

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 12, 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 – absent

Opening Meditation: Pastor led devotion, based on Ephesians 1:3-14, in honor of Don Taylor, and prayer time beginning at 6:30 PM in the church library. Prayers were lifted for 15 (fifteen) individuals or situations.

Call to Order: 6:50 PM by Ron

Correspondence: The Red Cross requested to use the Fellowship Hall for its August 7 Blood Drive, and another request to permanently host blood drives at Bethany. The blood drives will be held the first Tuesdays of even-numbered months. A **motion was made** to allow the use of Bethany's facilities by the Red Cross for its blood drives. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Lane Latigo, president of Bigfork Toastmasters, was present to request a meeting place for his group. Mr. Latigo gave a brief history of the Toastmasters organization. He requested that his group be allowed to meet at Bethany once a month, on the fourth Monday or, preferably fourth Tuesday, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. The evening meetings would allow a better outreach to the community. The meetings would be approximately 15 (fifteen) people; any refreshments would be brought by club members and they would clean up after themselves. Toastmasters requires a minimum age of 18 years old to join. RobinLynn gave Mr. Latigo a tour of the building while council discussed the issue. Toastmasters is a non-profit organization; therefore, according to Bethany's *Facility Use Policy*, there will be no charge for them to use the facility. A **motion was made** to allow Bigfork Toastmasters to use Bethany's facility once a month for its meetings at no cost. **Motion carried.** Jerry informed Mr. Latigo of the vote before Mr. Latigo left. The Cub Scout schedule will need to be checked to avoid conflict with that group's usage of the building.

A request was received by someone to use our parking lot for parking for an off-site wedding on August 18. Request granted. Linda will inform Chris in the office of the decision.

Minutes: Minutes of June 14, 2018 meeting **approved.**

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

Pastor Christopher Miller
Council Report
June 14 – July 10, 2018

The summer has, no surprise, gotten off to a busy start. I've been doing plenty of visitation this month, but as the summer has progressed, it's been harder to catch people, especially with various special events going on. During my times when I am available and in the area, I am still planning on working hard through my list. For those of you who don't know, I've got a spreadsheet set up with our households on it, prioritized by who needs a visit more. If I can visit two per week, not counting my homebound members, I can get through the list in just over a year. Circumstances will dictate that, of course, but I'm willing to work for it. When the list is done, I plan on resorting and starting again.

Three confirmation students have completed their testing requirements for the past year. There are still two remaining: one taking the test this Sunday, and one who won't be back in the area until the end of July. One of the students who has completed their work is Allie Jellison, which means that she has met all the testing requirements, and just has her capstone conference with me this fall, before she will affirm her faith on Reformation Sunday, October 28.

What a great time we had in the 4th of July parade this year! A big thank you to Mike Nelson for providing the truck and trailer this year, and we needed the room. There were 13 of us involved in the float this year, and most of them were kids! We even had a couple of connections from it: one woman came to church the next Sunday because she got our rack card, and there was a message on our voice mail thanking us for being in the parade.

On July 9, we received the sad news that Don Taylor had passed away. He was and is a pillar of this congregation, and many people are going to miss him. His burial will take place on July 11, with his memorial service at 3 pm on July 13.

I will not be with you for council meeting next month, because of the first day of my vacation, but I will have a council report for you at that time. I also want to remind you of my week at camp July 15-20 and continuing education July 30-August 3.

Visits

6/14 through 7/10: 16 (sixteen) individuals

*in addition: The Bigfork Ministerium discussed the situation of Bigfork ACES losing a large portion of its funding, and how local churches could help support ACES and its benefit to community families.

President's Report: July 2018 President's report

The work put in by all you council members continues at the usual pace. Your efforts are truly to be commended. Other than the random complaint, I feel the operation of upholding and running a church is in the hands of all the right people. Thank you for your hard work.

Now more hard work:

Two months ago the executive committee handed you all a letter indicating our disappointment in Pastor's performance. It was a surprise to most of you, and I could see the stunned look on a couple faces. However, after talking in private with most of you, I came to the conclusion that the letter was very appropriate. There seemed to be a consensus that Pastor was indeed missing the ball in regards to the topics presented in the letter. I thank you all for your candidness and your thoughts and opinions.

