

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
July 13, 2017

Attendance:

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

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

Guests: Karen Bradstreet,
Nancy and Bill Lester

Opening Meditation: Ron led devotion, from 1 Kings 3:7-12 (a wise and discerning mind) and prayer time beginning at 6:36 PM in the church basement. Prayers were lifted for 4 (four) individuals or situations.

Guests were welcomed to share their perspectives before the call to order of the regular meeting. Karen Bradstreet shared how she was inspired by Rachel Circle's Bible study of 1 John 1, which is a study on fellowship within the church. She presented a written list of ideas to promote fellowship within both Bethany and the community. Congregational Life Committee will explore ways to implement Karen's excellent suggestions.

Bill and Nancy Lester provided their expertise as the caretakers of Bethany's cemetery in the discussion of an updated cemetery policy. The current policy was adopted in 1975. Bill, Nancy, and Kent Bolstad collaborated with Jan Olson to create an updated policy, initial draft. Questions regarding the eligibility of Associate Members to be buried in our cemetery will be decided by the full council at a future meeting. Bill reported that there is space for 200 (two hundred) urns near the gazebo; 122 (one hundred twenty-two) burial sites are filled, with approximately that many vacant plots remaining. Bill will have 5 (five) copies of the plots plat made for the church's records. Jan will meet with Bill and Nancy again to rework the draft. Ron thanked Jan, Bill, Nancy, and Kent for their work on the policy.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Ron.

Correspondence: Glacier Chorale requested to advertise on our reader board for the two nights in August that it will be performing at the church. The request was okayed; Pastor Christopher will take care of it after he returns from Minnesota, as he is the one who takes care of reader board messages.

Minutes: Minutes from June 8, 2017: **Approved.**

Treasurer's Report: **Approved.**

Pastor's Report: June 7 – July 11, 2017

On June 8, the last day of school, we held an ice cream social for those celebrating. We had no idea how many would come, or who they would be, but the event went about as well as could have been hoped for. We served between 70-80 parents and kids, mostly not from our congregation. The weather was exactly what we needed, and we got to see some not-so-familiar faces enjoying games in our yard. I think this needs to become an annual event.

The next big organization I had to undertake was the 4th of July parade. We were able to make a couple of banners for the sides of the truck with Bethany's logo and website on them, so people could actually see who we were this year. The decoration went swimmingly, and then those of us in the back of the truck spraying water went swimming. Everyone seemed to have a very good time, and it was nice to be a part of our community celebration.

I have not heard any feedback from my proposal to the Altar Guild members for a "trial run" of weekly communion, so we are going to go forth with that in early September, and one Sunday in October. I am putting together the Scriptures and services, and will be passing that on to the worship planning team in early August.

I'm also starting planning for the fall. Today, I met with Henrik Jorgenson to begin planning for All Aboard in the fall. We're going to plan under the assumption that we will have Ark availability, at least in September, but will have backup plans in place. I'm also going to be contacting Sunday School teachers about preparing for the upcoming year in August. I'm excited to work with our wonderful folks.

Confirmation students are all caught up on their memorization tests, and will be able to start again in the fall with a clean slate. I have not yet determined when class will be, or if Adult Forum is going to be an option for me again, but I hope to figure that out very soon.

Mid-July is very busy for me. I am not at our meeting this month because I am in Minneapolis for the Board of Trustees meeting. I announced to the congregation that this is my next-to-last meeting this past Sunday. Once I get back, I will lead worship on Sunday, and then head to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp with my family for a week.

Visits

3 homebound

2 pastoral

7 phone calls

President's Report:

This has been a busy month. At our last meeting we formulated the task force that will lead the potential sale of the Ark. It is made of Keith Kapelke from the congregation and from the council we have Jan, Ken, Linda, Mike, Ron and sometimes helping Kelly. Some of us workers have met on three separate occasions with folks from the county (library and seniors) to tour the Ark. The county seems very interested in a purchase. Many of us will meet next with an attorney in Kalispell who will guide us through this process. A report from this meeting will be forthcoming at our council meeting Thursday.

Ron

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Worship and Music: The worship and music committee had a quiet month. We have nothing to report.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike and Jacqueline

Property: Kelly did animal control at the Art by fixing holes to keep mice out.

Sanded seats of the picnic tables.

Removed old BBQ.

Had couches cleaned, thanks to a member of \$160.

Before I called the sheriff I talked to Chris and she said she gave permission to a Randy Popiel to park the trailer on our property. Church received \$100. from him.

I put ground sterilization on property of weeds but looks like it isn't working the best.

Need to have gutters repaired on east side and snow guards installed. Will work on that later, like September.

Believe that is all at this time.

Jerry and Kelly

*In addition, Jerry reported that a bid was received from Heaven's Best for the cleaning of carpet on the main floor. Just the traffic areas in the narthex and sanctuary to the altar is \$1,000. To clean the entire carpeted area is \$2,000. Jerry will see about contributors to cover the cost.

*In addition, Tom Gopp fixed the cabinet door under the sink in the narthex.

*In addition, Kelly replaced the dead shrub near the east entrance.

