

**Minutes from the Congregational Meeting at Bethel Lutheran Church
on Sunday, February 5, 2012**

Mark Evashenk called the meeting to order at 11:55 am. A quorum was present.

Opening Prayer

Pastor Randy opened the meeting in prayer.

Affirmed the mission statement

Our mission statement was displayed and affirmed.

Pastor Randy Pabst

Approval of August 2011 Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the August 28, 2011 Congregational Meeting were approved as written.

Mark Evashenk

Fiscal Officer Report

During the last few months Bethel had several facility challenges with water pipe repair, gas line repair and repair of the sanctuary projection system

Dan Gaardsmoe

Fiscal year 2011 summary: The giving to Bethel's general fund for the fiscal year that ended last August 31 came to \$ 744,580. This is 5.7% below the original budget of \$ 790,000. The Church expenses, excluding fee-based events, were held to \$ 714,865, or 6.8% below the original budget. Fee-based events cost \$ 5,768 more than fees paid to support them. Even though the planned giving goal was not met, by keeping control of expenses, Bethel ended Fiscal Year 2011 with positive net cash for the year of \$ 29,695.

Fiscal year 2012 update: The yearly budget passed at last August's congregation meeting calls for \$ 780,000 in expenses and \$ 790,000 in planned giving to the general fund. From September through December 2011, giving is less what was planned by \$ 27,134 while cash expenses are \$ 17,282 below budget. Giving in January is also below the planned giving amount, so the staff will continue to closely monitor the expenses.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Randy talked about a painting in his office showing a ship sailing through a storming sea. This serves him as a reminder that it is very difficult for the vessel to turn and to change course. Everybody has to be together to do it otherwise it can capsize and sink. While sailing in stormy seas it is even more difficult to turn. This is a metaphor for the church. We all have to be on the same page and work together to take advantage of the wind. Our church had to change after a stormy ten years.

We added some staff over the last year, a coordinator of adult ministries: Patricia Myerholtz, and a new associate pastor, Dr. Gabriele Schroeder. Randy thanked both for their work.

Pastor Randy Pabst

Living Our Faith Campaign Report

Year one emphasis was: Radical Hospitality.

- Welcome Zone. Randy thanked Vern Bollesen for the new kiosk.

Pastor Randy Pabst

- Multi-cultural task force: many Bethel members participated in 2 multi-cultural workshops
- Community outreach is starting to work on things.
- School/Church committee. Several school families started coming to “Fun with Faith.”

Fun with Faith

Randy Pabst thanked Kathy Arnold for coordinating this program.

Out and about with the Bethel bus: many participated.

2nd part of Living our faith: Service

Molly Schrey and Liz Barton

Molly and Liz started with the history of “i”, iMac, iPod, iPhone, iPad...

2012 is the Bethel year of “iServe”. This campaign is designed to lift-up, promote, and highlight service and serving opportunities inside and outside of Bethel. It is part of Bethel's 2012 "Loving Service" emphasis.

Molly and Liz also mentioned: iBuild, iLead, iRing, iPlant, iClean, iShout, iVisit, iSort, iTech, iSew, iRepair, iTech, iCook, iScout, iDesign, iPray.

The new moto is “iServe Bethel Lutheran”.

We want to start collecting hours of service. There will be a ministry fair in the fall showing many opportunities to serve. The Labor Day retreat will also have a theme about serving.

School report

Marion Abney

Positive enrollment trend

- Preschool is at max. capacity this year.
- Enrollments for the 2012-2013 school year is encouraging.

Program development

Additions to our strong academic and enrichment program are:

- “Step up to Writing”, iPad technology for next year.
- Gym program & “Handwriting without Tears” in preschool
- New performing arts opportunities
- Chess club, piano lessons, “Mad Science” and computer class (after school programs)
- Bethel invitation track meet.

Campus Improvements

- Garden boxes were built by Boy Scout Troop 400.
- Jonathan Tung built a new playground stage.
- Artificial grass turf
- Thanks to Ed Fox for coordinating work on gas and water leaks!

Caring and Sharing

Mission projects:

- Malaria nets for Africa
- Water well for Africa
- Pajama drive for area shelters
- “One for Books” through Scholastic Book Fair

- Sponsoring, Darlin (child in Bolivia), through “Niños con Valor”
- Purchasing pillows and books for the San Jose Family Shelter

Strategic Planning

School board is setting long range vision

Annual Fund

Seeking support from school, church, community

School Board Members:

Joan Christensen, chair
 Pastor Randy Pabst
 Marion Abney, Principal
 Jenny Edstrom,
 Kyle Fujimoto,
 Dan Gaardsmoe
 Shandi Holder,
 Vonny Kleveland,
 Minnie Sudarsanam.

Elections for Council

Mark Evashenk

Ministry leads

Children’s Ministry: Corrine Devine, Patrice Sera
 Discipleship: Kathy Arnold
 Stewardship: Brett Deutscher
 Youth: Mark Evaschenk
 Evangelism: Joanne Stensaas

A Motion was made to accept the slate of candidates. The motion was second. The motion carried.

Council candidates:

President elect: open
 School Board chair: open

There are no candidates for these open positions at the moment. Please contact the council president or pastor if you are willing to serve in any of these positions.

Opportunities to serve

There are still openings on the Endowment Committee and Audit Committee. Tony Stieber was nominated to serve on the Audit Committee.

There was a motion to approve Tony to the audit committee. The motion was second. The motion carried.

Proposed continuing resolution to add a Youth member-at-large

Pastor Gabi Schroeder

Pastor Gabi gave us some background to this resolution. Last year she was at the church-wide assembly in Minneapolis, where there was a big debate if one should add youth or young adult delegates to church councils. Our church council discussed this as well. The continuing resolution to add this new position was anonymously approved by the council.

The term for this new position will be for 1 year and start after the August meeting, to coincide with a school year term. Therefore we will elect a youth member to the council at next congregational meeting in August.

Dorothy Meyer Award

Pastor Randy Pabst

This is an opportunity to honor a volunteer every year for going above and beyond, and for joyful service. This year's recipient is Tyler Freckmann, who is very active in the youth group, helped with VBS, Kid Connection, and many other programs.

Passing of the gavel

Mark Evashenk

Mark welcomed Rick Westwick as our new council president.

Thank you

Rick Westwick

Rick thanked Mark Evashenk for all his leadership and dedication this last year.

Old Business

Pastor Randy Pabst

The following positions ended: Angela Brown, Dave Denny, Chris Freckmann (stewardship), Ann Marie Kenitzer, Joan Christensen. Pastor Randy thanked all of them for their service.

Closing prayer by Pastor Gabi Schroeder.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm.

San Jose, February 5, 2012

Submitted by

Hella Bluhm-Stieber