

**Bethel Lutheran Church Council**  
**Minutes, July 25, 2023**  
**APPROVED**

**Attendees:** Randy Baskerville, Ros Demaree, Jill Duncan, Gary Helgemo, Jim Herr, Pastor Dave Hill, Tom Hooper, Steve Horton, Sarah Manro, Mary Jo Mikulski, Linc Schneider, Harold Seamon.

Mary Jo Mikulski called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m., and Jim Herr led an opening devotion.

**Agenda**

Jim Herr moved, and Jill Duncan seconded, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**Minutes**

Randy Baskerville moved, and Gary Helgemo seconded, to approve the June 20 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim Herr moved, and Gary Helgemo seconded, to approve the minutes from the June 21 emergency meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Steve Horton moved, and it was seconded, to approve the minutes from the July 13 special meeting as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report**

The June cash flow was \$2,983.25 ahead of expenses due to the rummage sale proceeds being moved to the General Fund. The last payday for Eddie Burks was July 21. His insurance is being paid through August. First Merchants Bank reported a data breach. Passwords should not have been affected, but Harold Seamon recommends changing them. Misinformation about Bethel office hours has shown up on Google. Gay Hansen is investigating that. Steve Horton moved, and Pastor Dave seconded, to approve the treasurer's report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**Election of Officers**

Church Council officers were elected: Jim Herr, president, Mary Jo Mikulski, vice president; Harold Seamon, treasurer; and Ros Demaree, secretary.

**Items to Consign to Committee for Discussion**

**Emergency Preparedness Plan** - Contacts in the plan need to be updated. Gay Hansen will work on this for the council's review in August.

**2022 Annual Report** – Ros will send reminders to all who have not submitted their ministry reports.

**Use of Property Notice** – In the future, the office and the council will be emailed when someone has been approved to use the property for such things as parking during events at neighboring homes.

**Youth Ministry Plans** – Jim Herr said a council subcommittee is needed to consider and give direction to the council about what the Youth Ministry program needs going forward. No assignments were made, though Jim offered to be part of the group.

**Cabinets in Northwest Corner of Sanctuary** – Cabinets that hold the bells are sitting on a register in the sanctuary and should be moved. Property was asked to take care of this.

**Scholarship Decision-Making** – As Youth Director, Eddie Burks oversaw the scholarship process; the families that give the funding choose the recipients. Harold Seamon writes the voucher for the Anderson scholarship so the check can be written. It is unknown who did that for the Newby scholarship. A motion was made that Christian Ed work with scholarship funders and applicants, and report recipient names to the council. The motion died for lack of a second.

**Janitorial Services** – Legacy Christian School will hire a janitor to take care of classrooms. Bethel's janitor will clean the bathrooms and halls. Jim Herr will check if the agreement with LCS assigns cleaning of the bathrooms in the classrooms to LCS or Bethel.

### **Ministry Assignments**

This discussion was tabled to August.

### **Legacy Contract**

Jim Herr will get a copy of the contract to Harold and the office to ensure that invoicing can be done, and questions can be answered as they arise. A Bethel liaison to LCS needs to be appointed.

### **Scouts Request**

Sarah Manro said a Cub Scout Pack has asked to use the grounds the evening of Aug. 4. It has done this before. Consensus was to allow it again.

### **Call Process Discussion**

Pastor Douglas Schoelles of St. John Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, led a discussion of the process to call a senior pastor. Because Pastor Dave wants to be considered in the process, he was excused from the meeting, which adjourned with prayer and by consent at 9:29.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rosalyn Demaree

## **Ministry Reports, July 2023**

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY, GARY HELGEMO**

Back to School Bash will be on August 5 from 11:00-3:00. Sunday School will start August 6.

### **COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY, ROS DEMAREE**

Greeters continue to be scheduled for both Sunday services, though an email glitch caused some delay. Suzy Patterson is sending weekly reminders to the greeters, and personal notes of thanks are being sent.

A letter announcing recent changes was sent to the congregation as an email, a handout at services and a mailed letter. The process was a group effort involving Holly, John, Gay, Jeff Reising, Jill Duncan and the Baskervilles.

### **MUSIC AND WORSHIP MINISTRY, LINC SCHNEIDER**

All 3 music groups seem to be going well. We continue to grow (music group and congregation attendance) on Saturdays. As we move forward, we are still considering looking at formats to tweak the services to be more family friendly for the 11:11. It will be important as we come into fall to capture new attendees and try to get them involved in a ministry area. AV/Music, Altar Guild and Worship Service

Greeters/Ushers is a great way to start! We will continue to try and enhance the services in a positive way through a joyful voice and willing heart.

**STEWARDSHIP, MARY JO MIKULSKI**

Mary Jo Mikulski met with Pastor Dave and Pastor Doug to plan out our Stewardship Campaign for 2024. The campaign will be entitled Overflowing Generosity. It will occur on the first three weeks of November and encompass the following topics:

Nov 4/5 - Caught and Taught Romans 12: 6-8

Nov 11/12 Contagious and Joyful Generosity to spread the Gospel 2 Corinthians 8: 1-2 ; 9:7

Nov 18/19 Generosity Glorifies God 1 Peter 4: 10-11

Catered Luncheon after second service in Fellowship Hall Followed by Congregational Meeting

At each service on the above dates, we would like a member of Council as well as Congregation to share the reason they give as a child of God. There will be letters to the congregation leading up to the dinner. More to come as we get closer.

**YOUTH MINISTRY, JIM HERR**

We had a very good fundraiser at the Rummage Sale with many notably cheerful adult volunteers along with young folks bringing in over \$1500 to the Youth Ministry. The food was great, and the dancing was well received. We all very much appreciated the planning and work behind the scenes for this event by Eddie, Natasha, Gay, and many others that helped.

With Eddie's recent resignation, our goal is to look at ways we can share out responsibilities that Eddie was executing and work closely with Christian Education and LCS to support their efforts. We look forward to the Back to School Bash on August 5<sup>th</sup> and appreciate the efforts of the committee and Anna Marie Hill on getting this pulled together for a great time for youth. We will continue as we can and will be working with Council and Pastors to discern how to best lead the Youth Ministry going forward.