

March 17, 2010

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Last evening a group of "Alpena Lutherans" gathered to discuss the formation of a new Lutheran congregation in Alpena. The meeting was positive and filled with energy that looked forward to the work and opportunities in front of us.

The Organizational Team consists of:

Stacy Bauer  
Linda Bjella  
John Diamond  
Joanne Gallagher  
Doug Horne  
Jim Karsten  
Rodney Lang  
Augie Matuzak  
Brenda Rosenberg  
Sandy Samp  
Beth Strong  
Bryan Strong  
Lisa Thayer

There was much discussion regarding many issues, and the team agreed to take the following actions:

1. A corporation will be formed within the next week. It will be filed as Alpena Lutherans, Inc., and issues regarding insurance, banking, accounting controls, and mailing address will be pursued and implemented. The actual name of the congregation will be chosen at the next meeting.
2. The Organizational Team will serve to start the new congregation and disband after the first congregational meeting which will elect members to a church council.
3. John Diamond agreed to serve as the Organizational Team Leader. His contact information is [jdiamond@speednetllc.com](mailto:jdiamond@speednetllc.com) or 727-9971.
4. The new congregation will affiliate with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC). More information about this association of congregations can be found at [www.lcmc.net](http://www.lcmc.net). This can be described as a conservative Lutheran association. You can also find a comparison of the ELCA to LCMC attached to this email.
5. The Community Room at Luther Community Manor on Wilson Street in Alpena will serve as the worship location for the new congregation.
6. The first worship service is targeted for Sunday, April 11.

7. The team will further discuss filling the need for a pastor at its next meeting. The intent will be to find an interim pastor(s) for the first 2 to 3 months until a “call committee” can be appointed, determine what is needed in a pastor for this congregation, and then search for a candidate.
8. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 23, 2010.

So you ask once again, “What can I do?”

Please add this prayer petition with you daily prayers:

Our Heavenly Father, we thank you for the exciting work being done in Alpena. We lift up the individuals on the organizing committee; Give them strength for the journey and grant them your wisdom as they assemble the foundations pieces for your ministry. Guide them through the decisions they make so that this church will be firmly established on the solid rock of your Word and may draw people ever closer to you, Lord. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Also, if you want to suggest a name for the new congregation, please respond to this email no later than Sunday, March 21. We will consider all of your suggestions at our next meeting.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reply to this email and we will do our best to provide you a timely response.

God’s Peace,

The Alpena Lutherans Organizational Team