

Bethany Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2025

Present Council Members: President-Jane Nelson, Treasurer: Ron Fischer, Secretary: Karen Stout, Trustees: Patty Fess, Randy Nelson, Barbara Olson.

Past President: Joann Kilgus

Music Director: Lori Free

Congregation Members: Dick Christensen, Deb Fischer, Heidi Free Champeau, Skyler Champeau, Kevin Free, Lori Free, Nancy Jordan, Wally Kilgus, Jim Marotz, Su Marotz, Carol Stoelting, Paul Stoelting, Chris Stout, Shirley Halloran, Charles Brems, James Hillyer, Michael Wegner.

Visitors: Thor and Darlene Jondahl.

Meeting called to order by President Jane Nelson at 10:53

Secretary's Report: Secretary Karen Stout presented the Annual Meeting Minutes dated July 14, 2024. Jim Marotz made a motion to approve the minutes, Chris Stout seconded. The minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Ron Fischer thanked Nancy Jordan for her work as bookkeeper, money counter, and for managing the mail. Ron reviewed the finances as of June 30, 2025. The Balance Sheet shows Assets of \$291,027., with \$186,000 available toward the building project. This year, \$24,600 was taken out of Bethany Heritage Endowment Fund earnings and used for maintenance. In 2025, \$50,000 from Bethany Property Preservation Fund was put into a CD and earmarked for the building addition. The goal of this Fund is for it to continue to grow into the future. Ron also reviewed the Profit and Loss Statement showing Expenses of \$7392.39, Benevolences of \$13,000.00 and Income of \$94,359.26. Paul Stoelting made a motion to approve the financial report, Carol Stoelting seconded, and the motion carried.

President's Report: President Jane Nelson thanked the congregation for the honor of being the president for six years. Jane thanked the Council members; Deb Fischer for securing our visiting pastors; Nancy Jordan for bookkeeping; our music director Lori Free; usher and reader volunteers; and special thanks to the Building Committee members Randy Nelson, Paul and Carol Stoelting; and Christina Mooney, and (posthumously) Chuck Pearson and Jim Schwengel.

Membership Report: Number of members - 128 (12 new members accepted since July 14, 2025)

Number of addresses on Bethany email - 129

Number of deaths since the last Annual Meeting - 6: Jim Schwengel, Jan and Jim Johnson, Carole Sunstrom, Rev Martin and Lola Ruge

Buildings and Grounds: Randy Nelson reported on two major improvements since the last Annual Meeting:

1. A well was dug.
 2. The thermostat in the church was replaced.
- Future projects that are being considered:
1. Beadboard on ceiling of parsonage porch.
 2. Restoring the parsonage porch to the original.

3. Recover pew cushions.

Old Business: None

New Business

Election of Officers & Trustees: The following ballot was presented:

Patty Fess, president

Ron Fischer, treasurer

Karen Stout, secretary

Chuck Brems, trustee

Jane Nelson, trustee

Randy Nelson, trustee

Barb Olson, trustee

Nancy Steinke, trustee

Jim Marotz made a motion to accept the ballot, Shirley Halloran seconded, and the motion passed.

Patty Fess told the congregation that she will be excited to serve as president, and thanked Jane for her hard work on the cemetery (including mapping out the plots and cleaning the headstones), exploring and inspiring the idea of an auxiliary building/addition to the church, refurbishing the parsonage, being a key person in the choosing of a new organ, spearheading/putting together a reusable bulletin for worship, organizing the council members and communication via a rack in the vestry.

Announcement: Patty Fess reported on meeting with the Ephraim Heritage Foundation Board, which is willing to financially support the proposed building addition with \$100,000.00. Patty said, "We are steeped in history and it's an honor to partner with the Ephraim Historical Foundation."

Resolution to Approve Vestry Addition: A motion was made by Randy Nelson "to approve or not approve the resolution of the vestry addition," Joann Kilgus seconded, and the motion passed to vote. Ballots were collected and counted, with 53 in favor, 3 opposed, and the motion passed to approve the vestry addition. Ron reported that \$286,000 of the \$450,000 is available, but \$164,000 is needed to be collected in donations or pledges. A pledge form will be made and sent out by email.

Adjournment: The next Annual Meeting will be held in July, 2026. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned following the Lord's Prayer at 11:32am.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Stout, Council Secretary