Congregational Life: Approximately 50-55 people attended the potluck picnic after outdoor worship on June 25th.

Outdoor Worship on July 23rd will be followed by a pie social. A BLC Announcement will be made through email asking for volunteers to bring pies. If not enough are brought we will buy some.

CARE TEAM REPORT:

Meals: 8 during July for one household, a total of 11 for them; they sure appreciated the help.

Telephone Visits: approximately 7-10. Karen, Jennifer and myself. Sharon

Respectfully submitted,
Linda and RobinLynn

*In addition, Kelly wondered if we had heard anything about a hiking trip on July 20. We had not.

Beyond Our Walls: BOW, no report, but we want to give a big SHOUT OUT to the following families/individuals for their help in creating a great float for the 4th of July Parade!

Miller family
Nelson family
Jacqueline & Aase
Bonnie
Linda & Dick
Jerry & Jan W
Michael & Jennifer
Jane L

In case you missed it, I've attached a couple of pictures (J

Blessings,
Kathy B. and Jan O.

Cemetery Policy Committee: (attached in two formats)

Bill and Nancy Lester, Kent Bolstad, Arne and Alice Brosten, and I met to up-date the Bethany Cemetery Policy. The draft policy is attached for your review.

Blessings,
JanO

DRAFT Policy Statement
Bethany Lutheran Church Cemetery
Adopted 2017

This policy takes effect immediately. However, reservations for members and non-members made prior to this date will be honored.

1. A member of Bethany Lutheran Church may be buried in Bethany Lutheran Cemetery with no charge for the lot. No lots may be reserved. Upon the death of a member, his/her spouse may reserve a lot.

MEMBER is defined as a person listed on the Church Roster.

2. Burial of non-members can be requested from the Cemetery Committee if space allows. No lots will be reserved for non-members except for the spouse of the person already buried there.

The current fee for non-member burial is \$300.00 for a full grave site and \$100.00 for the urn section. *These fees will be reviewed annually and are subject to change.*

3. All graves must have an acceptable marker erected within one year of burial; however, no digging, erection of monuments or markers shall be done on any lot without first obtaining permission from the Cemetery Committee.
4. The Church Council of Bethany Lutheran Church shall be the final interpreter and clarifier of the above policy statement.

OLD BUSINESS: A bid of \$15,795.00 was received from Associated Crafts-Willet Hauser Architectural Glass of Winona, Minnesota, for repair of our stained-glass windows. There was no charge for examining the windows, and the bid is good for 45 (forty-five) days after the date of the bid which is June 09, 2017. Discussion ensued on how we would pay for repair: use Memorial Undesignated funds; funds from sale of the ARK; explain situation to congregation and ask for donations, then cover any balance with Memorial Fund money. It was decided to table the bid for now, and Ron will contact the company and inform them that we cannot have the work done at this time. Jerry will explore the installing of a temporary mesh to cover/protect the most vulnerable windows.

ARK Update: Ron recapped the initial meeting with the county; Phil Bolstad of the Senior Center toured the ARK; Ron, Mike, and Linda met today with Thane Johnson of Johnson, Berg, & Saxby, PLLP, in an initial meeting to have Mr. Johnson guide us through the legal aspects of the possible sale of the ARK. Mr. Johnson has informed us that his services will be offered pro bono. Included in the discussion with Mr. Johnson was surveying; appraisal; buy/sell agreement.

A **motion was made** to set a price of \$599,000 as the working amount for an initial Buy/Sell Agreement. **Motion carried.**

Brian Truckey has moved most of his belongings from the ARK; a pop machine, foosball table, and some small items will be moved out soon.

NEW BUSINESS: The council's study of the book *Growing Young* will begin in September.

An idea was sent to the council from Rebecca Miller about the possibility of providing a Cooling Room in the church during periods of hot weather for people who may not have air conditioning in their homes. After discussion, the idea will be tabled until next year because of our lack of resources (mostly volunteers to monitor the use of the building) to provide for this idea.

A request was received by a women's study and discussion group from the community to utilize our library to meet one afternoon a month. A **motion was made** to allow this usage; **motion carried**.

A request was received from PEO to host an organ recital by Susan Nielson (a Bethany member) on Sunday, September 10, 2017, at 3:00 PM, as a fundraiser for that organization. Coffee and cookies will be served afterward. A **motion was made** to allow PEO the use of our sanctuary and not charge a facility usage fee for this event. **Motion carried**.

*In addition, Linda received a request from Thrivent Financial in regard to our possibly hosting an informational meeting about Social Security. She had no other information to present as she was to talk with a representative at length the next day concerning details. Council agreed that if this is strictly an informational meeting, with no intent of trying to sell something by Thrivent Financial, we would lean toward allowing this use with no facility usage fee charged. If Thrivent intends to offer any of their product for sale, then a facility usage fee would be required.

NEXT MEETING: August 10, 2017 at 6:30 PM in the church library

COUNTERS: For August: RobinLynn Stobart and Ron Harapat
For September: Ron Harapat and Jerry Wiedebush

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Dahlman
Council Secretary