

**Bethany Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2020**

Present: Patty Fess, Jane Nelson, Randy Nelson, Barb Olson and Jim Schwengel, in person. Ron Fischer, Joann Kilgus and Mike McCoy via Zoom.
President Jane Nelson opened the meeting at 1:30 p.m. with prayer.

Secretary's Report

Jim Schwengel motioned and Barb Olson seconded to approve the Bethany Council Minutes dated May 11, 2020. Motion carried.

Patty Fess presented Nancy Jordan's handmade cards, one card is for all occasions and the other is a Christmas card. We will send out the all-occasion card now with a letter informing the congregation of Bethany's plans to close for the 2020 season due to the pandemic.

Treasurer's Report

We received \$1000 in contributions to the Endowment Fund through memorials for Rev. Don Just. Offerings received are \$4,700. Our expenses are exceeding the money we are taking in and we have a net loss for the year of \$9, 612.71.

Jim asked about the line item for Outside Contract services for \$2,399. Mike explained that was the money we pay to Ryan Sherman for his care of the website and work with the Live stream services.

Randy Nelson asked about bills from Taylor's Hardwood and for the steeple painting. Both bills are outstanding.

Jane asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Patty moved and Jim seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business

Property Update

Patty planted the urns in front of the church and Barb planted the window boxes. Randy said the expanded narthex is almost complete. They are finishing up baseboards and lighting fixtures. A piece of siding was removed off the back of the church to reveal 138 year-old wooden siding that looked very good. The first estimate to remove the asbestos siding came in at \$16,000. Randy will get another bid. The cemetery ground is marked out in red paint to show where the gravel road would be. The dead trees have not yet been removed and that work could be delayed for another year. Randy thought it might be better to have gravel put down for the driveway. The cost would be similar to removing the dead trees. Barb motioned to spend up to \$2000 for the gravel to be brought in and spread. Jim seconded and the motion carried.

Opening the Church for 2020

Jane reviewed our current response to the Covid 19 situation. We are closed to in-person services for the season of 2020 and are considering opening for live stream services on July 12th and bringing clergy into the parsonage for those services.

Joann Kilgus worships with other churches via live stream and does not think the Bethany live stream would get enough viewership to make it worthwhile.

Ron Fischer thought people have a lot of live stream availability and wondered if we have considered having services outdoors. He is not sure it is worthwhile to stream the Bethany services.

Barb is concerned about how much following we would lose if we did not go ahead with the live stream services. The council felt that would remain an unknown.

Jim mirrored Joann's comments and thought the live stream would not be worth the work required.

Patty is concerned about the reliability of our live stream equipment. She also suggested we open the church one time for silent prayer, reflection and visitation.

After this discussion, Randy moved to not have live stream services at Bethany for 2020 and Jim seconded. Motion carried. This action would close Bethany for in-person and virtual services for the 2020 season.

Barb wondered if we would want to invite clergy to spend time in the parsonage for a donation. Joann thought we should close Bethany completely and reopen in 2021.

Ron asked about requesting more devotions from the visiting pastors for the website and for the member email. Mike will ask the pastors for devotions.

Annual Meeting

The council decided to hold over the Annual Meeting until next year.

Historical Society Meeting

Randy said the Historical Society has asked to have their Annual Meeting at Bethany if the Village Hall was still not open at the time of their meeting. There are typically 20-40 people in attendance at the meeting. Joann asked if Bethany would be protected if anyone contracted Covid at the meeting. Randy will have a form drawn up that holds Bethany harmless.

Publicity

Mike will drop the ads we have running for Bethany.

Next Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 6th at 1:30 p.m.

WiFi Capability

Mike suggested we have Ryan Sherman look into what equipment we would need at the church to have WiFi in the sanctuary. Jane will contact Ryan.

Adjournment

The council ended the meeting with the Lord's Prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Fess, council secretary

