Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes
August 18, 2026

Attendees:
Kerry Melby- In person
Jaimie Rudolph- In person
Lisa Cook- Absent with notification
Joe Jackowski- Absent with notification
Amanda Bell- In person
Mark Teslik- In person
Angela Pace- In person
Jeff Johnson- In person
Pastor Jaime Benson- In person

1. Call to Order by Kerry Melby at 6:56 p.m.
2. Prayer
3. Approval of the Agenda – **Amanda made a motion to approve the agenda. Angela made a second, motion carried.**
4. Approval of Last Month's Minutes – **Jeff made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Amanda made a second, motion carried.**
5. Pastor Report
6. Shut-in Visits- There is a screen shot below Pastor's report showing who has been visited or called on for the month of July.
7. Committee Reports
8. **Approval of Committee Reports – Angela made a motion to approve the committee reports, Amanda second, motion carried.**
9. Old Business
    a) Columbarium – Kerry
        i Waiting for county approval, on agenda for Sept 16 meeting. If we can order by Sept 20, company will rush and have it ready by Oct 15 so we can still place it this fall. Total cost is $15,750 for double-sided columbarium. Ordered 20 wooden box urns now as well. Ordered praying hands urn too for people to see options. $820 to deliver it, Kerry still talking with the planning committee on details given insurance and transport risk.
    b) Taste of Portage - Kerry

i Thrivent grant covered the cost of the booth and supplies, proceeds go half to national youth convention and half to general fund. Sign up to make pies, volunteers are covered.

11. New Business

a) Shoe Drive – we were sent a business card to check out Funds2Orgs.com, please check this site out before your meeting. Viewed video together and based on website material, passing on this at this time.
b) Columbia County Public Health dropped info off if we are interested in hosting anything
– see attached – Amanda will look into it for a few more details, and we will revisit.
c) Memorial Fund balance is $5,423.30 – Discussion and no immediate need identified, agreement to just leave the funds in the account at this time.
d) April Special Congregational Meeting see the attached for review – Jeff made a motion to approve the congregational meeting minutes. Angela second, motion carried.
e) Columbarium Committee – the below is needed to be in compliance with our Constitution
    i. Official approval of committee needed by council – **Amanda made a motion to approve the formation of a Columbarium Committee as outlined in the attached information, and approve the meeting minutes also provided by the committee. Jaimie made a second, the motion carried.**
    ii. Approval of the policy/application drawn up by the Columbarium Committee – sent earlier this week. Discussion, questions raised about length and details needed for internal handling vs. a purchaser. Pastor Jaime will attend committee meeting to discuss feedback, others in council are welcome to attend as well.
    iii. Kerry has been giving verbal updates - meeting minutes are attached for review. See motion in part i. above.

Jeff made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Angela made a second and meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.
Lord's Prayer