

**Bethel Lutheran Church Council**  
**Minutes, March 19, 2024**  
**Approved April 16, 2024**

**Attendees:** Randy Baskerville, Ros Demaree, Gary Helgemo, Jim Herr, Pastor Dave Hill, Tom Hooper, Steve Horton, Sarah Manro, Steve Middleton, Mary Jo Mikulski, Linc Schneider, Harold Seamon.

Jim Herr called the meeting to order at 6:33. Pastor Dave led a devotion and opening prayer. Special thanks were given to Linc and the Saturday music team for recent services and Randy Baskerville for organizing the previous weekend's Stuff the Bucket operation.

**Minutes**

Steve Horton moved, and Randy Baskerville seconded, to approve the February 20, 2024, minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report**

Harold Seamon reported that February was a sound financial month for Bethel. He pointed out that there is a long list of property improvements that could be paid out of the Designated Fund. The Finance Committee will discuss options.

There is a small deficit in the Resource Library fund. The Finance Committee will discuss and offer a recommendation.

Pastor Dave moved, and Gary Helgemo seconded, to approve the financial report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**Easter Breakfast**

There is interest in hosting an Easter Breakfast and food has been donated. Gary Helgemo offered to ask Rise Helgemo to coordinate it, and Mary Jo Mikulski offered to co-coordinate it.

**Employee Reviews**

Jim Herr will schedule annual reviews with Holly and Pastor Dave in April.

**Annual Report**

Submissions for the 2023 annual report are due April 15 to Ros Demaree so it can be produced in time for the June congregational meeting.

**Discovery Class**

Discovery classes are scheduled for April 14, 21 and 28 and May 5, beginning at 6 p.m. Pastor Dave took names to schedule council member presentations.

**Tax-Exempt Certificate**

All of Bethel's purchases, except lodging and food, are tax exempt. Harold Seamon said a new procedure is needed. A certificate must be filled out. He will have a supply of these.

**Call Committee**

The Call Committee provided an update at each service March 16 and 17. Jim Herr noted that Bethel is blessed to have committee members who speak with respect and candor. They have talked to three pastors and are updating the promotional materials.

### **First Communion and Confirmation**

Pastor Doug led a First Communion class and will do confirmation. He and Mark Heckman are collaborating to develop an upbeat summer bible study designed to attract families and young worshippers.

### **Council Elections**

Randy Baskerville, Jill Duncan and Sarah Manro have agreed to serve another term on council starting July 1, 2024. Ros Demaree will not serve another term. Steve Horton is considering another term. Jim Herr will recruit Nomination Committee members.

### **Disaster Relief and Missions**

Randy Baskerville thanked everyone who donated supplies and/or helped fill flood buckets and health kits. Bethel provided 64 buckets, 62 health kits, a generator and school supplies that will be given to victims of recent storms in Indiana. He, Dee Baskerville and Gay Hanson have been certified as disaster relief volunteers and are covered under NALC insurance.

Books and stuffed animals are needed by May 4 for 136 students in the Reading Buddies program. Missions will ask the congregation for donations. It was suggested we also provide them to the Legacy Christian School students.

### **Action Group Ideation**

Congregant Vic Hanson presented ideas and concerns about church attendance, member participation and congregation growth that have been the subjects of conversation at the Sausage and Scripture bible study. Vic urged the Council to be open with the congregation and discuss the concerns together. He volunteered to draft a survey for Council's review in February to measure the mood of the congregation and learn what they are thinking. Vic feels fellowship is at a low point and suggested there be organized fellowship after services to spark open, meaningful discussion.

### **Council Retreat**

Council will hold an all-day retreat July 13. An off-campus site is to be announced.

### **Pantry**

Pantry use has grown considerably in recent months. It has benefited from \$3,400 in Advent offerings and \$20,000 from Missions. It is likely its budget will need to be increased for 2025.

Steve Middleton moved, and Sarah Manro seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed unanimously at 7:36, and the council closed by saying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively submitted  
Ros Demaree

