

Bethany Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting February 10, 2020

President Hughes called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members present were Dave Bahnsen, Del Hughes, Alan Beyer, Linda Black, Curt Casper, Nancy Bruns, Kristin McElhinney, Amber Marsh, Anne Fetzer, and Pastor Chad Whaley.

Pastor Chad led opening devotions with a reading from Matthew 18:20 and discussed the importance of working together with a goal.

Del reviewed the new council booklets and how to use them.

**Pastor's Report:**

Report to Council – February 10, 2020 Grace and peace in Christ!

*3 Joys since last meeting*

- Annual Meeting (Yes, they can be joyous occasions in which we celebrate God's goodness and faithfulness for the year gone by and look with watchful eyes of how God will use us in the year to come)
- Bishop Burk worshipping with us
- Opportunity to preach and worship with the men of Free Indeed at the Anamosa State Penitentiary

*This evening I am grateful for...*

- Returning council and newly elected members Kristin, Amber and Anne
- Our partnership with Trinity in Tipton and leaders to help plan upcoming women's and men's events
- A milder January than last year

A few highlights since our last meeting:

- 9 pastoral visits
- Crestview worship
- Text Study (IA City)
- Conference 7 Pastor Meeting in Muscatine ○ Watch film on Human Trafficking
- WBARC meeting
  - Finalize our mission statement
- Assist Bishop Burk in healing listening posts within a congregation

- Preach and preside with men of Free Indeed
- Plan and lead Confirmation and other Wednesday activities
- Premarital counseling for couple being married in April
- Working with Paula (and others) in finalizing Annual Report, Constitution updates, etc.
- Wednesday Men's Group
- Attend Adult Discussion
- Regular activities (sermon prep, bulletin and newsletter preparation, other planning)
- Attend a training at Synod Office on Gratitude and Generosity with Nancy and Del
- Help on a couple local cases of assistance (work with police and others)
- Women's Circle

On the horizon...

- Property Safety Meeting at Zion, Iowa City Feb. 13 (attending with Del H. and Curt C.)
- Lutheran Day on Hill Feb. 25
- Ash Wednesday Feb. 26 @ Bethany

Pastor Chad also added the plans for a Men's Retreat with Trinity Lutheran of Tipton to be held on April 26. Packaging food for Take Away Hunger will be part of the event. He is in the process of planning a council retreat, probably on a Saturday morning. He has applied for participation in a course from Grandview College called the Moses Project, focused on revitalization of rural congregations.

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

Two reports were submitted: the regular January meeting and the special meeting of new council which was held after the Annual Meeting. Linda moved to accept the secretary's report with corrections. Dave seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

General Fund revenues for January were \$12,692 and expenditures were \$12,116.

A \$100 donation to the West Branch After Prom Party was made from the Youth Fund. Emergency Shelter volunteers needed background checks and \$57 was spent from the Internal Missions Fund. \$475 from the 2018 Cookie Walk Fund is designated for library snack bags and the remainder will go to the Youth Noisy Coin Fund. \$857 from the 2019 Cookie Walk has yet to be designated.

### **Committee Reports**

**Building and Grounds:** Curt said that snow removal is doing well.

**Education and Youth:** No report.

**Evangelism and Outreach:**

- Freely service at the Anamosa penitentiary on February 1<sup>st</sup> was led by Pastor Chad. His service was well received by the inmates. Al Beyer and Beth Ahrens also attended.
- Tentative plans are being made for the Local Missions part of our budget. We hope to have representatives from LSI, Campus Ministry, U of Iowa Hospitals Chaplaincy, and Freely ministry speak to our congregation during the year. Funding for WBARC, DVIP, and Shelter House was also discussed.
- Early plans for Bethany's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary are being made.

**Fellowship:** Anne discussed ideas for family-oriented fun events to be offered during the year. She also talked about the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday meals and Lenten suppers.

**Stewardship:** No report.

**Worship and Music:**

- Bethany will be hosting the community's Ash Wednesday service on February 26<sup>th</sup>.
- The Memorial Fund committee met and decided on three designations: new candle lighters, a replacement for the current projector, and a new tree for the parsonage yard.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

- The new Fidelity Bank requires a document and signatures from the congregation signifying who has been designated to conduct financial business with the bank. Anne moved and Curt seconded to send a letter listing the Executive Committee members for this purpose. Motion passed.
- Bethany's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Al offered to begin forming a committee to celebrate this event. He mentioned having a float in the Hooverfest parade as well as a special Sunday to celebrate the event.
- Del read from a letter from the Synod which invited Bethany to share a video commemorating our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the Synod Convention in May. A discussion was held concerning the production of this. Dave mentioned that the video to be shared doesn't have to be long. The convention will also feature Bishop Burk's retirement.

Linda moved to adjourn at 7:38 p.m. Dave seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.