

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Regular Monthly Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Present: Pastor Mark Peterson, Kay Lynn Baker, Dalton Aker, Chuck Still, Beth Mills, Bob Urbach, Pam Bischoff, John Dickkut, Shirley Kasperbauer, Melissa Lauzon, Brandi Curtis, Neil Stewart, Jane Lahman

Absent: Tonja Twito, Dick Grieve, Pat Wilder, Gordon Potts, Dean Wilder, Glenn Summers

Also attending: Jasmine Tesdahl

Executive Committee: Did not meet

The meeting was called to order by President Chuck Still at 7:05 p.m. Devotions were led by Neil Stewart who discussed the topic of worship and the value of predictable, liturgical worship compared to creative worship where many things can vary. He noted that variety can be a two-edged sword so if the pendulum of change swings too strongly it can create more problems than it solves. Gradual change may be best. Regardless of style, true, meaningful worship still needs the focus to be God.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the April 10, 2012 council meeting were approved as written.

Financial Report: Brandi distributed a summary report. She indicated that attendance and giving were both up this month. Property expenses for April were higher than last year, but expenses and budget are both essentially even year to date. The treasurer's reports were approved as presented.

Staff Reports: Reports were received and entered into record from Pastor Mark Peterson, Deaconess Kristen Baltrum and Pastoral Assistant Jasmine Tesdahl. Pastor Mark left the meeting briefly to meet with a family about a funeral, so Jasmine reviewed the pastor's report. The Rocky Mountain Synod has elected Jim Gonia as their new bishop. Staffing for June will include hiring Pastor Dee Watson to cover in the absence of both Pastor Mark and Jasmine. She will preach 3 Sundays, be in the office 2 days a week, and be on call for emergencies. Pastor Mark proposed "hiring" Jasmine's husband, Gene Tesdahl, during the week of Summer Day Camp to coordinate camp the week of June 11-15.

The church experienced a break in a few weeks ago and petty cash money was taken from the safe. The Habegger family has offered to donate an antique safe to the church. Church members have donated money to replace what was stolen and there are enough monies received to also repair the damage to the doors and possibly to rekey the entire building. All of the staff reports were approved as written.

Ministry Reports: Reports were received and entered into record from Education, Evangelism, Property, Social Action, Worship and Youth ministries. All ministry reports were approved as written.

Old Business:

Brandi reported that the 2011 Audit will be completed in a couple of weeks.

In July, the leadership of Light of Christ and Bethlehem would like to have a barbeque at 6:00 pm before the respective council meetings. The purpose of the barbeque would be to continue to develop the relationship between our churches. Details will be discussed at the June council meeting.

The bell ringing prior to Sunday services is going well, but we still need more volunteer ringers for second service.

New Business:

Cornerstone Preschool would like to put a small sign in the grass to promote the preschool and increase enrollment in their programs. They are asking permission to put up a temporary sign. During discussion, the council was concerned that a small “for sale” size sign would not be large enough to be read. Shirley suggested the creation of a banner which would be larger and more visible and the council was supportive of a larger sign. Pam made a motion to allow Cornerstone Preschool to put up a temporary sign and to encourage them to put up a larger one. Shirley seconded and the motion passed.

In his monthly report, Pastor Mark had recommended the hiring of Gene Tesdahl for the week of Summer Day Camp. Neil made a motion to hire Gene according to the guideline set in Pastor Mark’s report (8 hours/day for 5 days @ Jasmine’s pay for her work as Education Coordinator). Dalton seconded and the motion passed.

A request for Choice Dollars was received from Deaconess Kristen for \$3000 for a “Youth Room Enhancement Project.” The money would be used for furniture and other accessories for the youth room. Pastor Mark said that this request falls into a gray area since Choice Dollars are intended to go to outside ministries. However, there are outside groups such as Scouts and NA who use this space, and having a more inviting and intentional space could increase our visibility and ministry to the community. The youth room is the second most requested space in our church, following the Fireside room. John made a motion to approve this request and Bob seconded. Following discussion, the motion passed.

Pastor Mark commended Chuck and Janice Still on their representation of our congregation at the synod assembly. He added that he enjoyed spending time with them. Pastor Mark also noted that Gordon Potts has been spending a lot of time at the church working on property issues. There are currently 6 people with plots in the community garden and Gordon is heading that project.

John said that he was asked by a member to have Light of Christ change the location of their moveable bookshelf so that it is away from the benches in the narthex. Currently it blocks the pews that are facing outward. Also, the center supports on the pews in the narthex are bent and may need attention.

Neil asked for clarification on the date of the Ryssby service. It is scheduled for July 22nd.

Prayer concerns of members of our congregation were shared by Pastor Mark and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. The council joined hands and closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Lahman

BLC Secretary

