

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 8, 2018

Attendance:

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

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

Opening Meditation: Pastor led devotion, based on Luke 5:27-32, and prayer time beginning at 6:34 PM in the church library. Prayers were lifted for 11 (eleven) individuals or situations.

Meeting called to order at 6:55 PM by Ron.

Correspondence: None

Minutes: Minutes of February 8, 2018 meeting **approved**.

Treasurer's Report: Report for February 2018 is **filed for audit**.

Pastor's Report: Our council retreat on February 11 was a welcome time of conversation and brainstorming. This year, I am working on following up with each of the committees on some of the ideas that were talked about. Ron and I have already met with Worship and Music, and meetings with Congregational Life and Beyond Our Walls are pending.

The pancake brunch on February 11 was well attended and well supported. Even one of our families which are not members got into the act. We raised enough money for one full campership for FLBC. It is wonderful to see the commitment of our families to the ministry of the congregation.

Confirmation has been getting more consistent, now that the weather has begun to turn. We have two class periods remaining before the students take their New Testament written test on March 25. After that, we will dive into the Small Catechism, with the Apostles' Creed and the Sacraments.

We had to cancel worship on February 18 because of weather, and the Sherriff's Office asking people to stay off the roads so plows could catch up. That's the first time we have had to cancel worship since I have been at Bethany. Hopefully, it's the last.

We are halfway through Lenten worships, including Ash Wednesday on February 14. The first midweek service on February 21 was lightly attended, but I credit that to not being able to remind people on the previous Sunday. I hope that attendance continues to grow.

DRAFT FOR APPROVAL

I was sad to hear of the passing of Joy Crane on March 3. I had been visiting her frequently over the past couple of weeks, and unfortunately knew that the end was near. Her service is tentatively scheduled for April 7, and more details will be forthcoming.

Visits

5 pastoral
4 homebound
16 phone calls

President's Report: Well, last month I talked about the first wave that was coming ashore. It had to do with our discussion toward replacing our current hymnals with new Reclaims. Due to the stormy weather last meeting, the wave was postponed until this meeting. Tom and Keith will be here to summarize their thoughts and feelings. I look forward to delving into the topic once again.

We have a number of topics to discuss this month, so I hope you are all healthy and able to attend. Maybe the roads will be more cooperative than last time.

See you at 6:30 pm, Thursday.
Ron

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Worship and Music: Mike Nelson constructed new Friendship Registers during mid-February.

The committee scheduled a meeting for Saturday March 3rd at 1:00 pm to work on scheduling Ushers and Worship Assistants for the second quarter of 2018. Mike Nelson came down with the flu and was unable to attend, so the meeting will have to be rescheduled.

Niki met with outgoing committee member Jacqueline Whitehorn Saturday morning March 3rd to review the tasks and expectations of the Worship & Music Committee.

Niki then met with Ron Harapat and Pastor Christopher on March 3rd to discuss ideas for the upcoming 2018 summer outdoor worship. The group decided on one last outdoor service this summer to see how well it is attended. It will be July 22nd and we are going to try a little later time in hopes that it will be warmer down in the shaded area. Time discussed is 10:30 am. That also puts it closer to lunch hour for a potential Pot Luck Picnic after Service. Pastor Christopher wants to advertise this as a special community wide event.

We also discussed other ideas that might be more of longer term planning effort like a Saturday service in Sliter Park or other local venue, but this may fall under Beyond Our Walls jurisdiction.

Also during our meeting we perused the church directory trying to identify some folks we could approach that may be willing to volunteer for Sound Board, Power Point and we each agreed to talk to a couple of people.

DRAFT FOR APPROVAL

There was some discussion about training/refresher for the different worship duties and the idea of conducting a short workshop. Thoughts were left with Pastor Christopher planning on discussing with Congregational Life since time and talent falls under their realm and the thought of coordinating a refresher/training workshop with Time/Talent is apparently being considered.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Nelson,
Niki Knauth

In addition:

*A suggestion from a member of the congregation was to conduct an usher refresher course for performing usher duties during worship; also wondering if there is a more efficient or economical way to maintain the Friendship Registers. The committee will take the suggestions into consideration.

Property: Last month I reported that I was planning to get some bids on work on the roof of the north wing of the church to solve the problem of water finding its way into the basement. I kept waiting for warmer weather and the absence of snow on the roof, but that did not happen. So, as soon as the weather allows, I will get two or three bids.

In February the door to the back parking lot was not locking securely – even when locked it would come open with a pull, most of the time. I was able to open up the mechanism at the top and lubricate it, which solved the problem.

Another issue I feel should be addressed this year is the settling of the posts supporting the roof extending out from the back entrance.

It has been suggested we have a church cleanup day (inside) soon, as it needs it very much. The week of March 19th has been suggested; possibly the Tuesday or Thursday of that week. We invite any input into this.

In His service,
Kelly Jorgenson
Jerry Wiedebush

In addition:

*The storage closet on the main floor has 5 vacuum cleaners, several of which don't work very well or at all. It was suggested to eliminate those that don't work.

*Spring-cleaning of the church is set for Saturday, March 24th, at 9:00 AM. Helpers are asked to bring their own cleaning supplies.

Congregational Life: We will be meeting soon to work on finalizing the updating of Time & Talent sheets and New Member packets.

Adopt-A-Room project will be ready to offer to volunteers by the end of March.

DRAFT FOR APPROVAL

We'll consider the drafting of a welcome/thank you-for-attending-Bethany letter for visitors.

Staffing of the nursery will be discussed.

The Southern Gospel group, 2nd Generation, has indicated it is willing to perform at Bethany the evening of July 29. I will be talking with the organizer of the group this week.

