

# **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

Church Council Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, July 21, 2022 – 7 PM Fellowship Hall

## **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (GSLC) Council was called to order at 7:01 PM on July 21, 2022, by Kristi Buchholz, Council President.

**Present:** Pastor Brandon Peck (Sabbatical Pastor), Candace Bradley, Kristi Buchholz, Sue Hertless, Renee Reis

**Excused:** Pastor Jeremy Serrano, Scott Etzel, Mike Henry

## **DEVOTIONS AND OPENING PRAYER** – Pastor Brandon Peck

## **RECOGNITIONS**

- Candace Bradley recognized and thanks Mike Henry and the Property team for repairing the Sanctuary air conditioning problem.
- Scott Etzel recognized Dana Deniston and the Friends Feeding Friends (FFF) volunteers for their ongoing service to the community with FFF programs distributing food, clothing, and furnishings to those in need.
- Sue Hertless recognized and thanks all of the people who are filling in and helping out with worship service tasks. A big thanks to Nancy Judge for checking in on Kay Bennett, and taking Fran Mecklenburg grocery shopping while Sue is in El Salvador.
- Pastor Brandon recognized and thanks all those who continue to provide solid leadership in our community, including the team of ushers, sacristans, and those who have helped by serving as communion assistant. Pastor Brandon especially acknowledged and thanks those who have been working in the midst of financial leadership change – your work is to be commended.
- Kristi Buchholz recognized and thanks Jamie Rodemsky for working on the finance computer in the office so Kristi could run checks.

## **CORRESPONDENCE** – None

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **○ Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION** made by Renee Reis to accept the June 21, 2022 Council Minutes; seconded by Kristi Buchholz; motion passed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Pastor's Report – Pastor Brandon Peck**

- Pastor Brandon reported that, until recently, he was unaware he had access to the Google slides presentations for liturgy, so is now “another set of eyes,” reviewing those documents before services.

### **President's Report – Kristi Buchholz**

- Discussion about Good Shepherd's current financial situation. The first bookkeeper Kristi spoke with about becoming Good Shepherd's bookkeeper could not accept this position, so Kristi will talk with the bookkeeper at St. Matthew's church to inquire if she would like to work for Good Shepard to bring our books up to date.

## **Committee Reports**

*Please see the individual committee reports; if any questions, see Council Secretary. Some additional discussion occurred on the following topics:*

### **Social Ministry – Scott Etzel**

- *Please see Scott's report included with these Minutes.*

### **Evangelism – Sue Hertless**

- Sue reported she wired \$2,100 to El Salvador before her trip there later this week, and that this money is coming from the Resurrection account. She and Betty Jacobsen will bring the stoles and kits to Sunday service so that Pastor Brandon can bless them, before Sue and Betty take them to El Salvador.

### **Worship and Music – Pastor Brandon**

- Pastor Brandon reported he would like to get all of the music for August Sunday services planned ahead of time due to Jenna Fassio, temporary office administrator, leaving mid-August. He will work out details with Tom Deans Flegel.

## **Discussion Items**

**Monthly Calendar** – At Council's request, Candace created a yearly calendar for Council, and has emailed the document to Council members.

**Laura Mott's Resignation** – Laura resigned as bookkeeper for Good Shepherd. Kristi said Council appoints a new treasurer (voice only, no vote on Council); and the new finance chairman would be voted upon (votes on Council). These two positions are separate from each other.



**Facility Use Agreement/rates** – Council reviewed the newly typed “Special Event Facility Use Agreement” and the “Ongoing Meeting/Group Facility Use Agreement” that Jenna Fassio prepared. Discussion - Narcotics Anonymous makes a donation, they do not pay a fee. There are non-profit rates and for-profit rates. We need to revise this document to remove some rooms listed, as they are unavailable. Candace will check with Jenna to see if she was able to help DVLC, who already requested a space. Scott has been researching current rates for facility use requests elsewhere.

