Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Meeting

8/19/25

CALL TO ORDER President Gail Goldsmith

OPENING PRAYER Tina Dohm

QUORUM CALL President Gail Goldsmith, Jana Rockne (acting secretary), Denice Bossardet, Tina Dohm, Pastor Paul Busekist, Jim Monroe (Financial Secretary present via Zoom), Dave Peppler (Treasurer), Bethany Uhl, Doug Cunningham, Maureen Bauer and John Halstead were present. Nancy Pflasterer was absent (excused)

CONGREGATIONAL AND VISITOR COMMENTS: None

ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA Gail requested an addition to the agenda under Newt Business, to include a discussion of the installation of teachers and council members (letter E).

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES Maureen moved, motion passed to approve the minutes from July 15, 2025.

REPORTS: Please refer to the written reports provided by Financial Secretary Jim Monroe and Treasurer Dave Peppler. Pastor Paul provided a verbal report. All three reviewed their reports. Dave asked for clarification on how undesignated gifts to the church are allocated which will be discussed.

Committee Reports: Please refer to the written reports filed as indicated below

A. Christian Care (No report)
B. Christian Education/Youth (Report)
C. Fellowship (Report)
D. Membership/Evangelism (No Report)
E. Personnel (Report)
F. Property (Report)
G. Stewardship (No report)
H. Worship/Music (No report)

URGENT BUSINESS

A. Bethany made a motion, which was seconded, as follows: BLC will engage with Keen Technical Solutions, LLC for an analysis of the BLC infrastructure for $33,000. This should include their input on the basement project for the high-water problem. This will be funded from the general fund money market account (all $33,000). Motion passed.
B. What to do about Ayers? A discussion was held about the lack of progress with Ayers in the basement remediation. It has been 6 months since there has been any service from them. Jana made the following motion, which was seconded: Gail will write a letter of inquiry on behalf of BLC to Ayers, stating they have 21 days to respond with their intent to complete the project in the BLC basement. After discussion, the motion passed. Additionally, a small group of people (Bethany, Gail and Doug) met with FSM regarding basement remediation (water seepage). They will submit a proposal.
C. Refinance mortgage to do repairs in the church basement and infrastructure. Look at having a special congregational meeting. Jim discussed the current mortgage and

refinancing to pay for capitol projects at the church. Jim has started a conversation with Thrivent regarding funding such a project. It was requested that local financial institutions also be contacted so comparisons on interest and cost of the loan can be explored. There was discussion about have a congregational meeting to discuss the needs of the church repairs. This informational congregational meeting (which will not include a vote on any projects or funding) is scheduled for October 12, 2025.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. 2026 Budget: Dave discussed the preparation for the 2026 budget and has offered to conduct an informational meeting at 5:30 prior to our September 16, 2025 council meeting, to explain the budget and the budgeting process. He also offered to work with council members who need his assistance in preparing their budgets for 2026.
B. Begin Stewardship Campaign. A meeting will be set up with Bethany, Pastor Paul, Mark McPherson and Scott Farley to assist Bethany in the stewardship process for the fall.
C. Create a committee to host the Fall Theological Event at BLC on October 19-21, 2025. Gail questioned Pastor Paul as to whether we have any additional information on what the needs of the church will be for hosting this event. Peggy, Gail and Bethany all said they would help. Gail will also ask for additional volunteers.
D. Safety and Security, Signage and Stenciling on doors: Jana reported that signs have been ordered to be placed on outside doors, indicating the doors are kept locked at all times. Jana has not pursued an estimate for stenciling on the front doors yet. Maureen asked Tina to check with one of her contacts about getting a quote to paint the front doors, inside and out, frame and kitchen door.
E. Council and Teacher Installation: This has been scheduled for 9/21/25 during the service.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. All-Flo Plumbing. Doug provided a written report and reviewed the work completed, as well as additional work to be done.
B. Good Samaritan fund drive update: Jana and Maureen reported that (per Phil) the 2025 Good Samaritan Fund Drive has raised $4,688, with more money coming in. The current balance at the bank in this fund is $6,365.33. A review of how funds have been allocated for 2024-25 is needed from Pastor Paul.
C. Bids for cleaning and waxing linoleum floors in Fellowship Hall and bathrooms: Doug provided a review of the bids submitted (one from our current cleaning company, Happy Guy Cleaning for $2,250 and one from Hoop's Handy Man Service for $1,608). Maureen made the following motion, it was seconded: BLC will accept the bid submitted by Hoop's Handy Man Service for re-finishing the floors. Motion passed.
D. Prince of Egypt concession funds to go to the Good Samaritan Funds. This was discussed. Because the Good Samaritan Fund Drive has been so successful, it was recommended the proceeds from the Prince of Egypt concessions be distributed as follows: 1st night – Youth program; 2nd night – Sabbatical Fund; 3rd night – BLC food pantry.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: Each council member was given an opportunity to comment or share information.

LORD'S PRAYER: Said by all.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Jana Rockne, Acting Council Secretary