

2009 Education Committee Congregational Report Submitted by Luann Lane and Marsha Bones

At the March 14, 2009 Council Goal Setting retreat creating a Holistic Christian Education committee was one of the top four priorities for the Council. Initially Marsha Bones, Susan Detwiler, Nell Walton, and Sharon Johnson developed an action plan that was presented at the April Council meeting.

Then from May to August Marsha, Susan, Sharon, along with Charles Lane representing Mission and Vision, and Luann Lane worked on the framework that led to the first Committee meeting on August 26. At that meeting Luann was elected chair and Marsha would be the Council Liaison. The committee has been meeting semimonthly. The principal role of this team is to plan, implement, provide and evaluate life-long Christian educational programs for the Congregation and the Community.

The Committee members are: Luann Lane, Marsha Bones, Susan Detwiler, Melissa Gurr, Naurine McCormick, Shiena Polehn, Sharon Johnson, Doris Lundahl, Debbie Champagne, Zane Wilson, and Amanda Wilson.

The Committee's work has included:

- Guided by the Constitution team, we have established Continuing Resolutions to provide a framework for the team to work within. The Continuing Resolutions describe our responsibilities and define our role in the congregation.
- Created a list of priorities that will be our focus in the coming months. Our highest priorities are to:
 - > Support and strengthen the youth program (middle and high school ages)
 - > Support children and family ministry
 - > Encourage more child-friendly worship opportunities
 - > Create opportunities for learning and spiritual growth for all
- Participated in the process of creating a Nursery Director position and then hiring Melissa Gurr. Melissa, Luann, Linda Sindt, and Susan have developed nursery protocols, developed a volunteer list and is training them. Melissa, Luann, Ted and Melanie Menold have painted and rearranged our nursery physicality so it has a refreshing look and is a safe environment for our youngest children.
- Susan, Luann, Marsha, Karen Halter, and Greg Applen worked on Sunday School Wing building and safety needs. Our Sunday School Wing Hallway has fresh paint, new lights, and a kid friendly atmosphere.
- The Committee has also been collaborating with the office staff and Linda Sindt on safety protocols, ensuring that all who participate in activities at Ascension know that they are in a safe and secure environment. A Volunteer Application and Covenant forms have been revised. Background checks are also being done on any volunteer who works with children, youth, and money.
- CPR training for volunteers who work with children has been scheduled for December 10, 2009 and January 16, 2010.
- Our Youth Program will be called ALYO (Ascension Lutheran Youth Organization) which will also be connected to the Synod's OLYO (Oregon Lutheran Youth

Organization). It was recommended and approved by Council that ALYO will be registered with the Crater Lake Boy Scout Council as a Venture Crew. Venture Crew programs are for youth boys and girls 14 years to 21 years of age. With this connection ALYO will have access to leadership training for youth and adult leaders, access to Boy Scouts properties and additional insurance coverage. Pastor Amanda with Zane's help will be the leaders for the program.

- The Committee has also been collaborating with the Worship Team on children and young families' needs for worship. A young Family friendly seating section for worship services has been created on the north side of the Sanctuary so there is easy access to the restroom and nursery. The Education Team also provided input to the Worship's Search Committee for new Choir Director and plans to do the same for Church Accompanist/Musician position. The two committees are working on other child-friendly worship opportunities besides just the great children sermons that we already have.
- Committee is thinking about changing its name to Faith Formation and Education Team/Committee.
- The team is reading and discussing one section each meeting of "Best Practices in Faith Formation". This gives the team an opportunity to look at what we are currently doing and look at what we need to be doing. It will also give us a good foundation for working on a mission and vision statement for the committee.