

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes**  
**February 9, 2016 5:30 pm**

**Members:** Kim Langbehn, Keith Olson, Donavan Rasmusson, Brad Russell, Stefanie Gerhardson, Tom Rasmusson, Val Johnson, David Nycklemoe, Jeanne Schetnan, Marc Sikkink, Darcy Koeckeritz, Glen Noyes, ~~Laura Skogen, Sally Nelson, Judy Bradow.~~

*Call to order:* Steph called the meeting to order.

*Devotions:* Pastor Tom led devotions.

*Secretary's report* from January was approved. Motion by Jeanne, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kim. All approved, motion carried.

*Treasurer's Report* was discussed and put on file for examination.

### **Pastor's Comments**

#### *Pastor Jake*

- Continued working on creating materials for the Shared Ministry Initiative team.
- Continuing to work with the Discipleship Initiative team formulating best practices, reviewing goals, and looking at ways to integrate age groups for a more unified community.
- Been busy planning for the season of Lent. Excited with the programming themes that were developed, for Sunday's *Journeying through the Wilderness* and Wednesdays *Bread for the Journey*. And on Wednesday's we will be participating in a round-robin preaching series with four other area ELCA church's, Augustana FF, First Lutheran, New Life in Rothsay and Zion. Looking forward to that.

#### *Pastor Tom*

- Really enjoying home visits and visits to the care facilities.
- Annual meeting provided an opportunity to talk briefly about the past year and direction we see taking shape into the new year.
- Ash Wednesday and Lenten season start tomorrow and I look forward to the round-robin format for the mid-week worship services.

### **Items for Business:**

1. There was discussion on how the council can offer more opportunities for congregation members to share with the council their opinions and concerns. **A motion made by Brad with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Keith to dedicate the first 15 minutes of the monthly Church Council meetings as a time for congregation members to be able to address the council, all approved motion carried.**
2. Welcomed our new church council members and did introductions. New council members are: Val Johnson, Darcy Koeckeritz, Glen Noyes, Tom Rasmusson and serving another term, Stefanie Gerhardson.

3. Thank you to our out-going church council members: Alex Schwarzhoff, Jill Debrito, and Laura Pearson.
4. Election of Officers:  
**A motion from Keith 2<sup>nd</sup> from David to elect the following slate of officers for 2016, all approved motion carried.**  
**President/Chair: Marc Sikkink**  
**Vice President/Vice Chair: Kim Langbehn**  
**Secretary: Sally Nelson**  
**Treasurer: Keith Olson**

**We will have church council member installation on Sunday Feb. 28** at both worship services. Please plan to attend both services if possible. We will do installation at the end of the 8:30am service and the beginning of the 10:15am service.

5. We will have the Council Workshop/Retreat meeting Tuesday, April 12 from 5:30-9:00pm. Supper will be served, by Brad Russell and Kim Langbehn.
6. Reviewed the Strategic Planning team goals that were presented, 5 from the Mission Team and 2 from the Hospitality Team. Goals are on file in the church office.
7. The capital improvements project committee is continuing to meet and plan.
8. Update on the Call Committee process
  - a. Continuing to work on getting a call committee in place, we have several people committed; have a few more spots to fill. Hope to be ready to finalize the committee soon.
9. Reminder our severe weather policy is as follows: If there is a no travel advisory in the city of Fergus Falls there will be no Sunday School and the bus will not go out. This does not mean that church services will be cancelled.
10. Bethlehem will be hosting the Otter Tail Conference meeting for the Northwest MN Synod on Sunday Feb. 28 from 3-5pm.
11. The Northwest MN Synod Assembly will be May 20-21 at Concordia College in Moorhead.

#### **Correspondences:**

1. The church council received two letters/emails from members who have some questions and concerns they would like the council to address. The council will set up a time to meet and discuss these questions and concerns sometime in April.

#### **Announcements**

1. Ash Wednesday Worship services will be tomorrow, Feb. 10 at 12:10pm and 6:30pm. A Baked Potato bar will be served at lunch and supper.
2. Mid-week Lent services will continue Feb. 17, 24, Mar. 2, 9, & 16, worship at 12:10pm & 6:30pm. Soup lunch to follow noon worship and soup supper starts at 5:30pm. Round-robin preaching series with 4 other area ELCA churches, Augustana FF, First Lutheran, New Life Rothsay, and Zion. The theme is *Bread for the Journey*.
3. Next Meeting March 8, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. location at the Church

#### **Motion to Adjourn**

**\*\*\*\*Committee chairs please remember to send your committee minutes to Amy by the last day of each month.**