

## 2011-12 Board Commissions

### **BYLAW V: AUTHORITY AND FUNCTION OF BOARDS (Constitution, Chapter 13)**

Each board shall consist of five members and a chair elected for two-year terms by the congregation at its annual meeting. All board chairs and the members of all boards other than the School Board shall be members of the congregation. One member of the School Board, other than its chair, may be an individual who is not a member of the congregation. Terms shall be staggered with three positions on each board standing for election each year. Terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which members are elected. No member shall serve on the same board for more than two consecutive full terms.

Should a position on any board become vacant, including that of chair of the board, the Church Council shall elect, by majority vote, a successor to complete the unexpired term.

### **FAMILY AND YOUTH BOARD**

The family and youth board shall be responsible for developing and implementing an intergenerational partnership with home, congregation, and St. Paul's School to assist families with faith formation. This board shall also develop programming for junior high, senior high and young adults.

Objective: Empowering families and youth, through Christ-centered community, to live their faith beyond the walls of St. Paul's in service to others.

#### Goals:

- Providing faith-building opportunities and experiences.
  - Kinderlent, Advent at the Arch
  - Youth Advent Worship Service
  - Small Groups: Family Fellowship Group, Men's Group, Girl's Group, HS Youth Group
  - Family Camp
  - Youth events: Lock-ins, retreats
  - Family events: Christmas caroling, Winterfest, Scavenger Hunt
  - WIYLDE: Leadership camp for Iowa youth
  - Easter Drama, Dinner Theater
- Encouraging families to incorporate faith moments within everyday life.
  - Advent/Lent devotional resources
  - "Taking Faith Home" resource
  - Mardi Gras Fair—global barnyards, prayer cubes, etc.
  - Fall Festival—Faith tool kits
- Involving families and youth in service to others.
  - ELCA Hunger Program (Lent and VBS offerings)
  - ELCA Malaria Initiative
  - Youth—Homeless Challenge, LYO events, Chicago Trip, ELCA Youth Gathering
  - Souper Bowl of Caring
  - Feed My Starving Children
  - Community Garden
  - Giving Tree

### **MISSION BOARD**

The mission board shall be responsible for planning, oversight and coordination of programs which provide for an active response to the gospel that strives for peace and justice. The work of the board will focus on both local and global evangelism and outreach.

- Objective: To encourage St. Paul's members to see themselves as part of a larger Christian community, both giving and receiving gifts to build up the Church.  
Action steps:
  1. Encourage members to be in contact with ELCA missionaries Fred and Gloria Strickert at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Jerusalem
  2. Sponsor a mission emphasis month in 2012 and raise \$3,000 for supporting our missionaries, Fred and Gloria Strickert.
  3. Encourage members to receive communications from Herb Hafermann and the Lutheran Church in Tanzania, and to offer their support and encouragement.
  4. Provide awareness of ELCA advocacy issues

- Goal Focus: *For Christ's Service*. To serve Christ in God's world by planning, monitoring, and coordinating programs in active response to the gospel that strives for peace and justice.

Objective: To provide opportunities for St. Paul's members to experience/learn about peace and justice concerns beyond our local community.

Action steps:

1. Support the NE Iowa Synod, Family and Youth Board and Council goals for "One Net/One Life."
2. Consult with Youth and Family Board about setting up a 2012 Holy Family task force
3. Provide Fair Trade products for sale twice a month.
4. Explore the possibility of supporting a table for World Windows at the St. Paul's Mini-Mall in 2012
5. Provide opportunities during the year to participate in a *Bread for the World* letter writing campaign, possibly electronically.
6. Make materials available for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

Objective: To provide opportunities for St. Paul's members to experience/learn about peace and justice within our local community.

Action steps:

1. Provide a Thanksgiving Day noon meal at St. Paul's.
2. Recruit volunteers for and provide information about the Backpack project done as a shared community ministry in Waverly.
3. Recruit support (financial and volunteer) for St. Paul's Café once a month.
4. Encourage monthly donations for the Northeast Iowa Community Action food pantry.
5. Recruit Habitat for Humanity partner families and volunteers on an "as needed" basis.

## PARISH EDUCATION BOARD

The parish education board shall be responsible for the planning, oversight and coordination of the various educational programs of the congregation (excluding St. Paul's Lutheran School). The board will intentionally provide educational opportunities for all ages in the congregation. Areas of responsibility include, but are not limited to, Sunday School, confirmation ministry, small group ministry, and other programs that support the educational goals of the congregation.

