



ISLAND TIDES

Island Lutheran Church

January—February 2012



Celebration

Island Lutheran welcomes 19 new adult members and witnesses three baptisms during our 25th anniversary celebration on December 11, 2011.

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Observations After My First Year as Pastor on Hilton Head Island

Dear friends,
A blessed New Year to you all! May the Lord richly bless you and yours in the coming year and while He is blessing you and yours, may He also bless the ministry of our congregation.

I thought I'd share a few observations after living and serving on Hilton Head Island for a little over one year. You can take these with a grain of salt. Feel free to disagree. These are simply my observations.

Serving a church on Hilton Head Island is different than most other places. I'll point out a few ways that serving on Hilton Head Island is different.

First, you could say that the "modern" history of Hilton Head Island is no older than me. The modern history of the island goes back only to 1956 with the building of the bridge to the island and the initial development of Sea Pines. Prior to 1956, Hilton Head was isolated, dominantly populated by Gullah and by those who made their living from the sea and salt marshes.

The bridge and Charles Fraser changed everything about Hilton Head Island in 1956. When you think about it, the modern history of Hilton Head is about as old as anyone in their mid-50's.

Second, almost all the people of Hilton Head Island and Island Lutheran have roots someplace else. Except for African Americans with Gullah ancestry, most people don't have deep roots here. Very few families go back more than one generation. Few families go back even 20 years. That would be similar to other resort/retirement communities in America, but very different from the towns and cities most of us have come from. Hilton Head is not where most people are "from."

In a way, you could say that most of us are "migrants", coming here from many other places (albeit within the United States) looking for a certain way of life. Since most of us "migrated" later in life to this area, our deep loyalties and sense of family are, for the most part, elsewhere. In truth, we have little in common with one another except our faith and the fact that we now live here.

That's different from most places a pastor tries to build a church. It makes for an interesting challenge to build both unity and ownership in a congregation.

Third, even though most of us were raised Lutheran, what we are accustomed to at church varies widely due to our various backgrounds and the different regions of the country from which we came. I've been fascinated by the wide-ranging backgrounds within our congregation and different experiences you've had in the Lutheran Church. This variety of experience pertains not only to worship but also to the way congregation's operate.

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While we are all Lutheran, our personal experience in the operation of congregations is very different one from another.

We all need to understand that the “right way” in our eyes may not at all be what someone else experienced in their own Lutheran congregation. This variety calls for patient love and flexibility on everyone’s part.

Fourth, the young people on the island are, for the most part, passing through to somewhere else. Hilton Head Island doesn’t have the jobs to hold the majority of our young people here. This is a great place to live, but it’s not a great place to find a job. We have the resort industry, the food and beverage industry, real estate, the public schools and a growing health care industry. Beyond that, however, there are few jobs to hold young people here. There are some who will choose to cut and paste more than one job together because they choose to live here. Most of our young people will have to go elsewhere to find quality employment.

In other words, there will be a constant turnover of young people on the island and in our congregations as they seek employment.

Fifth, there is a “second migration” here as age and physical disabilities take hold: people go back to family or the place of their roots. We have already seen several families in the last few years who have moved from Hilton Head to be closer to family as aging presses on.

This will be an ongoing cycle of people coming here and then frequently going back to be near family.

In its own way, each of these observations affects the ministry of a local congregation.

I look forward to serving you and our community in the interesting home we call Hilton Head and the Low Country.

God’s blessings,
Pastor



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The Ten Commandments

This is the Third installment of a discussion of the Ten Commandments:

In the first installment, I discussed how “**God used Moses to reveal his eternal law to mankind and Jesus confirmed it**”.

In the second discussion, we learned about: **The Importance of the Ten Commandments within Judaism and Christianity**

In this discussion: We begin the issue of the U.S. debate over display on public property

There have been recurring disputes in the United States concerning the posting of the ten commandments on public property. Certain conservative religious groups have taken the banning of officially sanctioned prayer from public schools by the U.S. Supreme Court as a threat to the expression of religion in public life. In response, they have successfully lobbied many state and local governments to display the ten commandments in public buildings. Posting the Decalogue on a public building can take a sectarian stance, if numbered. Protestants and Orthodox, Roman Catholics, and Jews number the commandments differently. However, this problem can be circumnavigated by simply not numbering the commandments, as was done at the Texas capitol. Hundreds of these monuments—including some of those causing dispute—were originally placed by director Cecil B. DeMille as a publicity stunt to promote his 1956 film *The Ten Commandments*.

