

## **Bethel Lutheran Church**

### **Council Minutes**

September 14, 2022

7:00 pm Bethel Library

A monthly meeting of the Congregational Council of Bethel Lutheran Church was held on Wednesday September 14<sup>th</sup>, in the Library at the Church. Pastor David Young, Council President John Fredericksen, Vice President Vonda Wilt, Secretary Bruce Lothrop, Curtiss Grymala, David Look, Diane Milburn, Dustie Fisher, and Lee Braithwaite were present at the meeting. Lynda Grymala attended to share concerns about the use of a gluten free option for Holy Communion.

### **Call to order**

Council President John Fredericksen called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 pm.

### **Opening Prayer**

Pastor David Young opened the meeting with prayer.

### **Devotion**

David Look offered a devotion.

### **Minutes**

Secretary Bruce Lothrop emailed a copy of the minutes of the prior Council meeting to all members of Council for review before the meeting. The minutes of the prior meeting were approved, as presented by motion.

### **Financials**

Bookkeeper Kim Williams emailed detailed financial reports for July and August, and a draft 2023 Ministry Spending plan to all members of Council prior to the meeting. The July report showed income of \$28,433, \$4,646 above income projected in the MSP. Expenses for July were \$28,53, \$3,088 less than expected. The church realized a net income of \$82 for July. Income in August was \$21,717, \$7,333 less than planned for in the MSP. Expenses in August were \$38,699, \$8,308 more than expected. Much of the overage was due to the installation of a sump pump system to prevent recurring flooding in the Underground. Expenses for August exceeded income by \$16,981. Expenses year to date have exceeded income by \$40,819. The Treasurer's report was approved, as presented, by motion.

### **Pastor's report**

Pastor Dave provided a written report to all members of Council prior to the meeting. Pastor Dave was on Sabbatical from August 1<sup>st</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup>. Pastor Dave has completed planning for Adult Forum through the fall, worked on organizing the Disciple Bible Study class, and

worked on producing the Bethel 101 project. Worship numbers were strong in July and August, with in person attendance ranging from 70 to 122, and in-person and online combined attendance ranging from 100 to 190 participants.

### **Communion Wafers Discussion**

Linda Grymala shared her concerns about how Holy Communion is shared with members of the community who require a gluten free diet. Communion assistants have not been trained in the needs of people with gluten sensitivities. As such, some assistants have handed gluten sensitive community members gluten free wafers after handling traditional wafers or bread. Even that level on cross-contamination can trigger a response in some cases. Linda suggested individual packets be available with gluten free wafers, and that community members be allowed to pick up the packet up from a dish or tray, so that the Communion Assistant never need touch the packet. Linda also suggested that training be held so that Communion Assistants are aware of the needs of the gluten sensitive, and can keep Holy Communion open and welcoming to all. Council agreed with Linda's comments. Pastor Dave will purchase communion packets with gluten free wafers.

### **Advent and Christmas Worship**

Pastor Dave will host the annual "Blue Christmas" service on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Midweek Advent worship will not be held, due to week attendance in recent years. On Christmas Morning, worship will be simple, and will not use the ensemble. Pastor Dave plans to lead songs and carols with one or two guitars. The Christmas Eve Barn service will be held in the amphitheater. The candle light service will not be held, due to limited attendance in the past few years. A suggestion was made to hold one Holden Prayer Service during Lent. Pastor Dave will discuss the suggestion with George Donovan.

### **KEE Construction**

Drawings required for permits have been completed, and all permits are awaiting County sign off. Kee performed checks to test for asbestos in the ceiling of the narthex, and found none. Work can begin once all permits are approved.

### **Backpack Food Drive Request**

Sara Smith has requested permission to ask for food donations for Bright Futures. Specific items will be needed to provide students in need with "weekend packs" of snacks. Items for those packs will need provide nutritional value and require minimal preparation, as they are intended for students who spend significant time without parental support on weekends. Council approved Sara's request by motion.

### **Coffee with Council September 25 & October 23**

Coffee with Council is scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup> and October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Pastor Dave will not be available on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **MSP Processing & Financials into Bulletin**

Development of the 2023 MSP has started. Information about giving and expenses will be included in the bulletin each week. The hope that is keeping community members apprised of Bethel's finances will encourage more giving when needed.

## **Sump Pump installation**

A sump pump has been installed to move water away from the Underground and prevent flooding. No significant rain has occurred since the installation, so the system has not been tested.

## **Discipleship Bible Study Class**

Pastor Dave will lead a Disciple Bible study starting on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Bruce Lothrop and Jennifer Lafollette will assist.

## **200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbook**

Bethel printed a cook book in 1998. Vonda proposed updating and republishing the cook book as a celebration of Bethel's recent 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Lee noted that individuals and businesses donated to a Bethel 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration that was limited due to the pandemic. He suggested that those donors should receive free copies of such a cook book, if published. Vonda will reach out to Nina about requesting recipes.

## **Solar presentation**

On September 18<sup>th</sup> David Shoberg will host an information session about a proposed solar array to provide electric power for Bethel. The array would be installed on the ground, in the field on the North side of the property. The array would be visible from the road, raising community awareness of the solar option. David's proposal includes the installer bearing the cost of installation in exchange for the right to sell surplus power. The proposal will include a battery system that would allow Bethel to become a Solar Sanctuary, which could be used for shelter in a regional power emergency.

## **Lay Preaching Academy**

George Donovan will attend the Virginia Synod Lay Preaching Academy in the 2022/2023 session.

## **Global Christmas**

Bruce Lothrop requested permission for the Global Partners Team to conduct the annual Global Christmas fund raiser from November 20<sup>th</sup> through New Year's. The request was approved by motion.

## **Watts Update**

Diane Milburn reported that Bethel will host Watts during the week of February 18<sup>th</sup>. Because of construction in the Sanctuary, the location will be at Galilee Christian Church, but volunteers and services will be provided by Bethel.

### **Winchester Pride Celebration**

Bethel will host a booth at Pride Day, on Saturday September 16<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Dave will lead a worship service at 50/50 tap house at the conclusion of the Pride Celebration.

The meeting was adjourned by motion at approximately 8:20pm.