

Bethel Lutheran Church Council
Minutes, October 17, 2023
Draft

Attendees: Randy Baskerville, Ros Demaree, Gary Helgemo, Jim Herr, Pastor Dave Hill, Steve Horton, Sarah Manro, Steve Middleton, Mary Jo Mikulski, Jeff Reising, Linc Schneider.

Jim Herr called the meeting to order at 6:30. Pastor Dave led an opening devotion.

Minutes

Pastor Dave moved, and Gary Helgemo seconded, to approve the September 19, 2023, minutes as amended (correcting Jeff Yazel's payment to \$1,800/month). Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

September giving was about \$13,000 more than August, one of two months this year that has finished in the black. Steve moved, and Randy Baskerville seconded, that salary packages for a senior and associate pastor be inserted into the proposed 2024 budget. The motion was amended to make the insertion for six months instead of the full year. The amended motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Trunk or Treat – Plans are set for the Oct. 28 Trunk or Treat event from 2-4 p.m. Volunteers and food are needed.

Dinner Groups – There has been good feedback about restarting the dinner groups. They will launch when already-planned events are over.

Road Rally – Organizing for the Road Rally is in flux. More information will come.

Stewardship Presentation – Information will be emailed. The committee asks for council members to make their commitments by Nov. 12 to show leadership support.

Council/Staff Pitch-In Dinner – The first dinner is scheduled for Nov. 8.

Youth Meeting – A meeting is being organized, probably for Oct. 25, to make plans to grow the youth ministry.

Chili Cookoff – Rise Helgemo is organizing this fellowship event. It has been a fundraiser for the food pantry in past years but will be held simply for fun and fellowship this year.

Designated Funds Usage – It has been proposed that \$19,000 in the designated funds be given to the farmhouse payment and the remainder be given to the youth ministry. Action was tabled so the Financial Committee could review and give its opinion and recommendation on this idea.

Each One Reach One – The congregation will be encouraged to invite someone to worship on Nov. 5. All who make the invitation, whether the guest attends or not, will be invited to a meal following the 11:11 service on the 5th.

Mortgage Fundraiser – A suggestion was made at the Finance Committee meeting to host a fundraiser to pay off/down the mortgage. More discussion is to come before the committee makes a proposal.

Congregational Meeting Agenda – Council discussed the items that need to be presented at the Nov. 19 Congregational Meeting and the proposed budget. Steve Horton will update the proposed budget with the insertion of salary packages for a senior and associate pastor for half the year and send it to the council. Jim Herr will present the budget at the Congregational Meeting, with Steve and Harold Seamon on hand to help answer questions about its content.

Old Business

Attendance Reports – Jim Herr has access to Realm. He will receive attendance reports regularly.

25th Anniversary Celebration Meal – The payment to the caterer for the 25th Anniversary Celebration Meal needs council approval. Steve Horton moved, and Randy Baskerville seconded, to approve a \$4,000 payment. If donations exceed the payment, those funds will be put toward the mortgage.

Engagement Sheets – Attendance the weekend of Oct. 14/15 was 155; 102 worshippers turned in engagement sheets. Sign-ups were given to council members. Anyone who is unable to follow up on the sign-ups should put their list in Jim Herr's mailbox. Weekly, council members are to send additions or changes to the engagement sheets by Tuesday morning to Ros Demaree, who will send the compilation to Holly Eldredge.

Points to the Good of the Order –

Pastor Dave will get the council photo rehung.

Mary Jo Mikulski reminded all to keep their ministry bulletin board engaging and informative.

The Call Committee has been appointed: Mark Heckman, Tom Hooper, Steve Horton, Tom McGrail, Susan Tobison, Kristen Wells and Jamie Wilkinson. An alternate member is to be named.

Steve Horton moved, and Jeff Reising seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:10.

Respectively submitted,
Ros Demaree

OCTOBER 2023 MINISTRY REPORTS

PASTOR DAVE'S REPORT

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

- 6th – Led Healing Service
- 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th – Staff meetings
- 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th – “Life to Life” sessions
- 8th – Annual fish fry set-up/participation/take down
- 9th (a.m.) – Executive Council meeting
- 16th – Carey Keith Moore funeral (Kevin Moore's brother)
- 10th, 17th, 24th – first three of four Discovery sessions
- 14th – Church Council meeting
- 26th – Fire inspection

- Pastoral care to a number of our homebound and shut-in
- Attended a few Anniversary planning meetings
- Worship service preparation for upcoming stewardship Sundays
- Worship service preparation for Advent Midweek
- Advent devotional sign-up preparation
- Preparation for upcoming Chosen series intergenerational study
- Interview with Current managing editor at The Care Center
- Have been working with Elwood Fire Equipment about a faulty smoke detector in the sanctuary

CARE MINISTRY, JILL DUNCAN

The CARE group continues to meet and pray for those who have physical and/or emotional concerns. Plans are in motion for the 80s+ luncheon. Circle of Sisters continue to prepare for their upcoming craft fair.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY, GARY HELGEMO

Continue to view and discuss "The Chosen" A multi-generational Sunday School". The attendance is about twenty with three children.

