

**KENT MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 17, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Jennifer Bolton, Council President. Devotions were led by Kathy Spaulding.

**Members Present:** Pastor Dave, Michael Wagner, Jim Kennedy, Don Peterson, Jennifer Bolton, Charles Niemann, Virgil Norris, LeeAnne Brumm, Chuck Wanamaker, Melba Bangert, Diane Ziehl, Ken Gerardy, Kathy Spaulding, and Bob Harger.

The minutes from the last monthly Church Council meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup> were approved as presented. And the minutes from the special council meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup> were also approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** The committee reviewed line items on the balance sheet. Jennifer had talked to Ken Mueller of the property committee and received his OK to move the \$746 that is left in the outdoor worship fund to the general funds since this project has been completed.

**Building Fund Report:** Ken Gerardy presented the report. The mortgage balance on the building as of 11/01/09 is \$389,669.77.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Dave announced that the Community Thanksgiving Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Lake West Christian Academy on Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>. The offering from the service is designated to the Westlake Ministerial Alliance. Volunteers are needed for Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Center. Wednesday evening Advent services will be starting on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at Kent, and this year's theme will be "Love finds a voice in Bethlehem." As in years past, there will be a short service on Wednesday evenings and a meal afterwards. Kent Memorial will be welcoming seven new members on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup>. They are Carol Knight, Mike & Judy Ward and Dave & Cindy Curchy. Jim & Pat Larson will be associate members. Karen Pragman and Pat Dau are heading up a Grief Support Group, and there have been approximately five people participating in the group. This ministry might expand out into the community. Dale & Rosalie Freelove resigned their membership from Kent Memorial in October.

**Christian Education:** Bob Harger reported that this committee did not have a monthly meeting in October. It was noted that some of the Sunday School classes are smaller than last year. Dorothy's class has been completed. It was well-attended. They discussed the book *Prodigal God*. A second adult class is being considered for next year when Dorothy returns.

**Evangelism:** Kathy Spaulding mentioned that Kent members who have invitees come to our church services will have their names printed in the newsletter and bulletins. Additionally, a short biography of new members will be featured in the newsletter.

**Long Range Planning:** Don Peterson reported that the stained glass window project is progressing as planned. The Church signs at each entrance to Kent have been refurbished and raised to allow more visibility from the highway. The sound room team has made a few requests, and this was reviewed.

**Ministry Fund:** There was no monthly meeting held in October.

**Mutual Ministry:** Jennifer read two e-mails from Nancy Lemke, resigning her position on this committee, as well as from the clown ministry. The Kent Clowns have current commitments for the remainder of the year. The Church Council approved James O'Neal as a new member of this committee if he's willing to serve.

**Property:** Jim Kennedy announced that the project involving permanent hookup to city water for the church and parsonage is nearly complete. Several volunteers took time to clean up the leaves on the church grounds. There was a break-in on Sunday night October 25<sup>th</sup> and the police and insurance company were notified. Nothing seemed to be missing, and the committee is looking into replacing the office door that was damaged and making the downstairs exterior doors more secure.

**Social Ministry:** Melba Bangert reported that the “Loving Gifts Tree” is up and the SMCYH Christmas party will be held in our fellowship hall on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. In October, there were 16 calls for assistance from the community, and the needs and requests for help are continuing to grow. Thanksgiving gifts (grocery gift certificates) will be given to the two food pantries. Volunteers are needed for Salvation Army bell ringing.

**Stewardship:** Virgil Norris reported that there was no monthly meeting. New offering envelopes for 2010 will be available at the beginning of December.

**Worship and Music:** Charles Niemann announced that Gloria Peterson will be the new committee chairperson, and they are looking for one more replacement member. The small organ has been sold. The handbells have been refurbished, and the Handbell Choir will provide prelude music for the Christmas Eve service.

**Youth Ministry:** Diane Ziehl shared information about the new after-school program. There were 16 children who attended the monthly event on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>. This program is really opening doors between the church and the community, and the number of participants is growing each month.

**Partnership for Missional Church (PMC):** Pastor Dave and Melba Bangert reported that there will be a steering committee/council retreat on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> at Kent Memorial. There will also be a cluster meeting in St. Louis on Jan. 15-16.

**Old Business:** There was a reminder that committee’s annual reports are due by 01/15/10. All committees need to get new members to replace their outgoing members and to stagger the terms.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding options for Kent Memorial with regard to recent controversy involving the Human Sexuality policy passed at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August. There are four Lutheran church affiliations, including the ELCA, which are being studied by the Kent Church Council. Members were given information about one of these affiliations...”Lutheran Congregations in Mission For Christ”, also known as “LCMC.” Council members will evaluate reading material, research website, and watch the DVD.

The ELCA has made a provision for congregations to declare who they will or will not call for rostered ministry. The church council has voted to send this declaration to the ELCA. Following is a copy of the letter:

***Declaration Regarding Rostered Ministry at Kent Memorial Lutheran Church***

November 18, 2009

Kent Memorial Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Kent Memorial Lutheran Church, as a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, understands that it has the right to call, or refuse to call, as a pastor or rostered lay leader any person who is on the roster of ordained ministers or lay rosters or any candidate approved for those rosters.

Kent Memorial Lutheran Church, in accordance with the 2009 Churchwide Assembly which resolved that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America “make provision in its policies to recognize the conviction of members who believe that this church should not call or roster people in a publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationship,” declares that this congregation will not call a pastor or lay rostered leader who is or intends to be in such a same-gender relationship.

Kent Memorial Lutheran Church declares that marriages, civil unions, or blessings of persons in same-gender relationships will not be performed in this church building or authorized by this congregation.

Signed,

Kent Memorial Lutheran Church Council

David R. Beese, Pastor

Jennifer L. Bolton, Council President

There was a motion by Virgil Norris, seconded by Jim Kennedy that the Church Council make a recommendation to the congregation at the Annual Meeting Part II on February 8, 2010 that this declaration be added as an amendment to the Kent Memorial Constitution. The motion passed with one no vote.

Pastor Beese will continue Bible Study classes on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Please plan on joining us around the table as we learn more about God’s Word. May we continue to pray for God’s guidance and for Pastor Beese, each other and for our congregation as we go through this time at Kent Memorial.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Offerings: Church Council voted to designate the Advent offerings to Kent’s Social Ministry Committee and the Christmas Eve offering will be split equally between Share the Harvest and Community for Christ.

Webmaster: Kent is searching for a new webmaster for the church’s website. Don Brohm will be retiring from this position as of 12/31/09. If Kent has to hire a webmaster, Don would like to give a quote to do this.

Absentee Ballots: Council discussed recent requests regarding making absentee ballots for congregational meetings a possibility. It was not approved at this time.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m. followed by the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stacey O’Neal,  
Substitute Secretary