

Bethany Lutheran Church- Council Minutes March 10th, 2025

Call to Order at 6:36pm by President Courtney Heid

Members Present: Jon Twing, Dale Swenson, Pastor Chad, Jessica Fonseca, Courtney Heid, Pat Cassabaum, Darla Crosthwaite, Curt Casper, Heidi Christenson

Members absent: Kristen Van Scoyoc

Opening Prayer & Discussion

Pastor's Report

Joys and Thanksgivings

- Worship Attendance ☺
 - Thanks to all who attend in person or online
 - Ash Wednesday – despite the windy and snowy day, attendance was great! Give thanks we decided not to cancel in person. I would have still gone live on Facebook.
- Faith Forward Family Night
 - 49 people in attendance
 - Unfortunately, high school event cancelled due to weather.
 - Date TBD for makeup
- Giving to start the year!
 - Thank you all for your faithful stewardship! Yet again, God is faithful to meet our ministry needs.

Ministry Happenings

- 8 Pastoral Visits
- Faith Forward
 - Family Night 2/26
 - Evaluation Results (13)
 - 4.6 out of 5 rating
 - Majority signed up to receive weekly emails
 - Majority have utilized some activities at home following the first event last October
 - Most favorite activities from most recent event: Give it to God box (4), Jenga (3), Altar Cloth (3), Step out of Traffic (4)
 - Online meeting with leaders and peers
 - Team will plan to meet to discern how we can keep momentum going between now and October Family Night
- Education
 - Wednesday Faith Formation
 - Wednesday Morning Men's Group
- Attend quilting group
- Preparation and Planning
 - Much time spent on Faith Forward, Ash Wednesday and Lent preparation
- Administrative Tasks
 - Newsletter, Worship bulletins, online communication, etc.

- Zoom meeting with Bishop Current
 - She is offering time for prayer and questions every other week
- Text Study with colleagues
 - Online (meets weekly)
- Ash Wednesday worship (see above note on attendance)
- Attend youth sporting events as able

Upcoming

- Lutheran Day on the Hill – tomorrow 3/11
 - *Doubtful I will attend given back issues ☹*
- Wednesdays in Lent (3/12 & 26; 4/2 & 9)
- Vacation (3/18-3/21)
- Holy Week (4/14-4/20)
- WBARC Pulpit Exchange – 4/27
- Possible Continuing Education Event – 4/28-4/30
 - Valparaiso University – Institute of Liturgical Studies
 - *Rites of Passage: Engaging Occasional Practitioners in a Secular Age*
 - From Valpo's website: The American religious landscape is characterized by declining participation in religious institutions, increasing uncertainty about matters of faith, and a growing population identifying as non-religious. Nevertheless, many people continue to turn to churches at some of the most significant moments in their lives—such as the birth of a child or the loss of a loved one—and many others show up to support them.
- Synod Assembly at Grandview University, Des Moines – May 17
- Faith Forward Gathering at Grandview University – May 20-21

Secretary's Report – Courtney

- February Council Meeting Minutes
 - Jon moved to approve with discussed amendments; Curt seconded. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report- Jon

- February Treasurer's Report
 - Dale moved to approve; Curt seconded. Motion approved.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds – Curt

- Thank you to Dale for facilitating water fountain installation.

Education & Youth- Kristen & Jessica

- Committee met to plan for the year
- VBS dates are set for July 14th-17th in the evenings as we have the previous couple year
- Senior Recognition Sunday – set for May 18th
- Hoping to get the Tipton pool reserved for June 8th

Evangelism & Missions – Darla

- Asking for ideas if anyone has any
 - Collect money for disaster relief or international needs
- Will work with Jess & Jon to plan for GWOH

Fellowship – Pat

- Lent Meals
 - March 12th – Men’s Group- pancakes
 - March 26th – Women’s Group- chili, potato bar
 - April 2nd – Council – Pizza
 - April 9th – Faith Formation – walking tacos
- Fourth Sunday Meals
 - March- no dinner (due to Lent dinners)
 - April – Poppen Family

Stewardship- Dale

- Water fountain/bottle fill station installed and working well!
- Working on reusable bags and water bottles

Worship and Music – Heidi

- Easter Lilly orders in process
- Planning for Lent meals, Palm Sunday, Easter services
- Worship committee discussed organ use
 - Contacting someone to come look and “assess” the organ to see what shape it is in.

Old Business

- Capital Improvement Priority list
 - 1. Parsonage kitchen floor- Whaley’s have a quote, still deciding – will bring to council when they have more (plan for April)
 - 2. Parsonage bathroom shower stall and floor (Goal: done by end of June 2025)
 - 3. Parsonage garage door opener (spring 2025)
 - 4. Handicap ramp railing repair
- Solar tax credit update – no new information

New Business

- None

Jon moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:03pm, Dale seconded. Motion approved.

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer

Next Regular Meeting April 14th, 2025