

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
May 13, 2019

God's Family Serving Christ With Love

Called to order by President Tania Anderson at 7:40pm

Attendance:

Pastor Jen Johnson

Tim Kratz

Don Bender

Kathy Tofson

Ann Ciske

Robin Kvalo - absent with notification

Halley Marcks

Tania Anderson

Jack Paulson - absent with notification

Angie Chappell - absent with notification

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Gifts for the Sunday School teachers and confirmation mentors; Community Meal June 15th

OPENING DEVOTION - PR. JEN

Romans 12: 2

APPROVAL OF APRIL MINUTES:

**Motion by Don Bender, second by Kathy Tofson to approve the minutes from the April meeting.
Motion carried.**

OLD BUSINESS:

- Donations/Memorials to the Church: A "wish list" letter will be available in the office for anyone who seeks out information about how to designate a donation to the church.
- The summer hours for the office have been set for Monday- Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm, and 9:00am-1:00pm on Friday. We have had several people volunteer to help cover the office hours as needed.
- We are still needing volunteers for an audit committee to perform an internal audit in June/July. Tania will be calling a few of our members that have been suggested, and will set a date based upon everyone's availability.

PASTORS REPORT:

Administrative

Janice has been increasing her workload as she is able. Barb and Denise have reconfigured the bulletin to save money and trees. Jerry has resumed his day job, so he is now coming in afternoons instead of

mornings (this is normal). This would also indicate he is not immediately available during those times if we should call him. Megan Jahoda is volunteering as youth activities coordinator, an unofficial title I just now made up. Chaplain Dan Pulsfus preached while I presided on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 and Sunday, May 5, 2019. We will do this again the first week of August. It is his offering of volunteer service to the congregation and me.

Pastoral

I've made hospital visits when notified of admissions, also went to Wyocena long term care facility. Home visits continue, as well. Led chapel at Tivoli on Easter Monday, April 22, 2019. Easter and holy Week services included:

- Palm Sunday with First Communion, Sunday, April 14, 2019
- Maundy Thursday, April 18, 2019. 6:30 pm
- Good Friday, April 19, 2019. 1:00 pm; "Jesus Christ Superstar" 6:00 pm
- Easter Day, Sunday, April 21, 2019. 9:00 am, preceded by the Easter Breakfast.

I offered the greeting and prayer at the Women's Tea on Saturday, April 27, 2019, and participated in the Earth Day observance at church on Sunday, April 28, 2019. Attended the following church meetings:

- Staff Meeting Monday, April 15, 2019
- Sunday School Teacher Meeting, Sunday, April 18, 2019
- Finance Committee Meeting, Tuesday, May 7, 2019
- Stewardship and Evangelism Meeting, Thursday, May 9, 2019
- Mutual Renewal Ministry Team Meeting, Thursday, May 9, 2019

Wider Church and Ecumenical Activities

- VBS Planning at PUMC, April 28, 2019
- Synod Assembly at Alliant Energy Center, Saturday, May 4, 2019

Pastor as Teacher

Tuesday Bible Study will end when quilting stops for the summer break, and resume in the Fall. I'm turning over the concept of an online (Zoom platform) Bible Study to be held weekly at 8:00 or 9:00 pm. Confirmation is winding down for this year and will resume in the Fall. We need a curriculum. My preference is Collaborate, by Augsburg. I recommend the online subscription over ordering pre-printed materials. We can print what we need when we need it that way. Apparently, this curriculum was already chosen and approved before I arrived for last year??? I've begun a blog on our church website that I update weekly-ish.

Renewal

Our in-house team continues to meet. However, the Synod team meetings have been continually hampered by snowstorms. We have a new (installed at Assembly) Synod DEM, who has previously shepherded the Renewal Ministry in the Synod. We're awaiting his direction for future meetings.

