

Bethel Lutheran Church
Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting January 31st, 2021

Meeting Minutes	
Topic	Discussion and Decisions
Meeting Agenda	Meeting was called to order at 12:03 PM. A quorum was confirmed with 82 members signed in.
Opening Devotion / Prayer: Pastor Don Larson	Pastor Don read Psalm 67
Approve Meeting minutes:	Minutes were approved for the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting September 27 th , 2020.
Pastoral Report: Pr. Don Larson	Through it All, God is Still Here! <i>I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13</i> is a fitting verse as we have shown we can do many things through God's help and each other. Thank you to everyone who has stepped forward with God doing his work through the Bethel community. Pr. Don is impressed by the Adult Education commitment and engagement and everyone keeping Bethel services and community going "Doing Life Together". At Bethel it is the lay people who are actively doing ministry – and Bethel is doing very well through these challenging times.
Financial Report: Dave Larsen	Thank you for the strong giving into FY21, as the General Fund is currently 7% ahead. Expenses are down 6% due to Bethel being mostly closed with the pandemic. Total income is currently 4% ahead.
2020 Ministry Update: Sue Lampkin	<p>It is incredible that most of our 81 ministries were able to continue their ministries during the pandemic. Sue encouraged everyone to read the full annual report that is on the Bethel Website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church Staff ministries – many thanks to their dedication, support and love and the many volunteers that they worked with. • Community Events ministries was the thread that kept Bethel together with events every month with creativity, connections, community, love and laughs. • Out and About, Bethel Motorcycle group, Supper Clubs, Caring Connections, Labor Day Retreat, Kid Connection, Confirmation, Youth, Choirs, Worship Teams, Adult Education, WOW, Quilters, Men's Night Out ... and so many other Bethel community groups continued an abundance of activities live until March 2020 and then virtually and social distanced through the year.
Constitution Updates: Liz Tribby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Constitution Committee was put together to make changes with closing of Bethel School. Yet the team realized we had not included the 'model constitution' updates from the Synod for the last several years. The team made changes, and then the Synod reviewed as did the Council, and final edits were reviewed through the Synod and Council. The changes must be voted on and approved twice by the congregation before changes go into effect. The changes to Bethel Lutheran Church Constitution were approved in the 1st vote January 31st. The final vote will happen at our August congregational meeting.

Call Committee Update: Margit Schmitt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) was completed and approved by the Synod at the end of October 2020. We're in the process of waiting as the experts at the Bishop's Office search for candidates for Bethel's next Pastor.
COVID-19 Plan: Tom Hoegel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Santa Clara County (SCC) is currently in the Purple Tier and we continue to follow those guidelines. Worship is streamed on-line and will stay that way through lent and Easter. Big thanks to Dan Volk who is supporting some active facility needs with an active tenant on site. Small groups continue to meet on Zoom. If we move to the Red Tier, then we can look to do some outdoor activity with small groups per guidelines.
Events and Connections Update: Patricia Myerholtz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awesome Chili Cook-In and Bingo night. Plans are to hold more game nights. Keep updated on upcoming events through Bethel's website (thank you Dave Arnold). A favorite part of the service is seeing member's faces on the screen each Sunday ... so keep sending in your pictures! Thank you – it is all because of you that we can stay connected!
President's Message: Jamie Laughlin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jamie reflected on what a year it has been looking back at January 2020 in-person congregational meeting and the handing of the baton as President. The big things that have advanced this year that he is grateful for are the move to call a new pastor and being in a good position to provide a parsonage if needed. Thank you to everyone who provided support!
New President's Welcome: Brett Deutscher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brett has been involved and connected to several Bethel members and groups and is glad to engage in Bethel leadership. It has been an uncertain year. He is a strong believer in balanced life and this year has felt out of balance with outside distractions. There are periods where we climb hills and others we live on the plateau. He encourages us all to take on some new challenges and stretch ourselves this coming year.
Elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved New Council member Jamie Laughlin as Human Resources Advisor Nominated Holly Lofgren, Dave Lofgren as delegates to represent Bethel at the Synod Assembly in May, depending on review of schedules.
Dorothy Meyer Award for 2021	<p>The Dorothy Meyer Award for 2021 was presented to Chris Larsen. Chris had an amazing impact serving Bethel this year making our weekly on-line services happen with awesome talent, creativity and joyful service! The Dorothy Meyer Award is awarded yearly to a Bethel member that exhibits Christian ideals and principles in all aspects of their daily life and participates in many Bethel ministries and duties.</p>
New Business: Other Elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thank you to Jack Wedgwood and Hella Bluhm-Stieber for their dedicated service on the Nominating Committee for several years. They will be moving off of the committee. Susan Leavitt and Robyn Winegardner were approved as new members of the Nominating Committee. Darrell Kettner was approved as a new member on the Audit Committee.
Meeting adjourned 1:21 PM	
Closing prayer:	Pr. Don Larson