



**Annual Congregational
Meeting**

January 29, 2023

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MEETING AGENDA

- Opening Devotions and Blessing of the Meal** Pastor Leon LaCross
- Table Talks During Potluck Meal**..... Pastor Leon LaCross
- Call to Order and Quorum Check** Ryan Olson
- Logistics Related to Zoom and Voting** Ryan Olson

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

- Annual Congregational Meeting February 6, 2022
- Special Meeting November 13, 2022: Piano Purchase

Reports

- Pastor’s Report..... Pastor Leon LaCross
- Statistical Report..... Pastor Leon LaCross
- Presidents’ Report Ryan Olson
- Worship & Music..... Ryan Burghard
- Property Management..... Ryan Olson & Tana Bishop
- Drop In Center Ronda Bard & Karen Anderson
- Angel Project..... Joann Noll
- Bethel Bees Lisa Siems & Jackie Calder
- Bethel Players Karen Anderson
- Bethel Players-in-Training Tana Bishop
- Fun Committee Stephanie Burdick

- Financial Reports for 2022**..... Karen Andersen

NEW BUSINESS

Council Resolution on Retiring the Parsonage Debt

Approval of the 2023 Proposed Budget

Election of Church Council Members

So many thanks!

- Closing Prayer**..... Pastor Leon LaCross

Letter from the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

Dear friends in Christ,

We have seen many changes throughout the years and throughout the world. Sometimes we've been left yearning for the days when things didn't feel so complicated. Other times, we have seen something new happen and have asked, "Why did this take so long?" The church has been through its own changes as well. Some of these have left us wishing for simpler times while others have us waiting for even more to come about.

But, dear church, God still is unchanging. God's love is still the foundation on which the church was built. While we have seen many changes, both in the world and at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the eternal love of God and the good news that dwells with Christ's death and resurrection continue to provide hope for everyone. This is why our mission remains steadfast, whether that is through our traditional mission work in places near and far or from new ventures and visions that encourage us to think of different ways to reach even more people.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (13:16). That could not be truer in the work we have been doing in each expression of the church. Your gifts continue to benefit the good work of spreading the good news throughout your communities, your synods and the whole church. We are all answering the call to continue to do good work with the help of your support, whether that is through your resources, your time or your talents.

I am grateful for your generous support of each expression of the church. God calls all of us to continue to do the good work, and you continue to answer that call. We also continue to join you in that call and will remain true to looking toward God's unchanging promise. There is still much change and learning that will come before us, but God's steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Letter from the Bishop of the Oregon Synod ELCA

January 11, 2023



Dear Friends and Members of the Oregon Synod,

My prayers are with you as you welcome the new year, dwell in the glow of Epiphany, and gather together to plan for your 2023 congregational meeting.

The life and vitality of your faith community are important. The work we do together as the Oregon Synod is important. And, our unity as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is important.

Our upcoming Synod Assembly is scheduled for Saturday, May 20th online. Please mark the date in your calendar. As in years past, there are a couple of things to consider as you prepare for Synod Assembly 2023:

- 1) **voting members.** Your elected voting members must be people comfortable with (or willing to learn how to join) an online meeting (and the access to resources to so),
- 2) **additional voting members.** Since the financial impact on congregations will be much less than an in-person assembly, this is a perfect year, if you've not yet done so, to begin the habit of electing additional voting members (up to 2 people who identify LGBTQIA+, up to 2 people for whom English is not their first language AND, up to 2 Youth/Young Adult voting members).

What a time to be God's church! As the gospel of Matthew tells us, "With God all things are possible." We have learned, grown and changed thanks to the challenges of the past few years. Let's be marked by the transformations Wisdom/Sophia has offered.

With your prayers, financial support and deepening relationships, we are capable of doing more than we dare dream or imagine. Please consider inviting Juan Carlos La Puente, Pr. Melissa Reed or myself to your congregation in 2023. Many of our creative and phenomenal deacons, mission developers, and ecumenical and interfaith partners would love the opportunity to be with you as well.

I look forward to sharing this work with you throughout the new year. Let us dare to love one another and walk the Way of Christ's courageous love together.

Yours in Christ's Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie L. Caesar".

Bishop Laurie

Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of February 6, 2022

Meeting: Bethel Lutheran Church Congregational Annual Meeting

Date & Time: Sunday, February 6, 2022 | 11:30am

Location: Zoom Call, All voting recorded on Google Forms

Attendance: Pastor Leon LaCross, Ryan Burghard, Don Worthington, Linda Worthington, Holly Redfern, Ronda Bard, Karen Anderson, Robin Moody, Christopher Siems, Lisa Siems, Dorian Bentley, PJ Bentley, Tana Bishop, Scott Burris, Jackie Calder, Ryan Olson, Stephanie Burdick, Svea Erickson, Stephanie Burdick, Jared Burdick, Joann Noll, Emily Noll, JulieAnn Edmon, Marlo Edmon, Marjorie Strieff

Opening Prayer.....Pastor Leon LaCross

Logistics Related to Zoom and VotingHolly Redfern & Ryan Burghard

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of minutes

2021 Annual Meeting Jan 31 2021

Special Meeting Aug 15 2021: Elect Call Committee

Special Meeting Oct 17 2021: Spend up to \$9300.00 for kitchen plumbing repairs

Special Meeting Dec 12 2021: Call Leon LaCross as Bethel's pastor

Motion: Ronda Bard moved that we accept the Congregational Meeting Minutes from 2021. Marjorie Strieff seconded. Motion carried.

Reports

Presidents' ReportHolly Redfern & Ryan Olson

Worship & MusicRyan Burghard

Property ManagementRyan Olson & Tana Bishop

Drop-In CenterRonda Bard & Karen Anderson

Financial Reports for 2021Dorian Bentley & Stephanie Burdick

Discussion: Dorian and Stephanie provided an overview of the 2021 budget and actual spending.

Question: How much cash do we have on hand? Answer: Around \$75,000 cash on hand in the bank. Mission Investment Savings is \$208,000. Not all of that is available for spending.

