

**Bethany Lutheran Church**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**July 18, 2021**

**Present:** President-Jane Nelson, Acting Treasurer-Ron Fischer, Secretary-Patty Fess, Trustees-Joann Kilgus, Randy Nelson, Barb Olson and Jim Schwengel.

**Past Presidents:** Brian Blazer and Mike McCoy

**Members:** Debbie Fischer, Wally Kilgus, Ron Litterst, Jim Marotz, Su Marotz, Marge McCoy, Becky Roehl, Marc Roehl and Nancy Steinke.

**Visitor:** Camilla Ross

**Meeting called to order by President Jane Nelson at 10:40 a.m.** Jane opened the meeting with prayer.

**Secretary Report**

Brian Blazer moved and Mike McCoy seconded to approve the Annual Meeting Minutes dated July 14, 2019. Minutes were approved as presented.

**Treasurer Report**

Acting treasurer Ron Fischer provided a detailed report of Bethany's financials to each person present. Ron thanked Mike McCoy for his years as treasurer and for the excellent practices and records that Mike kept for Bethany. Mike stepped down from the position in late fall of 2020 and the treasurer position was reorganized. Paul Pillat was hired as the accountant, Nancy Jordan keeps the books and writes checks and Ron Fischer coordinates it all as the acting treasurer.

As of June 30, 2021 we have \$250,321 in our Money Market Fund compared with with December 31, 2021 when we had \$250,260, there has been very little change. Because the market has been good, the Bethany Heritage Endowment Fund has grown approximately \$40,000 to \$315,076 as of June 30, 2021 from \$276,480 on December 31, 2020.

Our expenses have exceeded our income in the first six months of 2021. In looking at 2020, in comparison to 2019, our Total Checking/Savings accounts including the \$200,000 Boldt Gift was \$257,644 on December 31, 2020 compared with \$267,825 on December 31, 2019. In 2020 our contributions were \$30,550 and we took \$10,000 from our Money Market Fund to cover the benevolence contributions. We are down in contributions as of June 2021.

Wally Kilgus moved to accept the Treasurer Report, Brian Blazer seconded and the motion passed.

**President Report**

Jane said it is a great honor to serve Bethany as the President. She thanked Lori Free for playing the organ each Sunday and for recording a video of church music along with her family members each week during the 2020 season while Bethany was closed. Nancy Jordan is the person behind the scenes that designs and makes the Christmas cards and the cards we give to visitors, picks up and distributes the bulletins each week, checks the mailbox, writes the checks for our invoices and keeps our books. Barb Olson provides seasonal bouquets of flowers for the altar each week and is our church historian. Her husband Dave is our soloist most Sundays and prepares background information on each piece he performs. Ron Fischer has graciously stepped in to the treasurer position and has been organizing all the Bethany tasks and the people responsible for those tasks. Patty Fess writes a timely and informative email for the congregation and friends of Bethany. Jim Schwengel and Joann Kilgus are always there to advise and support the council.

Jane had special thanks to Mike and Marge McCoy for their years of service to Bethany and presented them with a community garden from the ELCA catalog of gifts in their honor.

### **Election of Trustees and Officers**

Secretary, Patty Fess presented the slate.

President-Jane Nelson

Treasurer-Ron Fischer

Secretary-Patty Fess

Trustees-Joann Kilgus, Su Marotz, Randy Nelson, Barb Olson and Jim Schwengel

As there were no nominations from the floor, Randy Nelson moved to accept the slate by acclamation and Brian Blazer seconded the motion. The slate was elected.

### **Membership Report**

Bethany has 120 members. Sadly, there were four deaths since the last annual meeting in 2019; Mel Boeckenhauer, Oscar Boldt, Rev. Don Just and Marlys Regan. The Member and Friend's Email goes out to 109 email addresses. There is a Members Only Email that goes out to 62 addresses.

### **Buildings and Grounds**

Randy Nelson presented the report on the buildings and grounds. The cemetery has been surveyed and the corners of the blocks are clearly marked. There is a new gravel circle driveway and we have hired Meissner Landscaping to clear brush from a corner area and to plant the circle of the driveway with a maple tree, some boxwoods and day lilies. There are five dead trees scheduled to be removed from the cemetery. The parsonage will be getting some repairs on the back porch, two new screen doors, a backyard patio and some new landscaping on the west side. The steeple has been painted and is holding up nicely. In 2019 the cry room was taken out and remodeled into a new more spacious narthex. Rot was found underneath the southeast corner of the narthex and that was repaired. A new defibrillator was installed and Jim Marotz demonstrated how automatic and simple it is to operate.

Bethany has signed a contract to remove the asbestos siding from the church for \$12,900. This will reveal the original cedar siding from 1882. The siding will be repainted late in the fall or early in the spring of 2022. Randy is still contacting masons to repair the stone wall surrounding the church.

### **New Business**

#### **Update on the uses for the Boldt Gift**

The council is being conservative with this generous gift and using the money for projects to maintain, repair and refresh our current buildings and grounds. Randy mentioned the long-term possibility of building bathrooms on the church property. Bethany is having the church property and the parsonage property surveyed by Baudhuin to better understand our boundaries and the possible uses for the properties.

Ron Litterst asked if the Bethany congregation should consider putting the \$200,000 Boldt Gift into the Heritage Endowment Fund because with the \$200,000 we would reach the goal of \$500,000, the amount needed to be able to draw 5% from the account each year. A discussion followed and Barb Olson made the point that Oscar Boldt, a longtime member of Bethany, was well aware of the Heritage Endowment Fund and had contributed to the fund generously in his lifetime. If he wanted the \$200,000 to go towards the Endowment Fund he would have designated the money to that fund. She said, Oscar likely knew that Bethany needed the money to repair, maintain and refresh our buildings and grounds.

Joann Kilgus added that plans are being made to repaint the interior of the parsonage, purchase new furniture for the living spaces and add a patio to the back porch.

Mike McCoy moved that the congregation supports the council on the planned maintenance discussed today but any capital expenses, defined as expenses or improvements costing over \$25,000 shall be brought before a congregational meeting. Nancy Steinke seconded and the motion passed.

Brian Blazer emphasized that it would be important to keep the the congregation informed through the Members Only Email.

**Adjournment**

As there was no further business the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patty Fess, council secretary