

Bethany Lutheran Church
Council Meeting December 13, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Hughes at 6:32 p.m. with the readings of Psalms 23 and 46 by Pastor Chad. The council sat in reflection and prayer for those impacted by recent tornados and for all those we lift in our hearts.

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

Pastor's Report

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

- Daily living in the abundance of grace, love, and mercy offered through our Lord and Savior
- Children and Youth Faith Formation
- Times of Prayer together. A prayer request button was also added to the website.
- Baptism of Annabelle Burnette
- Hanging of Greens Service
- Other ministry activities included meetings with the Gospel Gathering Bible Studies, Prayer Ministry, budget and executive committees, Conference 7 with fellow ELCA pastors, WBARC, Free Indeed Prison Ministry, Synod Nominating Committee, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, and Cedar County Auditor.
- Pastor also attended to First Communion class, 19 pastoral visits, worship preparation, helping a parishioner move with the assistance of Al Beyer, visits with Bishop Current, and attended a wrestling meeting for a confirmation student.
- Upcoming events include Faith Formation Christmas Program, First Communion, and Christmas Eve Worship Services.

Secretary's Report

Dave P. moved to approve the November minutes, seconded by Jill. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report

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

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds

- An exhaust fan was installed in the parsonage bathroom.
- A faucet in the Great Hall kitchen needs repairing.

Education & Youth

- Wednesday Faith Formation classes holding a Christmas program Wednesday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. Followed with treats and hot chocolate.

- Six families participating in Sunday School, preschool through grade 3. Committee purchasing Bibles, sanctuary busy bags, and curriculum.

Evangelism

- No report.

Fellowship

- No report, but online sign-up is active.

Stewardship

- A mailing sent thanking the congregation for giving and outlined ways to donate to church ministries.

Worship and Music

- Choir sang the first Sunday of Advent and then again for Christmas Eve services.
- Set up Angel Tree and Nativity.
- Poinsettias decorating alter for the Christmas season.
- Added a Tuesday prayer meeting with Pastor.

Old Business

1. Angel Meals

- The first meal was prepared on Sunday, December 12. It was led by Alex Poppen with eight high school students from the community, along with the Marsh family assisting. They prepared a meatloaf dinner and served seven people. The group delivered and visited with meal recipients. It was a great success.
- Next meal is planned for January 23.
- The group looking for ways to collect donations, and volunteers for preparing and delivering meals to help support this ministry.

New Business

1. Proposed Budget

- Budget committee consists of Pastor, Jill Taylor, Claudia Beyer, Del Hughes, and Nancy Bruns.
- Dave B. moved to approve the recommended budget, Dave P. seconded. Motion approved.
- The council reviewed offerings designated for local missions. Dave B. motioned we suspend support to Free Indeed Ministry this year due to the uncertainty of the program. Provide WBARC a total of \$400 then split the remaining funds among the other six missions. Seconded by Kristin. Motion approved.

2. New Members

- Crosthwaite, VanScoyoc, and Burnette families asking to become part of the congregation. Dave P. moves we accept the new members, Amber seconded. Motion approved.

3. Election Voting Site

- Pastor and Del Hughes met with county election officials in the Great Hall to discuss church use for polling and election use. Dave B. moved we use the facility for election purposes, seconded by Dave P. Motion approved.

4. Annual Meeting + Zoom

- The council discussed offering both in-person and online meeting options for the annual meeting in January.

5. Christmas Eve Services

- Two services at 5:00 and 8:00 p.m.

6. First Communion for three members - 12/19

7. Synod Wide Services Reminder - 12/26

- Pre-recorded worship service planned for 12/26. Hymn sing at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary followed by the service premiering on Facebook at 9:30. This will be available to stream at home or viewed in the Great Hall.

8. ALCM Membership

- Dave B. recommends Jill Barnhart become a member of this group at the cost of \$90 per year. Jill seconded. Motion approved.

Dave P. moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Amber seconded. Motion approved.

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

Next Regular Meeting – 01/10/2022