

# BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## COUNCIL MINUTES

### August 17, 2023 – 7:00pm

The monthly meeting of the Congregational Council of Bethel Lutheran Church was held on Thursday August 17, 2023 in the Council room at the church. Council President Traci Shoberg, Vice President Rachel Carlson, Treasurer Betty Puffinberger, Secretary Bruce Lothrop, David Look, Brian Davies, John Fredericksen, Curt Grymala, and Dustie Fisher were present at the meeting. John Gavitt also attended the meeting to discuss security during Sunday worship services.

#### **Call to Order 7 pm**

Council President Traci Shoberg called the meeting to order at 7pm.

#### **Opening Devotion and Prayer**

Pastor David Young offered the Opening Devotion and Prayer.

#### **Consent Agenda Items**

The minutes of the July Council meeting and the agenda for the August meeting were presented under the consent agenda. The consent agenda was approved by acclamation.

#### **Pastor's Report**

Pastor Dave presented a verbal report. Key items from the report included:

- Pastor Dave will lead a Disciple I Bible study class beginning in the fall. Charlie Moyer, Jennifer LaFollet and Bruce Lothrop will lead a Disciple III class as a group.
- Adult Forum Sunday School will start on Sept 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Planning for the Lutheran National Youth Gathering in the summer of 2024 is underway.
- Pastor Dave is also making plans for the next confirmation class.

#### **Financial Reports**

Church Administrator Kim Williams emailed detailed financial reports to Council prior to the meeting. Kim was not able to attend the meeting, but answered questions via email.

Income in July was \$27,399, \$3,502 more than anticipated in the Ministry Spending Plan. Expenses for July were \$30,593 \$3,238 less than shown in the MSP. Expenses in July exceeded income by \$3,193. Year to date income has exceeded expenses by \$1,648.

Betty Puffinberger reminded Council that \$20,000 in Benevolence payment have not been made to the Virginia Synod as planned in the MSP. After discussion, a motion was made to pay between \$500 and \$1,000 each month to the Virginia Synod for the remainder of 2023, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, depending on available funds. A fundraiser dedicated to Benevolence Payments was proposed. A fund raiser would allow members of the community who value support of the Synod to contribute directly to Benevolence payments.

The financial reports were approved, by acclamation.

#### **Old Business**

##### **BLC Campaign: Bless our past, Lift our present, Create our future**

The team is developing plans, and expects to share a presentation with Council at the September meeting on September 2023. The team expects to begin sharing a "teaser" with the Congregation on Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup>, with a full Launch on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

##### **Other Old Business**

Pastor Dave is planning to meet with representatives on the Younkin Administration in Richmond to discuss possible grant funding for a solar array at Bethel. Representatives of FACS will accompany Pastor Dave to the Richmond.

## **New Business**

### **Shrimp Boil Update**

After Discussion, Council agreed that October 1<sup>st</sup> will be a reasonable date for the annual Shrimp Boil.

### **October 29<sup>th</sup> Dedication/200 Year Anniversary Planning & Update**

Pastor Dave will form a team to plan the belated celebration of Bethel's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and dedicate the renovated Sanctuary.

### **Security During Worship**

John Gavitt joined Council to express his concerns about security now that worship has moved into the renovated Sanctuary. While worshiping in Discipleship Hall, John generally locked the entrance at the start of worship, but remained at the door for at least fifteen minutes to allow any late-comers to enter. Locking the handicap-accessible door to the renovated sanctuary requires additional steps to disable the automatic opening feature.

John proposed Bethel form a team to address security measures. Such a team could consult with the Frederick County Sherriff's Department or other authorities for recommendations. Ushers or others could be trained in responses to emergency situations. John suggested engaging the Congregation in the process. John encouraged Council to reach out by text or email with any questions.

### **Cameras for building**

Council discussed installing cameras to provide additional security for the building, in part because of expensive audio and video equipment installed during the Sanctuary renovation. John Fredericksen and Brian Davies agreed to look into pricing.

## **Other new Business.**

### **Gods work our hands**

Council discussed possible plans for "God's Work Our Hands" Sunday. Betty suggested cleaning projects around Bethel, particularly in upper Bethel and the Kitchen. Often the Congregation will assemble "care packages" for various groups as part of God's Work Our Hands. Bruce agreed to reach out to Beth Garner, and Rachel will reach out to Diane Milburn for ideas from CCAP and Bright Futures, respectively. There are Thrivent Action Cards that can be used for supplies.

### **Volunteers**

Finding volunteers has been challenging for the past few years. Members of the Congregation leading projects have expressed frustration. Council is considering new approaches to organization and communication to encourage involvement.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:10 pm.