Question: Regarding Parsonage Loan payments chart. Treasurers are proposing a faster repayment of the parsonage loan in order to reduce the amount of interest we are paying.

Motion: Karen Anderson moved to apply funds from the 2021 Payroll Protection Program 2.0 forgiven loan to the 2021 Budget deficit. Jackie Calder seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Church Council members

Slate of Council Members: Karen Anderson, Ronda Bard, Stephanie Burdick, Ryan Burghard, Jackie Calder, Emily Noll, Joann Noll, Ryan Olson, Lisa Siems, Marjorie Strieff, Jim VanDyke, Linda Worthington (new members: Karen Anderson, Ronda Bard, Jim VanDyke)

Motion: Karen Anderson moved that we accept the slate as presented. Ryan Burghard seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of the 2022 Proposed Budget

Review of Line Items as Needed

Discussion:

1. Karen Anderson raised a concern about the transition from Quicken to Quick Books Online and the cost of contracting with a bookkeeper in the 2022 budget. She feels Quicken is adequate for the church's needs.
2. Karen noticed that we need a larger amount for participation in the Oregon Synod meeting since it is projected to be in person and needs to cover lodging. Prior amount in previous years was \$1500.
3. \$18,953.79 left from the 2021 Payroll Protection forgiven loan will be applied to the deficit for the 2022 budget.

Motion: Ryan Burghard moved to accept the proposed budget with an increase to item GB 804 for conventions to \$1500 and a transfer of \$20,000 from line item 909.1 (Pastor salary) to 909.4 (Pastor housing). Seconded by Karen Anderson. The motion carried.

So many thanks!

Outgoing Council Members: Shirley Kolpin, Cate Milburn, Holly Redfern

Transition Team Members: Ronda Bard, Jackie Calder, Cate Milburn, Robin Moody, Ryan Olson, Joann Noll, Jim Van Dyke

Call Committee Members: Ronda Bard, Jared Burdick, Ryan Burghard, Marlo Edman, Cate Milburn, Andrew VanDyke, Jamie Vandenberg

Blast and Bulletin Support: Ronda Bard and Ryan Burghard

Sanctuary Preparation: Nash Ababu, Pastor Scott and Suzie Dunfee, Holly Redfern

Technical Support: Tana Bishop, Ryan Burghard, Pastor Scott and Suzie Dunfee, Joann Noll, Ryan Olson, Jamie Vandenberg, & Others

Thanks to Holly Redfern for your leadership as our President/Co-President, for your work, your questions, for keeping us on track.

Thanks to Cate Milburn for sending us the greetings and stars to guide our new year.

Welcome to Kerry Czuba, new Administrative Assistant - she will begin week after next.

Prayer.....Pastor Leon LaCross

Minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting of November 13, 2022

Purpose: Piano Purchase

Meeting: Bethel Lutheran Church Special Congregational Meeting

Date & Time: November 13, 2022

Location: Zoom and In Person at Bethel

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday 13 November 2022

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Congregational President Ryan Olson at 11:17 AM.

A sign-in sheet for voting members was passed for signatures. The meeting included 22 voting members with 20 participating in person and 2 online.

Motion by Ryan Burghard on behalf of Council: I move to authorize Bethel congregation to spend up to \$12,000 to purchase a new (to us) piano using existing memorial funds. Motion seconded by Don Worthington.

Discussion points:

The piano currently used in the sanctuary is over 100 years old. Tuners cannot rescue tuning any longer. Current piano belonged to Bethel member Willa Baldra and was donated by Merle Baldra after her death.

Karen Anderson: Memorial funds to be applied to piano purchase include those dedicated to the memories of Joyce Hansen and her brother A.B. Ludviksen (approximately \$11,000 for the two funds). All family members support this use of memorial funds. We have additional funds in undesignated memorials.

Scott Burris: What kind of piano and where will it be purchased? Bethel musician Shlomo Farber has checked pianos available at Portland retail shops. Jamie Vandenberg and Shlomo are willing to help us find a suitable piano.

Chris Siems: Are we confident that \$12,000 is enough?

Karen Anderson: We can accept designated donations that to use toward the piano purchase.

Ryan Burghard: Purchase would likely include moving new piano into the sanctuary and moving and disposal of old piano.

Ryan Olson: Could we receive any compensation for old piano? Possible, not likely!

Holly Redfern: Removal of old piano might cost \$1,000. Should we bump up amount authorized for piano purchase?

Based on these discussion points, Ryan Burghard accepted friendly amendments to his original motion and Don Worthington affirmed his second to the amended motion.

Amended motion: I move to authorize Bethel congregation to spend \$12,000 to \$15,000 to purchase a new (to us) piano, with up to \$12,000 coming from memorial funds and up to \$3,000 from designated giving. Motion passed by voice vote.

Pastor: recall we received \$50,000 from our siblings at St John Lutheran. Invites people to be part of the discernment team to recommend use of these funds. Gift given in spirit of outreach and with no restrictions or designations. Interested parties should contact Pr. Leon LaCross. The meeting was adjourned by Ryan Olson at 11:38 AM.
[Minutes recorded by Ronda Bard as acting Council Secretary]

Pastor's Report

Dear Friends in Christ at Bethel Lutheran Church,

This year certainly has been a whirlwind of activity here at Bethel! No, not just a whirlwind, but a pillar of fire. In the Hebrew Bible, there are multiple mentions of a pillar of fire with clouds that help our ancestors of faith. Above all was an abiding presence and guide for them in their time of unknowing. With all fluttering of activity, we've accomplished a lot:

- We have a whole new staff! Kerry, our office administrator started in March, and has

been key to our weekly communications. David left us to pursue other career goals. However, through that transition we gained our new musician Shlomo who has been sharing his musical talents with us since September.

- We rebranded the feeding ministry as the Bethel Bees, who have been volunteering to make meals in two separate settings, and we continue to respond to our houseless neighbors in need.
- We celebrated my ordination! We invited Bishop Laurie into our church for the ceremony, which included family members and friends. We partied too.
- We mourned and celebrated those who are no longer with us by both physical distance and by the bounds of human lifespans.
- We're examining our faith with a new class of confirmation students who are looking into our faith and foundations as Lutherans here at Bethel.
- We got a new piano to enhance our worship, and host local piano recitals in our church space. This was done by generous bequests from past members.

