

Council President's Report

March 9, 2009

1. The special congregational meeting on March 1, 2009, had excellent attendance and was generally a very positive experience for all involved. Afterwards I have heard some considerable and genuine enthusiasm expressed for the *Vision, Mission & Guiding Principles* adopted and, as expected, there was much interest in the reports given about the transition process/retirement planning.
2. Thank you to all who worked so hard to plan and carry out the Leaders' Retreat on Saturday, March 7th. Many "behind the scenes" hours were given by the Strategic Planning Team and the church staff to make all the arrangements and take care of the many details. We now have much work before us to develop an effective implementation plan for the future ministries of Trinity Church.
3. Your Council vice president Craig Erdman and I continue to follow up on some of the unresolved issues discussed with us when we met individually with all the committee chairs earlier this winter. We are pleased to report that several of those issues have now been satisfactorily resolved and others are being actively addressed.
4. Council members are reminded that your attendance at the Sup & Study series on Wednesdays during Lent and at the special services during Holy Week is encouraged and expected. Remember – as the elected lay leaders of this congregation, we set the example for the rest of our fellow disciples.
5. Reminder (*another example setting opportunity!*) – The opening devotional study at each Council meeting, taken from a recent issue of *The Lutheran* magazine, is discussed in more depth at an adult forum that meets on the last Sunday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in Rooms 232-234. Tonight's study "*They Come in All Sizes - Upside, Downside of Church Size*" will be discussed more completely at the forum on Sunday, March 29th.
6. Finally, remember that our Council meetings will be conducted:
 - a. Prayerfully – *opening with meaningful devotions on a pertinent faith topic and subject to prayer "time outs" when requested by any member*
 - b. Thoughtfully – *encouraging Council members, staff and visitors to ask questions with the assurance that a complete and appropriate answer will be provided*
 - c. Thoroughly – *committing enough time and energy to address all the issues and opportunities placed before us*
 - d. Focused – *dealing with the issues that impact our Church, always evaluating and deciding proposals on their "fit" with our newly adopted Vision/Mission Statement/Guiding Principles*
 - e. Lovingly – *respecting our diversity, working together as disciples of Christ despite differing opinions and enthusiastically carrying out the will of the majority*

Peace,

Doug Bonsall, Council President