

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

July 13, 2023

Attendance:

Jan Olson – President
Mike Nelson – Vice President
Kelly Jorgenson
Sam Shurke
Bill Hagen
Keith Kapelke
Doug Buffington
Travis Lake
Pastor Shawn Osborne

Jack Bartlett - Excused

Meeting called to order by Jan Olson at 6:32 pm.

Prayer Request

- Members of the council brought up four requests for prayers. Pastor Shawn opened with prayer and brought these petitions before the Lord.

Correspondence

- No new correspondence has been received.

June Minutes

- Minutes from the June 15th council meeting were approved as submitted, noting that a correction had been made to a name.

Treasurer's Report

- The treasurer's report was accepted and approved for audit.

Pastor's Report

- June 16th was the last day of VBS, then drove to Williston to pick up Seth.
- June 17th drove back from Williston.
- June 30th drove to Calgary.
- July 1st swam and ran the Diamond Valley Dash and Splash and drove home.
- July 2nd played at The Perch with members of Crossroads praise band.
- July 7th visited the Lorangs.
- July 7th saw a great concert at Kettlehouse. Shurkes were there, too!
- Mission Ready is taking off... more people are participating.
- Church attendance is climbing with more families attending – and a baptism this coming Sunday!

President's Report

- It's a bittersweet meeting for Jan – her last on the council and as its president. She has enjoyed and appreciated working with the group.
- Recommended that the officers elected by the new council meet with the outgoing officers before the August meeting if possible.
- Sam Shurke brought up some questions for Jan during this time...
 - Committee assignments going into the next council were discussed, as some council members wanted to switch committees:
 - Beyond Our Walls - Sam Shurke, Bill Hagen.
 - Property - Keith Kapelke, Travis Lake.
 - Worship & Music – Doug Buffington.
 - The new council leadership will need to be elected once the new council has been seated. Jan Olson recommended this be done prior to the August meeting if possible, so the group can hit the ground running.

Committee Reports

- Worship & Music:
 - A hootenanny had been discussed, but we may run out of volunteers and time to make one happen this summer.
- Property:
 - Mike Nelson mentioned that the parsonage attic vents need to be covered to prevent birds from getting in. Keith Kapelke said he and Matt would get it taken care of.
 - The elevator has been repaired and is working well for now. It's an old elevator, and getting replacement parts will be a challenge going forward. This will be a large expenditure when it has to be replaced.
 - Jan Olson and Sam Shurke met with members of the Library Board at yesterday's community dinner. Work will be getting underway at the library in the near future, potentially starting with interior work. The Library Board has an interest in developing the parking area in conjunction with any work we may want to do on our parking area, which would be ideal for cohesive and effective stormwater management. The Library Board also mentioned changes to the approach off of Bridge Street to improve parking flow into their lot.
 - Shawn Osborne reminded the committee that there are a few items that need to be addressed at the parsonage. The flooring in the kitchen/laundry/bathroom is in need of replacement, and the bathroom still hasn't had a vent installed. Mike Nelson will pass on the vent quote so property can get that going. A flooring product will be discussed and priced out for consideration.
- Congregational Life:
 - There is still a need for people to sign up and help with fellowship treats and cleanup.
 - A big "Thank You" to Linda Dahlman for taking care of the coffee each Sunday.
 - The monthly pot lucks and weekly community dinners are well attended (and growing).
- Beyond our Walls:
 - The new committee will review the special offering beneficiaries and make changes as they see fit.

Old Business

No discussion.

New Business

- The LCMC is making changes to their bylaws concerning the endorsement of chaplains. Pastor Shawn will reach out to the LCMC for clarification and explain the proposed change prior to the congregation voting on it at the annual meeting.
- Online and electronic donation options were discussed. There are many ways that new technology will allow parishioners to donate to the church, such as Venmo, PayPal, QR codes on bulletins, donate buttons on Facebook/You Tube, etc. This will be researched further by the council, and a survey will be created to help understand how members of the congregation would like to donate.
- The council briefly discussed ways to communicate church finances to the members.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer at approximately 8:10pm.

The next regular council meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on Thursday August 10th.

Respectfully submitted