school youth. Goal would be to play at the 3rd service 1x per month.

Fun With Faith-

*Next offsite event is a ceramics painting/Easter egg. Here or in Ventura? \$30. cost for having them come to Mt. Cross. Caroline & Diana both said they preferred having it held at the church.

*Swim party planned for mid May-where?

*Need an offsite event for April- event cancelled. PE suggested fire station/training facility at Camarillo Airport. Airplane museum? Al Watts is contact.

*Do we have children's bells? Barb says we have some. PE to look into it. Tracie would like to have the FWF use them.

VBS-

*Save the date July 31-Aug 4th.

*Items carried over from January/February meeting were: 1) Canceling the 6/7 campout, 2) Dropping the incoming 7th grade class to allow for more CDC kids/younger kids, 3) Decision to

(Cont.)

raise fee to \$20 with a max family cap \$50. Learning members in attendance last month were unanimously in favor of all of these items being passed, however PE was not present and we wanted his input. We asked for his approval and he agreed.

*We discussed -0- out VBS budget at year-end by donating remaining funds to service project. This would keep things clean, with no carryover.

*9:30 a.m. start time remains, based upon the VBS end survey.

Adult Education – Scott not present, so PE reported. There has been a large attending group. Spirit Café plans in the works.

Next meeting Tuesday, April 4th.

Meeting adjourned approx. 9:30.

Minutes prepared by Caroline Hobbs

Learning Commission Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2006

Attending: Barbara Burrow (library), Tracie Fickenscher(fun with faith), Karen Thomton(VBS), Diana Rose(VBS), Caroline Hobbs (secretary)

Not in attendance: Scott Ingram (adult ed), Pastor Erik (confirmation & youth) and Jesus Duran (council Liaison)

Welcome to Karen Thomton, joining Learning as VBS Co-coordinator 06/07 (email is– tkthomton@adelphia.net). Also, a big welcome to Hilleri Jennings and Travis Carlson (email is hilleri@prolenders.com). Hilleri and Travis join us as SS coordinators, thru the end of June 06. They (1 or both) will be able to attend learning after February.

Council Communication : No council communication. We are hoping to have Caroline Hobbs take over as our council liaison, as she will be able to attend both Learning and Church Council. We believe that Jesus has a work schedule which conflicts with Learning, so this change in liaison would be the best move for Learning.

Council items:

*As discussed & reported for council last year, VBS needs 4 Canopies, on site, for VBS week. Because of the discussions for new buildings, will we have a permanent covering in time for VBS week, or should properties research portable awnings? Does Learning Need to discuss with Properties or is this a council issue because the funds don't come from VBS, but from the church budget??

*Children's ministry position status? Learning felt the need for this was somewhat "watered down" in the annual meeting handout, due to all of the other position possibilities listed. Table feedback concurred that it was a lot of info to take in over a one-hour dinner. What was written feedback on handouts? What is the status?

Sunday School- Barbara reported this month

- Hilleri and Travis join us as SS coordinators. Caroline showed them the ropes this past Sunday. Hilleri works with Char Wall, so Char will also be helping Hilleri learn the ropes.
- There was mention that Marilyn Gardner didn't have the Sunday School calendar for the year. Diana has a SS teaching schedule calendar that Paul had handed out to all of the teachers. She will get a copy to Marilyn, Hilleri and Travis.
- Barb needed curriculum info, and this was located in the SS box. We use the "Living the Good News", Lutheran edition.

- Barb will make sure Hilleri knows curriculum has already been ordered. The current winter quarter ends with February 26. Where is Spring curriculum being sent? Barb needs to check with Paul on this.
- Diana reports that substitute teachers are scarce. Additionally, several of the teachers don't have a second teacher in the class and there are no subs for these classes as well. Cheryl Priest needs a partner, and has been teaching alone for months. Also, we are fortunate to have Jessica Pendolino teaching the 1st grade class, but Learning feels we need to have an adult partner for her. We believe that Jesus Duran had agreed to be her partner, but we believe he has not been able to fulfill this commitment. We are looking for Jesus to confirm/clarify the situation with this class.
- Teachers roster is as follows:
 - PreK – Diana Rose & Gary Wikholm
 - K – Cheryl Priest
 - 1st – Jessica Pendolino (& Jesus Duran??)
 - 2nd – Teri Crawford & Deanna Armstrong
 - ¾ - John Pitch
 - 5/6 – Linette Angelestro & Eric Bergh
 - Teen – Pete Johnson
 - Craft person – Karen Thomton
- Barbara suggests putting an “all points bulletin” email out to all church members saying we need teachers & subs. She will handle this.
- Karen suggests checking the time& Talents. Barb to do this.

Fun With Faith (Tracie Fickenscher)

- New schedule handed out. Tracie regrets that attendance is down. Started at 15, down to 9 approx.

- Dilemma with a 5th grade student staying from FWF thru to Confirmation. This leaves him at the church unsupervised from 5:30-6:00, and since Tracie won't leave him alone, she or PE have to stay to keep an eye on him. Tracie has spoken to the mother, but the mother went over her head to Pastor Erik. We discussed how Tracie might solve the problem. Tenuous situation, as she does not want to lose these children from FWF or Confirmation.
- Tracie received praise for the outstanding job she has done for FWF.

Library – (Barbara Burrow) Barbara has nothing to report this month

Vacation Bible School – Diana Rose & Karen Thomton

- Diana is waiting for confirmation that VBS has been set as July 31st – Aug 4th. We couldn't find the church calendar to check this.
- Cub Scouts camp is concurrent, which creates a conflict for Karen, but she has chosen to fulfill her commitment to VBS.
- Campout – 6/7. We discussed to do away with this because of the change in confirmation. No one has stepped forward to run it for the past 2 years. We discussed that confirmation has a "beach day" activity and hope that this can serve as the alternative to the overnight campout.
- We discussed stopping VBS at "going into 6th grade". This would eliminate the 7th grade class. No decision made yet. We will decide this at the March Learning meeting. Eliminating this class would allow us to have another young class and offer the program to more CDC families. To help ease the discomfort that this decision may have on the incoming 7th graders, we discussed offering them positions as youth helpers and also having an evening pizza party to thank all of the youth helpers.
- Diana and Karen would like to go with the Gospel Light curriculum Son Treasure Island – Where kids discover God's Love. Island theme. Learning loved the program theme & gave the ok to go ahead with it.
- We made a decision to increase the cost of VBS registration to \$20. Per child and max \$50. Per family. Costs of curriculum have increased and materials have gone up.

Youth / Confirmation: No report from Pastor Erik.

Adult Ed. – No report from Scott Ingram

Meeting adjourned approx. 8:45PM.

Next learning meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, 2006 @
7:00

Minutes prepared by Caroline Hobbs

Learning Committee Minutes

December 13, 2005

Added 12/31/05---- Please refer to pages 3 & 4 attached, showing which Sunday School tasks are being covered and which are still open – most are still open!!!

Present: Pastor Erik, Barbara Burrow, Caroline Hobbs

Council Communications:

Children's ministry position: A motion was made and passed to set aside \$15,000 for staff expansion. **Learning requests from council:**

- 1) A timeline on council's discussing and deciding to place in motion seeking a person to fill this position.
- 2) Council suggested to do a study and survey to determine what our specific needs are. What is the status of the survey/study/decision to hire?

Learning Committee is concerned about this issue being pursued in a timely manner. Learning is also concerned that we do not have an active voice representing us at council. We have asked Pastor Erik to follow up with Council on the subject of the Children's Ministry position.

Learning budgets for 06 have all been turned in to council.

We discussed possibly meeting during the day in the future. We will discuss further at the January meeting. Barb will e-mail about meeting January 10th instead of the 3rd.

Sunday School:

Coordinator position: Jim Gucciardo has agreed to step forward for limited specific tasks to get us through the school year. Judy Geary will be available as backup Sunday morning, but has not committed to when she is available. Aimee Pendolino will replenish the Stock store thru the end of the year. Caroline had the list of duties handwritten by Paul, however the notes were unclear. She will type up and ask Paul to clarify who has promised to cover what. If any tasks are not covered, the name of Jan Gerk came up– Pastor Erik thought of her as a possible SS coordinator.

