

COUNCIL'S CORNER

January 2019

Advent Lutheran Core Values This is a safe place to be who you are...

- **New Year...new opportunities for doing God's work**
 - As one year ends and another begins, we may reflect on what happened in the past year and perhaps what we would like to accomplish in the New Year that God has given to us. Many organizations promote their way to better fitness, improved eating habits, a healthier you, etc. Others explain how to keep those resolutions without backsliding before the end of January. I reflect on of Jesus' greatest commandments found in Matthew 22:36-40. He does not talk about improving one's eating habits or becoming more fit. He talks about loving God and loving neighbor. Actions that lift up God and others before self.

- **Beloved Community Arts Center (BCAC) –**

Growing *The Beloved Community* in South County through service and the creative arts.

 - The next BCAC session will be on Saturdays for 10 weeks starting January 26, 2019 and running through March 30. BCAC plans to offer violin classes in addition to guitar, world percussion, and singing. Registration is open now for children and families in South County and, of course, for Advent children and families too. Check it out at <http://advent-lutheran.org/bcac/>
 - Looking to volunteer some time and meet new people? BCAC volunteers can greet students and families, write grants, provide snacks, and pray for this new ministry and all who are involved. There will even be opportunities to improve your language skills in Spanish and English!

- **Thank your Council members again! And Pastor Anita!**
 - 2018 Council members who have completed their service
 - 2nd Vice President Jacqui K.
 - Treasurer Norman O.
 - Community Connections Marcia N.
 - Worship & Music Valerie S.
 - 2019 Council members who were elected, re-elected, or appointed*
 - President Ed M. (2nd two-year term)
 - 2nd Vice President Kathy P. * (1st two-year term, see Exec actions below)
 - Treasurer Janel J. (1st two-year term)
 - Community Connections Catherine H. (1st two-year term)
 - Stewardship Joyce G. (2nd two-year term)
 - Worship & Music Elinor M. (1st two-year term)
 - 2019 Council members who are continuing their terms
 - 1st Vice President Brad B.
 - Financial Secretary David C.
 - Secretary Pete McE.
 - Faith Development Kris A.
 - Communications Lynn A.
 - Operations Carrie M.

- **Selected highlights from recent Executive committee business**

- (Council did not meet in December)**

- By consensus, Exec approved a Facility Use Request by the Morgan Hill Parent Child Nursery School (MHPCNS) for a sing-along in the Sanctuary on Dec. 20.
 - It was moved and seconded to appoint Kathy P. to the position of 2nd Vice President. In discussion, it was noted that this appointment is subject to review by the Council when it meets in January. This appointment will be presented for ratification by the congregation at the January 27, 2019 Congregational meeting. The motion carried.
 - It was moved and seconded to designate the International Rescue Committee (IRC) for Yemen as the 1st Quarter 2019 Mission. The motion carried.
 - It was moved and seconded to set Pastor's housing allowance at the amount she requested. In discussion it was noted that the IRS allows ordained clergy to stipulate a housing allowance to be taken off their earned income for tax purposes. Executive is required to authorize the amount of Pastor's housing allowance. The motion carried.
 - In closed session, the following topics were discussed: 2019 budget adjustments, BCAC job descriptions, compensation, and offer letters, and condo rent payment.

- **Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 27, 2018 at 11:00 AM**

- Everyone is invited to the Congregational Meeting after worship.
 - The *DRAFT* agenda
 - Opening devotions
 - Approval of Minutes of November 11, 2018
 - Presentation of written annual reports by Pastor, staff, Congregational President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Council Committee Chairs, and others
 - Ratification of Council's appointment of 2nd Vice President, Kathy Panzica.
 - Capital Campaign actions (see * below)
 - Move to rescind the motion relating to hiring TAG Consulting to lead a capital campaign in 2019, which was adopted at our November 11, 2018 Congregational meeting.
 - Consider a motion to hire Mission Investment Fund (MIF) to lead a capital campaign in 2019 with the capital goal to be determined by the Church Council with guidance from MIF.
 - Approval of 2019 Budget
 - Election of voting members for Synod Assembly, May 11, 2019 (1 female, 1 male, and 1 alternate)
 - Closing prayer

* At the November 11, 2018 Congregational meeting, Council and Pastor listened carefully to the discussion and the vote regarding the 2019 Capital Campaign. Although the motion passed with 35 Yes votes and 22 No votes, there were a significant number of important questions and concerns raised. In subsequent meetings, Exec and Council discussed how to respond and what steps to take next. The December Council's Corner provided information in response to some of those questions. In early December, Joyce G., Stewardship chair, reached out to Mission Investment Fund (MIF) Capital Campaign Services and scheduled a conference call with them and several Council members and Pastor Anita. The outcome from that call and subsequent communications with MIF is that Council and Pastor agree that MIF would be a better choice to lead Advent's Capital Campaign in 2019. MIF holds Advent's mortgage and was very helpful in 2017 when we refinanced the church

debt and bought the condo. Bible study, devotions, and prayer are key components of MIF's capital campaign leadership. MIF suggested new approaches for our capital campaign that may provide more flexibility to address our needs. The estimated cost for MIF's capital campaign services is ~\$13,000 which is ~\$25,000 less than TAG Consulting.

- For the Congregational Meeting: "Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation." (Advent's Constitution section *8.02c)

- **Selected highlights from some recent Council committee reports will resume in future issues of Council's Corner**

- **Updates on some Council Action Items will resume in future issues of Council's Corner**

Guests are always welcome at Council and Executive committee meetings held in the Berkland Fellowship Hall. Executive committee meets on the 2nd Monday of each month. Council meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month. All meetings start at 7:00 PM. (Meetings are on the Advent's website calendar, <http://advent-lutheran.org/advent-master-calendar/>).

Respectfully submitted, Ed M.