

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes
September 21st, 2023
6:30 pm

God's Family Serving Christ With Love

Pastor Jaime: Present
Geoff: Present
Kory: Present
Kerry: Present
Tina: Absent with notice
Jaimie: Present
Lisa: Absent with notice
Brian: Absent without notice
Mark: Present
Braxton Druckrey – Absent with notice

Dwelling in the Word -**Geoff will lead this at the October meeting, starting after that, Pastor Jaime will lead this each month instead of rotating it through council members.**

Call to Order by **Kerry Melby at 6:37 p.m.**

Prayer

Approval of the Agenda **motion made by Geoff and second by Jaimie R**

Approval of Last Month's Minutes –**Need correction to the date of the congregation meeting to vote—should be October 15. With that edit, motion made by Geoff and second by Jaimie R to approve the minutes.**

Pastor Report

Parish Associate Report

Committee Reports

Approval of Committee Reports **motion made by Geoff and second by Mark**

Old Business

† Taste of Portage – Wrap up

- Kerry kept notes from taking lead of the event, printed them out and put them in the bin of supplies labeled Taste of Portage. ~200 slices sold, maybe ~80 pies. Will need to purchase pie boxes for next year, but all other supplies are in bin. Kerry let Portage know we would participate again next year. For next year we should also add flyers to hand out that list the upcoming events at the church, ie Pet Blessing, Craft Show, Trunk or Treat, etc...**

† Strategic Plan next step

- Discussed member vote/meeting on October 15. We will not have a paper ballot, but do a hand raise of the colored paper to signal the vote. Green=vote yes, Red= vote no. Pastor Jaime will have the Strategic Plan up on the screen during the meeting and vote for people to visually reference. It is on the website and has been shared multiple times via the Chimes. Discussion on Constitution/By-laws/Separate document- Pastor Jaime and Kerry will check into the appropriate way to update the church record of the Strategic Plan/Vision/Mission.**
- Geoff and Kory will handle the member / vote list and hand out the red and green paper. Need 20 for quorum, Geoff will monitor for that and let Kerry know so that can be stated aloud.**
- Jaimie R will make the motion after Kerry asks, “I make a motion to adopt the proposed Strategic Plan that includes a new Vision and Mission Statement.”**

† Member letter

- Read letter, discussed and edited out the first paragraph. Tina to print the list of people and addresses for the mailing. Once that is done, email will go out to the council to review those names and council can stop in the office and sign/add personal note to the bottom of the letter if they wish.**
- ✝ Choir director change/Praise team leader
 - Discussion about dates and Mark will follow up with Katie on practice dates for Praise Team due to other use of the Sanctuary. Pastor Jaime to follow up with Personnel Committee on logistics of the leader change.**
- ✝ Fellowship Hall Chairs
 - New chairs purchased and should arrive in 7-10 business days. Old chairs will be for sale, \$5 for one chair or \$3/chair for 10. Tina will advertise this via email/Chimes.**
- ✝ Covid/Flu clinic
 - Similar to last year, one day use of our facility to host a vaccination clinic. CWCAC (Central Wisconsin Community Action Council Inc.) is the host. Kory made a motion to allow church use for clinic, second by Kerry.**

New Business

- ✝ Property Line – Kory
 - New property owner to the west of Bethlehem. They looked into the property line and some of the trees and lawn we care for are on their property. No issue at this time per new owner.**
- ✝ Policy for bulletin/chimes and website
 - Discussion on types of information and from what organizations should be posted in our written productions and on our website. Idea shared to post from non-profits that align to our beliefs, no decision, but agreed council to consider this and come back to it in October.**

Adjourn

Lord's Prayer

Pastor's Report Hi

everyone!

Whew! Another month has come and gone! Here are some of the things I have been up to this past month!

We hosted Brendan Brooks in worship at the end of August for his third show this summer. Some of the kids from VBS performed a few of their songs before Brendan went on and it was a fun evening of music and fellowship! I enjoyed getting to see the performers and connect with more of the VBS volunteers and kids as we shared ice cream together. In addition to our regular worship schedule, we had Pet Fest on September 10th. and it was a great turn out! Thank you to all that made the day run smoothly! It was great to connect with new and familiar faces and to spend some time with the pets!

