

Bethel Lutheran Church Council
Minutes, November 21, 2023
Draft

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

Jim Herr called the meeting to order at 6:39. Pastor Dave led an opening devotion.

Minutes

Mary Jo Mikulski moved, and Jill Duncan seconded, to approve the October 17, 2023, minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

October revenue exceeded expenses by \$5,698. Harold Seamon pointed out that a good job has been done to cut expenses, but if we were still paying a youth director, we would be in the red. Tom Hooper moved, and Randy Baskerville seconded, to approve the financial report. Motion passed unanimously.

Communications and Publication of Events

Mary Jo Mikulski shared an 11-point list of ways to promote Bethel events internally and externally. Council members were urged to use the list whenever an event is planned and to ask Ros Demaree or Mary Jo for help getting events publicized.

Stewardship Update – Volunteers have been recruited to enter pledges. Messages during the Stewardship campaign were strong and uplifting. Mary Jo will make occasional messages and announcements throughout the year.

A/V Volunteers Update – Help is mostly needed during Saturday night services. There was an uptick in attendance Nov. 18/19, and the 25th celebration was well received and attended. The Worship and Music Ministry is looking for more opportunities to have single services, including one on July 21 when there will be a congregational picnic being organized by the Fellowship Ministry.

Property Update – Actions are needed to avoid fines when the fire inspector returns. LED lighting is being added to the sanctuary. A tree in the front of the campus was replaced, and a work group took care of leaf clean-up.

Fellowship – The annual Pie Night will return following the Thanksgiving Eve service. Volunteers are lined up to set up, cook, and clean up after the Midweek Advent meals and worship. Rise Helgemo is responding to Fellowship sign-ups on the engagement cards. There will be a Movie Night Jan. 20 beginning at 6:30; The Greatest Showman will be shown. It may be combined with a Wine and Cheese event that the Small Groups Ministry is organizing.

Small Groups – Three families have offered to host small groups, which will be 3-5 couples per group. Most people who signed up to participate in small groups do not want to drive at night. Small groups will launch with a Wine and Cheese event to form groups.

Other Business

Food Pantry – Use of the pantry has exploded and funds to support it are dwindling. Ideas for pumping up the funds included donating some of the \$25,000 in the Youth account to the pantry, asking the congregation for help, using some of the funds that have accumulated in the Missions account for the pantry. The Missions Ministry was asked to propose a plan at the January Council meeting for use of the funds in its account to build the church.

Mortgage – Harold Seamon and the Finance Committee will discuss how to move payments on the mortgage principal.

LCS Rent - Legacy Christian School was to have started making monthly payments Nov 1, but it was unknown if the first payment was made. Expenses are accruing. Council will receive a report after this is looked into.

Individual Giving - When congregants want to know where they stand on their pledges, Harold Seamon or Sarah Manro can run a report for them.

Attendance – Council was expecting to receive monthly reports on worship. This has not happened, but will be followed up on and provided.

Pastor Dave moved, and Steve Horton seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer at 7:48.

Respectively submitted,
Ros Demaree

NOVEMBER 2023 MINISTRY REPORTS

PASTOR DAVE’S REPORT

“We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.” Romans 8:28

The Lord blessed me with the following things to do during the month of October.

Preached and/or led worship during following services: Sept. 30/Oct. 1, 7/8th, 14/15th, 22nd (25th Anniversary.) 28/29th & Healing Service on the 4th

Staff Meetings: 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st

Care Team Meetings: 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

Life to Life Sessions: 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

Executive Team Meeting: 10th

Council Meeting: 17th

Care Ministry Meeting: 25th

Trunk or Treat Event: 28th

Chili Cookoff Event: 29th

- + Pastoral Care/Counseling with a number of our homebound and others
- + Worship Service Preparation for Up-Coming Stewardship Sundays
- + Worship Service Preparation for Advent Sundays & Midweek
- + Advent Devotional Booklet Preparation
- + Preparation for "Chosen" series intergenerational study.

CARE MINISTRY, JILL DUNCAN

The 80+ luncheon was a great success this year. 34 of our 80+ members and their families attended. Including Pastors and volunteers, we served about 90 or so people. Kim Radant did a great job organizing the event. Randy and Dee Baskerville furnished the main course of yummy chicken and noodles and several members donated desserts. Pastor Doug and Pastor Dave had a fun and uplifting program. Many commented that this was our best yet!

A funeral Cookie reception was held for Earnie Hill.

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY, ROS DEMAREE

Applause to Gay Hanson for heading up publishing of a commemorative issue of Footprints for the 25th anniversary celebration. A few rough spots in distributing the engagement cards are being smoothed, and communications is working with Holly to keep them updated. Several additional greeters have volunteered through them. The 8:45 greeter schedule is full through the end of the year, and the 11:11 one is nearly full. The Saturday night schedule needs continued work on recruitment.

FELLOWSHIP, JIM HERR

Had a great Each One Reach One meal hosted by the Men's Sausage & Scripture group on Nov. 5. Team is planning Advent midweek meals and has sign-ups on the engagement cards.

Planning a movie night in January and a picnic day in July.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP MINISTRY, LINC SCHNEIDER

Music and worship had a nice uplift with all music groups for the 25th anniversary service. Had many folks in congregation wanted to see more events like this. Thoughts maybe to do 3 per year around special holidays.

Continue to see small upticks in attendance at 5:30 and 11:11. Still working on getting more volunteers for Sat AV and musicians for both Sat and Sunday 11:11.

As we go into the next 3 weeks highlighting stewardship, let us remember it starts in the heart with usually a call to be a part of a ministry at church. The altar guild, reading, greeting and AV is a great way to begin if music is not your thing.

STEWARDSHIP, MARY JO MIKULSKI

In October, we set up our plan for our Stewardship Campaign and mailed out the introductory letter with the Commitment Card enclosed. This campaign begins November 5 and will run three weeks ending in turning in our commitment Cards. There will be an emphasis on Stewardship at worship on all

three Saturday and Sundays and end the blessing of the Commitment Cards during the worship on the weekend of the 18 and 19. All council members are encouraged to submit their card in a timely fashion so as to have done so by Nov 19.

We are sending out e mail blasts and sermons on all three Sundays with an emphasis on Stewardship.

YOUTH MINISTRY, SARAH MANRO

Youth has gone back to a weekly Midweek group, meeting Wednesday evenings 7-8:30. So far we have met once and will meet once more before Advent season. We had 3 youth (2 of which were my kids) at our first meeting. We are making a plan for the Advent season and scheduling some more events.