

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 8, 2018

Attendance:

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

Niki Knauth – present
Kelly Jorgenson – present
RobinLynn Stobart – present
Mike Nelson – present
Kathy Buffington – excused

Opening Meditation: Pastor was a little late because of icy roads from Kalispell, so Ron and Kelly led prayer time beginning at 6:40 PM in the church library. Prayers were lifted for 7 (seven) individuals or situations.

Meeting called to order at 6:50 PM by Ron.

Correspondence: A *Thank You* was received from Karen Bradstreet, in appreciation of the monetary gift from the congregation. A *Thank You* was sent from the council on behalf of the congregation to Marge Bagley and her family for donating the treat bags for Christmas Eve services. A request was received from Flathead County for use of our Fellowship Hall for conducting blood drives and flu shots. The executive committee approved of the request via email.

Minutes: Minutes of January 11, 2018 were corrected by Linda as follows: Under **Treasurer's Report**, the minutes read: "An audit was performed on Wednesday, January 10, 2018, by Dawn Jacobson of 'Keepin' Books'". The audit was performed on January 8, 2018. **Minutes approved as corrected.**

Treasurer's Report: Report for January 2018 **accepted.**

Pastor's Report: Confirmation has been hit and miss in the new year. We've had a couple of sessions, and we have had wonderful guests in those sessions, but we've also had to cancel some because of weather and lack of attendance. We're still on pace to finish the year on time, but I'm hoping that we'll be able to get consistent with our classes in February and March.

Lent preparation is underway. The midweek services this year will be focused around the Sermon on the Mount (this includes Ash Wednesday). We're also moving things earlier this year, in hopes that we will interest more people in coming to worship and soup suppers. All worship services are at 6:30, with soup suppers at 5:30.

Our youth went bowling on January 28th after worship. We had seven students join us, including one in a knee immobilizer, which is just impressive. We are going to host our annual Pancake Brunch on February 11th, and probably have one or two more events by the end of the year. For your information, Youth Sunday is scheduled this year for April 29th.

The Worship & Music committee met on February 1st to select music for Lent and Easter. After the meeting, we received notice that Karyl Gopp would no longer be able to serve on that committee. We thank Karyl for her years of service in this way, and we will probably be looking for another choir member to take that slot.

Our Annual Meeting this year was a good conversation, and I believe that it will help my leadership in the coming year. I am looking forward to our council retreat on February 11, and hope that it will launch us into a new, productive year for the work that God has called us to.

Visits

4 hospital
3 homebound
14 phone calls

In addition:

- *The "Committee Responsibilities" list will be addressed next month.
- *Pastor met with the executive committee on Wednesday, February 7, to discuss confirmation classes: goals, objectives, teaching methods.
- *Pastor has finished the Speech/Drama season at the high school.

President's Report: A big 'Thank You' and welcome is extended to Niki Knauth. She's joined our merry band and is looking forward to serving Bethany on our council.

Last month I mentioned I could see a few big waves preparing to wash ashore this year. Well, the first one is breaking at this week's meeting. We're going to 'resurrect' a discussion that was held many years ago. It includes the thoughts of replacing our current red hymnals (ELCA) with the newly published and printed Reclaim hymnals (LCMC). Tom Gopp will lead us through the process using a handout he's prepared. I apologize for not giving you a copy of his work earlier, but if you have time, find your copy in my mailbox before Thursday's meeting. My box is on the right, about chin high.

Come Thursday, prepared to sign up for your chance to count offerings this year. Niki, you'll sign up for 2-3 months. Jerry, we'll put you in 5 or 6 times (smiley face goes here). I hope you're enjoying the deep south. Ice fishing is getting better up here.

Don't forget our Annual Retreat scheduled for this Sunday after the pancake breakfast.

See you at 6:30 pm, Thursday.

Ron

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Worship and Music: Since we last met we've seen the retirement of Jacqueline Whitehorn from the Council and this committee. Thank you, Jacqueline, for your years of service, they were very much appreciated, I thoroughly enjoyed working with you.

I welcome our new member, Niki Knauth to our group. I'm looking forward to working with you. Thank you for serving!

In other business, Pastor submitted the 2018 Lent-Easter music and scripture schedule for your perusal.

At this time, I can think of no other business to report.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Nelson
Niki Knauth

Property: Dear All, I (Kelly) have just two items to report. I removed the section of gutter on the west side of the north wing of the building that was hanging down due to the sliding of snow and ice from the roof. On the opposite side on the north wing I moved the large pile of snow away from the building, as that is where we have had water in the basement from time to time. A small amount of water has recently seeped in on that side, and I am planning to discuss a remedy with you during our Thursday meeting. See you then.

