

**Bethany Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting Minutes
July 22, 2018**

Present: President-Joann Kilgus, Treasurer-Mike McCoy, Secretary-Patty Fess, Trustees-Barb Olson and Randy Nelson, Past Presidents-Brian Blazer and Chuck Pearson **Members:** Debbie Fischer, Ron Fischer, Jim Jordan, Nancy Jordan, Wally Kilgus, Lois Litterst, Ron Litterst, Marge McCoy, Jane Nelson, Dave Olson, Ellie Pearson, Jim Reeve, Marlys Regan, Tom Regan, Jim Schwengel, Judy Schwengel, Gail Sczpanski, Max Sczpanski, Carol Stoelting, Paul Stoelting, Carole Sunstrom, Russ Sunstrom, Anne Van de Ven, Dick Van de Ven **Guests:** Lori Free, Heidi Free, Camilla Ross, Holly Thomas

Meeting called to order by President Joann Kilgus at 10:43 a.m. Joann opened the meeting with prayer.

Secretary's Report

It was moved and seconded to approve the Annual Meeting Minutes dated July 16, 2017. Minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mike McCoy provided a detailed report of Bethany's financials for each person present. Mike highlighted our total income of \$77,455 for January-December of 2017. The total income contains contributions to the Heritage Endowment Fund, donation to the synod, money carried over from 2016 for the water project and gains on our investments, primarily from the Heritage Fund. When you deduct our expenses, including over \$18,000 for the water project paid out in 2017 and the income for the Foundation we are left with \$10,560 of operating income which is comparable to previous years.

For benevolence, we gave away \$13,550 against contributions of \$44,471 plus the designated gift for the synod. That amounted to 30% of our offerings as benevolence.

For the current year through last Sunday the financials are comparable to last year. Our cash position is strong and we have no debt. The Heritage Endowment Fund as of March 30, 2018 had a balance of \$234,591 compared to \$207,210 last year.

Attendance is also strong for the year at 532 compared to 496 in 2017 for the same number of Sundays. It is the highest attendance has been since 2012.

Ron Litterst moved and Tom Regan seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

President's Report

In 1976, Joann attended her first service at Bethany Lutheran Church and now is the retiring president. She remarked on how Bethany has continued to thrive and be a vibrant congregation since that time with no permanent pastor, no secretary and no custodian. There are many people that deserve recognition for their efforts. Mike McCoy does all the financials and schedules the pastors, Patty

Fess writes the emails and includes the pictures, Barb and Dave Olson provide the beauty through Barb's floral bouquets and Dave's singing, Randy does many projects behind the scenes and keeps Bethany's property looking great, Lori Free inspires us with her organ music and Nancy Jordan blessed us with her cards commemorating Bethany's 135th Anniversary. Joann went on to thank the Sunstroms, the Van de Vens and the Pearsons and others that have important roles and are available to help out when needed. Joann thanked God for each and every one that helps out so that Bethany continues to thrive against the odds.

Election of Officers and Trustees

Patty Fess presented the slate of Officers and Trustees for election.
President-Jane Nelson
Treasurer-Mike McCoy
Secretary-Patty Fess
Trustees-Ron Fischer, Joann Kilgus, Randy Nelson, Barb Olson and Jim Schwengel
Chuck Pearson moved to elect the slate by acclamation, Dick Van de Ven seconded and the motion carried.

Membership Report

Patty Fess reported a current membership of 120 and the member email now reaches 100 email addresses. The current Bethany Directory was circulated for any corrections or updates.

Buildings and Grounds

Randy Nelson outlined five projects for Bethany either being considered or under way.

1. We are in the bidding process for a new HVAC system for the church. The furnace is 30 years old and in need of replacement. We have ductwork available to put in an air conditioner at the same time as the furnace.
2. We are still searching for someone who we can contract to paint the steeple.
3. In the fall, after services end, we plan to remodel the Cry Room in order to expand our Narthex.
4. We are hopeful to get someone in the spring to rebuild the stone wall from the walk way west and around the corner.
5. The light for the pulpit can be installed as soon as a ten-foot stepladder becomes available.

Live stream

Chuck Pearson reported that the views on the Livestream can vary from 5-6 people per Sunday to up to 200 people. The visiting pastors tell others about the Livestream. We do need to replace the interface next year and sometimes we have problems with intermittent service from Charter.

Carol Stoelting asked about the availability of the bulletin and the Celebrate insert online. The bulletin is already online and we are looking into having the Celebrate insert online in the future.

Heritage Endowment Fund

The Heritage Endowment Fund had a balance of \$234,591 as of March 30, 2018. Jim Reeve asked when the Heritage Endowment Fund plans to meet again. Chuck replied that a meeting was being planned for this fall.

New Business

Hymnal Donation

Abiding Savior from Milwaukee has donated 150 red hymnals to Bethany. Eventually we plan to switch over to the red hymnal. Russ Sunstrom noted, that Abiding Savior also donated the pews we now use at Bethany.

On Both Sides of the Ocean

Chuck Pearson presented each councilperson with a copy of the book, Both Sides of the Ocean, the story of Per Hagen and the founding of Bethany Lutheran Church. Chuck asked each councilperson to read the book and pass it on to the next councilperson once their term has ended.

Next Annual Meeting-July 2019

As there was no further business, Wally Kilgus moved and Tom Regan seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Fess, council secretary