Since May, Pastor has shown, in our estimation, a marked improvement in his performance. He has increased home visits and developed a plan to continue that endeavor. His sermons are presented on a more personal level of understanding. I have heard more yeas than nays from those sitting in the pews.

Your executive committee meets tomorrow with Pastor to look over his most recent review. It will look better than the last one! In your own time and way I ask you to help him in his efforts by communicating your personal thoughts toward his performance. Share your positive thoughts and your concerns, so that you (and those you talk with) can help Pastor know what it is he's doing right, and what you'd like to see done differently. It is through good communication that good work is accomplished.

See you at 6:30pm, Thursday.

Ron

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Worship and Music: Good Day Everyone,

Worship & Music has nothing to report for the past month. We look forward to meeting later this month or in early August to discuss scriptures for the third quarter of 2018.

God Bless you all,

Mike Nelson

Niki Knauth

Property: Dear Council Members,

Jerry and I do not have a lot to report for this month. We are still expecting Mike Wolstien to come replace the window in the parsonage; perhaps he needs a polite reminder.

I hauled off most of the pile of limbs in the parking lot, and will come back to get the fines.

There is a dead fir tree between the church and the parsonage, and another one that is on its way out. I hope to come remove them soon.

No bats or rats this month.

Kelly and Jerry

*in addition: new batteries in the fire alarm system were installed. Jerry removed a bat today. A ceiling fan in the sanctuary is not working and will be looked at.

Congregational Life: There will be a potluck picnic after Outdoor Worship on July 22. The church will provide pulled pork, buns, and beverages. Attendees are asked to bring salads, desserts, etc.

RobinLynn is checking out the rental of picnic tables for the picnic, and a canopy for the top of the amphitheater to provide shade for those who must sit there.

2nd Generation is still on the calendar to perform a concert at Bethany at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda and RobinLynn

Care Team Report: 2 meals; 1 visit; ongoing telephone visits

Sharon

Beyond Our Walls: No activity-no report.
See you Thursday.
Kathy and Jan

*in addition: Jan will request information from the Red Cross on the logistics of Bethany's providing of sandwiches, cookies, and juice for our assigned month of doing so.

*in addition: Jan read a *Thank You* letter from Bigfork Community United Methodist Church sent in appreciation of Bethany's contributions to its Thursday Community Meals. A **motion was made** that allows Bethany Lutheran to create a committee that will affirm and support our future commitment to helping the Methodist Church with its Thursday Community Meals. **Motion carried.** Jan will be in charge of the committee.

*in addition: Jan wished to publicly thank Kari Nelson for her willingness to set up decorative items as the need arises. Kari does a beautiful job and her efforts are very much appreciated.

OLD BUSINESS:

Vicki's Letter: RobinLynn and Kelly will continue working on.

Website Update: Ron, Ken, Jan, PC, and Mark Whitney met to evaluate the updates made to Bethany's website. A "dry run" (not live) will take place for these evaluations. Reasons for the update: the current website is old; the technology is outdated; navigation is difficult. The goal is to have a fresh look, ready in early fall of this year.

Trust Fund Revision: A meeting was held on June 17, 2018 with current and previous Trust Fund members. The following were in attendance: Jan, Tom Gopp, Kent Bolstad, Don Hendrickson, Karyl Gopp, and Keith Kapelke. Jerry Wiedebush, Deann Farrell, and Marge Bagley were unable to attend. They began the task of cleaning up the boilerplate language in the Trust Fund document.

Discussion: on how to continue helping a local homeless person.

NEW BUSINESS:

Trust Fund spending: Ron began the discussion by stating he thinks Bethany Lutheran is remiss in its stewardship of the Trust Fund, with council members expressing agreement. Revisiting the spending of the money in the fund dovetails into the revision of the document. Suggestions for wise stewardship include support of ACES; various scholarships; support of *Threads*.

Heating repairs: The building's furnace system is in need of repair and updates before the onset of cold weather. A previous estimate came in at \$3,500-\$3,700. A **motion was made** that we immediately secure a commitment to fix the furnace before cold weather arrives. **Motion carried.** Jerry will make the appropriate phone calls to accomplish the repairs.

NEXT MEETING: August 9, 2018 at 6:30 PM in the church library. PC and Jerry both reported that they will be absent from the August meeting.

COUNTERS: for July: Jan and Kelly
August: Linda and Jan

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Dahlman
Council Secretary