

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
March 17,2022
Meeting held in hybrid format due to COVID-19

Called to order by Kerry Melby at 6:43pm .

Attendance:

Halley Harms-In Person
Kory Anderson- In Person
Geoff Gilbert-In Person
Kerry Melby- In Person
Jaimie Rudolph-Absent with notification
Tina Thomas- Absent with notification
Lisa Cook- Absent without notification
Pastor Jamie- In Person

Prayer by Pastor Jaime

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Kory Anderson, second by Geoff Gilbert to approve the proposed agenda as presented with the change of the date from February to March. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES Motion by Kory Anderson second by Pastor Jaime to approve the February meeting minutes. Motion Carried.

Pastor's Report

The Lenten season is off to a vibrant start! We had over 130 people attend on Ash Wednesday with most of them staying for soup after worship. Attendance continues to be steady on both Sundays and Wednesdays. Thank you to all the groups that are hosting dinner each week and those cleaning up! Stations of the Cross have been set up and will be available for anyone to walk through during Lent until Palm Sunday. The stations are designed to be self-guided, and they begin in the last Sunday school room, moving to the narthex, and the final station is located in the nursery. A big thank you to Margaret Molden, Carla Gerhardt, and Julie Saalsaa for helping with the planning and set up of these stations. I hope everyone can take the chance to walk through the stations during Lent. And if you do, you are invited to bring a family photo with you as part of the activity (photos will be returned after Palm Sunday). I look forward to continuing to see what this Lent season reveals to us.

I was able to make some visits this month! I made one hospital visit plus two home visits in addition to multiple pastoral phone calls with various members. I also met with someone who is seeking out a new church home and wanted to hear more about who we are at Bethlehem. It has been nice to connect with people again face-to-face and I look forward to making more visits this coming month.

The Synod LEAD Conference was on February 27th which Kerry, Geoff, and I all attended. I found it to be a good day to connect with other synod colleagues and to learn about some new things that I think we can use here at Bethlehem, including on council, stewardship, and with some of our youth. I continue to attend my weekly text study on Zoom with other ministry colleagues as well as our monthly Synod Conference meetings. Additionally, I was able to attend my first Synod Rostered Women's Gathering on February 24th which meets quarterly. Meeting with colleagues continues to be a gift of support and learning for me.

I continue to meet with Janice and Julie for our biweekly staff meetings which helps us work collaboratively as an office staff team. I attended our Finance Committee meeting, Covid Task Force meeting, and Women's Group meeting this month. The Women's Group is preparing for their Women's Tea at the end of April which is exciting! We also had our All Committee Meeting on February 28th which I found to be an energizing meeting! There are some exciting things happening here and I am eager to see where they lead and how the Spirit continues to guide and lead us!

With the peace and hope of Christ,
Pastor Jaime Benson

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Met March 1st

- February off to good start. General offerings are up over previous years. Total revenue was \$20762. Expenses were \$20714 up a little but in line with expectations. Overall the year is doing well as we did last year, and 2021 was a good year for the church.
- 2021 Financial Audit was held on February 24, 2022. Members of the audit committee were Judy Traut, Jaimie Rudolph, and Angela Pace. The audit produced no new recommendations and felt the finances were well organized and in good shape.
- Peak System Update: Still waiting to hear about parts for the live stream. Money was donated to cover the cost of this update. Church only paid for service call.

Christian Education Committee Report

Confirmation: See Pastor Jamie's Report, no confirmation during lent

Sunday School: First Communion will be on Palm Sunday. There will 3-4 5th graders present. There are 3 Sunday School children practicing bells with Carla.

Youth Group: There is a high school lock-in this Saturday.

Megan would like to do a 30 hour famine with the youth on a weekend of a youth led service.

Worship & Music Committee Report

The hand chimes group has been practicing and hope to debut on psalm Sunday. There are plans to start up the praise team soon. We welcome Jody Calhoun as a fellow musician. The high school youth will be leading one service per month for the next 3 months.

Holy Week schedule will be as follows:

- Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm
- Good Friday 6:30 pm
- Easter Sunday 9 am

Property Committee Report

Saturday March 5, the Fire Alarm System and the phone system at church took a hit from lightning. The Simplex Fire Alarm system went into fault meaning a direct short to ground in the system. I called Best Defense our monitoring contractor and they said they do not work on Simplex Panels, so I called Simplex (Johnson Controls) for a tech to check our system panel out. I met with him on Monday March 7th and we ohmed out all devices at the panel and did not find any shorts to ground on any device. We isolated the main board and found the fault within the main electronic board. The estimated cost of a replacement board as per the tech is \$3500.00. This specific board in a short time frame will not be available or we may not be able to get it at all during this time of material shortages in the US.

