

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2009**

APPROVED

Present: Chuck Davis, Hope Pederson, Rich Larson, Joy Montgomery, Bill Nelson, Val Boettcher, Tim White, Michelle Atkins, John Dahl, Jenny Schoolman,

Absent: Constance Nelson, Jane Henkel and Tom Hanson

Meeting called to order at 7:03 by Chuck Davis.

Pastor Rich led devotions with a reading of Hebrews 13, 5-8, followed by the group going through highs and lows of council for the last year.

Minutes from the September meeting were approved – moved by John Dahl second by Bill Nelson

Treasurer's report: Hope Pederson reviewed the proposed 09-10 operating budget, once again proposing a balanced budget. BLC benevolence is at about 4.5%, Synod would like a goal of 5%.

Hope removed Danes Place entries from budget as DP maintains its own accounts and Pastor Rich prepares reports for DP on a monthly basis. (Side note: Pastor paid off the Danes place mortgage today with funds from grants received.) John made a motion to approve budget for presentation to congregation at annual meeting - Jenny seconded – passed

Action team updates:

Worship & Music: 5:01 service only to be held on the second Saturday of the month. Rich working on presenting a community meal with the 5:01 service. Second Saturday in Dec will be advent vespers.

Fall Fest went well over \$2,000 in funds raised. \$150 raised for Dane's place by selling the garden chairs.

Building Committee: While work was being done on the window installation it was discovered that Danes place has no insulation in walls. The cost is \$1,100 to insulate the walls with blown in insulation.

This is being done. Val recommended contacting a company called Insulating Cents that will evaluate energy loss and replace old appliances for low-income families and non-profits.

Annual Meeting discussion: Budget will be presented and voted on, Chuck asked if Bethlehem Foundation will be presenting a report. Rich not sure if someone will be presenting.

Ministries Coordinator report: Jean absent.

Pastors report:

Rich reviewed possible new E-COM recruits and new council members that have been invited.

Danes place mortgage paid off today. Balance of funds will go to savings or CD.

ELCA Sexuality decision ramifications have been discussed. Rich asked at forum if we need to have more conversation regarding Rich performing partnership blessing. It was suggested that proactive steps be taken to address the congregation's feelings before the question comes up. Group will be formed to address the question. Not sure how group will be formed. Discussion regarding fairest way to get a well-represented group to make the decision. Chuck suggested that a combination of the council, volunteers, and selected members.

Rich would like to establish a memorial fund for Roy Henderson. Possible idea for first project would be a new piano for the choir room and possibly acoustic tiles to help with the acoustics in the choir room.

Tonights theme: OUR VISION, focus on partnership with God, each other and the community. Commitment to grow in our partnership. Actionable items starting with the monthly meals for the needy. We will need to get the County to approve our kitchen, set up with second Harvest Food Shelf to get food, and find funding sources. Rich has met with the hunger task force (local group that works on hunger) Need to go and observe a meal then take a turn serving one of their meals, then start a meal here. Rich would like to see it expand to the other churches in Bayport similar to the pig roast for Danes place. Chuck asked if here is any other activity that goes along with the meal in Stillwater. Rich doesn't think so.

Chuck Davis thanked the council for sticking through a tough year. The council thanked him for his leadership.

Moved to adjourn by Hope Pederson seconded by John Dahl.

Respectfully submitted by Joy Montgomery (substitute Secretary)