

Bethel Lutheran Church Council
Minutes, June 20, 2023
APPROVED

Attendees: Randy Baskerville, Ros Demaree, Mark Heckman, Gary Helgemo, Jim Herr, Pastor Dave Hill, Steve Horton, Steve Middleton, Mary Jo Mikulski, Jeff Reising, Linc Schneider, Harold Seamon. Staff: Eddie Burks, Pastor Doug Gast.

Pastor Dave offered an opening prayer, and then Mark Heckman called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Minutes

Steve Horton moved, and Randy Baskerville seconded, to approve the May 16 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Harold Seamon pointed out that the expenses of \$39,555 was the lowest in the past 30 months, noting that they will go up when air conditioning is in use. As promised, actual expenses are being tracked against the budget. As of the end of May, we are running \$16,695 below budget, though we need to determine why some areas are consistently over budget.

The Republic contract for trash removal costs \$435/month plus the fixed fuel and environmental charges. The amount increases every April. When we paid the April bill, we accepted the increase. If we break the contract, we must pay more than \$15,000. Republic is willing to work with us to reduce charges and issue credit for the extra lift needed when the rummage sale ended. If we consider another company, we need to give Republic 60-180 days to counter with a competitive bid. Steve Horton will work with Republic to negotiate a lower increase. Steve Horton moved, and Randy Baskerville seconded, to accept the Republic contract for the next 24 months. The motion passed unanimously.

Legacy Christian School

We can add signs as we feel needed as long as they are within the city's limits on temporary signs.

Harold contacted six vendors to strip and clean the floors, meeting with four of them who were each asked to complete a questionnaire. The job would be solely for the first floor of the educational wing; no stairs, Fellowship Hall, etc. Four quotes were submitted:

- Crandall's, \$1.75/sq ft, totaling more than \$15,000. The company cleaned the carpet before.
- Wright's, \$8,107; Harold felt most confident in their work of all the companies he met with.
- All Bright Chem-Dry, \$7,280.
- Kleenit, \$3,282.40 plus \$30/truck/time they come to the property. Company estimated they could do the job in one day, others said two weeks.

The bill would be pro rata shared with LCS based on square footage. \$4,116.03 remains in the preschool fund that could be used for Bethel's share.

Mark Heckman said that LCS will not be paying rent for the first three months, and then would pay up to \$7,000/month, depending on enrollment.

Gary Helgemo moved, and Jeff Reising seconded, to contract with Kleenit. The motion passed 9-2, with Jim Herr and Linc Schneider voting no.

Jeff Reising moved, and Steve Middleton seconded, to use the remaining preschool funds for this cleaning. If there are still funds remaining when the bill is paid, they will go to the General Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

Hiring a janitor is to be determined. The cost for a janitor would be shared on a pro rata basis between LCS and Bethel.

Jeff reported that LCS wants to add a playground near Jacob's Garden. The school would provide equipment, add pea gravel to a framed box and create a dry stream bed. Jim Herr moved, and Steve Horton seconded, to follow Jeff's guidance to allow LCS to add playground that adds aesthetically to our property. The motion passed unanimously.

Rummage Sale Proceeds

The rummage sale resulted in \$12,688.90. There was some discussion about using some of those funds to create a fund that would be used to grow the church. Jim Herr asked who would coordinate the money in a growth fund. Pastor Doug suggested it be given to Fellowship or Evangelism. Jim moved, and Steve Horton seconded, to give 10 percent to Missions, \$500 to the Scouts, and the remainder to the General Fund for activities that will grow the church. The motion passed unanimously.

Care Ministry

Attendance is down for worship and other activities. Pastor Doug said about 150 families in the directory were identified as missing. He is looking for ways to connect and follow up with them and will report back what he learns. He suggests using a Heritage (or Homecoming) Sunday to commemorate 25 years of being in the present church as a way to bring people back. He also suggests sending a brief letter to MIAs to make them aware of what Bethel is doing, overview the exciting prospects for the future, promise someone will call them, and give them a small gift. Jim Herr offered to provide popcorn, and Mary Jo Mikulski offered Women On Wednesdays to stuff the envelopes.

Tom Hooper Nomination

Tom Hooper submitted an application for Church Council membership that was shared with all. Jeff Reising moved, and Randy Baskerville seconded, to add Tom to the Council. The motion passed unanimously.

Event Planning

June 21 Congregational Meeting – Mark Heckman shared an agenda and slideshow covering a wide range of topics to present.

July 29 Farmhouse Blessing – The “shelf room” and signs are needed before the event is held. It will follow the Saturday evening service, which will be held in the Pavilion.

Aug. 5 Back to School Bash – Many people are working on this event, which will be held from 10 or 11 until 3.

Baby Pantry

Pantry clients are not picking up formula, leaving much of it to go to waste, so the pantry volunteers want to stop having a baby pantry. Items in stock could be given to Marilyn's Place, with a small number of diaper packages saved for emergency requests.

Missions

Randy Baskerville reminded that Bethel has funding to send people on a mission trip to Jamaica or Costa Rica. Council agreed that a trip like that may be more than Bethel can coordinate at this time. It was suggested that we work with Mary Bates to find a need in Indiana, and then recruit a group to do the work.

