

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
April 4, 2019

Called to order by President Tania Anderson.

Attendance:

Don Bender
Jack Paulson
Tim Kratz
Ann Ciske- Absent with notification
Angie Chappell
Kathy Tofson
Halley Marcks
Robin Kvalo
Tania Anderson
Pastor Jen Johnson

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Robin Kvalo, second by Kathy Tofson to approve the revised agenda. Motion Carried.

Opening Devotion-Hebrews 10: 19-25

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Halley Marcks, second by Jack Paulson to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- Sound System- Original stopped working and put in back up system which is not working well. Received an estimate for a replacement of \$2500 which includes a digital system, set up and training.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Administrative Report:

Action Items:

- A woman who works for Columbia County would like to again hold a training session in the Fellowship Hall. Date is 5/17/2019. From 8:00 am – 2:00 pm. I need to get back to her on this tomorrow, hopefully.
- I would like to create an art piece that reflects the Renewal Process. I envision a stand of milkweeds with caterpillars for year 1, chrysalises for year two and monarch butterflies for year 3. Painting? Fabric wall hanging?
- Abbey's resume'

Administrative:

We're moving right along.

Pastoral:

Making some contact with homebound and hospitalized parishioners in between meetings, two services a week, and office time.

Attendance for worship and fellowship has been encouraging.

Wider Church Report:

Will attend the Annual Meeting of the Synod on just Saturday, May 4th. No stayover and only registration fee plus lunch for costs.

I attended the Conference Meeting in Loganville last month, and will be host of the meeting here in May.

Continuing Education Report:

Book Fair books!!!!

Renewal Report:

Our Mutual Renewal Ministry Team is up and running! We meet monthly, the 2nd Thursday at 5:30 pm. At our initial meeting last month, we talked about the Team's roles. We also decided that we should develop a Team mission statement. Our next meeting is April 11.

The Synod Renewal Team will meet on April 11 at 11:00. We canceled last time due to weather concerns, so this is our re-do with me as host. We are meeting at Jose's in Baraboo, to celebrate the completion of one of our member's work with his congregation and following retirement.

Education Report:

Tuesday Bible Study is a blast! Each week the ladies wonder why more people don't join us. We're beginning a study of Revelation, at the group's request.

For the remaining confirmation classes (will resume the week after Easter) we're looking into some hands-on activities and lessons. Only 3 class times left.

Looking for a VBS coordinator from BLC.

Motion by Robin Kvalo, second by Don Bender to approve the rental of the hall to Columbia County. Motion Carried.

Robin stated that it may be fun to collect photographs from the congregation to create a moziak of Jen's vision for the art work representing the renewal process.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee Report

In attendance: Pr. Jen, Barb Rothwell, Denise Derey, Janice Peterson, Jerry Saalsaa, and Tania Anderson

Summary:

Financial Update: We reviewed the updated financial information. Offerings were insufficient in March to make the mortgage payment so some of the funds were transferred from the building fund to supplement. Everything is stable so far this month.

Software: Our Ledger 360 subscription will end in May. Janice has saved some of the information from Ledger 360 as Excel files for historical data. Quickbooks is currently up-to-date.

Parochial Report: The parochial report has been submitted to the synod. The last report that was submitted was for 2014 data.

Envelopes/Simply Giving: The assigned number system needs a few updates as members have been given numbers out of sequence, numbers that are too high, etc. This will be revisited in the fall.

Grant Update: One of the applications that was submitted for a grant was turned down because of too many other applicants. Barb is still waiting to hear back from another one. She is seeking out funding for the prayer garden and other gardens/grounds keeping projects.

Parish Secretary: The current goal is to have a new person in the position by June 15th. Barb is revising the job description to include everything that Denise and Barb are currently doing. Council will need to approve posting the position in the near future to begin the application and interview process.

Insurance Update: All of the information has been gathered to submit to various insurance companies in May for quotes. We will hopefully have the estimates back by July/August.

Credit Card Account: Del Molden and Jerry Schneiter have been added as authorized users to the church credit card account.

Sound System: We received an estimate from Peak Systems in Reedsburg for a new digital mixing console along with the initial set-up and training on the equipment. The total is \$2,560.00. We will be adding this to the Adopt-a-Bill list for the summer of 2019. The current soundboard is holding, but we are not sure how long it will last.

Copier: The lease contract with Gordon Flesch will end in August. Denise and Jerry recommend that we try to buy out the copier at the end of the contract, if it mechanically makes sense to do so. We can then purchase a monthly maintenance contract to get by as long as we can before entering into a new lease contract with a new machine. Someone should discuss the options with Gordon Flesch soon.

Benevolence: We have received a few specific offerings for synod benevolence. Those will be paid to the synod on a quarterly basis with a goal of \$1,000 for the year from BLC (as set at the annual meeting).

Jerry Saalsaa was approved via electronic meeting to be the Treasurer.

Tim Kratz got the accounts in line. Del Molden, Jerry Schneider and Barb Rothwell have credit card authorization. The signatory on the checking account are Tim Kratz and Don Bender. Online bill pay authorized users are Barb Rothwell and Denise Dery.

