

Bethany Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2019

Present: Patty Fess, Ron Fischer, Mike McCoy, Jane Nelson, Randy Nelson, Barb Olson and Jim Schwengel

Excused: Joann Kilgus

Visitor: Ryan Sherman

The meeting began at 9:00 a.m. with a presentation from Ryan Sherman on how to reach more people and get the most value from our Live stream followed by questions from the council.

Secretary Report

Mike McCoy motioned and Jim Schwengel seconded to approve the Bethany Council Meeting Minutes dated July 10, 2019. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report

Mike went over the Profit and Loss sheet through September 10, 2019. Our income so far this year is \$38,408 compared to \$43,986 for this time in 2018. The 2018 income included a \$5,550 contribution to the Endowment Fund, once that amount is removed our income is almost the same as last year. The expenses to date are \$15,000 compared to \$16,000 at this time last year.

Jim moved to accept the Treasurer Report. Ron Fischer seconded and the motion carried.

Property Report

Randy Nelson reported on the painting and repair of the steeple. It was discovered that the steeple and the small amount of roofing at the base of the steeple needed repair. The steeple was sanded down to bare wood and about 30 cans of caulk were used to fill every empty crevice between the many boards that make up the steeple. Two coats of marine paint were applied. Carlos roofing was called to replace the shingles and was able to do the work while the rented lift was in place. We will request designated offerings for this project from the congregation.

New Business

Live Stream

After Ryan's presentation it was decided to stay with the current system and the current providers we are using to broadcast the Sunday service. Even though we have an annual fee of \$499 per year, our system is not too complicated, it is fairly easy to operate and we have an excellent microphone. Ryan will work with Patty Fess in getting Bethany set up with Instagram and possibly Facebook postings for the 2020 season. Ryan will put a membership application in the form of a PDF on the Membership page to be downloaded by prospective members. For donations, Ryan will add a link on the Live Stream Page that takes you to the page for donations. Ryan will also clarify on the Live Stream page that you can watch the Live Stream after it has broadcast.

We will continue to poll the visiting pastors on whether or not they would be willing to virtually bless the communion elements for those partaking online.

Thank You Notes

We received a note from Rev. Mick Roschke thanking Bethany for the stay in the parsonage and a note from Thure Ross thanking us for the baptism of his daughter Madelyn.

Memorial for Rev. Joel Schlachtenhaufen

It was decided for Bethany to donate \$1000 to the Joel T. Mission Fund in memory of Pr. Joel who died while he was still in active ministry serving the Bethany congregation. This would have been his 20th year as a visiting pastor.

Foundation

There was a meeting for the Bethany Heritage Endowment Fund that included representation from the Ephraim Historical Foundation and Bethany Lutheran Church. The signed document for the Endowment Fund could not be found. Jane Nelson was able to locate and present the missing document to the EHF. At the meeting it was decided that Bethany's obligation to the Endowment Fund has been fulfilled for the present time. We have raised \$250,000 and that combined with the potential proceeds from the sale of the parsonage estimated at \$250,000 would equal the \$500,000 to meet the obligation to the Ephraim Historical Foundation if Bethany ceased to be an active congregation.

Cleaning

We have been happy with the cleaning of the parsonage this season. We will ask Erin Ericson to clean the church on a more regular basis.

Ash Tree Removal

Randy gave the golf course permission to remove the brush along the fence line between the cemetery and the eighth green. This was done at the cost of the golf course to allow for more air movement on the green. In addition the golf course will pay to remove some of the dying ash trees on the cemetery property. Randy said an abundance of brush remains along the roadside that Bethany should pay to remove.

Defibrillator

Randy looked into the purchase of a defibrillator to keep in the church. We plan to purchase one for \$1,500 and we will ask the congregation to support the purchase with designated offerings.

Changes to Bulletin

Ron will implement some changes to the bulletin for the 2020 season. Before the Gospel reading we will put the words, "Glory to you, O Lord" and after the reading we will add the words, "Praise to you, O Christ". We will omit the page numbers for the Communion portion and label that part of the bulletin "Words of Institution and Communion". The pastor takes the lead in this part of the service with no congregational participation until the Lord's Prayer.

Jim presented a hymnal from his church with a clear pocket on the inside back cover. The pocket contained an insert of the Apostle's Creed for convenience. Jim will look into having inserts printed with the Apostle's Creed and the Lord's Prayer to be slipped into the back pocket of our hymnals for easy reference.

Car Crash Damage to Stone Wall

There is evidence of a car hitting the curved stone wall causing significant damage. The wall was in need of repair before it was hit and Travis Price has been contacted

to repair the wall. Designated offerings for this wall rebuild will be requested from the congregation.

Auxiliary Building

Jane is researching an auxiliary building to accompany Bethany Lutheran Church. It will be modeled after the one built for the Church of the Atonement in Fish Creek. It would have two bathrooms, a small kitchen area and a place for storage.

Gluten Free Communion Wafers

We have had some requests for gluten free communion wafers. Jane has supplied some for Bethany and a couple of the gluten free wafers can be placed on the plate each week. Patty will inform the ushers.

Organ Lamp

Lori Free, our organist has requested a lamp for the organ. Jane has found one for \$375 and we agreed to purchase the lamp for the organ.

Cemetery

Jane has taken on the responsibility for the cemetery. There is more than one map of the blocks, plots and burial sites that exist in the cemetery. These maps were created over a period of over 100 years and are not in complete agreement. In order to update our current map and mark out the actual blocks of gravesites we have decided to have the cemetery professionally surveyed and the blocks designated with markers. This will help people to select their plot or site when visiting the cemetery. We also plan to place gravel on the road and spread wood chips on the pathways between the blocks of plots.

Constitutional Changes

We plan to update the definition of membership, dropping the associate member designation. We will be clarifying the price of a plot or site for a member versus a nonmember. Currently the money from the purchase of a cemetery plot or site goes to the Endowment Fund and that will continue. The money for perpetual care will come from the Endowment Fund if Bethany ceases to be an active church.

Ephraim Business Council Fall Pot Luck

Bethany is a member of the Ephraim Business council. Jim plans to attend the potluck representing Bethany.

Adjournment

As there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Fess, council secretary

Date: On October 23rd we will close the church and the parsonage with a council meeting to follow at the parsonage.