

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
720 South Second Street  
Mankato, MN 56001

**COUNCIL MINUTES**

**Title:** Congregation Council Minutes

**Officiating:** Mary Bliesmer

**Purpose:** Monthly Business Meeting

**Recording:** Kathy Yale

**Date:** November 15, 2011

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

**Location:** Heritage Room

Scheduled			Actual			Present
Start	Stop	Total	Start	Stop	Total	Number
7:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	2 Hrs.	7:05 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	1:55	13
Council Members and Guests			Present	Absent	Position	
Mary Bliesmer			X		President	
Bob Ihrig			X		President-Elect	
Rachel Wood			X		Vice President	
Kathy Yale			X		Secretary	
Diana Olson			X		Treasurer	
Amy Heiser			X		Member-at-Large	
Betty Groth				X	Member-at-Large	
Lori Ruthenbeck			X		Member-at-Large	
Pastor Jay Dahlvang			X		Lead Pastor	
Pastor Collette Broady Preiss			X		Associate Pastor	
Barb Girtz			X		Earth Stewards	
Melissa Matthies			X		Earth Stewards	
Marcia Nagel			X		Earth Stewards	
Marsha Qualset			X		Earth Stewards	

PRESENTER TOPIC	ITEM DESCRIPTION
7:00 p.m. Mary Bliesmer	CALL TO ORDER
Pastor Collette	DEVOTIONS: Romans 8: 19-23 and an excerpt from <i>Greening Paul</i> , followed by an opening prayer.

REGULAR BUSINESS	
Mary Bliesmer	AGENDA: On a motion by Bob Ihrig, the agenda was adopted with the addition of "New Members" by Kathy Yale and "Sound System" by Lori Ruthenbeck, both under New Business. MSC.
OPEN FORUM	
Barb Girtz Melissa Matthies Marcia Nagel Marsha Qualset	Written Report. The Earth Stewards Committee plans four educational emphases for four seasons of the church year beginning with water for Epiphany (the Season of Baptism) followed by something for Easter, Summer and Advent. Their ultimate goal is to create a "Creation Care Plan" to which it is hoped the congregation will commit.
REGULAR BUSINESS, <i>continued</i>	
Kathy Yale	MINUTES: The October 18, 2011, minutes were approved on a motion by Lori Ruthenbeck. MSC.
	The 2011 April Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes were reviewed.
REPORTS	
Diana Olson	FINANCIAL REPORT: Written Report.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Member giving has been close to budget.</li> <li>- The General Fund has money in the bank.</li> <li>- This time a year ago there was a (\$27,000.00) deficit.</li> </ul>
	The Treasurer's Report was approved on a motion by Kathy Yale. MSC.
Pastor Jay	LEAD PASTOR'S REPORT: Written Reports.
Pastor Collette	ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT: Written Report.
OLD BUSINESS	
Bob Ihrig	FIVE YEAR PLAN: Orientation sessions for Board and Committee Chairs will be conducted on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays of December in Pastor Jay's office. A notice will be sent by email.
Mary Bliesmer	COUNCIL MEMBERS AS LIAISONS: Handouts and discussion.

NEW BUSINESS	
Kathy Yale	NEW MEMBERS: A list of potential new members was presented on behalf of the Evangelism Board with special thanks to Pastor Jay. Approved for membership on a motion by Lori Ruthenbeck and carried: Josh & Marni Blickem, Kris Doering, Amy Haigh, Kristin Johnson, Roger & Joyce Kamrath, Janelle & Mike Lafrentz, Dick & Darlene Lundeen, Bob & Kelly Salfer and Doug Wilkin.
Mary Bliesmer Pastor Jay	FUTURE BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND RENOVATION: New committees will be formed in the areas of building plans, finance and communications
Lori Ruthenback	SOUND SYSTEM: Discussion.
Mary Bliesmer	ADJOURNMENT: Diana Olson moved the meeting be adjourned. MSC. Next Meeting: December 20, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

MSC = Motion Seconded and Carried.