

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Agenda
August 17th, 2023
6:30 pm

God's Family Serving Christ With Love

Pastor Jaime – Absent with permission Geoff: Present Kory: Present Kerry: Present Tina: Present Jaimie: Present Lisa: Present Brian: Present Mark: Present Braxton Druckrey – Youth Representative -Absent

Dwelling in the Word – Mark

Call to Order @ **6:36**

Prayer – Mark Teslik

Approval of the Agenda **Motion made by Kory Anderson to approve the agenda with the addition of praise team/choir change added, second by Geoff Gilbert Motion Carried**

Approval of Last Month's Minutes **Motion made by Brian Conner to approve minutes from last month's meeting second by Lisa Cook. Motion Carried.**

Pastor Report

Parish Associate Report

Committee Reports

Approval of Committee Reports **Motion made by Tina Thomas to accept committee reports second by Jaimie Rudolph – Motion Carried**

Old Business

- Strategic Plan - Finalize Lisa worked on this and it looks great. She will make final changes and submit – We will put in Chimes, send letters to those members who get Chimes mailed to them. Email it members and announce in church. Vote on October 17
- Taste of Portage Update We could use a couple more people to work on Saturday. Everything else is taken care of.
- Member letter – Brian We all agreed on letter number 1, Brian is going to make some adjustments and send it to Tina.
- Congregational Health Discussion on having service Sunday's, Jaimie is going to go to Worship/music committee to discuss liturgy changes. Have response time after sermon. Council gives Pastor Jaime the freedom to make changes as she sees fit. Things such as an educational series instead of sermon etc.

New Business

- Memorial bricks – Jaimie **Motion made by Brian Conner to have the price of the memorial bricks at \$75, second by Tina Thomas Motion Carried.**
- Parish Associate Resignation

- Praise team/choir change **Motion made by Brian Conner to approve change of Katie to Praise team leader along with salary, as long as guidelines are established for Katie, second by Jaimie Rudolph, Motion Carried.**

Adjourn @ 7:51 pm

Lord's Prayer

Pastor's Report

Greetings, all!

I will not be joining you in person this month as I am taking a week for continuing education time. I will be returning to work on Monday, August 21st. Here is an update of what has been happening this past month.

We had a great turn out for the Worship @ the Fair service on July 30th with over 70 people in attendance! Thank you to our praise team for leading the music and to Carla for her help in planning the service. Our ecumenical VBS was the week following the fair service and I had the opportunity to lead the opening and closing for the first day. It was fun to be with the kids and sing songs together. It sounds like they had a great week!

Tania and I led a confirmation retreat on July 18th at the church. We had a small turnout with 4 kids, but it was a really good day of fellowship, games, and learning together. I also led our Worship & Music, Church Activity Planning, and multiple staff meetings this month.

I attended a few community events this month. In addition to the fair, I went to the Oh Family Send Off Celebration before their move earlier this month and I stopped by our Farmer's Market in July and met the vendors. I also made a pastoral care visit this month in addition to various phone calls.

Other meetings I attended this month included weekly text study, colleague learning group, finance, property, and I had lunch with a colleague to discuss church stuff. We also hosted our Synod Conference group at the beginning of August. A big thank you to Tina for helping me in hosting that event. It was a great opportunity to get together and support one another as colleagues.

Looking ahead, I will be on vacation August 28 – September 4. I look forward to being back with you all next month!

In peace,
Pastor Jaime Benson

Parish Associate Report

- The last Farmers Market date, August 23rd, has been cancelled. We are having a VBS celebration that night instead with a shorter Brendan Brooks concert and sundaes/root beer floats for the kids.

- Pet Fest is Sunday, September 10th. Tina and Lisa are helping with this. We do have most of our vendors lined up and will be finalizing the marketing flier soon to post.
- Safe Church Training is still planned for Sunday, August 27th after worship that morning.
- Sunday School still needs to finalize the Gifts of Bethlehem date and a few other details about the year; the calendar should be final soon. Sunday School begins September 17th.
- I am working on the revisions to the confirmation calendar and creating an outline for the curriculum this year. Confirmation begins September 13th.
- Fruit of the Spirit Fun Nights; the last Wednesday of each month: I have not had any response from the youth about their availability to help with this, and I will no longer be available to do this. It is my recommendation that this is cancelled and maybe picked up by someone else in the future if desired.
- We should try to plan another soundboard training soon.

Committee Reports

FINANCE

Finance Meeting Held August 7, 2023

Financial Update

1. Total income for July was \$22661, and expenses were \$21033 for a net profit of \$1628. YTD net is \$9930 vs last year's YTD was \$24941. Difference can be accounted for by significant costs for HVAC system. Two transfers needed to be made during the month to cover bills, some of it was related to the timing of bills and when money came in. Overall, finances are stable. There are a couple of bills that need to be paid but the money is in Designated savings

1. Portico Enrollment

a. Briefly discussed Portico enrollment coming up in October and if there are any changes that need to be made. The only part of Portico that we can change is the health insurance. Pr Jaime is happy with her health insurance plan. A question was raised about how much costs were going up. This information isn't available currently. General consensus is that we will keep the current health plan.

2. Financial Update Sharing

a. Pr Jaime asked the question on how we share financial information with the congregation. There probably isn't much information given to them about the impact of their giving. There may be a perception that we only share financial information when it is bad. Conversation then explored how we could do this in a positive light. For example: "because of the congregation's continued giving we were able to do....." Whether we give money to community groups or support other projects. We discussed putting the information in Chimes & Bulletin or supporting an announcement during the service.

3. Memorial Bricks

a. Jaimie R asked a question about selling memorial bricks. She has been working with Del about selling the bricks again. The question she raised was about what we should sell the bricks for. Years ago, they were sold for \$50/each. While we still have 23 bricks that only need engraving, there was a question about the cost if we had to buy new bricks. The finance committee agreed price should be

raised to be closer inline to what the purchase of a new brick and engraving would be.

PROPERTY

Watered newly planted trees each Monday and ran sprinkler in East ditch for grass along with several volunteers who do watering duty each week.

July 10, met with Wisconsin DNR to inspect well head and pressure tank, all passed.

July 22, Repaired electrical cord for trimmer and hauled some shrub trimmings to Portage dump area.

August 1 installed new thermostat in kitchen refrigerator and monitored it and it is working properly.

August 5 Checked over lawnmower and picked up gas for it, watered trees.

August 8 & 9 Brian Conner painted all exterior doors and trimmed the main front hedge row by the Prayer Garden. Thanks Brian!

Note: Presently investigating doing an exterior door lock change given the number of keys not accounted for. Also looking into installing keypad for the East entrance door to cut down on the number of keys given to individuals. Will run through Council when we complete costs.

We are actively looking for new chairs for the Fellowship Hall, a question is what we should we do with existing old chairs? **Allow members to take what they would want and then try and sell the rest.**

Did not feel right selling to members based on condition.

Del Molden

WORSHIP & MUSIC