

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

Attendance:

Pastor Christopher Miller – excused
Ron Harapat, Pres – excused
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

Opening Meditation: Kelly led devotion, from Psalm 23, and prayer time beginning at 6:32 PM in the church library. Prayers were lifted for 7 (seven) individuals or situations.

Meeting called to order at 6:45 PM by Jan.

Correspondence: A *Thank you* note was received from Chapter BH P.E.O., thanking the church for hosting P.E.O.'s benefit organ concert by Susan Nielsen on September 10, 2017.

A request for Bethany's buying advertising was received from the Flathead County Deputy Sheriffs Association for an event scheduled for November 4, 2017, at the Flathead County fairgrounds. Council declined the purchasing of an ad.

A request was received from *Samaritan's Purse* to help hurricane victims in Texas. BOW will look into a special offering to support hurricane victims.

Ron has kept Pastor Ben Burdick of Mountain Song Church current on possible sale of the ARK. Mountain Song will need to find a place to worship when the ARK is sold.

Jan received a phone call from Chris Miller just before the meeting that a church in Lead, South Dakota would be sending \$870.00 in wildfire relief money to Bethany. Because Bigfork has not been directly impacted by wildfires, council members will investigate how this gift can be shared with those who are impacted by fires. Jan will get more details before a decision is made. Shared ideas and a final vote will take place via email.

Minutes: A **correction** to the minutes of 08-10-17: Under the **Pastor's Report**, in the "In addition" line regarding the invitation to join the Northwest District of LCMC: It is stated in the minutes that Mo Bessey is a former member of Bethany. Mo's husband, Otto Bessey, was a member of Bethany many years ago, but Mo was not a member of Bethany at any time. Minutes **approved as corrected**.

Treasurer's Report: Approved.

Pastor's Report: None

President's Report: As I've moved through this calendar year there have been more times than I can possibly count where people have risen to the top to help others. I first realized this 'servant' attitude many months ago, shortly after you handed me the reins to this organization. I witnessed ALL of you council members stepping out to perform duties I really hadn't noticed before – even though I was on the council last year. I continue to marvel at how diligent and self-sacrificing you all are. Now, more recently, I've come to notice how there are many people in our congregation who step up to lend a helping hand. This feeling of 'being a servant' is truly what makes our congregation a wonderful body to belong to. I hope you take the time to thank someone whenever you're given the opportunity. I find it's not only a reward for the receiver of thanks, but it also makes the sender's day a little brighter too. True story: Years ago I was standing in the checkout lane at the grocery store and witnessed a cashier who seemed to be having a 'down' day. Maybe it wasn't her whole day, but those few minutes I watched didn't seem to be going her way. I thought, "What can I do to help her out?" As my transaction ended I parted with, "Have a nice day." And I added a big smile. Whether that helped or not, I'll probably never know, but it's something that stuck with ME and I've continued to do it ever since. It has helped brighten my days.

Wow, I really didn't mean to write a book. I just wanted you all to know how I feel about you. Thank you for your continued hard work for Bethany.

P.S. – I'll be missing from this week's meeting, but I leave you in quite capable hands. Carry on the good work.

My part in the discussion:

I feel a need to help somewhere. I'll go with the majority, but I'd love to see us give something toward helping those in Harvey or Irma. Maybe something to the Red Cross? Maybe something for those victims closer to home?

God bless you,
Ron

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Worship and Music: Mike made Friendship Registers and we are now caught up. He will be making more in the near future.

Jacqueline scheduled volunteers for worship for October, November and December 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Nelson and Jacqueline Whitehorn

Property: Kelly and Jerry cleaned debris from roof of parsonage. Carpet was cleaned at the church on September 4th. Mold was detected by Sara and Jerry sprayed mold control on it and it seems to have gone away some, this will be applied again. Kitchen floor was cleaned. Dish washer needs a good physical and that will happen next week. Lights in kitchen at the parsonage were replaced by Ken Olson, thanks to Ken.

In addition:

*Jerry contacted the sheriff's department about several vehicles that have been left on church property for some time.

*Kari Nelson placed plastic covering over the carpet in front of the communion rail to help prevent stains on the carpet from spilled wine or juice. When intinction is used for communion it will be done in a continuous line, away from the rail.

*The organ in the sanctuary will be moved Sunday.

*The mold in the basement was in the east Sunday school room, beneath the library.

*Guidelines for parsonage occupants will be worked on this winter.

*Kelly will work on the rain gutter on the east side of the church near the entrance.

*Adopt-A-Highway cleanup will be the first part of October.

*Work Day for outside church property will be mid-October.

