

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
November, 2020
Meeting held via Zoom due to COVID-19

Called to order by Robin Kvalo at 6:33 pm.

Attendance:

Jack Paulson-Zoom
Halley Harms-Zoom
Robin Kvalo-Zoom
Pastor Jen Johnson-Zoom
Ruth Price- Zoom
Kory Anderson- Zoom
Geoff Gilbert-Zoom
Don Bender- Zoom
Ann Ciske- Zoom

Prayer by Pastor Jen

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Geoff Gilbert, second by Ann Ciske to approve the proposed agenda. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Geoff Gilbert, second by Jack Paulson to approve the October meeting minutes as submitted. Motion Carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Worship: We now worship in two ways; livestream and drive-in. We're suspending Wednesday night services. What I offer in this place is a Zoom chat at 5:30 pm on Wednesday evenings to talk about the assigned biblical texts.

We will be livestreaming the Thanksgiving service on the evening of Wednesday, November 25.

We have hopes and plans for Christmas Eve, We'll see how this will play out, though.

Faith Formation:

Pre-k through 5th grade receives monthly deliveries of bags with lesson-related materials for family use. We are using online resources that coincide with the Revised Common Lectionary, plus a weekly reading from the main lesson on our YouTube channel. We are continuing this through the program year. We're discerning what to this summer in regard to VBS.

Confirmation for 6th-8th grade happens via Zoom on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-7:30. I present the lesson to the entire group and then we split off into breakout rooms by class. We are using the Augsburg Fortress curriculum as a guide, as far as what lessons to present, but I am

providing the lesson materials. This year the focus is on the New Testament. While presenting lessons on each book of the New Testament I am able to weave in Lutheran Living, History, and Catechism. Each student has a Spark Bible and access to Luther's Small Catechism. Following the lesson each student is asked to submit reflections on the lesson through Class Dojo. Parents are involved in this aspect, through direct connection with Class Dojo and with reflection questions that ask students to talk with parents about ideas and topics. This plan continues.

Adults have the opportunity to join in on a Dwelling in the Word monthly practice. Dan Pulsfus, Mark Teslik, and I are facilitating these.

Renewal: We have not formally met. All members are deeply involved in various ministries within the congregation.

Administrative: Best staff ever. This continues.

Thank you, Beloved.
Pastor Jen Johnson

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee Report

Financial Update (Jerry & Janice)

Finances look great for October. We had a \$15,000 donation toward the mortgage principle, which we are thankful for. The brat fry income helped. The PPP \$20,000 loan also helped, so we show a \$38,575 net income. When you compare the average last October to this October, it is almost identical, so we are doing well. We had a request to have a mortgage update in the Chimes; we will add this to the December Chimes.

Benevolence/River Haven Update(Janice):

\$1140 owed to synod - This can be paid at anytime
\$145 to World Relief - This will be forwarded soon
\$1,000 donation is going to River Haven from BLC soon
Food Pantry donations- will be forwarded soon
PACAP - We will decide in December what we will give.

Call Committee expenses (John D.)

John is wondering what we will need to budget for the upcoming call committee expenses for 2021. He is wondering if we can plan for the approximate interview expenses moving forward, possibly \$7,000-\$8,000, if we end up needing them. This would include travel costs, etc. for the candidates. There is an upcoming mailer that is going out with a survey to the congregation. Do we need to budget to cover this expense? Normally, no. This should be able to be covered by normal administrative expense. Jerry will provide a line item for "call committee expense" that will include all call committee expenses (interviews, including Pr. Jen's COLA if hired, etc.) for the 2021 budget.

2021 Budget (Jerry)

Jerry is working on the new budget, noting the changes he is making. He will be discussing the new budget requests with the committees at All Committee night. Once we have the suggested changes for the budget after the All Committee night meeting, he will update the budget draft and send it out to the Finance group to review.

Reminder for 2021: We will eventually need to replace the choir director.

Fundraisers:

Indoor/Outdoor movie nights: Youth/Church fundraiser for 2021. We are looking into estimates for equipment.

Sales Tax Exemption Reminder (Denise)

It would be beneficial to remind the committees about the guidelines for expenditures & sales tax. If the church makes a purchase, this tax is exempt. If an individual makes the purchase and they are looking for reimbursement, sales tax is not exempt. At the All Committee meeting, Jerry will remind everyone about the appropriate process to save on paying sales tax. Do we need a formal policy or procedure for purchases...? (look at past records to see if this was made during Barb).

