

**Bethel Lutheran Church Council  
Minutes, September 19, 2023  
Approved as Amended**

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

Jim Herr called the meeting to order at 6:30. Pastor Dave gave an opening devotion about asking for God's will to be done.

**Minutes**

Randy Baskerville moved, and Mary Jo Mikulski seconded, to approve the August 15, 2023, minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report**

Council members were asked to submit their budget worksheets by October 9 to Harold Seamon. A full financial report was not possible to share because August giving records were incomplete. Harold estimated that revenue would be about \$12,000 short of expenses for the month. He will send a full report when all the data are available.

**New Business**

**Designation for 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Offering** – The celebration committee has suggested the October 22 offering be dedicated to the principle on the mortgage. It is up to the committee if envelopes will be provided. Steve Horton moved, and Jill Duncan seconded, to approve the committee's suggestion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Ministry Bulletin Boards** – Mary Jo Mikulski asked each Council member to give her or Holly Eldredge a bible verse and icon that symbolizes their ministry so aesthetically pleasing bulletin boards can be created.

**Payroll Processing Service** – At the suggestion of Brotherhood Mutual, the Finance Committee recommends Bethel switch from using ADP to Ministry Works to process payroll. Ministry Works specializes in serving churches (and serves more than 6,000), understands dual taxing for clergy, and costs about \$2,500 less than ADP. Steve Horton moved, and Tom Hopper seconded, to switch payroll services from ADP to Ministry Works. Motion passed unanimously.

**Annual Congregational Meeting** – The Nov. 19 meeting will begin with a 6 p.m. meal, and the meeting will follow at 7 p.m. Notification letters will be mailed no later than the week of Oct. 30, with emails each week after and announcements during services Nov. 4-5 and Nov. 11-12. The 2024 budget will be presented for approval, and the congregation will be updated on activities. There will be a call-out for agenda items at the October Council meeting.

**Call Committee** – It was the recommendation of the Executive Committee to establish a call committee to seek a lead pastor. A heartfelt discussion ensued about whether Bethel is ready to take this step, with Council members advocating both perspectives. Steve Horton moved, and Mary Jo Mikulski seconded, to establish a call committee to seek another pastor. Motion passed, 13-1. Pastor Douglas Scholles will

lead a call process workshop for the entire congregation on Oct. 15. Council members were urged to encourage people to attend.

**Attendance Accountability** – In earlier years, Church Council received a report at each meeting with attendance numbers listed week by week, service by service. This Council wants to see that practice return. Related to getting accurate attendance counts, Council discussed the merits of using a welcome sheet to track attendance and sign up volunteers. Jill Duncan moved, and Steve Middleton seconded, to bring back the welcome sheet. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion followed about how to collect the welcome sheet and how to make it an effective engagement tool. Historically, a weak point in the use of welcome sheets has been getting comments and volunteer names to the ministry leaders; Steve Horton will locate the template that was used before and volunteered Betsy Horton to get the information to the various ministries. It is up to each ministry to follow up with volunteers.

### **Old Business**

**LCS Update** – Jeff Reising reported that to avoid the expense of giving key fobs for the door in the back of the building to Legacy Christian School staff, the lock will be re-keyed. The office, LCS and Jeff will have the key.

Jeff said that LCS is thrilled with the welcome Bethel has given the school and its families. Enrollment is 31, with 7-8 potential additions this fall. LCS hopes for another jump in enrollment in the second semester.

Jeff reported that Chris Yazel is providing much-improved janitorial services in his increased hours and increased pay (now \$1800/month). LCS begin paying rent in November, per its contract. Jeff and Harold Seamon with work with the school to collect the \$600/month in shared expenses it owes for August and September.

**Marilyn's Place Update** – Pastor Dave said the social workers and unemployment advisors who work occasionally out of the farmhouse in collaboration with Marilyn's Place need internet access. The Current in Noblesville and Hamilton County Reporter have reached out to write stories about Marilyn's Place being the first agency to operate in The Care Center at Bethel.

**Welcome Card Management Guidance** – Pastor Dave is leading this charge. Discussion was tabled.

**Ministry Descriptions** – Council members were reminded to review the descriptions of their ministries on the website and share changes with Holly Eldredge.

**Ministry Committees** – Jim Herr urged Council members to create committees for their ministry if they don't already have one established.

