



Council Meeting

Date: 03/11/2026

Start: 7:30 pm

Adjourned: 9:05

Next Meetings:

Exec Committee: Wednesday 04/01/26 7:00PM

Council: Wednesday 04/08/25 7:00PM

Attendees:

Pastor Dave, Jennifer Lafollete, Cherie Lauck, Lynda Grymala, Matt Lyman, Rene Hollebrandse, LeeAnne Marple, Mel Siebert, Shari Fletcher, Rob Cutler



| Time | Topic | Topic Details | Responsible | Discussion / Actions | Goal for completion |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|---------------------|
| 7:30 | Call to Order Opening Prayer | | Jennifer Lent Service | | |
| | Approval of Agenda | Additions / Changes | Jennifer | By Acclimation | |
| | Consent Agenda | February Minutes Staff Reports Pastor Report EC Updates | Jennifer | By Acclimation | |
| 7:35 | Pastor Update | | PD | PD is thankful for Bethel preachers and retired ministers in the congregation. | |
| Recurring items | | | | | |
| | Financial Report | February | Shawn | | |
| | Facilities Report | Written Reports Questions Updates | Shawn | | |
| Ministry / TEAM Reports | | | | | |
| 7:40 | Faith Building | Cherie, LeeAnne, Rene | | Working on survey questions and will have completed for EC review in April. Will distribute survey April 12th or 19th. Rene will create a shared document for the questionnaire. | |
| | Community Relations | Shari, Rob, Matt | | Shari has reviewed potential new members with PD and Nina. There is a possibility for a new member class in March or April. | |

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| | | | | <p>Shari and PD will meet on March 13 to discuss further the next new member class and will assign a council person to each. A suggestion was made to include an introduction to new or established members regularly in This Week In Bethel. A leader for this effort must be identified.</p> | |
| People Resources | Lynda, Mel, Jennifer | | | <p>For staff appreciation day, Council provided lunch for staff on 3/3 and gave gift cards to those 4 staff members who could not be there for lunch.</p> <p>Jennifer sent a letter to staff letting them know they can reach out to Jennifer or Council when anything is needed.</p> <p>Jennifer plans to send out a letter to lay preachers and retired ministers asking for help in May / June, after Pastor Dave leaves and before an interim pastor has been identified.</p> | |
| Old Business | | | | | |
| 7:45 | Audit / AUP | | | <p>A report of an AUP discussion held between the EC and a local accounting firm as well as ELCA Guidelines for an internal review are available on the shared drive.</p> <p>Shawn reports he will be ready to make quarterly reports in April using Simplify. Simplify does not make its own reports, so Shawn will create a report template to be filled with information from Simplify. The office is now able to enter transactions in Simplify on a daily / regular basis as needed.</p> <p>The council needs to establish an audit committee, per our constitution. The committee will identify a person to perform an internal review. Jennifer will draft an email to the congregation asking if someone can conduct an internal review or join the audit committee. We would like the internal</p> | |

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| | | | | review to include guidelines / policy for the use of designated funds. | |
| | Fundraisers | Guatemala Trip | | <p>Babysitting night raised \$315.</p> <p>The group asked for a free will offering at the Easter Brunch; they will help serve, clean, and will hide eggs for the Egg Hunt. Council approved.</p> <p>The group is planning a Mother's Day bake sale and auction for May 10 after church 11:00 -2:00. Council approved the fundraiser and recommended that pre-ordering be considered.</p> <p>EC will discuss the trip with Beth and whether we should be traveling out of the country now.</p> | |
| New Business | | | | | |
| 8:15 | Dumpster Replacement | Replace WMI with Ridgerunners | | See report in shared folder. The WM dumpster that was being emptied once a month has been replaced with a Ridge Runners dumpster that will be emptied twice a month. Savings will begin in early 2027. | |
| | Renew Line of Credit | | Lynda | Council unanimously approved renewal of the First Bank Line of Credit. | |
| | Bank Signatories | | Lynda | Council approved the President (Jennifer LaFollette), Secretary (Matt Lyman), and Treasurer (Lynda Grymala) as signatories for the First Bank accounts. | |
| | Pastor Supply after May | Review interim options | Jennifer | Council discussed options for the period between PD's departure and a when new pastor has been called and begins. The expectation is this period will last between 6 and 24 months. The Synod has described three options: | |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vice Pastor plus supply preachers and presiding ministers. Council believes this will not work for the duration of the call process. ● Part Time Interim – Council would have to clearly define expectations for part time work and then negotiate compensation. Health benefits are not required. ● Full Time Interim – Council would have to clearly define expectations and then negotiate pay. Health benefits are required along with other ELCA requirements for full-time pastors. ● Neither Part Time Interim nor Full Time Interim pastors would be eligible to become the called pastor for Bethel. <p><u>A partial list of duties to be considered was developed:</u></p> <p>Presiding Sermons Planning worship Funerals / Baptisms / Weddings Visitation: phone calls / communion team / Long term and Short term shut-ins / hospital and surgery Teaching: Confirmation / first communion/ Sunday School New Member Staff Leadership / Reviews Council Meetings MSP and Congregational Mtgs Discretionary Fund</p> | |
| Gift | | PD | Alan Borrer has made large donations to the Memorial fund and to the Good Samaritan fund in memory of Gene and Mary Borrer. | |

Upcoming Events

| Upcoming Events | | | | | |
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| 8:55 | Liz Bagley | Mar 14 | | Celebration of Life | |
| | Marge Vorous | Mar 16 | | Viewing and Funeral, Inwood, WV | |
| | 3 rd Friday Trivia | Mar 20 | | Chili Cookoff | |
| | Quilt Blessing | Mar 22 | | Quilts for donation followed by packing quilts and refreshments | |
| | Palm Sunday | Mar 29 | | | |
| | Maundy Thursday | Apr 2 | | | |
| | Good Friday | Apr 3 | | | |
| | Easter / Brunch | Apr 5 | | Brunch and Easter Egg hunt after service | |
| | Derby Party | May 2 | | Curtiss and Trivia team | |
| | Charlie Moyer | May 9 | | | |
| | Mother's Day Auction and Bake Sale | May 10 | | To benefit the Guatemala trip | |
| | Confirmation | May 17 | | | |
| | PD Farewell | May 24 | | | |
| 9:00 | Congregational Joys and Concerns | | All | Brief Sharing for Prayer | |
| 9:05 | Closing Prayer and Adjournment | | | | |