Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes
February 17, 2026
6:30 pm

"God's family working together to welcome all."

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

1. Dwelling in the Word – Pr. Jaime
2. **Call to Order by Kerry Melby at 6:44 p.m.**
3. Prayer
4. Approval of the Agenda—**Motion made by Amanda Bell to approve the proposed agenda, second by Lisa Cook. Motion carried.**
5. Approval of Last Month's Minutes – **Motion by Joe Jackowski to approve minutes from last month, second by Amanda Bell, motion carried.**
6. Pastor Report
7. Committee Reports
8. Approval of Committee Reports – **Motion by Lisa Cook to approve committee reports, second by Joe Jackowski, motion carried.**
9. Old Business

   a. Funding Forward – Kerry & Amanda – Background shared on Funding Forward and update on work so far. Columbarium committee formed and met this week.

   b. Follow up from Bonnie Dixon presentation—Discussed and agreed council supports additional ways to grow and ensure Bethlehem thrives. Capacity to take on more is a difficulty given limited volunteers and difficulty across churches with this, not just at Bethlehem. Kerry/Pr Jaime shared some info from a breakout at the Lead conference. One activity was called Longings and Losses and Pr Jaime could lead this activity during a service and then invite people to talk more after worship as well.

   c. ADRC – domestic hunger grant – see Local and Global report, Lisa is working with Sue Lynch, Director of ADRC on next steps to apply for the ELCA's Domestic Hunger grant.

   d. Council Vacancies – two filled now with Jeff and Angela, total of nine on council.

   e. Treasurer vacancy – Pr Jaime will ask text study to see if we can check into seeing if another ELCA church might have a treasurer that could also serve us.

f. Highway sign- waiting for spring to have the company do the work. Designs are ready for a vote and could be shared in March for input/vote and with update as to why we are updating this sign vs. pursuing an electronic one.

g. Annual meeting follow-up – minutes attached. No changes.

10. New Business

a. Election of Officers – Discussed nominations. **Amanda Bell made a motion to the accept the officer positions as stated, President: Kerry Melby, Vice President: Lisa Cook, Secretary: Jaimie Rudolph. Joe Jackowski made a second, motion carried. Committee liaisons will remain.**

b. Statement regarding Dominican Republic Trip – Pastor Jaime will follow up with Kelly Jahoda directly, no letter going out to congregation.

c. Kaylin Kole service – see attachment – Discussed attachment and the potential of a service in May/June on Friday or Saturday evening. Agreement that having Kaylin leading a gathering at our church and sharing her vocal talent would be a positive for the community and Bethlehem. Pr Jaime will follow up with Kaylin on modifying what is shared. If Kaylin can make modifications, agreed June 6 is best date.

d. Host Math competition April 23rd & 28th – Pastor Jaime shared details. We will keep same amt of $75 fee to cover building use costs. **Lisa Cook made a motion to host the math competition on stated dates for cost of $75.00. Jeff Johnson second, motion carried.**

e. Immigrant Resources – Pastor Jaime has some resources from recent synod meeting. If interested on further meetings/additional info, reach out.

f. Follow up with members post annual meeting – Jaimie -- this was addressed in the topic f earlier.

g. Combined services and services away from church – Finance—Discussed various services that are in diff locations and sometimes with other churches. A Vanco drive or ongoing support of members learning/setting up online giving could help with negative financial impact.

h. Land rental cost – Finance -- Pr Jaime connected with Del

i. Columbia County Public Health – collecting Hygiene supplies the month of April. Seeking monetary donation or collect supplies.

j. Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for April 25th, there will also be a raffle, Robin Kvalo organizing that portion—March newsletter to advertise and ask for someone to organize the bake sale. Include working bake sale in the sign-ups. Amanda will get with Amy on sign up.

k. Council & Worship Assistants are in charge of providing food for March 11th soup supper. There is a link on our website to sign up, please do so. 20th building bday is February, so Jeff/Kerry will host coffee hour this Sunday. Jeff will bring some beverages, Lisa will figure out some decorations, Jaimie will make something to share as well.

11. Adjourn— **Joe Jackowski made a motion to adjourn, Amanda Bell second, motion carried and meeting ended at 8:52 p.m.**
12. Lord's Prayer