## **MARCH 2024 MINISTRY REPORTS**

*"We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who*

*love God and are called according to His purpose for them.” Romans 8:28*

<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>MARCH</u>
<p><b>WORSHIP SERVICES &amp; FUNERALS</b></p>	
<p>15 Services (Saturdays/Sundays/Wednesdays)</p>	<p>18 Services (9/10<sup>th</sup> missed - In South Dakota) <i>(Includes weekend, midweek, &amp; Holy Week)</i></p>
<p>Healing (7th)</p>	<p><i>No Healing Service or Funerals for me.</i></p>
<p>Funeral (24th)</p>	
<p><b>MEETINGS</b></p>	<p>Care Team (5)</p>
<p>Care Team (4)</p>	<p>Office Staff (4)</p>
<p>Office Staff (4)</p>	<p>Executive Team (1)</p>
<p>Executive Team (1)</p>	<p>Church Council (1)</p>
<p>Church Council (1)</p>	<p>Marilyn’s Place (TBD)</p>
<p>Marilyn's Place</p>	<p>No Youth Midweek</p>
<p>Youth Midweek</p>	
<p><b>PASTORAL CONTACTS/CALLS</b></p>	
<p>Legacy (Weekly)</p>	<p>Legacy</p>
<p>Homebound Members (4)</p>	<p>Homebound Members (4)</p>
<p>Families w/ Pastoral needs (3)</p>	<p>Families w/ Pastoral needs (3)</p>
<p><b>PASTORAL ACTIVITIES</b></p>	<p>3<sup>rd</sup> Gayle Anderson 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday</p>
<p>Comedy Night</p>	<p>16<sup>th</sup> Flood Buckets &amp; Health Kits</p>
<p>Shrove Tuesday Meal</p>	<p>Sale of Church Bus</p>
<p>Midweek Lenten Suppers</p>	<p>Chosen Study Preparation</p>
<p>Furnace Install (Ed. Bld.)</p>	<p>Finish Post Easter Worship preparation</p>
<p>Chosen Study Preparation</p>	<p>Assisted w/ Pantry Door Measurements</p>
<p>Food Pantry Help</p>	

<p>Post Easter Preparation</p> <p><b>PERSONAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Doctor's Appointment 16th</li><li>+ Automobile Servicing</li></ul>	
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**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, GARY HELGEMO**

Working with Stewardship, Christian Ed will hand out Easter gifts to our kids, Legacy, the homeschool students and any Scouts. Pastor Doug completed the First Communion class and will be doing Confirmation.

**COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY, ROS DEMAREE**

Work continues to compile content for the annual report, due to the congregation before the June congregational meeting.

**FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY, JIM HERR**

We met on 3/11 and discussed the Midweek meal progress. We finished out assignments for the coordinators of the remaining two midweek meals.

We also discussed and distributed the flyers for Bethel Bingo Bonanza to be at the Fellowship Hall from 2PM to 5PM on April 27. We planned baskets and other prizes along with snacks for the Bingo event.

We also worked on our May 18 event for prayerful art. We will have more information on this to follow as we continue to build it out. Essentially, a woman will be there to host a workshop teaching folks how to do art relating it to scripture. We also started laying the foundational plans for the concert set for Friday, June 21 at the Farmhouse.

**MUSIC AND WORSHIP MINISTRY, LINC SCHNEIDER**

Preparing for Holy Week with all groups being represented. This should offer some variety and meaningful worship for those who are attending.

Continue to gain volunteers, particularly in the AV area. Nice job with this area improving with volunteers and also quality in sound and visual during worship services. Starting to see some improvement with music in all 3 services as we work on unifying the sound and quality. Still see our regulars doing God's work in all areas of the ministry (AV, Music, Altar Guild, Greeters, Ushers and Readers). Continuing to work on advance preparation to reduce the mistakes. The earlier the better in planning. Unfortunately, have not seen a gain in attendance

**PROPERTY, JEFF REISING**

The second-floor heating unit has been replaced, is up and is functioning well. Precision did a good job sticking with it to resolve the bugs. We are still working through having a bit more control from a computer, but the system is set up with times and temps from multiple years ago that generally works pretty well. This 12k+ will come from the building fund.

They will also be installing a backup pump for the geothermal system. The second pump is old and has been offline, and this is overdue.

I am organizing a full on Property committee in the next month to hopefully relieve me from so many decisions. If I can get a few folks involved, this will make a big difference. As part of this, I want to take whatever measures are necessary to expand the knowledge base on the security system so that John isn't the only person who knows how to work it. Hopefully, I can get John on board the property committee

Don't forget Spring Cleanup day is 3/23 from 8-12. Lots of potential jobs for everyone I'd like to schedule the replacement of the sanctuary lights and the fire sensor for June 23-25 or the following weekend June 30-July 2. This could be a great opportunity to really clean the pews, carpet, etc., while we move things around to change the lights. Randy had mentioned his willingness to be the guy up top, so I need to make sure he won't be on a cruise ship somewhere during those windows. Still working on quotes for painting and concrete work and hope to engage with a couple of parking lot contractors to get a feel for that project as well.

**STEWARDSHIP, MARY JO MIKULSKI**

We continue our emphasis on giving following the laws of stewardship with a new bulletin board in the hallway. We also in conjunction with Christian Education have created Easter gift bags with an invitation to Easter worship plus a He is Risen bracelet and candy. These are being given to each child in the Legacy preschool, the homeschool group and at our Easter services. Reminder to each of you to give generously and faithfully.