



The

# Parish Visitor

A Publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church • Askov, Minnesota

April 2022						
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## Unofficial Annual Meeting Minutes February 27, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 11:17 am by Bill Jansen. 17 voting members are present, so there is no quorum. The meeting will still be held for discussion and to disseminate information, but no votes will be taken.

**OPENING PRAYER:** Opening Prayer was provided by Clara Edin.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** No quorum.

**ACCEPT MINUTES FOR**

### THE 2021 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**MINUTES:** No quorum. No questions were raised or discussion items for meetings held in 2021.

### 2021 TREASURER'S REPORT:

Report reviewed. We came close to meeting expenses last year despite the pandemic. The dedicated accounts were discussed. The Steeple expenses came in before this report was completed. \$30,000 was approved from the parsonage sale account, but the full amount was not used. There was additional discussion about non-dedicated accounts. There was an inquiry about the level of detail provided in the treasurer's report. That information was provided at the meeting to set the budget in 2021, and this is a summary. Additional

line item detail can be provided in the future and Bill Jansen will see if it can be published.

### Ministry Reports:

- SAM Annual Report—Clara Edin expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve.
- Council Annual Report—No discussion.
- Property Committee Annual Report—No discussion
- Circle of Faith Annual Report—No discussion.
- Cemetery Annual Report (none submitted)—No one present from committee. Clara Edin noted there were several funerals this year and the Cemetery Committee was wonderful to work with through these grievous times.
- Family Ministry Annual Report (none submitted)—Missy Ecklund pro-

vided a verbal update.

In lieu of the typical Sunday school and confirmation format, we joined with Grace and Emmanuel for their Wednesday evening Lift program. A Bible study was held at the beginning of the year. Pastor Cindy Gray has taken over confirmation. The ELCA youth gathering was cancelled this year.

- Worship & Music Annual Report (none submitted)—Bill Jansen provided a verbal update.
- Community Meal Annual Report (none submitted)—Shawn Jansen provided a verbal update. Including the Christmas Day dinner, 12 months of meals were served.

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## April Worship Schedule

April 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Worship	Pulpit Supply	Worship 10 am
April 6 <sup>th</sup> Clara Edin, SAM	Soup Supper and Lenten Worship Church Basement 6:30 pm	
April 10 <sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday Worship	Clara Edin, SAM	Worship 10 am and Holy Communion
April 15 <sup>th</sup> Good Friday Worship	Clara Edin, SAM	Worship 7 pm
April 17 <sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday Worship	Clara Edin, SAM	Worship 10 am with Holy Communion
April 24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Worship	Pulpit Supply	Worship 10 am

## IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

**Please include the following people in your daily prayers:**

Jan Ecklund, Lois Sahlen, Don & Michael Petersen, Sally Mortensen, Naevia Roth, Meghan Carlson, Kerri Gortmaker, Tracy Jensen, Joni F., Bob Carman, Bob Katon, and their families.

If you would like to add someone to the weekly list, please email the church office at [blcaskov@gmail.com](mailto:blcaskov@gmail.com) or let Clara know



Annual Meeting Unofficial Minutes continued...

The community meal is funded partially through BLC support. Donations which come in from meals also go towards it. Chris's Food Center food stand money exceeding \$900.00 went to the community outreach fund. Donations over the past year from multiple charitable organizations as well as individual donors were also received. Shawn also provided information about how some of the basement work was completed through help from partners interested in assisting with historical building preservation. Lisa Waletzko took over as coordinator for the community meal. Volunteer base has

expanded, sometimes includes outside groups and volunteers who are not members. Several months there were additional activities along with the meal. Funding was also received from a mental health grant. Averaging 60 take-out and deliveries plus 15-30 people eating in, with numbers on the lower side for dine-in in winter.

**ELECTION OF 2 SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES:** The Synod Assembly will be held Friday April 29-Sunday May 1 at Cragun's Resort. Attendance can be either in person or by Zoom. Bill Jansen asked if anyone would like to volunteer to be representatives. We will be seeking people to attend.

