

**Bethany Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2022**

Present: Patty Fess, Ron Fischer, Su Marotz (by phone), Jane Nelson, Randy Nelson, Barb Olson and Jim Schwengel (by phone)

Excused: Joann Kilgus

At 10:00 AM president Jane Nelson opened the meeting with prayer. She added a Property Report, Christmas Letter Update and thoughts from Ellen Grimsby and Carol Stoelting to the agenda.

Secretary Report

Patty Fess presented the minutes dated July 13, 2022. Ron Fischer moved to approve the minutes, Jim Schwengel seconded and the motion carried.

Treasurer Report

Ron presented the financials through September 30, 2022. As of September 30, 2022 Bethany has \$172,410 in the checking, savings and money market accounts combined. Our contributions including \$450 to the Endowment are \$32,220. Bethany expenses without the expenses for the Boldt gift were \$25,134 from January through the end of September. In this time period income exceeded expenses by \$6,782. Bethany spent \$65,000 of the Boldt gift in 2021 and \$36,000 through September 2022 with \$98,668 of the gift remaining. Patty moved to accept the treasurer report, Barb seconded and the motion carried.

Property Report

Randy Nelson has gotten three comparable bids for the flagstone patio and walkway at the parsonage. Randy recommended Orreck because they do good work and are available. Patty moved to contract with Orreck for the flagstone patio and walkway for a cost not to exceed \$14,000 to be completed in the spring of 2023. Randy seconded and the motion carries with one "nay".

Randy has not been able to get a price on the removal and rebuild of the stonewall. He is proposing to divide the project into excavation and rebuild utilizing two contractors. It was asked if the stone could be saved and Randy replied that it is difficult and time consuming to clean stone. Jim asked if there would be a time lapse between excavation and rebuild. There most likely will be causing safety concerns. Ron liked the two-pronged approach.

Old Business

Status of the Parsonage National Register of Historic Places

There was a change of the street name for the parsonage from Village Street to Poplar Street. Perhaps this has led to some confusion. The NRHP has the Peter Peterson house listed but with an incorrect photo. We will work to get this corrected.

Constitution

Jane has updated the constitution to reflect the changes that were voted on at the Annual Congregational Meeting in July using the constitution downloaded from the website dated 2017. Patty requested an electronic copy and a paper copy of the updated constitution.

New Business

Music Director

Patty will meet with Lori Free to see if she would have an interest in the position of music director. Some of the responsibilities could include finding and providing special music, choosing the weekly hymns, educating the congregation on hymns and music, finding someone to maintain the organ and possibly filling out the site for One License that takes care of our royalties.

Lilac Bushes

Between the church and the schoolhouse the lilac bushes have expanded out about 15 feet. The Ephraim Historical Foundation wants to take out the bushes on their side and if we did the same it would expose a stone wall and would yield Bethany 5 more parking spaces.

Additionally we would like to trim the bushes on Q, east of the parking lot to provide a better view of traffic. We will get a quote soon for this work and proceed by email.

Bronze Plaques

The EHF is exploring the possibility of bronze plaques for the historic buildings in Ephraim. We are following up with Cody Schreck to have the church and the Peter Peterson building (parsonage) included in this project.

Christmas Letter

Patty presented the Christmas card for this year made by Nanc Jordan with the theme of "peace". The labels are being made by Joann Kilgus, the stamps have been purchased and Jane will write the letter.

Thoughts from Carol Stoelting and Ellen Grimsby

The council commented on some thoughts and ideas from Carol and Ellen. Here are highlights.

1. They are interested in signage near the entrance of the Bethany cemetery on HWY 42. Who do they talk to? (Brent Bristol at Village Hall) In order to provide a safer entrance to the cemetery Bethany will have more bushes cut back from the stone walls.
2. Suggestions for guest pastors can be sent to Mike McCoy.
3. Livestream-it is difficult to hear the pastor when they step out of the pulpit. We will investigate adjusting the microphone.
4. Music-they had a suggestion for a new offering hymn and we will pass that suggestion and any suggestions for hymns on to Lori Free who makes those decisions.
5. Carol and Ellen wanted an update on the possibility of an auxiliary building with bathrooms and a mini kitchen. At this time there are no plans for that building and they are welcome to generate interest or support for an auxiliary building from the congregation.
6. They thought the 140th Anniversary service was wonderful and would like to view it again. We will follow up with Ryan Sherman to see if it can be archived on the website.

Officers 2023

Jane and Ron are willing to stay on the council as president and treasurer. Patty would like to stay on the council but not as secretary. Jim is willing to step down or stay on as needed. Joann will be contacted. Su, Barb and Randy would like to stay on the council. We will seek a new secretary and perhaps one new trustee.

Benevolences

Bethany had a good year of giving and we will make these benevolences.

Angel Fund-\$500 (up \$200)

Disabled Veterans-\$300

ELCA World Hunger-\$1500

Hurricane Ian Appeal-\$500 (new this year)

East Central WI Synod Mission Support-\$500

ELCA Fund for Leaders-\$300

ELCA-\$200

Ephraim Fire Fighters Association-\$250

Help of Door County-\$1200

Kononia Kupboard-\$750 (up \$250)

Lutheran Social Services of WI-\$750

Lutheran World Relief-\$1000

Neighbor to Neighbor-\$300

Northern Door Children's Center-\$1500

Peninsula Pre-School-\$500

Scandia Village-\$1100

Secret Santa-\$500 (up \$200)

This is a total of \$11,650 which is 36% of our income.

The council explored the idea of publicizing our benevolences and decided not to persue publicity.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer. Meeting was adjourned at noon.