Christian Education

Sunday School

- The Augsburg Book Sale is complete and orders have arrived. We profited approx. \$60 from sales this year plus have all the books that were on display available at church.
- Sunday school students will be visiting the prayer stations on Palm Sunday and then participating in an Easter Egg Hunt. Confirmation students will be filling and hiding Eggs

on Wednesday, April 10th after soup supper. I am looking for candy/small items to hide in their eggs and goodie bags they will collect at the end.

- Fifth graders are taking first communion classes with Jeff Melby. They will get their first communion on Palm Sunday.
- The last day of Sunday School will be May 19th and will celebrated with a Fiesta/Taco Bar

Confirmation

- There is no confirmation class until after Lent. Confirmation students are divided up by grade level to assist in clean up after soup suppers and are doing a great job so far.
- Acolytes: It has been inconsistent at services to have acolytes. Nancy Buckley has shared the schedule with me through May. I will be sending out reminders Mid-week as a reminder going forward.

Youth Group

- Trivia Night: Trivia night is scheduled for April 27th. It will be held at the Masonic Lodge (the old Vino.) Doors open at 5:30, trivia from 6-9. Tables of 6 are recommended. You must be 21 to attend. The cost is \$20 per person that includes food and drinks. They are looking for donations for raffle baskets. **Do we as a council want to donate a basket?**
- Mission Trip: Megan Jahoda is organizing a mission trip to Hato Mayor in the Dominican Republic. Trip dates are scheduled for January 18-25, 2020. The cost of the trip is \$1090 which includes an airline ticket allowance of up to \$600. As of right now, Megan has 13 youth signed up and 2 chaperones. The chaperones include Megan and her sister Kelly. She will be registering them within the next week.

Adult Ed

- Bible Study- meets Tuesday mornings weather permitting
- New Member class-will begin Wednesday evenings after Easter

Other

I would like to create a way to showcase what our youth are up to, awards they receive, academic achievements, athletic schedules/ accomplishments, etc.. We have a lot of very talented youth in our congregation and I want to be able to share that so members can support them and share in fellowship with one another. Suggestions on how to make this happen? BLC Youth Page on FB, Monthly Showcase email, Bulletin Board outside the fellowship hall? I'm open to suggestions.

Council will do an entertainment basket of gift cards for trivia night. Robin-Trails Lounge; Don-Hangry in Pardeeville; Kathy- Niels; Halley- Cimarolis; Jen-Pizza Ranch; Tim-Jacks; Jack-Caddy shack; Angie- La Tolteca; Tania- Two Rivers.

Stewardship & Evangelism

EVANGELISM

1. Active Attack-

No one came to the presentation at Bethlehem. When discussed at the ecumenical meeting most felt they would prefer to attend one at their own church.

2. Worship-

We are hoping to provide a series of ecumenical services for summer at Collip-Warden park on Sunday evenings starting July 14th possibly. Each church would take a turn to host. It would be a musical service and food would be served. The offering would go toward River Haven.

(Recommend Council approval)

Motion by Don Bender, second by Robin Kvalo to approve the ecumenical services for summer at Collip-Warden park on Sunday evenings with offerings going to River Haven, with more to follow. Motion Carried.

3. Community Meal for Suicide Prevention

There is a proposed suicide prevention walk with meal at Middle School that is supported by many local churches. The ecumenical group is waiting to hear from Columbia County to find out about support and details.

4. Pet Blessing-

The pet blessing will happen again this summer, we need to choose a date.

5. Pastor will be starting a blog.

STEWARDSHIP

1. Year 2 for the renewal process, starts in August, and is stewardship. There will be a renewal letter to leading up to this. There will be a monthly focus. We are currently looking for someone who can create a graphic.

2. Adopt-a-bill will resume for the summer months again, beginning in May.

MEMBERSHIP IDEAS

-welcome to the new people by council

-council badges

-greeters can help to recognize visitors

-add email address to cards

-welcome card, pastor can address

-Simply Giving reminder and info

Worship & Music

Discussed the sound system and an after Easter liturgy.

Property

March 2019 Property Committee Report

1. The inventory of church property has been completed per Del Molden and the results given to Tania Anderson.
2. Del Molden and Jeff Johnson will be removing any remaining swallow nests on April 6th and installing barriers to prevent future problems.
3. Water testing came back good.
4. Del repaired some locks, replaced some ballasts in the light and blinds in Janice's office.

Local and Global

The L & G committee decided to hold Earth Day on April 28, one week after the official day due to Easter.

We will organize the congregation in groups to clean the highway, wash church windows, decorate ADRC weekend lunch bags, work in the church gardens and possibly clean the kitchen. We are still looking for other ideas. We would like to have the congregation dress in work clothes for this day.

Motion by Robin Kvalo, second by Tim Kratz to approve the committee reports as submitted. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- Tania sent an email to Jim Crawford, Ed Rohrbacher, Fred Reckling, and Jeff Johnson regarding the Nominating Committee – Audit Committee.
- Pastor gave an overview of the office position and a potential candidate in Abbey Leder.

Next Council will meet on May 16, 2019 at 6:30 PM.

All Committee night is April 8, 2019.

Motion by Don Bender, second by Halley Marcks to adjourned at 8:30 PM. Motion Carried.