

**Minutes from the Congregational Meeting at Bethel Lutheran Church
on Sunday, August 28, 2011**

Mark Evashenk called the meeting to order at 12:12 pm. A quorum was present.

Opening Prayer

Pastor Randy opened the meeting in prayer.

Approval of February 2011 Meeting Minutes

Mark Evashenk

The minutes from the February 6, 2011 Congregational Meeting were approved as written.

Audit Report

Mark Evashenk

Audit report was positive, no major problems. Spending was under control. Please contact Fara Brock in the office if you want to see the audit report.

Open Positions/opportunities to serve

Mark Evashenk

President Elect
School Board Chair
Nominating Committee
Youth Ministry
Children's Ministry
Audit Committee
Endowment Committee
Evangelism
Discipleship

School Board Chair Report

Joan Christensen

The school staff was introduced at 10:30 am service
The school had a challenging couple of years because of the economy, enrollment is down. Fall enrollment is down as well. The biggest decrease is in elementary enrollment. There are financial reasons, some families moved, or wanted larger classes. They had to make the decision to combine 3rd and 4th grade. There is strong enrollment for preschool classes. They will focus on retention. She presented a balanced budget with a tuition increase of 4% which is comparable to other schools in the area. The staff pay increase is on hold pending stronger enrollment. They are having a strong annual fund drive, totaling \$61,000+. Goal to support the curriculum, replace the grass on the elementary school playground with artificial turf, staff development, technology, scholarships

Fiscal Officer Report

Dan Gaardsmoe

FY 11 Financial highlights: weekly giving from September 2010 until July 2011 is below budget by \$43K (5.8%). Spending is also below budget by \$45K (5.5%). Net ordinary income is -\$13.7K. Without depreciation and feebased events, net ordinary income is \$38K. Unencumbered assets (cash on hand) is \$66K for the church.
In general: Giving trend is leveling off but slowly decreasing. Tithe givers are decreasing. Giving contributions from July 10-June 11 were \$740K.

Projection for FY12:

Base expectation: \$770K (FY 11: \$780K)

Challenge: \$10K (FY'11: \$10K)

Total: \$780K (FY'11: \$790K)

Savings anticipated: \$30,780

Increases anticipated: \$20,477

Income through Sunflower Learning after school program classroom use: \$40,000 in 2010-11, \$80,000 in 2011-12

FY'12 Church Budget Summary

Expected income: \$770,000

Needed for expenses: \$769,849

Reserves: \$ 151 Available for reserves, contingencies, repairs, replacements, long-term capital improvements, etc

FY'12 School category totals were shown.

FY'12 budget:

Expected income \$1,056,848, needed \$1,053,560, left \$3,288

Vote for the 2012 budgets:

Jim Rehbein moved to accept the budgets, Dave Nadell second. There was an unanimous vote to accept the budget.

THE PROPOSED BUDGET WAS APPROVED

Old Business

“Living Our Faith Campaign” report

Welcome Zone Team

Rick Westwick

Patricia Myerholtz

Accomplishments: New signs, bulletin boards updated, name tags, greeters, sunshine team. To do: Get more members involved with greeting, Have classes on how to be more welcoming, Continue to meet/discuss new ideas

Physical Welcome Zone Team report

Tom Hoegel

Accomplishments: The team has met twice to review Bethel facility, parking lot, signs, landscaping for changes and improvements. They are evaluating other Bethel spaces to make them more inviting.

To do: Continue to come with up ideas to revitalize the Bethel physical spaces, Upcoming work days, all welcome to participate.

Requesting Bethel congregation for ideas and help out!

Multi-cultural Task Force report

Sam Sudarsanam

The task force will be present at the Sept. 11 ministry faire with world map/pins. They will feature current Bethel members on video or written profiles. They will hold a 3 week session in the Spring on Christianity in India. They will offer inter-religious topics on Wednesday night during “Faith and Fun”. Multi-cultural liturgy to be offered at 9AM service starting Sept. 11, 2011.

Community Outreach Task Force report

Patricia Myerholtz

They need more members. They will be developing ideas to become more engaged with community. They will be meeting in the coming months and developing plans.

Church/School Committee report

Joan Christensen

Accomplishments: the church and school participated in the sheep project and May Art Faire. They held the Spring Carnival where they invited the Sunflower Learning Center. They are inviting church and school members to participate in ESL classes, parenting evenings and other events. They will participate in the Sept. 11 ministry faire. Church members participate in the Walkathon and Annual Giving Program to support the school. They will host an information table at the Cupertino Fall Festival on September 10th at Memorial Park.

New Business

Fun with Faith

Pastor Randy Pabst

Background: congregational requests to have more adult study opportunities, “Book of Faith Initiative” of the ELCA. During the congregational profile events adult education and bible study were listed as high need. On “Healthy Start” priority list Adult Ed ranked #1.

Response: What if there was a designated time when all ages, families, Bethel participants, neighbors, etc. could come together for fellowship, learning, and prayer?

“Fun with Faith” Wednesday Evenings

6:15 p.m. – Light Supper for the whole family

7:00 p.m. – Learning Opportunities

8:00 p.m. – Closing

8:15 p.m. – Finished

Different tracks: Bible study, life skills, art, children, confirmation...

Need registration to know how many people want to attend which class on also to prepare enough food.

Question from the floor:

ELCA statement on genetics just voted on at general assembly. It will be studied during one of the “Fun with Faith” classes.

Whats new in worship for the fall

Pastor Randy Pabst

Beginning September 11, new 9 am service will embrace other cultures to grow in faith. Pastor Gabi wrote an article about the new multi-cultural liturgy and the historical background. The largest Lutheran church body is in Tanzania. Christianity is growing in several countries in Africa.

Closing Prayer by pastor Gabi.

The meeting adjourned at 12:53 pm.

San Jose, October 16, 2011

Submitted by

Hella Bluhm-Stieber