

Bethel Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Minutes for meeting on October 15, 2024

Attendees: Randy Baskerville, Jill Duncan, Gary Helgemo, Jim Herr, Dave Hill, Tom Hooper, Steve Horton, Sarah Manro, Steve Middleton, Mary Jo Mikulski, Linc Schmeider, Annette Lang

Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Jim Herr.

Approval of minutes for the Council meeting on October 15th, 2024

There was clarification on amending the minutes due to lack of a quorum when voting was required on a salary increase for Pastor Dave.

A motion was made to edit the minutes for the council meeting on 9/17/24 due to lack of a quorum and accept the minutes as amended.

Steve Horton moved the motion and Mary Jo Mikulski seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Finance Report

A motion was made to accept the finance report as written.

Tom Hopper moved the motion; Mary Jo Mikulski seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on the budget occurred.

Jill Duncan asked that \$200.00 was put back into the care ministry. The care ministry budget has always been \$1,200.00, not \$1000.00 and with more church members getting older Jill feels there will be a need to maintain the current budget not a decrease in the budget.

Mary Jo Mikulski, who does all the advertising for events at the church has been informed that the cost of advertising will be going up. Mary Jo is asking for an increase in publicity and advertising from \$6,500.00 to \$7,500.00

Building and maintenance repair has many facets to it and with Jeff Reising unavailable for questions this is being left as is in the budget. Currently the budget is \$14,400.00 to \$20,000.00

There is an increase in janitorial services from \$9,600.00 to \$10,500.00.

Phone and Internet costs have gone up. Discussion with Comcast is ongoing to find ways to cut costs. There is discussion on changing providers. Currently the cost is \$6,500.00 to \$9,500.00

Trash removal has gone up. Steve Horton will negotiate with the company to maintain current costs.

Discussion on the allocation of money given to Missions was talked about. Missions have a budget of \$30,000.00. Recently a member bequeathed \$90,000.00 specifically designated for mission trips only. This money cannot be used for anything other than what it is designated for, in case it is specifically for mission trips.

The next missions meeting is on November 20th at 6:30pm. Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting to discuss ideas on mission trips to use the \$90,000.00 that was bequeathed to Bethel.

Discussion on Pastor Dave's salary was revisited now that there is a quorum with the council. The previous motion is null due to lack of a quorum at the council meeting on September 17th, 2024.

Motion was made to not extend a pay raise to Pastor Dave. The budget will be edited to reflect there was no change in the pastoral budget for 2025.

Steve Horton moved Steve Middleton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made to approve the congregational budget as amended for the congregational meeting.

Mary jo Mikulski moved the motion, Steve Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

November 10th is the congregational meeting. Any slides or reports that people want to share need to be given to Jim Herr by November 2nd.

November 2nd is also the day of the Fall Festival in addition to the Arts and Crafts Fair at Bethel.

Comedy night is looking at being scheduled for February 14th.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made.

Motion was moved by Steve Horton and Sarah Manro seconded it.

Meeting adjourned at 8: 40Pm

Ministry Reports for September 2024

Treasures Report

The documents that comprise the October 2024 General Fund treasurer's report are attached. Some notes about the report:

- **Revenue** – October revenue totaled \$42,664.30, down compared to last month's revenue of \$47,562.83. October revenue in 2023 was \$51,199.37. Revenue January through October this year totals \$491,282, last year revenue January through October totaled \$488,331.
- **Expenses** – Total expenses in October were down \$6,441 compared to September, primarily due to an over \$7,200 drop in Property expenses. Expenses for property in September that we did not incur again in October included paint, pest control, lawn equipment repairs, and quarterly property insurance payments.
- **Revenue Minus All Expenses** – We had a \$3,075 deficit in October. Revenue minus expenses for the year to date is still positive at \$13,707.

Our three CD's totaling \$250,000 matured on 10/17/2024. The AYP on the CD's was 4.9% which earned Bethel \$6,065.30 from 10/17/23 to 10/23/24. If the \$250,000 had stayed in the Money Market account, it would have earned

approximately \$25. We renewed the CD's on 10/23/24 for another 6 months at an AYP of 4.4%.

A report showing monthly attendance is also attached. Weekly attendance reports come out from the office. Please note on my attendance report the graph shows a drop in total attendance in October compared to 2023. When comparing we need to consider that October 2023 was a five Sunday month, October 2024 was a four Sunday month. Attendance this year after 10 months is still greater than attendance last year after 10 months.

If you have questions, feel free to email or call me.

Respectfully submitted,

Harold Seamon

765-432-5433

harold.seamon@comcast.net

Property Report

Council, for transparency purposes, there is a tree by the farmhouse and the garage that has split down the middle and is at imminent risk of failing and hitting one or both structures. I talked to Jim, and we agreed it had to be removed quickly. Jim reached out to this guy who he's personally used. He's coming tomorrow to remove the tree and grind the stump, leaving nothing for us to maintain.

