Hartford Circuit

South Eastern Wisconsin District

**Circuit Pastor**: Rev. Aaron Stenbrenner

***Assistant Circuit Pastor****: Rev. Michael Helwig*

**Meeting Agenda**

* Opening Devotion
* Exegetical Brief
* Book Report
* Casuistry/ Announcements
* Closing Bible Reading

**Opening Devotion**

The opening devotion is assigned ahead of time by the circuit pastor committee. It is usually, but not always the pastor who is hosting that day. It is encouraged to be a brief devotional thought based on a passage relating to the topic of the day or the time of the church year. The devotion may be followed by a hymn and prayer.

**Exegetical Brief**

The exegetical brief is an attempt to mirror the Quarterly version of this concept. Concise sections are assigned in advance. The leader is encouraged to flesh out some key grammar and syntax issues, draw attention to important vocabulary, and offer commentary and preaching helps. This is our way of digging deeper into Hebrew and Greek without taxing the guys with a heavy load. That way we all get to do one small thing very well, rather than cover too much ground poorly.

**Book Report**

The brothers take turns doing a little “show and tell.” We are creating a pastor’s library list as we go along. Topics vary from one man to another. It allows us to get insight on the differing interests (worship, evangelism, counseling, administration, church history, etc.) Many of the books are being physically added to a pastor’s library that exists at Peace Lutheran in Hartford and is made available to pastors in the Hartford area for the generations to come.

**Casuistry/ Announcements**

As many other circuits and conferences do, we allow time for the brothers to bring questions of casuistry. We have fostered a fellowship that welcomes open discussion and mutual encouragement. We want to know that we can talk about the hard stuff without being looked down upon. Often we learn from each other and are redirected to the Scriptures together for guidance.

We also allow room for the brothers to speak about upcoming events, special church functions, synod and conference news, and whatever else the brothers might need to talk about. We also encourage all the brothers to faithful in our other conference attendance.

**This and That**

We meet once a month and move around to the various places in the circuit.

The host pastor usually provided some coffee and treats and recommends a place for us to go out to lunch together. There is often good fellowship before and after. That time allows for personal contact about issues that may not involve the whole group. It also allows us to get to know one another better.

We foster the sharing of worship service ideas, bible class notes, and other ministry plans. That way we are not always “reinventing the wheel” but can benefit from the good solid work of each other.

We attempt to get our families together at least twice a year (after Christmas and during the summer months.)