

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 12, 2018

**Attendance:**

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

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

**Opening Meditation:** Pastor led devotion, based on Joshua 1:1-9, and prayer time beginning at 6:31 PM in the church library. Prayers were lifted for 9 (nine) individuals or situations.

**Meeting called to order** at 6:47 PM by Ron.

**Correspondence:** Immanuel Lutheran Communities will be hosting a weekly *Caregivers Support Education Series* at Bethany, beginning April 17, 2018. Posters are available in the narthex with more information.

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

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

**Pastor's Report:** The last month has been very difficult, especially dealing with issues surrounding Joy Crane's memorial service. The whole conversation hurt my heart, along with the hearts of many others in our congregation. At the end, I felt like we came to the best conclusion that we could. There will still be ramifications to deal with, but I look forward to putting the difficulties behind us. Joy's service was hosted here on April 7, and I hosted the time of sharing downstairs during the reception.

Easter Sunday was well attended this year, and I heard plenty of thankful comments for how the worship service went. Seeing as how I've been waiting for the Easter/April Fools' mashup for about 9 years, I'm happy with how my message ended up.

Confirmation has had its first test, and I am pleasantly surprised with how well the students have been doing on it. We are starting our unit on the Apostles' Creed and the Sacraments, and their memorization test is tentatively scheduled for May 20.

We have lost two of our members this month. On March 28, Pat Hays died after her long bout with various issues. Her memorial service will be taking place sometime in late June. Also, on April 3, Al VandenBerg died from renal failure and fluid buildup. His service is going to be on April 28 here at Bethany. Please pray for their families in their grief.

I am in the process of putting details together for our Youth Sunday service, which will be on April 29.

I am planning on taking a post-Easter week of vacation April 30-May 6. I have already talked to Pastor Tom about leading worship that Sunday.

Visits

6 homebound

7 pastoral

16 phone calls

**President's Report:** The topics and moods at Bethany throughout this last month have been as predictable as the spring weather in Montana.

Early on I dealt with the conflict developed over not allowing the memorial for Joy Crane to be held at Bethany. With patience and clarity from one of our members, I could see why Pastor made the decision he did. LCMC's view on worship and praise were not compatible with the way the Episcopal faith practiced. Unfortunately for us, Joy wanted to be memorialized using the Episcopal process and that was hard for Pastor to allow inside our church. The storm started building. An emergency council meeting was called where eight members plus Pastor were present. At the conclusion, the voting members voted unanimously to allow the Episcopalians to use our church for Joy's memorial. There may be another related issue to deal with, but it has not arisen as of this writing.

More bad news – Besides losing Joy this month, we mourn the loss of two members. Our loss is the Lord's gain. We will miss Pat Hayes and Al Vandenberg and their smiles, encouragement, and commitment to the life of Bethany. And although not a member, we need to support Keith Kapelke as he was notified of his mother's passing 4/9. Please keep all these friends and their families in your prayers.

Some good news – The library has submitted a buy/sell in their hopes of obtaining our Ark. Your task force has met and determined that their offer is, for the most part, a reasonable one. There are a few points we will need to hammer out before we bring this matter to the congregation. Our attorney is currently looking over the document.

See you at 6:30 pm, Thursday.

Ron

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Worship and Music:** March/April were fairly quiet for the Worship and Music Committee. On March 15, Pastor Christopher met with Niki and I to develop the second quarter volunteer Worship Assistants schedule. The second quarter runs through June 24. Bev Ostroot and Rebecca Miller have volunteered their services to lead us in the Prayers of the Church. Rebecca will step in on April 29<sup>th</sup> and Bev will follow on May 6.

Jacqueline Whitehorn informs me that we are again getting low on Friendship Registers, so we will be making new registers this month. If anyone knows of anything I've left out, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Nelson

**Property:** I have nothing new to report for this month from the property committee. The sale of the Ark will be discussed at our meeting, of course, so I need not mention that.

I need to discuss the roof issue with Jerry before proceeding with what I proposed two meetings ago in Jerry's absence.

Bless you all,  
Kelly and Jerry

In addition:

- \*The furnace needs to be checked and serviced.
- \*Several light bulbs need to be replaced in pastor's office.
- \*Old vacuums need to be replaced with a new, commercial model.
- \*Entry rugs are worn and need to be replaced.

**Congregational Life:** Congregational Life has no activities to report on for April.

Respectfully submitted,  
RobinLynn and Linda

**Care Team Report:**

Meals-0

Rides-0

Calls: Sharon-11

(including birthday and sympathy) to 3 members. Have been in close touch with one member through everything and she asked if CT would be willing to share a couple meals for the family a few days before the funeral on the 28th. Will arrange that as the date gets closer.

Karen-5 calls

Total 15 or more.

Cards: 3

One member should be upheld in prayer. In talking to her she said she had been in hospital but is doing better now, her family is able to help them.

P. S. As a suggestion if we see anyone who has left the church at funerals or events we shouldn't hesitate to acknowledge them and let them know we miss them. Sometimes all it takes is simple act of kindness.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sharon

**Beyond Our Walls:** Donations to *Threads* have been very positive. In particular need are individually packed snacks for the kids. List of needed items are on the lid of the *Threads* donation box.

Kathy and Jan

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Vicki's Letter:** RobinLynn, Vickie Bagley and Karyl Gopp will meet this coming Sunday after worship to continue work on the letter.

**Cub Scouts:** Further discussion on the council's previous 5-2 vote to support Cub Scout Pack #4923 in its request for Bethany's approval to join *Family Scouting*. Council members requested that a representative of the pack attend a council meeting to answer questions and address concerns. Ron will contact the pack and request someone's attendance.

**\*In addition:** The new *Reclaim* hymnals have been ordered and should be arriving any day. Ron and Jerry will place them in the pews.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Chamber Business Listing:** An email was received 2 weeks ago from the Bigfork Chamber of Commerce, asking if Bethany Lutheran wants to be included in the Chamber's information. The Chamber will include at no charge a logo and up to four photos, plus our website and social media availability. Links to all social media is offered for a fee of \$50.00. **A motion was made** to authorize the spending of \$50.00 to have the Chamber include links to social media for Bethany Lutheran. **Motion carried.** Money for advertising is available from our *Thrivent Choice* funds. Pastor Christopher will take care of this with the Chamber.

**ARK—disposition of equipment:** Ron did an inventory of items remaining in the ARK. The list includes: pool table; foosball table; assortment of tables and chairs; couches, coffee and end tables; lamps. Pastor just recently saw a request from the Methodist Church for a pool table. **A motion was made** to offer to give the pool table from the ARK to the Methodist Church. If they want it they would be responsible for moving it. **Motion carried.** If the Methodist Church doesn't want it, Kelly will see if any other churches might be interested. Ron will announce at the next worship service that the above items are available to the congregation first if anyone is interested in purchasing by donation. Any leftover items will be donated to a thrift store or otherwise disposed of.

**New Custodian:** Because there were no applicants for the custodian position after Ron announced the opening to the congregation, Linda Dahlman agreed to fill the position. The custodian is paid \$15.00 per hour.

**Trust Fund Revision:** Records for the last Trust Fund revision have not yet been found; it is believed the last revision may have been in 2011. The search will continue, and the revision will be revisited at a future council meeting.

**Emergency Phone Tree:** Jan has been working on the calling tree and will present it at the next council meeting.

**NEXT MEETING:** May 10, 2018 at 6:30 PM in the church library.

**COUNTERS:** April: Linda and Mike  
May: RobinLynn and Jerry

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Dahlman  
Council Secretary