Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes
May 19, 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
Angela Pace- In person
Jeff Johnson- In person
Pastor Jaime Benson- In person

1. Dwelling in the Word – Pr. Jaime
2. **Call to Order by Kerry Melby at 6:46 p.m.**
3. Prayer
4. Approval of the Agenda—**Motion made by Amanda to approve the proposed agenda, second by Joe with two adds, pancake breakfast in old business and land rental under new business. Motion carried.**
5. Approval of Last Month's Minutes – **Motion by Joe, second by Angie to approve last month's minutes as written.**
6. Pastor Report
7. Committee Reports
8. Approval of Committee Reports – **Motion by Lisa, second by Amanda to approve committee reports. Motion carried.**
9. Old Business
    a. Columbarium – Kerry- Approximately $13k donation to columbarium build because part of full donation goes to a niche, waiting to hear about the permit next steps so Kory and Del can attend the township planning and zoning meeting, then it goes to the county. Still estimating fall installation timeframe currently.
    b. Highway sign – Joe – Sign is updated and looks great!
    c. Frequency of volunteer heavy events – see updated attachment- need to modify the spaghetti dinner timeframe given annual report and year end wrap up that goes into January. Can use this as we go fwd to track and understand events and impact. Ranking considers the volunteer hours and the monetary outcome.
    d. Pancake breakfast outcome- Amanda will give written update on supplies and details to Amy. She used Thrivent grants to pay for food that wasn't donated and didn't have to add extra. Discussed feedback on starting it earlier in the day with a 7 a.m. start and need to consider timing coming off of Lenten suppers then Easter breakfast. No need for gluten-free next year, no one asked for them.

10. New Business
    a. Taste of Portage – August 28 & 29 – discussed allocating the profit for this event goes to youth trip and council was supportive, Kerry/Jeff are going to take lead and looking to have other events where the youth volunteer and then the proceeds go to the ELCA trip to MN in 2027.
    b. Plant/Flower Water Schedule- No schedule established. Note will be added to the chimes to ask for assistance. Bonnie did it last year, need to see if she can do it again this year. Jaimie will call her/ended up emailing with Amy and Amy put out electronic sign up like last year.
    c. Love Our Neighbors – Jeff is taking the lead, modifying to one day vs. week and selected Thursday, July 16. Tania offered to help as well.
    d. Members up for inactivity- Linda Grosklaus, Gerald Guenther, Chris Johnson, Carol Oh, Ruth Price, Pam Schilling, and Kathy Tofson. – With the exception of Gerald who has family attending, move these people to inactive, several have moved.
    e. Land rental—Farmer did not sign the contract or return it, but plowed field recently and sent a check for $1,960. The letter sent to him in February requested $150/acre and asked for half the fee to be paid before June 1, and the second half to be paid by Nov 1, total of $2,100. With the amt he paid, this is $140/acre, which is less than what we requested. This is more than previous amount he paid of $110/acre last year. Going rate in county is ~$225/acre. Discussed need to review and ensure communication is handled clearly and proactively for next year. Agreement said three years, but farmer did not sign it, nor pay the amount requested. This implies no mutual agreement. Discussed need to stay away from multi-year commitment and negotiating pricing without property committee review/approval, then council approval given it impacts budget and church property decisions, which all impact our financial plans. Joe will share this message back to the property committee.
11. Adjourn— **Amanda made a motion to adjourn, Joe second, motion carried and meeting ended at 8:15 p.m.**
12. Lord's Prayer