

St. John's Bennington Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Sunday, September 13th, 2020 after worship

Present: Pastor Blank, Brenda Clark, Denise Pierce, Jeff Seamans, Drew Speer, Kayla Bedard, Brandy Zuck

Absent: Jim Fettkether, Joe Stafford, Willie Wolfe

Meeting Called to Order by Drew

1. Opening Prayer by Pastor

2. Financial Report

a. Treasurer by Brandy

- i. Checkbook balance (end of July):** \$27,589.79
- ii. Savings (end of July):** \$24,444.68
- iii. Checkbook balance (end of August):** \$24,252.44
- iv. Savings (end of August):** \$24,488.82

b. Financial Secretary Report by Brenda

- i. General funds total of last month:** \$4,890
 - 1. Approved** by Jeff, **second** by Denise

3. Pastor's Report by Pastor

- a. Continuing to send virtual services and offering the outdoor services
- b. Kelli Snyder awarded the "Top 20 under 40" award for the Cedar Valley

4. Old Business

- a. Lock box: Council would like to keep it at Dunkerton Farmers State Bank unless told it has to be moved.
 - i. Brandy will follow-up with Chris about a key
- b. LP tank: We do own it. Since we have been getting great service, we will continue with them. Brandy has booked 2,000 gallons.
 - i. Jeff suggested we paint (white) the tank soon
- c. Sunday School: Kelli began virtual Sunday School on September 13th with about 10 kids in attendance for the first day. Virtual Sunday School will be 9-9:45am.
- d. Confirmation: Pastor looking to start via Zoom. He will talk to Dawn Best who led classes the previous year.
- e. Helping Hands: We donated \$500 to the Dunkerton Learning Center to go towards matching funds for a grant they received.
- f. Outdoor church service:
 - i. Working great and have had good attendance numbers (attendance numbers in order from first service to now): 30, 40, 35, 12 (poor weather), 35
 - ii. Council will ring bell for outdoor services
 1. Pastor gave a quick history of the bell ringing for church: Bell rang on Saturday nights in rural communities so they knew it was the night before church. Then they would ring it one hour before Sunday morning church service so all knew.

- iii. Council recognizes getting together (outdoor or indoor service) is a good thing for people. Noted that outdoor service could be a tradition in the future.
- iv. Kayla will bring her keyboard to church as Alex may utilize it for during services.
- g. COVID Relief funds: Trinity did receive the funds, so our church will be paying a lower amount for 4 months (until November).

5. New Business

- a. Helping Hands: Dunkerton Community Hall has been doing a lot of upgrades and would appreciate any donation. Council motioned to donate \$500.
 - i. Brandy will get a check to Dawn.
 - ii. With the two recent donations (\$500 to the DLC and \$500 to the Hall), we would have \$2,300 remaining in the account.
- b. Indoor service:
 - i. If we go indoors, we will plan to go by the book (spacing, masks, cleaning, no fellowship, etc). There is not a perfect way to make everyone feel happy or comfortable. We will do the best we can to serve the most.
 - 1. Will have to consider congregating protocols
 - 2. Council will begin planning so as weather gets colder, we can hopefully transition to indoor service
- c. Need to renew Pastor's contract from mid September to mid October
 - i. Jeff motioned, Brandy seconded, all in favor
- d. Baptisms (potentially 4 families: Rottinghaus, Anderson, Miller, Mixdorf)
 - i. Pastor will call and get their special days scheduled as they want to move forward
- e. Financials/giving: Should we consider electronic giving?
 - i. Pastor will look into Trinity's system that they use for electronic giving
 - ii. Brenda will look over historic giving to see where we stand financially
- f. Discussion to fix the parking lot
 - i. Can we do it all this fall or should we fill cracks this fall then relay in spring?
 - ii. Restripe: Jim Madden?
 - iii. Will check with Joe on what thoughts are moving forward with this
- g. Jim Clark removed the two trees by the entrance door after a vote by council. Looks great!
 - i. Note: If wind is now an issue, the council suggested we may need to add a door stop of some sort. Will have to continue to evaluate.
- h. Brenda was approached by a congregation member about the possibility of switching from "Christ in Our Home" to "Our Daily Bread."
 - i. Spend about \$400/year on "Christ in Our Home"
 - ii. "Our Daily Bread" is a donation
 - 1. Council agreed for Brenda to order half and half. Then the congregation members can choose which one they would like with an open basket of the two options by the mailboxes.
- i. Noted the church is available during this time for reservations/events at the discretion of those who reserve it.

6. Announcements

Next council meeting will be October 4th after worship
 Motion made to adjourn by Jeff, second by Brandy
 All stood and said The Lord's Prayer