

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.

Jan 17, 2024
2024 Council

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

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

At-Large Members:

Mary Nolte (1-yr remaining) (P)
Nancy Hill Hoffman (1-yr remaining) (P)
Kathleen Hasselblad (3-yr term) (P)

Eva Yeoman (1-yr remaining) (P)
David Svaren (1-yr remaining) (P)
Erin Rozema (3-yr term) (P)

Pastor Charis Weathers (On-going member) (P)
(P) Present

Call to Order: President, John White opened the zoom meeting (due to heavy snow and freezing temperatures) at 6:30 pm & declared we had a quorum-(6 members)
Welcome New Members: John formally welcomed Pam, Erin & Kathleen to the church council.
Opening Prayer was given by Pastor Charis.

Leadership Reports:

Meeting Minutes Approval: It was MSC (moved, seconded, carried) to accept the December 19, 2023 minutes prepared by Janice Burwash.

Pastor's Report Highlights:

- The "**How Does a Weary World Rejoice**" **Advent series** went exceptionally well. The Sundays were well attended, the content was widely appreciated. Also, the **Children's Pageant** was fabulous, and the **choir** was super enjoyable. The **Soup Suppers** were good, and yet I think we still haven't landed on our ideal Advent weekly church activity.
- Several told me (even some participating online) that the **Longest Night** service was very meaningful. This will definitely be an annual gathering as there is much need. **Christmas Eve Sunday morning** worship had 48 in attendance, which was not surprising, but the **111** for the **evening** worship was a wonderful surprise!
- We said **thank you and goodbye** to Pastor Josh and Marie at our New Year's Eve worship service. I sat in on an all-day ministry review of **El Camino** on Jan 6th, and am involved in some conversations and work related to identifying their next pastoral leader.
- For the Baptism of Jesus Sunday on Jan 7th we had two **baptisms!** Rosie Frausto and her daughter, Esther, also became members at the same time. Xavi was to be baptized as well, but she has been battling illness. Her baptism is forthcoming.
- On January 14th we had about 20 people show up for both **Church 2.0 and the movie showing of 1946**. The conversation about last year's Star Words was really cool – hearing how these words impacted and affected people was moving. The 1946 movie was super powerful. Many thanks to Traci, Denise, and Mary who brought lunch for everyone.

- As of this month I'm officially a member of the **NW WA Synod Candidacy Committee**. This entails periodic online interviews as well as a monthly meeting in Seattle. I've participated in one interview so far, and it appears that this is good way for me to contribute to our synod.
- **Leadership Skagit** continues to go really well. My cohort continues to work toward installing an information sign at Jay Bowen's totem pole sculpture in Riverwalk Park in Mount Vernon.

2023 Final Treasurer's Report: It was MSC to accept the December 31 report prepared by Millie Fosberg. She will put a short article in next week's e-news.

Regular Action Items:

Lutheran Counseling Network (LCN) Update and Conversation with Traci Drake:

John welcomed Traci Drake and Melanie Cool to our zoom meeting at 7:00. Melanie gave an overview about LCN, their history, practices and the services offered. John and Traci gave an update on the space to be used and information about security features needed for privacy and confidentiality. There was discussion about a space use agreement or possibly a covenant in ministry agreement. Discussion was tabled until next month, allowing time for more information from the City of Burlington Building Department. Various council members committed to working on different pieces of this project and possible grant support from the ELCA and Thrivent.

Recognition of Rochelle and Jeremy: Sunday Jan 21, Pastor and John will lead a thank you for their years of service on the BLC church council. Following this, the current council members will be installed.

4H Group use of BLC space: It was MSC to allow this group to use some rooms on Feb 10 from 8:00 am - 3:30 pm. Janice will go through the available space with the leader, Sherri Nelson.

Personnel Committee: It was MSC to approve Kathleen Hasselblad to be on this committee. Janice is the chairman, working with John and Pastor. Janice will be setting a meeting for late January.

Music Teacher: A request for renting space for music lessons was tabled until more information could be obtained. Erin will work with the teacher to gain more insight into her needs, i.e. number of rooms, number of students, time frame, etc.

Discussion items:

Council Retreat: John had sent everyone the agenda for the January 20, Saturday retreat. His goals included Team Building, Personality Awareness, Visioning with a 2024-2030 Focus. Beginning at 9 am – 4:30 pm, everyone agreed to bring their own lunch and a snack to share. John asked that we come with the visioning questions answered.

2024 Agenda Flow – John wants us to prioritize our council business differently, not old/new business, but instead Opening, Leadership Reports, Action Items, Discussion items not requiring action at current meeting, Standing Reports, Upcoming items, Announcements, Closing. This way we tackle decisions and actions needed early in the meeting.

Standing Reports:

Emergency shelter status & Burlington Fire Marshal Approval: John continues to meet with Washington Alarm, Inc representative Greg Gehrcke to meet the new requirements. David continues to meet with City of Burlington.

Security Cameras: Charis and Jacob continue to try reaching an ARLO Cameras representative. Nancy sent them a letter before our trial period ended with no response but has the dated computer documentation. David will try going through Best Buy again.

De-Escalation Training: A meeting with Pastor Charis, John and Ty Shroyer was set for Jan 18, but Ty needed to reschedule due to a family emergency.

Tech Task Force: David had no update

Building & Grounds: David reported that when L&I did its inspection this last Spring (the first in 12 years) BLC had no records of prior inspection and maintenance with the exception of a repair done in the Spring of 2022. We had to find a firm that was willing to do the work, have it done and file a correction report with L & I. There was a concern about a fine but it seems that the paperwork I filed in mid-December has satisfied them.

There was a high water bill last month. It was about three times the usual. PUD indicated we had water use when everything was turned off in the building. I found three toilets that appeared to have overfull tanks and adjusted the floats. PUD did another check and indicated that no water was running so it appears the water loss has been fixed. The furnace filters have always been checked regularly but I am discovering that the filters in the furnaces servicing the original structure need replacement 2-3 times more often than the other furnaces. I did purchase a new snow shovel and deicer but more importantly, there is only one evident cold weather weak spot in our water pipes and that water has been shut off.

Visioning Process: John will take this up with the Council at the retreat.

Upcoming items in the future:

Church Finances 101: Millie will offer us some training over the course of the next year.

Family Promise at BLC: John and Kathleen will give an update in February.

Quarterly Executive Council meetings for visioning energy: John will discuss after our retreat.

Announcements: Millie shared that Rev. Esau Cuevas, known to Burlington Lutheran because he was a former pastor at El Camino de Emaus will be installed as the new pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Emerson, WA on February 4th at 2:00 pm.

Next Council meeting: Wednesday, February 21 at 6:30 pm.

Closing Prayer: offered by Pam

Adjournment: 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted by Congregational Council Secretary, Pam Dix