

Bethel Lutheran Church Council Minutes

December 17, 2024

Attendance: Randy Baskerville, Jill Duncan, Gary Helgemo, Jim Herr, Dave Hill, Tom Hopper, Sarah Manro, Steve Middleton, Jeff Reising, Linc Schneider, Harold Seamon, Annette Lang.

The meeting was called to order at 6:52pm.

Devotion was given by Pastor Dave.

A motion was made to accept the minutes for November 11/14/24 after the misspelling of Sarah Manro's was corrected. Steve Middleton moved the motion; Sarah Manro seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Finance Report- Harold Seamon

There was discussion about designated funds in the budget. There was specific concern about the memorial funds that has a \$29,869.48 in that fund and it is not clear as to how the money is designated. In the past when money was given for a funeral the pastor would make suggestions to the family about ways to use this money. Pastor Al was the last pastor to follow up with the family members.

A motion was made to accept the financial report. Dave Hill moved the motion; Randy Baskerville seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

After the financial report was accepted, there was discussion about the fact that the money in the memorial fund could be used for other ministries in the church if there was a vote by council before moving the money. The only money not to be moved from the account is the money that has specific designation attached to it for a specific ministry. Suggestions were made to use the money for music and property. The organ needs new bellows for the pipe organ. Linc will get some quotes for repair of the organ by the next council meeting. Linc will also see about getting Sharon more money to help with more programming with the music.

It has also been suggested that some of the money go to seal and paint the parking lot and to get the windows throughout the church repaired. Due to the cost of all these repairs a designated fund to repair/replace the windows may need to be established.

There was discussion on giving pastor Dave 2 more weeks of paid vacation. The additional 2 weeks would start in 2025. There is no accruing for vacation time. This would be 6 Sundays off.

A motion was made to give Pastor 5 weeks of vacation. Motion was moved by Gary Helgemo and seconded by Jill Duncan. Motion was amended to give Pastor Dave 6 weeks not 5 weeks of vacation for 2025. The Amendment notion was accepted, and the motion passed unanimously.

Holly is responsible for tracking Pastor Dave's vacation time.

There was discussion about the need to get a volunteer coordinator to help Gary Melby in setting up for the ushers and greeters. Steve Middleton agreed to take over coordinating the ushers and greeters. Pastor Dave will contact Gary Melby to inform him of the changes that are occurring.

Youth Ministry- Sarah Manro

Sarah works in the Noblesville schools as an instructional assistant. She wanted to share some of the curriculum that is being taught in the 7th grade social study class. Pupils are taught about world religions looking at 5 world religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Sarah focused on what the students are learning about Christianity. The students are taught about the birth, life, miracles Jesus performed, the last supper, the crucifixion of Jesus and resurrection of Jesus. Demotions of other Christian religion are also addressed. Each one of the religions is addressed in the same manner that Christianity has been addressed.

Old Business

There was discussion of the need to change the signs posted at the church with the new office hours, so they include Mondays as being open. Pastor Dave will update the signs.

The evangelism retreat is still open for discussion.

New Business

Randy Baskerville shared that the Hamilton County Community Foundation sends a check every year. This year the check was for \$1,466.57; it is a charitable contribution to be used at the discretion of the church. It was suggested that it be used for the food pantry. A motion was made to use the money for the food pantry, it was moved by Randy Baskerville and seconded by Jeff Reising. The motion passed unanimously.

Jeff Reising spoke with Susan from Legacy Christian School this past week. Legacy needs to move the rest of their school, and they are planning on moving the rest of their school program to Bethel Lutheran Church starting in August of 2025.

There was a follow-up with Classical Conversation about their need to help with the cost of Environmental Management Services due to the increased use of water in the building. Jeff said that they are not responding to his emails. There was more discussion around how much Classical Conversations should be paying for the use of church not including the issues of increased cost of being imposed by Environmental Management Services. Jeff will reach out to the person in charge at Classical Conversations and set up a meeting with them and Jim Herr is willing to attend the meeting.

Fellowship-Jim Herr

The caroling event went off well and Jim thanked Pastor Dave and Linc for setting up the event. The seasoned citizens really enjoyed the caroling event.

Evangelism-Tom Hopper

Tom shared that he had purchased several of the crosses that were made by Dennis Clary and he gave them to his adult children. Tom stated that he used the opportunity to share in a letter with his adult children the significance of not only birth of Jesus at Christmas but the death of Jesus on the cross and significance of eternal life for Christians.

Missions-Randy Baskerville

There was a good turnout for the Wreaths Across America that was done at Bethel. There is a need to coordinate a missions program for Wreaths Across America in Cicero, IN.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54pm.