

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
October 15, 2020  
Meeting held via Zoom due to COVID-19

Called to order by Robin Kvalo at 6:32 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 Don Bender , second by Kory Anderson to approve the proposed agenda.  
Motion Carried.**

APPROVAL OF THE September MEETING MINUTES

**Motion by Geoff Gilbert, second by Jack Pauslon to approve the September meeting minutes as submitted. Motion Carried.**

PASTOR'S REPORT

Worship: We continue worship in three ways; livestream, in-house, and drive-in.

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.

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.

Renewal: Kyrie Eleison. Christe Eleison. Kyrie Eleison.

Administrative: Best staff ever.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Finance Committee Report** **Financial Update**

*Janice/Jerry:* The financials have been stable. The brat fry did help, but we were still stable without it. We did not have to transfer any money from the accounts to pay bills this month. Our revenues are less than this month last year, as well as our year to date this year compared to last year, but that is due to youth mission trip fundraising last year. Expenses are holding steady as well. The refinancing has reduced the mortgage which has helped significantly.

### **Payments/Bills Review**

*John/Jerry:* John has reviewed and approved statements through September. Janice has received them and filed them in google drive.

### **New Business:**

Pr. Jen would like to purchase a copy of the Lutheran Handbook as a gift for the confirmation students. Because there is money already set aside for this in the budget for this, this purchase doesn't have to be approved.

We will need to start planning for the budget soon. **All Committee is November 9th at 6:30-8:00pm;** we will ask for any specific asks at that meeting for 2021 budget. Pastor Jen will have Julie send on a request. Are there any extra expenses due to the call process? We will consider this for the next budget. For December, the Finance Committee/Jerry may provide two draft budgets for council to review, specifically addressing the call committee/new call. The final budget will be approved by council in January before the annual meeting.

Facilities rental: Two non-profits would like to use our facilities (Saddle Ridge Estates, Saddle Ridge Association). John recommended that instead of a monthly fee, possibly charge an annual fee as they have done in the past. \$200 per group, per year.

**MOTION:** Motion by Jerry to recommend an annual rate of \$200 each for the facilities rental for Saddle Ridge Estates and Saddle Ridge Association; 2nd by John D. **Motion Carries** We will follow up with the Property Committee.

### **Fundraising**

Stewardship Campaign: Tentatively planned for November. Ruth/Pr. Jen to provide more details soon.

Fall Festival/Brat Fry: As of today, we can still move forward; we cannot have the pumpkin carving on-site. Sign-up forms are out for volunteers; Tania will call people directly to ask for additional volunteers if necessary. The Gifts of Bethlehem will move forward as a pre-recorded event; the auction/basket raffle will go along with this.

How do we plan for 2020 benevolence, PACAP and River Haven? We should be in a good enough position financially to revisit this in December. Also, the Gifts of Bethlehem will be a fundraiser for the local communities and the mission of Bethlehem Lutheran.

*As always, thank you to all of our members for their continued support of BLC!!*

#### Christian Education Committee Report

Sunday School: They are continuing a monthly Sunday School in a bag drop off. Things are going well with this. Current 6th graders will be receiving first communion.

Confirmation: We are meeting weekly via zoom and it's going great! All students meet as a group together for a lesson and then breakout into grade levels to discuss and share. 9th grade confirmation is Sunday the 25th.

Youth Group: (ACTION ITEM) Megan would like to host a bonfire on Wednesday the 21st for the high schoolers at her parent's house. Both her and her sister are safe church trained and will be present. If it can't be done at her parent's home they can meet at church.

**Motion made by Halley Harms, second by Geoff Gilbert to approve the bonfire on the 21st to be held at the Jahoda property following all standard COVID-19 guidelines.**

#### Stewardship & Evangelism Committee Report

No Report received

#### Worship & Music Committee Report

No report received

#### Property Committee Report

Winterization projects are underway:

- Waterline was blown out and hoses put away.
- Filters have been replaced in 4 of the 8 air handlers; the other 4 will be replaced when crop harvesting (and associated dust) is completed.
- Lawn mowing will be completed and the mower stored in the shed for the winter.

The right-of-way driveway to the property to the west is in disrepair such that the tenant has been driving through the leased fields to access the property. Del had Julie draft a letter for Robin's signature reminding the owner that, per agreement, he is responsible for maintaining that driveway.

Del is looking for direction as to Christmas services and decorating. He will need to call soon to order a tree if one is to be put on the altar this year.

Clarification is needed once again as to the church's policy and fees for use of our facilities. There was much discussion about this a few years ago, but if a fee schedule was approved and policy drafted it hasn't been located.

### Local & Global Committee Report

#### **Mission Possible**

Approximately 180 'missions' were sent out to members of the congregation this month. Members were asked to do a specific task that would help someone else in the community.

#### **Rolled Bandages**

Members of the congregation, several members of the 2020 confirmation class and individuals from the Phoenix building are rolling bandages for Global Health Ministries.

#### **Quilt Drawing**

The quilt drawing ticket sales have been extended. A winner will be drawn at the Gifts of Bethlehem.

#### **Basket Auction**

A Basket Auction Fundraiser is being planned for December in conjunction with the Gifts of Bethlehem.

#### **Highway Clean up**

We are still planning to do the Highway 33 clean up. No date has been set.

### COVID-19 Task Force

The group continues to meet on an as needed basis. The last meeting was held on October 8<sup>th</sup> where we discussed the following:

- Fall Festival Trunk or Treat and pumpkin decorating. With the rising cases of Covid-19 in our community and the strain being put on our local hospital and their capacity, we thought it was wise to cancel these two events.
- We will continue to offer in person worship on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm and Sundays at 9:00 am for 10% of our sanctuary capacity = 30 people. This is contingent upon having 2 ushers signed up by 12pm on Friday. If we do not have those positions filled we will cancel worship, as they are necessary for our safety protocol.
- We had a request from Lifeline Screening to use our fellowship hall on February 17<sup>th</sup>. They will have no more than 10 people indoors at one time. They send the church office their safety protocols. We have granted them permission to use the space for a fee.
- We will continue to office drive-in worship as long as the weather cooperates.

### Call Committee

The first meeting of the Call Committee was held on October 5th, Due to a scheduling error, Rev. Kottke was unavailable to join the group.

The committee is hopeful that the process will not take as long as the previous search. The previous site profile will be reviewed. The next meeting is scheduled for October 12th. Rev. Kottke will be in attendance and it is hoped that various positions on the committee will be filled.

The call committee will be installed during the outdoor 10:00 service.

Don will send a monthly update to council unless there is an urgent need to communicate sooner.

### APPROVAL OF THE COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

### Old Business

- Finalize Suggested changes to bylaws for congregational vote. Changes will be presented to the congregation during the next congregational meeting preliminary scheduled for a future call committee meeting or the next annual meeting.

Auction baskets will be taken until December 4th. At that time pictures will be taken and uploaded to a website. Viewing will be available online from December 6-13th. If an individual isn't available to view online, we may allow one person in the building at a time to view the baskets. It's been suggested to use an online platform to host the online auction. The platform will collect a 5% fee of the profit. There will be a suggested donation to get the link for the premier of the gifts of Bethlehem. All talent will be pre-recorded and uploaded.

### New Business

Building use policy to be addressed by property and finance committees

**Motion by Ann Ciske second by Don Bender to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm . Motion Carried.**

Next Finance Committee Meeting: November 3, 2020

All Committee Night: November 9th

Next Council Meeting: November 19, 2020