Goals:

- Strengthen Confirmation
  1. Provide continuity of instruction throughout the 3-year period by identifying clear instructional goals, reviewing and clarifying instructional materials, integrating service projects and utilizing worship as an instructional medium.
  2. Strengthen mentor programming by systematizing mentor training and expectations.
  3. Emphasize the week long confirmation camp during the summer and seek funding as necessary.
- Address Adult Education Programming
  1. Enhance and develop educational programming each month during the adult education hour. We will provide programming for the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month. The council boards are free to present programming from their respective areas on the first Sunday of each month. The 4th and 5th Sundays in the month will be reserved for community building as social hour.
  2. Grow awareness for social issues within and around our own community as well as learn ways to participate beyond our borders. Our hope is that as we bear witness to the suffering and joys in our community and our world we will strive to equip ourselves with what is necessary to be the difference that God calls us to be.
- Strengthen Wednesday Programming
  1. Support the evolving Saints Alive and all Wednesday evening worship and educational programming.
  2. Evaluate hours and compensation of the director.
- Encourage Christian learning through Sunday School and Vacation Bible School
  1. Coordinate programming and procuring committed teachers for both Sunday School and Vacation Bible School.
  2. Secure a part-time position to take leadership in the organizing and overseeing the operation of Sunday School and Vacation Bible School.

- Grow opportunities to participate in small groups for Christian fellowship and learning
  1. Support existing small groups with prayer, guidance, and programming needs.
  2. Encourage the formation of new small groups to enhance growth in faith among members of St. Paul's Lutheran.
- Restructure the Parish Education Board to promote effective program planning  
Explore the current functioning of the Board of Education in order to design a structure that will enhance the various programs under the auspices of its leadership.

## **PARISH LIFE BOARD**

The parish life board shall be responsible for planning, oversight and coordination of programs which seek to enhance the communal life of the congregation. The work of the board will focus on, but will not be limited to intergenerational fellowship events, new member orientation, small fellowship groups, intercessory prayer visitation ministries, and volunteer ministry.

- Goal Focus: *To Grow in Faith*: to enable lifelong spiritual growth by providing dynamic and diverse opportunities for worship, prayer and study.  
Objectives/Action Steps
  1. To create and maintain a bulletin board of active military service members for prayer and support.
  2. To organize a monthly meal and program for older adults in the congregation through the Senior Adult Ministry. The year's program themes will be balanced for spiritual, physical, social and educational well-being.
  3. Support the Intercessory Prayer ministry when they request it
- Goal Focus: *Through Christian Community*: to be a welcoming congregation that nurtures a community of caring and responsibility to one another.  
Objectives/Action Steps
  1. Provide opportunity for members and guests to meet for informal conversation and refreshments on Sunday morning;
  2. Welcome children to worship through age-appropriate Worship Welcome Bags;
  3. Support the use of our nursery during worship and all-congregation gatherings;
  4. Continue support of Fun in the Sun groups to build friendships;
  5. Work with the Women's Ministry Task Force to offer events that strengthen women in faith and service
  6. Organize and sponsor four congregational fellowship events during the year.
  7. Strengthen and support the Umbrella of Care ministries.
  8. Participate in New Member Welcome by:
    - a. Recruiting and training host families for new members
    - b. Providing ideas and information that will enable hosts to help new members to grow in relationships of community, loyalty and identity as part of St. Paul's
    - c. To organize and prepare a gift bag for each new member household, with contributions from various Boards and organizations of St. Paul's.
  9. Review and strengthen Volunteer Ministry throughout St. Paul's Church and School

## **SCHOOL BOARD**

The school board shall be responsible for the planning and oversight of general operating policies (financial and otherwise) for St. Paul's Lutheran School. This includes periodic review and recommendations regarding the staff salary schedule. The board shall also provide for an active program of public relations and student recruitment within and outside the congregation. When authorized by the church council to fill vacancies on the school staff, the board will oversee the hiring process.

Goals:

- Develop a marketing strategy.
- Define and implement a partnership with Wartburg.
- Implement the 5th/6th grade Task Force Recommendations.
- Review and edit policies, handbooks, and required accreditation documentation.

## **WORSHIP BOARD**

The worship board shall be responsible for planning, oversight and coordination of the programs that contribute to the worship life of the congregation. The work of the board will include, but not be limited to, attention to the following areas: music, worship resources and the development of a worship community at which all are welcome.

Goal: To enable lifelong spiritual growth by providing dynamic and diverse opportunities for worship and prayer.

1. Introduce additional worship, prayer and diverse styles into worship
  - a. Establish a Wednesday evening worship service
  - b. Continue KinderAdvent and KinderLent services
  - c. Establish a worship planning team for the Sunday late service
  - d. Support and expand efforts to increase the practice of prayer among all members
2. Reach out in response to changing church demographics
  - a. Improve hospitality to visitors and prospective members
  - b. Continue to use the congregation survey as a guide
3. Involve more persons in worship leadership
  - a. Expand numbers in choirs.
  - b. Increase opportunities for families to be more involved in worship, such as lectors, greeters, communion servers, ushers, etc.