As we chart our course forward, let us again check in with our Mission Statement: "Bethel Lutheran Church is a community whose mission is to worship God together, to proclaim the Good News of grace, and to show hospitality to all people. We will grow in faith, through sharing, learning, nurturing, and supporting one another and doing Christ's work in the world." I'm glad to say that we've been living into this mission over the past year. In this upcoming year of ministry, here are some of my hopes and dreams for where this pillar of fire will lead us as a community:

- Premiering the newest Bethel Players production of "Star Trip: The Wrath of Kazrool.
- Reengaging with the Youth Drop-In Center's summer program in 2023 – specifically finding leadership staff.
- Updating our constitution and bringing it in line with synod guidelines.
- Partner with other churches, ministries, and non-profit organizations to further Bethel's mission of loving our neighbors.
- Celebrate our efforts – who doesn't love a good party?

The truth is the pillar of fire didn't lead just Moses, but it led an entire community. I'm thankful to all of you who continue to spend your time, talent, and treasures here at Bethel. I'm excited to follow where God is leading us as Bethel Lutheran church in 2023!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Leon

Statistical Report

Bethel Lutheran Statistical Report for 2022

Worship Statistics 2022	in person	children
Christmas Eve	18	7
Easter Sunday	32	10
Average Weekly Worship	14	5
Average Zoom participation	11	
Ministerial Acts		
Installation	1	
Baptisms, adults	0	
Baptisms, children	0	
Confirmation	0	
Weddings	0	
Funerals, members	1	
Funerals, non-members	0	
Membership		
Added by transfer	0	
Removed by transfer	*	
Added by affirmation	*	
Added by baptism	0	
Removed by death	2	
Moved from Inactive Status	*	
Removed by inactive status	*	
Statistical Adjustment	*	
Total Baptized Membership	79	
* information unavailable		
Membership revised 2022 w/Karen Andersen		

President's Report

First of all, I wish to say Thank You to everyone at Bethel. The church is what the people make of it. We each have a part to do in the continuing existence and meaning of what it means to be Bethel.

This has been a year of return. The changes are an ongoing process with the new dynamics that have happened with the effects of covid, the use of Zoom for the service, masks as each person makes their own decision on using or not and other changes that are the adaptation to the pandemic.

Thanks to everyone that has served on the Church council this last year. We have made it through another year and things seem to keep on moving forward. Special thank you to those who are leaving for their time of service and help to make the council what it was, and along with that a hardy welcome to those who are going to be joining the council.

This has been a time of change for the staff with the many new people who have filled the position through the church last year. First a new musician of David Tafone then a new pastor of Leon LaCross, then a new secretary in Kerry Czuba, and rounding out the year with yet another new musician with Shlomo Farber. We have been blessed with a great group of people to help move Bethel forward in the new style. Along with this, a thanks to those who helped fill in the periods of time between the people. What can I say but we are Bethel.

Drop in looks to be on a restart track with the hope to have a summer program back this year with the outreach that this program can accomplish. Thank you for making such a commitment to the neighborhood.

Let us look forward and see what the new year has in store for Bethel and as always this is everyone's church.

Let us talk, Let us take chances, Let us grow.

P.S. Thanks Leon for your service to Church, Community, and Council.

Sincerely with God's help,

Ryan Olson
Bethel Council President

Report from the Worship & Music Committee

2022 brought with it more adventures as we fully moved back to worshipping together while also maintaining "remote" services for our members. We added communion back into the worship services and moved into a more normal worship format.

The new year brought with it an upgrade to our technology in the sanctuary, adding a mini-PC as well as other tech to fully connect our remote service to the church sound system. This allows us to fully connect Pastor, the musician, and the other microphones without a separate USB mic setup. In 2023 we look to possibly moving around our camera setup, and perhaps a newer microphone for capturing the congregational sound as we sing!

For the first 9 months of the year David Tafone was our musician, but in continuing Bethel fashion transition was in the air and David moved on from Bethel. After a few months of Friends of Bethel helping us out we were once again blessed with Shlomo Farber joining us full time as our new Bethel Musician in November. A truly seasoned professional, we are very grateful to have Shlomo join us and bring his classical and jazz repertoire to our worship.

Perhaps the biggest event for Worship & Music was a wonderful Christmas gift as we purchased a "new to Bethel" piano! While many of us never realized how *cough*unique our old piano sounded, once we had the new piano in place it became very clear how wonderful the new sound was!

Remote worship will continue to be an integrated part of Bethel's worship format into the future. Even as things become more normal and we worship together, the value of remote worship has become very apparent to continue accessibility to all our members. For me personally the beginning of 2022 brought affirmation as to why this is so important due to the loss of one of our beloved members, Carolyn (Stretch) Beck. While Stretch was not able to join us for worship in the last year due to covid and other personal limitations, she was able to join us virtually every Sunday and for happy hours. I will forever be grateful that we were able to be deeply connected to Stretch all the way until the Sunday before she passed, without the blessing of virtual worship we would not have had this opportunity for continued relationship.

For 2023 we hope to incorporate more choral works, possibly restarting the Bethel Choir and adding more accompanying singers to our worship services. If you are interested in singing, or joining the worship & music committee, please contact Ryan at ryanburghard@hotmail.com!

Report from the Property Management Committee

With all that happened last year, the major subject has been water yet again. We have had outside water coming in and inside water going out. The usage of the church in the last year was very minimal as most activities were limited to the pandemic.

Limited usage of the building has reduced the normal amount of repairs needed for the facility, but there is some change on the horizon.

Last year we did have the normal issue of water entering the basement when we had extreme heavy rainfall of over 2 inches in a day. The gutters had another cleaning, but this may change somewhat with the removal of the trees on the property to the south of the church. We will keep on having the gutters cleaned, but we will look at what changes will occur with the new dynamics.

