

**Bethel Lutheran Church Council**  
**Minutes, December 19, 2023**  
**Hidden Bay Community Building, Cicero**  
**DRAFT**

**Attendees:** Ros Demaree, Jill Dunn, Gary Helgemo, Jim Herr, Pastor Dave Hill, Tom Hooper, Steve Horton, Mary Jo Mikulski, Jeff Reising, Harold Seamon.

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

**Administrative Business**

Mary Jo Mikulski moved, and Jill Duncan seconded, to approve the November 21, 2023, minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

In addition to his written report, Harold Seamon said \$10,600 was given during the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The gifts will be used to pay down the building mortgage, as directed in an earlier Council meeting. Jill Duncan moved, and Pastor Dave seconded, to approve the finance report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**Congregational Profile**

The Call Committee's Congregational Profile was shared with a recommendation from the Executive Committee to edit a sentence in the question describing the nature of the relationship between our last pastor and the congregation. The sentence is to read: ... Prior to his departure, there was a growing tension among a (delete significant) number of congregants ...

Mary Jo Mikulski offered another edit to be more upfront about the youth ministry – that the Call Committee add that when the youth director left, most of the families with youth left also. It was moved, and Gary Helgemo seconded, to approve the Congregational Profile with both suggested edits. Motion passed unanimously.

**Advent Offering**

Per a recommendation from the Executive Committee, Mary Jo Mikulski moved, and Gary Helgemo seconded, to give the Advent offering to the food pantry. Motion passed unanimously.

**NALC Pastoral Training**

Pastor Dave will attend a three-day NALC training in January in Orlando that focuses on how to cope with pastoral pressures and needs. Because the cost of the training is within the budget for pastoral education, the Council did not need to approve the expense.

Steve Horton moved, and Jeff Reising seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectively submitted,  
Ros Demaree

**DECEMBER 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**

I was blessed to do the following during November and December:

**NOVEMBER**

**WORSHIP:** 8 services (Sundays & Saturdays); Healing (1<sup>st</sup> - All Saint's Day) , Thanksgiving Eve (22<sup>nd</sup>), 1 Advent Devotion (29<sup>th</sup>).

**MEETINGS:** Care Team (5 incl. regroup), Office Staff (5), Missions Team , Executive Team, Annual Meeting, Church Council and Marilyn's Place

**CONTACTS:** Legacy (Weekly), Homebound Members (6), Fire Inspector. Elwood Fire (Smoke Detector)

**ACTIVITIES:** Christmas Child Box Blessing, Craft Sale Set-up, Work Party (leaf removal), Life to Life - 3 Thurs. Sessions, Hanging of the Greens (24<sup>th</sup>), The Chosen Study Preparation, Bapt./Member Welcome (19<sup>th</sup>), Advent Series Preparation, Volunteer Luncheon, Food Pantry Help, Youth group

+ Call Team set-up for ZOOM calls

+ Power points for Advent Wednesdays

+ Preaching Schedule for Sundays

**DECEMBER**

**WORSHIP:** 9 Services (Saturdays & 2 Christmas Eve), 4 Midweek Advent Devotionals

**MEETINGS:** Care Team (2), Office Staff (3). Executive Team, 6 Month Planning (5<sup>th</sup>), Havenwood HOA (7<sup>th</sup>), Marilyn's Place

**CONTACTS:** Legacy (Weekly), Homebound Members (4), Hahn Financial (Benefits Re-Enrollment), Mike Chance (Evelyn passed away)

**ACTIVITIES:** Volunteer Luncheon, Wreaths Across America, Council Christmas Party, The Chosen Study Preparation, Food Pantry Help, Legacy Christmas Program

+ Begin Lenten Series Preparation

+ Vacation time Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> to Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>

**PASTOR DOUG'S REPORT**

PDF attached separately.

**CARE MINISTRY, JILL DUNCAN**

Circle of Sisters held their annual craft sale with about 15 vendors. They made \$1,580, which was equally divided between their water mission and their reserve for supplies.

The Creative Spirits group continues to crochet edges on fleece baby blankets. Every baby born at Riverview Hospital receives one.

The CARE group is seeing an increase in the number of people in the congregation having surgery. Requests for meals is increasing. We need a volunteer to lead/co-lead the SON-SHINE

club. This is mainly coordinating people to “take a meal” to people following surgery or other emotional times.

**COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY, ROS DEMAREE**

The staff produced God With Us, the annual Advent Devotions booklet. Twenty-three congregants and both pastors contributed devotions. Gay Hanson continues to update the website. Job descriptions for the Fellowship and Stewardship ministry leaders were added. Fifteen individuals or couples have volunteered to be greeters for the 8:45 services, nine for the 11:11 services, and one for the Saturday services. Recruitment for additional greeters continues, as does asking volunteers to take shifts in January, February and March.

**FELLOWSHIP AND EVANGELISM MINISTRIES, JIM HERR AND STEVE MIDDLETON**

The fellowship and evangelism committees met on December 4. We continued planning around Advent Midweek and laid out a plan for Lenten Midweek. We worked on details of the upcoming Bethel Family Movie Night on January 20.

We also continued planning for the single service picnic on July 21. We will have the chili cookoff next October on either the 20<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> based on the timing of the 80-Plus luncheon. We have penciled in Bethel Bingo Night for April 20 after the 5:30 service. Men’s Sausage and Scripture will be planning another congregational meal after the first of the year.

**MUSIC AND WORSHIP MINISTRY, LINC SCHNEIDER**

Continue to see more people at worship in all services. The Saturday music seems to have found its groove with an additional guitar/vocalist. I would encourage those who like Country Gospel to come and take a listen to the new sound. Sunday 8:45 and 11:11 still are moving along with the musicians/volunteers as we strive to get better each week.

We are working on some ways to provide special music in all worship services and look forward to seeing this develop over the next year.

Continue to need volunteers at all services for AV/Greeters/Reader/Ushers/Offering/Altar Guild. Looking forward to the end of year Christmas and New Years Eve services to help kick us off into the new year.

**STEWARDSHIP, MARY JO MIKULSKI**

The Stewardship Committee combined with the Evangelism Committee gave out 97 Christmas treat bags to the Home School Group and 50 Christmas treat bags to the Legacy Preschool and will have 25 treat bags to give out to young people at Christmas Eve Services.

The Committee also gives thanks for the generous donations given to Bethel during the 25th Anniversary for the mortgage, the farm and the general fund. We wish everyone a joyous Christmas and give thanks for the generosity of Bethel members.

**YOUTH MINISTRY, SARAH MANRO**

Youth has scheduled Comedy Night with Rick Garrett for Friday, February 9, 2024. The group is going to an Indy Fuel game Dec. 16.

