

**Bethany Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
October 29, 2025**

Present: Patty Fess, Ron Fischer, Jane Nelson, Randy Nelson, Barb Olson, Nancy Steinke, Karen Stout, and Chuck Brems (by phone).

President Patty Fess opened the meeting with prayer at 10:25 AM.

Secretary's Report

Jane moved to accept the Council Meeting Minutes dated July 10, 2025: Nancy seconded and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ron Fischer presented the financials as of September 30, 2025. Bethany's total current assets in checking, savings and money market is \$429,777. The balance in the Bethany Heritage Endowment Fund is \$964,760 and the Bethany Property Preservation Fund balance is \$1,170,867. General contributions through offerings in 2025 is \$33,004. Expenses through September were \$67,662, which included \$34,823 for storm damage. These expenses were offset by a withdrawal of \$24,692 from the Bethany Heritage Endowment Fund used for property maintenance. \$370,844 has been raised for the vestry addition, which includes funds designated for the addition, donations received in 2024 and 2025 and pledges. Ron made a motion to close the Nicolet Bank endowment checking account and move funds to Operations; Nancy seconded, and the motion passed. Nancy moved to accept the Treasurer's Report: Barb seconded and the motion passed.

Property Report

Randy Nelson presented a report.

1. A new faucet was put in the kitchen.
2. A leaky toilet was fixed.
3. The down payment was paid on the pew cushions, to be covered and re-stuffed this winter.
4. Trees had to be cleared and removed from power lines. Stumps were removed or grinded, with one large one remaining and will be removed with bigger equipment.
5. Patio chair was replaced.
6. Sanctuary shades are still in process of being cleaned.

Old Business

Liturgy Committee: The Liturgy committee (Nancy, Karen, and Deb Fischer) provided an alternative to the current service liturgy, with the recommendation to use it once/month. Ron made a motion to use the proposed service on the first Sunday of the month; it was seconded by Barb, and the motion passed.

Addition: Chuck made a motion for The Bethany Council to approve the design change from Portside Builders with a lowered roofline and aluminum clad wood windows to be more compliant with Secretary of Interior standards; Randy seconded and the motion passed. Ron made a motion: The Bethany Council acknowledges the approved design change with the lowered roofline falls under "immaterial changes" in the Resolution to Approve Vestry Addition

(approved at July 20, 2025 Annual Meeting); Jane seconded, and the motion passed.

New Business

Pastors: Patty sought out feedback regarding pastors and next year's scheduling.

Taglines: There was a discussion on including taglines in ads and on the outdoor sign: Patty will include these ideas in an email to the congregation and get reactions from others.

Gift Policy: The policy for gifting of personal property to BLC and parsonage was reviewed; Karen made a motion to pass on the sculpture offered due to a conflict with #2 of the policy guidelines; Jane seconded, and the motion carried.

Cemetery: Jane provided an update on the Cemetery, including a change in the path distance between a row of plots being changed to match the path across from it. Randy made a motion to move cemetery plot payments currently from Bethany Heritage Endowment Fund to Operations; Nancy seconded, and the motion passed. Jane made a motion to move undesignated memorials from Bethany Heritage Endowment Fund to Operations; Randy seconded, and the motion passed.

Music Director: Patty gave an update on the Music Director. Ron made a motion to raise the Music Director's salary by \$25 /week because no raise was given last year, and to give a bonus because of all the work and time given to the new organ and the program of organ dedication; Barb seconded, and the motion passed.

Housekeeper: Nancy made a motion to give a \$5/hour raise to the Housekeeper because no raise was given last year; Jane seconded and the motion passed.

Possible construction in spring: There was a discussion about storage of property during construction and necessary steps to be able to have services during construction if construction should begin next spring.

Gathering Ground: Jane spoke of Gathering Ground, a non-profit farm on Washington Island which provides fresh produce to DC food pantries, and suggested Bethany consider adding it to the annual benevolences.

Benevolences

The following benevolences were decided on for annual gifts, totalling \$13,000.00:

Door of Life Christian Church (food pantry) \$750

ELCA Central Synod of Wisconsin \$750

ELCA Fund for Leaders \$300

ELCA World Hunger- \$1750

Ephraim Fire Fighters Association \$500

Gibraltar Area School \$500

Gathering Ground \$500

Help of Door County \$1300

Kononia Kupboard \$750

Lutheran Disaster Response \$500

Lutheran Social Services of WI and UP \$750

Lutheran World Relief \$1700

Neighbor to Neighbor \$300

Northern Door Children's Center \$1500

Secret Santa \$750

Veteran's Service Council \$400

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held following a work time on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 11:00 at the church to get it ready for services, and then continuing on to the parsonage at 12:00 noon.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:18 PM. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Stout, council secretary