

**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL AGENDA
DECEMBER 14, 2022**

A monthly meeting of the Congregational Council of Bethel Lutheran Church was held on Wednesday December 14th after Advent Worship, in the library at the church. As it was the final meeting of the year, members of both the 2022 and 2023 Council attended. Pastor David Young, Council President John Fredericksen, Vice President Vonda Wilt, Treasurer Betty Puffinburger, Secretary Bruce Lothrop, Lee Braithwaite, Diane Milburn, and Dustie Fisher attended as members of Bethel's 2022 Council. Rachel Carlson, Brian Davies, and Traci Shoberg attended as incoming members of the 2023 Council. Church Administrator Kim Williams and Facilities Manager David Shoberg were also in attendance.

Call to Order.

Council President John Fredericksen called the meeting to order at approximately 7:15 pm.

Opening Devotion and Prayer

Pastor Dave opened the meeting with prayer, and offered a devotion.

Welcome of New Council Members

Council President John Fredericksen welcomed new 2023 members Traci, Brian and Rachel to the Council.

Monthly Reports

Approval of November Minutes

Secretary Bruce Lothrop had distributed the minutes of the November Council meeting to all 2022 and 2023 members of Council via email prior to the meeting. The minutes of the November meeting were approved, as presented by motion.

Approval of November Financial Report

Kim Williams had distributed detailed financial reports for the month of November via email to all 2022 and 2023 members of Council prior to the meeting. The reports showed income for November at \$35,225, \$4,507 more than expected in the Ministry Spending Plan. Total expenses for November were \$38,369, \$7,983 more than planned for in the MSP. Unexpected expenses included tent rental for "Rustic Christmas", outdoor speakers for the amphitheater, and HAC maintenance. This resulted in a net loss of \$3,143 for November, rather than a surplus of \$331, expected in the MSP. Expenses year to date have exceeded income by \$71,868. The financial reports were approved, as presented, by motion.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Dave did not submit a written report for November, as Pastoral duties demanded more time than expected in the week prior to the meeting. Pastor Dave reported that his focus had been on teaching, preaching, and preparing for Advent and Christmas.

Ministry Area (Up, In, and Out) Team Reports

Diane Milburn reported on preparation for WATTS, as a member of the “Out” team, and coordinator for WATTS. Bethel will serve at WATTS during the week of February 18th. Due to construction at Bethel, the week will be hosted at Galilee Christian Church, rather than at Bethel. Diane is engaged in planning. Diane requested that Council server dinner one night during the week.

Old Business

Update on Construction Project

Facilities Manager David Shoberg updated Council on the progress of Lower Bethel Renovations.

- In the Nursery, a patch to the wall needs to be completed, then painting will continue. Lighting has been installed.
- In the Narthex, dry wall work is complete. Painting and installation of lighting fixtures are the next steps.
- The choir platform is complete in the Sanctuary and railings are in place.
- The sconces ordered for the Sanctuary may not be ready on schedule, but that should not block progress. The sconces can be installed at any point during the project.
- The carpet that was selected for the Sanctuary is not yet available. If it is not available on time, the planning team may select different carpet to keep the project on Schedule.
- The planning team is considering a small area of vinyl flooring around the baptismal font where small amounts of water may be likely to spill on the floor.
- Kee is on track to finish major construction in early February (assuming no delays for the carpet.) Audio equipment installation will follow. After audio installation, pews will be re-installed, and then upholstered in place.
- The goal for completion is April 2nd, which is Palm Sunday. Worship will begin in Fellowship Hall, and process to the renovated Sanctuary.
- Other than possible delays in obtaining carpet, there are no visible obstacles to completion by April 2nd at this time.
- Water has been leaking under the doors to the court yard. This was not a major issue with tile floor. With a floating floor, water would likely lead to an eventual mold issue. To solve this, the doors will need to be removed. Replacement hardware for the doors is not available, due to the age of the doors. Therefore, if hardware is damaged, the existing doors may need to be replaced. There is no cost estimate for replacement doors at this time.

Update on Solar Project

Facilities Manager David Shoberg provided an update on the Solar Power project. David has been working with Green Brilliance to find the best options to fund installation.

- Estimated cost for installation is \$216,000. Government grants would cover at least 30% of installation cost. The group "Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions" is confident that they can assist Bethel in obtaining grants for most of the rest of the cost.
- If sufficient grants are not available to cover installation, Bethel could enter into an arrangement where the installer would own equipment and Bethel could purchase power, at a reduced rate, from the installer.
- Bethel plans serve as a "Solar Sanctuary" in the event of a prolonged power outage in the region. FEMA and the Red Cross would manage any activities required in such an emergency. Service required could include providing device charging stations, providing showers, cooking meals, and providing temporary shelter, depending on community needs.

Worship teams

Five worship teams have been created. Each team will take responsibility for worship for a month. The Young Family Team will lead worship in January. Worship teams will be encouraged to function as small groups.

New Business

"Above and Beyond" Campaign

Pastor Dave and Kim Williams shared a sample form to be used in a fundraising campaign directed toward various goals. The name "Above and Beyond" was chosen to indicate that the goal is not shift current giving towards these goals, but to encourage additional giving. Targets for giving would be:

- A new piano
- Council Room renovation
- Christiansen Room renovation
- Sanctuary and Narthex renovation
- Prayer Room renovation

Diane suggested streamlining the number of options. One renovation project could be selected as the focus of the campaign, until sufficient funds are raised to meet that need. Once accomplished a new renovation project could replace the completed one. Rachel suggested stating clearly total funds needed, and funds already raised for each item, to maximize transparency and set realistic expectations.

Recognition of outgoing Council Members

Pastor Dave recognized outgoing Council members Vonda Wilt, Diane Milburn and Lee Braithwaite, and thanked them for their leadership and service.

Diane expressed some concerns about Bethel's future, including the use of screens in worship and the lack of leadership for Christian Education. Diane advocated for a more robust Stewardship Sunday, including a Ministry fair to educate members of the

community about what ministry work Bethel does, and how people can become involved. Diane also suggested that it should be simpler to sign up to participate in ministry teams.

Introduction to Council

Pastor Dave distributed an information packet to all members of the 2023 Council including:

- A description of how offering should be handled after worship
- A schedule of events, listed by Up, In, and Out teams
- A list of opportunities to use Thrivent Action Cards to support ministry activities
- A copy of Bethel's constitution and by-laws

Pastor Dave indicated that he would like to connect members of council as pairs of prayer partners for the year.

Kim Williams reminded Council that requests for fundraisers or collections of donated items should be passed on to her so that a complete list of requests can be compiled. Kim will present such requests to Council for approval.

Election of Council Executive Team and Ministry Area Teams

The following officers were elected unanimously by acclamation:

- Traci Shoberg as President
- Rachel Carlson as Vice President
- Betty Puffinberger as Treasurer
- Bruce Lothrop as Secretary

Determination of Council Retreat Plans

A retreat for planning will be scheduled for January 13th and 14th. Pastor Dave and the executive team will work on plans for the retreat.

Devotion Leaders for 2023

Pastor Dave will offer devotions at all meetings, unless members of Council volunteer for specific months.

Council Assignments for Sunday offering

The secretary will email members of Council to schedule each member assigned months to secure Sunday offering.

Up, In, and Out Teams

David Look, Betty Puffinberger, and John Fredericksen agreed to serve on the Up team. Curtiss Grymala, Dustie Fisher, and Traci Shoberg agreed to serve on the In team. Rachel Carlson, Brian Davies, and Bruce Lothrop agreed to serve on the Out team.

Closing Prayer

Pastor Dave closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:20 pm