

Bethany Lutheran Church
Council Meeting February 14, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Poppen at 6:35 p.m.

Members present: Patricia Ernst, Anne Fetzer, Kent Kaufman, Amber Marsh, Kristin McElhinney, Howard Moss, Dave Poppen, Jill Taylor, Pastor Chad Whaley

Members absent: Cindy Knoop

Pastor's Report – Pastor Chad Whaley

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

- Joys and Thanksgivings include gratitude to outgoing council members for their faithful service and our newest council members Kent, Howard, and Cindy. We celebrate our children in worship and the joy, energy, and life they bring to our community, along with the continued generosity and faithful stewardship of God's people in meeting our ministry needs.
- Ministry activities this past month included the funeral of Jim Peak, pre-marital counseling for an upcoming July wedding, Confirmation planning and collaboration with Amber, visited the Children Faith Formation class, attended five extracurricular school activities of Bethany youth, 12 pastoral visits, and made several phone calls to parishioners.
- As treasurer for WBARC, I write thank-you notes on behalf of the group as WBARC was blessed with some wonderful gifts. The WBARC committee continues to explore ideas and ways in which we can steward the financial gifts we have received in meeting needs within our community.
- Participated in the Monday Gospel Gathering Bible Study and Southeastern Iowa Synod Nominating Committee. Asked by School Superintendent to serve on a recently formed Anti-Bullying Committee to evaluate and brainstorm solutions to increased bullying within our schools
- Continued time spent on improving technology needs for the church. This includes updating three laptops/PC, researching ways to resolve issues on Paula's PC as well as looking into other options for streaming worship. Updated church website, Facebook, and Twitter pages.
- Reading *Flourishing in Ministry How to Cultivate Clergy Wellbeing* and *Our Mission Discovering God's Call to Us*. Also looking at recently released resource shared by the Office of the Bishop called *Thriving Beyond COVID: Let Go, Trust God, Rise Up!*
- Tuesday morning prayers with Paula and others who may attend with special focus on being more attentive to praying for discernment, our people, and God's presence and activity in our community of faith.
- Gave prayer kits (small prayer cross, booklet of prayers and Bible readings, and a card of encouragement) to two people hospitalized. I was unable to be present in person due to precautionary measures.
- Sent several cards on behalf of the people of Bethany extending our care and presence.
- Brainstorming ideas for a council retreat.
- Other daily and weekly tasks consisted of worship bulletins and newsletter preparation, Sermon reading, prayerful study, and worship preparation.

- Upcoming worship events - Ash Wednesday on March 2 at Bethany at 7:00 PM, and Lent Worship/Fellowship activity planning is in discussion.

Secretary's Report – Anne Fetzer

Kent moved to approve the amended January minutes, seconded by Howard. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report – Jill Taylor

Anne moved to approve the report, seconded by Amber. Motion approved.

Committee Reports

Building & Grounds – Howard Moss

- Howard did an initial building assessment to address needed repairs. A list was sent to the council for reference. Howard will continue to review and bring it forth to the council as he gets through each project.
- The furnace room was cleaned out. Howard is investigating why furnace filters are plugging with soot, this includes looking at the ductwork. Howard is guessing the soot might be a fire-related issue from 1985.

Education & Youth – Kristin McElhinney & Amber Marsh

- Youth Bibles ordered.
- Continued Sunday School activities.
- The youth made a blanket to donate to a bed recipient.

Evangelism – Anne Fetzer

- No report.

Fellowship – Patsy Ernst

- Patsy is reviewing fellowship duties and needs for the congregation. This includes plans for restarting the Fourth Sunday community meals soon.

Stewardship – Kent Kaufman

- Dave exchanged information with Kent to start on Stewardship activities.

Worship & Music – Cindy Knoop

- Committee working with Pastor on Lent planning,

Old Business

1. None

New Business

1. Set Rental Value of the Parsonage
 - 2021 value = \$11,800/year
 - Kent moved the rental value remain at 11,800 per year. Howard seconded. Motion approved.

2. Discuss a change of date for the March meeting

- Amber moved to change the next meeting to March 7 at 6:30 p.m. due to spring break on March 14. Kent seconded. Motion approved.

3. Need to select two new delegates (one male and one female) for the synod meeting as the elected members now have a conflict

- Anne moved we select Dave Bahnsen and Nancy Bruns as Synod delegates with Patsy Ernst designated an alternate, Kristin seconded. Motion approved.
- Meeting scheduled for May 20-21 in Coralville.

Jill moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Howard seconded. Motion approved.

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

Next Regular Meeting – 03/07/22