

# Bethany Lutheran Church Council Meeting

**Mission: We INVITE all; We GROW in Faith; We GO to share God's love and grace**

**MINUTES from:** Monday, July 10, 2023 (prepared by Wanda Bock)

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:** P= Present A=Absent Z=Zoom

Jodi Babineau-P	Jack Berkseth-P	Wanda Bock-P	Pat McCann-A
Bill Evans-P	Ted Hakala-A	Bun Hanson-P	Tammy Lundquist-P
Audrey Kusilek-P	Dave Myre-P	Tammy Roberg-P	
Mike Diercks-P			

**STAFF MEMBERS:**Pastor Arthur and Deb Slagstad (ETC)

## PREPARATION:

**Devotions:** Bun led devotions entitled SOAP (Scripture, Observation, Application and Prayer)

**Sharing Joys and Concerns.**

**Pastor Arthur offered an opening prayer.**

**Approval of the Agenda:** Corrections were brought forth that included incorrect dates at the end for Next Meetings and Assignments. Also, add discussion of a new council member to replace Mackenzie until the next election. Motion to approve the agenda. BH/JB. Motion passes.

**Approval of Council Minutes :** Motion to approve minutes from June. DM/TR Motion passes.

**Financial Reports:** We continue to be behind budget. Deb has been looking into giving. Members are behind on pledges. Giving to the Building Fund is significantly less than last year at this time. The building Fund was not listed on our pledge cards last year and we should look at putting that back on this fall. We had major unexpected snow removal bills last winter. The upcoming congregational meeting being planned will cover these topics. Motion to accept financials. WB/BH Motion passes.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Recommendations from ETC:** Deb reports that Angie and Amy have really stepped up to help in the office. She reports we do have a person interested in the part-time accounting position and also for the full time front office. They have been sent applications and hopefully interviews will be set up soon. Because we have contracted Amanda Andrews to do more of our accounting services, we may need to write a policy for outsourcing accounting.

**Women of the Bible:** Mike has been getting things planned for the Women of the Bible event to be held October 13, 14 and 15th. The contract has been signed. The Trust Fund has provided funding to Anita G. Dave Wilson has agreed to do the sound. Housing is needed and Jack says he will check and see if they may be able to stay at his home.

**Office Hours:** Pastor Arthur requests shortening office hours for now. We need to be flexible until we are fully staffed again. Motion to shorten office hours to 8-4 M-Th and 8-12 on Fridays and the flexibility to shorten further if necessary. MD/JB Motion passes.

**Financial Services:** Pastor Arthur and Audrey met with Amanda Andrews to discuss having her take on more of the financial responsibilities to include accounts payable, payroll, and reporting and reconciliation. She is willing to do that and we are looking at \$2,000 per month for her services. She requests a 60 day notice if we decide to discontinue her services. Motion to accept Amanda Andrew as a vendor for our accounting services. DM/BE Motion passes.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Staffing:** Pastor Arthur and Audrey are asking the council to approve hiring Deb Slagstad as an interim employee. She has been donating many hours and they feel it's time she be compensated for her work. Motion to hire Deb Slagstad as an interim employee for 20 hours per week at \$20/hour starting July 1st. DM/BE Motion passes.

**Bus Detailing:** It has been brought up that the bus is in need of a major cleaning. Motion to hire Wash Me Detailing to have the bus cleaned/detailed at a cost not to exceed \$1,000 to be paid for from the Bus Fund. MD/BH Motion passes.

**New Council Member:** Dave Myre contacted Ed Skaw to see if he might be interested in filling the seat left open with Mackenzie's resignation and he has agreed. Motion to accept Ed Skaw as interim councilman to fill Mackenzie Narins term. DM/TR. Motion passes.

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**Audit:** We should have an audit as the constitution calls for one yearly and it has been a couple of years. Wanda has volunteered to contact Eric Pelle and Dan Ellefson to see if they would be willing to work together to get one done this fall. Pastor Arthur is willing to be a part of the conversation.

**Informational Meeting:** The committee will be meeting July 18th to plan this. Hopefully it will take place in late July to inform the congregation where we are with the budget, etc. The meetings will be held during the last half of worship services.

**Adult VBS:** Pastor Sue and Amy are planning VBS for adults August 14-17th. Sue will be doing a bible study on Phillipians and Pastor Arthur will be talking about worship along with other fun activities.

**Miscellaneous:** Pastor Arthur again mentions how thankful he is for Angie and Amy stepping up to help cover many different duties. Also, work is being done to send giving statements to our members and Pastor Arthur will help write a new greeting on the statement. It has also been suggested again that we could use a new phone system. Something to look at in the near future. There are newer systems that can be forwarded to staff or even convert voicemails to emails so staff can get them sooner.

**REPORTS:** See staff and committee reports.  
Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

#### **NEXT MEETINGS:**

August Exec Meeting: August 7th

August Council Meeting: August 14th 5:30

#### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

August devotions: Bun or Tammy?

August offerings/Lock-up: 8:00 Bun  
10:00 Bill

