

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes
November 10, 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, ~~Donavan Rasmusson~~, Brad Russell

Call to order: Steph called the meeting to order.

Devotions: Pastor Tom led devotions.

Secretary's report from October was approved. Motion by Keith, 2nd by Kim. All approved, motion carried.

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

Pastor's Comments

Pastor Tom

- So far, 186 pledge cards totaling about \$438,000 have been received for 2016. This compares to 196 pledge cards totaling approximately \$446,000. Pledges are still coming in.
- The "Beer and Hymns" event held on October 25 at Union Pizza was a success. The majority were from Bethlehem and included people from all ages.
 - The next planned events will be Nov 22 at 7:00, and December 20 for Christmas Carols at 3:00 and 7:00.

Chair Comments

Presentation and Discussion

Update on Strategic Plan

Pastor Nancy updated the council on the status of the strategic plan and an update on each initiative team:

1. Worship
 - a. this is one of the most demanding initiatives besides Systems
 - b. JoEllen Thacker and Tom Rasmussen are heading this up. We need additional members for this team.
 - c. This team works with the Worship Committee
 - d. Currently working on Advent
 - e. Staff assigned to this initiative: Pastor Tom and Pastor Jake

2. Systems
 - a. Staff is working very hard.
 - b. The organizational chart is in place (see New Business #1)
 - c. The job descriptions are complete
 - d. Staff assigned to this initiative: Amy and Kelly
3. Shared Ministry
 - a. Everyone is involved in ministry
 - b. Staff assigned to this group: Pastor Jake and Amy
4. Mission
 - a. Everyone is involved in mission
 - b. Staff assigned to this initiative: Pastor Tom
5. Hospitality
 - a. Works with the Hospitality Committee, but there is a definite difference between the 2 groups.
 - i. The Committee is focused on party planning.
 - ii. The Initiative Team is focused more on welcoming people to Bethlehem
 - iii. One member from the committee will be present at the Initiative Team meetings
 - b. Staff members assigned to this initiative: Amy and Kelly
6. Stewardship
 - a. Nothing being done currently
 - b. Staff assigned to this initiative: Pastor Tom
7. Discipleship
 - a. Children Youth and Family, Sunday School and VBS are merging into the discipleship team
 - b. Meeting 1 Sunday per month
 - c. Staff assigned to this initiative: Pastor Jake and Jenny
8. Facilities Dream Team
 - a. This is something the council should be in charge of/take over.

There is talk in the congregation that they don't know what's going on with the strategic plan. Therefore, the council proposed that the "stakeholders" of each initiative will provide a brief update each month in the Tidings, and each Sunday there will be a short update from an initiative team.

Action Requests from Committees

New Business:

1. **A motion was made by Alex, with a 2nd by Marc to approve the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Staff/Organizational Chart. All approved, motion carried.**
2. The Hospitality Initiative Team presented 2 goals for the council's approval:
 - a. Goal 1-A: To create a welcome process in collaboration with the hospitality committee and staff.

- i. Greeter/Usher coordination
 - ii. Written guidelines for greeters/ushers
 - iii. Nametags for greeters and ushers (cost of approximately \$100)
 - iv. 1 greeter at the south door, 1 greeter at the north door, and 2 greeters at the stairs in the Narthex.
- b. Goal 1-B: Host 3 New Member Sundays each year
 - i. Flowers for new members
 - ii. Brunch for new members
 - iii. Create new member sponsorship ministry
 - iv. Cost approximately \$300 for table decorations, brunch and flowers
- c. **A motion was made by Alex, with a 2nd by Keith to approve the 2 goals presented by the Hospitality Initiative team. All approved, motion carried.**

Old Business:

1. Update on Building Project - Capital Campaign
 - a. A meeting of those interested in helping with the project was held and it was a great turnout!
 - b. A group was formed that will determine the feasibility of the capital campaign and how to move forward.
 - c. **A motion was made by Brad, with a 2nd by Alex to authorize the group to begin the process of raising funds for the capital improvement campaign. All approved, motion carried.**
2. Executive Council Elect
 - a. We are in need of new Executive Committee members next year, which includes a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary

Announcements

1. Thanksgiving Eve worship service, Wednesday, Nov.25 at 6:30. Pie and fellowship to follow.
2. Sunday School Christmas Program December 13 at 10:15 service.
3. Next meeting December 8 at 5:30 at the church.

Motion to Adjourn

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