

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
April 21,2022

Called to order by Kerry Melby at 6:36pm .

Attendance:

Halley Harms-In Person
Kory Anderson- absent with notification
Geoff Gilbert- Absent with notification
Kerry Melby- In Person
Ruth Price- In-Person
Jaimie Rudolph-In Person
Tina Thomas- In Person
Lisa Cook- In Person
Pastor Jamie- In Person
Prayer by Pastor Jaime

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**Motion by Tina Thomas, second by Lisa Cook to approve the proposed agenda as presented.
Motion Carried.**

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH MEETING MINUTES **Motion by Jamie Rudolph second by Thomas to approve the March meeting minutes with the addition of Ruth Price to the attendance.
Motion Carried.**

Pastor's Report

Whew! Where has the past month gone? Things have been busy with the Lenten season coming to a close with Holy Week and the celebration of Easter! Attendance in worship the past month has been really positive with solid numbers for Wednesday services and soup suppers as well as Sunday services. The youth that led worship on March 20th did a great job! I am looking forward to what they are planning for this month. It is wonderful to hear their perspectives and to share that with the rest of our BLC family! Holy Week was a blessed week indeed! Palm Sunday was bursting with a lot of great things including four 5th graders receiving their first communion, the hand chime choir performing for the first time, the Luke Passion Narrative reading at the end of worship (thank you to all of our great readers!), and an Easter Egg Hunt for the Sunday School students! With that much excitement, we had a lot of people join us for this day (158 in worship)! We continued with Holy Week with our Maundy Thursday service at 6:30 pm, Good Friday service at 6:30 pm, and Easter Sunday service at 9:00 am. We had 35, 44, and 203 in attendance at each of these services respectively! What a witness to God's provision! A big thank you also to all that helped make the "Egg"-stra Special Coffee Hour a success! And thank you, Julie, for organizing!

I was fortunate enough to join the high school students for part of their lock-in on March 19th. It was fun getting to connect with them, play some games together, and finalize the details for worship the next day. In addition to meeting with some of the high school students, I met with the Sunday School teachers, Carla (for Holy Week planning), finance committee, personnel committee (twice!), staff at our biweekly meetings, my weekly text study group, my first call group, and Kerry and Carol to start thinking about strategic planning for BLC. Lots of meetings and lots of promising things coming together!

This past month has involved quite a few phone calls and a few visits. I've offered pastoral care to some, resource assistance to others, as well as reaching out to potential new members who are interested in learning more about Bethlehem. I made two shut-in visits this month in addition to meeting with one couple at church. I did not keep track of all of the phone calls this month but I know there were many.

On a more personal note, I've been feeling a little weighed down these past couple of months and I wanted to be transparent with all of you because I would like us to have an open and honest relationship as pastor and council. In February one of my uncles passed away and six weeks later, another uncle, his brother, also passed away. These are the first two of my parents' generation to pass away which I am still processing. I had the honor of laying them both to rest and officiating the funeral of the one who most recently passed. These last couple of months have used a lot of my emotional energy and I wanted to be upfront about that with all of you. My best some days may not look like my best other days and that's okay but I wanted to be transparent about why with all of you. I appreciate you all and your partnership in the work God calls us to.

In resurrection hope,
Pastor Jaime Benson

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Finance committee met April 5, 2022

Income this month was \$26,655 and expenses were \$22,922. We are exceeding prior year-to-date results.

A lightning strike on March 5 affected the phones and fire alarm. Both companies were notified and assessed those systems on March 7. The potential cost is \$8,196 for a new fire panel. It is possible that some rewiring would also need to be done, increasing the cost. We have a service call bill from the alarm company for \$349 and we are waiting for the phone bills. A claim was submitted to our insurance carrier on March 22, by Dell Molden and Janice Petersen. Our plan deductible is \$500, and we have already received \$450 through member donations.

Christian Education Committee Report

Sunday School: May 15th the kids will be singing and there will be a congregational potluck/game day following service. This will be the last day of Sunday school for the year.

