

ERLC Council Meeting Minutes

Elk River Lutheran Church, Elk River, MN - ELCA

The ERLC Council held a regularly scheduled meeting on **Tuesday, December 16, 2025.**

Call to Order

President Jeff Schrock called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm. Devotion led by Sue Hales.

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.

- Feedback that coffee/fellowship time is not welcoming. Planting the seed to think about what we can do to address.

Action Items in BOLD

November Council meeting minutes review and approval (Kelli Horner)

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2025, ERLC Council meeting made by Dan Nelson and seconded by Justin Howland. Approved. Motion carried.

Additional updates from Pastor Nathan and Pastor Anne

Pastor Anne:

- Very busy season
- 2 CYF Nights – 1000 sandwiches made in November by 90 people. There were extra sandwich supplies, so will make an additional 200 sandwiches to take to Salvation Army. Christmas party in December.
- 23 students participated in the Kid's Christmas Program
- Going to the Quality of Call Summit in January
- Zoey Day is likely going to join the Synod Council as a youth representative (1 of 2).

Pastor Nathan:

- In the last month and a week, we have had 3 baptisms
- 2 Funerals (Duane Jerde and Donna Mathison)
- A lot of Christmas prep happening

November 2025 Financials review and approval (Julie Marie Haugen)

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

New & Continuing Business:

- Year-end Financial Strategy (Jeff):
 - Most non-profits end the year in the red. Typically they have other funds to offset the deficit.
 - Important thing is to have a good cash flow to pay our bills.
 - We can end the year in the red and not transfer funds but need to watch our cash flow.
 - The deficit is already realized in our checking balance.
 - Decision: how do we want to communicate to the congregation?
 - Agreement to provide a financial update on Sunday, December 20 as an insert in the bulletin.

- Plans for Fall Stewardship Drive – Update (Pastor Nathan):
 - 2026 Pledge for general fund = ~\$351,000 vs \$287,000 for 2025
 - 2026 Pledge for the building fund ~\$158,000 which is enough to cover mortgages/loan

- ERLC By-laws and Constitution (Kent/Pastor Nathan):
 - Waiting on the Synod, no other updates.

- Budgeting for 2026 – approach and plan forward (Jeff):
 - Expenses are easier to predict
 - Revenue is much harder to predict and currently we have a revenue issue.
 - Three points to think about as we approach the 2026 budget:
 - Increase income received based on a %, which feels too risky.
 - Budget using the income received in 2025 or slightly under or over. In this situation we need to reduce expenses or dial back expenses in first part of the year.
 - Reduce the income budget.

- Annual Meeting and January council meeting discussion (Jeff):
 - Annual meeting is January 25.
 - Shift the next council meeting from January 20 to January 12.

- Nominating Committee Update (Kent):
 - No updates, all the nominee slots are filled.

Adjourn and Lord's Prayer

President Jeff Schrock adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm and led the council in The Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 12, 2026 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Horner, Secretary

Addendums – None