

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Highlights--March 11, 2008

Pastor Mark remarked on the abundant signs of the Holy Spirit's work here at Bethlehem and then led us in prayer. Fred Fanton administered the Natural Church Development survey to the council. At 7:30 President Hopp called the meeting to order with a quorum present.

Secretary's Report: Complete minutes available in office.

- Motion approved to accept, following two corrections, the minutes from the Feb. 12 council meeting.

Executive Committee Meeting:

- An executive committee meeting was held prior to the council meeting regarding issues that would be brought up in the regular meeting. These issues include personnel, phone service and Dex ad changes, website management, and credit card implementation.

Treasurer's Report:

- Dave Marquardt presented the treasurer's report and a balance sheet for January 2008 through February 2008, and pointed out that, while it exceeds that of the same date last year, the envelope giving falls over \$5,000 below the budget to date.
- Motion approved to tithe 10% of the budget overage noted at the end of 2007 to the synod.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mark's written report available in office.

- Staffing update: Two excellent candidates are recommended for the new director staff positions. The seminary will make a final decision in April about the intern pastor.
- Parsonage: Work is in progress.
- NCD: A Power Point presentation was made to the adult forum on Sunday, March 9; the survey will be given on March 16.
- LOC: There will be a joint Palm Sunday service.
- New Members: 19 people interested in class beginning in April.
- Nadia Bolz-Weber is scheduled to preach on May 4 and to talk about her emergent church in LoDo.
- Camp Sunday: Rod Pearce, the new director at Lutheran Ranches of the Rockies (formerly Sky Ranch), will preach on April 20 and to talk about LRR.

Ministry Reports:

Education: Written report available in office.

- Sunday school: Upcoming rotations noted through end of year (May 18).
- Special services: Palm and Easter Sundays, Confirmation, high school graduation recognition, and Learn by Heart recognition.
- Vacation Bible School will be July 13-18.
- April 18 and 19 Passing the Faith Conference: Education ministry will pay half of attendance fees for all members attending the conference.

Evangelism: Written report available in office.

Mission/Outreach:

- The new Bethlehem brochure has arrived. Brochures will be provided to Welcome Wagon service.
- New Member Orientation will be April 13 and 20 with reception on April 27.
- The Advertising Committee will publicize and distribute information about Easter, the jazz service, and VBS.
- Updated lists in a simplified format of neighborhood groups are being generated.
- Visitor's Table—Irene Marconnet continues to organize and manage the rotation of greeters.
- Yearly Calendar—Evangelism is determining on which events to focus.

Fellowship:

- Progressive Dinner held March 9 with a turnout of over 80 for great food and entertainment; proceeds likely to go to kitchen fund.
- The final Lenten Soup Supper is scheduled for March 13.

Social Action: Written report available in office.

- Thank You...to youth for serving lunch and staying to paint at Habitat site...to Jason Dirkes for successful Bowl-a-thon to benefit Nicaragua project...to attendees at LOC sponsored pancake breakfast...to Tony Britt for "Thrivent tutorial" to Social Action chairs.

Coming Events:

- Sandy Burrell is collecting donations and selling Korean items for her missionary trip to Korea.
- Fund raising for Taylen Zabel (Rogge granddaughter) on last soup supper; Thrivent to match funds to help Taylen and family with ongoing medical and related expenses.
- Fund raising for Nicaragua to kick off on Easter Sunday.
- Jane Lahman asking for help at Mother House in Boulder on April 12 work day 9 to 12.

- Spangler needing gently used children's picture books or very easy chapter books.
- LOC St. Patrick's Dinner on March 22 to benefit New Orleans mission trip.
- Social action team asking each church group, including council, to complete a social action project this year.

Property: Written report available in office.

- Locks to Cornerstone Preschool and Bethlehem nursery have been changed. Entrance doors on east and west side of fellowship hall as well as lights outside of main entrance and offices have been repaired.
- Clean up date in April or May TBA; will include LOC. Desire to continue grounds keeping program using BLC and LOC congregation members as volunteers for certain sections.
- A motion was approved to authorize a check in the amount of approximately \$10,000 to Home Depot for the parsonage renovation. Motion carried.

Stewardship: Written report available in office.

- The congregation will be asked to complete Time and Talent sheets on April 27.

Worship: Written report available in office.

- Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services and activities have been finalized including the purchase, thanks again to Linda Anderson, of Easter lilies.
- Invitation extended to congregation to join worship ministry committee. A sound system meeting to be scheduled in April.

Youth: Written report available in office.

- Selling "Mess Kits" for Soup Suppers went well. Thanks to Janelle Wappel for organizing this.
- Youth served Habitat luncheon Feb. 23; some stayed to help paint.
- Movie night with LOC Feb. 24.
- Tickets on sale for Easter breakfast.
- A swing dance team from CSU will host a lesson and mini dance for high school youth in the fellowship hall from 1 to 4 on Saturday, March 29.

Personnel Committee: Written report available in office.

- Met on Thursday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. to conduct interview candidate for position of Director of Education; voted to recommend Dawn Reed in the permanent/part time position.
- The other recommendation is that of Kristin Baltrum for the permanent/part time position as Director of Youth and Household Ministry.
- Motion approved to offer employment to Dawn Reed and Kristin Baltrum.

Old Business:

- Office space: The Director of Education will occupy the old education and acolyte office. The Director of Youth and Household Ministry will temporarily occupy the vacated office next to Pastor Mark's.

New Business:

- Regarding corporate resolution, a motion was approved to designate Dave Marquardt, John Hopp, and Dave Stambaugh as check signers.
- A motion was approved per recommendation from Zane Reed, volunteer Information Technology advisor, to replace Pr. Mark's four-year-old laptop.
- We discussed changing the church's phone carrier from Qwest to Integra and downsizing our Dex Yellow Pages entry. The changes, to be finalized by the executive committee, will decrease expenses.
- Maintaining an up-to-date and attractive website is essential today for evangelism ministry. A motion was approved to pay a stipend, pending her approval, of \$125 to Julie Leake to oversee BLC's website. Julie currently does so on a volunteer basis.
- Council discussed forming an IT committee to anticipate and to budget necessary and ongoing IT expenses.
- The Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly is May 22-24; lay delegates are invited to represent Bethlehem.
- The 2008 council is in agreement that a credit card system for the various ministries has much merit. A motion was approved for each ministry to be issued a credit card.

The April council meeting will begin at 6:30 with a light dinner and a focus group on the NCD survey followed by a compressed business meeting. The meeting was adjourned shortly after 9. We prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Deanna Hebbert, BLC council secretary