Others oppose the posting of the ten commandments on public property, arguing that it violates the establishment clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

In contrast, groups supporting the public display of the ten commandments claim that the commandments are not necessarily religious but represent the moral and legal foundation of society, and are appropriate to be displayed as a historical source of present day legal codes. Also, some argue that prohibiting the public practice of religion is a violation of the first amendment's guarantee of freedom of religion.

From the Editor
Chuck Dvorak
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Happy New Year!

I am looking forward to this new year because Chares is scheduled to come home from Afghanistan in February. It has been a year filled with hope, prayer and trepidation—and a whole lot of waiting.

I hope all your Christmas wishes came true. This should be an interesting year—continued growth for our church, hopes for a growing economy, improvements in world peace, employment opportunities for those who are struggling to find jobs (or keeping the ones they have). With the presidential election this year, may sanity, civility and respect prevail.

We have been blessed with Pastor Larry taking the lead in moving our church forward, New programs and an aggressive agenda to move us, with Christ, to influence our community in the path toward growing awareness of Christ in Hilton Head and the surrounding Low country.

Peace and prosperity to all in 2012!

God's blessings, Chuck



Finance Committee by
Bruce Rosenthal.



Operating Fund Overview for October 2011	
Budget	Actual
Income \$ 27,161	Income \$ 35,506
Expense \$ 25,346	Expense \$ 25,678
\$ 1,815	\$ 9,828



Operating Fund Overview for November 2011	
Budget	Actual
Income \$ 21,757	Income \$ 20,926
Expense \$ 25,447	Expense \$ 27,732
<\$ 3,690>	<\$ 6,806>
Year-to-date	Year-to-date
Income \$ 266,077	Income \$ 301,704
Expense \$ 279,835	Expense \$ 282,465
<\$ 13,758>	\$ 19,239

Minutes of Council Meeting
Island Lutheran Church (ILC)
November 15, 2011

Present: Pastor Larry Eckart, Barbara English, Elaine Genzen, Bart Hoemann, George Jones, Linda Jording, Jim Kerr, Bruce Rosenthal, Wade Roemke, Brian Shaffer, Neil Weingarth. Special Guest – Carl Miller.

Opening: The meeting was called to order by President Bart Hoemann at 5:00PM. President Hoemann opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of October 18, 2011 Council minutes.

MOTION TO APPROVE OCTOBER 18, 2011 CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES AS DISTRIBUTED; SECONDED; APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Financial Secretary Report – Elaine Genzen reported that envelope contributions continue to be substantially up for 2011, both in comparison to last year (up 30%) and compared to budget (up over 15%). Total revenue was up over 21% compared to last year, and almost 15% compared to budget.

Treasurer Report – Bruce Rosenthal reported that he anticipates that income is expected to be up at least \$30,000 compared to budget for the year.. He also reported that there was a \$520 anonymous gift received for the Preschool, and another \$500 gift for Pastors mission fund. Expenses year to date are almost exactly on budget. (Report attached.) \$1100 was spent to replace the water fountain in Graudin Hall. He reminded the council that new members should receive 2012 envelopes at the voters meeting. He also reported that CD's to hold various funds are being renewed, even though interest is quite small as there appear to be no other better (yet safe) alternatives. Finally, he reminded the council that we will need to pay the \$500 premium for the Krumpton insurance policy in October.

Vice Presidents' Report – George Jones and Bruce Rosenthal presented the final 2012 budget. There were only minor changes from the budget presented and discussed at last months meeting. **MOTION TO APPROVE 2012 ISLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH BUDGET WITH MINOR MODIFICATIONS AS DISTRIBUTED, AND TO PRESENT SAME TO THE CONGREGATION FOR APPROVAL; SECONDED; APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Social Ministry Report - Linda Jording provided a written report. (Report attached.) Highlights are: The Oktoberfest held on Saturday, October 22, at the Sun City pavilion was well attended and most enjoyable..

Invitations and reply cards for the 25th Anniversary celebration scheduled for December 11, 2011 were mailed on October 28. As of today, 47 people have signed up.

The Board prepared and served dinner to the Teen Community Bible Study (TCBS) on November 5. The leaders of the group expressed appreciation for this support of their program.

Refreshments were served for the weekend retreat held on November 11 and 12.