At Assembly I purchased a book by the keynote speaker, Ruth Haley Barton titled *Pursuing God's Will Together: A Discernment Practice for Leadership Groups*. The Mutual Renewal Ministry Team members are getting a copy. I strongly suggest council members do, too.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee Report:

Financial Update:

- Insurance Proposal - It is all ready to be sent out May 30th. It will be sent to Brotherhood Mutual (current policyholder), Church Mutual, State Farm, Farmers Insurance for quotes.
- Grant Response - We have had two responses to our grant applications for the gardens/grounds, unfortunately neither has been awarded to BLC at this time. We are still waiting for a response from another two grant applications. They do have a seasonal cycle during the fall & spring, so we may try again in the future.
- Quarterly Reports - Quarterly reports went out with errors; all corrections were made, and the glitch was found and corrected in the Concordia 360 system. The corrected reports were sent out with the May Chimes.
- Offering Envelope Pick-up - A large number of envelopes were never assigned; some were never picked up. Pastor Jen would like us to consider adding in an envelope, first in the packet, that is an offering to recoup the cost of the purchase of the envelopes. We could also add in one for benevolence. To discourage the use of envelopes, we can encourage Simply Giving during our Stewardship campaign later this year, and even set up a station in the narthex on Wednesdays and Sundays to sign people up.

Current Financial Projections:

- Janice has created a new chart for the bulletins each week that includes weekly offerings/income and expenses along with monthly averages. We are averaging \$23,000 per month of income, and unfortunately averaging \$27,000 per month in expense. We are going to need to look at additional fundraising and a stewardship campaign.
- Staff will be using the projection screen during worship more often to save on paper. The bulletins will be printed smaller in booklet format in order to use half the amount of paper. Pr. Jen has been asking for feedback from members of the church about how welcome the projection screen use is.

Mortgage Refinance 2020: This discussion is on hold. We might consider a capital campaign next summer before refinancing. As for right now, we need to focus on making up the \$4,000-5,000 we need per month for daily operations, \$7,000-8,000 per month if we include the cost of a Parish Secretary.

Stewardship: Pastor Jen would like us to first and foremost remember our mission with Stewardship and that we need to consider what God wants for this church. However, we do need to raise a total of \$8,000 per month to cover monthly expenses plus the addition of a 30-40 hour per week parish secretary. The Stewardship committee is going to work on the design of the campaign.

Copier quote/estimate from Gorden Flesch: Copier is currently \$470 per month plus additional cost for color copies. In, August when our contract with Gorden Flesch is up, our monthly fee will decrease to \$181 per month for the maintenance contract plus extra for color copies .

Motion by Halley Marcks, second by Tim Kratz to call a congregational ministry meeting on Sunday, July 21st to present our updated financial information and ask for suggestions from the congregations about how to move forward with our ministry spending plan. Picnic to follow worship. Motion carried.

Christian Education Committee Report:

Sunday School

- The last day of Sunday School will be May 19th and will be celebrated with a Fiesta/Taco Bar. All are welcome to join. Kids will sing during service this day. It was our goal to celebrate all youth this day. I have asked twice for a short bio and photo of the graduating seniors and have only received one response.

Confirmation

- The last day of confirmation is May 15th. We will be celebrating with the incoming 5th graders and having a pot-luck.
- Pastor Jen is looking at curriculum to use for next year.

Youth Group

- Trivia night was a huge success! We had over 90 participants and were able to provide 8 of the 13 youth with \$500 towards their trip expenses.
- Mission Trip updates: There are 13 youth registered along with 4 chaperones. Megan, her sister Kelly and the Melby's will be attending. They would like us to discuss the following ideas for fundraisers: casserole sale, meat raffle, car wash, Culvers Night, Papa Murphy's, Pizza Making (in the fall), Writing letters
- There will be a lock in for the high school youth June 8th. There is a group from Minnesota staying at the church this night. Megan is looking for parents to donate food and come help make breakfast in the morning.
- Megan would like to know when the Garage sale is and if the youth can participate in this as part of their fundraising.
- Some ideas for youth events are: Bonfire, Hiking and bowling.

