

Bethany Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2025

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

President Jane Nelson opened the meeting with prayer at 9:15 AM.

Secretary's Report

Patty moved to accept the Council Meeting Minutes dated May 27, 2025: Jane seconded and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ron Fischer presented the financials as of July 1, 2025. Bethany's total current assets in checking, savings, money market and CD's is \$288,357. Within that figure are funds which include donations and the Boldt Gift and the annual withdrawal from The Bethany Property Preservation Fund totaling 186,587, which could become funds used towards the vestry addition, if approved by congregational vote at Annual Meeting.

Property Report

Randy Nelson presented a report.

1. A new thermostat was installed in the church.
2. A third estimate was obtained for new padding and reupholstering the two chairs and pew cushions. The Council voted to accept the work to be done by Steve Graf, who lives in Sturgeon Bay. Fabric samples were provided and will be compared to the sanctuary carpeting to determine the best color.
3. Portside Builders gave drawings and plans for the restoration of the parsonage porch; the estimate for this project is \$40,000 because of the footings that are required. An intermediate step might be to cover the porch ceiling with beadboard.

Old Business

Review and clarification of the EHF/Bethany Endowment Fund: The specific wording of the fund was reviewed and discussed. Within the range of earnings that must be taken annually (3-7%), an average of the past three years' earnings will be determined to guide the annual withdrawal.

New Business

Liturgy Committee: The Liturgy committee (Nancy, Karen, and Deb Fischer) met and is working to provide an alternative to the current service liturgy which is used every week. The committee is seeking input from two of our visiting pastors. Also discussed communion format and using grape juice instead of wine.

Bethany Property and Preservation Fund: The committee is working on creating a document to guide the use of the gift from Sue Christenson.

Organ Dedication and Concert: "A Joyful Noise" Concert will be held on August 13 from 6:00-7:00 pm. Lori is working on the selections, and appetizers and desserts will be catered by Alexanders. Water, lemonade, and rose wine will be on hand outside the church after the concert.

Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting will be held July 20, 2025 following the service. Barb

agreed to hand out ballots at the meeting. Discussed the handling of proxy votes, and having two ballot counters (Nanc Jordan and Chris Stout). Discussed definitions of pledges and donations, as well as how to raise community awareness if the congregational vote approves the vestry addition.

Date of Next Meeting

October 29, 2025, at 10:00am at the parsonage.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 PM. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Stout, council secretary