

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes
July 22, 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
Kory Anderson- resigned immediately
Lisa Cook- In person
Joe Jackowski- Absent with notification
Amanda Bell- In person
Mark Teslik- In person
Pastor Jaime Benson- Absent with notification
Geoff Gilbert- In person

1. Dwelling in the Word – Geoff Gilbert
2. **Call to Order by Geoff Gilbert at 6:49 p.m.**
3. Prayer
4. Approval of the Agenda—**Motion made by Mark to approve the proposed agenda, second by Lisa. Motion carried. *Note- during committee report review we added another agenda item for discussion and vote, see letter f.**
5. Approval of Last Month’s Minutes – **Motion by Kerry Melby to approve minutes from last month, second by Don Bender. Motion carried.**
6. Pastor Report
7. Committee Reports
8. Approval of Committee Reports – **Motion by Amanda Bell, second by Lisa Cook to approve committee reports. Motion carried.**
9. Old Business
 - a. Funding Forward by Steve McNeal
 - i. Steve reviewed the pre-read with council. His recommendation is to appoint a leader to drive the initiative and report to the council. He sees this as three parts—collaborations with the community that are tied to our mission, building & grounds, and stewardship. It’s not just money, but how you give--- need to build a team to grow and execute it. Steve advised that we might consider reviewing current activities/budget and what could we stop doing given the financial situation and our strategic goals/mission. We agreed to have the Funding Forward topic moved to next month to continue the conversation and discuss next steps when Pastor Jaime is also present.
 - ii. Kerry and Amanda will join the Synod Cohort and consider a third person if there’s interest. Steve said Diana Shebel from Finance Committee may be an

option, Kerry and Amanda will discuss with Pr Jaime as others may have expressed interest too.

- b. 2025 SCSW Fall Conference – more info available, see attachment
 - i. Some are interested and will attend.

10. New Business

- a. Taste of Portage August 22-23 – Kerry
 - i. Amanda and family will help Friday and come Saturday to do the takedown. Geoff will help Friday evening. Lisa can fill in some on Saturday, but is not sure what time yet. Amy will get something out to the congregation to fill any other spots needed. Kerry reviewed pricing further and did some checking into other prices and landed on \$4/slice, \$18/pie.
- b. Kory resigned from council due to conflicts with work & family schedules
- c. Council Vacancy – if you know of anyone that would fill this, bring back to council.
- d. Church Activity Planning Meeting August 18th at 6:30 pm
- e. Vaccine Clinic – O’Connell Pharmacy would like to have a fall clinic here. Please give Amy 3-4 suggested dates/times that would work, and O’Connell will see which one they can do. Suggest evening hours if we do this. Not a huge turnout last year with the morning hours.
 - i. The council is ok with this, but just need them to coordinate calendar for any conflicts with Amy. Lisa suggested they work with Amy on a Facebook post to more broadly advertise.
- f. ***Window replacement added to new business while discussing property report. Kerry Melby made a motion to approve \$650.00 estimate for replacement of a broken window in one of the Sunday School rooms. Amanda Bell made a second and the motion carried.**

11. Adjourn— **Amanda Bell made a motion to adjourn, Geoff Gilbert second, motion carried and meeting ended at 8:07 p.m.**

12. Lord’s Prayer