



# BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

WE REFLECT CHRIST IN MESSAGE AND ACTION

## **Church Council Meeting**

March 9, 2026

7:00 PM

### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

### **2. Attendance**

**Present:** Pastor Paul, Michelle Sprague, Joy Kluge, Bob Schunter, Walt Gola, Brian Garrison, Kate Bailey, Erik Kountz, Pastor Katie, Cynara Pierzina, Clara Solek, Ashley Szatkowski

**Absent:** Kyle Nicholas

### **3. Devotional**

Pastor Katie

### **4. Approval of February 28, 2026 Minutes**

- a. Michelle motioned to approve.
- b. Kate seconded.
- c. Motion passed.

### **5. Reports**

#### **a. Pastor Katie's Report**

##### **i. Worship and Preaching**

1. Attended a pastor leadership conference.
2. Preached at a friend's ordination.

##### **ii. Youth & Faith Formation**

1. Pastor Katie updated the confirmation curriculum.
2. Preparing for confirmation.
3. Preparing for the youth mission trip.

##### **iii. Pastoral Care & Congregational Life**

1. Busy month with pastoral concerns.
2. Grateful for the strong staff who help support this work.

##### **iv. Community Partnerships**

1. Pastor Katie reached out to Bethany South.
2. She hopes to continue the conversation.

3. Council members are encouraged to share any past experiences with Pastor Katie regarding this collaboration.

**v. Looking Ahead**

1. Continuing sermon preparation and worship leadership during Lent.
2. Advancing confirmation preparation.
3. Supporting youth ministry planning for summer experiences.
4. Continuing conversations with community partners.
5. Providing ongoing pastoral care and congregational support.

**b. Pastor Paul's Report**

- i. The Call Committee continues to meet.
- ii. Pastor Paul is preparing to present to the council at the retreat on Saturday, March 14.
- iii. A congregational meeting will be held to discuss the proposal after council approval.
- iv. Pastor Paul will be away the week of March 22.

**c. Motion to Approve Pastor's Reports**

- i. Bob motioned.
- ii. Michelle seconded.
- iii. Motion approved.

**d. Treasurer's Report – See attached report**

- i. Michelle motioned to approve.
- ii. Kate seconded.
- iii. Motion approved.

**6. Old Business**

**a. Committee Updates**

**i. Stewardship Update**

The committee met on Thursday. They are exploring ways to incorporate stewardship throughout the year rather than focusing only on the fall pledge campaign.

**ii. Senior Updates**

The Men's Group has been following the Narrative Lectionary. The group continues to be lively but has been slightly smaller over the past few weeks. The Senior Group will be meeting again soon.

**iii. Finance Committee**

The Audit Committee will be asked to begin work on the annual audit. Cynara and Pastor Katie will speak with the committee about beginning the process.

**b. Call Committee Update**

Presented during Pastor Paul's report.

**7. New Business**

**a. Treasurer Conversation**

- i. Roger served as treasurer for the past six years and has stepped down according to the term limits in the constitution.
- ii. The council has not been successful in finding a new volunteer treasurer due to the workload.
- iii. The council is considering hiring someone to handle the majority of bookkeeping tasks.
- iv. Another option discussed was outsourcing bookkeeping services.
- v. Cynara and Ashley will research outsourcing bookkeeping companies.

**b. Retreat Overview**

- i. Meeting time: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- ii. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.
- iii. Tour of the church.
- iv. Discussion of council host responsibilities.
- v. Call Committee proposal.
- vi. Constitution discussion.
- vii. Committees and council involvement.

**c. Last Say**

**8. Adjournment**

- a. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.
- b. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.