

**Bethany Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2022**

Present: Patty Fess, Ron Fischer, Joann Kilgus, Jane Nelson, Randy Nelson and Jim Schwengel

Excused: Su Marotz and Barb Olson

Secretary Report

JoAnn Kilgus moved to approve the minutes dated May 25, 2022. Jim Schwengel seconded and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer Report

Ron Fischer presented the financials through June 2022. As of the end of March the Endowment Fund is down to \$327,000. Our savings, checking and money market funds come to \$165,431. Contributions are up slightly through June of this year compared to this time period last year. Our expenses for 2022 are up about \$8,000 over the same time period for last year. The largest expense increases from 2021 to 2022 were for advertising fees, accounting fees and tree removal in the cemetery. As of June we have spent \$91,996 of the Boldt gift with outstanding bills for painting due soon.

Patty Fess moved to accept the treasurer report and Randy Nelson seconded. The motion passed.

Old Business

Property Update

Buck Olson and crew are back finishing up the painting at the church. Randy is waiting on an estimate from Frankie to rebuild the stone wall with footings. Buck Olson does have a mason on his staff and will also give us an estimate and can match the stone. Randy is planning to have new screen door made for the parsonage.

Rockenstein Wedding

Martha Rockenstein will marry Brian Eklund at Bethany on July 16th. The service will be Live-streamed and Nancy Steinke will lock up and make sure the church is ready for the service on Sunday.

140th Anniversary

An evening service will be July 13th with Rev. Usgaard presiding and giving the meditation. Deb Fischer has headed up and planned this service remotely. The theme is 'Bethany, the Light Shines Here'.

An open house at the parsonage will be on July 21st. The purpose will be for people to see the newly painted walls and updated furnishings provided by the Boldt gift.

New Business

Balcony

Joann and Patty consolidated and removed some of the items now stored in the balcony and were able to open up a pew and a half for seating. Randy removed some additional items. The folding chairs have been wiped down and stored under cover.

Carpet Cleaning

There has been some recent soiling of the carpet in the church. The stains have been mostly removed. The carpet was last cleaned in 2020. We will ask the Marotzes to help with any remaining stains.

Livestream

There are three people that can run the Livestream; Jane, Jim Marotz and Patty. Jim Schwengel and Ron Fischer have volunteered to learn also. We are looking for a few more people willing to learn. We are planning to ask Jim Jordan.

Donation of Ukrainian Candles

Twelve Ukrainian candles from the Door County Candle Company were donated to Bethany by Thor and Darlene Jondahl. Thor requested the council decide how to distribute the candles. Five candles were given to those who helped out with the anniversary service, one will be given to Martha and Brian for their wedding and one to Tad Dukehart in appreciation for the photos he supplies to Bethany.

Update on the Historic Status of the Parsonage

It was found that the parsonage is on the list of historic places for the national and the Wisconsin records. There seem to be inaccuracies especially at the national level. Jim Marotz is researching this and utilizing the report of the recent survey of the parsonage property to do so.

Walking Tour with Kathleen Harris

Kathleen from the Ephraim Historical Foundation has requested that Bethany be included on two small walking tours this fall. She will be given a key to open and close the church and understands that she is responsible for any cleaning that may arise. Jim and Joann have volunteered to be present for the tours if they are available on the dates that Kathleen selects.

Handy Man-Property Manager

Patty expressed a need for someone to be called as needed for repairs and maintenance especially when the need is urgent. We have been extremely fortunate to have volunteers that have been very capable for this responsibility. For long-term repairs and maintenance we are in good hands with Randy, who can either take care of the problem or knows who to call. Currently, all but one person on the council comes and goes from the county on a frequent basis and there is a need to have someone available to call upon that lives in the county full-time. She also pointed out that the administrative duties are mounting up and perhaps someone could be hired for these tasks. Frankie Pudlo has been contacted for some of the handy man tasks. He is available at night and on weekends. The council will work up a job description for an administrator and see where that leads.

Annual Meeting

The annual report is at the printers. We plan to pass some changes to the constitution regarding membership, the description of the treasurer position, removal of the cost of the gravesites and some general corrections. There will be an update on the projects and uses for the Boldt gift and Joann will give a report on the updates to the parsonage.

Landscaping Plan for Parsonage Property

We do have a plan from Meissner Landscaping for a flagstone patio surrounded by plantings and all new plantings around the house for \$21,000. They can do the work in the spring. Jane was impressed with the plantings that were suggested on the plan and said many were low maintenance. Joann is concerned with the general upkeep of the suggested landscape. There was council concern with the total cost. It was suggested to go with a flagstone patio and have a grass surround omitting any plantings around the patio. It was also suggested to have a rock border with a liner surrounding the house for very low maintenance and protection against rodents. Perhaps the three

dwarf lilacs, suggested on the plan, would be good for the side of the house. Randy will also contact another landscaper for a plan and an estimate.

Date of Next Meeting

The final council meeting will be on October 11th at 2:00 P.M. We plan to close the parsonage and the church for the winter on October 20th at 9:00 A.M.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 A.M. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Fess, council secretary