

## The Koinonia Task Force:

On Trinity Sunday, the second reading was 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13

"Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you."

This reading hit home. This is the absolute definition of Koinonia. The Greek term of our Reconciliation Task Force. Our group goal is to listen, compile, communicate, and develop a plan (or action steps) that will help our congregation work together to resolve any conflicts and move forward.

### The process has begun. We are moving ahead.

Pastor Huber met with council. He broke council into small groups and asked them three questions.

"What do you need me to know?";

"What can you tell me about our congregational system?" and lastly-

"What don't you want me to know, but I will figure out sooner or later so kindly tell me now?"

The last one question is particularly insightful.

You all have submitted a list of members who you wanted to be on this task force. Let me now introduce those people like the great Old Testament leader, Samuel, responded "Here I am Lord!" Betty Bacher who raced me to be first to speak to the congregation; Eric Dodds a quiet, insightful man; Saralee Hawk the Early Education Director- who couldn't be here this morning, but is here every other morning; Brian Holiday who helps us with our finances. Jean Krapf who can tell me which hymn which says "Here I am Lord." Bob Mazoni- choir, council and co-chair of the pumpkin sales; Sean Nagel a new member who I look forward to getting to know in the upcoming months; Liz Piazza- who has already volunteered to do two things for the task force. What a group of talent and commitment.

Look at us.

You know us.

You recommended us.

We replied to your call with a resounding "YES!!"

Unfortunately, you don't know Pastor Huber very well. You may recall his sermon just after Easter. He displayed wonderful pastoral abilities at our first meeting, last Wednesday evening.

He gave us a roadmap of the path ahead. Now comes the time for us to listen. Listen to anyone who wants to be heard. You can or my already have sent a letter, or email or had quiet conversations in the kitchen. This is the congregations chance

to respond,

to be heard,

to bring up concerns,

to voice opinions and

to help Zion move forward to restore healthy relationships.

We will have Pastor Huber and his wife, Karen Adkins Phd., conduct interviews of the congregational members at Zion on Saturday July 30 from 9-5 with an hour off for lunch from 12:30-1:30. Members will have 15 minutes to express their feelings, concerns, anger, hopes, reflections, thoughts, sentiment about Zion's future, etc. These meeting will be confidential. We very much want your voices heard. Pastor Huber was open to a second meeting if there were members who could not attend the first meeting. They will meet with Pastor Johnson at another time. Liz volunteered to develop a spread sheet for sign ups.

Yes, we are airing the dirty laundry, but confidentially. Please remember the wise words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.- "It is after all the agitation of the washing machine that gets the dirt out to the laundry." Also remember John Paul the Second's jubilee year 2,000 in the Catholic church where he called for forgiveness for the sins of the church over the past millennium. Wise men of faith.

We want to create a framework of the conflict so we can know how to proceed with an appropriate response. Let me be absolutely clear, This record incorporates "What was said"; but not "Who said what." This is why your meeting is confidential. Pastor Huber and Karen will record the sentiments expressed by congregational members to create a working document.

Let us all say the words.

Express the hurt and

Seek reconciliation.

We all strive for the same thing- That Zion should survive, nay grow, nay thrive and remain a landmark ministry in Delaware. We want the Spirit to be alive in Zion.

Later in August or perhaps September we are going on a retreat. We will meet with Pastor Huber and work through the earnest, sincere, deep feelings expressed on Reflection Day.

When you have questions ask. Ask us. We will have information in the bulletin, messengers, Council reports, email. You won't be lacking accessibility.

We need your help with one last thing. We need your prayers. Add us to your prayer list.

Pray for Zion.

Pray for our Pastor.

Pray for our council and

Pray for us, the task force.

As good Lutherans we resolutely know- "Through the Holy Spirit all things are possible."