

**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024
MINUTES**

Our Mission is to proclaim, celebrate, and share the love of Christ with our neighbors through an accepting, caring community.

M/S/P = Moved/Seconded/Passed

Called the meeting to order at 12:33 PM

Devotions – Jonathan (Mark 10:43-45)

Spontaneous song by Jeff and Sue

Roll: Karen Carroll, Wendel Wettland, Keith Cottrill, Jonathan Evans, Jeff Molitor, Sue Rasmussen, Heidi Fish, Joy Halladay

Observing: Sandra Jean Rosen, Paul Larmore

Approve Minutes from [August 11, 2024](#) – M/S/P

Treasurer Report: Jonathan Evans

- Most bills are paid except August and July salary owed to Pastor
- Rental Account: \$5000
- Rental Deposit: \$600
- General Savings: \$3000
- General Checking: \$4552
- Designated Computer: \$300*
- Pastor's Discretionary: ?
- BCS: \$450*
- No offer from the city of MLT for street widening yet

Pastor's Report: Pastor Heidi Fish

- Sue to fill in for Heidi when she's out for surgery/recovery
- Has unused leave to use by the end of the year
- Suggest a reconciliation process to remain inclusive and maintain the community's safety.
- Approaching the last year of Pastor's five-year call (ends October 31, 2025). The pastor is interested in continuing and renewing for a new call term.

COMMITTEES:

- **Worship and Music:**
 - The next meeting is on Zoom on Wednesday, September 18, at 5 PM.
 - Vic will be out for 9/28 and 9/29.
 - A substitute pianist will fill in both days (Saturday the 28th is an unbudgeted memorial for Mickey Schwald that will be paid for out of the Pastor's Discretionary Fund)
- **Facilities:**
 - Mickey Schwald's memorial is on Saturday, September 28, 2024. We must ensure the building is clean and ready for a large gathering. **A cleaning party is scheduled for Saturday, September 21, at 10 AM.**
 - **Jeff will purchase and install a new window for the rental house by the next council meeting.**
- **Finance:** The committee discussed the loan process and how to repay such a loan.
- **Bethesda Community Services:**
 - Applied for and received a Hazel Miller grant for \$5000 to be deposited at the end of September.
 - Thrivent cards have helped offset the cost of fundraising and outreach events.
 - Hot dogs at the Tour de Terrace was successful as an outreach, and donations made it budget-neutral.
 - The Lynnwood Community Band concert brought in \$650 in donations for BCS and was a wonderful outreach.
 - Discussed the pros and cons of BCS incorporating as an independent 501.c3.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Jonathan will create a new Pro Zoom account using the media@bethesdamlt.org address
 - Jonathan needs access to the media email account to accomplish this task.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Motion to direct Pastor Heidi to draft a reconciliation and restoration process to remain inclusive and maintain the community's safety. **M/S/P**

- Motion to direct Jeff and Sue to research the pastoral call renewal process and report to the council at the November council meeting. **M/S/P**
- Motion to approve the Finance Committee recommendation to the Council that we contract with Zply Fiber and drop Comcast. **M/S/P**
- Motion to authorize Paul and Jonathan to purchase a new computer for the office for up to \$1500. **M/S/P**
- Assistant Treasurer and Financial Roles & Responsibilities (including BCS)
 - Jeff and Keith will sign checks for BCS when Jonathan is not available. Jonathan will provide training on processes and procedures.
- [Letter of Commitment to Heidi Fish](#) – We cannot afford the Pastor’s salary with our current giving levels; however, we are committed to fulfilling our obligation to her contract. The letter lays out a deferred payment plan and commitment to payment in full when funds are available.
- Motion to approve and send the above letter to Pastor Heidi Fish for consideration. **M/S/P** (one abstention from Rev. Heidi Fish)
- Rental House and Building 3 Agreements
 - Motion to update rental house lease with names of current tenants and an updated monthly rent of \$2300 (+\$35 pet rent) per month by September 30th. **M/S/P**
 - The temporary housing agreement with the tenant in building 3 expired many years ago, but the tenant has remained. The tenant may have rights and privileges that place an unexpected liability upon the church. The Treasurer recommends against continuing to house a tenant in building 3.
 - **Heidi will review and draft an updated tenant agreement for building 3 by the next council meeting M/S/P** (one abstention)
- Wendel has observed political divisions in the neighborhood. He seeks clarity on the meaning and importance of our rainbow pride flags. We are committed to inclusiveness and welcoming to all people regardless of gender expression, identity, or sexual orientation.
- We need to keep the church facilities clean between events. Those using the church facilities, whether church members or those renting the facilities, are responsible for ensuring that the spaces used are clean and ready for the next group.
- Concerns have been expressed about the use of the church van. We need to establish clear guidelines around the proper use of the van. A mileage diary is suggested to track usage and miles.

PLACEHOLDERS Let’s not forget:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| ● Mountlake Terrace Street Widening | ● Visitation Board: Created? |
| ● Reinstate Hospitality Committee | ● AVP |
| ● Event Approval Form: Appoint a couple of people to edit wordage. | ● VBS |
| | ● Choir |
| | ● Alcohol policy |

Next Council Meeting: October 20, 2024, at 12:30 PM

Next Congregational Meeting: September 22, 2024

Next Devotions: Sue-October, Karen-November,

Adjourned at 3:10 PM