

BETHLEHEM CHURCH COUNCIL

August 8, 2017 – 5:30

Kim Langbehn, Keith Olson, Donavon Rasmusson, Jill Fazio, Darcy Koekeritz, Glen Noyes, Tom Rasmusson, Judy Bradow, Don Fick, Adrienne Miller, Mark Petersen

Also attending: Amy Fronning, Pastor Tom, Pastor Jake

Guest Presenters: Rud Wasson, David Nycklemoe

Call to Order: Darcy Koekeritz

Devotions: led by Pastor Tom (

Open Forum Time: n/a

Secretary's Report: Glen made motion to approve. Keith 2nd and motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: The letter sent out to the congregation concerning bringing pledges up to date apparently helped. The pledge deficit has been cut by about \$5,800.

Comments from Pastors: Pastor Tom: Going on mission trip to Chicago with the senior high youth a great experience. Our kids got immediately involved with the Chicago youth program. Our kids and the Chicago kids both benefited. Commendations to Jenny for coordinating this trip. Pastor Jake: New structure with the Luther Crest counselors leading worked very well. Great opportunity for some of our kids to reconnect with counselors they met at Luther Crest during previous camp stays and for others to make friends with counselors before going to camp. Mike Grant and Krystal Queen will be guest speakers at both services 8/13/17. Holy Hootenanners coming for both 9/24/17 services. Pastors in FF conference of ELCA NW MN Synod working to prepare a conference constitutional resolution in support of rural ministry education, the internship program, and newly ordained pastors serving our synod. Hope is for financial support for internship sites and new pastor student loans.

Comments from council chair: Council members not assigned to a committee or church service group are asked to sign up to fill open slots available in these groups.

Ministry Team/Committee Reports:

Discipleship Team (Jenny Johnson): Meets the first Sunday of every month at 11:30 a.m. Offer activities for all ages. Brought in Luther Crest counselors for VBS. Working on how to get a dedicated hour for Sunday School and Adult Forum on Sunday mornings. National youth gathering slated for June 2018 in Houston, Texas. Working with coach Tom from Vibrant Faith to create inter-generational events within BLC. Next youth trip for Jenny—Arrowwood.

Items for Business:

- **Personnel Committee: Pulpit Supply Policy Recommendation for BLC:** BLC will allow its pastors to provide their professional services for churches in the area that are without a pastor for a single Sunday or event. The Executive Committee along with BLC pastors will determine if the request can be accommodated as long as no BLC services and programs are negatively impacted. Any remuneration received will be recorded as revenue on the BLC books. The loaned pastor will receive his regular salary only. BLC will make every effort to give serious consideration to all requests received. Kim made a motion to accept the recommendation as presented. Donavon 2nd and motion approved unanimously.
- **Mission Team: Presentation and request for approval for starting the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Project Friendship program. (Rud Wasson, David Nycklemoe, Pr. Jake):** The Project Friendship Overview as published in the BLC Tidings was provided to the council. Definition of Project Friendship: A ministry of support and care for single parent families in Fergus Falls. In the Report to Council, the Mission Team is requesting:

The ability to fund raise and have BLC create a restricted 800 account for those funds.

Allow Pr. Jake to be the primary supervisor of the project and act as its director until the project grows. At the beginning this may require 1-2 hours of his time. He will offer consultation and support, and be the central communications point between the Mission Team, BLC staff, and the future co-director (manager) of the project when it grows.

Future goals include writing a “job description” for our Mentor families, developing an application process for mentors including background checks, develop training and on-going support procedures for mentors, developing participant family application processes and orientation.

Discussion: All feel this is a great ministry for BLC to be involved in. A concern was raised over liability to BLC and the mentor and participant families should some negative event occur. Jill Fazio pointed out that the background check we would use only looks at the Mn Dept of Corrections data base and is not aware of information in the MN Human Services data base. It’s possible that a red flag would not be raised when it should be. Jill will be a resource for the Mission Team in developing its background check process and looking at liability insurance that may be needed. Keith made a motion to approve the BLC Project Friendship request with the caveat that the liability issue be resolved to protect BLC and both mentor and participant families. Donavon 2nd and motion passed unanimously.

Announcements:

- * Summer Mid-week worship services, Wed. at 5:30pm. Last one Aug.30.
- Project Friendship guest speakers Sunday Aug 13, Mile Grant and Krystal Queen. Breakfast and Meet and Greet at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall.
- Special Music by the Heart O Lakes Harmony group Sunday Aug.13 at 10:15am worship.
- Special music by Men of Note Sunday Aug. 20 at both services.
- Sunday Sept 6, one worship service at 8:30am, no 10:15am service this Sunday (Labor Day Wk)
- RALLY SUNDAY, September 10
- Sunday, Sept 17, Youth Summer Trips and Camp Re-Cap
- Sunday, Sept 24, The Holy Hootenanners will be leading worship at both services.

The next council meeting will be Tuesday, Sept 12 at 5:30

Adjournment

Prayers for our congregation as our ministry unfolds in 2017

Lord’s Prayer