

Bethany Lutheran Church
Council Meeting August 17, 2020 (via Zoom)

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

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

Pastor Chad opened the meeting with a devotion from Philippians, where Paul was imprisoned. He still felt joy because of what the church in Philippi was doing. Pastor then asked council members what had given them joy since our last meeting.

Pastor's Report:

Report to Council – August 2020

God continues to be good to the people of Bethany! Weather has been fabulous for our first few outdoor worship services. The number of children who grew in faith and experienced the love of God for them through Vacation Bible School was a joy and proof God is at work amidst COVID-19, physical distancing, and in the online world. Our ministry needs continue to be met through your generous and faithful stewardship of your monetary resources. Praise and thanks be to God!

Over the span of this past month I was able to take a couple Sundays off (thanks to Pastor Hougen for filling in) and a few days away. A small group completed its study of the ELCA Social Statement *Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity and Culture* and it will next be reading and discussing the book *Dialogues on Race*, which we are inviting others to join. This will be done via Zoom or outdoors in person if conditions allow and participants are comfortable doing so. I began making outdoor pastoral care visits. I had a Free Indeed Outside Council meeting. I began my participation in The Moses Project. Originally scheduled to be held at Grandview University in Des Moines August 3-5 was moved to an online format and worked well. There are 20 ELCA pastors from across the Midwest participating. We have been placed into small groups with a mentor and will meet monthly. The large group will also meet monthly discussing assigned topics and readings for the month. I am excited to be a part of this continuing education event. I continue to record short children's messages. I also recorded a video for VBS. I attended a WBARC meeting to finalize our response to the sin of racism. Met with Al to discuss 125-year anniversary and brainstorm ideas for God's work, our hands Sunday. The Monday Gospel Gathering group continued with 3 or 4 of us gathering each week (all are welcome). Working with White Dove Communication to install cameras in sanctuary and work began last week.

- Synod Assembly Update: This was held virtually August 5 and August 7. While not ideal and without technological challenges at times, the work of the Southeastern Iowa Synod was accomplished. The church gathered in worship. There was much time for prayer and a video celebrating and giving thanks for the 50-year anniversary of the ordination of women as ministers of word and sacrament. We elected our next bishop, the Reverend Amy Current who currently serves as Vice President of Students at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. Additional business included approving the 2021 budget, minimum compensation guidelines and the election of leaders for various committees throughout the synod. I was elected to the nomination committee.

Treasurer's Report:

The General Fund Revenue and Expense report reflects total income of \$12,975 for the month of July, which includes a \$250 donation from the Lions Club. Total expenses were \$11,806 allowing for an increase to the General Fund of \$1,169. The \$214 cost for the banner was expensed to the Evangelism account.

Curt moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Amber seconded. Motion passed.

Secretary's Report:

Nancy moved to accept the Secretary's Report. Curt seconded. Motion passed.

Building and Grounds:

Curt talked about how well the cleanup went following the August 10th derecho storm.

Pastor also mentioned that Curt had spent much of two days power washing the outside of the church.

Education:

- Fifty kids picked up their VBS-at-home kits so this went over very well. Several commented on how much the kids enjoyed their VBS.
- Next step will be to plan fall education.

Evangelism and Outreach:

- 125th Anniversary: Do to COVID, the celebration scheduled for October 25th has been postponed until next year. However, we still plan to acknowledge the day with a prayer, blessing, and a short video.
- God's Work Our Hands: COVID will prevent the normal gathering that we are used to, but we still plan some service activities: 1. People that have helped others with the storm cleanup are encouraged to send pictures in to be put on Facebook. 2. There are gardening needs around the church. 3. There will be an Angel Tree listing for needs at DVIP (Domestic Violence) and Hoover Elementary. 4. We are planning a Bicycle Rodeo for the kids in conjunction with the WBPD.

- **Fellowship:** No report.
- **Stewardship:** Dave commented on the recent Synod Conference which was conducted online.
- **Worship and Music:** Linda submitted a report which thanked Curt for landscaping around the church. She took the sound system back to the school and sent a thank you to Jess Burger. She purchased the same system from West Music and it works great. She talked with Pastor Chad about offering communion once a month using prepackaged wafers and juice. She feels that Cookie Walk money could be used for upgrading the sound system. Pastor said that the cameras are installed upstairs with a new laptop. The cost was about \$3000. Al contacted the Cedar County Board of Health director who said that singing softly at an outdoor service should be safe.

Old Business: none

New Business:

- The council decided to use Zoom for our next council meeting.
- Building usage: The council decided to continue to keep the church closed until COVID numbers decline, as recommended by the CDC. It was also decided to allow people to use the sanctuary if they feel a personal need, but to call first for an appointment.
- Wireless microphone: The 600MHz frequency on our present microphone is no longer legal, so must be replaced. Pastor showed two options for replacement. Amber moved to purchase the 3000 series microphone for \$654. Al seconded. Motion passed.
- A discussion followed regarding where funding for communications upgrades should come from.

Amber moved to adjourn. Nancy seconded.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.