Confirmation: See Pastor's Report

Youth Group: They will be participating in a 30 hour famine to support World Hunger May 20th-21st.

Property Committee Report

- The igniter/controller for the west end roof top unit is still on schedule for the vendor to receive it on April 19th.
- The status of the fire alarm panel is we are providing more documentation to the insurance company from our local fire department, Johnson Controls and Frontier Telephone Co. The anticipated date for Johnson Controls to receive the panel still stands at April 18th.
- We have secured a mason for the installation of the wind blocker at the front entrance of the church. He was referred to me by Darlene Anderson-Prest because he had done a very good job at the camp ground her and her husband owned. He is the right fit for us because he works alone and is willing

to let us assist him allowing us to get the most for our dollar. When we assist him we have better oversight on the job for a better outcome.

- I'm working with County Materials of Madison for matching colors and size of the masonry units that will be used on the wind blocker. County Materials was the vendor for the masonry unit used to build our church.
- An order will be placed around the 1st of May for 11-12 yards of mulch for the prayer garden and the 32 trees we have on the grounds.
- Will perform a spring inspection on all rooftop units prior to the air conditioning season.
- Would like to find a volunteer for this summer with painter skills to paint all exterior doors and lintels over each door. If anyone knows of someone, ask them if they are interested and get in touch with me.

Stewardship/Evangelism

The Stewardship Committee has met again, twice, since the initial Kick-Off meeting. It is still the same group of Pastor Jaime, Ruth Price, Tania Anderson, Ann Ciske and Lisa Cook. We would encourage all Council Members to engage in conversation with members and encourage participation. Even if people don't want to fully join the committee, they are welcome to attend the meetings that work for their schedule. The next meeting will take place at 5:45 pm on Tuesday, May 10.

We have introduced the Exploring Stewardship 12-month program and kicked things off in April with Stewardship of Creation, promoting ideas for being eco-conscious. We will host an Earth Day event on April 24th, engaging in highway clean-up, creation of a compost bin and a deep clean of the church kitchen and fellowship hall. More to come on promoting the compost bin within our church members and the greater community around us.

May will focus on Stewardship of Gratitude with events and activities to recognize volunteers and the positive impact people have on those around them. We are starting to discuss June, which will be Stewardship of Wellness.

Music and Worship

Hand Chime Choir had their 1st performance on Palm Sunday. Carla is considering changing up the liturgy. She will teach everyone before the change.

Local and Global

- Highway clean-up is April 24th.
- Continuing collections for missing kits.
- More volunteers are needed for coffee hours.

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee met on March 16th to review the initial applications that we had received from the congregation. With only one application at that time, we decided to continue with the external posting of the job and review the applications again after that deadline. The committee met again on April 5th to review the two total applications we had received at that time. Both candidates met the criteria that was outlined and were recommended to be interviewed by the committee. The interviews are being conducted by Pr. Jaime, Julie, Janice, and Kerry. The committee will be starting on updating the employee handbook in the next couple of months.

A motion by Tina Thomas, second by Lisa Cook to approve the committee reports as presented. Motion Carried.

Old Business

- Reminder New Council Member Photos: Tina & Lisa send to Julie for Council Bulletin Board

New Business

- Sunday School and Mentor appreciation gifts
- Parish Associate Application Approval

A motion by Tina Thomas, second by Jamie Rudolph for the Parish Associate Position. Motion Carried.

- Diversity & Inclusion Training (see attachments to email)- Will discuss in May
- Covid Vaccination Clinic- Council has decided that with the high vaccination rate already in Columbia County this additional clinic is not necessary.
- Famine Breakfast- Halley will send out an email the week before council meets in may
- Strategic Planning- Kerry and Pastor Jamie shared with us the proposed plan from Carol Pulfus.
- River Haven Men's Shelter Letter-Shared with each other.

A motion by Ruth Price second by Tina Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 7:50. Motion Carried.

Lord's Prayer