Light refreshments will be served for the discussion group scheduled for November 16.

“Inside ILC “will contain an article this Sunday to notify members that the church will be decorated for Christmas on Saturday, November 26. Help is requested to bring the decorations downstairs from storage areas near the choir loft on the day before.

A wine and appetizer event will be held at the home of Liz and Jack Sandler on January 21,. 2012 from 4-6 PM.

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There was discussion of the need to have monies available for people with financial hardship. It was noted that Pastor Eckart has a fund for this purpose.

It was suggested that a note and honorarium be sent to Christ Church for use of their building for our retreat earlier this month.

Audit Committee Report - Carl Miller presented a written review of the financial records of Island Lutheran Church. (copy attached.) While this was not a formal audit, Mr. Miller's experience permitted him to utilize various audit techniques that would permit the Council to come to similar conclusions that an audit would suggest. His review included extensive reviews of bank accounts and reconciliations, transaction procedures, supporting documentation, offering counting and reconciliation procedures and other reviews of financial activity. His review discovered no indications of improper activity by anyone associated with financial reporting, and he made no suggestions of changes in procedure that would result in improved financial operations.

Elders Report - Neil Weingarth provided a written report that included the following highlights: (report attached)

The 25th anniversary service will include receiving over 20 new members and at least two baptisms.

Elder/Service Coordinator assignments were scheduled for the rest of 2011. Plans were developed for the special services scheduled for the balance of the year, to include Thanksgiving Eve, four advent services, the 25th Anniversary service, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Shepherding activities for the past month were reviewed and those in need will be contacted.

Long term absences of various members were discussed

The Board of Elders have elected Phil Burden to succeed Neil Weingarth as Head Elder effective January 1, 2012.

Stewardship Report - Jim Kerr reiterated the decision to postpone the pictorial directory until 1Q 2012. He will also investigate the cost of making the directory a spiral bound document.

Trustees Report - (report attached.) In Steve's absence, Bart Hoemann presented the following report: A quote for rewiring to accommodate heat strips in the preschool area was received. The cost is approximately \$3100. Discussion occurred regarding whether there was value in adding heat strips to Graudin Hall as well, but the idea was rejected.

The water fountain in Graudin hall is being installed. The drywall is being redone.

The quote for installation of surge protector has not been received.

The ductwork in Graudin Hall has been repaired and resealed.

The defibrillator case has been installed by George Clawson.

Christian Education Committee Report- Barbara English reported:

There was further discussion of the Oyster Roast that is scheduled for November 20 to benefit the preschool program. While the whole congregation is invited, it is hoped that this will also serve as a fellowship event for new families. The oysters will come from Bluffton Oyster Company, and the church will furnish the hot dogs and the potluck casseroles.

Lonnie Goulet has accepted the position of Chairman of the Christian Education Board and will also serve of n the Church council in 2012 representing that board.

Evangelism Report - There was no report this month.

Pastors Report- Pastor Eckart reported:

Much of his report has been covered in the Elders report.

The retreat last weekend was a success. More to follow on that subject.

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Efforts continue on the 25th Anniversary weekend and the other special events of Advent.

Old Business –

There was continued discussion regarding planning for the 25th Anniversary Celebration to be held on December 10, 2011. It appears that all is going well. Greg Beste is preparing a power point presentation of the history of the congregation, and the events of the last 25 years.

New Business – None to report.

Adjournment- President Hoemann adjourned the meeting at 6:00PM with prayer. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held at 5PM on Tuesday, December 20th, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Wade Roemke - Recording Secretary

Note: All referenced reports are available in the church office and may be reviewed for additional details.



Altar Guild

meeting Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at church in the conference room. This is an important meeting as we will be planning for the Easter season. We are always looking for new members so if you think you may be interested please join us. Following the meeting we go to a local restaurant for lunch. If you have any questions please call Dorothy Hoemann at 342-9678.



A wine and appetizer event will be held from 4-6 P.M. on Saturday, January 21, 2012, at the home of Liz and Jack Sandler. A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex beginning January 1, 2012. Those attending will be asked to indicate whether they will be bringing an appetizer or a dessert. Hope to see you there!!

