

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes **January 12, 2015 5:30 pm**

Members: Alex Schwarzhoff, Laura Pearson, Stefanie Gerhardson, Jill DeBrito, Judy Bradow, Sally Nelson, David Nycklemoe, Jeanne Schetnan, Marc Sikkink, Laura Skogen, Kim Langbehn, ~~Keith Olson, Donovan Rasmusson, Brad Russell~~

Call to order: Steph called the meeting to order.

Devotions: Pastor Tom led devotions.

Secretary's report from December was approved. Motion by Jeanne, 2nd by Sally. All approved, motion carried.

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

Pastor's Comments

Pastor Jake

- Very happy with the Discipleship Team and the smart plans
- Breakfast at Bethlehem on the 9th was excellent!
- Commends everyone on the team – excellent follow-through
- Carols and Beer at Union Pizza had a great turnout – over 150 people
- The Christmas Program was great! Thanks to Laura and Jenny for all their hard work!
- The Tree of Hope was a great success
 - Someplace Safe – 20 t-shirts, 20 pkgs of underwear, 20 pkgs of socks, 20 sweatshirts, 8 boxes of diapers, 10 personal hygiene packs, 20 containers of baby wipes
 - Salvation Army – 30 children's gifts
 - Augustana Apartments - \$500 in gift cards to residents
 - Family gifts – 8 families “adopted”, 55 individuals
 - Thanks to the office staff for all their help!
- The GYFTS event on Sunday at the YMCA was also a success!

Pastor Tom

- Really enjoying home visits and visits to the care facilities
- Working on the budget
- The feasibility of Capital Improvement Project is being considered. We need to also figure out the “why” and the “how” of the project.
 - An update will be given at the annual meeting

- Attendance for 2015 was down very slightly
- There will be an open Forum on January 17 to give members the opportunity to ask questions regarding the 2016 budget.
- There will be an open forum on January 24 to give members the opportunity to ask questions about the upcoming year and the direction of the congregation.
 - Council attendance is important so please attend

Old Business:

1. Update on the Nominating Committee
 - a. The nominating committee has been working on names for next year's council members.
 - b. Delegates to the Synod Assembly, held on May 20-21, 2016, are needed.
2. Council President and Executive Council
 - a. The following positions will need to be filled for 2016: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
 - i. It is not required that the Treasurer position be a council member. The other 3 positions must be council members.
3. Update on the Call Committee process
 - a. The Finance Committee recommends putting this on hold until we see what the financial future holds.
4. Update on the Capital Improvements project

New Business:

1. Organ Maintenance contract – Lance Johnson
 - a. No discussion – Lance did not attend the meeting.
2. Annual Meeting Sunday Jan. 31.
 - a. Council members need to attend.
 - b. Chili feed to follow meeting
 - c. Sunday school is at 9:30 until the end of the meeting.
3. 2016 Budget Update meeting January 17
4. Strategic Plan Update - Discipleship presenting 2 goals
 - a. The Discipleship Team gave an update of 2 goals that they are currently working on
 - i. Goal 1-A: “Create a relevant and compelling faith formation experience for children birth – 5th grade”
 1. Explore ideas to engage young families in worship
 - a. Create a worship/play space in the front of the sanctuary for young children
 - b. Obtain small ”lap desks” to enhance the worship bags already provided to children
 - ii. Goal 1-E: “We will create opportunities for families and members of all ages to develop relationships with one another”
 2. Develop intergenerational relationships
 - a. Implement intergenerational events
 - b. Faith circles for youth
 - c. Assistance from older teens in the Sunday School wing
 - b. Both goals will be using funds from the CYF budget.

5. Core values

- a. The Council and staff have agreed to abide by the Core Values of the church, and it was decided that all groups of the congregation (committees, circles, etc.) must abide by these values as well. This will be discussed at the annual meeting.
 - i. **A motion was made by Marc, with a 2nd by Jeanne, to reaffirm and distribute the Core Values to the committees, circles, and all groups within the congregation. All groups will be required to conduct themselves according to the Core Values of the congregation. All approved, motion carried.**

Presentation and Discussion

2016 Budget

- 2016 budget shows a projected loss of (\$40,409.38).
 - This compares to a projected loss of (\$21,512.42) for 2015.
 - The actual 2015 year end income was \$397.53 after benevolences were paid.
 - Income was down due mainly to the loss of income from Augustana, but this was evened out by the decrease in staff salary.
 - Bethlehem has approved budget deficits the last few years, and we have had a positive income by year end, therefore:
 - The Finance Committee recommends moving forward with a deficit and see where we are at in the spring - the committee didn't want to make any rash decisions regarding cuts.
 - The committee will have recommendations by April as to any cuts that are deemed necessary
 - **A motion was made by Jeanne with a 2nd by Laura to approve the 2016 budget. All approved, motion carried.**

Announcements

1. Open Forum on January 17 to give members the opportunity to ask questions regarding the 2016 budget.
2. Open forum on January 24 to give members the opportunity to ask questions about the upcoming year and the direction of the congregation. **Council members please attend.**
3. Annual meeting Sunday, Jan. 31, joint worship at 9:30am and chili feed to follow.
4. Next Meeting February 9, 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.**