

# ERLC Council Meeting Minutes

Elk River Lutheran Church, Elk River, MN - ELCA

The ERLC Council held a regularly scheduled meeting on **Tuesday, February 17, 2026.**

## Call to Order

President Jeff Schrock called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm. Devotion led by Jeff and he welcomed new council members and confirmed council officers. Council members introduced themselves.

**Roll Call:** Name Highlighted Indicates Present

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

## 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 presented at this time.

## Action Items in BOLD

January Council meeting minutes review and approval (Kelli Horner)

**Motion to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2026, ERLC Council meeting made by Justin Howland and seconded by Julie Marie Haugen. Approved. Motion carried.**

Pastoral Updates from Pastor Nathan and Pastor Anne

Pastor Nathan:

- Annual report & meeting happened in January. Thank you to everyone for their support and help with the process.
- Led a storytelling workshop in January. Hoping to get people to share stories during dinner church.
- Retreat at Luther Crest Bible Camp for Confirmation and High School. There were a lot of scheduling conflicts, so brought some elementary age kids. 9 kids attended plus Pastor Nathan.
- MN ICE surge addressed by Pastor Nathan and Pastor Anne in sermons. Haven't heard any negative feedback, but thought it was an important topic to address and seems to have been well received.
- Pastor Nathan's housing allowance for 2026 is \$50,000.
- Investigating getting a point-of-sale device through Bank of Elk River to help with fundraisers, etc.

## Pastor Anne:

- Pastor Anne' housing allowance for 2026 will be \$54,769.30
- December updates (since Pastor Anne was gone during the January meeting):
  - Kids Christmas program: 19 students, 2 student directors, and 1 adult director (Melissa Macari-Coons)
  - CYF Christmas Party
  - Blue Christmas Service in collaboration with Union UCC
  - Officiated a family wedding and also Donna Mathison's funeral
- January updates:
  - Family vacation time
  - Quality of call summit for female identifying pastors. 100 leaders from neighboring states.
  - CYF Night was about building community with games and connections
  - Attended community conversation on Martin Luther King Jr. Day at Word of Peace in Rogers regarding ICE.
  - Held Lament and Hope Prayer service for ERLC community – about 35 attended
  - Created a document outlining ways people can help our neighbors at risk for ICE violence.
  - Protested, prayed, gave and served A LOT over the last month.
- February updates:
  - CYF – improv night, which was fun and a high schooler helped with younger kids.
  - Conducting surveys about children's ministry – for parents and kids.
  - Age to Age committee (working on children's ministry) is working to find another project.
  - Delivered 23 Ash Wednesday gift bags with help from Tom Werk who recruited 12 drivers.
  - Working with Social Justice Action Team to create a video discussion series about current US events.
  - Eight 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders received Bibles this past Sunday and First communion education is coming up
  - Youth Mission Trip (18 total people – 11 students and 7 adults) fundraiser dinner will be March 13
  - Asked to lead (HER) event in April
  - Asked to Chair of the Synod Nominating Committee; Zoey Day is going to be the Youth on Synod Council

## January 2026 Financials review and approval (Amy Anderson)

- Wiring for the new furnaces was done and billed to the Maintenance Equip Bldg but should have been paid out of the employee retention credit. Amy will work with Lori to update.

**Motion to approve the January 2026 Financials as presented made by Dan Nelson and seconded by Justin Howland. Approved. Motion carried.**

## New & Continuing Business:

- Room Use Agreement Request (Jeff):
  - Ellie Halquist requested the use of the community room on Friday, April 17 for Minnesota

Kindergarten Association board meeting and to waive the fee.

**Motion to waive the fee for the Minnesota Kindergarten Association board meeting made by Julie Marie Haugen and seconded by Conni Natwick. Approved. Motion carried.**

- Room Use Agreement Request (Pastor Nathan):
  - Lions Club is considering a pancake breakfast to coincide with the Santa in the Park event this year. The Lions would be collecting donations and they have food permits. We have hosted an event like this before, but not for a while.

**Motion to waive the fee for the Lions Club to host pancake breakfast during the Santa in the Park event made by Kent Larson and seconded by Justin Howland. Approved. Motion carried.**

- Portable Sound Board Request (Taylor via Pastor Nathan):
  - Request to purchase a portable sound system to replace our previous one that is broken and also mics and cables to go with it.
  - \$1050 is being requested and would be sourced from the memorial funds.

**Motion to approve using \$1050 from the memorial fund to purchase a portable sound board and supporting equipment made by Justin Howland and seconded by Dan Nelson. Approved. Motion carried.**

- Ash Wednesday
  - The soup supper is being hosted by the Council – need people for set-up, to help serve, and clean-up. A number of people volunteered to help.
- Fall Stewardship Drive – Update (Pastor Nathan):
  - This topic is concluded and will be removed from the agenda.
- ERLC By-laws and Constitution (Kent/Pastor Nathan):
  - Still waiting on the Synod

Adjourn and Lord's Prayer

President Jeff Schrock adjourned the meeting at 7:51 pm and led the council in The Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Horner, Secretary

Addendums – None