

Bethel Lutheran Church Council
Minutes, April 16, 2024
Approved May 21, 2024

Attendees: Randy Baskerville, Ros Demaree, Jill Dunn, 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 6:36. Harold Seamon offered a devotion and Pastor Dave led an opening prayer.

Minutes

Gary Helgemo moved, and Pastor Dave seconded, to approve the March 19, 2024, minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

March General Fund revenue was up \$4,287 over February. This was anticipated because March was a 5-Sunday month and included Easter. Total revenue for all funds in March was \$77,250, an increase of \$13,013 over February.

March total expenses were up over \$6,000 compared to February, primarily due to utilities. An electric bill of \$3,597 was inadvertently paid twice (\$3,597 will be credited on our next bill). Our propane bill in March was \$5,042 (no propane bills in February). Property expenses were also up in March primarily due to our quarterly insurance payment of \$3,789. Salary and benefit costs were down, due to three payrolls paid in February and two in March.

Lent contributions totaled \$9,854, including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Ash Wednesday offerings. They will be given to Ethiopian church Bethel supports.

Based on a Finance Committee recommendation, Steve Horton moved, and Steve Middleton seconded, that \$250,000 in the money market account be used to purchase three 6-month CDs. At the time of the meeting, the money market fund was earning less than 1 percent interest, the CDs were earning 4.9 percent interest. The committee would then look at next steps when the CDs mature. Motion passed unanimously.

There was a request that a list of missions that Bethel supports be part of the May council meeting and for more information on the \$93,000 Designated Fund. Randy Baskerville explained that the Designated Fund was given by a family with the restriction that it be used solely for trips where Bethel members go on a mission. Missions has designated \$20,000 to be given to the Food Pantry and \$19,500 to bring two pastors whose Ethiopian congregations Bethel supports to Noblesville.

Ministry Changes

Steve Horton has agreed to be nominated for a second term on the council but wants to head the Small Groups ministry. The current Council member leading small groups, Tom Hooper, will become the Finance Committee lead.

Building Fund Budget

The Building Fund has \$109,224 and the Property Committee has a list of projects that need to be done. It was suggested that the Property Committee use Building Fund monies for those projects; if the fund drops to \$60,000, \$2,000/month would transfer in to the fund until it again reaches \$100,000. The suggestion was sent back to the Finance Committee to consider and draft a proposal for the May council meeting.

Audit of Books

The bylaws call for a biannual audit to be conducted. The last one was done in 2002, though the books were reviewed in 2019 as part of the mortgage refinancing. Considering the cost of the audit, its value and the time commitment, the council tabled this idea until more research is done.

Request to Use Parking Lot

Owners of the privately owned party venue on 206th Street have asked to use Bethel's north lot when overflow parking is needed. They would be responsible for any necessary clean-up. During discussion, it was suggested that we request a \$250 donation for each use and that they provide a certificate of insurance naming Bethel as a co-insured. Gary Helgemo moved, and Randy Baskerville seconded, to approve the request. Motion passed 13-1.

Water Testing/LCS Count

The cost of mandatory water testing has increased due to Legacy Christian School's daily use of the building. Harold Seamon, Jeff Reising and Jim Herr will talk to the school's director about paying an additional amount to cover this.

Congregational Meeting

The congregational meeting will be held at 7 p.m. June 23.

Evangelism

Jim Herr shared a handout that showed statistics related to the growth of unchurched adults, including 48 percent of the unchurched credit do not see a value in being church. Bethel offers a lot of value, but is the message getting out there? Strategies are needed to market upcoming summer events (June 21 concert, July 21 single service and picnic). A plan is needed to respond when children come to church for Sunday school. This was intended as a thought-starter. Ideas will all be discussed at the May council meeting.

Scholarships

Gary Helgemo reported that the process of getting applications for the two scholarships is underway. Pastor Dave will announce their availability before services.

Sale of Bus

Bethel has sold its bus. Expenses to maintain it had been paid from the Building Fund. Jim Herr moved, and Pastor Dave seconded, to put \$8,000 from the sale into the Building Fund, earmarked for repair and maintenance needs in the sanctuary. Motion passed unanimously.

