

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 11, 2018

Attendance:

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

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

Opening Meditation: Pastor led devotion, based on Matthew 11:1-19, and prayer time beginning at 6:32 PM in the church library. Prayers were lifted for 8 (eight) individuals or situations.

Call to Order: 6:50 PM by Ron

Guest: Kari Barr was present on behalf of Cub Scout Troop #4923 to thank Bethany Lutheran for its support of the troop, and to request that we consider renewing our charter of the troop, which must be done annually. The troop currently has 38 children, ages 5-11, signed up for the coming year. They meet in the basement of the church, and have been provided a dedicated storage space for their supplies. A **motion was made** for Bethany Lutheran Church to charter Cub Scout Troop #4923 for 2019. **Motion carried.** The charter fee is \$300.00 annually and is due by December 30, 2018. Pastor Christopher will continue in his role as “Chartered Organization Representative”.

Correspondence: none

Minutes: Minutes of September 13, 2018 meeting **approved.**

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

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Christopher Miller

September 13 - October 9, 2018

I have been very pleased so far this fall with our turnout for Adult Forum. We've had four meetings, three officially in the Psalms study we've been working on, and the attendance has been very good. We've had 5 to 7 people each time, and a variance in age, especially since Jasic Blain (age ~2) joins us occasionally. The conversation has been very good, and I'm looking forward to that continuing.

Confirmation has been going fairly well so far this year. Attendance has been solid, and even with a relatively dry topic such as church history, they seem to be engaging with the material. We are up to the early (dark) Middle Ages currently. We will have no class on October 21, because of the MEA vacation. We will also not have Sunday School that day.

On back-to-back Sundays, we will have events coming up that will hopefully engage the whole congregation. After worship on October 28, we will have our annual Reformation Festival. The meal will raise money for the Sunday School's Compassion International sponsored child, Jocelyn, and there will be games for the kids. Then on November 4, we will have our annual Cookie Bake for the Lutefisk Dinner. We'll provide lunch for everyone that comes, and we'll get to working on our cookies to sell in the waiting area during the dinner.

Karyl Gopp approached me with an idea that I really liked. For December, she, Dorothy, and Karen planned the music, and specifically constructed the December 30 service to have more music involved. I think it is going to turn out great. The worship planning team will be meeting in the next month or so to select music for the Epiphany season, which is very long this year. During that season, we will be having a preaching series on (some of) the minor prophets.

I will be leaving next Thursday for my trip to the Here We Still Stand conference in San Diego. I will be back late Saturday, and be here for worship on October 21.

Visits

9/13: June

9/17: Don

9/19: Evelyn, Harry, Bob & Shirley

9/26: Aase & Jacqueline, Syble*

9/28: Randy

10/2: Jacqueline*, Harriet, Elaine

10/3: Jerry & Linda

10/9: Carroll & Sharon, Bonnie

President's Report: Looking at the foliage in the church yard sure indicates what season we're moving into. It won't be long until the trees are bare and the leaves need raking. Speaking of things dropping off . . . our attendance will probably see a small decrease what with the snowbirds heading south for the winter. We had a wonderful celebration for them, and all seniors who attended the festivities last week. A grand time was had by all. Thank you to Karen for coordinating this project.

The Ark continues to move forward. The roofer is completing his task this week. The easement agreement has been signed and delivered. The surveyor will be sending the new plat to the county next week for their approval. I'm optimistic that we will be closing on this sale in the next couple weeks.

Council members should start thinking forward to the year-end reports. I'm not putting the squeeze on just yet, but you might start thinking back to the many events and accomplishments your committee was involved with. Start making your list so that it's not so painful in a couple months. You folks are truly amazing!

Ron

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Worship and Music: September/October 2018 has been a quiet month for the Worship and Music Committee with very little to report.

Mike cobbled together friendship registers on Monday and Tuesday October 8 & 9. We should have enough registers to last through the winter and into spring 2019. I can think of nothing further to report. We look forward to seeing everyone at this evening’s council meeting.

Blessings to all,
Mike and Niki

Property: Have had a mouse in the fellowship hall, which I believe is under control.

At the parsonage we continue to have problems. Water heater, shower drain, etc. this is all being worked on.

Insurance: the premium for 2019 is \$9,316.00. This includes the ark. We currently have a \$1,000 deductible. Following is the premium with the deductible:

Deductible.	Premium
\$2,000.	\$8,836.
\$5,000.	\$8,534.
\$7,500.	\$8,289.
\$10,000.	\$8,169.
\$25,000.	\$7,402.

The premium will be lower once the ark goes off.

Clean highway is this Saturday 10 am.

We may what to think about signage for the back side parking, should work with the library board on that.

Yard equipment needs to be winterize.

