

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 13, 2018

Attendance:

Pastor Christopher Miller – present
Ron Harapat, Pres – present
Jan Olson, Vice Pres – present
Linda Dahlman, Sec – present
Jerry Wiedebush – present
Niki Knauth – present
Kelly Jorgenson – present
RobinLynn Stobart – present
Mike Nelson – present
Kathy Buffington – present
Bev Ostroot -- guest

Opening Meditation: Pastor led devotion, based on Judges 7, and prayer time beginning at 6:30 PM in the church library. Prayers were lifted for 5 (five) individuals or situations.

Call to Order: 6:58 PM by Ron

Bev Ostroot was welcomed and asked to present her request regarding Lutefisk Dinner to begin the meeting instead of waiting for New Business. Bev distributed the following to members:

LUTEFISK DINNER CONSIDERATIONS
SEPTEMBER 2018

Both Jan Wiedebush and I have been approached recently by congregation members recommending that we stop having the lutefisk dinner. Their reasons are that it is too much work for our aging congregation.

I think the Council needs to have a say in this decision. I am willing to continue heading up the committee, but it would be a relief if I didn't have that stress for 2+ months!!

Here are some things that come to my mind for our consideration:

- Bethany's is the only lutefisk dinner in the Flathead Valley that is open to the public.
- Putting on the dinner is a truly bonding experience, a "family-builder", for our congregation.
- Over the last 5 years, Bethany has realized an average net profit yearly of \$5,448.00 before benevolence.
- We've donated, in recent years, \$500 each to Bigfork Food Pantry and Veterans' Food Bank. They would probably miss those donations.
- The work involved in putting on the dinner is getting more and more difficult for many of us as we get older.

- There may be other ways to raise at least some of this money. For example, we could have a fund-raiser just within the congregation called “In Lieu Of Lutefisk” and ask folks to donate what they would normally spend on the dinner (for donated food, tickets, time spent working, etc.)
- There are probably other ways to fellowship and work together in place of the dinner prep days. Maybe a Thanksgiving dinner or just fun gatherings with or without “projects”.
- If we advertise our dinner in “Rural Montana” magazine, they need our copy by October 1.
- We don’t need to advertise in “Rural Montana”!
- If we are going to have the dinner, the committee needs to start work on assignments, etc. no later than early October.
- A decision now does not have to be “forever”. We could omit the dinner this fall but resume next year if something changes.
- There may be other ways to “do” the dinner in a smaller version. Perhaps we could have two seatings and sell advance tickets for reserved seats. Some have suggested cafeteria style would be less labor-intensive.
- It’s a tradition that we’ve been doing for about 100 years, although we’ve missed some years. Some think it would be a shame to discontinue it.
- There are undoubtedly other factors to consider that I haven’t thought of in the last 24 hours!

Bev Ostroot

It was reported that one congregation member thinks we should keep doing the dinner as one way to keep the congregation together. A council member stated that if we say we are “too old” to continue the dinner, then it becomes too easy to say we are “too old” to do any other activities.

After discussion, a **motion was made** to continue with the Lutefisk Dinner for 2018, with an emphasis on this being the 100th anniversary of the very first dinner. **Motion carried.**

Correspondence: A *Thank You* was received from Karen Bradstreet for the balloon and gift certificate she received from the council in honor of her birthday.

Minutes: Minutes of July 12, 2018 meeting **approved**. There was no regular August meeting.

Treasurer’s Report: Report for August 2018 **is filed for audit.**

Pastor Christopher Miller
 Council Report
 August 9 – September 12, 2018

A good chunk of this month was taken up by our family vacation to Idaho, Washington, and the Oregon Coast. It was refreshing, and had me ready to hit the ground running when I got back.

I’ve been preparing a new strategy for Adult Forum for this year. I’ve been selecting some studies that I think would be interesting for us, and I have put three out for feedback from the

congregation as to which one they would be interested in starting with. It appears that we're going to be starting with a study of the Psalms on September 16. When that one is completed, I will have other options for participants to choose from. My hope is that this will give participants some more "ownership" of the class, and encourage further participation.

We made final plans during the month for our Rally Day events, and those happened on September 9. It was sort of a mixed bag. The Sunday School meeting was shorter than hoped for, and we didn't have as many of the congregation members join us for games as we were praying for. Over the next couple of Sundays, we'll have to get the other students that were not there registered, along with taking their pictures for prayer cards we'll be handing out to the congregation, and getting updated Safety Policy documents into their hands. I took the confirmation kids to Hidden Key Escape Games in Whitefish for their event, with dinner afterward. All of the kids really seemed to enjoy the event, we had great conversation, and we actually escaped with 7:30 to go. Confirmation class will start on September 16.

I shared a prayer at Rodrik Brosten's graveside service on August 31.

Vacation

August 9-18: 10 days, 1 Sunday

Total: 17 days, 2 Sundays

Visits

8/8: Bob & Shirley

8/22: Evelyn

8/23: Keith & Marcia

8/26: Arne & Alice*

8/28: Elaine

8/29: Jerry & Angela

9/4: Harriet

9/5: Jane

9/11: Dolly

*in addition: The dinner/campout for families on August 30 had two families in attendance for the dinner, and one family for the campout.

