

Bethany Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 17, 2024 6:00 PM

Members Present: Maggie Petersen, Elizabeth Oberton, Pastor Carl Larson, Brad Hansen, Darren Bushinger, Lynn Bushinger, Tania Hendrikson, Gary Oberton, and Norb Bueckers

Review and Acceptance of August Minutes: Maggie made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Brad, motion carried.

Financial Secretary Report: Lynn went over the report. Norb made a motion to accept the financial secretary's report, seconded by Gary, motion carried.

Treasurer's Reports: Lynn explained the changes and rate increases for our property insurance. She also went over the pastoral contract estimates and the proposed 2025 budget. Norb made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Brad, motion carried.

Old Business

**Solar panel rebate:** Bethany received the Federal Solar Rebate. Once we deduct what the solar campaign still owes the general fund, we can apply \$25,843 to pay down the Stearns Electric loan. This will significantly reduce the amount of interest we are paying on the loan and help us pay it off sooner. Elizabeth made a motion to use the rebate money to help pay off the loan, seconded by Tania, motion carried.

**Fall dinner:** (Saturday, September 28th) Norb gave an update. Members are asked to bring deserts on either Friday or Saturday.

**Soup Kitchen:** Maggie made a few calls about possibly having members from our church sponsor a soup kitchen. One was "Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen", where we would need to cook the meal in a commercial kitchen and we could serve the community, The other was "Oasis Central Minnesota", where we would make and freeze the meals for members of the community. We still had a few questions, and Maggie is going to get the answers and we plan to talk more about it at our next council meeting.

New Business

**Annual Meeting:** (Sunday, October 20) Reports are due to Wendy 2 weeks prior by October 6th. We will have a potluck lunch after the meeting, no pancake breakfast that day. The council reviewed the Agenda for the Annual Meeting.

**Building Repairs:**

1. John Nelson is still looking into a sound system upgrade. The pancake breakfast proceeds will help pay for this.
2. We're still keeping an eye on the lock for the back door, sometimes it works, and other times it doesn't.

**Joint Agreement with Faith Lutheran:** Norb went over the shared agreement between Faith Lutheran and Bethany Lutheran because there were a few small changes. We all agreed that it looked good.

**Phone numbers on church website:** Darren will talk to Wendy about taking off personal phone numbers from the website.

We adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Gary made a motion to end the meeting, seconded by Brad, motion carried.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 15, 2024

Minutes were approved by email.