Discussed the Christmas play and it appears all is in order with practice scheduled for Sat.& the play on Sunday.

Fun With Faith - Tracie unable to attend today. A great job on the Christmas caroling and Christmas party.

Library - Barb would prefer to put the music CD's on one of the video carts and not spend budget money on a new cart. Barb has advertised for new volunteers and has not gotten any responses.

VBS – No need for report this month

Confirmation - Great Narnia movie night with a thought provoking discussion that followed.

High School - Rhodes hosted Christmas party. HS will meet again this Saturday for food share service project (sorting food to be sent out to those in need)

- Winter camp for both groups in January.
- Del Marto's will host the January H.S. home meeting.
- Whitney Fajnor has been a very faithful helper. Hosts have been very good with follow through.
- Summer trip to San Antonio – Deposit in from one child so far
- PE planning to invite the 8th graders coming into H.S. to a “to be determined” outing.

Adult Ed. Spirit Café – missionary couple going to Namibia were our most recent guest speakers. Not a large turnout but the people who did attend were enthusiastic and supportive of our guests.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm

Minutes prepared by Caroline Hobbs

[See pages below!!! ****Added 12/31/05](#)

Sunday School Coordinator position thru June 2006

Jim Gucciardo – Jim has agreed to be *Sunday morning set up & take down man*, ONLY. He will arrive before opening to:

- 1) Set up screen & projector (normally in parish Life Center)
- 2) Take chairs off of tables & move what is necessary

After opening, Jim will:

- 1) Take down screen & projector. Return them to Parish Life Center
- 2) Ensure room is put back as it was when you arrived.

Other Sunday Morning functions - coordinator needed. (Judy Geary **may** be available on occasion, but has not committed to any specific days or times)

- 1) Birthdays and announcements at opening (get from pastor John's mailbox)
- 2) Collect and count cans
- 3) Collect & count offering. Put in pouch in back of church.
- 4) Recruit subs as needed
- 5) Open stock store every other week
- 6) Take attendance & turn in at end of month (Paul has master of this form)

Ongoing duties : (coordinator needed)

- 1) Obtain supplies for stock store (Aimee Pendolino will do this)
- 2) Ensure snack supply is adequate and shop if needed
- 3) Distribute curriculum when we receive (Spring is already ordered)
- 4) Address teacher issues as they arise
- 5) Supply for birthday trinkets should be ok, but order from Oriental Trading if necessary.

Learning Committee Meeting

November 1, 2005

Present: Pastor Erik, Tracie Fickenscher, Paul Pendolino, Caroline Hobbs, and Gayle Johnson

Barbara Burrow was unable to attend but had prepared the agenda for the evening discussions.

Council Communications / Gayle reported:

Children's Ministry Leader Position: Positive feedback from church council regarding hiring a Children's Ministry Leader (Learning had recommended this a few months ago) Personnel committee researched and will do a study to determine the needs of our church. Their findings will be presented to church council. The executive committee will review and then council will look into the budget. Gayle told us that one option to fund this position for the first year would be to allocate and split the money from the hillside property (50% facility & 50% to Children's Ministry Leader position) Approx. \$30,000 total.

A complete job description & 1 paragraph abridged version of job description needs to be completed by Learning for presentation to council. Caroline will prepare this. We discussed the scope of the position and also that it might include volunteer solicitations for other ministries of the church.

Town Meeting results: This recent congregation meeting discussed changes to the sanctuary to make it multi ministry. More discussions will follow.

Safeguarding God's Children: Recent workshop suggested/determined Mt. Cross needs to establish the Safeguarding program. Pastors and Gayle would like to set up a taskforce to set the program in motion. Gayle suggested that in lieu of someone from Learning as part of the taskforce (original suggestion) someone from the Safeguarding taskforce could come to learning to ensure communications between both groups cover all possible scenarios. Fingerprinting will be required of all persons working

with children, and a mobile fingerprinting unit will come to Mt. Cross. Those not available for fingerprinting on the set dates will be asked to go to the fingerprinting unit. Fingerprinting will be offered 1X per year, after the initial 2X. Learning was supportive of fingerprinting all persons working with children.

Budget figures for 06 – Council needs our budget figures by 11/08. Some items were determined at the meeting tonight:

Fun with Faith - \$400.

Sunday School - \$2500.

Adult Ed - \$885. (See e-mail from Scott Ingram dated 11/02/05 at end of minutes)

House Missions - \$200. (Pastor Erik recommended this amount)

Confirmation - \$1500.

General Youth - \$1000.

Sr. High - \$1000.

Jr. High - \$1000.

Need figures for Library (Barbara Burrow) and VBS (Diana Rose & Karen Thompton). Caroline and Diana need to meet to clean up VBS 05 items.

Additionally, we discussed designated accounts. VBS and Sunday school designated accounts were discussed at length. The VBS account is supposed to (to our understanding) have its bills paid out of designated first (at the present time, VBS has money in designated but their budget for the year looks overdrawn). Also we discussed that Sunday school has \$5000. in designated. This money is not something Sunday school needs to operate, so Gayle suggested it go to funding the Children's Ministry position.

Fun With Faith – Tracie provided a detailed report for FWF. We additionally discussed

- Corrected dates for FWF (see attached report from Tracie)

- Ideas for the upcoming 12/7 Christmas party. Tracie would like the kids to put together care packages for children in need. We directed her to the Interface program to determine what was needed. We discussed asking the congregation for donations for the care packages. We also discussed caroling at Hickory House.
- Not discussed at the meeting, Caroline Hobbs will step in as Tracie's craft coordinator for the onsite FWF meetings.

Sunday School - Paul reported the following

- Still looking for a co-coordinator. No immediate prospects. Gayle suggested he check the newly filled out time and talents sheets.
- Christmas program – Monica and Jesus Duran handling this. Caroline needs group songs for SS opening, and will follow up with Monica for this.
- Tracie asked if the kids could get a tape or CD of the songs being sung in the Christmas play?
- 9:30 service running late has been a problem for SS teachers a couple of times. It was suggested that the ushers let Paul know when service is running late so Paul can advise the teachers. (***Not sure who is handling this??***)

Adult Education – Pastor Erik reported for Scott.

- 8-10 adults attend regularly
- Spirit Cafe on Sunday is a **potluck brunch** immediately following the third service. 12 noon

We'll hear more from Rob and Eshinee Veith on their work as Lutheran Bible Translators. – Per e-mail from Marilyn.

- Next evening Spirit Café is being worked on. Possible February with the topic of "the soul".

Confirmation – Pastor Erik reported

- Recent huddle
- Anaheim Youth conference – no one from Mt. Cross attending. Follows on the heels of Never Ending night and also paying for El Camino Pines camp in January.
- Up to 40 kids attend Confirmation regularly. The kids are now asked to stay in defined areas (no playground or preschool areas for free

play) They have activities on the playground. ***Caroline and Tracie both mentioned that a handball wall was very much needed.***

High School Youth – Pastor Erik reported

- Pastor Erik has help from Whitney Fajnor (college student) in working with the H.S. youth. St. Columba's HS youth join our group.
- This summer 06 – National Youth Conference in San Antonio Texas. A few of our youth may go. They will go with a larger group from 1st Lutheran church.

Library – Agenda note from Barbara states that Aimee Stoll and Luanne Crocket are taking the carts out every other Sunday. Barb is still working on getting a music cart, however she thought she had more in her budget than she does. She will look into memorial funds.

VBS – Diana not in attendance, however she reports that all is well and she will not have any needs to discuss until after the first of the year.

Meeting adjourned approx 9:00.

Minutes prepared by Caroline Hobbs

*Email from Scott Ingram re: budget for Adult Ed (dated 11/02/05)

We have talked about having Spirit Cafés roughly every two months. Some speakers do not want honoraria, while others require them. I'd prefer to have money in the budget to cover an average honorarium of \$150 for five speakers (\$750 total). Also, we need a small amount of money for copying and other incidentals (\$25 should suffice) for a total of \$775.

