

**Bethany Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2024**

Present: Patty Fess, Ron Fischer, Jane Nelson, Randy Nelson, Barb Olson, Nancy Steinke (by phone), Karen Stout.

Guest: Debbie Fischer

President Jane Nelson opened the meeting with prayer at 9:50 AM.

Discussion with Guest Debbie Fischer: Discussed pastor roster schedule and the calendar for 2025, which includes 22 Sundays. Discussion followed on making changes to the bulletin to make it easier for newcomers and guests to follow the service.

Secretary's Report: Patty moved to accept the Council Meeting Minutes dated June 30, 2024: Jane seconded and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ron Fischer presented the financials as of September 30, 2024. Bethany's total assets are \$2, 193,678 with \$1,956,258.47 in Bethany Heritage Endowment Fund, \$69,153 in money market and \$100,000 in CD. Gifts of \$50,675 were received for the purchase of an organ. Offerings are down. Patty moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; Barb seconded and the motion passed.

Property Report

Randy Nelson presented a report.

1. A dedicated circuit for the organ was added.
2. Furniture for the parsonage was purchased.
3. Three shades in the sanctuary were cleaned.

Old Business

Headstone Cleaning:

Jane reported there was a good turnout, and the cleaning made a difference. Going forward, Jane would like this to continue twice yearly.

New Business

Booth at Fyr Ball: decided to pass on this idea for the coming year.

Disbursement from Bethany Heritage Fund: 3-7% must be taken out of the fund each year, this year 5% was taken for the maintenance of the three properties. Discussed needed maintenance of the cemetery including True Green service, weed removal, and possibly paving the circle driveway.

Status report on Sue Christensen gift: Bethany Property Preservation Fund is being monitored by Brian Blazer, Ron Fischer, and Patty Fess. This committee's role is to manage the investments and determine how it is used within the parameters determined by the gift. The ELCA Foundation will be the investment account for this fund. A document draft has been sent to Dick Christensen for his input. Thanks to the committee and Eric Fess.

Organ Dedication: Several possibilities were discussed; the next step will be to talk with Lori Free.

Close up duties: Parsonage and church closing duties were discussed and assigned.

Building Committee Update: The committee has been busy gathering information on a possible addition to present to the congregation. To date, no money has been spent on this. Two builders have been open to this possible project and a new drawing is expected later this week. The next

step will be to discuss in a congregational meeting and then vote to make a decision on information acquired. A capital campaign will be necessary to determine if financing can be possible.

(The above portion of the minutes were recorded by Karen Stout, Secretary)

Scheduled Meeting with a report from Building Committee:

It was decided to go ahead with the informational meeting and a report from the building committee led by the head of the committee, Duska Pearson. Randy will meet with the Ephraim Historical Preservation Committee as planned hopefully using the the most updated set of plans from Portside. Randy will be the spokesperson from the committee to the council and members communicating with Patty.

It was decided not to have the You Tube internet connection recording during the meeting due to the discussion of confidential information like cost estimates and evaluation of builders.

Ron Fischer talked about a capital campaign to raise funds for the addition including the creation of a time table and the use of seed money of around \$100,000 mostly from the Boldt Gift.

The council plans to mail copies of the building plans for the addition including a cover letter from the building committee to the Bethany members with the Christmas mailing. We are targeting a vote for the addition at the annual meeting in July 2025 with a target date to build in spring of 2026.

Benevolences:

The following are the benevolences for 2024.

Angel Fund-\$500

East Central WI Sd Mission-\$750

ELCA Fund for Leaders-\$300

ELCA World Hunger-\$1,750

Ephraim Firefighter Association-\$500

Help of Door County-\$1,300

Hurricane Appeal-\$500

Kononia Kupboard First Baptist-\$1000

Lutheran Social Services of WI-\$750

Lutheran World Relief-\$1700

Neighbor to Neighbor-\$300

Northern Door Child Care Center-\$2000

Secret Santa-\$750

New in 2024

Door of Life Christian Church-\$500

Door County Veterans Service Council-\$400

Date of Next Meeting-May 21, 2025

Council meets May 21, 2025 at the parsonage.

Workday begins at 9:00 AM at the church to open the church and parsonage with meeting to follow.

Adjournment

Ron moved to adjourn, Barb seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Respectfully submitted,
Patty Fess, council trustee