

**Bethel Lutheran Church Council**  
**Minutes, August 15, 2023**  
**Approved September 19, 2023**

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

Jim Herr called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Dave led the council in prayer. Jim offered a devotion.

**Minutes**

Pastor Dave moved, and Randy Baskerville seconded, to approve the July 25 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report**

Expenses were down in July compared to June, primarily due to the quarterly insurance premiums paid in June. Contributions were down in July \$727 compared to June. Total revenue in July compared to June was down significantly due to the rummage sale proceeds that went into the general fund in June. Salary and benefit expenses stayed about the same in July. There will be a drop in salary and benefit expenses in August because we stopped paying Eddie Burke's salary at the end of July. There will be another drop in September because we will stop paying Eddie's insurance in August. Utility expenses should go down slightly starting next month. Marilyn's Place is now responsible for paying the electric bill at the farm. YTD, we have paid \$1853.15 for electricity at the farm.

The balance of \$2,422.96 in the Bethel Preschool Fund will be transferred to the LCS/Bethel Preschool account since the council decided to use our remaining preschool funds to help pay for the floor care done to prepare for preschool this fall.

Our YTD expenses were \$27,356 below budget at the end of July. Our revenue was \$107,962 below our anticipated revenue in the budget. A reminder our anticipated revenue was based on revenue from the previous year.

Jill Duncan moved, and Randy Baskerville seconded, to approve the treasurer's report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**Employee Files**

Mary Jo Mikulski is updating employee files to ensure they are up to date and include all required employment documents. John Patterson and Gay Hanson are pulling old files. Maintaining the files will become Holly Eldridge's responsibility; Mary Jo and Pastor Dave will coach her.

**Emergency Preparedness Plan**

Gay Hanson has updated the emergency preparedness plan, asking council to determine alternate locations and advising that all council members put the contacts in their phones.

**Ministry Assignments, Job Descriptions**

Sarah Manro will be the Youth Ministry representative on council, and Jim Herr will be the Fellowship Ministry representative. Council members are urged to review their ministry and ministry job descriptions on the website to ensure they are accurate and current, giving any needed changes to Jim Herr by Aug. 22. Gay and John will update them

### **Scholarship Administration**

When scholarship application time opens in the spring, Christian Ed will promote their availability to the congregation. Holly will have application forms in the office. Contacts in the plan need to be updated, which Gay Hansen will work on for the council's review in August. Harold Seamon will work with the scholarship funders to voucher checks for recipients.

### **Legacy Christian School Update**

Classes began Aug. 14 with enrollment in the low 30s. LCS anticipates adding students through September. The school, primarily the director and her family, has made many improvements to the church grounds, which the council visited following the meeting. Per the contract, LCS will not pay rent through October but will pay \$4,177/month in shared costs. Jeff Reising, who is the Bethel liaison to LCS, presented a 5-days/week janitorial agreement. Steve Horton moved, and Tom Hooper seconded, to approve the agreement as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Pastoral Call**

Due to travel and the NALC convocation, Pastor Shelly Schultz, the NALC call director, has been unable to talk with Jim Herr but a meeting is being scheduled.

### **Convocation**

Randy was one of the congregation's representatives at the NALC convocation. He urged council to consider following up on a workshop about congregation engagement that suggested letting congregants choose hymns. Randy was asked to take this idea to the Music and Worship Committee. He said there was much good discussion about building congregations at the convocation, and he was asked to bring ideas from it to the September council meeting.

### **Farmhouse**

Pastor Dave conducted a farmhouse blessing followed by a tour of the building, now called the Care Center at Bethel. As site coordinator for the center, Pastor Dave also arranged to have Hamilton County social service providers and employment advisors meet with Marilyn's Place clients a couple times per month. They will use a desk in the front office when working but will not have permanent offices in the farmhouse. Jeff, Ros Demaree and Gary Helgemo were tasked with getting a sign made for the property.

### **Prayer Vigil**

Mary Jo shared a vigil pamphlet she created that will be given to the congregation, asking members and guests to pray daily for Bethel. It was moved, and Jeff seconded, to host a prayer vigil Sept. 1-30. The motion passed unanimously. Randy will ask John to program the doors to be open 10-11 Mondays in September so anyone wanting to pray in the sanctuary can. Mary Jo will present the vigil plans at services, and council members were asked to talk up the program to members.

### **Youth Ministry Call-Out**

Pastor Dave will announce the need for volunteers on the Youth Ministry Committee. Jim will ask Holly to do an eblast about the need.

**Old Business**

There was none.

