

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes
May 27, 2025
6:30 pm

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

Attendance:

Kerry Melby- In person
Jaimie Rudolph- In person
Kory Anderson- Absent with notification
Lisa Cook- In person
Joe Jackowski- Absent with notification
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 p.m.**
3. Prayer
4. Approval of the Agenda—**Motion made by Kerry Melby to approve the proposed agenda, second by Amanda Bell. Motion carried.**
5. Approval of Last Month’s Minutes – **Motion by Amanda Bell, second by Lisa Cook to approve last month’s minutes as written. Motion carried.**
6. Pastor Report
7. Committee Reports -- Amanda mentioned two-sided mirrored ornament type items to hang in areas you don’t want birds. Could be an inexpensive option to try under our entryway.
8. Approval of Committee Reports – **Motion by Kerry Melby, second by Jaimie Rudolph to approve committee reports. Motion carried.**
9. Old Business
 - a. Council Vacancy—Pastor Jaime will have Amy send email to nominating committee to try and recruit. We will have two vacancies next year, FYI. Nominating committee: Bonnie Dixon, Kelly Jahoda, Del Molden, Larry Sween, and Ann Ciske.
 - b. Brat Fest – fundraiser requires us to work 20 hours at a festival. Amanda looking into this for 2026 potentially.
10. New Business
 - a. Funding Forward by Steve McNeal- Janice Petersen also joined meeting.
 - i. Part One: #1 thing other congregations did that caused financial failure was not acting early enough—Funding Forward – see attached outline. Churches fall back on reducing staff or ministries to save money and that isn’t successful in the long run. Keep mission statement aligned to what your congregation is called to do. The greatest thing successful churches had in common was their connections with the community. Good to do community events, but those won’t get us the money

we need to meet our goals. Can burn out our resources. Shouldn't fall on the Pastor, this is something for lay people, council, to solve collectively.

ii. Page call outs from Steve:

Pg 6, paragraph 1, pg 137, pg 35 (would be good thing for council—inventory of our assets, our people are our assets, their gifts, etc), 147, and 166.

b. Taste of Portage – Aug 22-23—Brainstorming: Attach a list of upcoming events to a tie that goes around the fork/napkin. Label the pie container with events too? Use Amanda's square and have a cash line and credit line, add donation jar? Kerry will take lead; Amanda will take lead on Saturday. Discussed pricing for this year: \$5/slice, \$20-25/whole pie, will discuss and decide.

c. Synod Assembly Recap- Kerry shared handouts.

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

12. Lord's Prayer