**Wilma Seppala Memorial** – Sue said Wilma was a member of St. Matthew’s for a long time so she suggests we send a notice to them that Wilma has passed away, as some people there may wish to come to her memorial. Sue said Wilma lived in Cleveland and was Baptist, so was very surprised to see the Lutheran stoles and paraments when she came to Good Shepherd. She said Wilma talked with a Catholic nun who taught her how to make paraments and stoles and impressed upon Wilma the symbolisms behind them. Sue said we have 6 to 12 paraments that Wilma made. Sue’s vision is that we take down the Stations of the Cross in the sanctuary and display Wilma’s paraments by hanging them on poles in the sanctuary. Sue and Betty will look for the paraments Wilma made, and the poles to hang them on. Pastor Brandon is working with Wilma’s son, Eric, for the memorial itself, and he said there will be a reception. Sue will contact Elsie Witt for any further information, as Elsie as spoken with Eric Seppala.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** made by Renee Reis to adjourn; seconded by Kristi Buchholz; motion passed, and meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Date of next regular Council meeting – August 9, 2022, 7 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Candace Bradley, Council Secretary  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

## **Continuing Agenda Items/Action Items:**

- **Action Item:** We will add goal setting to a summertime council agenda.
- **Continuing Agenda Item:** Research to see if Council members can be on the Executive Committee and the Mutual Ministry Committee concurrently. We will investigate and revisit this topic another time.
- **Continuing Agenda Item:** Pastoral Review – Candace reported the draft pastoral review is ready for Council’s review. Include on agenda for August’s Council meeting.



20 July 2022

I begin by expressing my gratitude for those who continue to provide solid leadership in this community, including the team of ushers, sacristans, and those who have helped by serving as communion assistant. I especially want to acknowledge and thank those who have been working in the midst of financial leadership change. Your work is to be commended.

In regards to worship, I continue to work with Tom and Jenna with the weekly preparations for the liturgy. It has not been without its hiccups, but I am beginning to be more hands-on with the editing of the powerpoint used on Sunday mornings. It has been brought to my attention that for the last few weeks, there have been discrepancies between the bulletin and the screen. I hope that my involvement with this will continue to improve the overall worship experience.

Homiletically, this summer I have been asking people in worship to consider their spiritual lives through the lens of the appointed gospel readings. The purpose behind this is to examine themes present in the readings and approach them from a perspective that asks us as Christians to go beyond our usual thinking and categories, and to begin to perceive or contemplate the world from a divine perspective. While some folks offer their initial feedback after the liturgy, I continue to remain open to thoughts and observations regarding the sermons and the delivery. Preaching is an event for the whole community, and I value communal feedback.

Upcoming on the church's calendar is the memorial service for Wilma Seppala, which will take place at 11.00 on 6 August. Jenna and I have been working closely with Wilma's son, Eric to plan the service. John Yeh will be the musician for the service. I am not aware of the funeral/memorial service culture at Good Shepherd, but I find it important for the community to show up and be present for these events in the life of the church, regardless of whether those in attendance knew Wilma. The secular world has influenced the church's funeral culture in so far as they have become events only for those who knew the deceased. As we get closer to 6 August, I will announce the service on a Sunday morning, inviting all to attend. We as the body of Christ are called to bear witness to the resurrection, and therefore funerals are for the whole of the body.

I look forward to continuing to develop services for Sunday morning. Moving into August, a worship goal will be to begin to incorporate Spanish-language hymnody as appropriate. This request has come from the wisdom of Sue Hertless, and I am grateful for her work with our Salvadorian partnerships. I would also like to request that the council adds to August's agenda a consideration and planning of the liturgy for 4 September.

With gratitude,  
The Rev. Brandon Peck





**Date: 7/5/2022**

**Team: Social Ministry**

**Name: Scott Etzel**

### **SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:**

Dana Deniston and the FFF volunteers – For ongoing service to the community with Friends Feeding Friends programs distributing food, clothing, and furnishings to those in need.

