

Bethany Lutheran Church

Council Meeting August 9, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Hughes at 6:36 p.m.

Members present: Dave Bahnsen, Curt Casper, Patricia Ernst, Kristin McElhinney, Del Hughes, Amber Marsh, Dave Poppen, Jill Taylor, Pastor Chad Whaley

Members absent: Anne Fetzer

Meeting opened with prayer.

Pastor's Report

Highlights from Pastor's report:

- Vacation (rest, relaxation, renewal)
- Joy to worship in person again whether indoors or outdoors and continue to see online worship involvement
- Continued planning for possible trip to 2022 ELCA youth gathering in Minneapolis.
- Built website for confirmation students & parents.
- Helped plan 4th Annual Chip Away at Childhood Hunger Golf Tournament and shared with council the impact of this work in our community.
- Led pre-marital counseling session and attended several pastoral visits
- Funeral for young man in community, and several community prayers for him and a second young man whom both died unexpectedly.

Secretary's Report

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

Treasurer's Report

Jill will send out updated/revised July report but shared numbers giving total, expenses total, net revenue and running year total.

Curt motioned to accept the treasurer's report, Amber seconded. Motion approved.

Committee Reports

Building & Grounds

- Thanks to Del & John for plumbing help.
- Tree branches taken down by John, Del, and Kent
- Call into Robertson's for parsonage vent work.
- Stoop raised outside so it's flat & level.

Education

- Looking for interested youth to attend the 2022 ELCA youth gathering.
- Amber, Kristin, and Pastor Chad are meeting to discuss Faith Formation this year
- Updated some of the children spaces in the Great Hall building with some donations from McElhinney's.

Evangelism & Outreach

- God's Work, Our Hands on September 12
 - Formed a subcommittee to continue planning for a drive-up/to-go community meal
- Dave shared an article with council that highlights what we gain/lose with online worship.

Fellowship

- Del shared there is informal fellowship happening after worship service each week.

Stewardship

- Have been highlighting missions in monthly newsletter to share/educate where our congregation's designated funds go.
- Next effort: adding a "Donate Now" and/or Simply Giving link to the website and looking into the online app and features of Simply Giving/Vanco

Worship & Music

- Guest pastors in July while Pastor Chad was on vacation: Dirk Stadlander and Phil Hougen
- Since summer gatherings, choir has decided to wait until Fall to reconvene.
- Linda Black and Jill Barnhart want to use Bethany's space for West Branch Community Choir and council discussed scheduling issues.

Old Business

1. Building Usage Review - COVID Updates
 - a. We will continue current policy of indoor & outdoor services, and masks optional but recommended. No further motion needed.

New Business

1. Local Missions Donations
 - a. Jill asked to take off agenda for now for time to study materials received
2. Community Choir
 - a. Patsy motioned to allow the West Branch Community Choir permission to use our facility, pending schedule (TBD). Curt seconded. Motion passed.
3. School Backpack Donations/Funding
 - a. Amber motions that council provides additional funds, if needed, through Noisy Coin Youth Funds for purchase of school backpack supplies. Kristin seconded. Motion passed.
4. Council Retreat vs. Book Study
 - a. Pastor presented options for a book study or retreat for council to participate in. Him and Del will further discuss both and present the council with a recommendation in the coming year.

Dave P. moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. Curt seconded. Motion approved.

Council closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Regular Meeting – September 13, 2021