

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

April 20, 2023

6:30 pm

God's Family Serving Christ with Love

Jaime Benson – Present
Kory Anderson – Present
Geoff Gilbert – Present
Jaimie Rudolph – Present
Kerry Melby – Present
Brian Connor – Present
Mark Teslik – Present
Tina Thomas -Present
Braxton Druckery – Present
Lisa Cook - Present

Dwelling in the Word -Tina Jeremiah 29:11

Call to Order by Kerry Melby at 6:40 pm

Prayer Pastor Jaime

Approval of the Agenda

Added to agenda Parish Administrative Assitant

Motion By Tina Thomas to approve agenda Second By Brian Connor Motion Carried

Approval of Last Month's Minutes'

Motion By Lisa Cook to Approve minutes Second by Kory Anderson Motion Carried

Pastor Report -

Parish Associate Report

Committee Reports

A. Finance

B. Property

C. Worship & Music

Approval of Committee Reports

Motion By Geoff Gilbert to approve committee reports Second by Jaimie Rudolph Motion Carried

Old Business

- Alternative Revenue Streams (Pr. Jaime)

Discussion of the A Ha moments, discussion of how much we are charging the farmer for the land he rents. The property committee is already in discussion of this.

Discussion of renting the church space and grounds. Property Committee will review.

We need to start thinking about how we can be more self-sustaining.

Taste of Portage 08/25 and 08/26 – looking for someone to coordinate.

- Strategic Planning – Values Discussion (Kerry)
 - Rankings
 1. Faith, 2. Kindness, 3. Service 4. Community 5. Respect 6. Spirituality and forgiveness.
 - Meeting on 04/25 11 am to discuss with Carol and Jerry

New Business

- Photo of Council Member for Church Directory
- All Committee Meeting Reminder: May 1 @ 6:30 pm -Planning for the summer.
- Easter Brunch Donations (Kerry) – Brad/Brian are going to split the difference in costs to donate.
- Livestream Worship (Kerry) -We can set up a training for this. Tania, Melissa and Julie could help with this training.
- Beverages Served at Summer Concerts (See Tania’s report under “Special Events”) – We are okay with this with. Use best judgment.
- Parish administrative assistant – We have no applications at this time. Tina Thomas is willing to do 15 hours a week. Julie is willing to do things behind the scene and is willing to do the training. Office hours may need to be reduced.
- **Motion made by Brian Connor to approve Tina Thomas and to adjust hours to 15 a week a second by Geoff Gilbert. Motion Carried. Tina Thomas abstained from the vote.**

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 8:10 by Tina Thomas second by Brian Conno Motion Carried

Lord’s Prayer

Pastor’s Report

The majority of my time and attention this month has been on worship and pastoral care so here are some of the highlights!

Our worship life has been busy this past month! Our Lenten Wednesday services and soup suppers ended with the month of March and the beginning of Holy Week. A big thank you to all that helped make worship and supper possible and enjoyable! It was a great time for connection and worship together. We started Holy Week with Palm Sunday (123 attending) and the celebration of the first communion of seven students. Congratulations to all of them and a big thank you to Jeff Melby for teaching the class once again! We continued our journey through the week with Maundy Thursday worship (6:30 pm) with 28 in attendance, Good Friday (1 pm) with 39 in attendance, and concluded the week with two Easter services at 8 & 10:30 am with brunch in between. There were 97 and 72 in attendance respectively. Another big thank you to all those who helped with the brunch, especially Brad & Lisa Cook, Brian Franson & Bonnie Dixon, Del Molden, and Katie Cook. It was delicious!

I made multiple visits and phone calls this month offering pastoral care. Additionally, I planned the funeral of Dorothy Weber and supported Ginny Sheimo and her family as she was put on hospice and passed away last week.

I also attended various meetings, including worship & music, text study, personnel, finance, and high school youth group. Personnel reviewed the applications that came in last month for the administrative assistant job posting and we tried to set up interviews. Unfortunately, no interviews were conducted due to lack of interest in the position. This month we have not received any new applications, however I have a proposal to present during our meeting for us to discuss. Please stay tuned!

Also, just a note, I was on vacation last week and was grateful for the time away to rest. That's all for now!