I'd like to buy a raised relief map of the Holy Lands. I have not previously discussed this, but I believe a raised relief map would help folks (like me!) who are more visually oriented learners to understand the experiences described in the Bible, such as the mountain top experiences we are discussing this year. I looked on the internet, and did not find a satisfactory

map. If I can find one, it will probably be \$25-35 unframed, and about \$85 framed. I think we should have a framed map, because it could then be easily moved from class to class (other Sunday School teachers might want to borrow it) without damaging the map. Adding \$25 for shipping, handling and sales tax, that's an extra \$110 for a grand total of \$885.

Scott Ingram

Fun With Faith News for November 2005

We currently have 14 kids registered and had 15 attend the kick off and 14 attend the last Mount Cross meeting.

I messed up the dates for the first session. The rest of the session should

Nov. 2...FWF at Mount Cross

Nov. 16...Meet at Party On

Dec. 7...FWF at Mount Cross/Christmas Party (**gift exchange????**)

Dec. 19...no FWF because of Christmas Break

Jan. 4... FWF at Mount Cross...Kings Party!!

Jan. 18...Meet at Mount Cross for Service Project

Spring Session

Feb. 1...onsite

Feb. 15...TBA

Mar. 1...onsite

Mar. 15...Ceramic workshop

April 5...onsite

April 19...Bowling

May 3...onsite

May 17...swim party year end celebration

I need a cheap idea for the 15th of Feb.

Perfect attendance: After talking to Kathy Berg, we really felt it was important to keep it going. I am not really going to do this formally, or make as big a deal about it for the first session. I think I will just acknowledge with a prize this session. We have had too many bumps in our schedule for it to be fair. Kathy and I feel people will try harder to attend regularly if we continue the perfect attendance "prize."

Craft coordinator: I think I will have a Craft Coordinator starting in January!!! Yeah!!! This will fill the last opening in our "team." My other coordinators, including Middle Schoolers, are very reliable and working out wonderfully!

Shoe service project: I was planning on having the kids collect used, but still in good condition tennis shoes to disinfect and re-lace to give to a children's home. I have since found out places want new shoes instead of old ones. We can either do this anyway and donate them to a thrift store, or we can come up with a new service project idea.

Sign-in Sheets: In light of our new awareness with kid's safety, we will now request parents to sign them both in and out.

Respectfully Submitted by Tracie Fickenscher November 1, 2005

Learning Commission Meeting
September 6, 2005

Attending: Barbara Burrow, Tracie Fickenscher, Pastor Erik, Caroline Hobbs
Gayle Johnson, Scott Ingram

Council Communications: Gayle Johnson attended to discuss the safeguarding God's children workshop being held on Sunday, 9/25 noon. Lunch w/child care. 2 films are being shown. Gayle says it really affects the children's learning of the congregation and any adult involved in children's ministry. Fingerprinting of pastors will/has occurred and one of them will be the custodian of record. We discussed how to get a large number of people in attendance.

Town Meeting October 2nd 4-6. Gayle suggests we come with ideas for each of our areas of learning.

With regards to Learning's request for council to explore the possibility of a youth ministry leader, Gayle asked us to prepare a detailed list of why we need estimate of hours & costs. We had already prepared a list of job duties. Need to examine the salary of children's ministry leaders at other local churches.

Sunday School – We discussed that we need to rally and get Paul a co-coordinator. Caroline to e-mail Paul and see if Janet is teaching, then call Janet Bender.

FWF – Tracie provided a complete, detailed list of activities for the upcoming year. We suggested Tracie ask for volunteers at rally day as well as at the first meeting.

Youth & Conf. – Conf. orientation 9/21 and first conf 9/28. High school orientation 9/18, with lunch. PE thinking about Saturday nights 2X per month. and having them at peoples homes. Devotional meeting one time and service project. PE could use a few more guides. High school trip options will be discussed.. Should they do a National Youth? November 11,12,13 \$165. Jr. high. ELCA Youth Gathering in Anaheim, will include a Disneyland trip. We discussed options for adults to attend as chaperones. Costs include Hotel, Disneyland, food.

Adult Ed. – 1) Spirit Café – Brown Eyes, Blue Eyes presentation 9/17. Scott needs help with set up. Scott looking into another Spirit Café in late October, early November. Adult Ed. will be held on the patio. We suggested setting up a canopy. Char Wall suggested an Adult bible study on Sunday mornings. Scott will indicate interest at Rally Day.

VBS – Diana out of town. (My notes didn't indicate if we discussed VBS)

Library – We discussed music cart cost will be approx. \$400. Barb to look into a memorial fund to help pay for the cart.

Meeting adjourned approx. 9:00.

Minutes prepared by Caroline Hobbs

Learning Commission Minutes

August 9, 2005

Members present: Pastor Erik, Scott Ingram, Tracie Fickenscher, Barbara Burrow, Paul Pendolino, Caroline Hobbs, Diana Rose

Important Dates: Rally Day Sept. 11th . Next Grapevine deadline is August 15th. Children's Christmas program date – Sunday 12/18.

Important : Discussion of moving day of Learning Meetings to the first Monday of the month, starting in October 05. We will revisit this suggestion at our next learning meeting, which is scheduled for **Tues. Sept. 6th @ 7:00.**

Council communication –

- Rally Day tables needed for each group. Get forms into the church office.
- We discussed that we really need and would like our council liaison (Jesus Duran) to attend the monthly Learning Commission meetings. Jesus has been unable to attend them, to date.

Item to present to Church Council

- Caroline and Diana brought to learning the need for a children's ministry leader at Mount Cross. Caroline explained the incredible amount of work that must be put into preparations and planning the yearly VBS program. She feels that the job details and time requirements are not explained to volunteers, and that once you commit to the 2 years, you are locked in - regardless of the changes that may occur in your life during that time. Both Caroline and Diana described the strain placed upon their families while planning the program this past year. Both said that although they loved the program and the end result of the program, they would not volunteer to run the program again. Learning discussed at length the idea of a part time children's ministry leader to head up & run VBS, FWF& Sunday School. Learning members will e-mail each other with suggestions for a job description for a children's ministry leader. We would like Jesus to present this idea and job description at the next church council meeting.
- Caroline had previously discussed with Rick Mann the need for 4 large canopies (with side enclosures) to be bought by the church and kept on-site for use by VBS and other functions. We discussed the problem of storage of these canopies. Caroline reasoned that if the CDC was able to put a storage unit on the playground, the church could surely find room for one around the backside of the church. Borrowing canopies for VBS was quite time consuming this & the past year.

VBS- Joining Diana Rose as the new VBS Co-Coordinator for 06 is Karen Thomson. Caroline Hobbs steps down after serving a 2-year commitment. Please refer to attachment for detailed info about VBS year-end figures, and thoughts on eliminating the 7th grade class. **Calendar to discuss in January that 2006 be the last year for the 7th grade class. This would open us up to adding another young class.**

Sunday School – Paul will be running Sunday School this year, as Char Sakioka is expecting a new baby. Paul presented a schedule for the coming year so the teachers will be able to set their calendars. Picked **Children's Christmas program date – Sunday 12/18.** This should not

conflict with the Camarillo parade or Hanging of the Greens. Duran's will again run the program; confirm date will work for them. Volunteers needed in Teen class & 5th /6th grades as co-teachers. Large early enrollment for 1st & 2nd grade classes. They may need to be split which will require 2 more teachers. We lost Eric Bergh & Kevin Churchill from the 5/6 class. Scott Fajnor will be a part time spot this year with John Pitch taking the lead in 3/4. We discussed the opening songs from last year and that there were some concerns about them being age appropriate and too complicated for the younger children. PE offered to Caroline to help the opening team with more age appropriate songs. It was suggested to rent a sno-cone machine to share with FWF for rally day. It was suggested for FWF & Sunday School to share a table at rally day to increase the congregation's awareness of FWF and hopefully increase attendance.

FWF – Welcome to Tracie Fickenscher, taking over from Kathy Bergh as head of FWF. We decided to change the days of the FWF program to the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month to cut down on holiday interference with the program. Tracie asked if a curriculum is needed? She will research this. Tracie provided a schedule (which will be revised with the new dates). Tracie was concerned there was no onsite class time to tell the Christmas story for December. We discussed - do we need to offer nursery care?

