

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes
January 20, 2026
6:30 pm

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

Attendance:

Kerry Melby - in person
Jaimie Rudolph - absent with notice
Don Bender-in person
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

1. Dwelling in the Word-Pastor Jaime
- 2. Call to Order by Geoff Gilbert at 7:08 pm**
3. Prayer
4. Approval of the Agenda: **motion made to approve by Joe Jackowski second by Lisa Cook. Motion carried**
5. Approval of Last Month’s Minutes:**Motion made to approve with correction of Jolie to Joli by Lisa Cook 2nd by Amanda Bell. Motion carried**
6. Pastor Report
7. Committee Reports
8. Approval of Committee Reports: **Motion made to approve by Amanda Bell 2nd by Lisa Cook. Motion carried.**
9. Old Business
 - a. Funding Forward – Kerry & Amanda
Amanda created slides for presentation on Funding Forward at the annual meeting. Slides will address a summary of work so far on three ideas, and frequently asked questions. Kerry has been in contact with the county planning and zoning committee to investigate what may need to be done as far as notifications and permits moving forward for installing a collumbarum.
 - b. Finalize roles/responsibilities for the Annual Meeting
 1. Checking in voting members: Kerry Melby and Lisa Cook
 2. Ballot counter: Dylan Bell and one other
 3. Jaimie Rudolph will take notes
10. New Business
 - a. Assistance for Pastor Jaime – Bonnie Dixon addressed the council and expressed her wishes to increase assistance to Pastor by looking at possibly creating a position on youth leadership or adult visitation. She also expressed a desire for church services to vary in the service energy and complimented Pastor Jaime on what she has brought to our church so far. She felt more

time and talent is needed from every member to help us move forward as a growing congregation.

b. Continued fundraising of air handlers – Joe – see attachment

Joe went over his presentation for the annual meeting asking for thoughts on how to present a 3 year visual showing how much money is still needed for our airhandlers.

c. Pancake Breakfast Feb.28 - after discussion, a decision was made to move the breakfast to a later, warmer date. This will be decided at the planning meeting on February 3 at 6:30.

d. Follow-up of Spaghetti/Show/Auction - About 47 meals were served making around \$800 with \$200 more coming in Sunday morning from donations for extra spaghetti, sauce, bread, and greens. The auction brought in \$1000 and the actual grand total for the evening was **\$2148**.

i. Amy in the office would like this event held a different month if we are to have this again. January is extremely busy with all things Annual. Also, we need better communication of events.

*Discussion was around moving this dinner to the fall.

e. ADRC – see attachment as well – “I had reached out to Lisa about the possibility of the ADRC and our Elder (Senior) Nutrition Program and BLC partnering in applying for a domestic hunger grant. Our nutrition program provides home-delivered meals to our most vulnerable older adults as well as congregate dining opportunities in four areas of our county. We have partnering relationships with a few BLC members, including Brad Cook (chair of the Health and Human Services board and volunteer driver with home-delivered meals, Lisa, and also Tania Anderson. Domestic Hunger Grants

I’ll stop here to see if there is any interest and if so, maybe we can try to meet to talk more!

Thank you,

Sue Lynch, MSSW, APSW

Director - Aging and Disability Resource Center of Columbia County

Motion to pursue partnership with ADRC in procuring a grant made by Pastor Jaime with second by Don Bender. Motion carried.

f. Continue communion cards in the pews or move to a sign-up method in the narthex? If we continue using the cards, help is needed keeping the pews stocked. The acolytes are not doing stocking & the confirmation class has been hit or miss if they have time to do it.

-council would like to continue using communion cards and look into having Jerry replace them in pews when needed.

g. Activity Planning meeting is February 3rd at 6:30

h. Council vacancies - no candidates for the three openings have come forward.

I. Amanda Bell is planning a youth tubing event at Cascade Mountain. This will be open to confirmation and Sunday School students and their family and friends. Date to be decided.