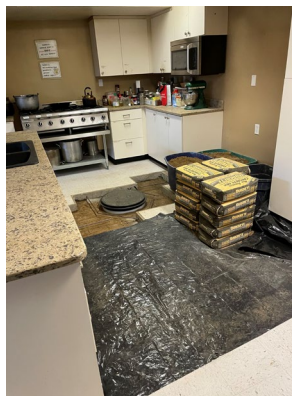
The big project for the year was the installation of the grease interceptor to reduce our impact on the sewer system as well as reduce our need to have the sewer line repaired from clogs on the system. We expect the new system will take some time to get used to, but the benefit of not having the sinks and floor drains backing up will be an enjoyable result.

We also had a failure of one of the hot water heaters. This is expected to be replaced before the Bethel Play takes place this year. Currently the second hot water heater can supply the church with hot water as needed.

In general, it is expected that problems will arise as the building is more heavily used. The building committee will try to stay on top of issues as needed.

A big thank you to Nash for being at the building and being the eyes and ears on the place for the last few years and helping to keep the committee informed on issues as they have happened. I also want to say thank you to Tana and Scott for the help that they have given in keeping up on the needs of the church.

Ryan Olson, Chair



Report from the Youth Drop-In Center

Bethel Neighborhood Youth Drop-In Center: Report to the Congregation

January 22, 2023

Program Overview: Bethel Lutheran Neighborhood Youth Drop-In Center is restarting its Summer Day Camp for elementary school students in North/Northeast Portland OR. After a pandemic-forced suspension, we are back for 2023—our 27th season. The Center is a partnership among Bethel Lutheran Congregation and neighborhood families, offering a safe space for children to learn, play, make friends and have adventures in the community. While housed at Bethel, the program is secular, offers no religious instruction, and welcomes children of all backgrounds.

The Big Picture: The Center seeks applicants for Director and Staff positions for the 2023 Summer Program. The job is posted on Craigslist and on student job boards across metro Portland. The application form and job description are linked to the Drop-In page of the Bethel website <https://bethelpdx.org/summer-program/>. Now we need your help—both in finding great matches for the Director and staff and creating strong connections with neighboring families and households.

Background: Thanks to space shared by sister congregation Peace Lutheran, the Drop-In Center moved the Summer 2019 Day Camp Program off-campus because Bethel had suffered significant flood damage earlier that summer. In May 2020 we set aside our plans for the Summer 2020 Day Camp Program since the pandemic risk was too great. The Summer 2021 Program was also cancelled as Bethel congregation struggled with continuing COVID concerns.

Summer 2022 seemed possible, though we did not get as early a start on planning and staffing as we usually do. We advertised, networked, contacted neighbors and friends, and coordinated with other programs, but could not find a director or other staff. We offered a competitive wage but had no qualified applicants. Summer 2023 shows great promise as neighbor families want a strong Summer Program and our target audience for Director recruitment has largely recovered from the stresses of the 2021-2022 academic year. Onward!

Financial Support: We have combined carryovers from Summer and After School Programs of about \$35,000. We anticipate camp fee income of about \$2250 (assuming enrollment of 15 children at lowest fee tier of \$25 per week) to \$3750 (assuming enrollment of 25 children at lowest fee tier). We have also recently received a grant of \$4000 from the Youth Guidance Association (YGA) in support of the Summer 2023 Program. YGA continues to be a generous benefactor of the Drop-In Center, as have intrepid individual donors and the Bethel Players.

What's Next? Step 1 is finding a great Director! **Help us get the word out to qualified candidates.** Refer them to the website and encourage them to contact us at ydic@bethelpdx.org.

Thanks in advance from the YDIC Board: Karen Anderson, Ronda Bard, PJ Bentley, Annika Johnson, and Pr. Leon LaCross.

Ministry Report: Angel Project

The Bethel Angel Project provided gifts and food to seven families and three adults. We also sent small Christmas gift cards to two families and four adults with long connections to Bethel. The project received contributions of cash, gift cards, gifts, food, paper goods, cleaning products, gift bags, handmade blankets, warm hats (many hand crocheted), gloves, help with wrapping gifts, shopping for and packing food and assembling 125 bags for Neighbors Helping Neighbors from at least 30 individual Bethel members and Friends. We are grateful for the many ways our church community has reached out to provide some joy and comfort during the holidays to our neighbors.

All these contributions to the Angel Project make it possible. Remember, blue bags are available at church for recycling cans and bottles with the proceeds going to the Angel Project. You can drop off full bags at Church.

Joann Noll
Archangel for the Bethel Angel Project

Ministry Report: Bethel Bees

Volunteers: Jackie Calder, Joann Noll, Lisa Siems, Stephanie Acevedo, Karen Anderson, Julie Ann Edmans, Kerry Czuba, Nash, Margorie Streif, (anyone else)

Initially, the group discussed having an available pantry for people to walk by and help themselves with their needs. Some of us had seen examples in the neighborhood. This is still a possibility with a donated pantry from St. Luke Lutheran. In addition, we researched what other groups and churches are doing.

Research:

- Lisa Siems found that *Arbor Lodge Shelter* could use some prepared meals for 40-50 individuals.

- Stephanie Acevedo served at local pantries, NEFP and visited churches and other sites and reported on that.
- Several of us visited churches like St Andrew's who for many years, once a week gives boxes of food to families. Most of which are supplied by private donations and Oregon Food Bank. St Andrews actually has a hired organizer who tracks, organizes, places orders on what they give away in order to keep a balance of stock on hand to give. They also have a dedicated space for housing food supplies.
- All Saints has hot meals to go on Saturdays and they have a shower van one day a week. St Francis serves food daily as well as a clothing shop that offers three free pieces of clothing. Woodstock has a food pantry for its neighborhood.
- Joann Noll and I found St Johns Food Share had donated to the *Angel Project* in December. They also committed to letting us shop for what we needed to prepare meals.

