

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes**  
**February 16, 2023**  
**6:30 pm**

*God's Family Serving Christ With Love*

Geoff Gilbert – Virtual  
Kory Anderson – Virtual  
Kerry Melby – Virtual  
Tina Thomas – Virtual  
Jamie Rudolph – Virtual  
Lisa Cook – Virtual  
Brian Conner- Virtual  
Mark Teslik – Virtual

Dwelling in the Word

Call to Order **-6:41 by Kerry Melby**

Prayer – Pastor Jamie

Approval of the Agenda

**Motion by Kory Anderson Second by Lisa Cook - Approved**

Approval of Last Month's Minutes

**Motion by Geoff Gilbert Second by Jamie Rudolph - Approved**

Pastor Report

I want to begin by welcoming our newest council members to their first council meeting in their new positions. Welcome Brian and Mark! We are grateful and glad to have you with us!

The Epiphany season has come to a close as we celebrate the Transfiguration this week in worship and then quickly move to Ash Wednesday and Lent next week. In this season of Epiphany I have been working on preparing for Lent in conjunction with the worship & music committee and we have decided to use the Lent resources from A Sanctified Art which is the same place we got our stewardship series we used this past fall. This series doesn't have as much hands-on materials for collaborative art, but it does have a lot of resources for personal devotion time and discussion time as well as multiple art pieces each week. I am excited for us to explore using these materials together! We will be having time to discuss the devotional on Sundays following worship starting this Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>.

In Confirmation we have been exploring the theme of Life in Community and we got to live this out at the Synod Youth Alive Night last week which was held at Dekorra Lutheran Church in Poynette. There were 150+ attendees (youth and adults) that evening and it was a great opportunity to meet some other youth in our synod, worship, learn, and fellowship together. I led one of the breakout sessions and Pastor Anne Wickland from Waunakee led the other with Bishop Joy closing out the evening as we focused on how we all belong. We have our last confirmation class this week before our break during Lent and then we will resume for a month after Easter.

I made a few visits and numerous phone calls this past month offering pastoral care and support. I also led a new member class on February 5<sup>th</sup> and we had two families represented there. I also met with an individual this week who is interested in joining also. I gave the families time to think about if they want to join and I will follow up with them in the weeks ahead. This past Saturday, Jaimie, Kerry, and I attended the Synod LEAD Conference and we will share more about our learnings in our meeting. It was a nice day to connect and learn!

Other meetings that I attended this month included my weekly text study, biweekly staff meetings, quarterly rostered women's gathering, monthly first call group, quarterly all committee meeting, a "Seeking" webinar, and monthly finance meeting. I also met with Father Gary from St. Mary's about the Portage Ministerial Group to learn more about the group and the "Clergy Relief Fund." We also had a Zoom call with all the first call pastors in WI and the UP this month that I attended, and we had a meeting this week to touch base about strategic planning.

On a personal note, I had an uncle who died by suicide at the end of January. He was 83 and in a lot of pain, physically and emotionally. I am still processing at this point but wanted to share. I appreciate you all and your continued support.

May the peace of Christ be with you,

Pastor Jaime Benson

#### Parish Associate Report

My surgery on February 8<sup>th</sup> went well and it looks like the pathology reports are clear, which is the best-case scenario. I will be meeting with Oncology soon for the next steps, if any. Thank you for all of your prayers; someone was listening 😊.

#### **Sunday School**

Traditional classes and music are planned for February 5<sup>th</sup> and February 19<sup>th</sup>. The "I Found a Pillow Heart" activity took place on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> and a fruit basket activity is planned for Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. On the 26<sup>th</sup>, we will be asking for donations of fruit to put together 50 small fruit baskets, which will be distributed at the Sharing Supper on Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>. Jaimie Rudolph will be helping with children's music on Sundays moving forward.

#### **Fruit of the Spirit, Kids Club & Service Projects**

***Fruit of the Spirit Kids Club:*** The Kids Club only had 3 kids attend on February 5<sup>th</sup>. The next Kids Club will be meeting on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>: the topic will be "joy". We have a lot of youth involved in leading the club and we hope to get more children enrolled by March.



***Local Missions/Service projects:*** The confirmation students & congregation will be assembling small fruit baskets for the people attending the community Sharing Supper at the Portage Middle School on Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. Four to six students will also be helping serve at the community meal.

## **Confirmation**

On Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 10 students and 3 adults attended the Alive! SCSW Youth Night at Dekorra Lutheran Church. We are moving into the lent season now and confirmation students will be helping with the set-up and clean-up of the soup suppers every week.

We are still discussing a weekend retreat/camp for the confirmation students this spring/summer. More information will be coming soon.

## **Youth**

Megan is working on registration for the DR trip next January. Currently, over 20 people have signed up to attend the trip in 2024. Fundraising has begun; orders for pizzas need to be submitted by 2/15 and the youth will be filling those orders the weekend of March 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>.

Pr. Jaime and I have been discussing the 2024 Synod Youth Gathering in New Orleans and will be working out a plan to involve BLC in some way. More information coming soon.

