

All are welcome in this church community. You are welcome here if you have ever felt excluded or judged because of your gender, ethnicity, race, religion, status, ability, sexual orientation, doubts, or questions. We are a community committed to racial equity, and we believe in Jesus' commandments to love God and love neighbor.

June 19, 2024

2024 Council

President: John White (Y)
Treasurer: Millie Fosberg (Y)

Vice President: Janice Burwash (Y)
Secretary: Pam Dix (Y)

At-Large Members:

David Svaren (Y) (On Council through 2024) Nancy Hill Hoffman (Z) (On Council through 2024)
Mary Nolte (Y) (On Council through 2025) Heidi Yeoman (Y) (On Council through 2025)
Kathleen Hasselblad (Y) (On Council through 2026) Vacancy for Erin R. (Through 2026)

Pastor Charis Weathers (Z) (On-going member)
Present (Y) Absent (A) Zoom (Z)

The meeting was called to Order at 6:35 pm by John with a quorum present.
Welcome guests: none

Opening Prayer was given by Pastor Charis.

Leadership Reports:

1. **Council Minutes:** The May 15, 2024, meeting minutes prepared by Pam Dix were approved as amended with a MSV (move, second, vote)
2. **Pastor's Report Highlights:** Pastor Charis shared that Pentecost went really well, even without Pastor Josh. This shared service is a highlight for many. Carlos did extraordinarily well as the lead Spanish speaker-he took everything in stride with an energy that brought a palpable calm.
Caroline Dana, Cypress Hill and Molly McCabe were present for the recognition of graduating High School seniors on June 2. Each told of their plans and presented with a quilt. Cade Knutzen was presented his quilt on a different date. Pastor expressed thanks to Janice Burwash, Mary Nolte and Nancy Hill Hoffman for attending and representing BLC at the Burlington-Edison High School presentation of scholarships. Congratulations to Caroline and Molly for receiving scholarships from BLC and Edison Lutheran. Pastor was unable to attend due to her own graduation from Leadership Skagit.
This month, new online giving cards were implemented in the pews. These cards can be dropped in the offering plate denoting an online gift to BLC. There is also a QR code for giving on the other side.
After a twenty-year pause, BLC participated in the Berry Dairy Days parade with 33 BLC members participating by walking the parade route, riding or driving the vehicles. A huge thanks to Millie for organizing!
The parents and youth had a year-end meeting, helpful for envisioning plans for next year including confirmation for several boys going into 7th grade. They are opting for youth group to be for all students in 5th-7th grade with an emphasis on learning how to be good humans.

Pastor's Report Continued:

Vacation Bible School this year will again be collaborative with an all-Skagit ELCA VBS, July 28-August 1 from 5-8pm. Fir Conway Lutheran will host.

3. **May Treasurer Report:** Millie updated the council that May was a fruitful month. Our offerings met our budget expenses. June to date is tracking pretty well. One large gift was received. There is nothing large in unexpected expenses. With the Financial Secretary on vacation and then having a family emergency no official treasurer's report with documentation was given. A letter on finances year-to-date will be going out in July with the individual giving reports. There will also be a copy in the E-news.

Regular Action Items:

1. **Underground Ministry Fundraiser:** After discussion, it was MSV to approve the motion that BLC partners with Underground Ministries (UM) to host a UM fundraiser at BLC. The event would be a Jennifer Knapp concert on September 20, 2024 in our church. (9 voted yes, 1 voted **no.**)
2. **5th Sunday Fund:** After discussion, it was MSV to approve that BLC start a Fifth Sunday fund for those experiencing a short-term situation where a small financial boost would help alleviate suffering or hardship. Its purpose will be to respond to one-time, small financial requests from members, visitors, etc. in need who make a request of BLC. The funds will be administered by the BLC Council Officers and the Pastor. The money for the fund would come from special offerings and then follow up special offerings on every month with a fifth Sunday of the year. Gifts from the fund to a person, or persons when they make the request together, should be limited to no more than \$200 for any request or in any year total.
3. **Replacement for Erin Rozema:** John recommended that we add this position to our annual meeting in September. Council agreed.
4. **Zoom subscription:** With less need to hold meetings by zoom, after discussion it was decided to cancel our subscription and use a 40-minute free zoom service as needed. Pastor will cancel this.

Discussion items:

1. Coffee with Council Members: On 6/16/24, John and other council members were present. John had prepared a summary of all the Council positions with descriptions.
2. 2025 Council Member recruitment, nominations, volunteers: John has put information in the E-news.
3. Revise BLC Constitution to adjust VP position to a 3-year commitment (VP, Pres, Past President): After discussion, it was decided to not move forward at this time.
4. Other "committee" reps – Scholarship, Josephine house, etc. advertise/promote for new/additional people selected in annual meeting. No action was taken
5. Lutheran Counseling Network: An article was posted in the E-News last Sunday promoting this opportunity.
6. Decision Circle: No action taken
7. Visioning Follow up: At our April Council meeting for Visioning follow up, we had volunteers for:
 - a. Being a member of BLC handout development & then lunch invitations: Charis, Mary, David, John

b. Cards to visitors: Janice and Charis
Discussion Items Continued, Visioning Follow Up:

- c. Book group: Sarah will be moving forward with this project.
- d. Elevator Use Training: David and available ushers met on May 29,2024.
- e. Synod Assembly Pulpit report: John will set a date for this.
- f. Kitchen upgrade & Health department inspection: Charis reported no update at this time.

Standing Reports:

1. **Emergency shelter status & Burlington Fire Marshal Approval:** After not hearing back from Washington Alarm, John called Commercial Fire Protection. When he finally heard back, their contact said this is not the work they want to do and he was referred to Security Solutions in Bellingham. John will follow up.
2. **Tech Task Force:** David-no report
3. **Building & Grounds:** David reported that the curtain is up for the Lutheran Counseling Network office. He will have the television up in the library this next week.
4. **Personnel Committee:** Janice reported that new Personnel Policies were given out to Sean and Jacob. She will also be giving them to Grant, Elly and Linda.
5. **Lay Care Team ministry Update:** Charis and Kathleen are working on affordable training options.

Upcoming items (future):

It was questioned by a church member if BLC has a policy about unaccompanied minors attending church - Not at this time but the council will discuss at our next meeting.

Millie reported on how well Jason Slotemaker keeps up our grounds and would like to show appreciation in some way.

Announcements: Charis received a request from a young Upper Skagit man to use some church space on Saturdays. The Council asked that he fill out the Building Use form and we will discuss the request next meeting.

Next Council meeting: Monday, July 22 at 6:30 pm. (changed due to several people on vacation)

Closing Prayer was given by David.

Adjournment: 8:08 pm

Minutes respectfully prepared by Pamela Dix, Secretary