Confirmation – PE decided to stick with the current curriculum rather than make a change, as we had discussed at learning earlier in the year. Gail Weed will be confirmation "manager". She will aid PE by collecting \$\$ for trips, make sure all kids get flyers, handle all administrative tasks. PE has 2 potential confirmation guides. PE would like 10 guides. 40-45 kids estimated this year. Dinners this year? At learning earlier in the year, we had discussed a snack or dessert time instead. We will continue with the dinner program at this time.

High School – PE presented a proposal for the year. Monthly meetings proposed. He is hoping a lower commitment will produce a higher turnout by the kids. He is proposing to have church families "host" the high school youth at their homes. Service project proposed once a month. Check the grapevine for details about the WSYC Seattle trip.

Adult Ed. – Spirit café – What was the council feedback on eliminating adult ed on Sunday and replacing it with a once monthly spirit café? We decided to continue with adult SS on site on the patio for the first couple of Sundays of Fall. Set up an awning & some chairs. Caroline offered to donate a bright sign, which may help with promoting Sunday adult ed. Scott, please remind Caroline.

Library – Barb will be recruiting volunteers @ rally day. Suggested Barb to ask properties to replace the wheels on the cart into swivel wheels.

Meeting adjourned approx. 9:30pm. Minutes prepared by Caroline Hobbs

*** VBS Attachment (below)**

* Attachment - VBS 2005 - Notes for Learning Meeting 08/09/05

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Number of enrolled students | 128 |
| Children in the nursery | <u>12</u> |
| Total # Children | 140 |

Number of volunteers 64

(not including Alyssa Calvelli/paid position)

Number of students turned away - at least 15 (majority pre-k thru 2nd grade)

Service Project "Books for Africa" Raised \$1,087.03

Items to discuss:

- * Grapevine deadline Monday 8/15. To include thank-you's, plates pickup-what else?
- * Time change feedback (9:30-12:30) – most feedback positive.
- * Idea to stop vbs after 6th grade to allow for younger CDC families to become familiar with Mt. Cross. The 6th grade students have confirmation now. Discuss pro's and con's.
- * Music – lack of split tracks – Ch called Gospel Light to give them negative feedback on this.
 - *Discuss the large amount of work involved for 2 "leaders". Suggestions: committee w/2 main leaders. Committee groups would include:
 1. Student enrollment, materials & t-shirts order
 2. Volunteer recruitment & June teacher meeting
 3. Daily skit/Bible Story/Thursday program/Decorating
- *We need 4 large canopies on site (1-biblestory, 2-for classrooms, 1-craft) bought by the church for large functions, including but not limited to VBS. This should not be part of VBS budget. The canopies should have side enclosures and chain attachments so they cannot be stolen. Be sure to add these to theft insurance coverage. Ch discussed with Rick Mann.
- *Snack team to handle the Thursday evening program refreshments.
- *Need a properties/volunteer crew to help with tear down Friday after VBS.
- *Schedule VBS 06.
- *Pastors help and involvement is crucial to the success of the program. Pastors schedules should be consulted before planning VBS date to insure there is not a conflict to affect their attendance.

Learning Committee Minutes

June 7, 2005

Present: Barbara Burrow, Caroline Hobbs, Pastor Erik, Scott Ingram

Not able to be Present: Paul Pendolino, Char Sakioka, Tracy Fichenscher, Jesus Duran, Diana Rose,

Council communications: May 05 council consisted of Conversations with Bishop Nelson during the bishop's visit to Mt. Cross. Very little Mt. Cross business.

Due to vacation schedules in July, we decided no meeting during the month of July.

In August, due to VBS, we will meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month, on August 9th @ 7:00 pm.

Sunday School:

* Paul out of town, but reports by e-mail all is well.

*Monica and Jesus Duran have again agreed to head up the 2005 Christmas program.

*Teachers are all lined up for next year

Paul & Char's would like to thank and honor the Sunday School teachers with a donation, given in their honor, to the Mt. Cross youth group (In lieu of a gift to each teacher) Learning suggests that the donation be made in the teachers honor to Lutheran World Relief – designate towards the Stand With Africa campaign. This ties in with our VBS 2005 theme and our continued support of the African Children's Choir. Although a wonderful suggestion, Learning felt we should do something outside our immediate needs. Barb to check with Paul and Char if this is o.k. with them. We will need to announce in newsletter "gift in honor of", etc. etc. Barb will ask Paul to type and e-mail a thank you to Marilyn, for posting in the grapevine & bulletin.

Fun With Faith: quiet over summer. Nothing to report.

VBS: Caroline reported for both she and Diana. All running as needed and on schedule. Volunteer workshop planned for June 29.

*Reported that classes are FULL. There will be a waiting list taken by Marilyn, in the office. Discussed that we asked for full time commitments from volunteers, rather than having to supervise a large number of volunteers working part time.

*Reviewed the idea to move the nursery to the playground. PE and Barb were concerned about the safety and needs of the nursery kids. They both suggested clearing out and using PJ's office as a classroom. Caroline accepted this concern and will discuss with Diana and look into PJ's office as an alternate for the class that was slated for the nursery space.

*We discussed that PE may not be at VBS Thurs. & Friday. There are 2 adult helpers with PE in music, so this shouldn't be a problem. PE will confirm his availability those days.

Youth:

*Jane Troy was thanked and acknowledged this past Sunday. Anyone to take Jane's place as youth leader? Barbara ran into and asked Whitney

Fajnor about doing an internship as our youth leader. Whitney seemed very interested. PE followed up and is excited about the possibilities.

Campership update: PE to check with Mary on registration. PE is not sure if he will be able to go at all this year.

* Fundraising going well. Plane, train & ferry tickets purchased. Invest in youth fundraising going well. Possible date change for dessert night – at least 3 will not be able to attend. 7/17, 7/23, 7/24 other options.

*PE reports that the next thing for High School would be a planning meeting with youth and parents for fall. He would like to do an evaluation & see where we are headed. A date somewhere near the end of August was suggested, before school starts back.

We discussed whether a National Youth conference trip (Texas) was something to look into. PE also had the idea to do a "Genesis Project" theme for the year (with a trip planned like more of the road rulez idea) with the focus being on Ecology, Conservation, etc. Positive feedback from learning.

Confirmation:

*Meals vs. Snacks? Not clear at this time. Caroline suggested that the guides not have to clean up from the meals. It should be the responsibility of the children and the host families.

*Will we be using the same materials for the coming year? Faith Incubators is the current program used, however Augsburg Fortress has new program coming out that PE thought was interesting. PE will research. If we give up our current Faith Incubators, it may cost us double to get it again if Augsburg doesn't work out. Suggested keeping it for the interim, as the annual fee is the cost of the increase.

Adult Ed. –

*Last Spirit Café had about 20 in attendance. Guests stayed late with questions for the speaker.

We again discussed the future of the Adult Sunday School program. Scott reported that nothing has changed from our last meeting. Core group of around 4 people attends weekly. Topics have been interesting, with a lot of good discussion. Less "famous" books of the bible have been researched. However, not many people are taking advantage of the opportunity for adult learning. Since there is no change planned for the worship schedule, Scott sees and suggests these three options 1) Keep things status quo 2) fold adult ed in with the post confirmation aged teens 3) Offer no adult ed. on Sunday, but have other things in it's place – Spirit Café – suggest people attend House Missions – bible study groups

We discussed at length the attendance of post Confirmation Sunday School, and felt it to be very low, if at all attended. This puts suggestion #2 level with #1. Since the Spirit Café's have been well attended and very interesting, Learning recommends to council to focus on a once a month "Spirit Café", offered in lieu of the weekly Adult Sunday School class. This would also free up the pastors to focus on worship, etc. on Sunday mornings. We feel if it is a "once monthly gathering on the same day of the month" Monday or Thursday 6:45-8:30 evening suggested. **Looking to council for feedback and approval of this idea, as well as a confirmation of which week of the month and which day would be best overall. Additional thoughts:** We would alternate between Pastors and guest speakers. We will need a larger budget to pay for speakers. Cal Lutheran's recommended honorarium to a presenter is \$175. We discussed needing to raise Adult Ed. budget to \$1000. for the year, which includes misc. fees. (roughly 6 guest speakers per year / the other 6 pastor led, split between PJ & PE.