**CHRIS' FOOD STAND:** Discussion. The group leading and sponsoring will be discussed later. Carolyn Steele indicated she would check with the Circle of Faith.

**EXPLORING 3-POINT PARISH OPPORTUNITIES WITH GEL/SANDSTONE—** Discussion was held on the background about BLC's history with exploring a multi-point parish. Grace and Emmanuel's congregations have both voted and indicated they are interested in continuing to explore the idea of a 3 point parish with BLC. If BLC is interested, after Easter, some representatives would meet with the ministry team to discuss what next steps would be. Clara Edin informed that her responsibility as a SAM is to continue to work with us towards a full time minister. She expressed that she would love to see a youth pastor. Concern expressed over losing Clara Edin. It was brought up that in other multi-point parishes there isn't always a service at each site each week. Clara Edin spoke to that concern indicating how congregations move forward varies

and is flexible, but that we should know what we want and voice that.

**LABOR DAY DINNER:** Discussion was held regarding feasibility of having the dinner. Concerns were voiced over staffing.

- ADDITIONAL ITEMS:**
- A question was asked for an update from the property committee. The elevator has been down 3 weeks. Denny calls every week and is unable to get an answer. Supply chain issues are causing issues everywhere. A question about the steeple repair was raised, there was no additional work that needed to be completed.
  - Soup suppers approaching.
  - There was discussion about opening pavilion for a farmer's market.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Bill Jansen closed the meeting.

*Submitted by,  
-Yvette Maloney*

## A Prayer for Ukraine

O Lord, God of life, as you care for all creation, give us your peace. May our security come not from weapons, but from respect. May our strength come not from violence, but from love. May our own wealth come not from money, but from sharing.

May our path be not one of ambition, but of justice. May our victory not be one of revenge, but of forgiveness. Unarmed and confident, help us to defend the dignity of all creation. Sharing today and always the bread of solidarity and peace. Amen.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton  
Faith Vigil for Peace in Ukraine



Donating to support people and churches of Ukraine

Link to these secure websites:

[The Lutheran World Federation](#)

[Lutheran World Relief](#)

[Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service](#)





**COUNCIL MEETING**

**March 8, 2021**  
**Unapproved Minutes**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Denny Birkholm via phone for first part of meeting, Bill Jansen, Clara Edin, Sandra Pavelka, Yvette Maloney. Absent Carolyn Steele.

**DEVOTION/OPENING**

**PRAYER:** Clara Edin read a letter regarding situation in Ukraine and led prayer.

**ACCEPT MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 2022 MEETING:**

Motion by Bill Jansen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sandra Pavelka, motion passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Large bill received from Fornengo Plumbing for heating system maintenance from 3 months ago. Bill Jansen brought up that we need to post a procedure for handling the coffee money. It was agreed the coffee money is nominal and could be pushed underneath either Clara Edin or Heidi Moon's office doors. We will ask Heidi to post the procedure.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:**

Clara provided a summary for last month. We have 2 new member transfer applications. Lenten and Easter planning is underway. Attended SAM classes. Open prayer hour went well. Ash Wednesday

last week. Still hoping to create a social media team, farmer's market. Have a male volunteer for synod assembly, need a female. Clara Edina asked if we want her to take the 24<sup>th</sup> off, as she will be here the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> of April. It was agreed that she will take 24<sup>th</sup> off. Discussion about May 1<sup>st</sup>, the weekend of Synod Assembly as we need pulpit supply that Sunday. Pulpit supply will also be required on July 10.

**MINISTRY TEAMS:**

- Property (Denny Birkholm via phone)—Elevator part is on order, wrong part was ordered initially.
- Family Ministry (Sandra)—No report.
- Music & Worship (Bill)—The Lent and March music was selected. The committee meets again to select hymns on March 17. Clara will let Jean Hendrickson know that she is invited to the meeting.
- Circle of Faith (Carolyn)—The group will coordinate Chris's Food Stand, and they meet this Saturday at 10 am.

