

WELCOMING IN CHRIST MINISTRY TEAM
Gethsemane Lutheran Church
PROGRESS REPORT FOR 2010

December 18, 2010

Ministry Team members: Joyce Geary, Elaine Haines, Ralph Portzline, Scott Prigan, Gary Rader, Judy Reuning, and Dick Reuning, Chair

1. The Welcoming in Christ Ministry Team developed a “Ministry Team Description” that was approved by Congregation Council.
2. Two Adult Forum series were developed and taught by members of the Ministry Team.
 - a. In March a four-Sunday series on the ELCA social statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” was attended by 20-30 people.
 - b. In August a two-Sunday sequence on “Gospel Welcome” and “Developing a Welcome Statement” was attended by 10-15 people.
3. Two books have been utilized to (1) help shape the Ministry Team’s work and planning, (2) support development of adult education sessions, and (3) provide devotional material for the growth of the Ministry Team. These are (1) *God’s Welcome: Hospitality for a Gospel-Hungry World* by Amy G. Oden and *Radical Welcome: Embracing God, The Other, and the Spirit of Transformation* by Stephanie Spellers. These books were recommended in an article in *The Lutheran* (May 2010).
4. To provide further guidance and advice, the Ministry Team has met on separate occasions with (1) Pastor Karen Alsnauer and (2) Jeff Ramm and Mary Benis from Lutherans Concerned of Central Ohio.
5. The video “RIC: It’s About Being Church” was reviewed by the Ministry Team and was judged to be appropriate for a future educational session.
6. A draft “Welcome Statement” for Gethsemane was developed in cooperation with the August Adult Forum class. This was then made available at the Ministry Team table at the Rally Day event in September during the education hour. Twelve responses were obtained, several of which were thoughtful critiques that have helped the ministry team focus on strategies for revising the Welcome Statement. This revision is currently in progress.