

Bethany Lutheran Church- Council Minutes May 12th, 2025

Call to Order at 6:35pm 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

- Holy Week and Easter Worship
- Youth Mission Project at Hope Lodge
 - Thanks to Courtney Heid for organizing!
- Paula, as her time comes to an end as Administrative Assistant and for God providing for our needs in sending us a wonderful replacement.
- Al Beyer leading worship April 27 and Dale Swenson attending worship at St. Bernadette's and sharing greetings with them on the annual WBARC Pulpit Exchange Sunday.

Pastoral Activities

- Administrative Assistant Hiring
 - Update authorizations required to comply with the Fair Credit Reporting Act
 - Communicate with Executive Committee
 - Meet with candidate to be approved by council
- Continuing Education Event; (Rites of Passage: Engaging Occasional Practitioners in a Secular Age); Valparaiso, IN
- 9 visits
- Men's Bible Study
- Crestview worship
- West Branch Area Religious Council Meeting (WBARC)
 - Final meeting before summer break at Serving Café
 - Sending for Pastor Graham, West Branch UMC
 - Community needs discussed
 - Hotel stay authorized for domestic violence situation
 - Food pantry participation continues to increase – strong need for paper products presently (Toilet paper, paper towels, tissues); grant recently received that will help meet demands; upcoming 8th annual Chip Away at Childhood Hunger golf tournament also will help
 - Resource Navigator working with a host of situations with students and families including homelessness and clothing needs
 - Next meeting will be in September

- Holy Week worship
- Faith Forward team meeting
 - Talked about how to keep momentum going during the summer
 - Some small activities planned

Upcoming

- Synod Assembly – May 17 in Des Moines
- Faith Forward at Grandview University – May 20-21

Secretary's Report-

- April Council Meeting Minutes
 - Dale moved to approve; Pat seconded. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report- Jon

- April Treasurer's Report
 - Curt moved to approve; Darla seconded. Motion approved.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds – Curt

- Plans for tilling in front (west side) of church.
- Many people are helping with landscaping and ground care, thank you!

Education & Youth- Kristen & Jessica

- The swimming event in Tipton is coming up June 8th.
- VBS planning continues.
- Youth Mission project for Hope Lodge guests went well!

Evangelism & Missions – Darla

- Thank you to the congregation for the Celebrate Our Youth program donations.

Fellowship – Pat

- It has been decided that we will not continue to have Fourth Sunday Dinners with a decline in attendance over the past couple of years.
- Looking into doing other fellowship events throughout the year.

Stewardship- Dale

- Brought sample of a water bottle that is made from recycled aluminum and recycled plastic. Committee working on a logo to put on bottles.

Worship and Music – Heidi

- Planning to do outdoor worship in September.

Old Business

- Solar tax credit update
 - Jon has been working diligently to get this done. We are now in the process of providing documents and waiting to hear more.
- Capital improvement plan updates
 - No new updates

New Business

- Administrative Assistant position.
 - Dale moved to approve Heidi Christensen to Administrative Assistant position; Jessica seconded. Heidi abstained. Motion approved.
 - Start date will be May 20th. Paula will continue in the position to orient Heidi and her last day will be May 30th.
- Parsonage lead line update.
 - Lines to parsonage were found to not be lead. The city of West Branch will reimburse for work done and Chad is working with them.
- Paula retirement gift/celebration
 - Jon moves to allocated \$200 for retirement gift; Darla seconded. Motion approved.
- Parsonage water softener
 - Softener needs replacement.
 - Pastor will get quotes and report back to Curt.

Curt moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:17pm, Pat seconded. Motion approved.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next Regular Meeting June 9th, 2025