We decided to plan, prepare, and cook meals, i.e., entree, fruit or treat and perhaps a drink once a month and then deliver on a few Saturdays. We did this from June through October, the Dates listed below at which time *Arbor Lodge* closed for renovation and had their people moved to other residences until the renovation could be completed by approximately March of 2023.

- July 23rd: 60 people
- Aug 6th: 60 people
- Aug 20th: 50 people
- Sept 17th: 40 people
- Sept 24th: 40 people
- Oct 8th: 40 people

The Bethel Bees also held an evening BBQ on Aug 12th, 2022, potluck, and game night in the Bethel Parking lot. Karen Anderson cooked delicious hot dogs and hamburgers. Several Bees made flyers to invite the neighbors and passed them out. The turnout was very positive and all had a good time.

Stephanie Acevedo found *Community Dinners PDX*, which has seven locations where they serve shared meals to build community. Mark Seger works diligently to organize, prepare, and serve meals at all locations once a month, who could not be kinder or more generous. Beginning in October, the Bethel Bees went to Renaissance Commons to serve food and then sat down and share company with those who came. Through the first months for 2023, we will continue to serve and share at Renaissance Commons on the third Thursdays until March. In March 2023, we will test-drive our Bethel kitchen to see if it works to prepare food for Renaissance Commons sites. We will serve on Thursday, February 16 at 5:00 at 2133 N Argyle

in February. Several of us have found it fun to get together, cook and laugh and share with folks at Renaissance Commons so do join us.

Thank you,
Submitted Jackie Calder, Bethel Bee

Ministry Report: Bethel Players

Bethel Players Presents: Star Trip, the Wrath of Kazrool

Save the dates: February 24-26, March 3-5. Yes, you'll want tickets, but do consider cooking, baking, serving, washing up and all sorts of other volunteer opportunities.

2022 was another year of uncertainties. 2021's online production, Omelette, Prince of Denmark, was a rousing success, but we really wanted to get back together and the COVID situation wasn't clear until later in the year. Very, very fun to get back to work, so see you all soon!

Karen Anderson

Ministry Report: Bethel Players in Training

The Bethel Players in Training, or BPIT's have done an excellent job of providing the sermons and the entertainment with a message this past year at Bethel after performing "A Tale of Two Trailers" on December 19th, 2021!

They have performed an original musical production "Lent, The Musical" on April 24th and provided the sermon for the Ordination of our new Pastor on June 12th, and then wrote their own production for the Christmas Play this past December!!! These extraordinary kids continue to amaze us with their talents!

Tana Bishop
Bee-PIT Beekeeper

Ministry Report: Fun Committee

Bethel Fun Committee continues it's fun ways by maintaining a few long running traditions, such as the Block Party and Rummage Sale, and keeping a few traditions started during the pandemic!

Our weekly happy hours on Thursday afternoons have been a way for us to stay in touch with

those near and far, those we might not get a chance to see at church, the friendly faces of our new staff, and even those who are our FOB's! (Friends of Bethel) We have had some last time conversations with those we lost this past year and conversations with folks in different states, and on a different continent! It's been a great time to catch up, stay in touch, share news, and have a laugh! Feel free to join us every Thursday afternoon at 4:30 to 5:30, even if only for a few minutes!!!

The Bethel Block Party and Rummage Sale was another huge success, and mainly because we got a chance to visit, reconnect in person in an outdoor setting, and meet neighbors and make new friends, especially in the gigantic bouncy house! We also collected and sold tons of rummage with many personal shoppers helping everyone with bargains galore! Start saving your rummage now for this year's upcoming Block Party!

Tana Bishop



A Note of Gratitude:

The Council would like to give special thanks to St. John's Lutheran for their very generous donation to Bethel of \$50,000. This will increase Bethel's opportunity to reach out to the community and live out our mission.

2022 Financial Reports:

General Budget:

General Budget 2023

	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	2023 Proposed
Revenue			
4001 Envelope and Loose	78,248.03	61,000.00	80,000.00
4005 Building Use	170.00		1,000.00
4015 Fundraising	164.75		
4020 Interest	632.36	380.00	400.00
4025 Opening Balance	14,064.00	14,073.92	3,502.00
4030 Parsonage Rental Income	29,052.41	28,800.00	25,000.00
4035 Transfers From Designated	475.37		
Other transfers			2,500.00
4050 YDIC	2,366.52	2,400.00	2,400.00
Total Revenue	\$ 125,173.44	\$ 106,653.92	114,802.00
Expenditures			
5100 Social Concerns			
5101 ELCA-Synod	2,436.00	2,440.00	2,500.00
5102 MACG	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Total 5100 Social Concerns	\$ 3,436.00	\$ 3,440.00	3,500.00
5200 Worship & Music			
5201 Bulletins		349.00	50.00
5202 Altar Supplies	194.51	200.00	100.00
5203 Pulpit Supply		700.00	350.00
5204 Music	402.00	2,850.00	750.00
Total 5200 Worship & Music	\$ 596.51	\$ 4,099.00	1,250.00
5400 Evangelism			
5403 Hospitality	301.13	200.00	350.00
Total 5400 Evangelism	\$ 301.13	\$ 200.00	350.00
5500 Christian Education			
5501 Sunday School		100.00	100.00
5503 Confirmation		300.00	300.00
Total 5500 Christian Education	\$ 0.00	\$ 400.00	400.00
5600 Youth			
5601 Youth Expense	67.69	150.00	150.00
Total 5600 Youth	\$ 67.69	\$ 150.00	150.00
5700 Property & Management			
5701 Church Maintenance	477.69	1,000.00	1,000.00
5702 Organ-Piano		600.00	750.00
5703 Custodian Supplies	371.20	500.00	500.00

