

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 10, 2017

**Attendance:**

Pastor Christopher Miller – present	Jacqueline Whitehorn – excused
Ron Harapat, Pres – present	Kelly Jorgenson – present
Jan Olson, Vice Pres – present	RobinLynn Stobart – present
Linda Dahlman, Sec – present	Mike Nelson – present
Jerry Wiedebush – present	Kathy Buffington – excused

**Opening Meditation:** Pastor led devotion, from Psalm 96, and prayer time beginning at 6:30 PM in the church library. Prayers were lifted for 19 (nineteen) individuals or situations.

**Meeting called to order** at 6:53 PM by Ron.

Pastor Christopher requested that he present his report and additions first, so that he could be excused from the meeting early because he was not feeling well.

**Pastor's Report:** My main times out and about this summer happened at the beginning of this month. I was gone to Minneapolis for a Board meeting July 12-14, and off to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp for a week July 16-21. The week at camp this year was extra special, because this was Grace's first year in a cabin. We were able to do more volunteering and get more relaxing in at the same time. It was their biggest week of the year, with breakfast and dinner serving close to 300 people. Dish room day was crazy.

Once I got back, I've been able to hit the ground running on planning for the fall. Henrik and I have been working on ideas and plans for All Aboard. We are talking to people who would be interested in being a third set of eyes for Wednesday afternoons. We're working with the school to promote and organize our contacts with them. We're going to be getting supplies soon and making sure our backup plan is in place if or when the Ark is sold.

On July 30, after church, the Sunday School teachers (and a few students) met to clean out the Youth office, and do some planning for the year. We've got some good plans for our students in place, and a better way to do sign in and out, that is more in the spirit of what our Youth Guidelines speak to. We are still working on planning out Youth events for the year as well.

I am preparing things for Confirmation to start again, which this year will not take place during the Sunday School hour, but on Sunday nights. This will allow me to teach Adult Forum again. I'm also preparing for that, but one change that we're going to make is that we will not go to the library anymore. We will stay in the Fellowship Hall and start class once the youth have headed back to their classrooms. It will give forum members more time for fellowship, and also perhaps get more people to wander over to see what we are doing.

Plans are being finalized for the weekly Communion trial run. The only detail left is seemingly working with Altar Guild to make sure that they have the people necessary to get everything done. I'm looking forward to seeing the reaction and the conversation.

With all the planning that has been going on, my phone calling of members has been lacking. I'm hoping to pick that up again very soon.

Getting this planning done will allow me to take a week of vacation just before things get cranked up again. I am planning on taking a "staycation" August 28-September 4.

### Visits

3 homebound

3 pastoral

3 phone calls

In addition, Pastor and Ron attended a meeting on August 8, 2017, in Kalispell to learn more about ChildBridge. They reported good conversation and sharing of ideas with others, especially how churches like Bethany could be involved in support of ChildBridge's efforts. Bethany Lutheran could possibly be a place where Bigfork area families could meet.

In addition:

\*September 10 is Rally Day, kicking off the beginning of Sunday school and Adult Forum for 2017.

\*A letter was received from the Northwest District of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, inviting Bethany to join its district. Discussion followed on the benefits/disadvantages of joining the district. Benefits include the sharing of information and resources. Pastor thought there are no disadvantages to joining. Mo Bessey, a former Bethany member, is a member of Calvary Lutheran Church in Kalispell and is involved with the Northwest District organization, so she would be a good person to contact for additional information. Jan has a copy of the letter and will email it to council members.

\*Options for the council's study of *Growing Young* were discussed. It was decided to meet for the first six weeks during Adult Forum time on Sunday mornings.

\*October 29, 2017, marks the 500-year celebration of the Reformation. Pastor is considering special activities to mark the event.

**Correspondence:** A *Thank you* note was received from TonyLynn Serrano, thanking the church for providing a campership to her to attend her fourth year at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp this summer.

In addition: *Thank you* notes have in the past been posted on a bulletin board for people to read; the absence of a bulletin board in the narthex led to discussion on returning a bulletin board that is easy for people to see. It was suggested that all mailboxes be moved to one side, and a bulletin

board be made that would cover the other half of boxes. The board would be built so that it would be easily removable when more mailboxes are needed. Jerry and Kelly will follow up on the idea.