Pastors Doug and Dave hold a study on "Life to Life Discipleship."

Women's Bible Study.

Men's Sausage and Scripture on Saturday mornings.

I would like council to discuss what should be done with the \$27,000 in Youth. I'm not sure if we have any youth!

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY, ROS DEMAREE

News releases about Bethel Care Center and opening of Marilyn's Place were submitted to Current in Noblesville, Hamilton County Reporter and Noblesville Times. The Current article is here: [A New Home: Clothing and supplies pantry moves into church's new care center • Current Publishing \(youarecurrent.com\)](#). Hamilton County Reporter published an article about the 25th anniversary celebration here: [Bethel Lutheran Church of Noblesville celebrating significant milestone Oct. 22 \(readthereporter.com\)](#)

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY, JIM HERR

We are planning the Chili Cookoff that will be so graciously led by Rise Helgemo. Shooting for October 29. We are planning a Council/Staff/Volunteers pitch in dinner on November 8. (spouses and children invited)

We are looking into some meals after and/or before services in the coming months to be led initially by the Saturday Men's Sausage and Scripture group. Only requirement for the meal is to show up to church and have invited a friend...its ok if they didn't show, we just require asking someone.

We plan to start organizing Advent meals next month as Advent starts December 3.

FINANCE COMMITTEE, STEVE HORTON

We went through the agenda and reviewed the monthly numbers. All mentioned the very low August contribution situation and that we definitely need to pivot the ministry to attract more people. Expenses are aligned to what we budgeted and are even lower than predicted. Everyone agreed that we can't do much more than what we're doing on the expense side.

I reviewed the scenarios for our Pastoral situation and the 4 models you provided. All agreed that Pastor Dave is valuable, and we should try to keep him a part of the ministry. Also, everyone was on board that a Senior Pastor, with enthusiasm, vision, and a true leader, would likely cause people to increase participation and/or bring new people to Bethel. Larry mentioned that God will provide if we get the right people in leadership to improve the direction and trajectory of the church.

Suggestions for raising/increasing funds:

- Fund raiser to pay down the mortgage
- Vendors @ Rummage sale to increase foot traffic, visibility, etc.
 - Create a festival-type atmosphere at the Rummage sale to increase community attendance

Cross training and backups

- I mentioned that this is a priority and Sarah should proactively look for, and find her backfill
- She said that she didn't understand the urgency ("why it became a big deal") as she is a volunteer and usually gets the contributions loaded within a "week or so" of getting them
- I was firm that if her missed deadline affects others missing their deadlines, i.e., Harold's ability to provide needed monthly financial data to the council, it was important and needed to be completed on time, every time.

I volunteered to reach out to Nancy Martz, or whoever is in charge of the counting teams and address the 3rd team participation. The Finance committee has decided we need another team, one has been identified, and a set of procedures are to be followed. If that requires a meeting with all teams, I guess I'll have to do it. Gotta get this resolved and get it off the agenda.

Next meeting is Tuesday, November 28th @ 6:30 pm.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP MINISTRY, LINC SCHNEIDER

Saturday services continue to grow steadily from about 20 a few months ago to 40. Mike Musick is leading the music, and we seem to have settled into a nice pace for style/growth. 8:45 is the largest attended service, and Sharon and the occasional sub are doing a terrific job with the liturgy/hymns. Still could use volunteers for greeters/acolytes at all services. Still working with the 11:11 and have a few potential candidates for joining.

Had a nice discussion with a new family in Discovery classes where there might be some commitment and willingness to help with Saturday and 11:11. Ideally at 11:11, would like to find a leader at some point who has a heart for the ministry and enjoys the contemporary style and music.

Working on the Oct 22nd anniversary service with all music groups. Our next meeting is Oct 10th prior to praise band rehearsal. AV could still use some support in all areas, particularly with Saturday services.

STEWARDSHIP, MARY JO MIKULSKI

This month we firm up our 2024 Stewardship Campaign entitled **Overflowing Generosity**, and it will run for three weeks beginning Sunday, November 5 thru November 19. The topics for each week are as follows:

November 5	<u>We are Caught and Taught to be Generous Stewards of our time, talent, and money.</u>
November 12	<u>Contagious Enthusiasm helps spread the gospel through our Stewardship.</u>
November 19	<u>Generosity Glorifies God</u>

On November 19 we will turn in our commitment card and bless them at the altar after communion.

I need 3 volunteers one each Sunday to share why you give to Bethel.

Need several to count the money on the commitment cards so that we can tally in time for the congregational meeting.

A letter with a commitment card will be sent out to arrive by the weekend of October 29 with an announcement that you should have or will receive it.

A thank you letter for a successful campaign will be sent out after the congregational meeting on the 19th, maybe include results of both commitment card, budget vote and info about meeting.

YOUTH MINISTRY, SARAH MANRO

I've compiled a list of current and recent former middle school and high school aged youth. I've emailed parents an introduction of who I am and what my hopes are for our youth at Bethel. Planning for a pizza dinner gathering for parents and youth Oct 18th to discuss what we want for our youth and to start a plan.