5704 Church Utilities			
5704.1 Water	3,442.71	3,840.00	3,600.00
5704.2 Gas	2,465.11	2,500.00	2,700.00
5704.3 Electric	2,390.19	2,000.00	2,500.00
5704.4 Phone	1,663.33	1,456.00	1,750.00
5704.5 Garbage	948.90	1,500.00	1,000.00
Total 5704 Church Utilities	\$ 10,910.24	\$ 11,296.00	11,550.00
5705 Vans			
5705.1 Insurance	500.02	927.00	350.00
5705.2 Maintenance	131.50	250.00	100.00
5705.3 Gas		50.00	100.00
Total 5705 Van	\$ 631.52	\$ 1,227.00	550.00
5706 Capital Projects	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
5707 Elevator	492.00	500.00	500.00
5708 Lawn Care		100.00	
5709 Parsonage MIF Loan	13,676.00	15,876.00	1,123.00
Total 5700 Property & Management	\$ 27,758.65	\$ 32,299.00	17,173.00
5800 Administration			
5801 Office Supplies	735.06	250.00	800.00
5802 Office Equipment	1,000.08	1,000.00	2,100.00
5803 Postage	116.00	200.00	150.00
5804 Conventions	1,772.40	500.00	1,400.00
5805 Corporation Tax	50.00	110.00	50.00
5806 Property Tax	6,674.73	6,700.00	6,800.00
5807 Insurance	10,638.00	9,959.00	11,000.00
5808 Miscellaneous	21.50		
5810 Bank Charges	529.44	300.00	550.00
5811 Computer & Virtual Worship	164.92		
5811.1 Antivirus	104.99	125.00	105.00
5811.2 Hosting	179.88	180.00	180.00
5811.3 Domain Registration		35.00	35.00
5811.6 Software	809.31	450.00	750.00
5811.7 Tech support			150.00
Total 5811 Computer & Virtual Worship	\$ 1,259.10	\$ 790.00	1,220.00
5812 Staff Meetings	310.89	100.00	500.00
5813 Bookkeeper		6,450.00	0.00
5814 Unrelated Business Income Tax	3,030.00	6,066.00	1,300.00
Total 5800 Administration	\$ 26,137.20	\$ 32,425.00	25,870.00
5900 Personnel			
5901 Pastor			
5901.1 Salary	8,143.32	8,145.00	32,186.00
5901.2 Continuing Ed	195.00	350.00	
5901.3 Pension	5,475.17	3,377.00	5,500.00
5901.4 Housing	20,002.06	20,000.00	
5901.5 Professional Expense	0.00	1,000.00	
5901.6 Auto Expense	624.00	625.00	
5901.7 Medical FSA	0.00	1,250.00	

Total 5901 Pastor	\$ 34,439.55	\$ 34,747.00	37,686.00
5902 Secretary	14,385.00	16,640.00	17,475.00
5903 Custodian		4,000.00	1,000.00
5904 Music Director	10,100.00	9,500.00	11,000.00
5906 FICA-Medicare	1,777.21	2,000.00	2,178.34
5907 Workers Comp	1,014.61	1,000.00	300.00
5908 Unemployment	558.00	558.00	400.00
5910 Sabbatical	600.00	600.00	600.00
5911 First Call Theological Education	500.00	500.00	500.00
Total 5900 Personnel	\$ 63,374.37	\$ 69,545.00	71,139.34
Total Expenditures	\$ 121,671.55	\$ 142,558.00	119,832.34
Surplus/Deficit	\$	\$	
	3,501.89		(5,030.34)

Approx \$48,000 remaining on parsonage mortgage

Payoff:

\$19200 remaining in Parsonage

Remodel

\$26866 remainig in Flood Damage

approx \$2000 from futher fundraising

Designated General Budget 2023:

	Starting Balance	Income	Expenditure	Ending Balance	
Carryover from 2021	14,073.92		14,073.92	0.00	
ELCA	2,853.48	2436	5,289.48	0.00	¹
MACG	0	1000	1000	0.00	
Music	1,071.91	2594	1080	2,585.91	²
Church Maintenance	0.00	33.63	33.63	0.00	
Water	0.00	3840	3840	0	³
Van Insurance	461.67	900	1361.67	0.00	
Capital Projects	156.67	1200	0	1,356.67	
Elevator	1,579.93	492	250	1,821.93	
Copier	-1,702.28	1000.08	1709.72	-2,411.92	
Property Tax	0.00	6708	6708	0.00	
Insurance	0.00	10638	10368	0.00	
Childcare	612.29	0	0	612.29	
Computers	97.00	0.00	0.00	97.00	
Pastor Medical FSA	0.00	1250	1250	0.00	
Pastor Continuing Ed	0.00	350	155	195.00	⁴
Pastor Professional Expense	0.00	1000	1000	0.00	
Pastpr Auto Expense	0.00	624	612.21	11.79	
Worker's Comp	100.00	1000	51.01	1,048.99	
Unemployment	-111.24	558	510.78	47.22	
Sabbatical	6,182.19	600	0	6,782.19	
Total for Designated Budget				12,147.07	

Notes:

1: 2021 payment sent Jan. 2022

2: Special music, Jazz concerts

3: Now paid monthly, fund to be removed in 2023

4: Byberg Conference to be paid in Jan. 2023

Designated Non-Budget 2022:

	Beginning Balance	Income	Expense	Ending Balance
Breakfast	2823.62	0	0	2823.62
Parsonage Remodel	13823.53	10778.5	5144.28	19457.75 ¹
Handicapped Access	136.58	0	0	136.58
Youth Drop In	14662.09	1032.31	4779.71	10914.69 ²
Summer YDIC	16796.5	5200	45	21951.5
Special Events	563.6	809	876.16	496.44
Bethel Players	10435.54	0	2000	8435.54 ²
Bethel Players Table Money	21035.84	0	0	21035.84
Block Party	0	473.05	473.05	0
Social Concern	1277.67	40	200	1117.67
Reserves	46828.71	0	0	46828.71
Angel Project	2096.15	1436.75	4025.94	-493.04
BLCW	485.45	0	485.45	0
Custodian Special	17332.81	0	243.77	17089.04
Flood Damage Renovation	28705.83	0	1839.82	26866.01 ²
Pastoral Call/Moving Expenses	2000	46.25	2046.25	0
Total for 21000 Designated Non Budget				176660.35

Notes:

1: Extra principal payments

2: Grease trap repair

Grants and Memorials 2022:

