

COFFEE WITH COUNCIL

2-28-21

opened with prayer by Pr Sarah Pierce.

Lisa Melton reminded everyone of the Transition Team process. Over a year ago they conducted interview with congregational members. Some questions were from the synod and some were of their own design. The themes from the interviews were shared with Pr Bill George and the congregation. The process was shut down for a while because of Covid. They compiled some demographics fro Independence, Grain Valley, and Blue Springs. Ron Easton met with community leaders in Blue Springs to find service opportunities. The Transition Team started working with Pr Whetter after Pr George was injured. The next step was to create a new mission statement and brainstorm ideas about what we might want to do. (That will be a topic for another meeting.) The Transition Team held a retreat with the church council that was facilitated by Pr Whetter to discuss the mission statement and the next step of meeting with the congregation. We need an attitude of flexibility to change in order to survive as a congregation. What have we done in the past, what are we doing in the present, and what can we do in the future to be flexible to change?

The group went into 4 break out rooms to discuss the three questions.

Anne Lee's Group

The first priority was to get back to in person worship. We should do both in person and virtual worship. We need to nurture ourselves--we miss the fellowship. Outreach will happen after things open up.

Use the church as a meeting place for community groups such as AA.

Know how the growth in Grain Valley and Oak Grove could be an opportunity. Reach out to the Chamber of Commerce. Can we get on a listing that is given to new people in the community? Most members come from other Lutheran churches so they would be made aware of us.

Use the church as a vaccination site.

Keep the kids activities in the news.

Ron E said the Blue Springs C of C prints a book each year that is given to new residents. They also give out swag (pens, pins, note pads, etc.). He will post anything written up about the youth.

Lisa Melton's Group

We focused on doing things outside the church walls. We need to be noticed by the community. The exact thing may not matter--be positive. Join with another

church to get ideas. Are there any that were stopped that could be restarted? The ELCA day of service is usually on Rally day but we could do it on some other day. Pr Sarah and Jim McDonald are possible contacts for other churches in Blue Springs. The churches in the Lenten group.

Pam Meek's Group

Focus on communication. We do the newsletter, email, website, and FB. What else can we do? Phone trees but not all are comfortable with that. Mailing postcards have the cost of the cards and stamps. Texting could be utilized more but people have to sign up for it. Prayer chain (HIPPA?). Develop a closer relationship with the synod office to enlist their support.

Pr Sarah's Group

Appreciation. We are flexible through the pandemic but what happens after it ends? Will we go back or keep things as they are? How will we continue? Vickie Miller belonged to a church that closed and she saw the same patterns beginning at All Saints. How do we get to where we are willing to take these steps? Not everyone participates in projects. Estimates are 20% do projects and 80% only worship on Sunday morning. How can we increase the 20%? Large items in the past were the energy, youth, music, and fellowship (Advent mean, pie night, chili cook offs). How do we leverage things (gifts and values) that are important to us and keep them and pivot to invite the neighborhood? A spaghetti dinner was planned but never happened (bad weather cancelled it and it was never rescheduled).

Pam: We will continue the discussion through Coffee With Council and may need additional Zoom calls. We are trying to get it done by Easter. This is our Lenten journey. We all have pros and cons that need to be identified. The next council meeting is 3/11/21 and the Transition Team will join us.

Meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer at 12:13.