

Bethany Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting September 9, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Hughes at 6:30 p.m.

Members present were Wayne Frauenholtz, Nancy Bruns, Del Hughes, Curt Casper, Alan Beyer, Dave Bahnsen, Tonya Samuelson, Linda Black, and Pastor Whaley. Absent was Cheryl Fischer.

Pastor Chad opened with a devotion and prayer.

**Pastor's Report: Council Report September 2019**

After much needed time of rest and relaxation for the first half of the month I quickly got back in the flow of things upon my return. Here are just a few items of note.

- 12 pastoral visits
- Baptismal education prior to baptism of Charlotte Perkins on August 25<sup>th</sup>
- Scott Marsh, Paula Casper, and I gathered in our efforts to continue to push forward a project born out of our involvement with the Turning Point program we are a part of through the Southeastern Iowa Synod.
- "God's work, our Hands" Sunday meeting led by Al Beyer
- Children and Youth Faith Formation meeting with Tonya Samuelson and Amber Marsh to plan and prepare for the upcoming year of faith formation.
  - Confirmation preparation
  - I prepared a Worship and Bible Trivia Power Point for the Faith Formation Kickoff on September 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Planned and led worship at Crestview (along with Eulyn Frostestad and Chris Korsmo who assist)
- Attended a meeting at the Office of the Bishop in Iowa City as part of my service on the Outside Council of the Free In deed congregation at the Anamosa State Penitentiary and even found myself now a part of the "Nominating Committee."
- Met with Pastor Beth of Trinity Lutheran in Tipton to continue our conversation on building relationships between our two congregations.
  - Will do another pulpit exchange October 20<sup>th</sup> ○ Gauge interest in the possibility of doing another shared men's and women's event. ○ Why are we doing this?
    - ✦ Largely stems from the Bishop's 4 marks of vital congregations, one of which is that we don't live for ourselves but are part of the larger church. We live into this through our connection to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, our shared ministry with the congregations of West Branch/Springdale, and through this new connection with our brothers and

sisters in Tipton. We build this relationship with the hope and trust that God might bear forth new life, new opportunity, new growth, and new relationships through it. We try something new for the sake of the gospel.

- Attended a meeting hosted by Bishop Burk in which he helped to clarify some of the decisions that came out of the Churchwide Assembly last month.
- Attended the Community Tailgate hosted by Bethany and WBUMC.
- Made a video, which was posted to our Facebook page and website inviting folks to participate in God's work, our Hands Sunday.
  - As I state in the video, this is something I had never done and quite honestly, was frightened to do it and put it out there for all to see. Yet, I was able to push beside those fears and doubts because I felt compelled by the Spirit to do this and trusted in the strength of God to help me accomplish this. I am already thinking of ways I might continue this in the future to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and the work we are called to do as the people of God at Bethany.
- Helped coordinate, plan, and promote event sponsored by WBARC on suicide prevention training to be held September 11<sup>th</sup> at Bethany.
- Upcoming Happenings
  - Fall Theological Conference, September 22-24, Des Moines
  - Preaching Seminar (?) October 7-9, St. Paul, MN

### **Secretary's Report:**

The Worship and Music Committee report was missing from the August minutes. Linda moved and Nancy seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion passed.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

The August General Fund Revenue and expense report shows \$12,875 in offering revenues and \$12,247 in expense for a net increase of \$628 for the month. Year to date income and expense figures are below budget with a net decrease of \$5,953.

In the fund balance report for the month of August, we have received a \$5,000 donation for the Memorial Fund. We collected \$355 in special offering for the UI Lutheran Campus Ministry. The school contacted us for backpacks and supplies which were purchased and funded from the Good Samaritan fund. The parking lot bill totaled \$26,112. \$21,060 was paid from the Parking Lot fund, which is the total amount pledged with \$910 still due. The other \$5,052 was paid from the Improvement Fund.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Building and Grounds:**

- Curt thanked Del and the building committee for their participation in all the projects that have been completed this summer.
- A lot of work was done at the God's Work Our Hands event.
- The front (west) entrance door has been painted by the Whaley family.

- There is a broken storm window at the south entrance.

**Education:** Wednesday is kickoff for Faith Formation. Amber is making a schedule for teachers and assistants. Tonya is organizing food and Pastor Chad the activities for the first meeting.

**Evangelism and Outreach:**

- God's Work Our Hands was very successful with a large variety of projects. The day began with a breakfast and service before breaking up into groups to work.
- The Designated Shelter Committee will be meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Plans are being made to attend services at Anamosa Penitentiary.

**Fellowship:**

- Bethany will be hosting a synod meeting here in October and a meal is being planned.
- Caspers and Patsy Ernst served the last 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Meal.

**Stewardship:** Dave is getting started on the time and talent sheet plans for later this fall.

**Youth:** No report.

**Worship and Music:**

- After discussion it was decided not to have an outdoor service this fall.
- Choir rehearsal will be held on Thursday evenings, at least for the month of September.

**Old Business:**

- The sidewalk project is done and looks good. Three sections were replaced after vandalism had damaged parts of the concrete.
- The bell tower leak project has been completed.

**New Business:**

- Adult Education: \$300 is budgeted for adult education and some new purchases may exceed this by a little, but will also last into 2020.
- Confirmation Class Project: The class is already committed to making snack bags for the library. Another project being considered is to start a Little Food Pantry, similar to the Little Book Libraries.
- Thrivent Funds will be used for Bethany's share of expenses for the tailgate event held at the Methodist church. This was approved last year.
- Nancy questioned when to transfer approved funds to pay for the library snack project. It was decided to do it when the funds are needed.
- There was discussion of giving an informational letter to the congregation regarding the financial status of our church, given all of the projects completed this year. It was decided to send this out in the October newsletter.

Linda moved to adjourn and Curt seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.