

Bethel Lutheran Church Council
Minutes, January 16, 2024
DRAFT

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

Jim Herr called the meeting to order at 6:33. Pastor Dave led an opening prayer.

Minutes

Pastor Dave Hill moved, and Sarah Manro seconded, that the Dec., 19, 2023, minutes be approved as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Finance Report

Harold Seamon reported that momentum is on our side. For the first time since 2020, there was a positive balance at year's end and the general fund balance is the highest it has been since that same year. December gifts were dramatically higher in 2023, despite attendance being markedly down. The net total gain has grown larger in the past four months.

Council members were reminded that when a Bethel credit card is used, a voucher needs to be submitted to Dee Baskerville, using the Finance mailbox. The Finance Committee was asked to confirm if all the numerous auto pays are needed. A discussion ensued, but was tabled to the February meeting, about who has oversight regarding the credit cards, whether the procedures for using them are well communicated, and when they should or should not be used.

Steve Horton moved, and Pastor Dave seconded, to approve the finance report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Engagement Cards

Betsy Horton and Pastor Dave are doing a great job summarizing the volunteers signing up and announcing the opportunities on the cards. The various ministries appreciate the volunteers and the energy they are building at Bethel.

Office Staffing

A concern arose when the office was unstaffed the Friday before Christmas. The absences were due to the way the Bethel policy allows for holiday time off and Christmas falling on a Sunday but were unanticipated by congregants. Volunteers will be recruited to be in the office when a similar staffing situation happens. They will be trained to answer the phones.

Legacy Christian School Update

Jeff Reising has written a report that the committee will discuss, along with plans for the 2024-25 school year. LCS paid \$1,750/month November, December and January, which is less than was planned though the school continues to work to increase enrollment.

Mary Jo Mikulski expressed the need for a committee to focus on engaging LCS and the Classical Conversations home school group in Bethel worship and fellowship events. Students in both groups were given small, much-appreciated gifts at Christmastime. Families need to be invited to be part of

Bethel activities. Mary Jo will look for someone by the February Council meeting to lead this evangelism effort.

Event Planning

Family Movie Night, Jan. 20. The Fellowship and Evangelism ministries have planned this event. Candy will be sold as a fundraiser. Sausage and Scripture Bible study members will be asked to set up Fellowship Hall.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, Feb. 13. Rise Helgemo is organizing the food side. Sausage and Scripture Bible study members will be asked to set up Fellowship Hall.

An eclipse event on April 8 has been cancelled.

Comedy Night, Feb. 9. The Youth Ministry is organizing this evening, which will have a Mardi Gras theme. Guests are asked to bring food at 6, the show will start at 7. Posters are being printed. An invitation needs to be sent to Legacy Christian School parents.

Property

Jeff Reising provided a summary of things needing work on the property. The priorities for this year are painting and the concrete work.

Missions Ministry

Randy Baskerville reported that the Missions ministry has allocated \$50,500, including \$20,000 to the pantry. A business has agreed to match any funds Bethel contributes to the Water Project. Other plans being put together are funding trips for two Ethiopian pastors to come to Bethel and providing a seminary scholarship.

Bethel has \$41,001 to spend on disaster relief this year. Missions will coordinate a Stuff the Truck event for Heartland Mission District in March. Details will be distributed to the congregation. Volunteers will be needed to fill buckets and load the truck, which could become another opportunity to share food and fellowship.

Youth Ministry

Sarah Manro said the Youth committee wants to explore funding a third scholarship. The committee will present a plan to the Council.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by consensus at 7:41 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosalyn Demaree

January 2024 Ministry Reports

PASTOR DAVE'S REPORT

Attached separately as pdf

CARE MINISTRY, JILL DUNCAN

The holiday season is an especially difficult time emotionally and physically for a lot of people. The CARE ministry team has worked in overdrive sending cards, making calls (phone and face to face) and praying for those in need. This included our own leader, Pastor Doug.

There are 7 members who are currently receiving communion from our Eucharistic ministers.

The Creative Spirits group continues to make baby blankets for all babies born at Riverview.

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY, ROS DEMAREE

Jim Herr and Mary Jo Mikulski collaborated with Gay Hanson to update/create job descriptions for the Fellowship and Stewardship ministry chairs. Every ministry now has a job description posted on the Bethel website, which will help future chairs learn more about their responsibilities quickly.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP MINISTRY, LINC SCHNEIDER

We continue to work with Saturday night group to get music and lyrics correct with projector slides. We are closer with solutions. The Praise group played for Christmas Eve Candlelight and seemed to be well received by the congregation. Always can use volunteers in all areas of Worship and Music. Looking forward to planning Lenten and Easter Services. Continue to have committed weekly servants who love the Lord. This is truly a blessing.

Also, there has been feedback on the music quality not being very good when listening online for the 11:11 service. We are working to improve musically, and there is an intentional effort to focus mixing on the live service as feedback tells me it sounds better live at the church where more people attend. Just not enough time and folks to mix on line to maximize the quality.

STEWARDSHIP, MARY JO MIKULSKI

We begin this new year with many plans and ideas. One of the Laws of Stewardship is the law of eager willingness. As we move through 2024 let us as members of Bethel be eager in our willingness to give of our time, our talents, and our treasure to Bethel in the eager action of sharing the gospel, giving of our abilities and our finances to all the ways we at Bethel reach out to the community and the world. Let us put our gifts outside ourselves first so that God's work is done in the world.

YOUTH MINISTRY, SARAH MANRO

Youth went to an Indy Fuel hockey game on Dec 16. We had 6 youth and 4 parents. A good time was had by all! We will start midweek group meetings again Wednesday, January 10 and prepare for Comedy Night on February 9.