

Bethany Lutheran Church
Council Meeting (via Zoom) November 9, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Hughes at 6:33 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.

Opening was done using an evening vespers service with several council members doing the readings.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Report to Council – November 9, 2020

Joys:

- Book Study – good discussion and learning
- 125th Anniversary – Worship and Video went well
- Living in the abundant grace of Jesus

Happenings:

- Affirmation of Wedding Vows for Austin and Alex LaCarte
- Funeral of James Whitt
- Conference 7 Meeting (1st one since onset of COVID) ○ Via Zoom
 - LSI representatives on hand
- Moses Project ○ 2 Cohort meetings with mentor and 4 other colleagues ○ 1 meeting with all participants
 - Currently reading the book *Divergent Church*
 - ✦ Emphasis of book is on partnering with outside entities
- Similar to what we did with Cedar County Emergency Management
- Attend 8th grade football game (3 confirmation students playing)
- Boundaries Workshop through Office of Bishop ○ Required every 3 years for rostered leaders
- Assist Al Beyer with the completion of the 125th video
- Free Indeed meeting (via Zoom)
- *Dialogue on Race* book study (3)
- Confirmation ○ Moved to Zoom full-time at this point due to weather change ○ Going well, good discussion

- Online worship meeting through synod
- Working on possible weekly at-home devotionals centered on the Advent Wreath ○ Paula and Del are assisting
- Made numerous phone calls to parishioners and a few in-person visits
- Working on staff reviews

Secretary's Report:

Linda moved to accept the Secretary's Report with corrections. Anne seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

- General Fund revenues for October were \$11,940 and expenses were \$11,808. Amber moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Curt seconded. Motion passed.
- The Hope Chest funds were down to about \$100. Al moved to transfer \$750 from the Internal Ministries Fund to the Hope Chest Fund. Kristin seconded. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Building and Grounds:

- Curt said the outdoor security lights have not been working. Calls to Oasis Electric haven't been returned. Howard Moss looked at them also.
- The upstairs bathroom in the parsonage is not ventilated and there has been some mold buildup. Curt is getting an estimate for repair.
- Curt will call Bruce Barnhart for snow removal as he has done before. Curt and John have agreed to do the parking lot again.

Education and Youth:

- Amber said she is doing Faith Formation lessons for the older kids via Zoom now that the weather is colder. She sends out lesson materials out ahead of time.
- Kristin is using take-home Faith Formation packets for the younger grades. 24 students picked up the November lessons and 30 have signed up so far for the December lessons. Feedback has been great.

Evangelism and Outreach:

Al thanked Pastor Chad for his assistance on making the 125th Anniversary video which was shown at the end of the service October 25th.

Fellowship: No report.

Stewardship: No report.

Worship and Music:

- Linda mentioned that Jill Barnhart will not be joining the membership of our congregation at this time, but would like to continue to be involved in worship planning.
- Carnations were delivered to members who were honored at All Saints Day on November 1st.
- Dave mentioned that he watches online services from several other churches and that Bethany's camera shot of the pulpit is the best he's seen.
- Del inquired about how many people are watching the online services. Pastor Chad said that it's not possible to determine accurately.

Old Business:

- Bethany's Annual Meeting will be held on January 17, 2021. Due to the resurgence of COVID-19, this will probably be a Zoom meeting. There was discussion about meeting quorum for votes and how to tabulate voting results. Pastor suggested having a task force assembled to work out logistics. Anne offered to help with this.
- New council candidates. The council offered several names for the Nominating Committee to consider and contact for the three open positions.
- Dave moved that Bethany extend our building usage policy for another month due to the high number of COVID-19 cases that are occurring. Curt seconded. Motion passed.
- Pastor Chad said that a couple from our congregation has approached him about getting married in the sanctuary with only a small number of people present. The council members were in agreement to allow this exemption to our building usage policy.
- Pastor Chad also said that confirmation classes are being held online and it's working well. He is getting good feedback.

New Business:

- Council member reports are due to Paula by December 1st.
- The Budget Committee with Executive Council and others will be meeting soon.
- Advent Project: Pastor Chad described a special at-home Advent wreath project with weekly devotions and a candle set that was designed by Del. Del said that he has materials for 20 sets so far and that a \$10 suggested donation would cover the cost of materials used for each set.
- Angel Tree: Jeni and Hannah Schiele have agreed to do this project for Christmas.

Anne moved to adjourn the meeting. Amber seconded. Motion passed.

Pastor Chad led closing with the Lord's Prayer.