I know this is over \$500 but, in this case, I'm acting now and apologizing later.

The total cost was \$1,380.00 for the service and this included removal of the stump.

Care Ministry

Bethel's Care Ministry consists of several small groups under the CARE umbrella. These groups do a variety of activities to offer physical and emotional support to Bethel members and/or their family and friends.

CARE TEAM: This ministry is/was led by Pastor Doug (through August) and includes Kim Radant, Jill Duncan and Ellen Gill. This group meets on Friday mornings to update the health and/or emotional concerns of our church members, friends and family of members and our staff. Updates are made via weekly phone calls, personal visits or input from members or staff. All are lifted in prayer at the end of our time together. Pastor Doug led us on a project where he personally delivered “graduation blankets” to about 25 students who never received them from 2017 to 2024.

Phyllis and Gale Anderson send 100 +/- cards out to anyone on our prayer chain throughout the year. Jane Nee sends cards and “grief books” to those who recently lost a loved one.

The Care Ministry group sponsored a lecture/discussion in September on How to Avoid Scams and Fraud Prevention. A couple of employees from Key Bank led the discussion. In October, the group hosted the annual 80s+ Luncheon providing dinner and a program for 34 of our members 80 years or older and their guests, totaling 67. In addition, 26 scouts and Bethel volunteers were served.

EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY: This group is coordinated by Ellen Gill. We now have 16 trained volunteers available to take communion to and pray with members who are shut-in or unable to attend services. Currently there are 4 clients utilizing this wonderful service.

PRAYER CHAIN: Kristen Wells, Gary Tobison and Jill Dietz share the responsibility of keeping the staff and congregation aware of prayer needs. Prayer requests are submitted through prayer cards in the pews, email, the Bethel web page or by calling the office. Prayer requests are compiled and emailed to the Prayer Warriors. You can become a Prayer Warrior by contacting the office to have your name added to the prayer chain list.

HEALING SERVICE: Coordinated by our Care Pastor, Doug (through August) and now Pastor Dave. It is a monthly service geared to help those in need of special prayers and support during physical and/or emotional hurts. This

service is typically held on the first Wednesday of the month and open to all members and non-members and is a blessing to all who attend.

CIRCLE OF SISTERS: Suzy Patterson coordinates this group of joyful women who get together to make and send sympathy and encouragement cards to members who have suffered a loss or in need of uplifting. They also make baptismal banners and various other banners displayed in our church. In November of 2023, they held their annual craft sale which helped them raise \$635. This amount was split between their Water Mission and a fund to subsidize their ongoing projects.

CREATIVE SPIRITS: Cathy Crosley and Suzy Patterson coordinate this talented group of crafters. They have crocheted and knitted lap blankets for the elderly and sick, cancer caps, prayer shawls and baby blankets and hats. Prayer shawls are given to people in our healing services or to anyone who needs a hug or reassurance of love. Their big focus in 2023-2024 has been to crochet edges on about 250 fleece baby blankets which are given to every newborn at Riverview Hospital.

SONSHINE CLUB: This group provides meals for Bethel members who are going through life-changing events such as birth, loss of loved ones, or surgery. A request is typically made through a Pastor or Care Team. TakeThemAMeal.com is used to schedule those that would like to supply a meal. Involvement for this ministry isn't limited to cooks. Gift cards for Door Dash or restaurants that deliver, are also welcome.

FUNERAL DINNERS: Rise Helgemo coordinates some type of food offered after a member's funeral or Celebration of Life, if requested. With our numbers, we are currently not able to offer a full meal but do offer a dessert bar and coffee or can help with serving and cleaning up after a catered meal.

The Care Team again wishes to thank all volunteers who make this ministry available and successful.

Jill Duncan

Communication Report

This is a recap of September 17th 2024 minutes, and it shows the amendment made to those minutes with an explanation.

“The next item discussed was the proposed budget for 2025. Because this involved a discussion of Pastor Dave’s salary he volunteered to leave the meeting.

A proposed motion was made by Steve Middleton, for a proposed budget Pastor Dave’s salary is increased by 3% in his compensation package.

Randy Baskerville seconded the motion. The motion passed. One council member abstained from voting.”

Amendment to the motion regarding Pastor Dave’s salary.

This amend occurred after it was discovered by a board member there was not a quorum. There was a quorum when the meeting took place. However, one member was attending virtually, and internet connection was lost during the time that the voting took place for an increase in Pastor Dave’s salary. The discussion of Pastor Dave’s salary will take place when a quorum is present. Please see the minutes on 10/15/2024, for the official vote on Pastor Dave’s salary.