**Minutes:** Minutes from July 13, 2017: **Approved.**

**Treasurer's Report: Approved.** Ron wondered about how paying Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp was handled: how much was paid and when; reimbursement; etc. Jan will ask Ken and report at the next meeting. A question regarding the cost of having stained-glass windows repaired led to the report of a warning from the company to not attempt temporary repairs to the windows, otherwise the bid for work would be nullified. Window repair has been tabled until the council figures out a way to pay for it.

**President's Report:** Well, it seems like at least once a year there has to be a month where church business takes a back seat. While some of us visited with relatives, some harvested crops, some enjoyed camping with family – some continued to workout at church. I for one, did a lot of vacationing/camping/gardening. Now that the smoke has settled in, I reckon I'll stay closer to home.

The Ark business has seen minor forward progress. We have 'employed' the use of an attorney to help us in our efforts. The county remains our interested prospect, however, their main man has been on vacation. He returns to work Thursday, and we look forward to more dialogue in the near future.

I am at the 75% spot in my reading of Growing Young. I hope you have all taken the time/opportunity to read your copy. I look forward to a nice review of material and concepts therein. It would probably speed up our discussion if you've taken time to highlight or jot notes before we begin our talks in September.

Ron

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Worship and Music:** There is nothing to report for the month of August.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Nelson and Jacqueline Whitehorn

**Property:** Dear All; Jerry is working on lights in the parsonage kitchen. Other than that, all there is to report is a chipmunk, a squirrel and a couple bats in the church. So far, no turkey, deer or bear problems.

God bless you all, and the critters!

In addition: Jerry connected hoses for watering at the parsonage. It was noted that we do not have guidelines for parsonage occupants regarding their responsibilities for maintenance of the

yard. After discussion, a **motion was made** to give the Property Committee permission to draft a guideline of responsibilities for occupants of the parsonage in maintaining the yard around the parsonage. **Motion passed.**

**Congregational Life:** Outdoor Worship on July 23 was followed by a pie social, with about 40 people attending the social. Thanks to everyone who contributed a yummy pie to share.

The final outdoor worship is August 27. Plans are tentative for a Blue Jean Sunday, with pulled pork sandwiches, chips, and watermelon or ice cream to be served after worship.

The committee will meet soon to plan activities for the remainder of the year.

Linda talked to Aaron Els, Kalispell Thrivent Financial rep, about the Social Security informational event. The woman from Missoula did not call me back; Thrivent decided to host its event in Kalispell instead of Bigfork.

Respectfully submitted,  
RobinLynn and Linda

**Beyond Our Walls:** no report

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**ARK Update:** Mike is the main contact between Flathead County and our legal counsel regarding the county's interest in purchasing the ARK. Discussion about appraisals raised many questions, including: why should seller pay any part of an appraisal; why can't county appraiser be used instead of a private entity; are there commercial appraisers available through a bank, such as First Interstate Bank. RobinLynn will find out if First Interstate has commercial appraisers. A **motion was made** to request that our legal counsel, Thane Johnson, write a letter to the county. The letter would indicate: our asking price; that the county must pay for an appraisal; parking issue must be resolved; a deadline to respond by indicating their interest in purchasing. **Motion passed.** Mike will contact Mr. Johnson.

**Growing Young Adult Forum:** see Pastor's Report

Ken and Ron checked last Sunday to see if Brian Truckey had removed his belongings from the ARK. He had not.

**Cemetery Policy, Second Draft:** Discussion on second draft. It was decided to remove "confirmed" as a requirement. A question of including children in the policy was discussed. Can a child who does not meet the criteria of being both a confirmed and voting member at the time of death, but whose parent(s) are members, be buried at our cemetery? Jan will revisit these items with her committee.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Reformation Sunday:** see Pastor's Report

**Scholarship fund:** Kelly introduced the idea of establishing a stand-alone "Bethany Bible School Scholarship." This scholarship would provide financial aid to just-graduated high school seniors from Bethany, or any adult from Bethany interested in attending a two-year Bible school. Kelly thinks attending a Bible school for two years would ground young adults in their faith before venturing out into the world of college or work. Other adults could benefit from a two-year study of the entire Bible, and related history. They would be better equipped to lead Bible studies, teach in the church, etc. He mentioned two Bible schools: Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute of Alberta, Canada, and Association of Free Lutheran Bible School in Minneapolis. He will email website addresses of these schools to council members. No action taken at this time.

**NEXT MEETING:** September 14, 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 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Dahlman  
Council Secretary