ERLC Council Meeting Minutes

Elk River Lutheran Church, Elk River, MN - ELCA

The ERLC Council held a regularly scheduled meeting on **Tuesday, July 21, 2026.**

Call to Order

President Jeff Schrock called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Devotion and prayer led by Julie Marie Haugen.

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

June 2026 Council meeting minutes review and approval (Jeff Schrock)

Motion to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2026, ERLC Council meeting made by Julie Marie Haugen and seconded by Amy Anderson. Approved. Motion carried.

Pastor Anne Departure Discussion

- Message from Pastor Anne
    - Pastor Anne shared details of the process of being called by Peace Lutheran Church in Bloomington.
    - Council members shared stories and expressed appreciation for Pastor Anne's work and devotion to the church and members of the congregation.
- Updates on the Framework for Next Steps (Jeff Schrock, with additional input from Pastor Anne)
    - Pastor Anne's last day with ERLC will be August 13, 2026.
    - Her last Sunday service will be on August 9, 2026. There will be just one service at 9:30 am with fellowship time following. Additional planning is in process. Minneapolis Synod Bishop Jen Nagel and Assistant to the Bishop Rev. John Hulden are planning to be in attendance.
    - Jeff and Pastor Nathan have been in contact with the Synod regarding next steps.
    - ERLC will have an interim associate pastor temporarily
    - Pastor Anne provided an overview of the process:
        - A Call Committee will be formed, which will gather a list of needs

- The Call Committee will draft a job description, which may or may not be for an Associate Pastor. Other options are on the table based on the list of needs provided.
- The job description will be provided to the Synod to assist in identifying candidates

Pastoral Updates from Pastor Nathan and Pastor Anne

Pastor Anne:

- Youth Mission Trip to Jamaica
  - The trip was a great learning experience for those who participated
  - Service activities included but were not limited to:
    - Helping to move repair materials like rocks and sand using buckets
    - Assisting with child care
    - Painting and other repairs
  - There will be a presentation of pictures and stories along with Q&A about the trip after the 10:30am service on July 26th
- Age to Age Group
  - Bingo cards have been a hit.
  - CYF nights will be discontinued after Pastor Anne's departure. They have not been well attended and a re-vamping of the approach is needed.
  - Kristina Erickson will be available in her Intern role to support the Youth ministry
- VBS
  - VBS is scheduled for August 3-6th
  - Numbers for both enrollment and volunteers have been down this year (20 enrolled as of today)
  - Positive feedback was received from last year's VBS, so it is thought that there might be some families with scheduling conflicts due to how late Labor Day is this year and school starting earlier.
- Support will be needed from the congregation with hospital visits and other similar care after Pastor Anne's departure.

Pastor Nathan:

- No update provided, as Pastor Nathan is on PTO this week.

June 2026 Financials review and approval (Amy Anderson)

Motion to approve the June 2026 Financials as presented made by Justin Howland and seconded by Conni Natwick. Approved. Motion carried.

New & Continuing Business:

ERLC Website

- Hold topic for August meeting

ERLC Exterior Improvements Project – Update (Jeff Schrock)

- Two trees were removed this week
- Demolition is planned to start the week of July 27th
- The parking lot across Main Street is planned to be re-paved starting this week, continuing into the week of July 27th
- The smaller parking lot outside the church will be re-paved when the lot across the street is finished. It will take 2-3 days to complete.

ERLC By-laws and constitution – Recurring item. Update (Kent Larson / Pastor Nathan)

- No update

Adjourn and Lord's Prayer

President Jeff Schrock adjourned the meeting at 7:14 pm and led the council in a prayer for Pastor Anne and The Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 18, 2026, 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Thurmer and Kelli Horner, Secretary

Addenda – None