Learning will await feedback from Church Council.

Scott agrees to plan for the next several speakers, but will be stepping down in his role as Adult Ed leader. Meeting adjourned @ 8:50pm.

Minutes prepared by Caroline Hobbs

Learning Committee Minutes

May 3, 2005

Present: Barbara Burrow (chair), Kathy Bergh (Fun With Faith), Caroline Hobbs (VBS & learning minute taker), Pastor Erik (youth& confirmation), Scott Ingram (Adult Ed)

Not able to attend: Char Sakioka & Paul Pendolino (Sunday school) Diana Rose (VBS), Jesus Duran (Council Liaison)

Welcome to Tracie Fickenscher (pronounced fa-ken-sure) taking over Fun With Faith in Fall 05.

Council communications:

*Jesus Duran unable to attend. ELCA website has guidelines for fundraising and suggestions to help ensure there is not too much fundraising going on, so as to not over-tap the congregation.

*Properties was concerned about the accessibility of our facilities for handicapped persons. PE asked us to keep our eyes open for items that may need improvement in this department.

*There was more discussion about how we could put the 2005 missions statement to work. The fifth ("the world needs what we have to offer") could be promoted thru this years VBS service project (aide to Africa)

Note to Properties:

* Scott noted that the parking lots lights were not on during the evening but were on during the day. Perhaps the timers could be checked.

Sunday School:

* Char was ill and Paul was out of town, but had e-mailed many topics for discussion. The biggest being that the scheduled curriculum runs out on May 22. Sunday school has usually run into the 2nd week of June, in years past. The last Sunday's remaining are 5/22, 5/29, 6/5& 6/12. We discussed these questions: Any curriculum left over from 4/10 (when we had the Santa Paula campout)? How about Mothers Day? If we have 2 weeks worth of curriculum left, we could do one movie Sunday and make the last day June 12. We could do a finale on June 12, having the kids make Fathers Day cards, sing some silly songs, sing extra music, Skit by the older kids (skit in a bag). Caroline volunteered to organize the skit in the bag for the older kids. We decided to offer these suggestions to Paul & Char. They should communicate their thoughts/decision to Barb.

*The Stock Store needs more donations to carry thru the end of the year, per Scott.

Fun With Faith:

*Kathy reported. Tracie Fickenschher, who will be taking over from Kathy in fall 05. The VBS notebook is organized and ready to hand off. * Last FWF will be a Pizza/day at the park. There are several kids with perfect attendance.

Campership –

* Kathy reported. There are 6 or 7 kids signed up for summer camp so far. \$100. campership scholarship per child from WELCA gift. PE will promote at upcoming Confirmations.

Library: *Barbra reported. Beyond Sunday May 22. 2:30 concert @ Camarillo House. Also, Holly Wagner author of God Chicks May 16 @ Bible Fellowship in Ventura. We suggested Barb should advertise in grapevine. She was not on the grapevine deadline e-mail, and we suggested she should let Gaye know this.

VBS:

*Diana was out of town & Caroline reported. Campout- Our 6/7 campout volunteer fell through, so we are still in need of parents to lead. Caroline asked if Learning felt there was a conflict w/hickory house party on June 29. All of Learning members present felt it was not.

*VBS plates are back – corporate sponsor to cover this expense.

*Aide to Africa is this year's service project theme. Caroline to discuss looking into World Vision as benefactor of our fundraising.

*Registrations began May 1-22.

Youth:

*Pastor Erik reported. Still a little short on the "invest in our youth". There will still be some fund raising going on in May .

Short approx. \$1500. Learning members agreed to shift funds as needed from jr. high to sr. high to cover Seattle trip.

*Jane Troy will be stepping down as youth leader. She will no longer be available for weekly meetings. This is a big loss for PE. He will be looking for someone to take her place. Barb suggested perhaps Whitney Fajnor might be a good person to help. Matt Johnson's name also came up. PE suggested a youth ministry "internship". We discussed putting a formal proposal together to get an intern from Cal-Lutheran.

*Youth Sunday went very well, all agreed. We all felt it should be done more regularly.

Confirmation:

*3 Wednesdays left. May 22 is Confirmation Sunday. Huddle to close year out w/guides.

*PE said big question was about how everyone felt overall about adding 6th graders this past year. PE would like to continue confirmation for 6th graders. PE felt those who wanted to get something out of Confirmation will. Those who don't, won't. We discussed there being some kind of test to help the kids be held accountable for listening and learning. We discussed having the kids follow up on their "home devotionals" they are supposed to be doing.

* Meals will be discussed at the next huddle. We discussed a "snack" time rather than a big meal, or a "dessert", rather than a dinner. We discussed alternate meal/snack options.

Adult Ed:

*Scott reported. Attendance is down. Williamsons have not been able to attend, due to Ann's surgery. Scott feels self directed studies will not work out, as evidenced by the previous Sunday

where they ran into a question they could not answer as soon as they started into the self directed lesson prepared by PJ. Scott says the usually 4-5 attend. We had detailed discussion of how the 3 services have disjointed us as a church family. We all shared stories of how there are people attending other services that we don't know. We discussed how the activities put on by Fellowship can help bridge this gap and introduce us all to others outside our worship time.

*Spirit Café May 9th is Pastor Hanson - Science vs. Creation. 6:45-8:30. We have been asked to think about and plan for discussion at our next meeting the idea of holding Spirit Café once a month instead of our weekly Sunday Adult School, which has been poorly attended this year. Scott indicated that Adult Ed. would need a budget increase if we switched to Spirit Cafe. Scott & Pastor Erik are working on upcoming speakers. Barb mentioned the Invisible Children, Uganda video with a discussion following the video.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30.

Minutes prepared by Caroline Hobbs

**Learning Commission meeting
Minutes March 1, 2005**

Attending: Pastor Erik (youth, confirmation & council info), Barbara Burrow (chair & library), Paul Pendolino (Sunday school), Diana Rose (vbs), Caroline Hobbs (vbs & minute prep), Scott Ingram (adult ed)

Barb opened our meeting with a devotional reading.

Council items: Council decided to adopt an Identity Statement – 5 statements that focus on our identity. - It is written on back of the church bulletin. Something everyone can remember and would learn, as done with the apostle's creed. Council discussed how learning could promote this statement. Caroline suggested t-shirts for the children.

Additionally, Jesus Duran is our council liaison. Barb will be sure to invite Jesus to our next meeting.

Sunday School - Anti racism workshop was again discussed. PE is playing telephone tag with the person who would host the seminar. Possibly for 2nd grade and up (still needs to be determined). Kindergarten class still just with one teacher, Karen Thompton. Sheryl Priest is helping. Grapevine

items include items: egg hunt on Easter Sunday, and times being held. Diana had a question about hunt for those attending the 9:30 service.

Caroline asked PE about looking into a workshop for Pete, Jim and her to help them become more effective worship leaders.

Fun With Faith - Need a new coordinator for the coming year. Barb recommended putting an article in the bulletin. Large Kindergarten class coming up going into 1st grade. Diana recommended a flyer for this Kindergarten class to advertise the upcoming year in FWF. Kathy had e-mailed a sheet of information for FWF.

Library – Barb reports the library has been down for the winter because of rain.

VBS - Caroline and Diana reported at they had met recently. Wanted to set the date for the VBS volunteer workshop. Wed. June 29th @ 7:00 is the tentative date/time. Caroline will advise Gaye of date. PE penciled it in.

We explained to learning how Gospel Light has changed their curriculum this year to focus on centers. This may increase our cost on teaching materials, as teachers will need more books than in the past, to accomplish the same goal. It was discussed that the extra

materials are good to offer more ideas to the teachers.

We discussed that no one has stepped forward to offer to lead the 6/7 campout yet (it is advertised in the grapevine). It was suggested to provide a handout to the 5/6 Sunday school class.

Confirmation - Big change this year during lent. Dinner is optional 6:00 if conf. Kids come with family, 6:30 if they are coming alone and not for dinner. It seems to be working out, PE reports.

