

	<p>Council Meeting Date: 02/11/2026 Start: 7:00 pm Adjourned: 8:40 pm</p>	<p>Next Meetings: Exec Committee: Thursday 03/06/26 7:00PM Council: Wednesday 03/11/25 7:00PM</p> <p>Attendees: Pastor Dave, Jennifer Lafollete, Cherie Lauck, Lynda Grymala, Matt Lyman, Rene Hollebrandse, Mel Siebert, Shari Fletcher, Rob Cutler, Shawn Garner</p>	
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Topic	Topic Details	Responsible	Discussion / Actions	Goal for completion
Call to Order Opening Prayer		Jennifer Rene	Rene read a prayer from Martin Luther.	
Approval of Agenda	Additions / Changes	Jennifer	Approved by acclamation	
Consent Agenda	January Minutes Staff Reports Pastor Report	Jennifer	Approved by acclamation	
Pastor Update		PD	PD has told the confirmands that Confirmation moved up one week to May 17. An overnight has been scheduled with confirmands. He recommended that we start thinking about VBS, since he and Heidi have been leading it for the last few years. He suggested that we ask LeeAnne for her thoughts.	

Recurring items

Financial Report	January	Shawn	<p>The January report was approved unanimously. January ended negatively, with income \$6,875 below expenses. The snowstorm that prevented in-person worship at the end of the month probably contributed to lower than expected giving in January.</p> <p>Shawn presented the 2025 Bank Accounts Audits spreadsheet (not a paid audit) to reconcile bank account balances with Quick Books reporting as requested at the January Council meeting. A good deal of the difference between the loss reported at the January meeting and the actual account</p>	
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			<p>balances is due to timing; money received in 2024 but spent in 2025.</p> <p>The transition from Quick Books to Simplify (by Quicken) is progressing. This will improve reporting and allow for simpler reconciliation with our bank accounts. Bethel's accounting will be on a cash basis rather than accrual basis when Simplify is fully implemented.</p>	
Facilities Report	Written Report	Shawn	<p>The written report was accepted. These additional updates were provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The new Narthex video screens have been installed. The Tech team has determined the feed to these screens can be different from the feed to the screens in the sanctuary. ● Early planning for shed replacement has started. Ideas include moving the trash dumpster. Then the old sheds will be cleaned out and removed, and a new shed will be built. ● The propane tanks ran empty again, despite requests to be refilled. ● Fellowship Hall could be re-floored and painted in 2 – 3 days if we pay for the work. This may become the best choice as Hall rentals increase. ● The IRS rebate for our solar power installation has been denied. Shawn has requested that it be reconsidered. The Council will need to consider at some point if Bethel should continue with the next phase if we do not get the IRS rebate. ● As PD is leaving, the Council should consider remodeling the Pastor's office. 	

Ministry / TEAM Reports

Faith Building	Rene, Cherie, LeeAnne		The team reported they want to survey the congregation to get a better idea of what is needed by the members. Questions regarding frequency of prayer and Bible reading, church background (life-long Lutheran, or relationship with other denominations) and type of relationship with Jesus are possibilities. The team also requested more biblical exposition surrounding the scripture in sermons. PD is planning to do more of this in the after-service Lent small groups.	
Community Relations	Shari, Rob, Matt		Report submitted. Discussed personally inviting new visitors and new members to annual events such as Easter Brunch, the Shrimp Boil and Christmas in a Barn. The possibility of adding a Blue Grass band to the Shrimp Boil to keep people after eating was mentioned, along with the possibility of a Trunk-or-Treat. An annual thank-you meal for all the church volunteers, to be held after Sunday service was also mentioned.	
People Resources	Jennifer, Lynda, Mel		The team will plan a lunch to celebrate Staff Appreciation Day (March 6) after a Tuesday staff meeting near March 6.	
Old Business				
Thrivent Card		PD	Cards will be used for some of the Lent Service meals on Wednesday nights. Thrivent cards are being used much more intentionally now. The Thrivent introduction meeting by Jason Baird was well received even though not well attended. The thought was there were too many other meetings happening at the same time. We may invite him again.	
Steeple.com		PD/ Shawn / Rachel	A contract for Steeple.com to investigate brokering a Battery Energy Storage System site on Bethel property has been signed. The next move is up to Steeple.com.	
Audit / AUP			A preliminary meeting with a local accounting firm has been planned for February 12 to discuss timing and cost for an AUP.	
Fundraisers	Guatemala Vision Trip		Babysitting Feb 13	

	Lenten Food Drive Bright Futures		Check with Karen Shipp Check with Rachel Carlson	
Memorial Bench	Charlie Moyer and Judy McKiernan	Mel / Youth Group	The Youth Group is considering placing outdoor rocking chairs in the courtyard. A write-up of the story behind these and other memorials on the grounds will be prepared.	
Crane American	Security		The government has money available each year to help religious organizations upgrade their security. Crane American helps churches navigate the process for a fee. George Donovan Sr. is reviewing whether we should apply for the grant ourselves. Crane's PowerPoint presentation is in the shared folder.	
New Business				
Scouts	Charter Representative		Terry Boyce is Bethel's Charter Representative for Pack 10 Cub Scouts. Terry is unable to attend at Bethel, but has been a member and would like to continue as the Charter Rep. After meeting him on Scout Sunday, it was agreed that we do not need to identify a new Representative.	
Upcoming Events				
Babysitting night	Feb 13	5 - 9	Baby sitting fundraiser for Guatemala Trip	
Ash Wednesday	Feb 18			
Trivia Night	Feb 20	6:00		
Watts Week	Feb 21 - 28			
WISE Event	Feb 26	7:00	Trash Talk – Recycling and the Landfill	
Lenten Midweek	Mar 4	7 to 7:30	Wednesday nights through Lent	
Council Meeting	Mar 11	7:00		
Quilt Blessing	Mar 22		Quilts for donation	
Palm Sunday	Mar 29			
Charlie Moyer Service	May 9			
Congregational Joys and Concerns		All	Brief Sharing for Prayer	

Closing Prayer and Adjournment			
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