

People and Places

June 2016 Newsletter for Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Choir Season is Over but...

Did you know that our choir director, Shayla Sipilä Willmot, posts recordings of our choir on YouTube? She takes the audio of our choir singing and then adds appropriate images from nature and the words of the piece that the choir is singing. Check it out at:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/shayla18Paul>

Just because the choir isn't singing doesn't mean that you have to live without it! Share with your friends.

Mutual Ministry Committee to Start

The new Mutual Ministry Committee (Maureen Downey, Jill Gillingham, Linda Wilson, Dwayne Ring) will be starting up this month with an informal meeting to decide on priorities.

Congregations are encouraged to have Mutual Ministry Committees to offer support to the pastor and potentially to other paid employees of the congregation. These committees can function as overall

personnel committees (especially in larger congregations with multiple staff), or they can simply be support groups or something in between. The ELCIC manual for mutual ministry committees is lengthy, so our new committee has to decide which of the numerous possibilities make the most sense to make into priorities.

Visioning: What is it?

In Proverbs 29:18 it says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." When we as a community of faith are not being guided by the clear purpose of God set before us, we can get side tracked with our own individual agendas, pulling the congregation into too many different directions, or we can end up simply going from year to year managing and addressing situations as they arise, but never really moving forward toward a common goal.

This is why it is important for us to shape or discern a **common vision** of our priorities and purpose as a congregation.

A visioning process begins with the invitation for us to reflect on the congregation and our part in it. The visioning process culminates in a gathering where most or all of the people of the congregation come together to look at ourselves as a community and ask, "Who are we? What are the strengths of this congregation? What gifts do we have to offer our city and region? What is God calling us to?"

Out of this we would shape a "vision statement" or "mission statement" that would guide our Council and committees in their work, and help all of us to work together in the same direction.

This fall we will be engaging in just such a visioning process. Please join in that that we can all take ownership of the process.