Congregational Life: The final Outdoor Worship was held August 27. Approximately 52 people attended the Fellowship Hour, which included a meal of pulled pork sandwiches, chips, pickles, and desserts. Thank you to Art Crane and Charlie Jantzen for providing entertainment.

Sign-up for Fellowship Hour without arm-twisting continues to be a blessing. Thanks to everyone for participating.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda and RobinLynn

Care Team: Hi, this is our report: (sorry I missed sending one last month, senior moment I guess!)

July 13th--August 10th:

1 miscellaneous need to a couple

1 meal to member recovering from surgery

Many telephone visits by Jennifer, Karen, and Sharon. Jennifer had to leave area because of smoke but I'm sure she's still making birthday calls to everyone listed. She's super at this 😊

August 10--September 14th:

2 meals too the Miller's

2 home visits, Sharon and Carroll

Many telephone visits, (I've been making the birthday wishes so far on list, couldn't reach Karen this morning.)

That's it, God Bless. Sharon

Beyond Our Walls: Kathy met with John Zimmerman on August 29th, regarding the upcoming "Compassion Sunday". It will take place on Sunday, September 17th. John will attend our services on both the 10th (for observation) and on the 17th to assist with the presentation. Kelly Jorgenson will share with the congregation his personal experience with "Compassion". John

and his wife will be set up in the narthex after the service, with the opportunity for our members to also sponsor and share with the children of “Compassion”.

The September Special Offering goes to our missionary family, the Schroeder’s. They are in the Philippines and have recently had another baby boy, Gideon Biral Schroeder, born August 17th. Gideon is their 5th child. Luke was recently a guest speaker at a mission’s emphasis week at a local Bible school where he shared on the unreached people of the Philippines. We are asked to pray that God would call more workers to the field. Luke & Ruth also ask that we pray they would be able to interact wisely in the community after a recent major drug raid, where even some of their friends were arrested. In the future they are hoping to be dubbing in voices on the Genesis film. There is a copy of their email in the narthex for all to read.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan and Kathy

OLD BUSINESS:

Kelly and Linda volunteered to return a bulletin board to the narthex.

A **motion** was made for Bethany to join the Northwest District of LCMC. **Motion passed.** A formal announcement will be made at the Annual Congregational Meeting in January 2018.

Cemetery Policy, Third Draft: Discussion on third draft. A **motion** to approve and adopt the third draft passed. Paper copies of the policy will be distributed to members in their church mailboxes.

DRAFT Policy Statement
Bethany Lutheran Church Cemetery
Adopted 2017

1. Voting members listed on the Bethany Lutheran Church roster at the time of death and their minor children may be buried in the Bethany Lutheran Church Cemetery with no charge for the lot.

Associate Members who actively participate in the life of the Church may also be buried with no cost for the lot. Minor children of Associate Members may also be buried with no cost for the lot.

Non-member burials can be requested from the Cemetery Committee if space allows.

No lots may be reserved. Upon the death of a member, associate member or non-member, his/her spouse may reserve a lot.

**** Reservations for members and non-members made prior to this date will be honored.***

The Church Council of Bethany Lutheran Church shall be the final interpreter and clarifier of the above policy statement.

2. 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 prior approval from the Cemetery Committee.

ARK Update: Thane Johnson, Bethany's legal counsel, sent a letter to Mike Pence, Flathead County Administrator, as requested by the council at its August meeting. The county has hired CTA Architects to do preliminary sketches of adding on to the current building, to house a Senior Center. The county thinks it would need about 1 (one) acre total, including the building. The county also must hire and pay for appraisal. On September 28, 2017, at 3:00 PM, representatives from the library and CTA Architects will meet with Task Force members to look at the property. Mike will unlock the building for them.

Growing Young: Council members will begin discussion on the book *Growing Young* in the library during Adult Forum time. All adults are welcome to join in on the discussion, which will last six weeks.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lutefisk Dinner: The dinner is Saturday, November 11, 2017. Bev Ostroot is chairwoman of the dinner committee.

Adopt-A-Room: Linda suggested an idea for members of the church to "adopt-a-room." Taking care of a room would cover responsibilities not specifically assigned to the janitor. Ideally, users of any rooms would clean up after themselves but that is not always the case. These are "adoptions" that would require a minimum amount of time, maybe only a couple times a year. Rooms that specifically would benefit are the library, nursery, and storage areas. RobinLynn and Linda will meet with Sara Olson, janitor, to discuss options.

NEXT MEETING: October 12, 2017 at 6:30 PM in the church library

COUNTERS: For September: Ron and Jerry
For October: Linda and Mike

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Dahlman
Council Secretary