

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Agenda

July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

6:30 pm

*God's Family Serving Christ With Love*

## Council Terms:

Geoff: Present

Kory: Present

Kerry: Present

Tina: Present

Jaimie: Present

Lisa: Present

Brian: Present

Mark: Present

Braxton Druckrey – Absent with permission

Dwelling in the Word - Brian

Call to Order at 6:36 by Kerry Melby

Prayer – Mark Teslik

Approval of the Agenda

**Motion to approve agenda made by Brian Conner**

**Second by: Kory Anderson Motion carried**

Approval of Last Month's Minutes

**Motion to approve June minutes made by Geoff Gilbert Second by: Jaimie Rudloph Motion carried**

Pastor Report

Parish Associate Report

Committee Reports

A. Finance

B. Property

C. Worship & Music

Approval of Committee Reports

**Motion to approve committee reports made by Lisa Cook, Second by: Tina Thomas Motion carried**

Old Business

- Alcohol Policy and costs approximately \$750 per event, Discussed need to get for Trivia night, Tina will contact insurance agent.
- Kaylin Kole Concert – No tickets were sold so we will cancel the event
- Taste of Portage Brian will not be able to head this up, Kerry agreed to take it on. Will put article in Chimes that we need approximately 130 pies. We will also be selling ice cream. Pie is \$3 per slice or \$20 for whole pie. Ice cream will be additional \$1.
- Strategic Planning **Motion to approve the updated goals and indicators and recommend congregation votes on them by Tina Thomas, Second by Kory Anderson Motion Carried.**

New Business

- Policy on BLC members asking to sell things at church -**Motion to allow Thieles to have a bake sale at church made by Mark Teslik, second by Lisa Cook, Motion Carried**
- Prior BLC members -Brian would like to start a campaign to contact previous BLC members. He will work on drafting a letter. Discussion on making phone calls as well.
- Church activity meeting – Nothing discussed as concert cancelled.
- Church alternatives/Congregation health – Discussion on doing things to mix up service a bit. Kerry asked council to bring ideas to next meeting.

- Member/Non-Member funeral policy We need to have a standard policy. Brian is checking with funeral homes to see what other churches charge.
- UW concessions stand fundraising – Great way to raise money, we do not have enough volunteers to do this at this time.
- Kinship Mentoring – Lisa would like to have their director in to speak to the congregation and put insert in bulletin. **Motion to have speaker and insert in bulletin made by Mark Teslik, second by Jaimie Rudolph. Motion Carried**

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Adjourn at 8:37

**Motion to adjourn made by Tina Thomas, Second by: Kory Anderson Motion carried**

Lord's Prayer

## **Pastor's Report**

This past month I was on vacation/continuing education time for two and a half weeks so this should be a shorter report this month. Here is what I have been up to!

I met with Carla earlier this month to plan the worship service that will be at the fair in collaboration with the Methodist and Presbyterian churches. The service is planned, and the first of two musician rehearsals was last week. I also met with Justice before I left to go over the sound booth and discuss plans/options for the future as their time in Portage quickly comes to a close.

This past month I presided over two funerals, one for Cloe's daughter Christie on June 17 and one for Alvin Johnson, the father of Jeff Johnson who is a former custodian of Bethlehem, on July 15. I met with Jeff last week to offer pastoral care and plan the funeral service. I also made a pastoral care visit this month to offer a blessing over the ashes of a member who died last year.

I hosted the High School campfire on June 21<sup>st</sup> and we had 3 students who are going into high school attend. I also attended my last First Call group earlier this month and I look forward to continuing these colleague relationships in the future. Additionally, I met with staff multiple times this month. I missed a lot of my other regular meetings while I was away.

My trip to the Holy Land was a wonderful experience! I shared a few photos in worship this past week and I plan to share pieces in the future.

Looking ahead, I will be on vacation August 9 – 20 and will be back to work on August 21. I will also be gone August 28 – September 4 on vacation. I have not finalized those dates yet.

In peace,  
Pastor Jaime Benson

## **Parish Associate Report**

Sunday School:

Curriculum has been gathered and sorted for the upcoming year. We are prepared for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month. Some lessons do not have worksheets for all grades, but we can make do. We are discussing the date for the Gifts of Bethlehem and the beginning of the year carnival (originally the end of August, might move to September).

Confirmation:

Our first confirmation retreat is July 18th, 9am-1pm. We are going to be working on faith statements and will also do some service work and play games/team building activities. Pr. Jaime and I are working through the details of the curriculum for the first part of the year. After meeting with the mentors, we have discussed some changes to our program next year; more information coming soon.

Youth:

Still fundraising; no further updates.

Farmers' Markets:

Poor air quality brought the event indoors on June 28th, which decreased the number of vendors and attendees for the day. We are looking forward to getting outside for the next market on July 26th. We are still looking for donated baked goods and a few volunteers to help throughout the day. Brendan Brooks will return with his music, and the confirmation students will sell walking tacos again.

Pet Fest:

Preliminary planning has begun. I am looking for someone to help me coordinate the event this year on Sunday, September 11th. I believe four vendors have confirmed that they will return again this year.

Family nights/Kids Club starting the last Wednesday of each month this fall:

I am hoping to work on this again after the July 26<sup>th</sup> market and VBS week.

VBS:

July 31st-August 4th. I will be running the Imagination Station during VBS week and will not be in the office. Pr. Jaime will be kicking off VBS on Day 1, but others will step in and run the program the rest of the week

## **Committee Reports**

### **FINANCE**

For the month of June BLC had \$20,998 of income and \$178,363 year to date. Comparing June 2023 to the prior year, we have received \$2k less this year. This is primarily related to not having \$2k in misc income this June.

We continue to keep an eye on general offerings as they are trending lower than the prior year by \$9k year to date.

Total Expenses for June 2023 are \$21,826, \$4,465 lower than in June of 2022. This is primarily due to having lightning repair-related cost in June 2022, that we don't have in 2023. Year to date, we have \$170,020 in expenses compared to \$135,791 in 2022 through June. This significant variance in the 2023 year-to-date results is related to replacing the HVAC rooftop unit costs. These were planned for 2023.

Net income year to date is \$8,501.

### **PROPERTY**

June 12, Water new planted trees and new planted grass in East drainage ditch.

June 19, Cut sapling tree from Prayer Garden gate arch, watered trees and drainage ditch grass.

June 26, Watered trees and drainage ditch grass and removed slave ballast and re-wired for LED tube lights in two fixtures in Janice's office.

June 27, Ordered 25 each LED tube lights bulbs for replacement of T8 fluorescent bulbs.

July 7, Jeff Johnson raised one sidewalk slab to remove the trip hazard at the administrative entrance, we will pump grout under it in the next week and install backer rod and crack filler.

July 8, Installed two inboard LED tube bulbs in Janice's office.

July 10, Met with the Wisconsin DNR for the annual church water system inspection. Inspection consisted of the well head and the pressure tank of the system. We passed with no issues. Watered newly planted trees and drainage ditch grass. Mowed weeds around the Prayer Garden area.

Note; Our watering volunteers are doing a great job.

Del Molden, Property

### **WORSHIP & MUSIC**

Worship at the Fair is July 30<sup>th</sup>