

ERLC Council Meeting Minutes

Elk River Lutheran Church, Elk River, MN - ELCA

The ERLC Council held a regularly scheduled meeting on **Tuesday, August 19, 2025.**

Call to Order

President Jeff Schrock called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Devotion led by Zoey Day.

Roll Call: Name Highlighted Indicates Present

Δ Jeff Schrock - President	Δ Kent Larson - VP	Δ Julie Marie Haugen - Treasurer
Δ Pastor Nathan Mugaas	Δ Pastor Anne Schaefer	Δ Kelli Horner - Secretary
Δ Amy Anderson	Δ Zoey Day	Δ Sue Hales
Δ Justin Howland	Δ Conni Natwick	Δ Dan Nelson

ERLC Congregation Member Comments and Council Listening Session

At this time visitors to the meeting are welcome to present information of interest. The members of the ERLC Council will receive such input without comment and will not discuss or act relative to any items brought forth at the meeting. The ERLC Council may direct consideration of presented information at subsequent meetings.

- Nothing was presented at this time.

Action Items in BOLD

July Council meeting minutes review and approval (Kelli Horner)

Motion to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2025, ERLC Council meeting made by Dan Nelson and seconded by Amy Anderson. Approved. Motion carried.

Additional updates from Pastor Nathan and Pastor Anne

Pastor Anne:

- Summer updates:
 - 95 students and adults participated/volunteered in youth activities
 - VBS stayed in budget even without partnering with other churches. Did a scripture station instead of crafts – well liked by adults, students missed crafts
 - High School Summer Festival – Chuck Anderson chaperoned; no one attended middle school session. Two former campers were on staff.
- A lot of visiting happening this summer
- High schoolers will help stuff backpacks with supplies gathered
- 11 9th graders to confirm their faith in October
- Accepted into Age to Age grant to look at add/update children's ministry. A team will be formed to brainstorm and discern something new for children's ministry.
- CYF Nights: Oct - bringing in a professional storyteller, Nov - sandwich making, Dec - Christmas party

- Host Blue Christmas Service at ERLC

Pastor Nathan:

- Building stucco and window covering project is finished and final walkthrough complete
- Plaisted's has stopped snow removal service. Linda is reaching out to other churches to see who they use as we will need to find a new snow removal service
- Nursery staff transition – Jeremiah Schaefer, Clara Anderson, and Emma Anderson have gone off to college. Katherine Horner is joining the staff with Adrienne Rotz and Amy Brown.
- Lutheran Night at the Twins – 40 attendees
- Several funerals in the past month – Pat Kyro, Pat Donnelly, and Kimberly Jodlowski (Donna Mathison's daughter)
- Upcoming:
 - Forming LIFE groups in September and will begin meeting in October (7 weeks); looking for hosts and/or facilitators.
 - Looking to do some more public speaking events in the future

July 2025 Financials review and approval (Julie Marie Haugen)

- Offering is down; perhaps will do another congregational update in the fall. Will keep watching/monitoring.
- Insurance broker recommended staying with our current company/coverage.

Motion to approve the July 2025 Financials as presented made by Justin Howland, seconded by Dan Nelson. Approved. Motion carried.

New & Continuing Business:

- Plans for Fall 2025 Stewardship Drive (for 2026)
 - Theme will be: LOVE That Lasts: The Gifts We Carry. The Legacy We Leave.
 - Runs October – November 2025
 - Fall Stewardship Drive, LIFE Groups, Estate Planning Event, Funeral & Memorial Planning Workshop
 - Proposed budget for communication materials will be \$4400 (postage, printing, design, video). This is not in our current budget; however, previously these materials have come out of the building fund.

Motion to approve Fall 2025 Stewardship Drive for 2026 as noted above with a budget of up to \$5000 to come out of the building fund made by Justin Howland seconded by Dan Nelson. Approved. Motion carried.

- ERLC Strategic Plan (Jeff/Pastor Nathan)
 - Congregational forums are planned on September 7 & 10
 - The forums are an opportunity to hear updates, ask questions, and share input as we plan for the future of the church together.
 - During September council meeting and make a recurring item on the agenda to check in on progress regularly (council and staff). Also, plan for quarterly updates to the congregation.

- ERLC By-laws and Constitution:
 - Will send current revised version to the Synod for feedback again as there is new Synod staff in place. We need Synod approval to adopt the revised by-laws and constitution

- 2026 Council Members & Officers:
 - Be thinking if you would like to continue and/or officer roles.

- Building Committee:
 - Working on forming a committee for outdoor updates.
 - Would like the team formed in the fall.

Adjourn and Lord's Prayer

President Jeff Schrock adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm and led the council in The Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 16th 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Horner, Secretary

Addendums – None.