

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes**  
**December 16, 2025**  
**6:30 pm**

*“God’s family working together to welcome all.”*

Attendance:

Kerry Melby- In person  
Jaimie Rudolph- In person  
Don Bender- In person  
Lisa Cook- In person  
Joe Jackowski- In person  
Amanda Bell- In person  
Mark Teslik- In person  
Pastor Jaime Benson- In person  
Geoff Gilbert- In person

1. Dwelling in the Word – Pr. Jaime
2. **Call to Order by Geoff Gilbert at 6:50 pm**
3. Prayer
4. Approval of the Agenda—**Motion made by Don Bender to approve the proposed agenda, second by Amanda Bell. Motion carried.**
5. Approval of Last Month’s Minutes – **Motion by Kerry Melby, second by Joe Jackowski to approve last month’s minutes as written. Motion carried.**
6. Pastor Report
7. Committee Reports
8. Approval of Committee Reports – **Motion by Joe Jackowski, second by Amanda Bell to approve committee reports. Motion carried.**
9. Old Business
  - a. Hwy sign repair – Joe will pull the sign designs to a power point to share at the annual meeting for vote.
  - b. Funding Forward – Kerry & Amanda – no meeting in December, Diana looking into having us listed as a place for campers to park overnight. No access to building, donation to church. Columbarium exploration continues, Amanda will share info at annual meeting.
  - c. Spaghetti Dinner – need cost, menu, time for advertising- Brad/Brian can do some cooking ahead of time. Pasta, meat sauce and tomato sauce, simple salad. Use Thrivent grants to help cover costs. Joli Guenther is organizing the talent show which is at 7 pm. Spaghetti dinner 4-6:30 p.m. Robin Kvalo organizing the auction—items need to be delivered to church by January 12. Cost agreed to via email- \$14 adult, \$8 children 12 and under.
  - d. 2025 Annual reports due to the office by January 5, 2026
10. New Business

- a. 2026 Budget—Pr. Jaime went through budget that was approved by Finance Committee and emailed out ahead of the meeting for review. There were two edits after checking costs that were very small.
    - i. **Don made a motion to approve the 2026 budget with the edits made, Jaimie second, motion carried.**
    - ii. **Jaimie also made a motion to use \$4000 of the undesignated memorial funds for the building sign repair in 2026 and to move designated undesignated memorial fund money to the long-term reserve fund and close that line out. Kerry made a second, motion carried.**
  - b. Approval of 2026 Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda – see attached
    - i. Should we add in need of a Treasurer to agenda? **Yes, add and make this #11. Geoff will share synopsis of the role and invite people to consider joining finance committee and share what that committee does as well.**
    - ii. Verify verbal presentation of the report section for the Annual meeting
    - iii. **Joe made motion to approve the annual meeting agenda with the edit to add Treasurer/Finance as #11. Lisa second, motion carried.**
  - c. Finance Committee 2026 - discussed need to continue the committee and once Treasurer is in place, they would take the lead of this committee and the meetings. In interim, Jaimie will book and continue monthly meetings to review financial reports.
  - d. Finalize roles /responsibilities for the Annual Meeting -- Agreement to move this to January council agenda due to time.
11. Adjourn— **Amanda made a motion to adjourn, Lisa second, motion carried and meeting ended at 8:45 p.m.**
12. Lord’s Prayer