

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church 3rd Quarter Voters' Meeting

10/16/2011

Present: Pastor Bernthal, Craig Ohlmann, Jake Ohlmann, Jeff Ohlmann, Dennis Ahrens, Dan Morrison, Dale Bernthal, Arnie Hoffman, Jack Mayhew, Dave Maas

- Pres. Dan Morrison called the meeting to order at 1:20pm.
- Pastor opened with a reading from Matthew 28:16-20.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made and 2nd to approve the secretary's report. The motion carried.

Treasure's Report: Checking account balance as of that date is \$4,639.58. Dave gave us a quick recap of the quarter's offerings and expenditures. Dave also reminded us that the \$250.00 a month is being placed into the savings account because the CEF is not accepting funds at this time. A motion was made and 2nd to approve the Treasure's report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor praised God and asked that He continue to move us to "get back to the basics." He then gave a summary of what is going on during the fall season. Catechism classes are under way, and adult instruction classes may be beginning shortly. Pastor also continues to visit the shut-ins and elderly. Pastor also reminded us that he is always available for personal and family visits.

Elders' Report: The Elders stated that they see a spirit of cooperation among the church members that they have not seen in some time.

Building and Grounds: Fall work day jobs that have been started or completed: the aluminum soffit has been started; the water heater has been wired at the school, the wiring has been updated in the parsonage garage as well. The double doors for the church have arrived.

Board of Education Report: Dani Ohlmann continues to work on the preschool. Work may be commencing shortly at the school. Families have hinted that they would like to send their kids to the preschool when it opens.

Membership: LaVonne Valburg has requested that her membership be transferred to our sister congregation at Trinity Lutheran Church, Watertown, SD. A motion was made and 2nd to approve the transfer of LaVonne's membership to Trinity Lutheran Church. Motion carried.

CBP/Missions: Currently at 12%. A motion was made and 2nd to keep the CBP at 12%. Motion carried.

Salaries: A motion was made and 2nd to keep Pastor's salary at the current rate and be reevaluated at the annual meeting.

Old Business

- A question was raised about the tile project. Further discussion commenced.
- A question was also raised about the window that is in Pastor's garage.

New Business

- Worship schedule for the upcoming church year.
 - Thanksgiving Day Worship-Thurs. Nov 24th at 10am
 - Wed. Advent worship Services-Nov 30th, 7th, 14th-7:30pm
 - Christmas Eve Children's Program-Sat. Dec. 24th at 7pm
 - Christmas Day Worship- Sun. Dec 25th-10:30am
 - New Year's Eve-Sat. Dec. 31st-7pm
 - A motion was made and 2nd to accept the following dates and times for services.
The motion carried.
- Jack brought a proposal to the voters asking that we allow Pastor to have a secretary to help out with some tasks. Further discussion followed the proposal. Something that was considered was the fact that this secretary would be an employee of the church, and government tax regulations would apply. A motion was made and 2nd to allow Pastor to pursue and interview a church secretary. This is a \$600.00 maximum quarter test trial. Pastor will be in charge of searching for the candidate and assigning the duties. The motion carried.

A motion was made and 2nd to adjourn at 2:28pm. The motion carried

The Lord's Prayer was prayed in unison.

In Christ,

Dale Bernthal

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“Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” – Philippians 3:13-14



Life experience is a very powerful teaching and learning tool, isn't it? For most of us our ideas and insights about life—good, bad or otherwise—are generally formed by our *experience* in life rather than by being taught about life. This can be a good thing, since the lessons learned from experience are often the ones that “stick” with us and are the ones we learn from the most. But often learning from experience can be difficult and can have some painful consequences. On top of that, many times it is unnecessary. Our parents, grandparents, pastors, teachers, mentors, and a host of other people wiser and more experienced than ourselves have probably told us many things in our lives that we should have been paying attention to and applying to our lives, but often we just didn't listen. We were then left to learn from our mistakes.

The end of an old year and the beginning of a new one is a good time to stop and take the time to assess and take inventory of our lives. It's a good time to stop and *listen* so that hopefully we can avoid some of the pain and trouble of learning from our mistakes in the coming year and instead learn from another even more powerful teacher: the TRUTH—the TRUTH of God's Holy Word! As we consider God's Word of truth from these two verses in Philippians we will do so in the context of some of our **Concerns for the New Year**. Most often as we stand on the point where an old year ends and a new year begins our concerns are directed both toward the past and the future. Let's consider some of our concerns **1. Looking back**, and some of our concerns **2. Planning ahead**.

First, Paul speaks about our concerns of the past as we are **1. Looking back**. What does he say about it? He says don't dwell on it! **“But one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind...” (Philippians 3:13)**. Why is this such good and godly advice? Because good or bad, dwelling on, or living in the past isn't productive for our present or our future—physically or spiritually!

What we can do and what we should do when we look back on the past is learn from it! Learn, especially, the spiritual lessons God would like to teach us from our past. When we look back into our past we are going to see **our own failures**. With the Lord's help let us learn from them and not repeat them! When we look back in our lives we are also going to see **God's forgiveness!** Embrace it! Praise and thank Him for it! Realize that God knows and sees our past even more vividly and accurately than we do and yet *still* He promises us in His Word, **“For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more” (Hebrews 8:12)**.

When we look back into our past, yes, we are going to see examples of **our own faithlessness**, but more importantly we are going to see countless examples of **God's faithfulness!** We are reminded in God's Word, **“If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself” (2 Timothy 2:13)**. As we look back over the past year, 2011, we see that God has caused His holy, life-giving, life-saving Word to be preached and taught among us and the miracles of His sacraments to be administered among us faithfully as well. He has continued to bless us with the indescribable gifts of Christian fellowship and friendship at our worship services, Bible studies, fellowship groups, and other church functions. This past year we gathered with many other former members and called servants to worship and praise the Lord for His past faithfulness during our congregation's 50 year anniversary. The Lord also provided tremendous opportunities for us to share the Word of God and encourage many Christian young adults from around the CLC at the “Arise and Shine” 20's – 30's

