

**Bethany Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
May 25, 2023**

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

Excused: Joann Kilgus

At 10:25 AM president, Jane Nelson opened the meeting with prayer.

Secretary Report

Lori Free is now reporting the hymns and music for One License.

Duska Pearson is the new Parsonage Coordinator. She purchases what is needed to stock the parsonage and checks out the parsonage when the pastors depart.

Patty distributed a Parsonage Departure Checklist to each council person. Hopefully, any council person in town can do this quick check up of the parsonage if Duska is unavailable.

Patty Fess continues to coordinate the cleaning of the parsonage and church with Mary Niedzwiecki.

Camilla Ross will be announced as a member on May 28th and Allison Shirley Ross will be a member by baptism on June 4th.

Su Marotz moved to approve the minutes dated, October 20, 2022. Jim Schwengel seconded and the motion passed.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer, Ron Fischer circulated the Financial Report. Bethany's assets as of May 25, 2023 combining checking, savings, money market and CDs are \$162,989. Currently, the Endowment Fund has \$313,528. General contributions as of May 25, 2023 have been \$12,800 which includes a designated gift of \$10,000 for the rebuild of the stone wall. The expenses through May 25, 2023, excluding the Boldt Gift expenditures have been \$6,169. To date, Bethany has spent \$114,313 of the \$200,000 Boldt Gift.

Patty moved and Barb Olson seconded to accept the Treasurer Report. Motion passed.

Property Report

Randy Nelson updated the council on the removal of the mature lilac bushes on the adjoining properties of the schoolhouse and the church. The lilac removal was a shared expense of Bethany and the Ephraim Historical Foundation. Stumps of the bushes were removed as a donation and grass seed has been spread. Also the trees blocking the view of the driveway entrance to the parking lot have been cut back.

The circular flagstone patio at the parsonage has been completed though the grout needs to be touched up.

Randy is meeting with a mason, Mike Challis regarding the rebuild of the stone wall.

The spring clean up at the church from Meissner was \$2000.

Randy moved and Ron seconded to put new gravel and mulch at the cemetery for an amount not to exceed \$3000. Motion passed.

Old Business

National register of Historic Places

Randy will contact Cody at EHF regarding this matter.

Brass Plaques for Church and Parsonage

Randy will contact Cody at EHF regarding the brass plaques.

Ongoing Tasks and Responsibilities and Signatories

Ron will send out the Tasks and Responsibilities spread sheet for the council to review and update. Ron will add the signatories to this sheet.

Status of the Boldt Gift

There is a remaining \$85,687 in the Boldt Gift. The council will reprioritize the projects for the remainder of the Boldt Gift once the new council is elected in July. Possible projects from the

council are; repair of the church foundation, seed money for the auxiliary building, preservation of the Bethany windows and a porch ceiling for the parsonage.

New Business

Coffee Fellowship

The council will provide treats for the coffee on the opening Sunday. Barb will bring the coffee.

All Church Potluck

A parishioner has offered to host a potluck for Bethany. We are waiting on a date and plans. Additionally, potlucks could be held indoors at the Village Hall.

EHF-Roots of Our Village Tours

The dates for the Roots of Our Village Tours with Bethany and the Goodletson cabin are 6/4, 7/6, 8/3, 9/7 and 10/5. Barb Olson and Jim Schwengel are the assistants for Kathleen Harris, educator from the EHF.

EHF-Third Grade Field Trip

The third grade field trip will be 45 students from Gibraltar touring Bethany for 20-30 minutes on September 21 with a rain date of September 28. Kathleen Harris will be on the tour and understands the need to leave Bethany in a clean and orderly condition, ready for worship on Sunday. Kathleen also requested an assistant leader from Bethany to help lead the third graders at Bethany. The council agreed to the third grade field trip his year.

Cemetery Walk

Kathleen Harris is looking to organize a cemetery walk at the Bethany cemetery for this fall or next year. There are stories and people buried there that would be of interest. Brigita Zachariason was a midwife, Tom Goodletson and Oscar Omen are buried in the cemetery. Barb suggested Carol Sunstrom's parents and sisters as an interesting story. Kathleen is also looking for an assistant leader from Bethany, perhaps someone familiar with the cemetery history.

Signs for Parking

EHF would like to use the Bethany church grass parking lot for limited events. The council agrees to limited parking with a sign that reads, "Parking Reserved for EHF Event". The sign should be no smaller than a standard real estate 'For Sale' sign.

Council Elections 2023

The council will have an opening for one to two Trustees and one officer, the secretary. A current trustee is considering the secretary position and the council will ask Bethany members if they are interested in being a trustee.

Annual Meeting July 16

Date of Next Council Meeting July 14

The meeting will begin at 9:00 AM at Patty's house.

Adjournment

The meeting at 12:20, closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Fess, council secretary