Calvary Creation-Care Coordination Team

August 16, 2022

Members present: Jack Behr, John Gilbertson, Scott Glup, Joel Halbritter, Cathy Halbritter

Barb Bengston joined the meeting as a visitor to learn more about it.

Jack opened the meeting with a devotion from Luther Seminary God Pause.

The minutes of the June 21, 2022 meeting were approved.

Old Business:

* Goal 1 – Organizing
  1. Growing Congregational Involvement:
     1. Sunday School creation care education - Jack met with Janel and discussed how to involve Sunday School students in creation care. However, Janel has since submitted her resignation so this item will be on hold for now.
     2. God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday / September 11 - The Board of Outreach has asked if our committee would lead a project after the last church service. Jeff Miller said it would be helpful to have people pick small rocks out of the pollinator plot. We could also possibly work on cleaning out the berm. Scott may be able to get some herbicide. Joel will work with Jeff on this project. Pastor Naomi is the contact person for the outreach board.
     3. Glacial Lakes Trail Bike Ride (July 24) - John reported that five families participated with positive responses from all. John and Andy Berg are planning another event for September.
     4. Help Wanted Ad - Barb Bengston joined the meeting today as a result of seeing the ad in the Messenger.
     5. Word of Mouth Recruitment - Discussion was held that it mIght help to have something specific to ask for help vs just being on a committee.
* Goal 2 – Education:
  1. Outdoor Book Walk - Jack talked to Pastor Naomi and she stated that the person that had volunteered to do this project has changed jobs and isn’t currently able to work on this project.
* Goal 3 – Congregational Life
  1. Reusable Communion Cups - Cathy reported that the racks are still on backorder.
  2. Share the Bounty - Jack reported that little produce has been coming in yet and that may be due to many gardens being late this year.
* Goal 4 – Building and Grounds
  1. Pollinator Plot - This is in the process of being developed. Discussed holding a bison stomp with Sunday School students when the seeds are planted in late fall.
  2. Sunday School Atrium Planters Project - no updates.
  3. Faith-based Community Garden - Discussed this as a possibility if we could find one or more people to lead this project. Committee members are asked to think about members that might be interested in this as a project.
  4. Solar Power / IPL Webinar reaction - Jack had shared an email with a link to Interfaith Power and Light with a video sharing information from some churches that installed solar. No one has had the opportunity to watch it yet. Scott shared that Vinje is installing solar panels and we could learn from them. Jack, Joel and Scott will each talk to a member from the Task Force Committee about trying to include solar/creation care in their report.
* Goal 5 – Worship
  1. “Season of Creation” - Pastor Naomi and Naomi are currently at a three day retreat and are exploring options for having a “Season of Creation” in our church.
* Goal 6 – Coordination
  1. ELCA / Synod: Jack
     1. NE MN Eco-Faith Network Leadership had a planning retreat. Pastor Troy Pflibsen from the SW MN Synod was going to try to attend part of it.
     2. SW MN - no report
  2. Advocacy / Tammy Walhof, Lutheran Advocacy Minnesota Tammy is just returning from Sabbatical and perhaps in the future we could have her in a joint meeting with Vinje. Jack will talk to her now that she is back. He had attempted to get in touch with her but found out she had been on sabbatical.
  3. Local Government - It appears that the city of Willmar is making several steps that are good such as several pollinator plots, giving out rain barrels, and involvement with the GreenStep Cities program.

New Business / Other

* Ink Cartridge Recycling / [www.evolverecyling.com](http://www.evolverecyling.com) - Jack reported that Naomi and Janel are interested in moving forward with this project which pays to recycle empty laser and inkjet printer cartridges. The Team encourages them to do so.

Reminders:

* The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

The committee closed the meeting with the Lord’s Prayer.