Service projects – letters to missionaries and troops in Iraq. Kids are participating in the Lenten service by doing skits.

Bowling night well attended.

Easter breakfast is next event. Jane Troy is heading up breakfast again this year.

El Camino Pines winter camp is rescheduled for March 11-13.

May 22nd is confirmation graduation.

Youth - Meeting is scheduled (did not get the date) with parents of kids going to Western State Youth Conference this coming July. 10-12 kids plan to attend. Marilyn Gardner, PE, possibly Whitney Fajnor & Erin Carr to make the trip as chaperones.

6:30-8:00 youth group meets Sunday nights.

Crop walk coming up March 13th. PE will be returning from Conf. Winter camp that day.

Make-it-Bake-it – PE requested \$2000. for WSYC \$1500 for Jr. High camp.

Adult Education

Spirit Café – 17 people attended and the topic was interesting and well received. Scott would like to have the tree lights on for future events. Scott discussed a press release to advertise upcoming Spirit Café. KDAR & KLIFE radio has free advertising for Christian related events. Also mentioned the channel 6 public service announcements. Scott said Gaye had offered to help write announcements, and he would also like to have one of the pastors' reviews before

Next Spirit Café – Biblical version of creation vs. scientific views. May 9th tentative date.

Invisible Children – Documentary movie with discussion. March 20th @ 6:30. High School youth viewing with an invite to all to attend.

Meeting adjourned approx. 8:30.

Minutes prepared by Caroline Hobbs

Learning Commission Minutes – 10/5/04

Present: Sharon Korzan, Charlene Sakioka, Kathy Bergh, Pastor Erik; Scott Ingram was present for adult ed discussion only.

Sharon led us in prayer.

Minutes: approved as written.

New Business: Caroline Hobbs will not be attending Learning Commission until January when she will begin attending as VBS coordinator. We have not had a volunteer to replace Caroline as secretary, but Kathy volunteered to help when she is able to attend.

Council Communications: Grape Leaf will begin in Nov, a supplemental newsletter (about 2 pages).

Sunday School: Charlene reports that all is going well. The 3/4 and 5/6 grades are very large. Registration cards are still trailing in.

Some of the teachers may need help, and Charlene is going to look into getting jr teachers, high school kids who can help out. If the teacher was unable to teach that day, then the jr teacher would be able to lead with Charlene or another acting as adult. The drawback is that then the jr teacher would not be able to attend Sunday School.

The Christmas Program will be organized by the Duran's, and Charlene is in contact with them.

Teachers are asking for the SS calendar. The following was decided: Yes to SS Thanksgiving weekend; NO SS on Dec. 26 or March 27 (but there will be an egg hunt).

Sunday School opening will continue to be in Luther Hall.

Fun With Faith:

FWF had a successful turnout at the Hobbs for our kick off gathering. Schedules have been circulated/e-mailed/advertised as we meet twice a month, except for holidays. Gaye is doing a special insert in this week's bulletin, as the FWF ad was accidentally left out of the last Grapevine.

Besides rewarding kids for bringing non-church friends who have not attended this year, we will be giving Perfect Attendance Awards, (and prizes), once in February, and another in May for kids who have attended each FWF during that semester. Kids who earn both Perfect Attendance Awards will receive an extra prize.

Moms who attended the kick off said they prefer to continue supplying snack, and Bridgette Deering has volunteered to be snack coordinator. Tracie Fickenscher volunteered to plan crafts, Charlene Sakioka and Gail Weed will do recreation, and Denise Sobolik will make phone calls.

Library: Barbara Burrow not present. Melissa Henry has volunteered to assign numbers to those who do not have one yet.

VBS: Report coming next month.

Youth & Confirmation:

Confirmation had its first official meeting, and it was lively. There are 10-11 volunteer guides. PE needs to work on a microphone system so he can be heard over the "crowd". The first event will be the Relay for Life this weekend for those who are able to go. The Never Ending Night is planned for November. A Food Share project is also planned.

The High School youth leadership team met twice. Their first event is also Relay for Life, and a pool party is planned for October 17 at the Pendolino's. See PE's schedule for list of events.

There is not yet a representative from the H.S. youth to come to Learning, and PE raised concerns that it might be too much for them. PE will raise the issue with the youth.

Adult Education: The next Spirit Café will be October 14, but no advertisement has gone out yet. PE will send a postcard to those who attended in the past, Gaye can send a mass e-mail, and Pastors will make an announcement at church. Sharon will take sign-ups on Sunday.

Learning Committee Minutes

Learning Minutes

Sept. 7, 2004

Attendees not recorded, so not noted.

Review of the minutes from 8/04. One correction noted

Correction from Aug. 04 minutes – Adult Ed./Spirit Café speaker Omar is actually the speaker, with his mother accompanying him.

Council communication: No council meeting this summer.

Rally Day – There is no one to sit the FWF table (Kathy out of town). Sharon suggested to ask if SS table could do both. Library with Fellowship.

Sunday School – Things going well. Sign-ups have gone well. Couple of open topics.

“Sunday school stock” is the suggested new name to replace bible bucks. Sticker cards to replace the bible bucks. Teacher workshop is 9/8. All teachers have been called and most will attend.

Opening: PE suggested doing the opening in the church at 9:30 with 2 songs and birthdays. Some people expressed a desire to see the kids (former 11:00ers) we discussed the pros & cons of having the opening at the beginning of the 9:30 service. We discussed having the opening in the sanctuary, having it on the playground, having it in Luther Hall. Paul needs a decision before teacher meeting @ 7:00. PE will run this by PJ to finalize.

Paul Pendolino has several business trips coming up and Char S. and he will be switching attendance at Learning.

FWF: Kathy has a list of activities to put out on Rally Day. Caroling will be at Heritage House this year. 4:00-5:30, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays. Ending on May 11th 2005. Opening will be a pool party at Hobbs 9/22. Parent confirmation meeting is that same evening 7-8. Topic turned to FWF. Kathy will buy snacks from budget.

VBS: Nothing to report at this time. Still working on receipts.

Confirmation & high school: H.S. campout this weekend @ Malibu Creek. Relay For Life team youth is combining with adult teams. Lunch on Sunday's for H.S. group. Youth leadership committee meets the 4th Sunday. Confirmation is getting under way. Need some new guides. Orientation is 9/22. Never-Ending Night (Friday, November 6th) for confirmation. Several parent chaperones will be needed to help. Plan is to have one fun event outside of regular confirmation. Sharon inquired about a core youth parent group to help with activities. 4th Wed. of the month is an off night for kids, and the night the adult leaders meet. Sharon mentions that if Meredith is not able to be our representative to learning, perhaps we should open it to someone else who would be interested.

Adult Education: PE met with Scott last week. We are going to need lay people to help with Adult Ed. There is a current rotation set up for the pastors to teach Adult Ed. Approx. every 2-3 weeks the class will be pastor led.

Next Spirit Café may be post election.

Meeting adjourned approx. 8:45.

Minutes prepared by Caroline Hobbs

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August 3, 2004

Present:

Char Sakioka (Sunday School) , Sharon Korzan (chair & council liason) Caroline Hobbs (VBS & Library) Scott Ingram(Adult Education)
Pastor Erik (confirmation & youth)

Not present: Kathy Bergh (FWF) & Angie Churchill (VBS) Paul Pendolino (Sunday School)

*Meeting opened with a prayer led by Pastor Erik

*Approval of Minutes

*Pastor John had asked (at council) that the wording in the section pertaining to the study on homosexuality, which was discussed and recorded in last month's minutes, which stated, "Members of learning discussed and were made aware that this workshop is an ELCA mandated study" be corrected to show "this workshop is a church wide mandate."

Scott voiced concern about the term "bible bucks" (Sunday school reward program) Learning members agreed that it would be best to change the term to something not related to money. Char to work on this rewording.

*Council communications

Office staff – per Sharon, PJ to get back to her/us with a clearer picture of what volunteers should expect in regards to office support duties performed by Gaye. We discussed that each person in charge of an area of learning meet with Gaye to discuss timelines for their project and items needed for their project, which Gaye will help with.

