

## Bethany Lutheran Church- Council Minutes May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Call to Order** at 6:31pm by President Kent Kaufman

Members Present: Jon Twing, Dale Swenson, Pastor Chad, Cindy Knoop, Kent Kaufman, Howard Moss, Courtney Heid, Pat Cassabaum, Jessica Fonseca

Members absent: Kristen Van Scoyoc

### Opening Prayer & Discussion

### Pastor's Report

Joys and Thanksgivings

- Faith Forward Event @ Grandview University
  - Visit: [www.faithforwardnow.org/BethanyWestBranch](http://www.faithforwardnow.org/BethanyWestBranch)
- Retired rostered leaders and spouses gathering at Bethany
  - Thanks to Paula Casper for assisting me and Jill Barnhart for playing piano during worship.
  - Bishop Current, Pastor Uthe (Assistant to the Bishop) and dozens of retired leaders and their spouses present.
  - Great use of our space and a way we are part of the synod.
- Worship and Fellowship
  - Attendance, nice mix of ages, choir, many helpers
  - More people staying for fellowship lately.

Ministry Happenings

- 21 pastoral visits
- West Branch Area Religious Council (WBARC) meetings (April and May)
  - Our mission: *Foster interfaith connections in order to address needs as they arise in our community.*
  - Visit website for updated information.
- Faith Forward @ Grandview University in Des Moines
  - 2-day event
  - Look for information to come.
- Community Youth Meeting
  - Courtney Heid attended along with leaders from Springdale UMC, West Branch UMC and West Branch Friends Church
  - Discussions about potential ecumenical youth group
- Meeting with seminary student I am mentoring.
- Crestview worship (9-10 residents in attendance)
- Retired leaders, spouses and widows gathering at Bethany
  - With Paula's help we prepared for fellowship refreshments and lunch
  - Jill Barnhart assisted with piano for worship
- Wednesday Faith Formation
  - Took confirmation students to Paw Pantry at the old middle school to disperse supplies gathered during Lent.

- Conclude this Wednesday with a night of fun and year-end celebration.
- Newsletter preparation with Paula (Thanks to Linda Black for reviewing prior to publication).
- Bulletin preparation with Paula.
- Wednesday men's Bible study (help lead along with Al Beyer and Jon Twing).
- Website, Facebook and Twitter page updates.
- Attend one golf meet and several soccer games to watch youth participate.
- Gather often with quilters group.
  - Did you know? Quilts have recently been donated to the Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP) and Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Great work ladies!

#### Upcoming

- Synod Assembly (May 17 &18) – Bethany voting members Dave Bahnsen and Laura Twing also attending.
- Vacation June 27-July 2 and most likely end of July or first of August
- Attempting to find time for self-guided retreat at Center for Clergy Renewal at Holy Wisdom Monastery near Madison, WI.

#### Secretary's Report- Courtney

- April Council Meeting Minutes
  - Cindy moved to approve; Howard seconded. Motion approved.

#### Treasurer's Report- Jill

- April Treasurer's Report
  - Howard moved to approve; Dale seconded. Motion approved.

#### Committee Reports

##### Building and Grounds – Howard

- Old Hope Chest will be used as a butterfly nursery for the next several months. Paula Casper will manage this. It has been painted and the old shelves removed.
- Lights in small hall – looking at replacing current lights with LED lights.
  - Priced at approximately \$503 – will be purchased using funds from the maintenance budget.
- Thanks to those assisting with landscaping – it looks great.
- The city water project will likely affect us later this summer.
  - Water will be off to the church and the parsonage for a short amount of time (approx. 1-2 hours). We will get notice prior.

##### Education & Youth- Kristen & Courtney

- Senior Recognition Service – supplies have been purchased and things are ready to go.
- WBARC youth meeting- opened conversation about community youth group involving all congregations interested.

- Planning to meet with youth group leaders in West Liberty as they have had a successful youth group that involves multiple congregations.
- VBS update
  - Theme “Start the Party: Celebrate the Good News”
  - Registration and volunteer forms are ready to be sent out at the end of May.

#### Evangelism & Missions – Jessica

- Getting ideas for contacts in the community for GWOH.
- Establishing “picnic” committee

#### Fellowship – Pat

- Working on getting people together as a committee.
- Working on finding ways to get people to sign up for fellowship and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday meals.

#### Stewardship – Dale

- Included definition of stewardship in newsletter last month.
- Pastor added a “Stewardship” button/tab to website.

#### Worship and Music – Cindy

- Business as usual, nothing new to report.

#### **Old Business**

- Capital Improvement Fund Update
  - Accessibility ramp – conversations are being had about options other than outdoor carpet, so we aren’t replacing it as often.
  - Working on a project priority list.
- Picnic Service
  - Early stages of planning.
  - Likely outdoor service with fellowship meal/activities.
- American Red Cross Shelter designation – no contact from anyone to survey our space to be approved.
- Faith Forward
  - Pastor presented information brought back from training he attended.

#### **New Business**

- Church Use Request
  - Paula Casper requesting to use old Hope Chest as butterfly nursery.
    - Howard moved to approve; Pat seconded. Motion approved.

Jessica moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08pm, Dale seconded. Motion approved.

**Closed** with the Lord’s Prayer

Next Regular Meeting June 10th, 2024