

Church Council Minutes – 10/23/2025

Present: Dave White, Lindsay Gustafson, Pastor Nat Bothwell, Brenda Neville, Sarah Seigfried, Rose Arrasmith, Ed Fulk, and Doug Houser

Absent: Cindi Zimmerman

Doug called the meeting to order at 5:02. Sarah led devotions. Doug went over agenda for today. Brenda moved to approve, Rose seconded.

Strategic Conversations (30 min):

a. Fill the church:

- Brainstormed ideas about how to fill the church—reaching out to lapsed members, using social media, themed church services, putting info in the Scoop, etc.
- We can put Banqueting Table info in the Scoop
- Lindsay will investigate what other churches are doing to increase outreach/membership/evangelism. Pastor moved, Ed seconded, motion passed

Decision items:

a. Approve September minutes: Lindsay motioned to approve September minutes with edits, Brenda seconded.

b. Approve September financial: Brenda moved to approve, Ed seconded, motion passed

c. Approve October financials: Weren't given these by Erica

d. Input on new meeting format: We're okay with sticking with the new format

e. Nominating committee:

- Name nominating committee members: Brenda, Ed, and Pastor Nat (a congregation member will be asked to join the nominating committee)
- Need 3 candidates to replace Brenda, Sarah, and Dave
- Lindsay moved to approved committee, Brenda seconded, motion carried

f. Doug will look into how to replace front door.

Committee reports:

a. Pastor's report: Tara's position (church secretary) is still open, Christmas in Bethlehem will be first Friday in December from 6:00-8:00—local variety show format, church directory draft is done

b. Insurance: Lindsay's summary of our current policy is good, check into other possibilities with synod, Sarah will email Jodi from the Synod

c. Kitchen: Kitchen committee is going to meet and it's still a work in progress

6. Any other business?

a. Meetings – 3rd Thursday at 5:00, next meeting is Nov. 20

To-do's:

a. Congregational update – Brenda will do congregational update on 11/2

b. November devotions – Brenda will do devotions; December devotions - Lindsay

c. Priority items for council member in service – Fill the church, small team for the front door, nominating committee, budget

8. Closing prayer

Devotions

10/23 – Sarah

11/25 – Brenda

12/23 – Lindsay

Council Member in Service

11/2 – Brenda

11/22 – Rose

12/28 – Doug