	Beginning Balance	Income	Expense	Ending Balance	
Synod	1216.38	0	0	1216.38	
Food Ministry	10250	0	5478.57	4771.43	1
Bethel Players in Training	1875	0	0	1875	
TOTAL				7862.81	

Memorials 2022	Beginning Balance	Income	Expense	Ending Balance	
Joyce Hansen	3195	0	3195	0	2
June Hassebroek	1100	0	0	1100	
Allen Ludviksen	7184.89	0	7184.89	0	2
Carolyn Beck	0	777.47	0	777.47	
Undesignated	4069.8	45	1466.36	2648.44	2
Tangvald	48057.74	0	4902.59	43155.15	
Total				47681.06	

Notes: 1 Food supplies, pest control, grease trap repair

2: Piano

Endowment Fund

Endowment Committee's Report						
Endowment Funds 2022	1/1/2022	12/31/2022	Gain/Loss	Last Stat Date		
DWS Scudder Short Term Bond/Duration	\$5,710.01	\$5,452.43	(\$257.58)	12/31/2022		-5.00%
DWS Scudder Growth and Income	\$28,527.89	\$24,123.36	(\$4,404.53)	12/31/2022		-15.00%
Vanguard Wellington	\$42,001.60	\$35,987.78	(\$6,013.82)	12/31/2022		-14.00%
Amundi (Pioneer)	\$14,464.32	\$11,647.88	(\$2,816.44)	12/31/2022		-19.00%
Columbia Intermediate Bond Fund	\$10,218.08	\$8,432.91	(\$1,785.17)	12/31/2022		-17.00%
Columbia Midcap Growth	\$33,220.37	\$22,837.57	(\$10,382.80)	12/31/2022		-31.00%
Columbia Balanced Fund	\$25,611.75	\$21,350.92	(\$4,260.83)	12/31/2022		-17.00%
Totals	\$159,754.02	\$129,832.85	(\$29,921.17)	12/31/2021		-19.00%

Financial Audit Report

22 January 2023

We looked at the checking accounts, Mission Investment Funds, Endowment funds and found all records present and accounted for.



Cari Catlow



Ryan Olson

Council Resolution on Retiring Parsonage Debt:

Resolution from Council

Approximately \$48,000 remains owed on the Parsonage Remodel Loan. Paying off this loan would reduce our 2023 expenses by about \$16,000 per annum by eliminating the mortgage payment, the unrelated business income taxes, and the tax return preparation fee.

Therefore, Council resolves to pay off the Mission Investment Parsonage Remodel Loan using Bethel funds from the following sources:

- \$26,866.01 Zero out Flood Repair Fund (never transferred for loss of use)
- \$17,450.00 Reduce Parsonage Remodel Reserves (leaving approximately \$2000 for contingencies)
- \$4,000 Borrow approximately this amount from Bethel reserves in the short term and repay this amount through fundraising

2023 Proposed Budget: See right hand column on PP 20-22

2023 General Budget Notes

Revenue:

4001 Envelope & Loose:

We haven't gotten many stewardship cards back and I'm not seeing big increases on those, so figure is based on last year giving pattern.

4005 Building Use:

Occasional use by spiritual directors; contribution from AARP tax service folks. Consulting with Toni Tortorilla about whether she's continuing in the building or not.

4015 Fundraising: Wreath proceeds

4025 Opening Balance: last year was an anomaly: funds hadn't be transferred from Fed. PPE, etc.

4030 Rents: Checking with Dwell. Income has been down as we are down at least a couple of tenants.

Other Transfers: tithe of the St. John's gift

2500 to cover Synod tithe

An additional 2500 to be divided between ELCA Domestic Hunger and Synod Queer Outreach on non GB lines.

Expenditures:

5100 Social concern. Synod reflects tithe from St. Johns gift

5200 Worship & Music

5201 Bulletins: small amount in case we have to buy special covers, like for a funeral

5202 Altar Supplies: ?? no paschal candle this year. Prepackaged communion supplies? Misc. candles?

5203 Pulpit Supply: \$175 each. 2? Other coverage will be lay Sundays

5204 Music: This year, licensing for reprinting in bulletins and streaming. OneLicense = 200. Copyright Solutions 525: Do we need both? One License has a streaming/podcast option for an additional \$80. Note: substitute musicians are paid under the Music Director personnel; guest musicians paid under DGB fund. Checking with CCS on what they cover.

5400 Evangelism

5403 Hospitality: Some kitchen, coffee supplies; also, covered the \$50 deficit from block party

5500 Christian Education: We bought some pizza. Leave as is?

5700 Property & Mgmt:

5701 Church Maintenance

- \$900 – replace water heater – use designated Capital Projects funds
- \$250 – fire inspection
- \$150- fire extinguisher service/replacements
- \$350-Gutter cleaning
- \$250 anything else

5702 Organ/Piano: Piano gets another tuning as part of purchase price. Organ needs it! \$145 an hour, 3-5 hours probably per Bond Organ Builders.

5703 Custodian Supplies: Leave as is.? Vacuum sounding a little asthmatic?

5704 Utilities: Based on last year's expense plus a little

5705 Van: Costs are split with Drop In. Gas tank needs to be replaced or fixed—suggest that we take that cost from Tangvald memorial. License is good until 2024. Note that we have just one van; the Dodge van wasn't worth needed repairs so was junked.

5706 Capital Projects: A little set aside savings account (see DGB) for unexpected repairs. Could do water heater from there...

5707 Elevator: Set aside for eventual expense.

5709 Parsonage MIF Loan: \$1123 a month from this line. Additional \$200 monthly from designated parsonage fund. In this budget we are assuming payoff on January 30, so need to leave January payment in.

5800 Administration

5801 Office Supplies: Sundays & Seasons = \$350 (lectionary plus other material for preparing bulletins). Copy paper, other supplies - \$400?

5802 Office Equipment(Copier): Current month's usage plus pay off the loan we made to ourselves to buy the machine. Monthly service contract + color copies runs \$125-150 a month. We need to pay ourselves back about \$2400 before we start accumulating for an eventual replacement. \$150 per month covers service contract, but won't make a big impact on the "loan".

