

## Community Listening Team Minutes

March 27, 2017

Woodlake Lutheran Church

Present: Pastor Tom Zarth, Paula Kiehl, Jan Philbert, Wayne Swenson, Laurel Johnson

Our discussion of how best to fulfill the mission of the Community Listening Team started with suggestions of events occurring in Richfield that would give us a chance to listen to our residents. At first we looked at these events as things we could encourage our congregation members to volunteer for. But as the meeting progressed, we realized that getting people to volunteer gets harder and harder as our members age. And we are aging congregations. Tom reminded us that listening is to be our focus, and as we discussed at other meetings, attending events and listening to the people around us may be the best thing our members can do.

Our discussion shifted to how best to inform our members of events they may be interested in attending. I will be putting together a list of the events we are aware of thanks to Ben Whalen from HOP. I'll send that to Woodlake's secretary asking her to pass it on to the other congregations for inclusion in newsletters and bulletins. I'll also send it to the collaboration teams.

Ben Whalen has agreed to receive our emails and will try to attend some of our meetings, but he is very willing to give us any information about events that he learns of.

The information I'll be sharing will include Richfield Wellness Fair, Wood Lake Nature Center's Earth/Arbor Day events, the Fiesta Latina at Assumption Catholic Church, and Unity in the Community. Perhaps a way of encouraging people to attend these events is to invite them to meet you there, or offer to pick them up, or put two people in touch with each other who are interested. Most people don't like to go alone, so be match-makers!!

Thanks to Paula for passing on this information.

There is a all team collaboration meeting on Monday, April 3, at Woodlake Lutheran.

Our next meeting will be Monday, April 24, at 7 PM at House of Prayer.

