ERLC Council Meeting Minutes

Elk River Lutheran Church, Elk River, MN - ELCA

The ERLC Council held a regularly scheduled meeting on **Tuesday, May 19, 2026.**

Call to Order

President Jeff Schrock called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. Devotion and prayer led by Kelli Horner.

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

April Council meeting minutes review and approval (Kelli Horner)

Motion to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2026, ERLC Council meeting made by Justin Howland and seconded by Dan Nelson. Approved. Motion carried.

Pastoral Updates from Pastor Nathan and Pastor Anne

Pastor Anne:

- Children's Ministry Updates:
  - Club 45 was held recently with 8 kids attending.
  - Age to Age team launched bingo cards to engage kids in community and worship. Kids submit bingo cards for a drawing to win a big prize. Some other potential ideas of the group: revamping the corner in fellowship hall near the nursery to be more kid friendly, providing potential quietish instruments for the final song of worship, and maybe a fall kick-off day.
  - Final CYF Night was held in April. Theme was caring for creation with focus on water. Led by expert Heidi Ferris and a panel of HS students. 65 people attended.
  - Block party was fun with new games and prizes; unfortunately, the party had to be moved indoors, so there was not great community attendance.

- Kids Connect curriculum, which Pastor Anne wrote with some collaboration with a ministry friend is going to be published by Age to Age! This type of lesson curriculum (covering multiple aged kids and ~15 mins long) is not published today. Fun fact is Kari Osmek (ERLC member) will be the editor.

- HS Youth update:
  - Mission trip is approaching - June 13-20. Justin and Shari Howland are doing screen printing on the T-shirts. Varty's fundraiser was a great success – many people attended and a lot of singing happened.
- Pastoral care will be Pastor Anne's focus over the next few weeks as the programming year has wrapped up and summer programming has not started yet.
- Social Justice Action Team (SJAT):
  - Will be having an Open Doors for Youth temple talk and 9:30am forum on June 7. Beginning June 7, the team wants to run 3-week campaign for Open Doors for Youth for a car repair fund. SJAT is also working with the Endowment team to match donated funds. (See topic in New Business section).
  - Preparing for the July 18 Wright-Sherburne Pride Festival.
- 4 Baptisms in the month of May!
- At the May Synod Assembly meeting, Pastor Anne was installed as chair of the Synod Nominating Committee. Zoey Day was voted in as is youth representative on the Synod Council.

<u>Pastor Nathan:</u>

- Pastor Nathan's dad passed away last week surrounded by family. Service will be June 1 in Bismarck, ND. He is grateful for the outpouring of love and concern from ERLC.
- Celebrated ERLC Quilt blessing – 100 quilts and sent off to Lutheran World Relief.
- ERLC was recently recognized as one of the most generous congregations in the ELCA for our support of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response.
- Attended Synod Assembly on May 2 with Pastor Anne, Conni Natwick, Renee Thurmer and Zoey Day.
- Attended a coaching retreat as a coach.
- Community engagement – time for some brainstorming of ideas of how we can be engaged in the community due to:
  - Block Party – have seen a decline in community participation since Covid
  - Bounce House days at Farmers market can't happen this summer due to our outside landscaping construction and the Farmer's market has been relocated to the Elk River YMCA due to downtown parking lot construction. Over the years it has been hard to get volunteers for this activity.
  - Dare's recently remodeled and can host lunches, so this has decreased funeral lunches at ERLC (Dare's may still engage ERLC for larger lunches).
- City Parking Construction is planned to start May 26 and continue until mid/late July. Main impact is big parking lot across the street from the church. Parking lot next to the church will be finished in ~3 days. Parking will be impacted all over downtown and communications will be key to letting ERLC members/friends know what to expect.

<u>April 2026 Financials review and approval (Amy Anderson)</u>

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

New & Continuing Business:

- ERLC Exterior Improvements Project Update (Jeff):
    - Congregation listening session was held at end of April with good questions asked; committee refined the design based on feedback and got a bid (still under budget and have contingency). Plans have been submitted to the city of Elk River for approval.
    - Mid-June start is expected; with at least 6-8 weeks of construction but may take longer.
    - Will have a congregation meeting to approve spending of capital campaign building funds on June 7 at 11:30am.

- ERLC By-laws and Constitution (Kent/Pastor Nathan):
    - Still waiting for the Synod.

- Social Justice Action Team (SJAT) Fund Request (Pastor Anne):
    - Want to raise funds for Open Doors for Youth for their car care fund starting June 7 for 3 weeks.
    - Expecting a request from Endowment Committee to do a matching request. Council will vote on that request once it is received.

Motion to approve the fundraising for Open Doors for Youth's car repair fund made by Jeff Schrock and seconded by Julie Marie Haugen. Approved. Motion carried.

Adjourn and Lord's Prayer

President Jeff Schrock adjourned the meeting at 7:21 pm and led the council in The Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 16, 2026, 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Horner, Secretary

Addendums – None