

## **Leadership Retreat**

### **Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**

### **Friday, April 8, 2008 - 6 to 9 p.m.**

The goals of this leadership gathering were to fellowship around a pizza meal; celebrate leadership goals we have met; consider goals that are awaiting completion; discuss the strengths and challenges of our mutual ministries; discover more ways to partner and invite others' input and participation; and evaluate how our ministries support our mission statement.

In attendance at this leadership retreat were: Stephanie Byers, Lauren Byers, Ed Coup, Penny Coup, Kay Dunn, Don Fisher, Ruth Greenly, Mike Lazor, Nancy Mensch, Pastor Pat, Tim Walsh, Nancy Walters, Nancy Watts, and Roger Watts.

The retreat began with an opening prayer, hymn, and a pizza meal. Pastor Pat read from Joshua 1, verses 1-3 and 5-9, and we spent time discussing the promises and commands God gave to Joshua and to leaders in general. We noted how this text calls us to be courageous, brave, and assured of God's presence in our ministries. We noted that God's Word will give us all the abundance we need to accomplish what God calls us to do.

We then took time to celebrate things that are happening at Christ Church. We lifted up:

- the gift and strength of our sign ministry; how, even though it is "completed" as a structure, it is a "continuing project" in how it reaches so many in our community. Several leaders lifted up how it has drawn people to Bible School, worship, the Advent potluck, as well as brought about comments from people in the community - how it strengthens them - and how they look forward to reading it each week. The sign also makes it easier to find Christ Church now!
- the pavilion project in process; how it has become another "continuing project" offered to us from the hands of faithful people before us. We spent time visualizing the many ways we might use the pavilion for ministry - and how we want to lift up those ideas as we participate in the cottage discussion meetings and congregational meeting that will be held in May. The cottage meetings have been a true blessing in our congregational life! Not only do they give folks an opportunity to discuss ideas and projects; they are scheduled at convenient times for many to attend.
- the accessible bathroom - the new carpeting in the choir room - the excellent organ we are blessed to have - the gifted musicians - the user-friendly and effective website - the new leaders who have been rising to serve in ministry areas - the lighting project in the sanctuary. We counted the blessings that others have handed down to us.

- the “team playing” that is strengthening in our ministry groups – the many ways we work together to share ideas. We affirmed how prayer has brought so many to leadership roles. We celebrated how we center our ministry around our mission statement in many ways – in worship, in reporting, in leading council discussions, etc.

We followed with discussion of the challenges of our ministries, lifting up:

- extending invitations to new folks, inviting others to help in ministry groups, worship, teaching, etc. We noted that people are willing to help, but usually need to be invited – and we also rejoiced in the prayer process for calling new folks to serve – how it might be a great idea to use prayer in calling all to serve. Some shared how pleased others have been to be asked to serve; some also wondered if we could break down service times into more manageable pieces, eliminating a sense that serving in any particular area would become a “life sentence.” Life is just so busy.
- how we might better help people attend Christ Church. We talked about summer Sunday School as an option. We discussed asking greeters to welcome folks before and after worship. We discussed having our leadership circulate throughout the congregation in worship, getting to know people better, introducing ourselves to folks we do not know. We discussed having leaders wear name tags so others can get to know us, too.
- the frustration of good discussions and ideas, yet nothing new happening. We lifted up how things are happening, and wondered how we might apply our conversations by being “contagious” in our optimism - helping others to know what is happening – being patient as God works new things at Christ Church. We are pleased with how leadership retreats are helping us do that.

Following our discussion, we focused on two goals that we want to give an “honest try” in the next few months:

- ask greeters to welcome people as they come to worship and as they leave worship
- be intentional as leaders to circulate among the congregation and welcome people, wearing name tags to help people get to know us

Pastor Pat will schedule our next meeting in August – either a Friday evening or Saturday morning.

We concluded the retreat with prayers for those in need, communion, closing prayer, and benediction.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Pat ☺