

Church Council Minutes – 8/28/2025

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

Absent: Ed Fulk

Doug called the meeting to order at 5:04. Dave led devotions.

Looked over agenda. Brenda moved to approve, Lindsay seconded.

Looked over minutes. Pastor noted that there shouldn't be anything about bingo in them. Bingo was removed from minutes. With that revision, Brenda moved to approve, Cindi seconded.

Looked over Treasurer's report. Summer has seen lower giving than last year, with the exception of a large gift in July. We'd like to keep the momentum of increased giving going forward into the fall. Rose moved to approve, Dave moved to second.

Pastor's Report

His family had a good vacation. They've filled out the calendar for the church year (presentation of Bibles, other key dates). September is full – GWOH in less than 2 weeks. There will be a brief opening in the sanctuary, sing the GWOH hymn, then will scatter to the community. Following GWOH is beginning of confirmation and Sunday school, Bible presentations, snacks after worship. Need to switch to Windows 11 by October. Will also look at the gear, and it may be a better deal to buy new gear preloaded with Windows 11. Updated church constitution was sent off to the synod. Summer has been decent for in-person attendance compare to the past.

Old Business

Property team report (Dave) – Contacted Converse Conditioned Air, got the air conditioning problem fixed. He brought a report from them. They told him we have really old thermostats and we should probably change them at some point. Our cooling system is 27 years old, and there is a leak. They put freon in it. We may need new cooling units in the future. We got a price on a service contract and a list of other churches that they work with. The service contract would cover both heating and cooling. The cost is similar to what we used to pay for the service contract with 72 Degrees. Brenda moved to approve the service contract for 2025 and 2026 with Converse Conditioned Air. Cindi seconded. Motion passed.

Utilities report (Doug) – Doug is looking into getting a whole-church energy audit. Down the road we may be better off getting an electronic thermostat.

Audit committee report (Sarah) – They have met, are using the materials provided by the synod, have requested documents from Erica, and then they'll meet again.

Insurance (Doug) – Doug got electronic copy of insurance policy, Sarah will send the electronic version to Lindsay and she will get the ChatGPT cliff notes made.

Kitchen and Food Pantry (Brenda) – Making good progress with the kitchen. They have made 3-D drawings. Still waiting on estimates (waiting on one subcontractor). Don't think we need a grease trap or commercial hood. Still working with Dave Helland on this. The hope is to start on the kitchen remodel next summer, but Dave can't commit to that until the estimate is complete. The food pantry is still in a holding pattern. They feel good about the ELCA grant that they applied for.

Banqueting Table Report (Brenda) – Will be kicking off starting in October, 1st Wednesday of every month. They have only planned meals through December at this point.

150th Anniversary (Cindi) – No update.

Memorial Buckets (Executive Council) – Currently we have "mission fund," "faith formation fund," "events fund," and "other." Proposed new buckets are "Mission and Outreach," "Church Home," "Education," and "Worship and Service." We'd like to get rid of the "other" bucket. We'll communicate these back to Erica.

We have submitted the revised constitution and are waiting to hear back from the synod.

Lindsay has created a procedure for dealing with committee reports and will pass it out for us to look at and discuss at our next meeting.

New Business

Bethany Lutheran Church in Kelley has informed us that their cemetery is deeded to Bethlehem Lutheran church. They'd like us to give our approval to transfer the cemetery to Bethany Lutheran. Brenda moved to proceed to have Bethany get the paperwork so that we can transfer the property to them, Cindi seconded, motion passed.

Priorities list (for memorial money)-

- Replace front doors
- Kitchen
- Food Pantry
- Fans
- Repainting current food pantry
- Fix food pantry deck
- Screen for sanctuary rather than projector

- WiFi thermostat
- Women's restroom leak
- Solar panels
- Sanctuary remodel
- Air conditioner (repair/replace?)
- Replace east sidewalk

Food pantry deck discussion – Can we replace it with a rented wheelchair ramp? Not sure we want to invest a lot when we'll be replacing the food pantry soon, but don't want a hazard that could cause someone to get hurt. Brenda will look into renting a ramp.

Next meeting – 9/18/25 at 5:00 (Executive council 9/16/25 at 6:00, virtual)

Council member in service will be 8/31, and Dave is scheduled

Devotions for next meeting – Sarah

Agenda items for next council meeting – Railing (Pastor), talk about Council and Committees
Comms System (Lindsay)

Dave moved to adjourn, Rose seconded, motion passed