

Bethany Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes

May 11th, 2026

Meeting Attendees: Pastor Chad Whaley, Dale Swenson, Heidi Christensen, Nancy Bruns, Jessica Fonseca, Al Beyer, Cheryl Boerjan & Darla Crosthwaite.

Absent: Pat Cassabaum, & Curt Casper

Opened with a prayer.

Call to Order:

Pastor's Report: (Chad)

Joys and Thanksgivings

- Worship Attendance, children, choir
- Council support of possible Sabbatical
- AV equipment operational again Thanks to the Dorothy Holmes memorial and Richard Madsen memorial for helping us continue to upgrade and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ beyond the walls of our building!
- Faith Formation Teachers As the semester has concluded, thank you to Kristin McElhinney and Amber and Scott Marsh for their faithful ministry of teaching God's children about the love of Jesus for them!
- Quilters See photo of quilts made and donated to Sleep in Heavenly Peace so kids that don't have beds now do.
- Grounds Crew Thanks to all who helped care for the grounds after winter and make the outdoor space look nice and inviting!

Pastoral Happenings

- 17 visits
 - Wednesday Faith Formation Year concluded with a pizza party, games, and prayer.
 - Men's Bible Study Continue to study and discuss the upcoming gospel lesson
 - Technology Worked with White Dove Electronics to diagnose issues
 - Appears may be due to lightning strike
 - Funeral of Kent Kaeser Thank you to all who assisted! ☐ Kitchen staff, choir, altar care, streaming the service, etc.
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- ELCA Insurance Online Meeting Joined by Jon Twing; Dave Bahnsen also attended
 - ELCA Online Meeting – Nurturing Participation
 - Online Educational Opportunity on the book *The Invitational Christian* 3 session series

- Dave Bahnsen also attended
 - Offering through the Southeastern Iowa Synod but other synods represented too
 - Faith Forward Meeting Discuss survey results and determine future action points
 - Normal administrative duties, worship and sermon preparation, etc.
- Sabbatical Prepare an initial “Sabbatical Policy” to be finalized with a committee upon formation
- Researched possible ideas for time away
- Worked to identify members for a committee (1 confirmed)

Prayer

Upcoming

Synod Assembly – May 15 & 16 Voting Delegates: Paula Casper and Dave Bahnsen

High School Senior Recognition Sunday – May 17

Secretary Report: (Darla) Pastor Chad has some clarifications, motion to accept with modifications Heidi/AL.

Treasurer Report: (Nancy) Motion to approve Cheryl/ Jessica.

Buildings & Ground: (Curt) Absent It was mentioned there is an estimate for the bell tower paint.

Education & Youth: (Jessica & Al) Pond party June 14th instead of the pool party. Roast hot dogs & fish at Bonnie’s pond. Working on Hooverfest parade float & vacation bible school and 4 senior baskets.

Evangelism & Missions: (Darla) Checked into the donations for the 3 West Branch seniors in need, discussed with Pastor Chad about a booth for June summer kick-off on main street,(this may not evolve), asked Pastor Chad to edit & approve the new Facebook Live Camera instructions, had a subcommittee meeting with Education & Youth to tag team on Hooverfest float, working on subcommittee members for God’s Work, our Hands.

Fellowship: (Pat) Absent-Continue to look for volunteers for fellowship.

Stewardship: (Cheryl) Working with Pastor & Claudia to explore options for giving to Bethany and have reached out to ELCA for guidance & recommendations to document a gift policy for our congregation. Checked with Synod also. Cheryl discussed the gift policy rules & regulations. Working on food pantry list & needs, & blood drive. Propose a financial board & pursue a gift policy -motion was made by Jessica & 2nd by AL.

Worship & Music: (Heidi) Nothing at this time. Working on holy week.

Old Business: Update on Dave- Executive committee to meet after council meeting & discuss questions on report to be submitted to the Southeastern Iowa Synod as he is applying for candidacy to rostered ministry.

Discussed council members being on the websites.

New Business: Technology-Darla discussed finding someone that is good with IT to be a first reference to call with issues with the FB live camera, laptop, etc. Tabled to council members to think about this and discuss at a future meeting. Darla is checking with the high school if they have someone to possibly help for the summer but will depend on what direction the council wants to go with providing silver cord hours, donating their time, or hourly pay.

Meeting adjoured: Cheryl moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm Hiedi Seconded. Motion approved.

Closure of meeting with the Lord's prayer.

Next Council Meeting: June 8th, 2026 6:30pm