In peace,

Pastor Jaime Benson

Parish Associate Report

Sunday School

Traditional class is planned for May 7th and an end of the year celebration is planned for May 21st. We may have an activity Sunday on May 14th for Mother's Day, depending upon turnout that morning. There was a teachers' meeting on April 16th to discuss curriculum, the end of the year celebration, the children's play for next year and the results of a survey handed out to parents. There will be enough curriculum for next year, so we should not have to order anything at this time.

Ecumenical VBS

VBS week will be July 31st-August 4th. The theme this year will be "Stellar".

Fruit of the Spirit, Kids Club & Service Projects

Fruit of the Spirit Kids Club: Because of the low head count at Kids Club, we have decided to cancel the May 7th class. We would like to start it up again in the fall, possibly on one Wednesday night each month (end of the month?). We would have a non-traditional service with a family night, which would include kids club, confirmation, and other activities. More information will be coming soon as we figure out these details.



Local Missions/Service projects: We have a spring-cleaning service activity planned with the Habitat Restore on Saturday, April 29th 10:00am-2:00pm. This will involve planting some flowers for the store to sell as well as planting flowers in some planter boxes in front of the store, and spring cleaning onsite. We will be asking the congregation (next week) to donate a few items such as seeds, plants and potting soil. We are still working on a possible build date for a Habitat for Humanity house build in Lake Delton and may also add a Shantytown activity hosted onsite at BLC.

Confirmation

Classes resume Wednesday, April 19th. We will be discussing the Lord's Prayer until our last class on Wednesday, May 10th. We will be hosting a "retreat" day for our confirmation students one day this summer, approximately 2:00pm-8:00pm. Although there is an end goal for each student to create a faith statement during this time, games and teambuilding activities (and dinner) will be included. Date TBD. Also, we are waiting for Lutherdale to release their retreat weekends/dates for 2023-2024 before we select one that will be strongly encouraged for the confirmation students to attend.

Youth

We are hosting a "Come as You Are" worship service on Wednesday, May 10th and will be getting the youth involved with this. Two staff members/interns from Lutheran Campus Ministries will be

attending worship that night to share their own faith stories, how they came to LCM, and what LCM offers students. Pr. Jaime is planning for two youth bonfire nights this summer for connection and reflection: Wednesday, June 14th and Wednesday, August 30th. We are hoping to add a Youth retreat weekend in 2023-2024. More information coming soon.

DR Trip Update for Megan: They have raised \$14,557.50 so far with a goal of \$20,000. They will plan on a few more casserole sales in the future along with a bowling fundraiser on August 26th, possibly butter braid sales, and another trivia night this fall.

2024 Youth Gathering

Planning has started for the BLC trip to the ELCA 2024 Youth Gathering event in New Orleans July 16-20, 2024. We will be putting together some information soon for all the BLC families that would like to attend. We are going to use the guidelines per the ELCA for chaperones (as shown here) and will need to talk about fundraising very soon. Priority registration deadline is November 1, 2023. We will need \$150 per person wanting to attend by that date.

Ratio

Please be mindful that this event is designed for young people, not adults, and bring only enough adult leaders for a successful experience. The Gathering suggests the following ratios:

# of Youth	# of Adults
2-6	2-3
7-13	3-4
14-20	4-5
21-27	5-6
28-34	6-7
35-41	7-8
42-48	8-9

Cost

Registration fees support the Gathering’s programmatic, logistical and administrative operations. A \$150 deposit is required at time of registration for the ELCA Youth Gathering and Young Adult Gathering. A deposit is not required for MYLE or the tAble. A limited amount of money is set aside to provide youth with financial assistance for registration. More information will be available in spring 2023.

Please note that hotel, meal and travel costs are not included in the registration fee. We encourage congregations to budget \$50-60 per person, per day for meals and \$175 /night + tax for a room. Typically, three individuals are assigned to a room.