**New Business****Discovery Classes**

Council members need to make a presentation at and bring an appetizer to one of the upcoming Discovery Classes, Sept. 10, 17, 24 and Oct. 1. Holly will send reminders.

**Ministry Reports and Council Meeting Schedule**

Ministry reports will be due by noon the Wednesday before Executive Committee meetings, which are held the Thursday before council meetings. By consent, it was agreed to continue starting council meetings at 6:30 p.m.

Steve Horton moved, and Steve Middleton seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rosalyn Demaree

**August 2023 Ministry Reports****CARE MINISTRY, JILL DUNCAN**

The CARE Team continues to meet every Friday to pray for physical and emotional needs of the congregation and their family and friends. This is complemented by the Prayer Chain and Eucharist Ministers. Circle of Sisters is preparing for their annual Craft Fair to be held the 1st weekend in November. Creative Spirits group sent 60 baby blankets to Riverview Hospital. The healing service was well attended with about 15 people.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY, GARY HELGEMO**

The back to School bash was lightly attended, with a total of about forty people with Bethel and Legacy families and volunteers. Our best guess for Sunday School is 10-12 with preschool through high school.

**COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY, ROS DEMAREE**

The office staff created a weekly meeting notes update that it will send to the council president and communications person. The update is intended to keep the council aware of office needs and actions, and to ensure that the council keeps the office staff abreast of its needs.

**MUSIC AND WORSHIP MINISTRY, LINC SCHNEIDER**

We recently lost our piano player for the 11:11 service due to the Robbins family leaving the church. We currently are looking for a replacement to fill this big void. The other services seem to be doing well with music and still continue to see an uptick in attendance at the Saturday service. As fall approaches, we are seeking some more volunteers for AV/Altar Guild, Greeters and Readers. I am curious to see where God leads our ministry as we continue to shine His light every weekend.

**PROPERTY, JEFF REISING**

July property issues have been all about preparing the expanded play area off the northeast corner of the education building for LCS. Much work has been done by both LCS and property. It has been a great relationship so far. Rather than talk about what has been done, go take a look. Not finished yet but very close.

Fuel expenses have been down because of the dry period we had, but that is changing back to normal again. We lost our equipment service guy to retirement and need to come up with a suitable plan to keep the equipment in good working order. We inherited several pieces of equipment from Dennis and Tanya Clary recently -- a very nice chain saw and snowblower.

Hoping to paint the main sign at the corner soon. Found the blue paint and working on the other colors.

Another member of Bethel left recently. Herb Buck was a huge help to me on property and a great confidant and friend as well. This is another big blow to getting things done that are big and heavy because he provided much-needed mechanization. Our tractor is nice but falls short in some areas. There is still work to be done in the farmhouse and around the property. The Helgemos kindly donated and installed a new room air conditioner for Glenn at the house and also donated a lot of very nice men's clothes. Thank you, Helgemos.

Thank you, Jim Herr, for the awesome corn and tomato effort this year. Hopefully some enthusiasm will grow from this and potentially take on more of an expanded effort to help feed the food challenged people of our community.

Finally, please review the final document that Chris Yazel will receive unless there are major objections tonight.

#### **SMALL GROUPS, TOM HOOPER**

Sausage and Scripture men's group had a summer break meeting on July 15 and will have a second on August 19. Group had one new person attend with also 8 regulars. Garage night continues to meet at 29460 Edmondson Rd Atlanta at 7 pm every other Thursday night. Next meeting is August 24th

#### **STEWARDSHIP, MARY JO MIKULSKI**

Stewardship Program for Bethel for 2024: Overflowing Generosity

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

Giving is a spiritual gift and is a learned trait. We give for sake of others, Christ's church, Body of Christ ministry beyond doors, for own sake and demonstrate our trust. Prayer is most important in all of this.

Week Two, Nov 11/12 - Contagious Enthusiasm to Spread the Gospel 2 Cor 9:7 and Generosity Glorifies God 1 Peter 4: 10-11

Give regularly, systematically, proactive, weekly giving with cheerfulness

Week Three, Nov 18/19 - Joyful Generosity 2 Cor 8: 1-2

Place cards on altar and bless them, and have Dinner afterwards to celebrate

Need: 4 people (one each Sunday) to give short talk on Stewardship

Prayer leader for four weeks

Include Stewardship in Sermon each Sunday perhaps using the scriptures above

Plan and have catered Stewardship Dinner on last Sunday

Letters will be sent to congregation at intervals leading up to dinner.  
There may be a Bible study during Sunday school