

# St. John's Bennington Lutheran Church

## Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, August 12, 2020

**Present:** Pastor Blank, Jim Fettkether, Jeff Seamans, Drew Speer, Joe Stafford, Kayla Stafford, Willie Wolfe, Brandy Zuck

**Absent:** Brenda Clark, Denise Pierce

**Meeting Called to Order** by Drew

### 1. Opening Prayer by Pastor

### 2. Financial Report

- a. Consolidated Energy
  - i. Currently on a schedule to refill (\$1.14). Brandy will ask if we own the tanks and if they will honor the contract; if yes, we will move forward with booking. If no, Joe suggested the potential to look elsewhere for a cheaper price (~\$0.90 out there). Will depend on what Brandy finds out.
  - ii. Brandy received a letter from Farmers State Bank about our safety deposit box. Do we still need it? Do we know what is in it?
    1. Willie remembers using the box years and years ago. Drew will look into seeing if we can find the key and check what's in it before deciding on keeping or releasing the box.
  - iii. Helping hands money - Dunkerton Learning Center received a grant and needs to have matching funds. Drew explained that Denise suggested this would be a good cause for our helping hands funds.
    1. Item tabled until the next meeting to determine how much money we have in the account, and then we can determine what we could or would want to give.

### 3. Pastor's Report

- a. Does anyone know anyone with damage or any concerns from the weather?
  - i. Kyle Kuenstling and his in-laws
  - ii. Jeff Seamans' brother-in-law has tree damage
  - iii. Field damage
- b. Was there a water leak here in May?
  - i. Willie was monitoring toilets and found that was the culprit. Hasn't been an issue since.
- c. Jim Clark suggested the two pine trees out front should be removed. Thoughts?
  - i. Drew will call Jim. Joe and Drew offered to help should needed.
  - ii. Motion to take the trees out by Joe, second by Jeff
- d. Steeple making noise
  - i. Willie said lightning rod grounding cable is the noise maker. They have tried to fix it to no avail at this time.

#### **4. New Business**

- a. COVID/Opening facilities and activities
  - i. Discussed what the Dunkerton School System is doing: Elem wearing masks. Jr High and HS are half time in school and half time virtual learning. Sports are moving forward and fans are allowed. Dunk has been doing Summer School. School opens August 25th.
  - ii. Jeff provided current county numbers: 14 new cases per day average. Hospital rate has not significantly changed since early June (roughly 5/100 people go to the hospital with it). Mortality rate is low (less than 10 deaths in almost 2 months).
  - iii. Church service
    1. Pastor's report: Moving forward, there are still churches that are closed. Suggests to not open at this time for church.
    2. Outdoor service: Is an option. FM transmitter is available. Should we try?
      - a. Council wants to offer the outdoor service for members to get back to church (they can stay in vehicles or bring a lawn chair).
      - b. Drew, Jeff, and others can direct traffic.
      - c. First outdoor service will be this Sunday, August 16th at 10:15am.
    3. Videos: Pastor will keep doing those as well.
    4. Council thoughts on indoor church service: Plan was to go off of the local school system. Feel most people are cognizant of distancing. There has been congregation interest in attending church.
      - a. Live streaming would be the next step, potentially, to allow for both virtual and in-person service.
  - iv. Sunday School/Confirmation
    1. Pastor's report: Suggests to hold off on Sunday School and confirmation until January.
    2. Brandy will have Kelli send Pastor a list of Sunday School teachers, so he can call them and gauge their thoughts on having Sunday School or not.
  - v. Pastor's contract is up this month. With the circumstances, Council plans to approve month by month until we can have a congregational meeting.
    1. Council motions to approve Pastor Blank's contract from mid August to mid September
      - a. Motion made by Jeff, second by Brandy
  - vi. Trinity received COVID relief funds to pay portions of Pastor's salary. Drew will get specific numbers to Brandy for the budget.
  - vii. Pastor's biggest concern: Are we being good stewards of our sheep? He leans to safety for the people.
  - viii. Suggested the Council meets on September 13th to determine how to move forward from there. By that time, school will be in progress for almost 3 weeks.

#### **5. Announcements**

Next council meeting will be Sunday, September 13th after outdoor worship  
Motion made to adjourn by Jim, second by Brandy  
All stood and said The Lord's Prayer