

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Title	Council Meeting			President	Dave Hageman	
Purpose	Monthly Business			Secretary	Bob Ihrig	
Date	November 19, 2019		Time	7:00 p.m.	Location	Grounds for Joy
Meeting Time	Start	Stop	Total Time			Council Members & Guests
	7:00 pm	8:20 pm	80 min			
Council Members				Present	Absent	Position
1.	Dave Hageman			X		President
2.	Wendy Keenan			X		President-Elect
3.	James Arentson			X		Vice President
4.	Bob Ihrig	2018-2021		X		Secretary
5.	Diana Olson	2018-2021		X		Treasurer
6.	Marie Slotemaker	2017-2020		X		Member at Large
7.	Derek Brown	2018-2021		X		Member at Large
8.	Jessica Auel	2019-2022		X		Member at Large
9.	Pastor Jay Dahlvang			X		Lead Pastor
10.	Pastor Collette Broady Grund			X		Associate Pastor
TIME	TOPIC					PRESENTER
7:00 p.m.	1. Devotions					Diana Olson
	2. Additions to & Approval of the Agenda <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by W. Keenan to approve agenda with flexibility. Approved.					Dave Hageman
	3. Secretary's Report Approval of October 15, 2019 Minutes <u>Motion</u> by B. Ihrig; Second by D. Olson to approve minutes. Approved.					Bob Ihrig
	4. Financial Report A. <u>General Fund</u> : October 31 deficit balance of -\$29,499 (increase from September 30 deficit of -\$27,528) B. <u>Member Giving</u> : 89% of all pledged/unpledged planned giving = \$47,094 below budget. The hope is that member giving will increase in November & December to produce a positive end-of-year balance similar to 2018 closing balance. C. <u>Mortgage Balance</u> : \$1,288,403 D. <u>Mission Investment Fund Balance</u> : \$123,087 (Used to make monthly mortgage payments of \$8,187)					Diana Olson
	5. Lead Pastor's Report A. <u>Nordic Bazaar</u> : Amazed & impressed with Bazaar. Great turnout and wonderful way to celebrate 100 th anniversary. B. <u>Fall Stewardship</u> : Going well so far. Close to goal of 200 pledges compared to 184 pledges last year. Pledgers have been thanked. C. <u>Tanzania Trip</u> : Group meeting monthly. Adult Forum scheduled on December 15 to present details. D. <u>Fall Theological Gathering (New Ulm) & Lutheran Men in Mission Retreat (Spring Valley)</u> : Attended both in November. E. <u>VINE Focus Group & Synod Compensation Guidelines Group</u> : Joined both groups. F. <u>Holiday Worship Services</u> : Will participate in the interfaith Thanksgiving Eve services and will partner with Messiah for Christmas Day worship at Messiah. G. <u>New Member Focus Group</u> : Evangelism Committee visited with new members on 11/20 to discover how to be more welcoming and how to integrate new members in the life of the church. H. <u>New Member Orientation</u> : Hopes for a December orientation.					Pastor Jay Dahlvang

	I. <u>Pastoral Care & Acts</u> : 34 Care Ministry visits; Committal Service for 2 members & Funeral for community member with ties to Bethlehem.	
	<p>6. Associate Pastor's Report</p> <p>A. <u>Family Faith Ministry</u>: All going well this fall. Winter Warm-Up scheduled at BLC on 11/20 with 500+ teens to participate. Christmas program rehearsals to begin before Thanksgiving. New events & programming tweaks planned for next year. Seeking more teachers for Wednesday NightLIGHT pre-K-4th grade classes.</p> <p>B. <u>Connections Ministry</u>: BLC hosting for first time for week of 11/18. Funds raised to cover expenses of shelter through end of April 2020. 3-year strategic plan being developed. Researching sites for future permanent location. Article planned about shelter team in <u>River Valley Women</u> in December.</p> <p>C. <u>Fall Theological Conference</u>: Attended this in New Ulm. Heard from new synod bishop regarding priorities; met new synod staff and learned from guest speaker.</p> <p>D. <u>Pastoral Care</u>: Officiated 1 member funeral in October.</p>	Pastor Collette Broady Grund
	<p>7. Old Business</p> <p>A. <u>Strategic Planning Update</u>: 52 Stories project going well with stories scheduled through mid-February. Coordinated by Emily Heinis. Importance of strategic planning reviewed. New 5-year plan to be developed in 2020.</p> <p>B. <u>2018-19 Financial Review Update</u>: Not completed yet.</p>	<p>Pastor Jay</p> <p>Wendy Keenan</p>
	<p>8. New Business</p> <p>A. <u>November 23 Semi-Annual Meeting Agenda & Expectations</u>: Agenda reviewed. Major topic is approval of 2020 budget. 11/17 budget forum well attended with questions addressed.</p> <p>B. <u>Nominations for Financial Review Committee Vacancy</u>: Current committee and dates of expiring terms include: 2019 Levi Janssen; 2020 Wendy Keenan; 2021 Frank Larsen Connection to be made with Levi to determine interest in new 3-year term. Roxanne Skane & Mark Larsen also suggested for consideration. Action: Dave will coordinate replacement process for election to be held at December Council meeting.</p> <p>C. <u>Canoeing the Mountains Book Study</u>: Council completed review of final 2 chapters of book study conducted this fall.</p>	<p>Dave Hageman</p> <p>Dave Hageman</p> <p>Council</p>
	9. Next Council Meeting: December 17 - 7:00 pm - Grounds for Joy Devotions: Jessica Auel	
	<p>10. Adjournment</p> <p>Motion by Pr. Jay; Second by D. Brown to adjourn at 8:20 pm. Approved by Council.</p>	Council

Our Mission: Bethlehem is an inviting community that is growing in Christ, loving our neighbors and serving God's world.