**BTLC Congregation Information Meeting**

**Sunday, September 7, 2025**

Following the worship service, Council President Lori Minette, called the informational meeting to order in the Parish Hall at 10:25 am with 45 attendees. Lori explained that this was a meeting to inform members of potential projects facing the congregation.

Property Committee members, Al Buerkle and Rusty Terland, along with Pastor Julia Seymour then opened the meeting by explaining these projects are a 7 to 10 year process (or longer). Al reviewed past projects completed within the church, stating that we now need to organize for future projects to address the needs, prioritize and secure funds. Rusty informed the group of a grant writing workshop on September 24 that some council members plan to attend.

The potential project ideas currently under consideration (in no particular order) are as follows:

 Outside building masonry repair

 New sanctuary carpet

 Stained glass repair

 Dishwasher

 Handicapped access (new ramp or lift)

 Roof (drainage)

 Sound system

 Handicap seating in sanctuary

 General kitchen upgrades

 Repairs to first parsonage

 Central air conditioning (added at meeting)

Also presented was a list of potential funding sources:

 The National Fund for Sacred Places (Lilly Foundation)

 John C. Lasko Foundation Trust

 Knox Charitable Foundation

 William E. Dean III Charitable Foundation

Sweet Grass Community Foundation

 Montana Historic Preservation Grant (MHPG) Program

 Montana Preservation Alliance

Some of the above funding sources give to church repair projects, while others deal with only historic preservation projects.

Rusty stated that roof repairs must be made before masonry repairs could start. It was noted that we are not upgrading, but rather repairing what we have now.

What should we do now? Pray, remember the church in your estate, and find contractors to do the work.

It was suggested that a building fund be started.

Pastor Julia closed the meeting with prayer at 11:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Riter, Council Secretary