

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Traverse City, Michigan**

**“We journey with God to serve with love”**

**Council Minutes: 7/19/2022**

**CALL TO ORDER** President Gail Goldsmith called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

**OPENING PRAYER** Pastor Paul Busekist provided the opening prayer.

**QUORUM CALL** President Gail Goldsmith, Vice President Maureen Bauer, Secretary Jana Rockne, Pastor Paul Busekist, Scott Farley, Leonard Graf, Jim Monroe, Cindy Monroe, Jim Hinds, Laura Hahn, Denise Bossardet, Paul Wiemerslage (via Zoom). It was also moved and seconded to start future Council meetings at 6:30 pm.

**CONGREGATIONAL AND VISITOR COMMENT** Annie Slabaugh reported on the new opportunity presented to her and her family, requiring a move out of the area and the need to resign her post at BLC. Her end date will be 11/9/22. Any help in the transition of her leaving will be appreciated. There was discussion about the transition and appreciation expressed regarding her role at BLC. It was also recommended the job description and responsibilities be reviewed prior to filling the position.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** Maureen made a motion to approve the agenda, Denise seconded. Approved

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES** Maureen made a motion to approve the minutes from July 21, 2022, Denise seconded. Minutes were approved.

**REPORTS**

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT** Gail reported that her goal is to try and increase attendance/involvement at BLC by increasing our outreach and community involvement.

**PASTOR’S REPORT** Pastor Paul reviewed his written report, emphasizing the following: Annie’s leaving and the impact on our ministry; “Third Thursday” worship; new leadership (Tom Rockne) as the point person for Safe Harbor ministry; upcoming vacation time. He also suggested a forum after church on 8/14/22 to discuss Annie’s position (to reassure and inform the congregation of the reason for her departure) and to solicit information about Sunday School (starting time and length).

**VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT** Maureen requested a review of Annie’s job description and responsibilities prior to hiring a replacement. She also thanked all the volunteers who have helped in the office on Wednesdays while hiring an administrative assistant.

**TREASURER’S REPORT** Leonard referred council members to his submitted report and reviewed the information provided. Leonard will check with Phil Anderson regarding the water bill and if it is available online rather than waiting a month if it doesn’t arrive in the mail.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY’S REPORT** Jim referred council members to his emailed report. He noted that unpledged income has been higher than anticipated.

**COVID UPDATE** Jim Monroe reported that the number of reported cases is unreliable as many people are doing home tests and not reporting these to the health department. Continue to monitor CDC recommendations, especially considering the new variants.

**CONSENT CALENDAR: Committee Reports** Reports were submitted by the Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Christian Care, Personnel, Worship and Music, Youth/Y2A. All reports are submitted and on file. Additionally, Scott talked about getting ads out (in various formats) regarding the church, available space and events. Chuck Ardingo was present and reported on several of the Property Committee projects: a tree needs to be removed, boiler is being inspected, fire inspection in October, pavement of the alley (a joint project with the surrounding property owners) and anticipated elevator inspection in the coming year. In short, there will be a number of bigger ticket items with the property/building maintenance and the council should be prepared for this with the budget. Cindy asked if there are records of building maintenance (a schedule of maintenance that would help with budgeting) and Chuck referred interested parties to records in the church office.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**A.** Sunday School – significant discussion from a number of people regarding the starting time for Sunday School, length of time for Sunday School, how to best establish a program that meets the needs of families, concerns about the length of time (given the proposal to start at 9:15 and then have children attend the entire church service). There was also discussion about the Sunday School curriculum. Final approval of the recommendation for the committee is tabled until after the forum on August 14, to allow everyone to provide feedback.

**B.** Refresh Committee – Chuck Ardingo reported on the progress of their fund raising and also on getting bids for the anticipated work. \$7750 in contributions/pledges to date. Work to begin in August. The committee is very mindful of not spending more than the church/congregation can support.

**C.** Safe Harbor – Tom Rockne will be taking over from Jim Hutchison as point person for the congregation. There have been significant changes to the program and no overnight volunteers are needed.

**D.** Safety and Security Committee – Gail asked for volunteers to serve on this committee. To date, Gail, Jana, Jim Hinds, BJ Christianson was recommended and hopefully 2-3 people from the property committee. This continues to be a work in progress.

**E.** Administrative Assistant – Maureen reported that Mandi Brown has been offered and has accepted the position as Administrative Assistant, to start on August 2. The motion was made by Cindy and seconded by Denise to approve this recommendation.

No action on the following old business: purchase of tables for the fellowship hall, number of council members and by-law/handbook modifications.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A.** Date for Blessing of Council Members, Committee Members, Teachers and Volunteers: scheduled for September 18 at the 10 am service (motion made by Maureen and seconded by Denise, approved). God's Work/Our Hands project will be on September 11 with project to be determined (Paul W. is looking into some options as well as other council members).

**B.** BLC's involvement in Last Slice of Summer/TC Art Fair on August 20 was discussed and supported, with details to be worked out.

**C.** Grief/Loss Workshop – one member of the congregation has expressed interest and we need about 5 participants to proceed. Munson Hospice is interested and willing to lead the program. There will be more information provided to the congregation regarding this opportunity for healing.

**D.** Authorized signatures on checks: Cindy moved, Scott seconded – motion approved to have Gail added as an authorized signer, along with Maureen and Leonard.

**E.** Worship Times on Outdoor Sign: completed.

**F.** Volunteer Drivers for Seniors to come to church: deferred at this time

**G.** Representative from Property Committee on Council: Church Ardingo has stepped forward to serve in this capacity, either by attendance or by providing a written report.

**H.** Potential Revenue for the Church: To be continued. Ideas discussed included advertising on the livestreaming, Our Next Door App.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:** Each council member, along with Pastor Paul, was given an opportunity to comment or share information. Of special note was Pastor Paul's acknowledgement of Annie's contribution to our church and the loss we will experience of her leaving.

**LORD'S PRAYER** Said by all.

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm

**Respectfully submitted.**

**Jana Rockne, Council Secretary**