

**DRAFT**

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Traverse City Michigan**

“We journey with God to serve with love”

**MINUTES TO CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:** Dec 20, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Gail Goldsmith called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**OPENING PRAYER:** provided by Laura Hahn

**QUORUM CALL:** President Gail Goldsmith, VP Maureen Bauer, Pastor Paul Busekist, Scott Farley, Leonard Graf, Laura Hahn, Jim Hinds, Cindy Monroe, Jim Monroe, Paul Wiemerslage. Denice Bossardet and Jana Rockne were excused.

**VISITORS OR CONGREGATIONAL COMMENT:** Phil Anderson as a representative of the finance committee requested that an ad hoc committee be formed to explore the pros/cons of keeping/selling the rental house. Such a committee will include 5 members: one from finance (Phil Anderson), one from council (Scott Farley), one at-large (Dave Pepler) and then 2 others selected by the committee. Their recommendations would be made to council by May 1, 2023 so that there could be a congregational vote as soon as June 2023. Motion for such a committee made by Cindy and seconded by Scott. Passed.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Maureen made the motion to approve the agenda & Scott seconded. Approved.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM Nov 15, 2022:** Maureen made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Scott, and the minutes were approved.

**REPORTS:**

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** Gail extended a great “thank-you” to those who came to carol, and to all who are doing so much at church in her unplanned absence. She is doing extensive phone work etc in the background.

**VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** Will be discussing admin position with Barbara to make certain she wants to stay at her current schedule.

**PASTOR’S REPORT:** Pastor Paul’s report was submitted and reviewed. Among a variety of topics work is still being done to identify the best candidate for our ministry position.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Leonard Graf reports we spent @ \$3,800 less than budgeted for Nov, but part of this is the city’s failure to provide a bill for electric/water use despite repeated requests. For the year \$1,743 less than budgeted has been spent.

**Financial Secretary Report:** Jim Monroe reports November was an excellent month for contributions. At one point in 2022 we were \$13,4000 behind, but now only \$2,400. 73 pledges are in (was 83 this time last year). 30 giving units who normally pledge have not done so. 8 new pledges yielded \$20,000. 39 pledges increased for an increase of \$27,000. 12 pledges decreased for a -\$10,000. Moved by Maureen and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scott to request the bookkeeper to reach out to previous uncommitted pledgers to remind and invite them to consider pledging. Passed.

**CONSENT CALENDAR: COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Reports submitted by: Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Christian Care; Fellowship; Personnel; Property. All reports are submitted and on file. Personnel added that Sara Denton has submitted her resignation for nursery aid. She will be requested to work for Christmas and Easter if possible. Paul W gave a verbal report for Y2A/Christian Ed: sledding on Jan 21 at Twin Lakes noon-2:30 and pancake Breakfast 1/22/23 9-10, ski trip-Feb 5

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. **Sunday School update:** Only 5-6 attending?? . Request Christian Ed to consider how Sunday School is going at its time before the service. It has been observed that some families then do NOT stay for the whole service.
- B. **Security Plan-Building locks update/cameras:** Gail will be planning a special meeting for council and safety committee with a meal at 5:00 with presentation by the officer, followed by the regular council meeting. More to come.
- C. **Sabbatical committee:** Bishop indicates the time is now right to book the synod leaders for the summer. For the bishop, there must always be a "back-up" plan in place. Scheduling to commence full throttle before/during the Jan meeting. Will request Carolyn Mann to make the contact with the synod members to determine if there are any preferred dates. Sabbatical fund has \$8500 and more is pledged.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **Congregational Meeting-Budget** passed
- B. **New Members:** Submitted and approved for membership are: Rob, Niki, Mason, and Connor Hengartner and Sherri Helman
- C. **Outside sign:** placards are installed to allow more specific info on screen
- D. **Nursery attendant-**accepted Sara's resignation with regret
- E. **Ad for Classroom space-**much discussion. Due to many rules/regulations, daycare or preschool may not be possible but perhaps use of new "library" or ZOOM youth room could be done. Need details of size/availability then could be posted on Facebook Market Place. Tabled until Jan.
- F. **Fellowship/funeral committees needs.** Previous funeral chairs can no longer provide the service. The fellowship meals cannot continue with the meager number of volunteers. Consider church-wide appeal for using "Spiritual Gifts" (possibly 1/15?) and volunteering for at least 1 new thing. Gail volunteered to "spruce up" the sheet of BLC involvement offerings.
- G. **Property:** Gail concerned about the aging of our great men's group. Group members present did not feel there was an immediate problem, but appreciate her concern.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:** A time for general/undocumented comments by each Council Member,

**LORD'S PRAYER:** said by all

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Cindy Monroe,

Acting Council Secretary