

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
October 8, 2020

Attendance:

Pastor Shawn Osborne – present
Jan Olson, Pres – present
Mike Nelson, Vice Pres – excused
Linda Dahlman, Sec – present
Craig Asmus – excused
Ken Olson, Treasurer - present

Doug Buffington – excused
Kelly Jorgenson – present
RobinLynn Stobart – present
Leoma Taylor – present
Samantha Schurke – present

Prayers: Pastor Shawn led prayer time at 6:33 PM in the church library, with prayers lifted for 7 (seven) individuals or situations.

Meeting called to order at 6:42 PM by Jan.

Ken Olson presented a preliminary 2021 budget. He will also meet with Pastor Shawn and Chris Miller for input into the budget. Council members are encouraged to contact Ken with any questions they may have.

Correspondence: None

Treasurer's Report: Report for September 2020 is **filed for audit**.

Minutes: Minutes of September 17, 2020 regular meeting **approved**.

Pastor's Report: October Pastor Report

Since the last meeting, I met with the Waddells and they became members of Bethany. Rally Sunday kicked off and got Confirmation class and Sunday school up and running. I'm making monthly visitation/communion for members who can't make it to church on Sundays. We are five weeks into the Evangelism course. I attended my first monthly pastor meeting with church leaders from the area. I met with Ken Olson to go over budget items for the upcoming year.

President's Report: October President's Report

Things are pretty quiet, which is a good thing.

I'd like to tie up a couple of loose ends at the meeting. One is approval of the "Hold Harmless Liability Waiver" for our user groups. If you haven't already, please review the attached document before the meeting.

You will notice "sale of risers" on the agenda. No, they haven't returned, but I want the sale to be duly noted in the minutes.

Hope you are enjoying these glorious fall days!

In Christ,

JanO

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Worship and Music: No report submitted.

*in addition: Pastor Shawn is printing the praise music to be placed in the worship song folders, so that those who can read music can follow along. Pastor and Karen Bradstreet chose traditional organ music and Lutheran hymns for Reformation Sunday on October 25.

Property: Good Day Everyone,

September was a quiet month, so we have nothing to report for this period.

Have a glorious day,

Mike & Samantha

Congregational Life: Congregational Life has no planned activities between now and the beginning of the Advent season.

Fellowship Hours will continue after worship each week.

Michael and KayLynn Waddell have become members of the Bethany family.

Men's Breakfast and women's circles have resumed their Bible studies.

Respectfully submitted,

RobinLynn & Linda

Care Team: This has been a quiet month, just phone calls to stay in touch, especially with those affected by the covid 19 virus as it is on the rise here. I also called my friend who has had serious health issues but is coming back to Bethany next spring when she returns after wintering in Arizona.

Sharon

Beyond Our Walls: BEYOND OUR WALLS REPORT OCTOBER 2020

We received mail from Child Bridge regarding recent transition in their ministry. Some time ago they began to partner with Care Portal Platform, which provided specific items for children coming from situations of abuse or neglect. But God began to make it clear to Child Bridge that that platform was distracting from their original call and mission. Child Bridge has stepped away from that partnership to focus completely on their original mission which is "To find and equip foster and adoptive families for Montana children who have suffered abuse and neglect." So, they sent to us, and other churches and partners, a short video on a flash drive to explain these recent changes, but also to deeply thank us for the part we have played in their ministry.

We also received from Samaritans Purse our packet for this year's Operation Christmas Child shoebox ministry. Included is a short video from which we can play during one of our services. I will talk to Ken or Russ about doing that if you all are ok with that. Samaritans Purse is a very worthwhile ministry that not only brings joy and a smile to poor children around the world, but also introduces the gospel to many children who have no access to the gospel.

Our Special Offering for October is the Schroeder missionary fund. I (Kelly) will see if I can get an update to share with the congregation.

In Christ,
Craig A. and Kelly J.

OLD BUSINESS:

“Hold Harmless” document: Mike provided a liability waiver document for the council to okay. A **motion was made** to approve the *Hold Harmless* document and require its completion by all groups that use any of the church's facilities. **Motion carried.**

School district use of Fellowship Hall: Superintendent Matt Jensen thanked Bethany Lutheran for its offer of facility use in the event it was needed, and has determined that this use is not needed after all.

Church safety training: Pastor Shawn and Doug Buffington will begin the planning process of creating a safety policy for the church.

Choir risers: *Crown of the Continent Chorale* has paid for (\$2,100.00) and taken possession of the choir risers.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nominating Committee: Bethany's Nominating Committee will be considering candidates to fill the expiring council terms in January 2021 of Linda Dahlman, RobinLynn Stobart, and Doug Buffington.

AED: Jan consulted with 3 (three) of our church members who are healthcare professionals. The consensus is that the church does not need to have an AED (automated external defibrillator) on site. A **motion was made** to follow the recommendation of these healthcare professionals to not purchase an AED. **Motion carried.**

Reinstatement of former member: According to our constitution, reinstatement of a former member requires formal approval by the council. This council wholeheartedly and joyously welcomes this member back into the family of Bethany Lutheran.

Library usage: A request was received by a support group for retired women in Bigfork that needs a winter location for a weekly meeting each Thursday morning from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. The group will sanitize at the end of the meeting and will contribute a monthly offering in

gratitude for the opportunity to gather in the library. Council members approved of this request, noting that the *Hold Harmless* liability waiver must be signed by a representative of the group.

Communion: Pastor Shawn suggested via email with the council his reasoning for doing Communion once a month instead of twice a month: 1) It makes Communion a little more special; 2) He will visit with parishioners monthly to give Communion, so everyone gets this Sacrament the same amount of times; 3) It limits COVID-19 exposure; and 4) Most Lutheran churches he's been a part of do it monthly instead of bi-monthly. Added to the above is that Altar Guild members would be responsible for one Sunday per month instead of 2. Additional celebrations for communion would be Christmas and Easter. **Council approved of having communion once a month, with Christmas and Easter having communion also.**

Scouts update: The following email was sent by Mike to Keri Barr, Cub Scout leader:

You guys did an awesome job on the fire pit, my congratulations to the young ladies and parents who participated. Please send me or Chris, at the office, your receipts so the church may reimburse you. Pastor Shawn thanked Pack 4923 for your stellar job and encouraged parishioners to inspect the new pit after Sunday's service.

In other news, Bethany will be performing our annual Fall Highway clean-up along MT Hwy 35 on Saturday October 10 at 09:00. I'm encouraging Pack 4923 to help us keep our Highway clean. Bethany's portion of the Adopt-a-Highway program begins just south of the church and extends a mile south toward Woods Bay. I'll stop at the Highway Maintenance Office in Ferndale and pick-up the necessary safety signs and Blaze Orange Vests.

We'll all meet at Bethany's parking lot between 8:30a and 9:00 where we will distribute safety vests and garbage bags. This usually takes about 1.5 to 2.0 hours to pick-up trash and is a good outing for everyone.

Annual reports are due to Chris in the church office by Thursday, December 17, 2020.

NEXT MEETING: November 12, 2020 at 6:30 PM in the church library.

COUNTERS: October: Sam & Linda
November: Leoma & Linda

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Dahlman
Council Secretary