### **PAST EVENTS/ ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

Friends Feeding Friends (FFF) summary for June 2022:

- FFF helped 3887 people with food, prepared and provided 256 hot meals to the shelter clients, and provided furnishings for 15 households. The County is in the process of closing the last hotel that housed clients under Project Roomkey so these clients are now being transitioned to housing.
- Through our pantry, in addition to food, we distributed adult diapers, baby diapers, clothing, hygiene items, plastic food containers, kitchenware, and books.
- FFF also provided new clothes & shoes, Ensure, snacks, condiments, and disposable serve ware, a coffee maker, bath towels, pillowcases, and reuseable bags for the shelter clients.
- For one Veteran, we purchased a small dinette set and tools so he could assemble the dinette, and for another Veteran, we purchased a small desk so he could use his laptop for work.
- Current church financial liabilities designated for FFF in Balance Sheet as of February 28, 2022 are:
  - \$20,821.13 – FFF Building (fund)
  - \$35,978.19 - Designated Special Purpose (DSP).

Senior Food Program:

- GSLC partnered with the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties to provide free groceries to seniors age 55 or older on the first and third Thursdays in June (June 2nd and 16th).

American Red Cross Blood Drive

- Partnering with the American Red Cross (ARC) to hold a blood drive on church campus in October. They are hesitant to schedule any drives in summer months due to past drive having to shut down early when A/C could not keep up.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS/GOALS:**

- None planned for July and August.

**LONG TERM GOALS:** [Events or goals that extend beyond 2 months. Include dates.]

- FFF food distribution move from Fellowship Hall/kitchen into room #3 and adjacent office.
- Red Cross Blood drives planned for October and December.
- FFF Building Project (dates undefined)

**CONCERNS:** [Any concerns for the upcoming months]

**Date: 7/5/2022**

**Team: Social Ministry**

**Name: Scott Etzel**

- FFF: Storage of furnishings in Luther Hall, and in some rooms on second floor of office building over capacity preventing access in the event of an emergency such as a fire or electrical issue. Note: Significant progress made in clearing access lanes in main room on second floor of office building.

**OTHER COMMENTS:** [Any other comments]

- None

**COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS:**

- Review/update of church policies on facility use (goals, administration, terms and conditions, etc).





**Date:** July 21, 2022

**Team:** Evangelism

**Name:** Sue Hertless

**SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:** BIG THANK You to 4:34 PM all the people who are filling in and helping out with worship service tasks. Big Thanks to Nancy Judge for checking in on Kay Bennett and taking Fran Mecklenburg grocery shopping while I am in El Salvador.

**PAST EVENTS/ ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Bank of America contacted me in June to advise that when they moved from Willow Pass Road to Mount Diablo they found a lock box without a name. Upon opening the box they found documents that belonged to Good Shepherd and asked if I would come and take receipt of the items. Here are some of the items:

- Original Articles of Incorporation of The Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church of Concord filed September 1, 1954
- Reconveyance filed April 7, 1958
- Deed of Trust dated 7-10-61 between GSLC and Board of American Missions, United Lutheran Church
- Promissory Note dated 7-12-94 for \$260,000.00 (construction loan) with Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA stamped "Paid in Full".
- Deed to Cemetery Plot
- Along with other documents

I have these items in my possession and will keep them until Pastor Jeremy returns and we can discuss where they should be kept. I have discussed this with Gordon Monroe and this was his suggestion.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS/GOALS:**

The week of July 25<sup>th</sup> Betty and I will be in El Salvador leading a Sister parish workshop for 25 people who will make a stoles for their pastor either green or red. We will start each day the first week with a one hour Bible Study with the people.

The second week we will go to Apopo Lutheran School and meet with 78 students who are in the school scholarship program and their teachers. Good Shepherd sponsors 25 of these children.

On Thursday we will go to Caldredias which is Pastor Christian's church. It is one hour and a half from San Salvador. It is halfway up the volcano mountain. We will be delivering lights for the steeple at the church that was given by a parishioner at Lord of Mercy Lutheran Church in Sparks, Nevada.

**LONG TERM GOALS:** I will be requesting the use of Fellowship Hall to share with people my experience of the Border Immersion and the El Salvador trips. These events will take place in late August or early September.

I will be attending the En Quatro scheduled for November 7-10 in El Salvador

**CONCERNS:** [Any concerns for the upcoming months]

**OTHER COMMENTS:** [Any other comments]

**COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS:** None at this time