

Church Council Minutes – 11/20/2025

Present: Dave White, Lindsay Gustafson, Pastor Nat Bothwell, Brenda Neville, Sarah Seigfried, Rose Arrasmith, and Cindi Zimmerman

Absent: Doug Houser, Ed Fulk

Brenda led devotions. Cindi called the meeting to order at 5:09. We looked over agenda. Brenda moved to approve, Lindsay seconded.

Properties committee report from Kelvin:

The roof is damaged and we have 3 bids to repair it. Current roof is from 2002 and has a 20 year expected lifespan, so we'll probably need to replace the entire roof before too long. Property committee recommends that we have repair done by Hawkeye, the lowest cost bid. If they do a good job, we might consider also hiring them to replace the entire roof eventually.

The committee also got a bid to replace the front doors, for about \$18,000.

Committee recommends replacing current ceiling fans with similar looking ones that will have a remote control to change the direction that the blades turn in the winter.

The east sidewalk is shot. Recommend waiting until spring to get quotes to replace.

Snow removal–Case Burt is who we used in the last few years, and we'd like to hire him again this year.

Strategic Conversations:

A. Memorial gifts message–If we're going to send this out, we'd like to include it in December mailing. The group discussed what we want to convey with this letter and decided to use it as an opportunity to share with the congregation ways that we've been using memorial gifts. Brenda volunteered to write the letter. The council brainstormed ways we've used memorial money in recent years for Brenda to include in the letter.

B. Membership outreach initiative–Lindsay has generated a list of things other congregations in Iowa are doing for outreach and shared some of the ideas she found. Pastor would like to get a group together to look into cleaning up membership rolls–are there people that we can make inactive/archive who don't attend church any more? Rose will mention this in church on Sunday–we are looking to form a community outreach committee.

Decision items:

- a. Brenda moved to approve the October minutes with a correction to the date. Lindsay seconded. Motion passed.
- b. Brenda moved to approve the August financials. Dave seconded. Motion passed.
- c. Lindsay, Nat, and Doug will meet with Erica for budgeting.

- d. Brenda moved to approve October financials, Rose seconded. Motion passed.
- e. Dave motioned to go with Kelvin's recommendation to hire Hawkeye to fix the roof using money from the "mixed use" category in the budget. Brenda seconded. Motion passed.
- f. Cindi brought budget estimate for 150th Celebration to council. Pastor suggested adding a 150th Anniversary panel to our display in the gathering room. Pastor motioned to approve the proposed \$7000 budget for the 150th Anniversary celebration, Dave seconded. Motion passed.

Committee reports:

- a. Pastor's report - Posters are available for Christmas at Bethlehem. Tickets are available for purchase. Proceeds go to pay performers, and any additional money goes to general church budget. Looking forward, we will need to replace lights for the performance, and we'll be able to use them for other things as well, such as the children's Christmas program. It's annual report time, so committees will be asked to contribute.
- b. Nominating Committee (Brenda and Pastor) - They are making phone calls, trying to find some people who haven't served before.
- c. Audit Committee (Sarah) - Erica is making progress, but not done yet. Once she finishes her paperwork the committee will need to meet again.
- d. Synod insurance update (Sarah) - Amy Van Dyke sent us some contact information for a couple of alternatives to Church Mutual, Pastor also got contact information from another
- e. Front Door update
- f. Cemetery/Lawyer report (Lindsay) - We got a request from Bethany Lutheran church in Kelley to transfer ownership of cemetery to them. Lindsay has contacted a couple of attorneys about this, hasn't heard back
- g. Kitchen (Brenda) - Will meet Monday Dec. 1 to cut stuff out of estimate to get cost between \$50,000-\$80,000
- h. Looked at letter from bishop Amy Current

December Meeting ideas - The Station at 5:00 on December 18

Brenda moved to adjourn, Lindsay seconded. Motion passed. Meeting closed at 6:47

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Devotions

11/25 – Brenda

12/18 – Lindsay

Council Member in Service

11/22 – Rose

12/28 – Doug