Jerry and Kelly

Congregational Life: The “Senior Lunch and Snowbird Sendoff” was held on October 4 in the Fellowship Hall. The event was hosted by Rachel Circle, with 50 in attendance. Entertainment was provided by our choir; by Dorothy Peterson with her skit; by Karen Bradstreet and her humorous reading; and by Kelly Jorgenson playing his guitar and singing “I Am My Own Grandpa”. A special “Thank You” to Karen Bradstreet for the idea and organizing the event.

“Time & Talent” sheets will be ready for distribution in the very near future.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda & RobinLynn

Care Team Report:

Hello Everyone, our meeting on Oct. 4th was attended by 7 people: Pastor Christopher, Bev, Linda, Joanne, Bonnie, Kari and myself. Pastor led us in devotions from Gal. 6:10: "As we have opportunity to do good to all people, especially to those that belong to the family of believers." I believe this is a good mission statement for us.

In reviewing my log I stated that we provided 10 meals this past year, which included a meal to the Hays family and 4 casseroles to the funeral reception for Rod Brosten, which was held at another location. Telephone calls and written communication are on-going and increasing. Using our donated note cards from Greg Gopp. I send about 2 each month for sympathy, get well, or milestone birthdays. Rides are on going as well both from CT and others, which is wonderful. Pastor reported he visits 5 people regularly who are either home bound or in assisted living.

As to up coming needs, Pastor reported that Mindy Blain, a new person, who is pregnant with her 3rd child perhaps would be happy to receive some meals after delivery. We decided to 3 would be provided with the timing up to her. (I will call her soon.) Please contact me or Bev if you see a particular need or at least an inquiry. I mentioned Jennifer Kalman would like a replacement with her birthday calling from Nov-May. If anyone is interested let me know.

Thank all of you for what you do. To you it may seem like a small thing, but if it's done with love it's a great thing to God and the receiver.

The next meeting will be fall 2019.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Sharon

Beyond Our Walls: Sorry to miss the Council Meeting, but the lure of New England Fall Foliage and "lotsa lobster" makes me send my regrets and hopefully excuse my absence!! Donations to Threads has been great, and the gals in charge are most appreciative of Bethany's donations. Food, especially Mac and Cheese, are big sellers with the kids. It's a ways out, but BOW will form a committee to plan for Bethany's hosting of the Community meal in November.

Jan and Kathy

OLD BUSINESS:

Vicki's Letter: A copy of the letter was given to each council member to evaluate before the final print and sending.

Trust Fund Revision: Document revision is finalized. Karyl Gopp, Keith Kapelke, and Kent Bolstad will each serve a 3 (three) year term starting now. Discussion on authority of Trust Fund committee to make decisions on spending funds without council approval.

Memorials: Ideas shared about how Memorial Funds could be spent include:

- a drive-through portico on the east side of the building to increase safety for our older members
- the west entrance could be made more inviting instead of being a “black hole”
- installing an electric reader board on the east side of the building
- installing a concrete sidewalk and/or curbing along the top of the amphitheater
- purchase lightweight picnic tables
- install security cameras on the eastside of the building because of the increased traffic and people using the library
- a notification system for the office manager when someone enters the building
- creating a “Prayer Garden” outside

It was noted that Memorial Funds can be used for outreach ministries also, not just physical needs of the property.

Website: Two or more people are needed to post calendars, sermons, and updates on Bethany's website.

NEW BUSINESS:

Halloween table: Bethany will participate in downtown Bigfork on Halloween. Niki and her daughter will be sharing sweets with the trick-or-treaters.

Thrivent advertising: A motion was made to allow up to \$500.00 for advertising for the Lutfisk Dinner, to be taken from the *Thrivent Choice Dollars* fund. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made to donate \$500.00 to the Bigfork Food Bank and \$500.00 to the Kalispell Veterans' Stand Down and Food Pantry, from the proceeds of the 2018 Lutfisk Dinner. **Motion carried.**

Mid-week Advent services: Discussion on whether to continue with mid-week Advent soup suppers and worship this year. The services have been lightly attended in the past. Ron will make an announcement the next two Sundays after worship, asking people to talk to council members and share their thoughts on continuing the services. An idea was shared about having an intergenerational Advent activity after worship one Sunday instead of the mid-week services.

2019 proposed budget: Discussion on proposed budget. Council will vote on the 2019 budget at November's regular meeting.

Request: Linda requested that council consider a substitute for her for both janitorial and as council secretary while she is snowbirding January through March.

Pastor Christopher was excused for the rest of the meeting so council members could discuss Pastor's upcoming evaluation and compensation for 2019.

NEXT MEETING: November 8, 2018 at 6:30 PM in the church library.

COUNTERS: October: Niki and Kathy
November: Kathy and Jerry

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Dahlman
Council Secretary