

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 8, 2018

Attendance:

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

Niki Knauth – excused
Kelly Jorgenson – present
RobinLynn Stobart – present
Mike Nelson – present
Kathy Buffington – absent
Ken Olson, Treasurer – present

Opening Meditation: Pastor led devotion, based on Isaiah 40, and prayer time beginning at 6:34 PM in the church library. Prayers were lifted for 12 (twelve) individuals or situations.

Meeting called to order at 6:52 PM by Jan.

Correspondence: None

Minutes: Minutes of October 11, 2018 meeting **approved**.

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

Ken Olson was present to answer questions regarding the proposed 2019 church operating budget. The proposed budget does not include the spending of any monies from the sale of the Ark. The only line item discussed was #741: Youth Director. Some members wondered if this position should be continued. Council ok'd the proposed budget, except for Pastor's 2019 compensation, which will be discussed separately.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Christopher Miller
Council Report
October 10 – November 7, 2018

My trip to San Diego October 18-20 was well worth it. The theme of the Here We Still Stand conference was "The Theology of the Cross," and all the speakers had unique insights on how to apply Luther's theology to the modern world and church. I saw many people I hadn't seen for years, met some I'd only known online, and brought back a renewed passion for ministry. Thank you for supporting my trip there.

One thing that has benefited Confirmation attendance this year has been texting out a reminder on Sunday afternoon before class. Our youth have shown up consistently, and that has helped me be a better teacher. I've actually been talking with them about ways to make the lessons more engaging, and they've been giving me some good ideas. It's tough to "jazz up" church history, so those lessons may take some more work, but I'm already starting to think about ideas for the Lord's Prayer lessons in the spring.

Reformation Festival on Oct. 28 went very well. The kids participated very well in the games, and it was fun to have the adults be our judges on one of the games. I feel like it is a good connection to have the fall fundraising meal along with the games, especially because it gives us one more regular Sunday School class day.

Lutefisk work is plugging away this week. Our youth cookie bake was well attended by parents and youth, but not as many congregation members joined us, which saddened me. It's something I will work on increasing participation in next year.

I have ordered our Children's Christmas Program for the season, called "What Child Is This?" I also ordered an Advent/Christmas devotional that goes along with some of the themes, and those will be distributed to all congregational households at the beginning of Advent. I thought it appropriate with our Sunday School "We Are One" theme.

Next month will include worship volunteer assignments and music planning.

Visits

10/14 through 11/7: 8 (eight) phone calls, visits

*in addition: Pastor is a volunteer assistant coach with Bigfork High School's Speech/Debate/Drama team. Bigfork High will be hosting a tournament on December 8 and needs 100 judges. Anyone interested in being a judge can contact Pastor for details.

President's Report: Two hunting trips and . . . Oh wait, that's the wrong report. I continue to work on the ARK sale. We're now waiting for the county to okay the plat map. The library likes all the documents that have been produced. Once the plat is approved we will be picking a closing date. Hurrah!

Your executive board met to complete the annual review of Pastor's performance. We will meet with him on the 15th to discuss our thoughts.

I will be absent Thursday, so have a good meeting. Jan will be your illustrious leader.
Ron

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Worship and Music: Hello Everyone,
October/November 2018 has been a quiet month for the Worship and Music Committee with no activity to report this month.
We look forward to seeing you all at Saturday's Lutefisk Dinner.

Blessings to all,

Mike and Niki

Property: I can not find a repair person for some work at parsonage, still working on it.

Had the sewer at parsonage cleaned and they said that we have a broken pipe. Called a service to fix and they did not return my call.

Removed the outside light on south entrance of church. Burned wires, need to be replaced. Am just going to put a light there that is controlled by a switch.

Had a leave picker upper lined up but do to weather it has not been done. Maybe next week!

Snow removal? Are we to pay the bill this year or share with library? Have not talked to Les Mischke but believe he has called Chris. Ron, I think has a letter from him but Ron is not here tonight. Maybe will have a update later.

I washed all the windows on the outside of the church.

Marge Bailey (sic) and sons plan to do some Christmas decorations next month, any suggestions?

Jerry

*in addition:

- Kent Bolstad helped Jerry fix the light above the south entrance door.
- Jerry fixed the soap dispenser for the dishwasher.
- Lawn equipment was winterized.
- Potholes in parking lot will be fixed in the spring.
- Kelly will find out what can be done about getting bear-proof trash containers.
- Snowplowing will cost \$125.00 per plowing.
- Linda will meet with Marge Bagley to discuss Christmas decorating, possibly designating Saturday, December 1 as the day for decorating.

