

Bethany Lutheran Church

Council Meeting (via Zoom) January 11, 2021

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

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

Pastor Chad led an opening based on verses from Ecclesiastes and Psalms which emphasized the importance of laughter. Pastor Chad and members shared recent stories of family humor. Laughter is a way to steward our bodies. Pastor Chad then thanked Linda, Nancy, and Al for their terms on council.

Pastor's Report:

Report to Council – January 11, 2020

Joys Since December Meeting

- Christmas Eve, while quite different, was still wonderful, beautiful, and truly inspiring to me to see how the Spirit was at work.
 - Over 300 views.
 - Many thanks to so many people; especially, Linda Black (Altar Care), Jill Barnhart (Musician), Cliff Hinkhouse (music), David Fischer (Audio/Visual), Lisa Zimmerman (lector), Paula (administrative) and Patsy (custodial) Thanks for our cameras. Thanks for those who joined us. Thanks for the financial gifts. Thanks for Luther College Choir and the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians for their musical pieces. My apologies if I am missing someone.
- Some rest
 - A couple days off between Christmas and New Year.
 - Grateful for Bishop Current and her staff for providing worship on 12/27
- Cards and gifts, I received – Thank you!

Much of my time this past month focused on preparation and administration. There was much work put into the Christmas Eve service and as expressed above, I am grateful for so many who assisted. I have heard many positives on how it turned out. Time was devoted to my work as chair of the Synod Nominating Committee and am grateful I have the time to do it, serve God and serve the people of the

Southeastern Iowa Synod in this capacity. I worked with Anne Fetzer and Del in planning for the Annual Meeting to be held via Zoom Meeting. I assembled 2 documents to assist those joining via a laptop, smart phone, or tablet and those who may be joining via regular phone with no visual capabilities. I spent a great deal of time in prayer for the people of God. I had a meeting (via Zoom) with Bishop Current and fellow colleagues in the Synod. I had a WBARC meeting (via Zoom). Worked with Paula to finish up Annual Report and January Newsletter. Attended a 3-day retreat for “The Moses Project” in

Des Moines. The focus of the retreat was Mental Wellness. It was an opportunity for us to get away a bit, be together, and work to find strategies to assist us in ministry in dealing with our mental well-being. The retreat was held at a hotel. Only a few of us in the project attended and precautionary measures were strictly adhered to. I attended a Free Indeed outside council meeting.

Looking to the future, it is hard to believe but Ash Wednesday (February 17) and Lent are right around the corner. With the uncertainty about things, planning is challenging. I will be spending time contemplating this in the coming weeks. A small group will resume our book discussion on racism.

Confirmation will resume via Zoom and hopefully in-person soon.

Secretary's Report:

Linda moved and Nancy seconded to accept the Secretary's Report with corrections. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

The General Fund Revenue and Expense report reflects \$19,000 in regular offerings, \$350 in special offerings for missions, and a \$100 donation from Fidelity Bank. Total expenses were \$17,120, which included \$3,985 for local missions (2.5% of regular offering). The year-to-date total revenues were \$160,569 and total expenditures were \$151,548 allowing for a \$9,021 increase in the General Fund.

The Fund Balance report shows \$1,085 received for the Angel Tree. All the requested gifts were donated so the full \$1,085 was given to the school for their hunger programs. The Cookie Walk Fund was distributed evenly to the FreeIndeed Prison Ministry, Lutheran Chaplaincy and the Iowa City Shelter house. The Hope Chest Fund included a \$100 donation and \$500 from the West Branch Firefighters for a family in need.

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

Committee Reports:

Building and Grounds: No report.

Education and Youth:

Amber said that the Grade 4 – 6 Faith Formation classes are going well.

Kristin said that 57 kids received the Faith at Home Kits in December and 24 in January. They will continue these lessons through May.

Pastor said that Confirmation is tentatively set for May 23rd.

Evangelism and Youth:

Al mentioned finding a "family in need" for the WBFD check. It was decided to deal with this under new business.

Fellowship: No report.

Stewardship: No report.

Worship and Music:

Linda lined up altar care for the year.

Pastor Chad thanked Linda for all of her work during December, especially for the decorating for the Christmas Eve service.

Old Business:

- Annual Meeting January 17: This will be held via Zoom with Pastor Chad and Anne working out the logistics. The congregation members will be invited to join the meeting 15 minutes early. Information will be sent out to members explaining the process.
- Nominating Committee: Only one nomination has been received so far.
- Building Use Policy: Dave moved to continue Bethany's building use policy. Al seconded the motion. Discussion was held on gradually relaxing this policy to allow a few congregants to attend worship services. Consensus was to revisit this question at the February meeting hoping that COVID incidence has declined. Motion passed.
- Synod Assembly Delegates: Bethany needs one more delegate for this online meeting.

New Business:

- \$500 Donation: Al moved to give the \$500 gift from the Wbfd to a family in need as identified by Officer Steen and the WBPS. Dave seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Parsonage Value: Nancy moved to set the fair market rental value for the parsonage at \$11,800. Anne seconded. Motion passed.

Anne moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. Linda seconded. Motion passed.

Pastor led closing with the Lord's Prayer.