Monthly Grapevine was also addressed. Any change back to 2X per month? No change at this time. Sharon will follow up with council.

Note to fellowship – Sept. 19, Mission Oaks Park. Char requests that Fellowship committee arrange to have someone there before 11:00 am to hold our space. Fees paid.

VBS – Caroline to get Thursday program info to PE for approval. For the record, we did not have a volunteer for the 6/7 campout, so we were forced to cancel for this year.

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SS – Char requests that we hold the SS opening for the 2nd, 3rd, 4th weeks in other than the PLC, to accommodate Scott Fajnor teaching the introduction to the bible class. We discussed holding the opening in Luther Hall, on the left side. It may be tight, but is felt to be workable. We all agreed to this.

We discussed splitting up the 5/6 classes, due to the 6th grade starting confirmation. We decided we did not have the teaching staff to accommodate this, and it may be a good thing to have the 6th graders be the “older” kids in the class.

SS will set up a table at VBS Thursday evening program. Paul will sit the table.

SS starts 9/19.

FWF – Kathy out of town. PE & Kathy will meet to plan the coming year. Not sure of start date. We talked about including up to only 5th grade.

Library – Barb B. to take over. Need another cart for music library.

Confirmation – Feedback is that most people feel positively about including 6th grade in confirmation. 6 – 8 each Wednesday, beginning Sept. 22 orientation, the first class is Sept. 29th. Reminder letters & registration form to go out.

H.S. Youth – Road Rulz was a success. We combined with 1st Lutheran (Northridge). Good energy coming out of that trip. Campout weekend in Malibu planned. Weekly meetings are to be changed to Sunday lunchtime. Youth leadership team to be formed. Marilyn G. offered to work on this with PE. Small group for guys is in the works (to mirror God Chicks).

Adult Education – Spirit Café . Next speaker is proposed to be on Islam faith presented by Ferial Masry, who is currently running for State Assembly. Omar (son - Moslem who just returned from Israel) is also a speaker on the topic. There was some concern about her political campaign working its way into the presentation. Scott wanted to make sure it was unclear to some of us if the topic is strictly on the Islam faith, or a discussion of the war. The point of the discussion is to better understand Islam in general with the intent people are better informed about their Muslim neighbor.

Meeting adjourned approx. 9:30

Minutes prepared by Caroline Hobbs

Learning Commission Meeting Minutes

July 6th, 2004

- Members attending: Sharon Korzan, Pastor Erik, Char Sakioka, Angie Churchill, Paul Pendolino, Caroline Hobbs

Guest: Kevin Churchill (attending in advisory capacity to represent Sunday School teaching staff)

Welcome to Paul Pendolino, new Sunday school co-coordinator with Char S.

Council communications: We reviewed the new fall Sunday worship service schedule

New business:

- Communications with office staff: Sharon reminded all members of learning to preview items which we ask Gaye to put into newsletters, mail outs etc. prior to them being printed. Some members of learning voiced concerns that wording on some items were being changed, which changed the intended message. We discussed and asked if the monthly newsletter was going to go back to a twice monthly mailing? Sharon will bring up this issue to council, as many members of learning were under the impression the newsletter was to go back to 2Xmonth after June 04. Some members of learning also voiced that the once monthly newsletter is less of a tool now, and rather a “past happenings” news update. This was a problem for some members of learning and not others. We were also advised to remind Gaye of rollover dates.

Rally Day: Scheduled for 9/12

“The Church and Homosexuality” workshop: Pastor John provided a memo letter explaining the scheduled workshops (please refer to handout). Members of learning discussed and were made aware that this workshop is an ELCA mandated study. Sharon encouraged all members of

learning to attend the workshop. Caroline asked if refreshments would be scheduled and by Fellowship Committee? Caroline to discuss this with Kathy Bergh.

VBS

Angie & Caroline report that all is going well with VBS. The volunteer meeting on June 27 was well attended. Teachers are thrilled that Pastor John will be telling the bible story. The only issue to report was that there have been no volunteers to lead the 6/7 campout. Gayle Johnson has offered her home as a place to hold the campout. Caroline will place another ad requesting parent volunteers. If no one steps up, the campout will be cancelled this year. Ad's requesting help in this area have been running throughout.

Fun With Faith

- Nothing new to report this month. Pastor Erik believes that the coming year will be the same day and format. Learning discussed moving the time of FWF and Praise Kids up to 3:30, so kids can come straight from school, and it would not interfere with the dinner hour if earlier. This will be discussed at next meeting.

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Library

Caroline reported that she would be stepping down as Library Coordinator effective 9/04. Caroline will advertise for a replacement in the upcoming grapevine. In the event that no one steps forward, she will still leave the spot effective 9/04. Char S. said to let her know if her help is needed. Sharon & Caroline both voiced and felt that Char will be too busy with Sunday School to take on the job of coordinator, and that new recruits were needed.

Youth & Confirmation

- Hard copy report provided by Pastor Erik for each of these topics (Please refer to reports for detailed information and specific happenings)

Youth:

PE reports they may try a Sunday lunch alternative to the weekly Real Meal, held after the 10:45 contemporary service.

God Chicks will continue next year.

Road Rules trip upcoming (date not noted) Ascension Lutheran will provide bus charter so all the kids can ride together. Cost of bus \$1200. covered by youth budget (confirm?)

Confirmation:

PE brought back to learning the possibility of 6th graders starting confirmation, turning our program into a 3-year confirmation program, rather than the current 2-year program. Several members of learning have 6th graders and all said they would support whatever makes for the best overall program. One point to consider, which had not been previously brought up, is that the incoming 6th graders would have two years, rather than just one year, with the kids in grades ahead of them. Learning felt that this would make for a stronger youth group overall. Pastor Erik will contact parents of the other incoming 6th graders for more feedback.

Adult Education:

Scott Ingram was unable to attend, but provided a detailed report. Please refer to this report for specific information. Topics learning discussed were:

Regarding upcoming Spirit Café, members of learning felt that advertising to the community future events would be a great outreach. Scott's report asked who could write these advertisements for upcoming events? This was not clearly answered, and we should discuss this at the August 04 meeting

- Pastor Erik noted that the upcoming Spirit Café may be a discussion of Christianity / Islam / Moslem faith.

Adult Sunday school - Pastor Erik told us that there is a possibility that he may alternate between leading the A.E. bible related studies and preaching at the 9:30 service. The A.E. classes that he did not teach would be lay led. This is an idea proposed at this time, with details not worked out. Sharon suggests working out a calendar to schedule the preaching/teaching times on and off for PE.

At this time, Adult SS is planned to be held in PJ's office, and would move to the PLC $\frac{3}{4}$ classroom area as required. This would require the $\frac{3}{4}$ class moving into front class area, next to the existing 5/6 class. Char S. report that this may be an issue for Scott Fajnor, as he works with his class using tables & bibles.

Children's Sunday school

*We discussed that the opening would take place at 9:30. All present at learning meeting felt it was important for the opening to be held in an inviting environment. We decided that the opening would be held in the PLC, with the dividers open wide, and $\frac{3}{4}$ class tables pushed way back to make plenty of room. Caroline and Pete Johnson offered to lead the music at the opening, and Char and Paul will attend to the welcoming and birthdays.

*Kevin suggested they would sit on the carpet/floor for their 5/6 class, giving it a more relaxed feeling. This would also eliminate the need for tables being used and pushed out of the way at the opening.

*Kevin suggested that the Sunday school teachers should be strongly encouraged to attend the opening.

*Curriculum – We discussed curriculum options, as our current 3-year program completed this past spring. We all felt that it was best to stick with the lectionary based, Lutheran curriculum, so the plan is to continue with the Living the Good News Lectionary series. Kevin requested both intermediate and Young Teen books, in order to have more teaching options, as the intermediate level book often taught down to the kids. The 5/6 will continue to get the intermediate handouts.

*The service projects will continue to be the African Children's Choir (Claira & Paul), The canned food, and also The Rain Project for Christmas gifts. Sharon suggested that Paul and Char promote these projects at the SS opening.

*Sunday School will start on 9/19/04.