We also kicked off confirmation class again last week. It was great to see the kids again and welcome some new faces as well. Confirmation Sunday will be on October 29th, and we have 5 students in this class. Also last week we had the Fall Synod Stewardship Kick Off at Bethlehem. Thank you to everyone that helped host our guests on Saturday. It was great to connect with other leaders and share our stories about stewardship as well as imagine together.

Some meetings I attended this month included weekly text study, colleague learning group, finance, confirmation planning, synod stewardship, safe teacher training, synod conference, and staff. Additionally, I met with a couple this month for our first session of pre-marital counseling.

I was gone on vacation August 28 – September 4 this past month in addition to missing last month's council meeting due to my continuing education. Looking forward, I will be gone next week for another continuing education conference and will return on Oct. 2nd. I will be unable to attend our October council meeting next month as well.

That's all for now!

In peace,
Pastor Jaime Benson

Committee Reports

FINANCE

Financial Update

1. For the month of August, BLC had \$28,482 of income and \$229,506 year to date. Comparing August 2023 to the prior year, we have received \$6k more this year. This is primarily related to three items. We received \$2k more in each General offering, Building-Mortgage offering, and Youth Mission Trip fundraising.
2. We continue to keep an eye on general offerings as they are trending lower than the prior year by \$4k year to date. Building Mortgage Offering has offset this trend in 2023 with \$4k growth year to date.
3. Total Expenses for August 2023 are \$27,205, with no significant variances this month. Year to date, we have \$218,459 in expenses compared to \$182,530 in 2022 through August. This significant variance for 2023 year to date is related to replacing a rooftop unit and increasing staffing costs. Each of these was planned for in 2023.

Other Items-

1. Portico Enrollment

a. Portico Enrollment discussed. There will be cost increases, probably about 2-3% exact numbers not provided by Portico at this time. Will plan to continue with current insurance and reenroll Pr Jaime by Oct 13.

2. Finance Update Sharing

a. Jerry S discussed sharing financial information with the congregation to provide more transparency. Jerry said he felt that our previous discussion was that we wanted to convey to the congregation from a positive perspective what we are doing financially with our donations and follow up on the results of raising money for certain projects.

- b. We discussed that a quarterly short update would be appropriate. This information could be conveyed in the Chimes and a part of church as a short 5–10-minute presentation.
- c. Jerry said he could do this quarterly, and we decided it would be best to start in October, because the next update would be with the annual meeting.

3. Memorial Bricks

- a. Updated committee with cost of new bricks/engraving, total cost charged will be \$75/brick for those that want to purchase one.

PROPERTY

Aug 12 Trimmed shrubs in Prayer Garden with Margaret Molden and Carla Gerhardt.

Aug 13 Switched to alternate hot water heater for 2nd half of year and watered new trees.

Aug 16 Installed bird screen under canopy on East side nearest the front doors and mowed lawn.

Aug 17 Installed bird screen on West side of canopy with Tim Kratz.

Aug 24 Used manlift to change bulb in Narthex, battery was dead, went home got 10-amp charger and was able to use lift to change bulb. Removed battery and took home and left on charger to two full days and the battery seemed to regain its charge. The battery was replaced in November of 2017, we will see if it stands up for the holiday season. Remove LED lighted crosses at church driveway to be repainted and new LED lights.

Aug 25 Cleaned and painted crosses, install new lights and reinstalled on driveway posts. Installed the battery back into the manlift. Called to church Jerry S. locked his keys in the office. Jerry S. also touched up the paint chips in Fellowship Hall.

Sept 1 Called to church Butch Jahoda was having trouble with the lawnmower. The engine was going into safe mode because of engine temp.

Sept 5 Loaded Scag mower and brought to Middleton Power for repair. It should be under warranty. (Called on Sept 15 to find out the status and parts are on order.)

Sept 15 Fabricated candle extenders, 4 each for the alter candles. (New paraffin oil holders were ¾ inch to long for the existing bases.)

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Choir practice starts on September 24th.