Respectfully submitted,
RobinLynn and Linda

CARE TEAM REPORT: This has been a quiet winter month: No meals or rides. 9 telephone visits by me, perhaps some by Karen. These were combination of birthday wishes and follow up on health issues and concerns and offering CT assistance. There are 6 people in need of continued prayers.

1 birthday card with written personal message to Joy Crane in honor of her 101st birthday, Feb. 25th. 1 visit to Joy by me, perhaps others too that I'm not aware of.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Lorang

Beyond Our Walls: Kathy and I met and discussed several items that were "on the table." We have information about supporting "Threads" that we will share at the meeting.

Jan and Kathy

In addition:

*Jan, and Nancy Lester talked to several community organizations about their needs for volunteers. Bigfork Food Pantry and Riverbend Concert series each indicate they have enough volunteers at present. If Pocketstone restaurant resumes its community Thanksgiving dinner this year Bethany may volunteer to help. The *Threads* program sponsored by Bigfork Ladies' Service Club indicated continuing need to help local students. Jan will present a Temple Talk after a worship service, provide a list of needed items, and a box in the narthex to collect those items.

OLD BUSINESS:

Committee Descriptions: Pastor Christopher distributed an updated list of Committee Responsibilities.

Food for the Poor: A representative of *Food for the Poor* requested our consideration of allowing a presentation after a worship service. Council prefers to have this presentation next year.

Alert magazine: Pastor Christopher contacted 3 people at Bigfork High School to inquire about this magazine. None of the 3 had ever heard of it. It was suggested that he check again, this time

DRAFT FOR APPROVAL

with the librarian and the counselor, as they would be more likely to know about it. Council will visit the request for advertising with the magazine next year.

Trust Fund terms: A question was raised at February's meeting concerning stipulations of Trust Fund committee terms. Linda obtained the 8-page document *Resolution Establishing Bethany Lutheran Church Trust Fund*. Ron will make copies of the document for council members, and the issue will be revisited at April's meeting.

2nd Generation Concert: Linda has been working with the local *Flathead Valley Gospel Music Association* to host a group called *2nd Generation*. The group will perform at Bethany on Sunday, July 29, 2018, at 7:00 PM, in the sanctuary. Admission is free; "love offerings" are accepted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Reclaim hymnals: Tom Gopp and Keith Kapelke were present to discuss replacement of the red hymnals and to answer questions. If 200 hymnals are purchased at \$22.00 each, the total needed is \$4,400, which does not include shipping costs. A firm commitment of \$2,000 from anonymous donors has been received (the commitment, not the actual money), and some money could be received from selling the red hymnals to ELCA churches. There is also \$1,635.00 available in the church's *Memorials Fund* under "Hymnals Donations." A **motion was made** to purchase *Reclaim* hymnals to replace the current red hymnals, spending up to \$3,600, which includes shipping and handling. **Motion carried.** Pastor Christopher will check on the licensing of hymn use for those favorite hymns that are not in *Reclaim*, similar to what we do now for having permission to reprint material. If the publisher of *Reclaim* publishes a supplemental hymn book in a few years, we can consider purchasing that book at that time.

Vicki's Letter: Kelly and RobinLynn agreed to work with Vickie Bagley and Karyl Gopp on composing a letter to former members about their reasons for not attending Bethany.

Camperships: Deadlines for applying for camperships to *Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp* (FLBC) are approaching. Ron and Pastor Christopher put together this year's applications that are now available in the church office. Costs have increased slightly from 2017. Deadline to register is April 1, 2018. Either full or partial camperships can be requested. The current budget allots \$600.00 total for camperships; some *Youth Fund* money is also available. A **motion was made** that Bethany Lutheran provide \$295.00 in FLBC camperships to children in grades 3-7; and \$310.00 to children in grades 8-9, after parents pay the registration fee. **Motion carried.**

New Custodian: Sarah Olson has given her notice that she can no longer be janitor because of her full-time job. Ron will announce the vacancy at this coming Sunday service; Jan and Mike agreed to be with Ron on the interview committee to hire a replacement.

ARK update: Communication continues between the ARK Task Force and the library. Details are being discussed to give each party a clearer understanding of what is needed to reach agreement: surveying, parking, utilities, etc. Discussion on what to do with the pool table, foosball table, etc., led to a decision to have a work party sometime in the near future to empty the ARK of all remaining items and dispose of them in a conscientious manner.

DRAFT FOR APPROVAL

In addition:

*In the near future, all storage areas in the church will be purged/cleaned.

Emergency Phone Tree: After the roads closure because of the weather in February, it was suggested by Jan that we develop an emergency phone tree for contacting members to inform them of last-minute cancellations of church activities. Jan agreed to begin working on this project.

A request was made by Jan and Kathy that the council consider having winter-months council meetings after Sunday worship instead of at night, when travel can be more treacherous. The suggestion will be considered by council.

An email circulated among council members in February regarding a request from Pack 4923, which has been given the opportunity to do an early adoption of the Family Scouting Program for Cub Scouts. Pack 4923 needed to know if it has the support of its Chartered Organization, Bethany Lutheran. It would be one of only 6 programs in the state that was approved for early implementation of Family Scouting. This is a huge honor for Pack 4923 and they hope that our council would agree. **The email vote was 5-2 in favor** of supporting the early adoption of the Family Scouting Program for Cub Scouts. Pastor Christopher wrote a letter to the Cub Scout pack indicating our support. Some council members felt we should have had an opportunity for discussion before voting; the pack needed to know sooner than we could have met. The topic will be discussed further at the April meeting.

NEXT MEETING: April 12, 2018 at 6:30 PM in the church library.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Dahlman
Council Secretary

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