Stewardship Campaign

We will reach out to Ruth Price to see if we can use last year's campaign to keep things simple. We hope to get a mailing out by next week. It would be nice to know, going into the annual meeting, what amount of the budget was pledged. Getting a campaign out as soon as possible will be important.

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 1st at 6:30pm

Christian Education Committee Report

Confirmation and Sunday school both continue to be doing well. See Pastor's report for more detail under Faith Formation.

Youth will be joining the Gifts of Bethlehem by creating a "virtual pass the gift" as well as joining the families to create a short "Merry Christmas video" that will be played at the end of the concert.

Stewardship & Evangelism Committee Report

With many thanks to Julie and others, the stewardship letters have gone out.

In mid-January or early February, I'd like to start working on inactive members. Think of a letter inviting them back to whatever Church looks like then and whatever we can be offering them by that time/near future.

Worship & Music Committee Report

All committee night was November 9th. We discussed plans for Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve services. Thanksgiving service will be Wednesday, November 25th at 5:30 pm. This service will now only be online. The plan that we agreed to for Christmas Eve is put on hold since we have postponed indoor worship. The original plan included:

- holding three short services at 3 pm, 5 pm and 7pm (tentative times)
- Luke's gospel reading of Christ's birth would be read at all services.
- Communion would be bring your own.
- indoor for 30 people maximum with reservations at 3 pm and 5 pm
- 7pm service would be outside and include the use of fire rings and heaters. Gospel reading followed by caroling
- No live tree or poinsettias will be purchased this year

Property Committee Report

Winterization projects have been completed.

Utility usage and billing is continuing to be monitored

Based on the All Committee meeting a live Christmas tree will not be put up for this year. The two artificial trees that we have will be put up on the altar.

The access driveway to the property to the west has been repaired so the tenant should no longer have any reason to drive through the field.

Local & Global Committee Report

Mission Possible

Approx. 200 Mission Possible assignments have been sent out. We have heard back from several people that they have completed the assignment.

Tablets

Julie has set up all of the tablets for use with Sunday Services. We are now looking for people that will use them. They have a nice feature that you only need to say : "Alexia show me...." and they will get the Sunday Service. No internet is needed.

Rolled Bandages

We have many people participating in the rolled bandages activity. We are waiting on more white sheets now. We have a request into the Kalahari for their old sheets.

Highway Clean-up

8 congregation members participated in the Highway 33 clean-up on Nov 8. It was a beautiful day! We collected 14 bags of trash.

Gifts of Bethlehem

We are helping with the basket auction for Gifts of Bethlehem. Baskets/items that can be added to a basket are being collected up until Dec 4. The auction will run from Dec 6-13. This is an on-line auction with people that do not have access to the internet having an option to enter the Narthex on Dec 13 to view and bid on baskets.

COVID-19 Task Force

The group met Thursday, November 12th to discuss the new Executive Order that Governor Evers put out.

Worship

Effective this Sunday 11/15, we will no longer be offering indoor worship services. We will continue to broadcast the 9am Sunday service online, from church, on YouTube and also on the FM transmitter. The FM transmitter will allow people to still park at church and listen. Bulletins and communion cards will be available, as we will have an usher present. The usher does not have to stand outside the entire time. Right before service starts, he/she will go outside to each car to hand them their bulletin and communion card and also pick up offerings. (it may be possible to have the reader and the usher be the same person). Pastor Jen will come outside either during service or after to greet those in the parking lot. We will have a reader (the reader spouse/partner will be allowed to come as well). Communion for those in attendance (volunteers) will be bring your own. The Wednesday night service will be discontinued at this time.

Other Groups & Staff

Staff will continue to work in the office. Groups such as the Quilters and Bible Study have already said they are taking a break. We will let Tai Chi meet at their discretion. Saddle Ridge Associations do not meet over the winter.

Call Committee

The Call Committee has met every Monday for the past month. Work continues on the Ministry Site Profile and on the Congregational Questionnaire which is currently in its 4th revision.

APPROVAL OF THE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Motion by Ann Ciske, second by Don Bender to approve the committee reports as submitted. Motion Carried.

Old Business

Changes to constitution and by-laws will be presented at the next congregational meeting.

Building use policy to be addressed by property and finance committees.

New Business

Approval of the BLC ministry survey as proposed by call committee

Motion by Geoff Gilbert second by Don Bender to approve the ministry survey. The committee must come back to council if they want to add/change any of the questions in the survey. Motion Carried.

Motion by Ann Ciske second by Don Bender to adjourn the meeting at 7:190 pm . Motion Carried.

Next Finance Committee Meeting: December 1st

All Committee Night: February 8th

Next Council Meeting: December 17th