

LFL CHAPTER "BRAINSTORMING" MEETING- NOVEMBER 20, 2010

The meeting was held at Lois Brauer's home, opening at 11:15 A.M. Nine members were present.

President Lois has "thank you" certificates to fill out and send to those who helped with the recent seminar.

Lois had Secretary Linda Cruz read the Chapter goals, last revised in May 2003. Extensive discussion followed. The new goals for 2010-2011 are attached. (Goal #8 to establish a "lending library" was eliminated).

Notes/comments from the goal reviews:

Many Lutheran Pastors still avoid the topic of life issues- they consider it political, rather than Biblical.

The Pastors who are interested in these topics tend to do things in their own congregation/area, rather than participating with LFL or other organizations.

Will probably do better in communicating with a congregation by going to the church secretary rather than the Pastor.

It would still be useful to have a contact point for life issues in each congregation. National LFL is supposed to have a program for this, but they have not been very responsive in answering our questions.

The other local organizations, such as the Alternatives Pregnancy Center (APC) and 40 Days for Life are starting to be aware of us.

Some people, who have not had a specific event in their family (such as an abortion) do not feel Life Issues are relevant to them.

The name "Lutherans for Life" may be confusing to some (at least one person believed it referred to being "a Lutheran forever").

Perhaps we could ask local congregations to send a report to us on any activities they do to support life issues, whether or not they are related to LFL. This would help with the activities report we send to National each year.

An LFL newsletter to congregations might be useful- both to publicize events and to ask if they would like any assistance or information on these topics (such as providing a speaker).

We need to keep people aware of us in between our major events.

Could have more events on just one topic, rather than the multi-topic seminar we just had. Might be more relevant to certain people. Should go to different locations. Perhaps they could be combined with our quarterly Chapter meetings.

Other than Zion congregation, we do not have regular financial contributions. If we can find enough individuals to do so, we might be able to hire someone to help with administration, such as maintaining our resources list and the website.

There are people in the San Francisco Bay Area interested in what we are doing- hard to know how much to involve them, since our primary area is the Sacramento Valley. Should at least stay in touch.

Decisions:

Lois has been developing a resources list of speakers, life organizations, individuals who say they will help with events, etc. (Goal#3) Ali Bohnhof offered to review this list at least twice yearly to make sure all contact information (i.e., phone numbers, e-mail addresses) is current.

We decided to have a one and a half to two hour program each quarter in 2011 in conjunction with our business meetings. The program will be first, with the meeting open to anyone who wants to stay. They will be held on a Saturday- could be either a morning or an afternoon session.

Some of the possible topics are abstinence, the aftermath of abortion, how to help those with unexpected pregnancy (including adoption), legal issues, dementia/Alzheimer's, stem cell research, euthanasia.

Program/meeting dates and tentative topics were chosen:

February 12, 2011- "What is the Sanctity of Life?" This will be a panel discussion with at least two or three Pastors. We could invite CNH District President Rev Newton as one of the panelists. Preferred site would be Town and Country Lutheran.

May 14, 2011- "Youth and Family" This could be longer to

combine several topics- abstinence, unplanned teen pregnancy, adoption. (Chapter officer elections will take place at the business meeting). Preferred site is Holy Cross, Rocklin, with Faith, Fair Oaks, as second choice.

August 13, 2011- Dementia/Alzheimer's

October 22, 2011- Chapter member Brainstorming/planning meeting

November 5, 2011- Attorney Robin Bevier on legal issues

A "Save the Date" postcard could be sent to our mailing list with the basic information above. Members could also telephone each area congregation to let them know our plans and ask if they have any suggestions for topics. Doug Brauer will prepare a script for the callers.

Closed with prayer.

Linda Cruz  
Secretary