Adult Ed

- New Member class will take place on 5/22, 5/29 and 6/5 from 6:30-7:30

Other:

Youth events/ photos are being shared with Janice every two weeks to be shown during the announcements. Feedback from the kids and congregation has been positive in the last month. Gifts for Sunday School teachers and confirmation mentors will be gift certificates for Portage Green. Halley is looking into a Faith & Family night at the Mallards ballpark on July 7th, open to the congregation.

Stewardship & Evangelism Report:

- We would ask Robin to introduce the Renewal picture collage plan. We are aiming for a late summer kick off.

- Pet Blessing is possibly August 18th, rain delay 25th, pending Three Wives Men date announcements.
- Pastor Jen has started a blog on the website, 3 are in, shared on Facebook occasionally.
- Adopt-a-bill kick off - Bonnie will do a kick off during the service- Date? Chimes has list of summer bills this month.
- Councils badges available- please try to wear so new people can identify us and can ask questions.
- There will be a service at the fairgrounds in partnership with the Methodist Church, July 28th 11:00am.
- Stewardship and Evangelism committee will meet previous to the all committee meeting at 5:30 on the 2nd Monday of the month.
- We will be handing out sower coins with parable from Matthew to hand out in early fall. The coins have been purchased by the Benders.

Worship & Music: April

Members Present: Dan K, Nancy, Pastor Jen, Kris, Ginny, Carla

Absent: Robin, Pam

Devotions: Pastor Jen

Pastor's Report

Old Business:

New sound board has been purchased with donations of two people. Easter breakfast is all planned. Mr Marcks will be in charge. Deb Brown baking treats. Various others helping.

New Business

Maundy Thursday service will be at 6:30 instead of 5:30. Movie Jesus Christ Superstar will be shown on Good Friday evening instead of a normal service. Normal service at 1 pm. Discussed having Congregational hymn choice again the 4th Sunday of the month during the summer. All agreed. Three Wives Men- Carla has contacted Jim B about August 18 and am waiting to hear back. Discussed using a contemporary service instead of praise team for the summer. Pastor Jen will do some research. Discussed an outdoor service with blessing of the pets. Agreed we want to do this. Need to set a date.

Next Meeting May 13 at 6:30 PM.

Property Committee Report:

I am happy to report the following:

- The barrier to prevent birds from nesting on the church façade has been completed. A lot of unhappy swallows and sparrows have been reported.
- Two additional electrical outlets have been installed in the kitchen.

- A two stage snow blower was donated as a back up to the existing single stage blower to be used in the event of major snowstorms which the smaller machine couldn't handle very well.
- Spring maintenance on the rooftop air handlers will be completed within the next two weeks.

Local & Global:

April 28th Earth Day Activities:

Hwy 33 cleaned up, pews cleaned, outside windows washed. Kitchen drawer cleaned, ADRC bags decorated by the Sunday School children, tables and chairs in Fellowship Hall repaired, gardens spruced up and bandages rolled for Global Health Ministries.

Items up for discussion at all committee night:

Possible Treats, stress balls for HS students during exams

June 15 community meal- we need 5-6 workers and desserts for 60 people

Motion by Ann Ciske, second by Halley Marcks to approve the committee reports as they have been submitted. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The Safe Church Policy and the Financial Controls Manual will be reviewed and updated. Kathy Tofson will be working on a draft of the Voting by Email Policy.
- Gift Card basket was won by a council member at Trivia Night. The gift cards will be distributed to various volunteers at the church. Various thank-you cards were signed and will be distributed.
- Tania will not be available in June and July due to family obligations. Pr. Jen, Robin and others will be available to run meetings, etc.

Motion by Don Bender, second by Kathy Tofson to adjourn meeting at 9:30pm. Motion Carried.