

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Regular Monthly Church Council Meeting
7 p.m., Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Present: Rob Baltrum, Colleen Beyer, Sally Fanton, Emily Kunselman, Debby Olson, Gene Tesdahl, Pr. Mark Peterson, Gene Schnabel, Wanda Schnabel, Sharon Wirth, Phyllis Wright

Excused: Pr. Sarah Anderson, Justin Dirkes, Randy Robinson, Eva Summers, Glenn Summers, Shirley Wayne

Executive Committee: Did not meet

President Phyllis Wright called the meeting to order. Pr. Mark led the devotions which focused again on one of the Guiding Principles which help Council make decisions, *Balance*. He read from Luke 7, asking Council members to consider how the Gospel story showed balance between Jesus and the woman sinner. We discussed how we keep balance in our lives and how our church maintains balance in such ways as between service activities on a local level and non-local level, between hands-on and financial service, and between change and tradition. He stressed that Council needs to be aware of seeking balance in all our decision making. Devotions ended with prayer.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the May 11, 2010, meeting were entered into record with no corrections or additions.

Treasurer's/Financial Reports: Received and entered into record with no corrections. Phyllis noted that the copy machine is paid off and that giving is slightly down. Rob announced he's been notified that city utilities rates are being increased by about 22% over what was budgeted, and this will impact our expenses for the remainder of the year.

Staff Reports: Received and entered into record from Pr. Mark, Kristen, and Dawn.

Ministry Reports: Received and entered into record from Education, Evangelism, Social Action, Property, Worship, and Youth.

Old Business:

1. Dr. David Lose's visit, which was canceled in May because of his illness, has been rescheduled for July 17-18. Council members signed up to sell tickets beginning this Sunday. People who already have tickets need not make any change; those who bought tickets previously but cannot attend July 17 will have their money or check returned. Sign-ups for bringing food and all other plans for the event will remain the same as for the original dates.
2. Phyllis reminded Council that there will be no July Council meeting.
3. While there are changes in Thrivent's policy for funding, there may be matching funds available for soil preparation in the community garden this summer.

New Business:

1. The first summer coffee hour cross-generational fellowship activities took place last Sunday, June 6. Council members reported that it was well planned and successful. They will continue to help facilitate these activities, which will take place on alternate Sundays, the next being on June 20.
2. Phyllis reported on the Synod Assembly she attended May 27 – 29. Resolutions that were passed included one which encourages energy stewardship in all churches. Another resolution supports the Lutheran Malaria Initiative, a fund-raising project by youth to help prevent the spread of malaria. Phyllis commented on the distressing financial condition of the Synod and the programs that are adversely affected.
3. Colleen presented a “Going Green Resolution,” starting by giving some facts concerning the environmental impact of using styrofoam and other non-degradable products. She moved, seconded by Debby, that Bethlehem agrees to use real plates, cups, and silverware for summer coffees, banquets, funerals, and potlucks. After some discussion, Colleen amended the motion, seconded by Gene, to read “that Bethlehem agrees to use real plates, cups, and silverware for all food related activities.” The motion passed. Further discussion ensued regarding implementation of this policy.
4. Pr. Mark reported that the nominating committee has not been able to recruit anyone for the Council vacancies. He asked Council members to talk about reasons they accepted their present positions. He plans to have these positive comments presented in temple talks or brief Star articles in coming months, in order to achieve within the congregation a better understanding of the function of the Council.
5. Pr. Sarah will bid goodbye as an intern at the July 25 Ryssby service. A farewell gift was discussed.
6. The church air conditioning system requires repair costing approximately \$800, an expense that may be shared by Light of Christ.
7. There was a discussion of ways the Council may recognize contributions by volunteers and volunteer leaders.

The meeting was adjourned. Member prayer concerns were shared. We joined hands and prayed the Lord’s Prayer.