

Bethany Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting October 12, 2020 (via Zoom)

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

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

Pastor Chad opened with thoughts on the importance of listening as a spiritual form of hospitality. Council members were invited to share concerns they have. He then closed with a prayer.

**Pastor's Report:**

**Pastor Chad's Report to Council – October 12, 2020**

Joys and Thanksgivings:

- Vacation (Golf getaway with Matt)
- Continued good weather (for the most part) to hold outdoor worship and Wednesday Faith Formation
- Our staff, church council, and those teaching faith formation
- Abundant love we have in Jesus Christ!

Reminder: YOU ARE LOVED!

Happenings in last month:

- 6 visits
- Planned and led Confirmation
  - Thanks to Amanda for leading in my absence last week
  - 3 outdoor and 1 via Zoom
  - Developed an online portal for parents and students in which weekly videos, background information on the week's subject, key Bible verses and reflection questions are housed
- Moses Project
  - Attended monthly session with entire group via Zoom
  - Discussion with author of book *Canoeing the Mountains* by Tod Bolsinger
    - ✦ Book on Christian leadership in uncharted territory (seems relevant to the time we are in)
    - ✦ Next meeting this Thursday centered on the book *Preaching in the Purple Zone* by Leah D. Schade

- ✦ Also, tomorrow will have a meeting with small cohort team and mentor
- Study of book *Dialogues on Race*
  - Will begin next Monday
  - 11 people signed up
  - Developed an online portal for participants which houses videos for each chapter, discussion questions, a key Bible verse, prayer and links to additional websites and resources
- Pre-Marital
  - 2 sessions with couple that was to be married this past April
  - Couple married privately but I will conduct a blessings service of affirmation October 23<sup>rd</sup> in Tiffin
- Free Indeed Prison outside council meeting
- Monday Gospel Gatherings
  - Continued to lead
  - Thanks to Jon Twing for leading in my absence
- Attended my first rodeo in Lisbon
  - 3 youth participating
- Attended visitation of Jeannette Cummins who died October 5
- Fall Theological Conference (via Zoom)
  - Sponsored by Southeastern Iowa Synod
  - Theme was “Transforming White Privilege”
- Normal activities of preparing sermon, worship, newsletter, bulletins and maintaining posting to Facebook, website, Twitter, etc.
- Meeting with Insurance Company (3-year loss control)
  - Activities to complete from that by April 1, 2021 include continued implementation and training on Child and Youth safety procedures, enhanced safety protocol for ladder usage, obtain general liability and workers’ compensation certificates from all contractors hired (e.g., Barnhart’s for snow removal and Casper Lawn Care), annual training to all “house of worship staff and volunteers” focusing on policies and practices pertaining to Sexual Misconduct/Youth Protection program.

**Secretary’s Report:**

Del noted two grammatical errors. Linda moved and Nancy seconded to accept the Secretary’s Report with corrections. Motion passed.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

September General Fund offerings were \$10,390 and expenses were \$11,600. The general fund was down about \$1,200 for the month, but we are still ahead for the year. Amber moved and Anne seconded to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Motion passed.

**Committee Reports:**

**Building and Grounds:**

Curt thanked Linda, John, Al, and Mary for cleaning up around the church. There was some water damage on the inside wall, but Del determined that it was from washing the siding and no serious damage occurred.

**Education and Youth:**

- Amber said that Wednesday Faith Formation at the church has worked OK, but has some concerns about the weather.
- Kristin said the At Home Faith Formation kits for the younger students were picked up with 22 students and 13 families participating. Next month's kits have been packed and are ready to be picked up. She is hoping for a large enrollment for December and asked the council for permission to use unused VBS money if needed. The council agreed and thanked her for her efforts.

**Evangelism and Outreach:**

Preparations are being made for a special 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary service on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Fellowship:**

Anne has been mulling ideas for fellowship like delivering prepackaged meals to the community, a canned food drive, or having a storyteller broadcast from the sanctuary as a "caroling and hot cocoa" type event. Del mentioned possibly having an outdoor caroling activity with fire pits in December as a fellowship activity.

**Stewardship:** No report.

**Worship and Music:**

- Linda mentioned that Jill Barnhart has expressed interest in joining our church.
- All Saints Day is November 1<sup>st</sup> and we will be honoring all members over 80 years old. Since we won't be having indoor services at that time, flowers will be delivered to the honorees.
- Anne mentioned an idea to have choir members introduce a short history of a hymn prior to singing to give it more meaning.

**Old Business:**

- Annual meeting: Al moved to have the annual meeting on January 17, 2021. Dave seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- 125th Anniversary: Because of the COVID pandemic, the official celebration has been postponed until October of next year. By setting the date early (October 24, 2021), we hope to get on Bishop Current's schedule to attend with us.
- A lengthy discussion of when we can safely offer indoor services was held. Outgoing Bishop Burk was clear in his letter that we should follow public health guidelines of allowing it only when incidence rates of COVID are declining. Safety is paramount but this is a struggle for those that would like to meet in person. Several ideas were expressed and all realized that this will be an ongoing discussion.

**New Business:**

- Blood Drive: The American Legion was unable to use the Methodist church on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and requested the use of Bethany. Anne moved to approve using our church for the blood drive on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Curt seconded. Motion passed.

- Church services: Dave moved to continue with our policy of keeping the church closed for another month unless COVID cases decline. Al seconded. Motion passed.

Linda moved to adjourn. Dave seconded. Motion passed.

Pastor Chad closed with the Lord's Prayer.