

**Bethel Lutheran Church**  
**Congregational Meeting Minutes - DRAFT**  
**June 21, 2023**

Church Council President Mark Heckman called the meeting to order at 7 p.m., welcoming everyone in attendance and thanking all who helped set up and prepare for the evening, particularly Holly Eldredge, John Patterson, Gay Hanson and Mary Jo Mikulski. Pastor Dave offered an opening prayer.

Mary Jo Mikulski moved, and Gary Helgemo seconded, to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2022, congregational meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Council members who will continue serving were recognized and the three on the ballot were introduced: Linc Schneider, Gary Helgemo and Tom Hooper. Harold Seamon moved, and Jerry Schulenberg seconded, that the slate be approved. The motion passed 48-0 with 2 abstentions.

### **Summer Programs and Plans**

Pastors Dave and Doug gave an overview of plans for a busy summer of activity. The farmhouse will be dedicated July 21, and a committee is forming to plan an October 22 celebration to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bethel being in its Cumberland Road location. A new 15-week discipleship training will kick off in September.

Eddie Burks reported there will be a Back To School Bash August 5 to launch the school year in faith, with family, filled with fun. Sunday school will begin the next day, August 6, in hopes that the Bash will encourage new enrollments. Youth plan to attend summer camp and take a day trip to King's Island. The D3 program will return in the fall.

Mary Jo Mikulski briefed the congregation about The Chosen, a bible study about what it means to be chosen that will begin in the fall. It is intended to teach how to follow Christ's life for ages upper elementary through adult.

### **Financial Report**

Steve Horton reviewed month-to-month and revenue v. expenses, showing that revenue is lagging expenses, though giving in March, April and May was strong. Expenses are \$20,606 under budget, revenue is \$6,630 under the projected budget, and the balance in the general fund is \$76,253.

### **Growing Bethel**

Mark Heckman presented council's intention to grow membership by attracting new families with young children, emphasizing that the agreement with Legacy Christian School would be a major factor in that plan as it will give us the opportunity to expose families to Bethel five days a week. A three-year agreement to use the first floor of the education wing has been proposed. Additionally, the homeschool group, Classical Conversations, will continue to use Bethel each Monday of the school year. They will meet on the second floor of the education wing.

### **Open Discussion/Questions from the Floor**

Jeff Reising offered a big thank you to Jill Duncan for her faithful 2-year leadership of the annual rummage sale, adding that a new leader will be needed in 2024. He also thanked everyone in the congregation who supported the sale and created outreach to the community. He commented on a book church council members were given last year, I am a Church Member. The book emphasizes that

everyone is an essential part of the church; we all need to work hard to strengthen the church body. He closed his remarks with thanks to Mark Heckman for his leadership through two challenging years, saying that Mark is always focused on the future and his efforts are tireless. Gary Melby added similar thoughts of appreciation.

Linc Schneider commented that we need to make growing the youth program a priority, centering anything we do on getting families and children back in the church. He urged all in attendance to consider what can be done to create a cool vibe and revive the energy that Bethel has had in large supply in the past.

Tom Hooper asked where revenue from Legacy Christian School would be credited. Treasurer Harold Seamon explained that that remains a work in progress, starting it with a revenue-expense account with plans to move it to other funds as the revenue grows. Shared expenses (i.e., paper products, custodial services, utilities, etc.) will be reviewed quarterly, which will point out where adjustments are needed.

There being no more comments or questions from the floor, Steve Horton moved, and Carol Warning seconded, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rosalyn Demaree