

Trinity Lutheran Church

Worship Ministry Team: Contemporary Worship Sub-Committee

Meeting Minutes – Monday, July 13, 2009

Attendees: Pastor George Mathews, Kathy Mathews, Bill Oehler, Esther Semken, Marty Semken, Mary Ann Keller, Tim Sheffler, and Brenda Grunza.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Mathews opened the meeting with devotions.

Items of Business:

Evaluation of Day and Time for the Contemporary Worship Service:

There was a lengthy discussion about what time and day was best for the Contemporary Worship Service. An initial proposal that was developed by the sub-committee that would provide for Sunday School and the Contemporary Worship Service taking place simultaneously. This would address several concerns:

- Parents of many Sunday School children are not attending services.
- While the Contemporary Worship team has done an excellent job of establishing a well-run service, the attendance does not yet reflect a significant gain of inactive members or new members.
- Many Sunday School children are not attending services. They are not becoming familiar with the forms of the service or the people involved, and they are not developing a respect for the sanctuary.
- Sunday 8:15 am may not be the best time for either the target audience or any eventual new participants in the contemporary service.
- Music has been largely removed from the Sunday School agenda.

With this arrangement Sunday School would begin as part of the contemporary service; the first 15 minutes would include a children's song and a children's sermon. After the children's sermon the children would be dismissed and go to their individual Sunday School classes.

- More children become familiar with services.
- More parents attend services.
- Opportunity for more people to attend the Coffee Hime.
- Later start time for Contemporary Service may attract larger audience and may give greater flexibility in transitioning to live music.
- Children can participate in music worship. Contemporary selections may appeal across a broader age range.

We are asking for the reaction and recommendations of both the Worship Ministry Team and the Sunday School Sub-Committee of the Education Ministry Team. A possible Sunday morning schedule could be as follows:

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| Contemporary Worship Service | 9:00 am to 10:00 am |
| Sunday School | 9:00 am to 10:10 am |
| Coffee Hour | 10:00 am to 10:30 am |
| Traditional Worship Service | 10:30 am to 11:30 am |

This proposal changed the coffee hour from following the 10:30 AM service to an half hour before the 10:30 AM service (*between the two services*). A challenge will be the ability to enlist people to make weekly preparations for the coffee hour; this is continuing to prove difficult with the present schedule.

Other concerns and follow-up matters include:

- **Effect on Sunday School**
 - Reduces available rooms. Kitchen and adjacent area need to be available for setup. Setup noise may affect classes.
 - Traffic created by children coming to or going from the library could disturb the Contemporary Service.
- **Effect on choir**
 - If the choir keeps its practice time prior to the Traditional Service, it will largely be excluded from Coffee Time.
- **Effect on Adult Study**
 - If the Adult Study schedule continues to match Sunday School, participants will be excluded from the Contemporary Service.
 - Adult Study participants will have a time gap before the Traditional Service begins. At the same time, many of these people may want to attend the Coffee Time.
- **Cost of food**
 - We expect more attendees of Coffee Time, since we'll be drawing on two services plus Sunday School. Do we have the money to support this?
- **Timing**
 - The timing between various events (early service, late service, Sunday School, Coffee Time, choir practice) are tied more tightly together. Any delays or deviations may multiply across activities.
- **Others?**

In order to eliminate any confusion, it is important that any schedule change that might be implemented should be done with the end of the summer schedule and the opening of Sunday School for the fall.

Position of Contemporary Worship Coordinator:

We decided that the Position of Contemporary Worship Coordinator should be a paid position. Pastor, Mary Ann Keller and Bill Oehler will meet and prepare a job description for the position.

In order to lighten the load on Mary Ann we decided to eventually transfer the preparation of the weekly announcements in the PowerPoint format to Carole Hamersly given the fact that Carole is already preparing the same announcements for the bulletin inserts.

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Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held at the Parish House on Monday, August 3, 2009 at 7:00 pm.

Closing: The meeting closed with Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Bill Oehler
July 14, 2009