

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
January 20, 2022
Meeting held in hybrid format due to COVID-19

Called to order by Ann Ciske at 6:40pm.

Attendance:

Jack Paulson-Zoom

Halley Harms-In Person

Ruth Price-Zoom

Kory Anderson- late with notification Via Zoom

Geoff Gilbert-In Person

Don Bender- In person

Ann Ciske- Zoom

Kerry Melby- Zoom

Julie Saalsaa- Guest via Zoom

Prayer by Pastor Jaime

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Geoff Gilbert, second by Jack Paulson to approve the proposed agenda as presented. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF THE December MEETING MINUTES Motion by Geoff Gilbert, second by Don Bender to approve the December meeting minutes with the addition of adding Jerry Saalsaa to the attendance list and changing Ann Ciske from Zoo to Zoom. Motion Carried.

Pastor's Report

Our worship life at Bethlehem has been busy over the past month but especially the week of Christmas with a Blue Christmas Service, three Christmas Eve services, and Lessons & Carols on the 26th. Our Blue Christmas service did not have many attendees, but I believe it was an impactful experience for those who were there. Hopefully we can continue this tradition in the future. We had a total of 263 in attendance on Christmas Eve with 97 at the 2:30 pm service, 117 at the 4:30 pm service, and 49 at the 6:30 pm service. I felt Christmas Eve went well and I was pleased with how our numbers were spread across the three services. Marty Genrich led the Lessons & Carols service on the 26th which gave me a little more time to recuperate after Christmas Eve, which I needed. I also took a vacation day on Thursday that week to further rest and to have some family time. We blessed those going on the mission trip to the Dominican Republic in worship on Jan. 9th. Prayers for safe travels and a good trip for all of them!

As for other events in December, the Sunday School sang in worship on Dec. 19th and they hosted coffee hour afterwards. It was a great event and wonderful to have the kids sing together

before the holiday. Maddie Cook also hosted a bake sale on Dec. 19th to help raise money for Hope House which was a great success. I do not recall the exact numbers she reported, but it was well above her goal and a huge gift to Hope House and those they support.

On Dec. 15th we had a service night with the Confirmation students where we decorated cards for residents at Tivoli as well as collected items they requested to be shared with the residents. We gathered quite a few items and the staff at Tivoli were grateful to us for thinking of them at this time. Confirmation was on a break over the holidays, and we resumed classes on Jan. 5th. This semester we are focusing on the Old Testament and will continue to explore these stories in the coming weeks. Our numbers have been down slightly at Confirmation mostly due to illness but most communicate when they will be gone which I appreciate.

One of our members, Debbie Simonson, passed away on Dec. 24th and her funeral was the week after Christmas. I presided at that service and led the committal service on Jan. 15th. Given the number of services and other things happening in the office, I have not made any visits in the past few weeks. I will be getting back to those now that things are not quite so busy.

Things in the office have been busy as well with our normal operations in addition to all the things that come with year end and the beginning of a new year. We hosted our January Conference Pastor Meeting where the pastors in Sauk and Columbia counties come together to check in. It was nice being able to share our space with these 14 other pastors. In addition to this meeting, I continue to meet with our weekly text study group, and I attended my other monthly meetings including with the Finance Committee, my First Call Group, and the Covid Task Force which met before Christmas to discuss our plans for Christmas Eve. We will meet again soon to discuss Lent plans. Overall, it has been busy here in a good way. Looking forward to what God has in store in the coming days, weeks, and months ahead.

Peak Systems out of Reedsburg came on January 20th to look at the sound system and make adjustments for streaming the online services.

In Epiphany Hope,
Pastor Jaime Benson

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

- Revenue was \$292,807 for the year with general and mortgage fund offerings slightly down from last year. 2021 Expenses were \$311,951 and were comparable to last year. Our utilities were up because we were open and using the building.
- We had one big expense this year which was the lawn mower. It was financed by donations and money from the general account.