President's Report: Two invitations are in order for this month. I suppose these items occur regularly in my life, but there's nothing wrong with seeing if anyone else would like to participate.

The first one is an invitation for any and all members who feel the need to stretch the vocals. Your church choir is looking for folks who would love to enjoy our camaraderie. Please consider this important ministry.

The second is an invitation to all men. Our bible breakfast has started up again. We meet every Tuesday at 7am in the fellowship room. Last year ended with seven men studying Joseph. We'll be starting a study on Colossians September 18th.

We're down to just a few items to cross off our list before the Ark is sold. We're putting finishing touches on the shared access and parking agreement. Then the surveyor will finish her work and file all documents with the county. Our closing will take place in a few short weeks if all goes smoothly.

Counters for September – RobinLynn, Mike
October – Niki, Kathy
Ron

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Worship and Music: Good Day Everyone,

Worship and Music, including Pastor Christopher, met last Wednesday evening, September 5, 2018 to develop the 4th quarter 2018 Worship Assistant Schedule. Schedule assignments were completed through January 6, 2019. The schedule was completed with an emphasis on assigning tasks to the younger members of the congregation.

Please let us know if you have any questions. We have no other news to report at this time.

God Bless you all,

Mike Nelson
Niki Knauth

*in addition: The Children's Christmas Program is in the works.

Property: The dead tree south of the parsonage was felled and removed. Brush was removed from the edge of the east entrance to give better visibility of approaching cars when exiting, although a little more could be taken.

Ryan the roofer has indicated he does not want to do the roof work on the ark, so Ron and I are looking for a new roofer. They all seem to be very busy these days, so if anyone of you know of an experienced, licensed roofer, pleased let us know.

We still need to get Mike W. to come replace that parsonage window; sorry for the delay, Christopher.

I feel I am forgetting something, but we will see you tonight.

Kelly and Jerry

*in addition: The roof work referenced is in regard to the replacement of metal screws with the correct size of screw. The metal itself does not need repair.

Congregational Life: No activities to report from Congregational Life. We will be meeting soon to discuss Stewardship emphasis.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda and RobinLynn

Care Team Report: Meals: 4 casserole dishes for Rod Brosten funeral reception
Rides: none that I'm aware of
Telephone Visits: on-going
Cards: 2

I'll be gone Sept. 13th-till later in the month, so if a need arises please call Bev for arrangements.
Thanks.

I'm thinking of having our annual CT meeting the first week of Oct. Watch for details.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon

Beyond Our Walls: Bethany has signed up to furnish the Community Meal at the Methodist Church Thursday, Nov. 29.

The "Threads Box" is back in the Narthex. Chris will have a bulletin insert Sunday with items that are needed.

Kathy and Jan

*in addition: The *Umpteenth Annual Rummage Sale* netted about \$1,800.00. A big *Thank You* to all who contributed to its success. Women of Bethany was able to immediately donate \$150.00 to help a local student in need of eyeglasses.

*in addition: Pastor will have on the October agenda a request for downtown helpers on Halloween.

OLD BUSINESS:

Vicki's Letter: Ron received the draft of the letter and will edit.

Trust Fund Revision: The document is a work in progress. There is no need to wait for the document to be finished to distribute funds.

NEW BUSINESS:

Trust Fund spending: After discussion, a **motion was made** to recommend to the Trust Fund Committee that a scholarship check in the amount of \$1,000.00 be given to Kyle Thomson.

Motion carried. Kyle is a senior at Carroll College in Helena.

Al Anon: RobinLynn gave background information on the Al Anon organization, and requested permission for the local Al Anon group to use a classroom in the church basement to meet weekly on Wednesday nights at 7:00 PM, beginning in October, and use the room to store their books, etc. A **motion was made** to allow Al Anon to meet weekly on Wednesday nights at 7:00 PM, beginning in October, and also use the room to store their books, etc. **Motion carried.** One or 2 people from the church need to be present to unlock the door, escort folks downstairs and back out, and lock the door after the meetings.

Overeaters Anonymous: The local group requested a place for its weekly meetings. A **motion was made** to allow Overeaters Anonymous to meet weekly on Thursdays at 5:00 PM. **Motion carried.** They will meet in the library, with meetings lasting 1 hour.

Youth Safety Guidelines Revision: Council members discussed final revisions and updates. A **motion was made** to approve the *Youth Safety Guidelines* as revised. **Motion carried.**

First-aid kits: Congregational Life will check on first-aid kits to be sure they are maintained.

Community Center: A request was received from Jolynn Yenne of the Bigfork Community Center, asking if 1 or more council members would be interested in attending a brainstorming session on September 17 to discuss ways to improve the Community Center's outreach in the community. No one expressed interest in doing so.

Memorials: Jerry distributed a list of ideas as seed for coming up with other ideas for being good stewards of our Memorial funds. Council members are asked to bring suggestions for spending the funds to the October meeting.

An "Interest" meeting for Bigfork Schools Snack Program will be at Bethany on September 24 at 6:00 PM.

NEXT MEETING: October 11, 2018 at 6:30 PM in the church library.

COUNTERS: for September – RobinLynn and Mike
October – Niki, Kathy

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Dahlman
Council Secretary