## **Special Events:**

I am looking into using BLC a host site for a Farmer's Market this summer, possibly for a few dates. I am also looking into hosting a summer concert/outdoor worship of some kind. More information will be coming soon about this.

Tania Anderson

## **Committee Reports**

### **A. Finance**

Finance met February 7, 2023

#### **Financial Update**

Total income for January was \$25,334 and total expenses were \$25,772. We experienced a loss for the month of -\$671.52. We did finally receive a bill from the mason for his work on the windbreak and that was paid. Snowplowing and salting bills are coming due and are being paid. Our finances this month are tight, but stable.

#### **Old Business**

##### **Pew Cushions**

Pew cushions for the side pews were discussed at the annual meeting, and so congregation interested in moving forward with this project. The total quote we have that is valid until Feb 28, 2023 is \$5025. We owe 1/3 down to order the pew cushions (~\$1675) and the balance is due 30 days after delivery. It takes 60-90 days from the time of order to receive the cushions. Women's group was considering donating \$2000 and we have \$500 in pew cushion fund. So, we would have approximately half of the money needed. We do have undesignated memorial money that can be used at council's discretion. The church council could consider also raising funds for this project. Finance committee recommends council review proposal for payment of pew cushions.

##### **Audit**

Jerry S. scheduled the audit for February 21, 2023 at 6 pm.

### **B. Property**

Jan 17, Ballast failure in church entrance, install 2 ea. LED fixtures. Reprogrammed light dimmer system so the Narthex now shuts down with Sanctuary.

Jan 20. Installed new ballast in marquee road sign.

Feb 1. Switched the hot water heaters for the 6 month rotation. Changed out two burned out compact fluorescent bulbs to LED bulbs in the Narthex.

Feb 2. Purchased new automatic door opener with remaining funds from the wall project. \$2300. We are scheduled for installation, hopefully within the next couple of weeks.

Feb 6. Disassembled commercial vacuum to clean and ordered new brushes for the metal roller. Brushes should be here by Feb 15th.

Feb 7. Installed 10 new fluorescent tubes in marquee sign.

Feb 8. No electricity in the storage sheds Failed GFIC (installed new one) and the security light caused the ground fault, it must have gotten moisture in the LED fixture, disconnected it until we have warmer weather, since it requires an extension ladder to repair.

Note: Two parking lot lights are burned out. Will accomplish when in warmer weather and low wind velocity. Submitted by Del Molden

### C. Worship & Music

We met last month and discussed what programming would be used for Lenten Services. Pastor Jamie sent us a couple of options and the committee discussed which one we felt would be best. Carla volunteered to make up the serving schedule for the Lenten Soup Supper.

### Approval of Committee Reports

**Motion by Jamie Rudolph to approve reports second by Lisa Cook – Approved**

### Old Business

- Pew cushions – see Finance Report for action item. Women’s group agreed to donate. We will also do a fundraiser for additional money. If goal is not met we will take from discretionary fund.
- Strategic Planning Update -Pastor Jamie, Geoff Gilbert and Kerry Melby met. They have set up 4 mini sessions. Sessions will be March 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday March 19<sup>th</sup>. Council will meet on March 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss.

### New Business

- Committee Discussion – Is the current committee system working. Discussion that a committees like Finance, Property and Music and Worship make sense. We will keep the titles of the committees, however we will look at more of what is happening and who would like to assist with specific events. There needs to be a discussion on what belongs under each committee. Take a look and see what is currently listed and come back next month with thoughts. We will work on finding a new name for all committee night to encourage others to attend.

- Vote on Executive Committee & Decide Committee Liaisons –  
**For President Motion by Brian Conner and Second by everyone - Approved**  
 President – Kerry Melby  
**For Vice President Motion by Brian Conner and second by Tina Thomas - Approved**  
 Vice President – Geoff Gilbert  
**For Secretary motion by Geoff Gilbert and second by Brian Conner -Approved**  
 Secretary – Tina Thomas  
 Committee Liaisons  
 Finance – Jamie Rudolph  
 Music and Worship – Mark Teslik  
 Stewardship – Lisa Cook  
 Local and Global – Brian Conner  
 Property – Kory Anderson  
 Christian Education – Is being fulfilled by Parish Associate

- LEAD Conference Recap  
 About 50 churches in our synod were there. Jamie Rudolph, Kerry Melby and Pastor Jamie attended. They each went to different break out sessions.
- Youth Council Rep  
 We have one open seat on council and it could be filled by a youth of the church. Per the constitution council can appoint someone. There is an active voting member that is interested. We would need to update our constitution to reflect a 1 year term unit.
- Rooftop Heating/Cooling Unit  
 There was a gas leak from one of the units.
- Personnel Update  
 Julie Saalsaa is resigning from her position. She is giving us 2 months to find a replacement. She will be done at the end of April.
- Soup Supper Reminder March 29 (with HS Families)  
 We will use the sign up that Tania put together, please go out and sign up.

Adjourn – **Motion by Geoff Gilbert Second by Brian Conner Meeting Adjourned at 7:59**

Lord's Prayer