- Youth account had a lot of activity, since they were actively fundraising and spending the money for their trip to the Dominican Republic. Discussion on how best to handle youth account and if we should run it through profit and loss statement. In the end it was decided that this was the best system.
- Discussion of charts for Annual Report, and it was decided that Attendance chart, Income Expense Chart, and Mortgage balance charts will be used
- New Hire position will be in the budget. That position needs to be presented before the budget in the annual meeting.
- Personnel Update: Pr Jaime presented that the job description has been done and the position will be presented at the annual meeting.
- 2021 Audit: Jerry will reach out to last years' Audit committee to see if they are interested in returning this year. Date for Audit will be set when committee is formed

Christian Education Committee Report

Confirmation

See Pastor's Report

Sunday School

No Report Received

Youth Group

Keep the youth and adults on the mission trip in your prayers.

Worship & Music Committee Report

Carla has the Ok from Donna Stewart to use the memorial fund money for George to purchase some choir chimes. We can also use the memorial money from Stu which gives us around \$1150. Choir chimes cost \$1495 plus shipping. Carla would like to get the Ok from the council to use other memorial money. She has five people interested and thinks that once we perform more people will want to try it. Also, Jody Calhoun and her spouse are interested in rejoining Bethlehem. Jody plays the organ as well as piano and is willing to help with the praise team and her spouse is interested or would be willing to help with the technology stuff. Carla suspended the praise team until covid settles down.

Property Committee Report

Utility reports were completed and forwarded. A rate increase went into effect on January 1st, so the next bill will reflect the first full month of the new rates. The Christmas tree was removed and disposed of.

From Del:

Removed ballast and installed LED Tube lights in one fixture in the men's bathroom. (Will replace fluorescent tubes with LED when ballasts burn out as a general rule from now on.)

Switched the hot water heater for the next 6 months.

Ballast failure on two can fluorescent u-tube lights in the East hallway, will be replaced with LED down lights.

Have started to plan for replacement of lights in the stained glass window boxes in the Narthex and Sanctuary. (After 13 years several old style LED tubes are burned out)

Will build a jig for the manlift to enable us to lower a box, remove the back and change the existing lighting with tape LED lighting.

Local & Global Committee Report

There will be a food drive in February for “The Market” at Portage High School.

Ann will be calling a group in Madison that is looking for home furnishings for immigrant families.

Stewardship/Evangelism

Setting up the committee and picking a meeting date and time.

Covid Task Force

We will be meeting on Jan. 25th to discuss current Covid case numbers and Lenten activities such as soup suppers.

A motion by Don Bender, second by Pastor Jamie to approve the committee reports as presented. Motion Carried.

Old Business

None

New Business

- ELCA Report – questions are attached
- Cannot locate Meeting Minutes from Annual Meeting 2021
- Approval of Agenda for Annual Meeting

A motion by Halley Harms, second by Don Bender to approve the Agenda for the 2021 Annual Meeting with the amendment of changing Halley Harms speaking to Ann Ciske. Motion Carried.

- Approval of 2021 Annual Report

A motion by Geoff Gilbert, second by Kerry Melby to approve the 2021 Annual Report as presented. Motion Carried.

- Open seats for council & Nominations for 2022- We currently have 3 nominations.
- Choir Chimes & Memorial Money – see Worship & Music Committee Report

A motion by Don Bender, second by Jack Paulson to purchase the chimes for music with the use of memorial money. Motion Carried.

- Security camera for office door – Pr. Jaime

There is a need for a camera to alert Pastor Jamie or office staff that someone has come through the office door near the offices. This would allow Pastor Jamie or office staff to be notified if someone enters the door while they are in other areas of the church. We discussed the use of a device to record and alert church staff.

- Review 2021 Council Goals

All goals that were created have been successfully obtained.

- Donation by Member

A motion by Don Bender second by Jack Paulson to adjourn the meeting at 7:27. Motion Carried.

Lord's Prayer

