

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
720 South Second Street  
Mankato, MN 56001  
MINUTES

**Title:** Congregation Council Meeting

**Officiating:** Marcia Nagel

**Purpose:** Monthly Business Meeting

**Recording:** Kathy Yale

**Date:** January 20, 2009

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** Heritage Room

Scheduled			Actual			Council Members and Guests
Start	Stop	Total	Start	Stop	Total	Number
7:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	2 hrs.	7:10 p.m.	9:52 p.m.	2.7 hrs.	10
Council Members and Guests			Present	Absent	Position	
Marcia Nagel			X		President	
James Halbur			X		President Elect	
Frank Larsen				X	Vice President	
Kathy Yale			X		Secretary	
Jim Erdman			X		Treasurer	
Beth Backstrom			X		Member at Large	
Dennis Sandersfeld				X	Member at Large	
Andrew Garry			X		Member at Large	
Pastor Arne Jessen			X		Interim Lead Pastor	
Pastor Al Girtz			X		Pastoral Care Coordinator	
Greg Larson			X		Guest	
Lance Quick			X		Guest	

TIME PRESENTER	ITEM DESCRIPTION
7:15 p.m. Marcia Nagel	CALL TO ORDER
Marcia Nagel	DEVOTIONS: [Luther Seminary] "God Pause" devotion for Sunday, January 18, 2009: "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling."
7:15 p.m. Greg Larson	OPEN FORUM: 1. Request from Mankato Children's Chorus to use Bethlehem from 5:00 p.m. to approximately 9:00 p.m. on April 3, 2009, for a concert and potluck. 2. Request from Mankato Children's Chorus to install white board in the choir room. 3. Looking for names for the Nominating Committee.

7:30 p.m. Lance Quick	OPEN FORUM: Topics of Ethics and Confirmation were included in his recent studies at Luther Seminary. Recommended the book, "The Missional Leader."
8:00 p.m. Marcia Nagel	AGENDA: The agenda was adopted on a motion by <b>Beth Backstrom. MSC.</b>
8:01 p.m. Kathy Yale	MINUTES: <b>Andrew Garry</b> moved the December 16, 2008, minutes by approved. <b>MSC. Beth Backstrom</b> moved the Email Meeting minutes of December 18-20, 2008, be approved. <b>MSC.</b>
OLD BUSINESS	
8:02 p.m. Marcia Nagel	The Gift of Gratitude check for \$750.00 to John Petersburg and letters of thanks to Mr. Petersburg and Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna have been mailed.
	Staff Benefits: Andrew Garry and Jim Erdman to research 403b options and make recommendation to Council. Synod offers 6% pension and disability. Staff equity is a concern of the Personnel Committee.
	Call Committee: Met last week. Putting together a spreadsheet with congregation survey results to be presented at a Forum.
	Computer/IT Needs: Marcia has arranged for a survey of current status and needs including wiring two downstairs offices for phone and computer and eventually including the sound system and printers/copiers. Will get bids.
REPORTS	
8:48 p.m. Jim Erdman	TREASURER'S REPORT: <b>Beth Backstrom</b> moved we approve the December, 2008, and Year End Financial Reports. <b>MSC.</b>
	Werner Fick and Jim Erdman to do an "Erase the Deficit" Temple Talk on a Sunday when an extra envelope is included in the bulletin.
9:03 p.m. Pastor Arne	INTERIM PASTOR'S REPORT: "Building a New Spirit and Teamwork with the Addition of New Staff Members" and "Individual Staff Goals being Formulated."
	Interim Covenant Agreement - Tabled.
	<b>Beth Backstrom</b> moved that we approve amended descriptions dated 1/19/09 for the Administrative Assistant and the Office Services Assistant positions. <b>MSC.</b>
	<b>Kathy Yale</b> moved that Martin Luther King Day become a paid staff holiday. <b>MSC.</b>
	A Bethlehem representative to attend the Gustavus Adolphus Annual Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS	
9:24 p.m. Jim Erdman	<b>Jim Erdman</b> moved we approve Community Bank as a depository for Bethlehem. <b>MSC.</b>
9:25 p.m. Marcia Nagel	Pastors' Housing Allowances: <u>On a 2/17/09 motion by <b>Beth Backstrom,</b></u> <u>approved</u> no changes for 2009. <b>MSC.</b>
9:26 p.m. Marcia Nagel	<b>Jim Erdman</b> moved the Council adopt the drafted "Responsibilities of the Finance Committee" as a Standing Resolution. <b>MSC.</b>
	<b>Beth Backstrom</b> moved that Roger Saman, Steve Olson, Lorraine Carpenter and Werner Fick be approved as members of the Finance Committee. <b>MSC.</b>
9:42 p.m. Marcia Nagel	On a motion by <b>Andrew Garry</b> , "It is the expectation of the Council that the custodian carry a communication device." <b>MSC.</b>
	<b>Jim Erdman</b> moved that the Semi-Annual Meeting be scheduled for Sunday, April 26, 2009, at 12:00 p.m. <b>MSC.</b>
	<b>Jim Erdman</b> moved we approve the Mankato Children's Chorus request to use the sanctuary and kitchen on April 3, 2009, with the stipulation that the grand piano may not be moved. <b>MSC.</b> Greg Larson has offered to serve as volunteer custodian.
9:52 p.m. Marcia Nagel	MEETING ADJOURNED on a motion by <b>Jim Halbur.</b> <b>MSC.</b>

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Yale, Congregation Secretary