

Bethany Lutheran Church
Council Meeting March 8, 2021 (via Zoom)

The meeting was called to order by President Hughes at 6:34 p.m.

Members present were **Dave Bahnsen, Curt Casper, Patricia Ernst, Anne Fetzer, Del Hughes, Amber Marsh**, Kristin McElhinney, **Dave Poppen, Jill Taylor**, and **Pastor Chad Whaley**

Pastor opened the meeting with a prayer focused on a letter from Paul in first Corinthians. “Be of the same of the mind and of the same purpose”. What is our purpose? The heart of who we are is the body of Christ and all things be done in love.

Pastor’s Report

Highlights from the Pastor report included weekly Wednesday Lent worship services, impromptu outdoor services, continuing congregational outreach and education, as well as attending small group meetings via Zoom.

Pastor also extended a special thanks to current and past council members for being vigilant. Decisions have not been easy, and Pastor commends the council for steadfast decisions to keep the church safe.

Secretary’s Report

A small edit to February minutes to add Jill to meeting attendance.

Curt motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Dave P. Motion approved.

Treasurer’s Report

Dave P. motioned to accept the treasurer’s report, Curt seconded. Motion approved.

Committee Reports

Building & Grounds

A few lights in the great hall in need of repair or replacement. This is not urgent so the committee will address the repairs in the next few weeks.

Education & Youth

Two kit sign up options currently available – spring break and Easter. Wednesday education going well. Planning for senior recognition in May.

Evangelism & Outreach

An email distribution from the Bishop regarding evangelism shared with the council. Planning for *God’s Work Our Hands* in September and 125-year celebration.

Fellowship

Kristin shared an adult kit idea. Fellowship committee reviewing this as a possible future fellowship activity.

Stewardship

Committee creating an outreach list to present to the church demonstrating how giving helps our community.

Worship & Music

Kent Kaufman repaired the electronic piano leg. This fix accommodates moving the piano for outdoor worship. A new worship banner ordered. Worship outdoors possible now that the weather has improved, and an impromptu service was held Sunday night at 5:00 p.m. The lily order form available for Easter altar.

Old Business

1. Building Usage Review

- a. Last month the council approved that we allow worship participants which includes acolyte, lector, audio-visual support, and their family members to attend in-person worship, not exceeding 20 members during the service. This has gone well.
- b. Council discussed sending a survey and calling members to gather congregational worship needs. Council subcommittee formed to create and distribute survey.
- c. Outdoor services will be planned when weather cooperates.
- d. The challenge with opening to all indoors is spacing families and not knowing counts from week to week. Masks will continue to be required along with other safety precautions.
- e. Jill motioned masks are required when inside the church building. Dave P. seconded. Motion approved.
- f. Dave P. motioned to allow up to 20 members, at Pastor's discretion, to attend in-person worship using precautionary guidelines. In two weeks, we'll reassess this plan after evaluating responses from a congregational survey. Amber seconded. Motion approved.

New Business

1. Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday

- a. Decisions not finalized, continuing to assess as noted in building usage review.

Jill moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. Dave P. seconded. Motion approved.

Pastor closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Regular Meeting – April 12, 2021