

Bethany Lutheran Church- Council Minutes December 9th, 2024

Call to Order at 6:30pm by President Kent Kaufman

Members Present: Dale Swenson, Pastor Chad, Cindy Knoop, Kent Kaufman, Kristen Van Scoyoc, Jessica Fonseca, Howard Moss, Courtney Heid, Pat Cassabaum

Members absent: Jon Twing

Opening Prayer & Discussion

Pastor's Report

Joys and Thanksgivings

- Cookie Walk
 - Thanks to all the volunteers and choir for singing!
- New Members
 - Welcome to the McFarland family and to Jane Slach.
 - God is doing some amazing things!
- Baptism
 - Asher Goodman (November 17th)
 - Welcome child of God!
- Worship
 - Hanging of Greens
 - Thanks to all the volunteers that assisted and Cindy for arranging.
 - Attendance
 - Fabulous! People of all ages. So much energy!!!
- God providing for our ministry needs
 - Thanks to all the financial gifts to help sustain the good things that are happening at Bethany!
- Jesus tree carving!
 - He is alive and this is one more way we can make that visible!
- Special thanks to Jill Taylor for her efforts in preparing budget projections! Thanks also to Kent Kaufman for his efforts too!

Ministry Happenings

- 9 pastoral visits
- Funeral of Delores Paulsen
- WBARC
 - Meeting with West Branch Police Depart
 - Meet newly hired officers
 - As Treasurer, purchase \$250 gift cards for WBCSD Resource Navigator
 - These are for students and families she identifies as having some sort of need
 - Work with Officer Steen to assist a stranded motorist dealing with car troubles
- Baptism of Asher Goodman
- First Communion Instruction
- Meeting at Office of the Bishop (Pre-Retirement Workshop)
- Cookie Walk (assist with setup and be the door greeter day of event)

- Attend Angel Meals
- Budget Meeting
- Pre-Marital Counseling
- Men's Group
- Worship and Sermon preparation
- Newsletter preparation
- Update of social media platforms
- Prayer

Upcoming

- Gone December 29th
 - Pastor Mark Pries leading worship

Community Happenings

- Sleep in Heavenly Peace
 - 4 beds recently installed
- WBCSD
 - Operate scoreboard and announce for Girls/Boys varsity basketball

Secretary's Report- Courtney

- November Council Meeting Minutes
 - Howard moved to approve; Dale seconded. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report – Jon – data submitted by Jill Taylor

- November Treasurer's Report
 - Pat moved to approve; Kristen seconded. Motion approved.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds – Howard

- Large hall carpets have been cleaned by Randy's Carpet
- Lynch's Excavating consulted for replacement of lead water lines leading to parsonage, city requires us to replace per code- estimate pending
- Outdoor Christmas decorations have been damaged from wind and snow over the years – Howard will work on getting these fix
- Bushes on the west side of the church were cut down per recommendations from Back Country Tree Care

Education & Youth- Kristen & Courtney

- Christmas Program on Sunday, December 15th
- 7 youth will have First Communion on Sunday, December 22nd

Evangelism & Missions – Jessica

- No report

Fellowship – Pat

- We have had a wonderful year having families to help serve our 4th Sunday meals this year!
- It was a busy and successful Cookie Walk this 34th year, with numerous cookies and pastries made for the event. Before 9am we had people who were anxious to pick up some goodies to take home, and some who took time to sit down and enjoy their cookies that they had purchased. The event had ended about 10:15am with few cookies left.
- A big thank you to Sue and the people who helped with decorating, and making it look festive!
- A big thank you to the choir who added that special touch singing beautiful Christmas songs during the event!
- A big thank you to the many people from the congregation who made sure the cookies were put out on the tables, helped in the kitchen, to serving coffee, hot cocoa, and a free cookie to eat.

Stewardship- Dale

- Working on proposal for water bottle filling station, reusable bags, and reusable water bottles

Worship and Music – Cindy

- Thank you to everyone who helped with Hanging of the Greens.
- Planning for Christmas services, First Communion & Christmas Program
- Piano tuning to be done soon

Old Business

- Capital Improvement Priority List
 - #1 lead water lines will be done asap
 - #2 parsonage kitchen floor – goal to complete within the next 2 months
 - Chad and Amanda will get quotes for January meeting
 - #3 shower stall and floor 2nd floor bathroom- goal to complete within the next 6 months
 - #4 replace garage door opener – goal to be done in spring
 - #5 repair railing on handicap ramp- work being considered by Howard/Kent
- Solar Tax Credit
 - No updates
- 2025 Budget
 - Budget committee consists of: Kent K., Chad W., Claudia B., John B., Jill T.
 - Kristen moved to approve the 2025 budget present by budget committee, Jess seconded. Motion approved.
- Reminder to submit committee annual reports asap.

New Business

- New member approval- Jane Slach
 - Howard moved to approve; Pat seconded. Motion approved.

Howard moved to adjourn the meeting at pm, Kristen seconded 7:48pm. Motion approved.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next Regular Meeting January 13th, 2025