*Church Picnic date ??? Which park??? Conflict with AYSO photo's??? Kevin to research AYSO photo dates, and Paul/Char (?) will look into booking the park.

*Sunday School workshop date scheduled for Sept. 8 @ 7:00. Teachers will be strongly encouraged to attend, as there are so many changes occurring in the fall.

*Bead program is being replaced with a "Bible Bucks" program. Kids will earn bucks for attendance and other good works. Saved and earned bucks will buy different prizes. Caroline suggested asking Jim Gucciardo to design the bucks.

*No bible storyteller program this coming year. Teachers will tell bible story.

*Staff dedication date (?) (sorry, I missed the date on this!)

*Christmas program – Jesus & Monica Duran will organize program. We decided on a practice date of 12/18 with the program at 5:00 12/19. This will avoid the conflict with the Camarillo Christmas parade that exists every year. Char will confirm these dates work for the Duran's. This needs to get on the church calendar.

*There are still openings to teach in Kindergarten, Craft & Snack coordinator. Char to advertise in the grapevine for volunteers.

*Kevin asked for more of the Franklin Graham praying for kids around the world books. Caroline advised Char they are free & to call the Operation Christmas Child program to order them.

Meeting adjourned approx. 9:30.

Minutes prepared by Caroline Hobbs

*After-the-fact footnote - Caroline discussed with Kathy Bergh (Fellowship chair) if Fellowship is in charge of refreshments for church events. This is not something that falls under the duties of Fellowship at this time. Fellowship is responsible for the church picnic, however. Please contact Kathy Bergh with information gathered on the church picnic. Please make other plans for refreshments for the Oct. 2 study.

Learning Committee Minutes

April 6, 2004

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Attending: Gayle Johnson, Sharon Korzan, Angie Churchill, Char Sakioka, Pastor Erik, Caroline Hobbs, Scott Ingram

Gayle opened w/devotions & song by Amy Grant

Deadline for next newsletter is Sunday, April 18th

Committee & Council Highlights

Sharon Korzan has agreed to be the new Chair of Learning, as Gayle moves on as Church Council President. We will greatly miss Gayle as leader of our committee, but are excited about Gayle's new appointment to Church Council. We welcome Sharon, who will stay on Church Council to complete her position as liaison from CDC, and will then switch over to Learning after her term with CDC is up in Sept. 04. Sharon brings experience heading up VBS for 2 years & Sunday School for the same, so is a natural fit to head up the learning committee.

Per Gayle, Council goals are listed in the monthly newsletter. Gayle asked Learning members to determine the goals of the Learning Committee and our individual committees and have ready to bring forward at the next meeting.

Financial report: \$12,000 annual savings because of lowered rate from refi. Thrivent is our note holder. This is an adjustment to budget 2004.

We discussed changing the day of our regular Learning meetings. Tuesday is a problem with Scott, Angie & Kathy. 3rd & 4th are fine with Scott. Ladies church bonkers is on 3rd. We need to check schedules & determine which day works best for all. The current day work fine for pastor Erik and work best for Caroline. Caroline would be open to changing to 3rd or 4th Tuesday. Follow-up needed on this topic.

VBS

May 2nd will be the start of registration for church members.

Budget provided by Angie, as well as an overview of the program for 04.

Aug. 2nd - 6th are VBS dates for 2004

We have many volunteers already asking for their teaching spots. Char Sakioka agreed to do recreation.

Campout leaders will be recruited in April for beach/backyard camp for kids going into 6th & 7th grades. Angie & Caroline need to look at list of parents of children in those grades to lead the campout. We discussed recruiting older teens to help younger kids set up tents and to assist with campout.

VBS Music- PE would be willing to do the music again, and we planted the seed that perhaps Desta might be interested in joining him in the leadership?? Her positive energy and connection with the kids would be priceless.

Sunday School

Char S. reviewed the minutes from last month meeting. Last months reported attendance numbers (an average of 58) included Adult Education.

Some teachers not planning to return next year. Bob Burrow, David Del Marto, Karen Plumber. Possibly Scott Fajnor.

Gayle suggested a Sunday School open house for new members or other people who may not have had a chance to teach before. Kind of a "come in and see what it's all about" feeling.

Char suggested that she would put out a board to recruit earlier than usual & call all current teachers to see if they would return, offering them their current spots back again.

May 16 Pastor John has requested H.S. SS kids attend adult ed. as there is a special speaker that they would benefit from hearing.

Easter Hunt & Activity are scheduled and are under control, per Char. It was suggested that a big sign would be made to highlight morning activities, and also because there may not have been enough bulletin coverage to ensure everyone knows what the morning plans are.

Last day of Sunday School is June 13th. Hot dog bbq is planned. We discussed a longer SS opening with teacher appreciation. We later discussed doing "library donations" as teacher gifts, as we have done in the past. Caroline offered to provide a selection of "gift" books & plackets. Caroline also offered help from fellowship with the bbq, but told Char that Kathy & Caroline would be out of town the weekend of the 13th.

Fellowship note *We talked about the coffee service being moved back outside. Snack for Sunday school is being disrupted by people clogging up kitchen, and many felt it was unwelcoming to visitors, even with the signs telling that coffee was in the kitchen. Caroline (member of fellowship committee) told learning that at the most recent fellowship meeting, we discussed getting the coffee pots set up on timers to avoid the "coffee table" volunteer having to get to the church so early on Sundays.

Several names were mentioned as possible coordinators for Sunday School next year. Members of learning are asked to be alert to and solicit possible, qualified potential candidates to lead Sunday School in 04-05.

FWF

No news to report, as Kathy was unable to attend. All going well. Kathy did agree to continue next year, per Gayle.

Adult Education

Scott agreed to continue with adult ed for the next year.

Scott brought forth the idea of using color copies for special events. The copies are 2 1/2 cents each copy and you can print out invite style a 4-way color copy. We discussed how this could be used and a benefit.

Adult ed. is currently studying Corinthians (slowly) 1 chapter per week.

Gayle suggested we promote the Sunday adult ed by having a "testimony" from someone who regularly attends. We also discussed the problem of attendance for people who attend 11:00 service and have to wait for 1 hour to start their service. This is where promoting a "coffee hour" might be a great benefit. Fellowship is currently working on this by researching and asking council to consider purchasing tables w/umbrellas and also having occasional breakfast burritos provided by the cooks club.

Spirit CafŽ ö Pastor Erik has scheduled Guy Irwin, May 3rd 7:00 to lead us in a discussion of the book "The DaVinci Code" ö Coffee & dessert will be served. We discussed who is helping put this on. Scott has lead on refreshments. He will call Char Wall to discuss coffee & Caroline told him to have Char do follow-up on desserts (Caroline, Gayle & Sharon agreed to do a dessert). The workshop/discussion is planned to be held in the Parish Life Center. A promotion and sign-up was suggested so we could determine if we need the sanctuary or the PLC & also how many refreshments we would need.

Library

- Caroline has revised, cleaned up and categorized the library and has also reconfirmed 3 regular weekly volunteers, Aimee Stoll, Michelle Johnson, and Luanne Crockett. The other Sunday's will be covered by Caroline, at this time. A list of new arrivals was provided to learning. Scott had suggested a "new arrivals" section in the library, which was set in place recently. Caroline will stay on as Library coordinator, unless someone else comes forward excited and enthusiastic about taking it over. Sharon suggested the library needs the "left behind #11" book.

Youth

Lutheran youth organization will once again host the annual Lutheran youth assembly. Mt. Cross needs to nominate 2 youth to attend and represent us at the conference/assembly.

Confirmation

- Winding down for the year. Confirmation Sunday is May 23rd @ the 11:00 service. God stories will be given during this time.

This is a change from the usual "Fall" confirmation time, and PE feels that this will help clarify the entry into high school youth group for those leaving confirmation.

Campership

- At least 6 children (boys) have registered so far for Lutheran camp at El Camino Pines. Several families from Mt. Cross are going to Memorial Weekend at El Camino Pines.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 (approx)

Next meeting Tuesday, May 4th @ 7:00.

Minutes prepared by Caroline Hobbs.

Learning Committee February 3, 2004
Minutes