

**Bethany Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2025**

Present: Patty Fess, Ron Fischer, Jane Nelson, Randy Nelson, Barb Olson, Nancy Steinke, Karen Stout

Guests: Lori Free, Debbie Fischer

President Jane Nelson opened the meeting with prayer at 11:08 AM.

Discussion with Guest Lori Free

Discussed having two organ dedication events. The first would be during July 6 church service with visiting pastor Bishop Anne Edison-Albright, and the second could be a late afternoon community event that would occur midweek. This event would include Lori and another organist, and opportunity for those attending to sing along to some songs. A reception would follow. Patty and Deb will work with Lori to help organize the details, theme, food and beverages, and advertising of the event.

Secretary's Report

Patty moved to accept the Council Meeting Minutes dated October 16, 2024: Jane seconded and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ron Fischer presented the financials as of April 30, 2025. Bethany's total current assets in checking, savings, money market and CD's is \$309,140. The Bethany Heritage Endowment Fund has \$896,858 and the Bethany Property Preservation Fund has \$1,034,465. General contributions received in 2025 totaled \$4,000 and there was a \$9,337 contribution towards the vestry addition. Total expenses through April, 2025 were \$6,701. Nancy moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; Randy seconded and the motion passed.

Property Report

Randy Nelson presented a report.

1. During the winter, a well was made.
2. Three shades in the sanctuary were taken down to be cleaned.
3. A dead ash tree was taken down.
4. Two bids were obtained for restuffing and recovering of pew cushions.
5. Portside Builders are drawing up plans and an estimate for the restoration of the parsonage porch.

Old Business

Headstone Cleaning:

The spring date for headstone cleaning will be Friday, June 27.

Friday Fellowship:

We will offer Friday Fellowship time on the last Friday of the month, following the model set last year, with the organ dedication and reception in July taking the place of July's Friday Fellowship. A host is needed for June 27, Jane and Randy Nelson will host August 29, and a host is needed for September 26.

New Business

Liturgy Committee: A new committee was formed of Nancy, Karen, and Deb to provide some options to the Council with the goal of finding meaningful, thought-provoking liturgy alternates

being available for some services; the committee will seek input from at least two of our visiting pastors.

Ministry with Door of Life Food Pantry: Patty visited Door of Life and proposed BLC add this to our ministries. Members and visitors would be invited to bring non-perishable items to church on Sundays or directly to Door of Life. We will also look for a volunteer to take food that is left at church to the food pantry as needed.

Fund Raising for Building Addition:

If the proposed vestry building addition is approved at the Annual Meeting, funds will need to be raised, and awareness of need/progress to the congregation and community will be helpful. Discussed ideas of making a thermometer-type sign for outside, and use of Christmas cards picturing Bethany as a possible fund-raiser. Discussed the process of taking pledges and unrestricted donations.

Election Year for Trustees: All Council members will be up in July; Barb would like to step down. All other trustees would be willing to serve another term. We will seek members to fill openings on the Council.

Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting will be held July 20, 2025 following the service. We will need a Proxy Vote Form. Barb agreed to hand out ballots at the meeting. Wording for the vote ballot of the proposed Vestry Addition was presented by Ron and Patty.

Date of Next Meeting

July 10, 2025, at 9:00am at Nancy's house (9738 Maple Leaf Drive, Ephraim).

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Stout, council secretary