

Bethany Lutheran Church
Council Meeting March 7, 2022

The meeting opened with prayer then called to order by President Poppen at 6:33 p.m.

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

Members absent: Kristin McElhinney.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Chad Whaley

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

Joys and Thanksgivings

- Ash Wednesday Worship - Great start to the Lent season. Thanks to our three high school youth who assisted in leading worship. They did a great job!
- Increased worship attendance and wonderful to have our choir sing.

Ministry Activities

- Ten pastoral visits
- Meeting with Cindy to prepare for Lent
- Executive Committee Meeting held to present a possible program "Thriving Beyond COVID: Let God, Trust God, Rise Up!" which could be used for a council retreat or beyond.
- Dedicated time to ask our questions and entrust them to God in prayer and then listen. This was held around the cross in the Great Hall.

Synod Nominating Committee Meeting

- As chair, Pastor schedules, plans, and leads the meeting
- Closing in on Synod Assembly in May
- Working with Bishop, Assistant to Bishop, and the committee on final preparations to secure candidates
- Next committee meeting on March 22

WBARC

- Treasurer Duties (Balance checkbook, send thank you notes for those that donate, work on review and updates to current guidelines, work with those seeking assistance, others as needed)

Worked with Officer Steen

- We met with the new owner of Jack and Jill to discuss continued ways WBARC can utilize their help in assisting those who may be in need.

Conference 7 Meeting

- Our conference consists of congregations in Cedar, Muscatine, Johnson, and Washington counties.

- Held via Zoom with members from Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) joining to discuss their assistance with refugees and immigrants to Iowa

Technology

- Met with a technology person at Christ the King Lutheran. They are coming to Bethany on Tuesday to review our system.
- Will continue working with Paula if streaming to YouTube works better than Facebook.
- Created document for the next newsletter or email communication to provide ways to assist those viewing and identify ways we can make the streaming experience better when there are technical glitches.
- Important items to note
 - Things take more time.
 - Following every worship, the Facebook video must be downloaded, uploaded to an online storage site, the link embedded to our website, posted on Twitter, and emailed to members who do not have Facebook and to Crestview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. This is done by Paula or Pastor.
 - Newsletter links are embedded where applicable and QR codes are generated to assist and enhance this mode of communication as many of our people do view this in an online format

Worship Planning

- Planned and Prepared for Ash Wednesday.
- Sent hand-written notes to all our high school students inviting them to assist in leading worship. This also included Communicating with and preparing binders for the three that assisted.
- Plan and prepare for Wednesdays in Lent.
 - Intentionality on fellowship and interaction with our youth that attends Wednesday Faith Formation.
 - Intentionality on returning to a Prayer Around the Cross service and a time to be still and listen in this season of Lent
- Begin looking toward Holy Week and Easter

Weekly Prayer Meetings with Paula

Personal Prayer and Devotion

- Pray over every pew and for every person
- Pray for our staff
- Pray for our council
- Pray for our youth
- Give thanks for, pray, and seek God's blessings upon those things that assist us in worship and the people leading worship such as lectors, acolytes, audio/visual assistants, piano, cameras, etc.

- Thanks to Linda Black who assists with editing the Newsletter each month.

Upcoming

- Wednesday Lent Fellowship and Prayer Around the Cross
 - March 9, 23, 30, and April 6

Vacation

- March 10-17

Holy Week and Easter

- Palm Sunday (April 10)
- Maundy Thursday (April 14)
- Good Friday (April 15)
- Easter (April 17)

Secretary's Report – Anne Fetzer

Kent moved to approve the corrected February minutes, seconded by Howard. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report – Jill Taylor

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

Committee Reports

Building & Grounds – Howard Moss

- Howard reported all Christmas decorations are put away.
- The furnace room cleaning in the small hall is finished.
- The light in the bell tower is not working. Howard working with Dan Haub on options for replacing the bulb or the fixture.
- The ceiling in the foyer needs drywall repair, primed, and repaired. Painting is also needed in the first classroom. Howard to recruit volunteers for the painting projects.

Education & Youth – Kristin McElhinney & Amber Marsh

- Sunday School is consistently held on the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Sundays at 8:45 a.m. We have five families that regularly attend, with 6-8 children in total.
- Assembled six "Busy Bags" for children during worship service. Still working on a storage place/system for them.
- Brainstorming VBS formats/options to share with Amber and Pastor.
- Thank you, Pastor Chad, for incorporating children's worship during church when children are present - he does this with no notice and does a great job! Also, thanks for involving the kids with worship "jobs" like collecting offerings, etc.
- Planning for graduation

Evangelism & Missions – Anne Fetzer

- No report.

Fellowship – Patsy Ernst

- Patsy continues to remind the congregation to sign-up for fellowship after worship.
- April 24 will be the first 'Fourth Sunday' meal since the pandemic. Patsy has volunteers through June to make and serve meals. Signs will be distributed in the community prior to each meal.

- **Stewardship – Kent Kaufman**

- No report.

Worship & Music – Cindy Knoop

- Cindy appreciates the help from Pastor and Paula for helping to support the worship committee.
- Fellowship is planned after each Lent service.
- Palm branches are ordered for Palm Sunday. Easter lilies are preordered.
- A special thanks to Bonnie Conner for purchasing four new banners, a new Christ candle, and the Easter spray on the cross.
- A prerecorded service is available from the Synod for the Sunday following Easter. The council agrees with this recommendation and plans to move forward with this plan.

Old Business

1. None to discuss.

New Business

1. Transfer portion of Internal Ministries Fund balance to Angel Meals.
 - This is not needed at this time as the Lion's Club donated \$500 to support the Angel Meals program.
2. Review Covid Policy
 - Current policy states that the Council encourages people to wear masks while in the building.
 - At the time of the meeting, Cedar County is considered at medium risk. Currently, CDC recommendations state if you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions.
 - Jill moved to remove mask signage from the lobby door. Howard seconded. After further discussion, the council also determined that worship attendants are not required to mask. If CDC guidelines or conditions change, we'll revisit the policy. Masks and hand sanitizer will still be available. Motion approved.

Dave moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m. Howard seconded. Motion approved.

The council closed the meeting with prayers around the cross.

Next Regular Meeting – 04/11/22