Rummage Sale

Proceeds from the annual Rummage Sale need to be designated. Jill Duncan moved, and Tom Hooper seconded, to give \$250 to the girls Scout troop and the rest to pay down the higher of our two mortgages. Motion passed unanimously. Signs throughout the building will tell shoppers the ways Bethel is connected to the community that sale proceeds support.

Senior Recognition Service

Sarah Manro and the pastors will plan the Recognition Service for graduating seniors.

Coffee House

Pastor Dave suggested Bethel host a monthly Friday Coffee House where the Praise Band would perform and there would be a short devotion. Linc Schneider is talking to the Praise Group about this.

Jeff Reising moved, and Steve Middleton seconded, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:59 p.m. Motion passed unanimously, and the Lord's Prayer was said.

Respectively submitted

Ros Demaree

E-Vote, May 8, 2024

Jeff Reising provided three estimates for exterior work – painting, including staining at the entry area, and the cleaning and painting of the steeple. Each company provided costs for painting alone, staining alone, and steeple work alone. In an e-vote, Council agreed to commit the funds for all three projects and to hire Heritage Painting to do the work. Its estimate was \$29,997. Motion passed 9-0.

E-Votes, May 18, 2024

Jeff Reising provided two estimates for a contract to remove all concrete panels from the south end of the main entrance to the point north of the entrance where the pantry and handicap parking walk connect, as well as installing an ADA ramp at the drop-off point in front of the main doors. Council agreed to commit the money, \$9,094, from the Building Fund to Prater and Sons. Motion passed 4-2.

APRIL 2024 MINISTRY REPORTS

PASTOR DAVE'S REPORT

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:6

<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>
<p>WORSHIP SERVICES & FUNERALS 8 Services (Saturdays/Sundays-Preaching/Assisting) Healing (3rd)</p> <p>MEETINGS Care Team (4) Office Staff (5) Executive Team (1) Church Council (1) Discovery Sessions (3) Heartland Mission District Zoom</p> <p>PASTORAL CONTACTS/CALLS Legacy (Weekly) Homebound Members (4) Families w/ Pastoral needs (3)</p> <p>PASTORAL ACTIVITIES Bethel Bingo Bonanza</p> <p>PERSONAL + 30th – B'day Celebration in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>8 Services (Saturdays/Sundays-Preaching/ Assisting) Healing (1st)</p> <p>Office Staff (4) Executive Team (1) Church Council (1) 6 Month Planning Discovery Final Session Care Meeting (Whole Team)</p> <p>Legacy Homebound Members (4) Families w/ Pastoral needs (3)</p> <p>Assisted with Election Poll Station set up. Legacy year-end 16th & 17th Art Event Chosen Study Assisted Mission Mechanical After Worship Reception for Ryan's Graduation</p>

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY, JIM HERR

We had a great Lenten Midweek season, and there was plenty of food and volunteers each night.

We are now focused on the upcoming Bingo Bonanza on April 27 at 2:00PM in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Doug is the caller, and we will have some creative prizes and snacks. This is free and open to the public.

In May we will be planning a craft day with a Christian Artist introduced to us by Susan Adda. This will be the afternoon of the 18th in the Fellowship Hall. On June 21 (Friday night) we will host Rick Garrett for a concert at the Farmhouse lawn next door. We are still working out the details of the single service outside with a picnic and games on July 21.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP MINISTRY, LINC SCHNEIDER

Easter weekend/Holy Week was a success as the attendance was encouraging with all of our music teams busy doing God's work with the heart of Jesus. Continue to encourage for more volunteers in all areas of worship as a servant's heart brings much more in return.

Working on different ways to present the same formats of the Lutheran Church, but more in line with themes of the bible studies and readings for the week with more of a flare at 5:30 and 11:11. Continue

to work on improving accuracy with slides and music/readings/liturgy. Ideally, would like to see more proactivity in changes verses same week. This causes more stress with the AV Team. The online music seems better balanced for the 11:11. It seems our resource needs revolve more around time to put together cool ideas versus monetary solutions. Still working on how to get things done without having to participate musically all the time.

STEWARDSHIP, MARY JO MIKULSKI

We continue to encourage giving as we begin to work on our 2024 Stewardship Campaign. We need several more committee members to aid us in this project so are reaching out on Engagement Sheets to ask for help. The Stewardship Committee in collaboration with the Christian Education Committee gave out Easter packets to all children in the home school program, Legacy Preschool and the Easter Services. This involved about 175 children.