Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes
June 16, 2026
6:30 pm

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

Attendance:
Kerry Melby- Absent with notification
Jaimie Rudolph- In person
Lisa Cook- In person
Joe Jackowski- Absent with notification
Amanda Bell- In person
Mark Teslik- In person
Angela Pace- In person
Jeff Johnson- Absent without notification
Pastor Jaime Benson- In person

1. Dwelling in the Word – Pr. Jaime
2. **Call to Order by Lisa Cook at 6:58 p.m.**
3. Prayer
4. Approval of the Agenda—**Pr. Jaime had one add to new business, letter d. Motion made by Jaimie to approve the proposed agenda with the addition, second by Angela. Motion carried.**
5. Approval of Last Month's Minutes – **Motion by Jaimie, second by Amanda to approve last month's minutes as written. Motion carried.**
6. Pastor Report
7. Shut-in Visits- There is a screen shot below Pastor's report showing who has been visited or called on for the month of May. Lisa raised idea to help supplement visits with cards or other items people make and may want Pastor to take with her.
8. Committee Reports
9. Approval of Committee Reports – **Motion by Mark to approve the reports, second by Angela to approve committee reports. Motion carried.**
10. Old Business
    a. Love Our Neighbors – need info by the 20th for July Chimes- Lisa will send follow up email to Jeff.
    b. Columbarium - July 7 commission meeting, July 21 township meeting, we spent $400 for township work and a possible $100 still going to county engineer. After July 21 meeting forms will go to the county board for final approval.
    c. Water Schedule – volunteers have signed up until June 29th. Discussed low maintenance landscaping if volunteers aren't able to water, perennials are doing well, or potential for property committee to discuss drip lines in the future. Lisa will check with FAA and see if there's any volunteers in need of hours.
11. New Business
    a. ELCA Youth Gathering Fundraising - The following is sitting in designated accounts and could potentially be used for the trip. Email was sent to the interested families advising

them that a deposit is needed of $150 per person to register/hold their spot and that the remaining cost of the trip would be paid for with fundraising. Expectation is that kids participate in at least 3 of the fundraisers if not more. Taste of Portage proceeds will be split between youth gathering and church, tips go to youth. Pizza fundraiser is another event and discussion was already had on potentially taking orders at the Taste of Portage. Kerry/Jeff estimate $16K total cost if those 10 kids interested plus 3-4 adult chaperones went. Currently, only one has officially signed up. Council discussed use of funds. **Amanda made a motion to use funds from youth group and mission trip (total is $6,828.82) to go toward the 2027 youth gathering, Jaimie made a second, motion carried.**

i. Confirmation $2,225.08
ii. Youth Group $4,421.16
iii. Mission Trip $2,407.66
iv. Thrivent Choice $2,861.05
v. Grand total $11,914.95

b. Building Use Policy pertaining to political events – see attachment
    i. Discussed recent request to use our building on a Saturday for a non-partisan event and we turned it down given the current policy. They are now going to use Ho-Chunk, but it raised the question on how the policy is worded currently and that we lost out on funds. We discussed how the church building could be used in the future. **Amanda made a motion to modify our business use policy with this edit—"The church facilities may be considered for non-partisan civic engagement events." Mark made a second and the motion carried.**
c. Event Support— Church events need consistent support and event information to Amy and the congregation to go well. Moving forward, event write ups need to be done by the lead/volunteer, not given to Amy to write it. Amy can support and post online sign-ups, but the event lead should provide very specific details on what should be in the sign up with what/who/when, length of shift, etc.. so these can be created and shared. The event lead will also need to monitor the volunteer sign up for adequate help, and send any reminders needed and overall manage the organization of event. Volunteer slots need to be filled one month prior to the event date to avoid last minute scrambling that impacts those volunteering at most of these events. Leads should get advertising in the Chimes and/or on Facebook well ahead of events. Discussed this as an event scaffolding or check list to give to people so they know what is expected and can also better execute if they are leading/co-leading something. We have an event form already, but agreed it would be helpful to add these items to that and then ensure we get feedback from Amy on what else is needed so we can do events smoothly. Pr Jaime will upload the doc and Jaimie will add this checklist and share it out for input.
d. Worship at the Fair – Date was moved a week later than last year. August 2, 9:30 a.m. service and we wouldn't have a service that Sunday at church. Pastor Jaime will lead the service as Pr Dave did it last year. Good timing with community VBS finishing that week, could be a way to invite all the families/kids to church at the fair.

12. Adjourn— **Amanda made a motion to adjourn, Jaimie second, motion carried and meeting ended at 8:11 p.m.**

13. Lord’s Prayer