

Bethany Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting January 10, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Hughes at 6:34 p.m. Pastor treated Council with cupcakes to show his appreciation for the outgoing council members. He also recognized the hard work of each member in 2021. Pastor continued with a reading from 1 Thessalonians followed by a prayer of hope and healing.

Members present: Curt Casper, Anne Fetzer, Del Hughes, Amber Marsh Dave Poppen, Jill Taylor, and Pastor Chad Whaley

Members absent: Dave Bahnsen, Patricia Ernst, and Kristin McElhinney

### **Pastor's Report**

Highlights from this month's Pastor's report include:

- Great gift of Christ we celebrated Christmas Eve and the opportunity to live in his abundant grace every day!
- The faithfulness of the beloved saints of Bethany, members, and visitors, whose generous gifts have provided for our ministry needs over this past year! Thank you!!!
- Being present with or hearing stories of ministry efforts such as Angel Tree, Cookie Walk, children, and youth faith formation, and the beginnings of Angel Meals. We are doing God's work and we are making a difference!
- We celebrated the baptism of Dylan Casady.
- Confirmation and Youth concluded 2021 with a Christmas program. Pastor assisted by preparing scripts and bulletins for the youth binders.
- Other ministry activities included meetings with the Synod Nominating committee, Monday Gospel Gathering Bible Studies group, Tuesday Morning Prayer group, Sleep in Heavenly Peace Project committee, and WBARC.
- Pastor assisted Officer Steen with the recent increase of local needs.
- Pastor worked through technology issues; worship, sermon, and newsletter preparation; and continued discussions with the county auditor for using Bethany as local election site. Pastor Chad also welcomed the new city administrator to the community on behalf of himself and the congregation.
- Upcoming events include the annual meeting and New Member Welcome on January 23. Ash Wednesday and Lent begin on March 2.

### **Secretary's Report**

Jill moved to approve the December minutes, seconded by Amber. Motion approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Jill highlighted additional donations made including to Lutheran Disaster Response, which helped to support local missions, or are donated to families in need.

Dave P. moved to approve the report, seconded by Curt. Motion approved.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Building and Grounds**

- Finished venting, removing the popcorn ceiling, with mold mitigated and painted in the parsonage bathroom.
- John Black clearing snow/ice from the parking lot and Bruce Barnhart will continue to do sidewalks.

### **Education & Youth**

- Ordered bibles for Sunday School class students. Currently working on coordinating a Bible Presentation Sunday date with families.
- Increased in-person Sunday School to 3x per month and shared Winter calendar with families.
- Added Children's Digital Curriculum to our church's Sparkhouse account and it's been a huge timesaver and great resource! Able to email family sheets to those not able to attend.
- Working on at-home activities for youth and faith formation classes.

### **Evangelism**

- No report.

### **Fellowship**

- Online sign-up active and frequently checked.

### **Stewardship**

- Increased use of electronic donation options. Additional year-end donations are helpful for the congregation.

### **Worship and Music**

- Choir sang for Christmas Eve early service.
- Pastor received a nice letter from former Pastor Thalacker.
- Celebrated the baptism of Dylan Casady.

## **Old Business**

### **1. Committee Reports**

- Committee reports are completed and ready for annual meeting preparation. Paula and Pastor finishing the congregational report.

## **New Business**

### **1. New Member Sunday**

- New Member Sunday on January 23 but planning a reception at a later date due to the annual meeting. Reception date is to be determined in a later meeting.

### **2. Snow Removal – Parking Lot and Sidewalks**

- John Black clearing snow/ice from the parking lot and Bruce Barnhart will continue to do sidewalks.

### 3. "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" Project

- The project focuses on providing beds for children. The project is looking to expand into Cedar County. Pastor Chad spoke to several community resources, including the Lion's Club, the school resource officer, and Officer Steen on how to implement and determine the needs locally.
- Pastor requests a portion of the storage shed be dedicated to storing supplies like bed frames to help support the project. The council has no concern with the request.

### 4. Annual Meeting Preparation

- Hybrid meeting this year – in-person and Zoom option available.
- The annual meeting is scheduled to start at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. We'll start the Zoom meeting a few minutes early to get off-site members logged in before the meeting start.

Dave P. moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. Amber seconded. Motion approved.

The council closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Regular Meeting – 02/14/2022