5803 Postage: Leave as is

5804 Conventions: Pastor, 2 delegates = \$900. No hotel this year. Bishops Convo + lodging \$500

5806 Property Tax: Close to last years, just adding a pad
5807 Insurance: ...ouch. So rounded up...
5808 Miscellaneous: Not sure where else to put charge for background checks
5810 Bank charges: Vanco costs about \$30 a month; Paypal is 3%. Adds up...
5811 Computer & Virtual Worship
 5811.6 Software: Zoom, MSFT, Adobe, Quickbooks, Quicken. We cancelled the high powered Adobe In-design program that Summer could use, but nobody else could. The one we have lets us make PDFs – seems to be required.
 5811.7 Adding a line for a couple hours of local tech support (No line for computer equipment – do we need one?)
5812 Staff meetings: Can we make this meetings/appreciation (i.e., gifts?)
5813 Bookkeeper: Might need a little consultation to get Budget set up...we'll see.
5814 Unrelated Business Income Tax: Fed/state/city tax that we pay for having the parsonage rented while it has a mortgage. These go away if the loan is paid off. I think it will go down a little because the amount of the debt goes down. \$750 tax preparation.

Designated Funds – What are they?

Designated GB are categories related to a General Budget expense line. They may or may not persist from year to year.

- They may be a “set aside account” where we know that the bills for this category arrive irregularly and often in a large amount. For example, the property insurance bill arrives in November and this year cost over \$10,000. To even out expenses over the year we transfer 1/12 of what we’ve budgeted from the General Budget into this “set aside account” each month. That way there isn’t a giant leap in expenses in November and we have a truer picture of what it costs to run the church month to month. These funds generally start and end at zero.
- They may be a “savings account” like Capital Projects or Elevator. These let us save up for expenses that we know will happen – but not necessarily when. For example, we’ll draw on the Capital Projects

fund to pay for the new water heater that we'll need. Again, this avoids wide month to month variations in General Budget expenditures.

- They may reflect designated giving by individuals. For example, someone may wish to fund a particular church maintenance expense or designate a gift for special music. These gifts can cover general budget expenses that weren't specifically budgeted for.

Designated Non-Budget. These do persist year to year.

- These are special projects that we don't budget for. For example, Bethel Players income and expenses, Youth Drop In, Special Events (like buying Easter lilies, etc), Parsonage Remodel, Flood damage.

Memorials

- Gifts received in honor or memory of someone. These funds persist from year to year. As a rule of thumb, we honor the wishes of the family when spending these funds—for example, Joyce Hansen and AB Ludviksen funds were used to purchase the new piano. If funds have been on the books for more than a year and the family hasn't indicated their wishes funds can (but don't necessarily have to) be transferred to undesignated memorials.

Grants

- Grants to the congregation that are often restricted to certain uses, like the food ministry. We also occasionally receive unrestricted grants (Synod). Note the Youth Drop In grants are not recorded here since they are made to that organization, not the congregation.

Church Council Membership Elections

Proposed Bethel Council Roster 2022: Council members serve two-year terms. They may serve up to two consecutive terms, and they must be re-elected to serve their second term.

Seat	Name	First term	Second term
A	Marjorie Strieff	Feb 2019 - Jan 2021	<i>Feb 2021 - Jan 2023</i>
B	Joann Noll	Feb 2019 - Jan 2021	<i>Feb 2021 - Jan 2023</i>
C	Stephanie Burdick	Feb 2020 - Jan 2022	<i>Feb 2022 - Jan 2024</i>
D	Ryan Burghard	Feb 2020 - Jan 2022	<i>Feb 2022 - Jan 2024</i>
E	Ryan Olson	Feb 2020 - Jan 2022	<i>Feb 2022 - Jan 2024</i>
F	Emily Noll	Feb 2021-Jan 2023	<i>Feb 2023 - Jan 2025</i>
G	Linda Worthington	Feb 2021 - Jan 2023	<i>Feb 2023 - Jan 2025</i>
H	Lisa Siems	Feb 2021-Jan 2023	<i>Feb 2023 - Jan 2025</i>
I	Jackie Calder	Feb 2021-Jan 2023	<i>Feb 2023 - Jan 2025</i>
J	Jim VanDyke	Feb 2022 - Jan 2024	<i>Feb 2024 - Jan 2026</i>
K	Karen Anderson	Feb 2022-Jan 2024	<i>Feb 2024 - Jan 2026</i>
L	Ronda Bard	Feb 2022-Jan 2024	<i>Feb 2024 - Jan 2026</i>
Alt.			

Open seats in 2023

A: (Marjorie's term expired)

B: (Joann's term expired)

F: (Emily does not wish to serve again)

No nominees as of January 25, 2023.

Special Thanks to Ronda Bard who spent many hours helping put this report together.

Thank you to all those who volunteer countless hours to make Bethel Lutheran Church the dynamic community that it is.

Thank you for getting all these reports in. It takes a village.

Included is the recipe for Karen's Mac & Cheese which you will be enjoying during the Annual Meeting.

- ½ lb uncooked elbow macaroni , about 1 ½ cups
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons [all-purpose flour](#)
- 1/2 teaspoon [salt](#)
- 1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 1/2 cup milk , any kind
- 2 1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees and lightly grease a square baking dish.

Cook the macaroni to al dente, according to package instructions. Drain and set aside.

Melt the butter in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Blend in the flour, salt, and pepper. Cook for 2 minutes.

Slowly add the milk and half and half, stirring constantly, and cook over medium-low heat for a few minutes until the mixture is just barely thickened. Remove from heat and stir in 1 cup shredded cheese, stirring just until melted.

Add the cooked macaroni noodles and toss to coat. Pour half of the pasta mixture into the prepared baking dish. Sprinkle ½ cup cheese over the top. Add remaining pasta and sprinkle with remaining cheese.

Bake for 15-20 minutes or until cheese is melted on top.