Kelly Jorgenson
Jerry Wiedebush (in absentia)

Congregational Life: RobinLynn and Linda met on February 3 to discuss *New Member Packets* and *Time & Talent Brochures*, and ways in which both need to be updated. These updates will be completed in March.

We brainstormed ideas for intergenerational activities.

Sign-up sheets for Lent Soup Suppers, and Fellowship Hours for February and March, are available in the narthex.

A potluck was held after the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 28. Thank you to everyone who helped with clean-up afterward.

A collection box has been placed in the narthex for *Receipts for Education* to support Bigfork Schools. Receipts *only* from Bigfork's Harvest Foods will be collected through the end of March.

Linda is working on possibly having a gospel concert at Bethany this summer.

Respectfully submitted,
RobinLynn and Linda

CARE TEAM REPORT: No rides
2 meals to a member from CT volunteers, but not initiated by me.

2 visitations for a member, 3 telephone visits from CT. This was a request that was easy to arrange. (Thanks to Ron and Bonnie who saw this member at Brendan House.) I'm sure he'd appreciate a follow up call from friends.)

12 telephone visits, by Karen and Sharon.

1 get well card to a member.

Sharon

Beyond Our Walls: No activity; no report. Kathy and Jan

OLD BUSINESS:

Bethany's Hosting of the Good Friday Community Service: The service is Friday, March 30, 2018, at 3:30 PM. Pastor had suggested at an earlier meeting that council members could serve as ushers and greeters at this service. Since some council members will not be available that day, other arrangements will need to be made. Those who can attend are asked to be at the church by 2:45 PM. Bigfork Chapel will be providing refreshments afterward in the Fellowship Hall; Linda and RobinLynn will ask someone from Bethany to supervise in the kitchen for set-up and clean-up.

NEW BUSINESS:

Reclaim hymnals: There is strong interest among some for replacing the red ELCA hymnals with the hardcover *Reclaim* (LCMC) worship book and hymnal. Tom Gopp and Keith Kapelke were scheduled on the agenda to present the case for replacement but Tom was not able to be in attendance, so Keith didn't stay. An informational handout prepared for council members by Tom was used for discussion, led by Pastor Christopher. The main concern with the red hymnals is quoted from the handout: "We now have a hymnal written by the ELCA that is both theologically and liturgically flawed with 10 different ways to worship, none of which are traditionally Lutheran." *Reclaim* lacks a few favorite or traditional hymns; this is a minor disadvantage that would not affect a final decision on purchase. It was suggested that 2 (two) hymnals would be needed for each of the 51 (fifty-one) pews. The books cost \$22.00 each, and it was indicated that 1) the red hymnals could be sold to ELCA churches to help offset the cost and 2) covering the cost of replacement has already been offered by the interested group. A vote has been tabled until March's meeting.

Vicki's Letter: Because of time constraints, further discussion of a letter being sent to people concerning their membership at Bethany was tabled until March's meeting.

Food for the Poor: A representative of *Food for the Poor* contacted Pastor Christopher about the possibility of our hosting another fundraiser. Pastor will confer with the Beyond Our Walls committee, Kathy and Jan, about this.

Kelly—proposed fixes: Moisture seeping into the basement continues to be a problem, particularly the corner classroom at the bottom of the stairs on the east side of the building. Kelly suggested putting the rain gutters back on (they were removed to prevent their being damaged by

snow sliding off the roof) and installing snow breaks. Kelly thought he would contact Mike Wolstein for advice and try to get 2-3 bids in an effort to solve this problem.

Trust Fund Terms: Questions had been raised about the length of time members could serve on the Trust Fund Committee. Linda will search the secretary's records for a Trust Fund policy.

Magazine advertising request: Pastor received a phone call from a representative of *Alert*, asking if Bethany would be interested in supporting the magazine by purchasing an advertisement. The magazine is distributed free of charge to high schools and advocates alcohol and drug prevention. No one was familiar with the magazine, so council requested that Pastor get more information before making a decision.

Gospel Concert: Linda is working with the Flathead Valley Gospel Music Association to host a concert at Bethany at the end of July. This will be discussed more at the council retreat.

Kelly suggested that in the future we not rush through the council's organizational meeting after the Congregational Annual Meeting. Committees could be organized here instead of at the retreat.

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

COUNTERS: March: RobinLynn and Ron
April: Linda and Mike

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Dahlman
Council Secretary