I have asked Johnson Controls to send a quote for the new board if they can get it in a reasonable time frame. I also requested that they send a quote for a new Simplex Panel since the panel is about the same cost as a replacement board. Our system is operational for fire and smoke detection and notification but with the positive ground fault if we should take another lightning strike would blow the panel completely out as per the Johnson Controls tech.

I asked Julie S. to contact our insurance company to inform them of the claim forthcoming to give them heads-up.

The phone system was not useable on Monday so Frontier was called. I met the tech at church to check out the system. He checked the incoming lines that they are responsible for and found they were okay. He stated they no longer worked on internal phone wiring but I talked him into hard wiring across a lightning bridge and it fixed the problem. I will secure another bridge and replace the shorted out one.

I installed the Ring Monitoring system for the administration personnel. The Ring System is located by the Admin door to the church. It seems to be working okay for the them.

We have one HVAC Rooftop unit that is not operational for the West end of the Sanctuary. I have the part on order but will not receive it until April 19th.

Delmont M. Molden

Stewardship/Evangelism

The congregation was invited to attend a Kick-Off meeting of the newly formed / starting again Stewardship Committee on March 2, 2022.

In attendance: Pastor Jaime Benson, Ruth Price, Tania Anderson, Ann Ciske, Lisa Cook

Conversation centered around what stewardship means and the themes / areas of life it can be applied

to beyond personal and congregational finances, how to engage the congregation in thinking about stewardship all year long, and how to create a sustainable plan for making stewardship part of our church's identity.

Ideas were shared to start exploring stewardship with the congregation at the end of March, then kicking off monthly themes of stewardship. A calendar of ideas will be finalized but we plan to start in April with Stewardship of the Earth & Natural Resources.

We'll look to utilize the screen and projector to share ideas, as well as including communications in other formats like the weekly newsletters, Chimes, and bulletin board.

We will meet again on March 23rd after worship and soup supper, at 6:30 pm. Everyone is invited and we'd ask you to spread the word and encourage others to join us.

Covid Task Force

Met on March 8th. Here is what we discussed:

1. Masks will be optional for everyone. Not required for elementary or middle school children. We can put a sign on the front doors stating masks are optional
2. We will bring passing of the offering bowl back this week. We will announce for two weeks that we will be bringing back "normal" communion as an option. This will be dependent on volunteers to sign up for altar guild and communion assistants.
3. Peace will stay as is, but if someone wants to move around to greet people that will also be ok.
4. When serving food, masks are not required, but gloves should be worn when handling food. This should be a guideline for always, not just because of Covid.

Local and Global

There were several boxes of food delivered to the The Market at the high school last week.

Open Doors for Refugees is continuing to collect items for refugees that arrive in the Madison Area.

Carol Oh, and the NHS are collecting items for The Ensuring Success Project for refugees arriving in the Milwaukee area until March 20th.

Our Food Pantry Helpers are continuing their work each month as are the Quilters.

Looking ahead – April 24th is the date set for the Highway Clean up and April 30th is the date picked for the Women’s Tea.

Personnel Committee

The personnel committee met on March 16th to talk about next steps in the Parish Associate hiring process. We have only received one application for the position so the job opening will be posted externally with an application deadline of April 1st. The committee is working on cultivating interview questions at this time and will review the applications on April 5th.

A motion by Geoff Gilbert, second by Halley Harms to approve the committee reports as presented. Motion Carried.

Old Business

- Reminder New Council Member Information (send to Julie if haven’t done so)
 - Photo for Council Bulletin Board
 - Preferred phone number
 - Preferred email address
- Clothes “closet” update

New Business

- Meeting Expectations
 - Vote on Synod Assembly Representatives
- Motion by Kory Anderson, second by Ruth Price to approve Geoff Gilbert attending the Synod Assembly. Motion Carried.**

- Nativity Lutheran Church Youth Overnight June 11th
- Motion by Halley Harms, second by Kory Anderson to approve the Nativity Lutheran Church to stay here the night of June 11th. Motion Carried.**
- Council Retreat/Goals (see old ones)- Pastor Jaimie will look at a date and location.
 - Wind Block- Kory will contact Del with the recommended plans design from council.
 - Cards to Sign
 - Soup Supper Sign Up- Halley will email council and staff

A motion by Geoff Gilbert second by Kory Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 7:48. Motion Carried.

Lord’s Prayer