Linda Jording

Observations and Comments



""Great works are performed not by strength but by perseverance" Samuel Johnson

Here we are starting another year. It will be hard to beat 2011 for all the improvements and accomplishments Island Lutheran achieved in the past twelve months:

1. Worship attendance is up over 20%.
2. Financial giving is up 13% over budget.
3. We have taken in over 20 new members this past year.
4. We restarted Vacation Bible School with good attendance and excellent participation by members.
5. We have dedicated volunteers to restart our Sunday School.
6. We supported an inter denominational teen Bible study that meets at our church on Saturday night for a light dinner, fellowship and bible study.
7. Pastor Larry conducted several congregation meetings to inform members of his vision for worship services, goals and objectives and action plans for the future.
8. We celebrated island Lutheran's 25th anniversary with a great social evening on December 10. This was followed by a worship service on Sunday with an inspiring message by former pastor Rev. George Spicer. On that Sunday Pastor Larry brought in new members by way of confirmation and transfer. He also had three baptisms.
9. Finally and most important we closed the year celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

It was a GREAT year for Island Lutheran.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find the recommendations of the Evaluation and Planning team that met November 11 & 12. These recommendations were approved at the December 4 Voters Meeting. They include:

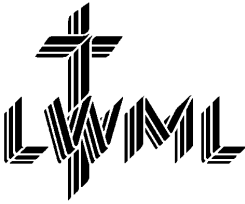
1. A revised Mission Statement
2. Three mission objectives for 2012-2014
3. Seven key action items other than those required by the mission objective.

As I have expressed before in order to support our pastor and council's high energy aggressive plans we need everyone's continued prayers and active involvement.

Let's made 2012 another great mission outreach year for our church. Are we having fun yet? You bet!!

God's Blessings to All.
Bart Hoemann—President

"Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything"
James 1:4



I want to thank all of you who helped make Operation Christmas Child a great success,

either by buying items, providing postage, prayers or putting the boxes together. Each year it is a joy to be able to provide “a treasure” to a needy child in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and to provide a means by which His gift of love and salvation is brought to millions of homes. What a rewarding mission for us and a life saving gift to others. Along with the boxes we collected \$508,00 to cover the items needed for the boxes and postage. Thrivent gave us \$500.00 in matching funds making it possible to present them a check of \$561.00 for postage. There is still some funds left which we will use to cover cost for the next year.

Our area, Beaufort, Jasper and Hampton counties sent a total of 14,196 boxes. This was an increase of 11% over last year.

As we look forward to a New Year keep this worldwide ministry in your prayers. As we thank God for our many treasures, thank Him for the opportunity to be able to share them with the children of the world. For they are our future in Christ.

May the Lord bless our continued efforts as we look forward to next year.

A Chance to Get to Know Each Other Better and Bring Friends.

Karla and Russ Collins are going to host an initial gathering of people in our congregation who might be interested in attending informal dinner gatherings in order to meet and get to know better others at Island Lutheran. In addition, this would also be an opportunity to bring friends who do not have a church home.

Pastor



Small Group Pot Luck Dinners.

Would you like to have the opportunity to get to know and spend some time with other members of ILC, sharing food and conversation in a small group setting? We will meet in groups of 6-8 once each month in our homes.

Even if you cannot have one of these get-togethers at your place or cannot make the first meeting, you are encouraged to sign up.

The first get-together will be a planning gathering on Sunday, January 29 (not a football Sunday!) at 5pm for appetizers and drinks at our home in Hilton Head Plantation. Please mark your calendar and watch for the sing-up sheet in the narthex.

If you have any questions, please call Karla at 842-5603.

The Recommendations of the Evaluation and Planning Team

These are the recommendations of the team who met on November 11 and 12, 2011 after filling out an extensive evaluation of our congregation.

New Mission Statement:

Island Lutheran Church exists to know and share the joy of salvation through Jesus Christ

3 Mission Objectives for 2012-2014

These three Mission Objectives will be the primary focus of our energy and resources over the next three years.

Discover, develop and support one new mission/ministry in the community that allows us to serve. *Note: by "mission" we do not mean a new congregation; by "new" we mean "new to us."*

Rebuild our ministry to young families and children.

Enhance our care ministry to seniors and ...

Key Action Items:

Note: by "Key Action Items" we mean other worthwhile things that would be good to do but do not qualify as "Mission Objectives."

Constitution review

Screen and sound system in sanctuary

Signage

Advanced seminars in theology and congregation life

Kitchen improvement

Leadership training

Assimilation

Note: these recommendations were officially approved by the Voters' Assembly

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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dium and not receive your hard
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THANKS!!