

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2018

Attendance:

Pastor Christopher Miller – present
Ron Harapat, Pres – present
Jan Olson, Vice Pres – present
Linda Dahlman, Sec – present
Jerry Wiedebush – present

Jacqueline Whitehorn – present
Kelly Jorgenson – present
RobinLynn Stobart – present
Mike Nelson – excused
Kathy Buffington – excused

Opening Meditation: Pastor led prayer time beginning at 6:35 PM in the church library. Prayers were lifted for 7 (seven) individuals or situations. Devotions were bypassed to keep meeting time short because of deteriorating winter road conditions.

Meeting called to order at 6:45 PM by Ron.

Correspondence: Prior to tonight's meeting, Mike Nelson shared an email he received from Whitney Aschenwald, on behalf of Flathead County, regarding the county's interest in purchasing the ARK. The Task Force will meet soon to review the appraisal received, and plan a more aggressive approach with the county.

Minutes: Minutes of December 14, 2017 meeting were **approved**.

Treasurer's Report: Report for December 2017 was **accepted**. An audit was performed on Wednesday, January 10, 2018, by Dawn Jacobson of "Keepin' Books." The audit found Bethany's records to be in excellent standing.

Pastor's Report: December 13, 2017 – January 9, 2018

The Advent and Christmas seasons were filled with busyness. The combined Christmas Program was stressful, but I think that it went very well, and I received plenty of comments from folks who really appreciated it. We'll have to discuss whether that will happen again in the future, but even if it is a "one-shot" I was very pleased with it.

We ended up cancelling our final Soup Supper because of heavy snow. After we do soup suppers for Lent, we should talk about the future of the tradition here at Bethany.

We held a sledding party for the youth on the first day of Christmas break, December 21st. We had 5 students come, and they enjoyed the powder on the hill, and the hot chocolate in their cups back at church.

There was no Blue Christmas service this year. Not because we didn't plan for it, but because no one came. I feel that a lot of that is on my shoulders, because with my work on the Christmas Program, I let promotion slip through the cracks. I would like to try the service for one more year, really focusing on promoting it, and encouraging congregation members to offer it to those

they know who might be having difficulty during the holidays. If we have no one show up again, that would probably be the time to end it.

Christmas Eve was a very busy day, with three services, but they all went well. I was very pleased with the Sunday morning attendance! It is a blessing to be in this place and bring the Word of God.

Confirmation just started up again, and are still working out way through the New Testament. If you would ever like to sit in on a class, you are more than welcome.

The new year has been busy with setting up events for youth and Lent, which begins February 14. The first couple of weeks have been filled with homebound visits as well.

Vacation

12/25-31: 7 days, 1 Sunday

Total for 2017: 27 days, 4 Sundays

Visits

5 hospital

3 homebound

7 phone calls

*In addition, Pastor reported on his involvement with the Speech and Debate team at Bigfork High School.

President's Report: 2018 – Wow, last year is now in the rear view mirror, and we're looking forward to what will come our way this year. As I reminisce, one brain wave continues to recur. At the beginning of 2017, I indicated, "Because the council president isn't assigned to be on any one committee, let it be known that the president wants to be employed whenever you feel the need for his/her presence." I can't find that statement in the constitution, but when I gave it last year I meant it. Only once or twice was I called to sit in to participate in your committee agendas. I'd love to be used more and more. It only helps me feel I have a pulse for what is really transpiring in and around Bethany.

There are a couple big waves coming ashore as I look at 2018. One, of course, is the continued effort to sell the Ark. I can only agree now with Mike N. when he indicates, "The wheels of government turn slowly." I look forward to more talks with the county . . . soon!

The good news – after taking many doses from the bottle labeled Patience, RobinLynn has obtained new employment. The better news – now she indicates she can remain on our council. Hip hip hooray!

Now the sad news – With a heavy heart I say goodbye to council member, Jacqueline. When I first came on council two years ago Jacqueline was my mentor. She took me under her wing, so to speak, and showed me some of the ropes. She's been a 'rock of solid thought' that I've called on many times over the last year or more. Thank you, Jacqueline, for your excellent work at

BLC. We'd love to see you back any year you can find the time. Good luck with your future endeavors.

See you all at 6:30pm, Thursday.

Our annual congregational meeting is scheduled for January 28th.

Ron

*In addition: Ron was thanked for meeting with Pastor every month the week before council meeting. The council believes these meetings are important and productive.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Worship and Music: No report submitted.

Property: See "New Business"

The hot water heater in the sanctuary expired, so was replaced.

Sand/gravel in parking area?

Enclose the balcony to stop heat loss?

Fellowship hour. Use only four tables for easier clean up by volunteers. If so, how would we control?

Jerry and Kelly

Congregational Life: RobinLynn and Linda met on January 6 to discuss CL activities for 2018. If the council is agreeable to having this committee take on Stewardship responsibilities, we have some ideas to discuss further that would stress stewardship in different ways throughout the year, instead of doing the once-yearly stewardship campaign that focuses on money and Time and Talent sheets.

CARE TEAM REPORT

No meals

1 ride

2 visits Sharon and Carroll

1 card out to member family

Happy New Year. Sharon

Beyond Our Walls: BOW has worked ahead on special offerings or 2018. Other than that, no report.
Kathy and Jan

OLD BUSINESS:

Revision of committees: Most responsibilities are clearly designated for particular committees; some responsibilities overlap. Committee members are amenable to working together on those overlaps.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lenten services schedule:

February 14—Ash Wednesday

Mid-week (Wednesdays) Soup Suppers—5:30 PM

Mid-week (Wednesdays) Worship –6:30 PM, using Holden Evening Prayer service

Good Friday—Bethany hosts Good Friday Community Service—3:30 PM

Soundboards in the ARK:

Ben Burdick of MountainSong Church inquired about the possibility of his having some of the sound boards hanging on the walls of the ARK. Bethany provided the money for MountainSong to build and install the boards (used to improve the acoustics of the space). Council thought that since the boards are part of the building that the county is considering buying, and that the building was appraised with the sound boards intact, they should remain for the time being. A **motion was made** to not remove the boards, leaving the ARK “as is”. **Motion passed.** Ron will let Ben know of the council’s decision. The future of the soundboards will be determined when the building is sold.

Jerry suggested that some of the soundboards could be used to enclose the balcony opening in an effort to conserve heat.

Property: Four thoughts for discussion. See “Property Report”

1. Cost for water heater replacement in sacristy—about \$100.00. It is a small under-sink heater for use in cleaning altar guild/communion items.
2. Chris Miller and Pastor will be asked to monitor parking lot conditions and at their discretion order sand/gravel to be spread.
3. The balcony would be checked for water pipes before enclosing.
4. Congregational Life committee will consider the request to designate limited tables for use during Fellowship Hour.

*In addition: Jerry proposed removing all gutters from the church building and installing a mat system on the ground that would collect and carry water away from the building. The gutter system is ineffective during heavy rains, and easily damaged by sliding snow.

Council Retreat date will be set after the Annual Meeting on January 28.

NEXT MEETING: February 8, 2018 at 6:30 PM in the church library

COUNTERS: January: Jacqueline and Kathy
February: Jacqueline and Kathy

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Dahlman
Council Secretary