

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes**  
**February 15, 2024**

Present: Kerry Melby, Geoff Gilbert, Kory Anderson, Jaimie Rudolph, Lisa Cook, Brian Conner, Bonnie Dixon, Amanda Bell, Pr. Jaime Benson

Absent with notice: Mark Teslik

1. Dwelling in the Word – Pr. Jaime
2. Call to Order at 6:29 p.m. by Kerry Melby
3. Prayer
4. Approval of the Agenda – Edit to Paulsen family attending Synod Assembly and moved Megan Jahoda’s request to the beginning of the meeting. Geoff made motion to approve agenda with edits discussed, Jaimie second, motion carried.
5. Approval of Last Month’s Minutes -- Kory made motion to approve, second by Bonnie, motion carried.
6. Pastor Report
7. Committee Reports
8. Approval of Committee Reports – Motion made by Amanda to approve, second by Lisa, motion carried.
9. Old Business
  - a. Council Devotionals – read and discussed Luke 10:1-13 again, but in pairs, then large group share out. Agreed to do format again next month and allow new council members to see how it goes a second time and determine what we want to do moving forward.
  - b. Annual Meeting Minutes review – edits to spelling of names and update already made that Jeff Melby and Amy Koziczkowski did the vote counts. Updated minutes sent to the office.
  - c. Networking Bids status – one bid at \$9200 includes electronic door capabilities and update of network throughout the building and set up ready for a digital sign that could be updated from the office via Wi-Fi. Second bid coming, then these will be reviewed to determine next steps.
10. New Business
  - a. Megan Jahoda – questions regarding the Youth Mission Trip account— Church youth hold a bible study each Wednesday at Portage High School. FCA (Fellowship for Christian Athletes) leader, Jaden has helped with this and does so even though it isn’t in her area. Megan helps as well, but the kids are leading this and inviting others to join. Megan asked if \$200 from the remaining mission trip funds could be given to pay for some of the bible study resources/books that are used. Discussion that council previously voted and won’t support FCA due to differing beliefs than ELCA, but agreement this isn’t for FCA, but for resources for our high school youth. Discussion on consulting treasurer for appropriate fund to take the money from given this isn’t for the mission trip. Lisa made a motion to approve giving \$200 to Megan to use for bible study resources for the youth from fund treasurer names, second by Geoff, motion carried. Jaimie emailed Jerry and Steve to find out what fund to use. February 19, Monday, Jerry Saalsa responded and advised to use the youth designated fund.  
Additional discussion about ELCA study guides/materials that could help support facilitation of bible study—Lead conference this coming weekend, if attendees get more information on resources, they will share that back.

b. Council Officer Election— Motion made by Kory to elect Kerry as President, Brian as Vice-President, and Jaimie as secretary. Second by Geoff, motion carried. Geoff will be liaison to Local & Global, Lisa continues as liaison to Stewardship, Jaimie continues as liaison to Finance.

c. Photos of Bonnie, Brian, Mark and Amanda are needed – Brian took photos of everyone.

d. Darkness to Light Stewards of Children training—Lisa shared an overview of a recent training she went through as part of her mentorship role. She asked that we consider offering this to the teachers/church staff that interact with children.

e. Synod Assembly – Matt & Amy Paulsen, adult representatives, Luke and Riley as youth representatives. Brian made motion to accept these four as our church representatives at the Synod Assembly and to pay for them. Second by Amanda, motion carried.

f. Audit Committee – will review in March, allowing new church treasurer to transition.

11. Adjourn – motion made to adjourn by Lisa, second by Brian, motion carried. Meeting ended 8:09 p.m.

12. Lord's Prayer