

Lodi UMC New W.I.N.E. (Welcome, Invite, Nurture: Evangelism) Committee Minutes
April 5, 2018 6:30 PM

Present: Laura Pfeffer (chair), Pastor Marge Rice-Myers, Mary Ann Morack, Bekcy Haugen, Joyce Unke, Diane Ebert, Keri Bahr

Opening: Reading from “The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus’ Final Days in Jerusalem” by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan

Minutes: Minutes from the March meeting were approved as printed.

Homework – Committee members were asked to reflect on why evangelism is “Good News”. Reflections included that people appreciate being noticed, being a part of community, knowing they are not alone, being understood and building relationships. The “good news” may be knowing that you are loved and worthy even when things are bad or negative.

Focus Group – The focus group working on gathering ideas to improve attendance and financial giving will be conducting a survey. We encourage all members to contribute ideas and thoughts to the group. Responses can be via snail mail or email.

Easter cards – All 21 of the Easter cards were distributed. Eight cards were picked up by members of the congregation to deliver. Shifting from signing cards to delivering cards has decreased participation, but perhaps personally inviting some people to take cards would bring more engagement if we repeat this next year. Mary Ann says that people who received the cards really appreciated them.

Recognition for Sharon’s 10+ years as nursery staff – A gift certificate has been purchased. We will plan to have committee member bring kid’s food to serve for coffee hour. We will hold the recognition from 9:00AM – 9:15AM. Laura Pfeffer will bring some additional puzzles and other toys for the tables. Mary Ann Morack will have a sheet of paper the kids can sign or draw on to celebrate. The kids will sing a song. This will have to be done early since kids need to get downstairs by 9:15 to practice their singing for church service next week. Terrie Kurtz will say a few words on behalf of education. Brooke or someone else from the family may speak as well.

Clean up day for nursery – this idea was shelved. Sharon already keeps this room very clean. If we do find this or something else is needed, we could coordinate volunteers at a later time.

Plan for Flower/Bake sale May 19th – We will plan to develop a flyer to be distributed at the sale. Becky Haugen can get us paper if we want something special for the flyer. It would include information like our summer worship times, the outdoor service, bell choir performance and other summer events we would like to highlight.

Yoga – We do not yet have anyone to lead this. People we have asked are already busy. Joyce Unke said that she may know of someone who could do this. If we cannot find someone, we will revisit this idea in the fall.

Birthday in a box – This project has not yet moved forward. Susan was going to flesh out some of the logistics but was unable to work on this. Becky Haugen says that when we are ready to do the packing, she can obtain boxes for us.

Care in the Community – One of the big needs Mary Ann sees is in the area of transportation. The Catholic church has a program to offer rides to people. Perhaps we can ask the Chaplain to explain how this program works and the ongoing need for such things. This might be a way to find people interested in helping with this.

Coaching – Nickerson coaching had been helping the New Vision team look at ways to grow the church. Ideas for outreach to people in the community in the spring had included such events as: little league, sponsoring concessions (this might be done through Optimists), honoring veterans on Memorial Day, participating in parades, events for Mother's/Father's Day, holding a Father/Son fishing trip (perhaps Don Easley would work on this), having a game "feed" event connected with fishing, holding a gun sight-in for hunting, hold a 5K race or hosting a water/Gatorade table for a race, have an event to thank teachers or celebrate graduation (we have many High School graduates this year). We should be sure to check our community calendar for other opportunities and contribute our events to the calendar.

Cupcake Decorating – There was general enthusiasm for a cupcake decorating event. People could bring a half-dozen cupcakes and then frosting and other decorations would be provided. People could do their own designs or samples and directions/demonstrations for some ideas would be available as well. We will discuss this idea more at the next meeting.

Bell Choir concert – On June 16th a traveling bell choir group will be performing an evening concert at church. If their schedule permits they may also perform Sunday morning for service. There will be a church potluck prior to the evening concert. The choir members (mostly youth, but some adults) will need people to volunteer to host them overnight and feed them breakfast. Anyone who wants to be a host can email or phone Pastor Marge. This event should be publicized through the Enterprise newspaper.

Suzie the Duck Day – Suzie the Duck Day is Aug. 11th. We will try to create a float for the parade. Bob Westby can drive, but we need to find a trailer for him to pull. We will see if the Attoes have a flatbed (Becky will ask). We will see if Pat Miller is still interested in organizing the float itself and recruiting people to hand out information. We currently have the makings of street signs which would need to be put together to be put on the float. We would also need to gather some hard hats as props.

National Night Out – We will need to obtain information about this event. It is usually early in the fall before school starts on a Tuesday night. We hope to again have a table if we can find out how to reserve one this year.

Next Meeting – May 3, 2018 at 6:30 PM. (We will plan to not meet in June or July)

Closing – Second reading from "The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus' Final Days in Jerusalem" by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan

Laura Pfeffer (Acting Secretary)