

Bethesda Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Date: February 11, 2016

Present: Duane Soukkala, Pastor Cheryl, JoAnn Gustafson, Sue Frank, Theresa Vermeersch, Jen Kuras

Absent: Jon Kolb, Sue Coady

Visitors: Linda Newlon, Debby Johnson, Wench Mitchell, Gladys Sievert

Meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM by Sue Frank

Devotions & opening prayer by Jen Kuras

Approval of Agenda: Approved by Theresa MSC Jen with the following changes:

Removal of Stewardship and Social Ministry, added Discussion of Fund Raising –
Sue Frank

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CYFM – We discussed having 1st communion earlier. In The ELCA there is no time frame. The sacraments are acts of God not us. If parents want children to commune they can do at infancy. When you decide, there is education based on age group. Are there families that feel their children are ready to commune? Youth along with Pastor Cheryl would offer classes for 2nd – 5th to get ready for 1st communion. If a family would like their child to commune, they can speak with Pastor Cheryl. Jen Kuras and Theresa are in support of children being able to commune at an earlier age. Duane is in support but wants there to be education classes. Pastor Cheryl is in favor of this along with JoAnn and Sue Frank. The ELCA pastors will commune if they have their hands out or parents will tell them.

There are 3 different bibles given to the children. (1) Is a picture bible “The Beginners Bible” given at baptism. (1) is given in the 3rd grade and is written for that age group level and use. They have been using these bibles for years. (1) is the bible given to the kids at confirmation.

CYFM will discuss at their next meeting what bibles we give and when.

A motion was made to move 1st communion by Theresa MSC Duane.

Property – ceiling tiles in the women’s washroom are done. The toilets cannot be fixed. Duane is looking into regular hand flushers so the leaks will go away.

Duane has been talking with the women regarding an addition to the kitchen. Maybe this project can be done down the line. Any major improvements are subject to a new pastor. Duane will go to the women’s meeting and see what they would like done. Any work to be done would be subject to a congregational vote. Lots to do.

There will be a \$300.00 charge to use South Terrace for preparation for the meatball supper.

Worship – good feedback on Council having budget information meeting prior to annual meeting.

Worship committee recommends we do this again next year. January attendance figures, 81, 97,76,88,92 for an average of 87. Down perhaps 20 from last year when we had two services.

Easter cross placed in front of sanctuary dressed for lent. Purple banners placed for Lent, Ash Wednesday service, 37 at supper and 62 at worship.

Lent/Easter Schedule:

Palm Sunday – Linda will get readers and arrange for SS children to process with palms

March 13th – camp Sunday will be led by VLM. Worship committee hymn selectors need pick only the gathering song and communion hymns.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Tennebrae – will do liturgies as in 2015.

Easter Sunday we will use GHB Easter service, and ask Bobbie to photocopy that liturgy in bulletins.

Confirmation Sunday – April 3, Sunday after Easter is usually “Holy Humor” Sunday. Researched past practices and discovered that for the past couple years, Holy Humor was celebrated on a Sunday in August.

Pastor Cheryl reported she had to reschedule the visitation team meeting due to time conflict of 3 members. The team met about worship services at the nursing homes/assisted living centers.

Further discussion on projecting music, specifically about where to project, and rearranging items in chancel are that block the walls that would be used for projected.

Also discussed better flow of holy communion and music if organist communed with services at the beginning of the communion service. Joel will discuss with Liz.

Further discussion on a urn pall. Joel reported that urn palls cost between \$120 and \$200.00. Lynn suggested that she and Jeanette could make one, or perhaps discuss with the quilters. Linda will see what condition the casket pall is in.

Further discussion on the Alter Guild JD. Lynn will type up the JD, as well as a “Duties” sheet for review at the next meeting. Worship Committee’s updated JD is not presented to Council for approval.

Worship will meet again on Thursday, March 17th at 11:00 AM.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Correspondence – read a note from Linda Newlon and then posted on the board. Carlton Community Education give \$75.00 sponsorship. This was tabled by Theresa second by Jen. Item has been tabled until the next meeting.

Approval of January 7th meeting minutes – meeting minutes approved with the date change from the 9th to the 7th. A motion was also made to accept the resignations of Kim Ableiter, Sheri Herman and Brian Lokken. A motion was made by Duane to accept the resignations along with the date change MSC Pastor Cheryl. A motion was made by Jen to accept all the resignations listed above, seconded by JoAnn – motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT

None

PASTOR’S REPORT

January 10th baptized Everly Jahr and January 23rd officiated at Ed Busko’s funeral. Met with Executive Committee, the CYFM team, and Worship committee. Completed 6 Wednesday evening confirmation classes with five tenth grade students. A sixth joined us on the last evening session and plans to complete the Lenten mentoring program in order to join his peers to be confirmed on April 3 for a total

of six students anticipating confirmation. Pastor will present confirmand names for Council's approval at the March council meeting.

Contract Tasks – Constitution – Sue Frank, Jon Kolb and Pastor Cheryl have been meeting and working on revisions to Bethesda's constitution to update it with the ELCA's model constitution of 2013. We are currently on chapter 11.

Visitation Team had to reschedule the meeting due to three individuals unable to meet when originally scheduled. Now meeting on Feb. 23rd at 6:00 PM.

Interim Period – We are in Phase 2 – Transition Tasks. On Sunday, February 7th, I commissioned the Transition Task Force consisting of Larry Beckstrom, Ginny Korte-Castel, Myrna Postal, Paula Olsen and Colleen Berne. Our orientation and training meeting is scheduled for Feb. 17th at 7:30 right after midweek worship. They are also going to add Marv Durkee to the committee. Approval of these Transition Team members by Jen MSC Theresa.

NEW BUSINESS

Reorganize Council and Liaisons.

Theresa nominates Sue Frank as re-elect to Council President. Sue accepts the nomination. Nominations to cease by Theresa second by Jen. Motion carried

Sue nominates Duane as re-elect as Vice President. Duane accepts this nomination. Nominations to cease by Theresa second by Jen. Motion carried

Sue nominates JoAnn as re-elect as Secretary. JoAnn accepts this nomination. Nominations to cease by Duane second by Cheryl. Motion carried.

Liaisons:

Sue Frank – West – Evangelism

JoAnn Gustafson – CYFM

Theresa Vermeersch – Social Ministry

Duane Soukkala – Property, Worship

Jen Kuras – Stewardship

Sue Frank – Memorial/Endowment

Duane talked about the old vacuum cleaner that finally blew up. Alice needs a new vacuum. Where does the money come from? What is our budget for janitorial supplies? Budget is for expense. Do we need to have a congregational meeting to purchase? Sue Frank will gather information and talk with Alice. Motion by Theresa to approve a vacuum for Alice up to \$500.00, MSC Jen.

Fund raising – can the women do a raffle more than once per month? There needs to be approval by the Stewardship committee. Is there a list for fund raisers? If so, where is this list located? Can we do a tip jar for the youth? We need to do a schedule for approval of fund raisers once per year. There is a separate policy for mission driven request for monies going out. We need to update our fund raising policy, need to do more research.

Pastor Cheryl, Sue and Jon will work on a raffle policy after they finish the constitution. The council can write by laws as they are an expansion on provisions in the constitution and require one congregational meeting vote.

NEXT MEETING: March 10, 2016 at 5:00 – Executive meeting will be on Thursday, March 3rd at 7:30 PM

NEXT DEVOTION, PRAYER AND TREATS: Sue Frank

ADJOURNMENT: Theresa MSC Duane followed by the Lord's Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 PM

Respectively submitted,

JoAnn Gustafson
Secretary