

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes
September 23, 2025
6:30 pm

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

Attendance:

Kerry Melby- In person
Jaimie Rudolph- Absent with notification
Lisa Cook- In person
Joe Jackowski- In person
Amanda Bell- In person
Mark Teslik- In person
Pastor Jaime Benson- In person
Geoff Gilbert- In person
Don Bender- In person

1. Dwelling in the Word – Pr. Jaime
2. **Call to Order by Geoff Gilbert at 6:51 p.m.**
3. Prayer
4. Approval of the Agenda—**Motion made by Amanda Bell to approve the proposed agenda, second by Joe Jackowski Motion carried.**
5. Approval of Last Month’s Minutes – **Motion by Joe Jackowski, second by Amanda Bell, motion carried to approve last month’s minutes as written.**
6. Pastor Report
7. Committee Reports
8. Approval of Committee Reports – **Motion by Amanda Bell, second by Joe Jackowski to approve committee reports. Motion carried.**
9. Old Business
 - a. BLC Funding Forward Cohort Team update- Kerry and Amanda joining churches from Wisconsin Dells, Stoughton, and Madison
 - b. Door Monitor job description - see attached
 - c. In the event Pastor is not here for worship instructions posted in AV room
 - d. Financial sustainability - discussion in new business
10. New Business
 - a. Host Site for Clergy Training- November 6th -

Pr Jaime emailed information for the host site and council members all voted yes to be the host site. Details for reference:

As a host site you would need space for up to 50 people and have the technological capacity to share a Zoom gathering in the morning as well as be able to play pre-recorded videos. The course will be a combination of a live Zoom worship, large group learning, and small group discussion time. Space for participants to gather around tables for the small group discussion time is preferred. The space where participants watch the videos can be different from the space where the discussion happens (meaning, if your best tech-equipped space is your sanctuary and participants would need to move to a different room for discussion, that's all right). In addition, host sites would be asked to provide a

hospitality team and help plan for lunch and refreshments. The cost of lunch and refreshments would be reimbursed and/or covered by the synod and region.

We have the technological capabilities and the space to cover what is needed for the training. I have already asked and confirmed that our funeral luncheon team would be willing to cover coordinating the lunch for the day.

b. Trivia night fundraiser for trip to Dominican Republic - Lisa Cook will speak to group about taking Bethlehem Lutheran out of the advertising for the event.

c. Letter from the treasurer about financial sustainability-see attached-please see Pastor Jaime's report in response to the letter.

-council will give finance committee guidelines for financial information given to the congregation including budgeted income versus actual income and budgeted monthly expenses versus actual expenses

-Amanda Bell created a letter for the congregation discussing our church financial standing, including information on Bethlehems participation in the synod sponsored Funding Forward cohort which looks for alternative funding for churches

11. Adjourn— **Kerry Melby made a motion to adjourn, Lisa Cook second, motion carried and meeting ended at 8:30 p.m.**

12. Lord's Prayer