	ELCA Youth Gathering	MYLE (pre-event)	the tAble (pre-event)	Young Adult Gathering
Priority Registration (Sept. 15 – Nov. 1, 2023)	\$375 (Deposit: \$150)	\$190	\$190*	\$260 (Deposit: \$150)
Regular Registration (Nov. 2, 2023 – Feb. 14, 2024)	\$425 (Deposit: \$150)	\$190	\$190*	\$310 (Deposit: \$150)
Late Registration (Feb. 15 – April 15, 2024)	\$475 (Deposit: \$150)	\$190	\$190*	\$360 (Deposit: \$150)

Special Events:

The “Feed Your Soul” summer farmers’ market and concert series dates have been set for June, July and August. Please see the flier below. BLC will host a tent/booth at this event with donated goods; all proceeds going toward the mission and ministries of BLC. **During the concert, we would also like to sell snacks and non-alcoholic wine spritzers and non-alcoholic beer. I will need to know of the council is ok with this.**

Other summer events: We are also planning the annual PetFest for Sunday, August 13th and a Sunday school kick-off event on Sunday, August 27th.

Feed Your Soul 

FARMERS' MARKET & CONCERT SERIES
SUMMER 2023

Featuring music by
BRENDAN BROOKS
brendanbrooksmusic.com

June 28th
July 26th
August 23rd

FARMERS' MARKET 2:00PM-6:00PM
OUTDOOR CONCERT 5:00PM-6:00PM

Will feature local vendors with homegrown produce & handmade goods. Snacks & beverages available for purchase during the concert. Bring your own chairs!


Bethlehem Lutheran Church
W8267 State Hwy 33, Portage
BETHLEHEMLCPORTAGE.ORG

Committee Reports

FINANCE

Meeting Held April 3, 2023—

1. Financial Update- Total income in March was \$31,602 with \$20,551 of that being operating income. The other income was from memorials and youth mission trip fundraiser which raised approximately \$7000. Expenses for March were \$25,664. We still owe \$18,600 for the new air handler which was installed and that will be paid when Del gives us the ok.
2. Audit
 - a. Audit was conducted on March 23. No major issues were raised or found.
 - b. Jerry can provide the full report later.
3. Alternative Sources of Income
 - a. The committee further discussed alternate sources of income for the church. The church council had a limited discussion of the situation at the last meeting, but Pr Jaime stated they will address it at the next meeting.
 - b. We discussed more ideas for raising extra income, such as renegotiating the contract we have for renting the farmland which can't be revisited until fall and for 2024.
4. **Here are the two articles on the church funding research. Please review before the Council Meeting to discuss.**
 - a. [“10 Ah Ha Moments About Church Funding Today – part 1”](#)
 - b. [“10 Ah Ha Moments About Church Funding Today – part 2”](#)

PROPERTY

- March 16 Took the State Water Test at church and mailed to the state lab. Results came back and all levels look good.
- March 21 Investigated why the security light on the storage shed kept tripping the GFI outlet in the storage shed. Steve McNeal assisted. Found ground fault within the flex conduit.
- March 22 Installed new wires in security light and repainted the base.
- March 24 Reinstalled the security with Steve McNeal's help and reconnected wiring. Good to go!
Replaced security wall light bulb on the East wall of the exterior wall and replaced two parking lot lamps that were burned out.
- March 25 Assisted Jerry Schneider with snow removal and reset thermostats for the canceled photo shoot for the church directory.
- March 27 Cut bricks for the bases of the parking lot lights to prevent sparrows from building nests in the internal wiring.
- March 29 Applied adhesive to the bricks at the base of the parking lot lights to help hold the bricks in place.
- April 3 Setup the schedule for Holy Week on the thermostats.
- April 10 Pointon Heating came to church and installed the smoke detector in the new RTU, (job is

fully completed).

April 12 Setup the regular schedule for heating on the thermostats.

Submitted by Del Molden

WORSHIP & MUSIC

The Worship & Music Committee met on March 19th at 6:15 pm. They reviewed the following:

- Holy week schedule: Palm Sunday at 9 am, Maundy Thursday at 6:30 pm, Good Friday at 1 pm and Easter at 8 and 10:30 am with brunch at 9 am.
- Reviewed the possibility of using the Holden Evening Prayer for Wednesday night services in Lent of 2024
- 3 Wednesday night services in the summer will be part of the Summer Concert Series featuring Brenan Brooks
- Blessing of the Pets is tentatively scheduled for August 13rd. This will be an outdoor service.
- Reviewed the possibility of using sing-a-long psalms by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan in June. These would be shown on the projection screen to follow along with.
- Talked about brining healing prayers back after communion once per month