Congregational Life: Time & Talent sheets were included in the October 28 bulletins. A few have been returned. A display will be in the narthex to encourage people to fill out and return T & T by the end of the year.

CL is planning to host an Advent event after worship on December 2. Karen Bradstreet and Kari Nelson are in charge.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda and RobinLynn

CARE TEAM REPORT: This month has been slow. Just 1 get well card sent to Dorothy P.

Sharon

Beyond Our Walls: Jan met with Karyl Gopp and Karen Posten to plan the Community Dinner Nov. 29.

Pastor had discovered on Facebook that the Pocketstone is again hosting Thanksgiving Dinner. While not feasible for Bethany to take on a shift, Linda sent the link to individuals on her e-mail list who might want to personally volunteer.

Kathy and Jan will select special offerings for January and February so that Chris has advance notice.

See you all tonight!

Kathy and Jan

OLD BUSINESS:

Vicki's Letter: Jan suggested a couple of format changes to the letter, but nothing that changes the wording or intent. A **motion was made** to adopt the letter with Jan's changes and get it mailed out as quickly as possible. **Motion carried.**

Trust Fund Revision: Jan distributed the Trust Fund document with the revised wording. Council members are to review the document for comment on the revisions at the December regular meeting. Karyl Gopp will explain the revisions at the Congregational Annual Meeting in January 2019.

Memorials: Jerry presented a suggestion list to be displayed to give congregation members ideas for designating Memorial Funds. The list is not comprehensive, but gives a starting point for people to think about. Jan will publish the list. Another suggestion offered that could be paid for with Memorial Funds was for the installation of an electronic bulletin board in the narthex. One disadvantage is that one or two people need to be in charge of maintaining the content.

Website: No progress to report on Bethany's updated website. Pastor was urged to complete the project within the next 60 (sixty) days or by the end of 2018. Mike Nelson volunteered to help with portions of the website.

Mid-week Advent services: After discussion, it was decided that there will be no mid-week Advent services this year. Response from congregation members indicated that most were not in favor of having those services. Instead, a celebration will be held on Sunday, December 2, to kick off the Advent season. A potluck will follow worship, with art/craft activities for all to have fun with, planned by Karen Bradstreet and Kari Nelson.

ARK update: Mike reported that he called Kristine at WGM on Monday to relay Ron's message to have her go ahead and submit the plat. After leaving her a message she called back yesterday afternoon and left a message on his phone saying that she will submit the plat today, November 8. She looks forward to approval and signing the plat the first of next week.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request by Chapter BH P.E.O. to use Fellowship Hall: A request was made by Jan on behalf of Chapter BH P.E.O. to use Bethany's Fellowship Hall 3 times a year for its meetings. The Chapter will pay \$20.00 per meeting to the church. The first meeting is Wednesday at 1:00 PM. Request granted.

Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee consists of Rebecca Miller, Bev Ostroot, and Doug Buffington. The committee has 3 (three) council positions and 1 (one) Trust Fund position to nominate candidates for.

Church security: Jerry will work with Chris Miller to find a security system that will allow her or whoever is in the office a way of knowing who is entering the building.

Fundraising appeals from outside groups: Concerns were expressed over the allowing of fundraising appeals inside the church from groups outside the church. Jan requested that council consider the ramifications of allowing such, and be prepared to discuss and draft guidelines at the December regular meeting.

Bigfork Holiday Parade: Linda suggested that Bethany consider having an entry in the Bigfork Holiday Parade on December 1. A horse-drawn wagon would be fun; do we know anyone with a horse and wagon? Pastor Christopher suggested that maybe the Cub Scout pack we sponsor and Bethany could do a float together. Pastor will ask the Scout leader.

Blue Christmas Service: Pastor was asked if there would be a Blue Christmas Service on December 21. No one attended last year, but advertising for the service was poor. Jan Olson will contact the Daily InterLake about doing a story on the service, and Pastor will increase communication with the Bigfork Ministerium to advertise in each of their churches.

NEXT MEETING: December 13, 2018 at 6:30 PM in the church library.

COUNTERS: November: Kathy and Jerry
December: Linda and Ron

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Pastor Christopher was excused so council could discuss his compensation for 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Dahlman
Council Secretary