**Old Business:**

- Wheelchair Space in Sanctuary—Chairs haven't been ordered yet. Denny looking for less expensive options. Only have room for 3 chairs.
- Congregational Contact List—We will ask Heidi Moon to create cards to update phone #s and e-mail addresses to be placed on the table in

the entry to the sanctuary and dropped into the offering plate.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Lack of quorum at Annual Meeting—Discussion was held on options for how to get people to the annual meeting. It was agreed that meetings held after a service should be held in the sanctuary. Will revisit mailing postcard reminders in the future when the full council is present. Will not be re-scheduling the annual meeting, next congregational meeting to be held in the fall. We may consider adding a potluck after future congregational meetings.
- Sanctuary Piano Repair—Dennis Berryhill came to tune, and the sanctuary piano needs significant work. There are two options to repair, one is less expensive but could damage the piano. Bill Jansen moved that we move forward with replacing the tuning pins in the piano per the recommendation of Dennis Berryhill and pay for the repair out of the property maintenance fund, Sandra Pavelka 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.
- Synod Assembly Delegates—We will be sending a male and female delegate and the minister to the assembly.
- Lent and Ash Wednesday offerings—Clara Edin asked about having all donations during lent and Ash Wednesday

be sent to the Lutheran Disaster Response Eastern Europe Crisis that is working with companions in Ukraine. Bill Jansen moved to approve sending donations, Sandra Pavelka 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.

- Job Description—Sandra Pavelka will be requesting copy of the Secretary's job description in advance of the August performance review.

Motion to adjourn by Yvette Maloney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sandra Pavelka, meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*- Yvette Maloney*  
*Council Secretary*

APRIL  
Birthdays

Ella Ruble—1<sup>st</sup>

Yvette Maloney—4<sup>th</sup>

Logan Disher—10<sup>th</sup>

Missy Ecklund 21<sup>st</sup>

Faye Williams—22<sup>nd</sup>

Fred Ecklund—27<sup>th</sup>

APRIL  
Anniversaries

Dave & Ann Rote—  
April 10<sup>th</sup>

Owen & Betty Petersen—  
April 11<sup>th</sup>



Circle of Faith (COF) met March 12, 2022. The members in attendance were Tracy Zinter, Cookie Nielsen, Shawn Jansen, Carolyn Steel, and Mary Johnson. Tracy called the meeting to order.

**Devotions:** Shawn led with devotions quoting a song “My Song is Love

Unknown.”  
**Reports:** Secretary minutes from February meeting were reviewed. Motion made to approve the minutes with correction to community meal showing February 23<sup>rd</sup> by Shawn , 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cookie, motion carried.

**Treasurer’s report:** Checking \$1,002.96, Savings \$2,319.98.

**Old business:** Carolyn will pick up ingredients for sandwiches and fruit for the Kettle River (W/ ELCA) conference scheduled for Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Cookie and Mary will make the desserts.

Discussed can opener options, Carolyn will ask Bill to check into it. Cookies for gifting to the teacher’s lounge and Askov city council was tabled.

**Card mailing:** Cookie in April and Carolyn in May.

**New Business:** Discussed Chris’s Food stand fundraiser for June. Tracy will get in touch with Chris’s regarding the date. Tentative date is June 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

Discussed Easter baskets. Motion made by Mary, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tracy that COF will obtain \$10 gift cards from Main Street Grocery,

motion carried. Shawn will check out cards to be mailed out with the certificates. Carolyn, Mary and Cookie will coordinate the mailing. Community Meals for March 23<sup>rd</sup> will be soups, crackers and desserts. Motion to adjourn made by Shawn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tracy, meeting adjourned with The Lords Prayer.  
**Next meeting:** April 9, 2022 at 10 am.

*Respectfully submitted,  
 -Mary Johnson  
 Secretary*

**Please help us update our member contact information—Take a moment to fill out the form below and either mail or drop off in the church office or secretary’s mailbox—Thank you!**

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
 Membership Information Form  
 (please print)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (Middle) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last)

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (Middle) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last)

Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_ (Name) \_\_\_\_\_ (Number)

Cell Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_ (Name) \_\_\_\_\_ (Number)

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_