

**Bethany Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2023**

President Jane Nelson opened with prayer and called the meeting to order at 1:50 PM.

Present: Patty Fess, Ron Fischer, Jane Nelson, Randy Nelson, Barb Olson and Jim Schwengel. **Excused-**Karen Stout **Guest-**Deb Fischer

Deb Fischer reviewed the current list of pastors with the council and requested names of additional pastors to be contacted. Deb, Ron and Emily Wegner are setting up a system for pastor scheduling and preparing a directory of pastors. Opening date for Bethany will be May 26, 2024 and closing date will be October 20, 2024.

Secretary Report

Randy Nelson moved to approve the Bethany Minutes dated July 14, 2023. Jim Schwengel seconded and the motion passed.

Treasurer Report

Ron Fischer provided the Bethany financials through September 30, 2023. Bethany received \$70,797 in offering and \$500,100 toward the Endowment Fund. Our total income is \$590,023. Our expenses through September were \$44,979. The Endowment Fund is at \$814,897 and that does not include the market value change and income distributions since 3/31/23. The amount remaining in the Boldt Gift is \$78,402.

Patty moved to accept the Treasurer Report, Jim seconded and the motion passed.

Property Report

Randy Nelson reported that Charles Wood had begun the exterior painting of the Parsonage and planned to complete the project this fall. There were a few rotten boards of siding and those are being replaced along with the sheathing and some wood hardener on the studs.

Window Sash Restoration

This would cost \$32,000 for the seven Bethany windows. The price would include removal of windows, replacement of any glass that is not authentic, painting of windows without removal of old paint due to lead. The bid would not include replacement of any rotted wood.

Replacement walk to vestry

The walk would be widened to 3 feet, be made of flagstone and be pitched away from the building for drainage. We are waiting for a price.

Upgrading the Power

We are getting a bid from Bay Electric to upgrade the power to 200 amps. Power went out during worship while running the electric heat.

Permanent Lighting

Looking into permanent lighting, hard wired to illuminate the exterior of the church.

Water to Building

Investigating running water from the well at the Schoolhouse to the church building for an outdoor spigot and indoor sink.

Bronze Plaques

Erie Landmark Company will customize a plaque naming the Bethany Church and the Peter Peterson House along with the date for the building. Randy will order the plaques.

Old Business

Headstone Cleaning

Moved to May 2024

All Church Potluck

It was suggested to have once a month get together for the congregation and visiting pastor on a Friday from 4-6:00 PM for appetizers and beverages. Jane, Patty and Barb will organize the events to take place in people's homes.

New Business

Water from Well at Schoolhouse

Chuck Pearson is proposing to trench and run water from the Schoolhouse well to the Bethany building and then to connect to the sewer stub for our church building. The Exploratory Committee will take this under consideration. Jim will contact Tom Regan to see his interest in heading up the committee. In addition, Chuck has offered some management type of software that Jim Schwengel will consider for the committee's use.

Pay Raises for Lori Free and Mary Niedzwiecki

Pay raises were approved for Lori our music Director and for Mary who cleans the church and parsonage.

Review of Ongoing Tasks and Responsibilities

Karen Stout will be asked to contact Jim Marotz to see if he is willing to continue to order the candles for worship.

The people on the Heritage Endowment Fund representing Bethany will be Ron Litterst and Jim Schwengel.

Fyr Bal

Patty suggested Bethany have a booth at Fyr Bal for Bethany out reach. An idea of a Noah's Ark scene with cut outs for children's faces was presented. Patty will ask for other suggestions through the member email. We are probably looking at Fyr Bal 2025 due to scheduling conflicts.

Vacant Secretary Position

Jane will reach out to Karen Stout to see if she is interested in the secretary position. Patty has offered to provide backup whenever needed.

Distribution of Bethany Heritage Fund

Article 5.05 of the Bethany Constitution states that no more than 5% of the funds in the Bethany Heritage Trust will be expended in any calendar year for maintenance or improvements to the Bethany properties. The Bethany Heritage Endowment Fund Agreement says, "Once the Fund minimum of \$500,000 has been reached, 3 to 7% of the assets of the fund shall be available annually to cover the cost of maintenance and archival activities of the Bethany properties. We would like to change Article 5.05 to agree with the Fund Agreement.

Priorities for the Boldt Gift

Patty distributed the original work sheet from 2021 with the project priorities for the Boldt Gift. The council considered the remaining projects which included the auxiliary building, screen doors to front and back of parsonage, storage shed at the parsonage, enclosing the back porch of the parsonage as a screened-in porch, retaining some of the gift for future needs, reupholster the pew pads and two chairs near the altar and use some money for outreach or a radio ad or restore the seven church windows. No project was selected at this time.

New Ad in the Pulse

Jane presented an ad run by a seasonal church in Egg Harbor that included a colorful banner announcing the closing service for the season in a larger than normal ad. Jane suggested Bethany do the same with a colorful banner announcing the beginning and ending services for Bethany in a slightly larger ad. Patty will investigate adding these two ads in the Pulse.

Cemetery Plots

Last known record of the cost of Bethany cemetery plots was in the 2017 Constitution. There it was stated a plot for a member would be \$400 and a plot for a nonmember would be \$800. Patty moved that the cost for a member plot be \$400 and a nonmember plot be \$1000 with the payment going into the Endowment Fund. Jim Schwengel seconded and the motion carried.

Benevolences

Council agreed to distribute \$13,000 in benevolences for 2023 which is very close to the amount we gave prior to the Pandemic.

The benevolences were distributed as follows.

Angel Fund-500.00

Disabled Veterans-300.00

East Central WI Synod Mission-750.00

ELCA for Leaders-300

ELCA World Hunger-1750.00

Ephraim Firefighter Association-500.00

Help of Door County-1300.00

Kononia Kupboard First Baptist-1,000.00

Lutheran Social Services of WI-750.00

Lutheran World Relief-1,700.00

Neighbor to Neighbor-300.00

Northern Door Child Care Center-1,500.00

Peninsula Preschool Ephraim-500.00

Scandia Village-1,100.00

Secret Santa-750.00

Adjournment

There was no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Fess, council trustee