

Councils' Letter to the Congregation

August 27, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
Summer greetings from your 2009 Congregational Council.

Council has been busy these past few months working on new projects. For instance: Dianne Nichols and Ken Christensen have been planning a new Welcome Ministry.

Welcome Ministry will seek to connect with visitors and members to explain the various programs, outreach ministries, and worship opportunities available at Bethlehem. Marji Wilkens and Scott Anderson having been working with Pastor Laura to prepare for this year's fall stewardship campaign.

Audrey Murphy is preparing for Ministry Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. This is a wonderful opportunity to put your unique gifts and talents to work for your church.

We will highlight other council committee projects in future letters.

Council has approved funds to help support this year's Harvest Festival. We've also approved the distribution of proceeds from the festival in this way:

- 60% to one, or more, Bethlehem ministry
- 20% to Third Avenue Charitable Organization (T.A.C.O)
- 20% to Lutheran World Relief (L.W.R.)

Our overall financial status as of the end of July is still encouraging given the state of the slowdown in the economy. Overall giving is at 93% of our estimates (pledged giving is at 95%). Expenses are at 95% of our budget. We move into the fall with a deficit of about \$10,000.

Thank you for your financial commitments and your gifts of time and talents.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you.

Dennis Astroth  
Council President