

Bethany Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting (via Zoom) April 13, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Pastor Whaley at 6:32 p.m.

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

Pastor Chad led opening with a prayer for time of pandemics.

**Pastor's Report:**

**Pastor's Report – April 13, 2020**

Wow! What a whirlwind we have been on since our last meeting. As always, here are a few things I am grateful for/rejoice in since that meeting.

- Technology to help us stay connected and have this meeting tonight
- Doctors, nurses, first responders, scientists and all working on the front lines of trying to keep us all safe
- Your support, encouragement, and patience
- Ability to retain my call full-time in a time when many are experiencing cutbacks or loss of jobs

Never in a million years did I anticipate trying to be a pastor under the current circumstances. Suffice it to say, there was no seminary instruction on this. We are all adapting to our current context; all the while, trusting we are not alone. The Good Shepherd is by our side.

If you recall when you were installed before the congregation a short while ago each of you were asked this question.

*Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the office to which you have been elected?*

It's the same question I was asked when ordained and then installed at Bethany almost 9 years ago. Our response was the same:

*I will, and I ask God to help me.*

I am not sure there is a time when this has been more applicable than now. We will, and we ask God to help us through this most difficult and challenging of times.

During these last few weeks, I have spent countless hours researching, experimenting, and figuring out how we can continue to be church together. I have participated in webinars offered through the Office of the Bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod and the ELCA along with other places. I have consulted with colleagues. I have tried to figure out what platforms would best suit our needs. I have recorded short video segments, put out a few devotions and tried to engage people of all ages. I have made phone calls to our people. I have prayed ... a lot as have most of you I am sure. It has been tiresome at times. It has been lonely at times. It has been frustrating at times. Yet, it has been rewarding and joyful as I find new ways to keep us together and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. In the end, I am extremely proud of what has been done to date as we try our best, with God's help, to be the church together in this unprecedented time.

Our Lenten and Sunday worship services have been done using Facebook Live, and the Palm Sunday service had 706 views and Easter had 528 views so this was very gratifying.

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

Linda moved to accept the March council minutes and three special meetings of the executive council minutes. Curt seconded. Motion passed.

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

March revenues were \$10,650 and expenses were \$12,356.

Dave moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Curt seconded. Motion passed.

#### **Committee Reports**

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

Curt said that the insurance for the church has increased by \$15 per month.

##### **Evangelism and Outreach:**

Committees have been formed for Bethany's float in the Hooverfest parade and for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in October. Due to the coronavirus uncertainties, they have not met.

##### **Fellowship:**

The first two Lenten service meals were served, but the rest were cancelled. Hopefully, the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday meals can be resumed in July.

##### **Stewardship:**

Dave watched a synod sponsored “Stewardship in Unprecedented Times” presentation. He will bring more information from this to us.

**Worship and Music:**

Linda inquired whether we could make a list of things to do outside around the church, since the April cleanup had to be cancelled. Curt offered to post a list.

Linda thanked Pastor Chad for his work during these unprecedented times.

The church was decorated for Easter with lilies and a spray of flowers that were donated.

**Education and Youth:**

- Amber said her committee is working on ideas for Wednesday evening education. They may record Zoom lessons or mail the lessons to the kids.
- She will be attending a zoom meeting next Sunday for Vacation Bible School.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:**

- Curt offered a contract for lawn care that is the same as last year. He also offered to do the care through the month of July for no pay. Dave moved to accept the contract offer. Amber seconded. Motion passed.
- COVID-19 status: Linda moved to continue our current policy regarding this, and extend the closure through the end of April, and giving the Executive Committee authorization to adjust it as the situation changes. Anne seconded. Motion passed.
- Discussion was held regarding locking the church so people can deliver food to the pantry until restrictions are lifted. It was decided to have limited hours with the doors unlocked. Pastor Chad will post this on the door.

The zoom feed ended as the meeting adjourned.