Leadership Structure

Mark Heckman reported that work continues to make office operations more effective and to form a call committee and a long-term planning committee. Pastor Dave has said he wants to be considered for senior pastor. Linc Schneider pointed out that the supply of pastors is limited; we need to be certain we know what we want before a search begins. There was discussion about how the Council later regretted putting a senior pastor in place to succeed Pastor Doug without having a call. Harold Seamon reminded the group that 2 ½ years ago Bethel had seven people on the payroll. We had to start trimming to meet payroll. Steve Horton cautioned that we need to send the right message to the congregation if there will be a call committee. Pastor Doug said a call could be another step in the congregation's healing process. He witnessed how the St. James congregation was able to express hurt and see vision for the future when it went through the process. In his role as dean, Pastor Doug will invite a pastor to meet with Council in July to discuss the call process.

Brotherhood Mutual Insurance

Jeff Reising asked if we should consider using Ministry Works to process payroll, instead of continuing with ADP. It was decided by consent to get more information about this and table the discussion to July.

Steve Horton moved, and Jim Herr seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:01. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting ended in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosalyn Demaree

Ministry Reports, June 2023

CARE MINISTRY, PASTOR DOUG

Attached as a pdf.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY, GARY HELGEMO

VBS

This year VBS is being replaced with a one-day *Back to School Bash*. The Burks are the leads.

Sunday School 2023-24

Our first day of Sunday School will be August 6. We are looking at a different approach to our Sunday School program because of the low attendance. More information to follow as we formulate plans for next year.

Adult Sunday School

During the 10 am Sunday School hour we are looking at a full -year program that will center on the Life of Jesus as portrayed in The Chosen series. There is a bible study that goes with it. There will be a group of leaders for this study with Mary Jo taking the primary lead. Tentatively, the series will start on September 10 and go through May 20. This exciting program has much to offer at all age levels. More information to follow.

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY, ROS DEMAREE

Thanks to the clipboard being passed around two Sundays, we have nine people (including some couples) willing to greet at the 8:45 services and five at the 11:11 services. Each is being called the week of June 19 to create a schedule. Calls will be followed up with a personal note of thanks, and Suzy Patterson will send weekly reminders to the volunteers.

It's been suggested that FootPrints take a break but bring it back on a regular basis when we can get more volunteers to write and edit it. There will be one published in fall 2023 that focuses on the 25th anniversary of Bethel moving to Cumberland Road.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP MINISTRY, LINC SCHNEIDER

Investigating ideas with Eddie on some tweaks to the 11:11sService. Worship attendance on Saturday night has been picking up a bit. Mike M and I are co-leading for now. All services are doing fine with volunteers for the bands and organ. We continue to need additional support for AV and the Altar Guild/Readers/Greeters. Thx

PROPERTY, JEFF REISING

Hole in blacktop at north entry has been patched.

Plants that were installed this spring, that didn't make it, may be replaced soon but likely will wait til fall.

Need to schedule a pick-up morning for the perimeter of the farm; loose branches and other debris needs to be thrown into the ever-growing burn pile. One more room needs to be finished in the house. Hope to accomplish that this summer. Need help. Marilyn's Place needs a new room air conditioner if anyone would like to donate that. Jim Herr's corn is looking great after the last rain, as are his tomatoes. A garden coordinator for next spring to enhance plantings would be great.

Looking at needs for LCS, cleaning quotes are being received for polishing the tile floors in the Ed Building. We also are talking to them about any additional security, although they seem quite pleased with where we are. Finally on LCS, I have been talking to them about an additional play area just down the hill from Jacob's Garden, and the possibility of another enhancement to the grounds may come out of this. We'll see.

Trash contract will be finally discussed with Republic. They are hosing us and unfortunately the contract is difficult to get out of. However, there may be enough savings from the new contractor quote, that the first year would be a wash on any penalty we might have to pay.

Ongoing items of janitorial oversight continue. Having a more complete janitorial package is a must going forward and hopefully the LCS program will help us enhance that need.

The library has been moved (I think). A lot of helpers jumped in on that. The Scout room I discussed and sketched has been presented to the scout troops, and they are lining up a scout dad to cost out materials for that project. I believe the \$500 we allocated for them to do the work may come up short, but I have no info back from them yet. Currently their stuff is in the baby pantry.

SMALL GROUPS, MARK HECKMAN

Small Groups at Bethel continued to be formed, grow, and promote Christian fellowship throughout 2023. We refer to these groups as "Life Groups," as they reflect the interests, advocations and vocations of our church members and the broader community. The growing list of groups includes:

- Garage Night
- Columbarium Gardening
- Circle of Sisters
- Men's Sausage and Scripture
- Monday Night Men's Group
- Women on Wednesday

More Ideas!

Mary Jo Mikulski was kind an on topic when she mentioned a number of other groups and activities that the Bethel Family could engage during her message at the three services on Father's Day weekend to include:

- o Basketball (repair and update our courts)
- o Volleyball or Pickle Ball (courts can be created)
- o Motorcycle and Bicycling
- o Day Trips for Seniors
- o After School Programs
- o Singles Ministry
- o A Summer Day Camp
- o "Chosen" TV Series Study
- o 365 Bible Reading Group

More progress to be made in Small Groups...visit the information in the hallway just off the Narthex.