Steve Middleton moved, and Sarah Manro seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:58. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectively submitted,  
Ros Demaree

## SEPTEMBER 2023 MINISTRY REPORTS

### **PASTOR DAVE'S REPORT**

The Lord blessed me with the following things to do during the month of August:

Preached and/or led worship during the following services: 6th, 12th, 13th, 19th, 20th, 26th, & 27th

Staff Meetings: 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

2nd – Healing Service (Assisted Pastor Doug, who preached)

5th – “Back to School Bash”

10th – Executive Council Meeting

14th – Legacy Preschool Opening Day

15th – Church Council Meeting

16th – Celebration of Life for Allen List

19th & 26th – 25th Anniversary Celebration Planning Meeting

30th – Pastor Call Team Meeting

31st – “Life to Life” First Session

+ Helped with Preparation (set-up and take down) for “Back to School Bash”

+ Preparation for Discovery (rewriting and updating material)

+ Preparation for “Life to Life” (Discussion sheets for participants)

+ Sermon writing (2 children’s messages)

+ Preparation for upcoming “Chosen” series intergenerational study

+ Helped Gary Helgemo install a new window AC unit @ Care Center

+ Helped with harvesting corn

### **CARE MINISTRY, JILL DUNCAN**

With the funding from a few anonymous members and the persistence of Kim Radant, we now have two working AEDs at Bethel. One is still located next to the kitchen and the other one is by the elevator in the education wing.

The funeral dinner group prepared a lovely dessert buffet for Allen List’s family and friends following his Celebration of Life on August 16.

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

Sunday school opens Sept. 10. The committee is waiting to see how many children register.

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

To increase communication between the office staff and council, notes from the weekly staff meetings are now shared with council members. A news release was issued to the Current in Noblesville, Hamilton County Reporter and Noblesville Times about Marilyn’s Place opening in the Care Center at Bethel. It was designed to draw interest in Bethel’s new partnership, as well as a new home for the non-food pantry. Final ministry reports were submitted so compiling the annual report began.

### **FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY, JIM HERR**

Since I traded with Sarah Manro from Youth to Fellowship, I have not had time to sit with her and discuss activities she has planned. My intention is to narrow down the calendar and see where we can plug in.

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

We continue to try and grow the bands at 11:11 and 5:30 services. The Saturday Service seems to be growing a bit each week and we are starting to share some resources with the 11:11 until we can find a keyboard/piano person(s) for 11:11.

We will be preparing for Advent/Christmas soon and will schedule a planning meeting with our music committee. The organist and altar guild group seem to be getting enough volunteers and musicians to assist in absences. At the committee meeting for music, we will work on a plan to survey our congregation for hymn/song ideas that they would like to hear.

We are continuing to work with the AV area to try to assist and understand, which will hopefully make things go smoother with presentations on the screen and audio improvements. We hope this brings continued improvement in accuracy with lyrics and other communicative responses with the congregation.

**PROPERTY, JEFF REISING**

Sign has been painted. I think it looks good. Planning to mulch around the sign for a freshened-up first impression. Since I've lost my potential donor for a permanent capstone sign, I will probably add some plant material to the sign area to make it look better.

LCS has started school and things are going well both with them and also the revised cleaning plan with Chris Yazel. Harold and I are keeping an eye on that process; so far so good.

Does anyone else think the wood on the backs of the pews needs a thorough cleaning? Zack is kind of an anomaly but anytime he wears a light-colored shirt because he has such a high metabolism and sweats, his shirts always are dirty. Just curious. I think they feel sticky sometimes.

The A/C has held up well this summer under the heat pressures we've had and the additional bodies in the ed building.

Cones have been reduced to two arrow cones to encourage entering at the south entrance for the school parents. Long term, I think this will become more common due to increased traffic on Cumberland and the speed that they come through the light. Our main entry is too close to that intersection. This would be in conjunction with an entry off 206th Street through the farm property.

**SMALL GROUPS, TOM HOOPER**

Garage night group (Bethel men and others) meets at Tom Hooper's shop at 29460 Edmondson Rd, Atlanta 46031 every other Thursday night. Next night is September 7, 2023 at 7 pm. Group has agreed to give the Bethel mini bus some needed service and attention. We also work for the public good based on need and ability.

Men's Sausage and Scripture bible study met twice over the summer and is restarting Saturday morning, September 9, 2023 at 7:30 am breakfast, 8:00 am group book study.

**STEWARDSHIP, MARY JO MIKULSKI**

This month for Stewardship we are continuing to encourage members to give generously to the work of the Lord. Besides our weekly donations we have asked for funds to help put on the Bethel Anniversary on the 22nd of October and contribute to all the other activities with which Bethel is involved. We encourage each council member to give according to their ability and be supportive of encouraging the church in the same manner. Our yearly campaign will not be announced until after the Anniversary so that we do not encroach on other fund giving. We remember that all our funds work together for the good of the Lord.

**YOUTH MINISTRY, JIM HERR**

We put a callout to the congregation for folks interested in joining and helping with the Youth Ministry. We did not get any volunteers after an email and mentions by Pastor Dave in announcements. Sarah Manro has agreed to take over Youth going forward.