

Congregational Meeting 22 January, 2017
Report of the President

Blessings abound at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Encinitas. As Council Chair I have witnessed the manifestation of God's grace in the works of so many people here. The Council among them, has been kept very busy not only with unforeseen issues, but planning infrastructure so that Bethlehem can better serve Him. Some of this work goes unnoticed so I'd like to make you aware of a few details.

Financial Organization

Headed by Jim Mastrogany and the Financial Team, a new mortgage and line of credit were researched, negotiated and approved. The many hours of prayerful and knowledgeable work resulted in better cash flow and flexibility. We are now much better able to manage fluctuating income and expenses.

Stewardship

In January, the Council realized the need for ongoing guidance and dialogue in this, our individual Christian journey. Council initiated a Stewardship ministry. Dick DuBois headed this up and did a superb job. This effort will continue and hopefully more of you will want to become involved.

Staffing

Staffing changes required much Council focus as there is no issue more important and complex. Natalie Anderson and the Staffing Team did great work to provide Council with terrific options. Children's Ministry (Chris Matthews) and Pastor's Associate (Mary Shaima) duties were dutifully served. There is more work to be done to establish permanent solutions in these positions as well as Youth Ministry.

Fundraising

Another Council pledge was to initiate fundraising efforts towards the Stewardship Remodel balance. Council Members Roger Lakey and Joane Manzi dove into this and made tremendous inroads. More work is needed but these efforts have inspired some of us to fully address the issue in 2017.

As I end my term, I want to thank the staff for giving so much of themselves. All members should know that it is on the backs of these great people, with His inspiration, that Bethlehem excels.

I also thank the council members. Your sacrifice and concern move me to be a better steward.

Most importantly, I thank Pastor Laura. Her leadership both by word and example are our tremendous gift.

And He said to them: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." Mathew 22:37

God's grace to you.

Mike Ontiveros

Best Regards,
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