

ERLC Council Meeting Minutes

Elk River Lutheran Church, Elk River, MN - ELCA

The ERLC Council held a regularly scheduled meeting on **Tuesday, May 20, 2025.**

Call to Order

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

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

April Council meeting minutes review and approval.

Motion to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2025, ERLC Council meeting made by Julie Marie Haugen and seconded by Justin Howland. Approved. Motion carried.

Additional updates from Pastor Nathan and Pastor Anne

Pastor Nathan:

- Easter 2025: attendance was higher than 2024 (467 vs. 410), but still under pre-COVID numbers. 9:30am service was most attended. Considering options on how to even out attendance at the three Easter services. is highest attended – looking for ways to ‘move’ people to 8 and 11am services.
- Officiated first wedding of 2025 in Stillwater on May 3.
- Continuing education:
 - Pastor Nathan and Pastor Anne are attending an improv preaching class (covered by grant from Church Anew & preaching initiative grant from Luther Seminary).
 - Pastor Nathan attended the Calvary Partner Network in Alexandria where the content was around thinking about the future of the church and being able to connect with other pastors.
- Block Party (May 18): thankful for many volunteers and the block party was well attended considering the cooler weather. Most people who attended and are not part of ERLC said they found out about the block party from Facebook.

- Construction Project Update:
 - Contract signed with Terra Construction and expect the work to begin in June.
 - Arts & Decorating team (Krista Schrock, Martha Hippe, and Sandy Krumwiede) is reviewing stucco colors (neutral) and the metal window panels (black to match trim).
- Banners: the Arts & Decorating team purchased an Easter banner and received good feedback, so they are looking to purchase a Pentecost and Christmas banner. Due to the location of the banners in the sanctuary, the Pride flag was moved to the entryway but longer term the team would like to have some type of pride / welcome inclusive piece (may not be a flag).

Motion to approve \$500 from the memorial dedicated funds (account 11230) to purchase two new banners for the sanctuary made by Kent Larson, seconded by Amy Anderson, Approved. Motion carried.

- Generosity team update: The team is looking at options for the next Capital Appeal as the current appeal ends 2025. Likely will do a 1-year appeal vs. 3-years based on feedback. The 1-year appeal will be a bit more involved than normal 1-year stewardship drive by having enhanced communication materials – not quite to the extent of the 3-year appeal, but something engaging. The group is possibly going to get advice from Blair Anderson, who we worked with as a consultant on previous appeals. The goal is to fund the mortgage, construction loan, and general fund but also it would be great to pay down our debt. By June, there will have a better idea of a proposed budget for funding the appeal – likely from the building fund, but there may be other options. Possible appeal theme is around “legacy”.
- Texting Scam:
 - Previous scams have occurred but were targeted to people who were identified via our website (limited group of people).
 - The current scam is impacting a broad section of members. Possible cause is data breach of membership software or the picture directory company, we are following up with both.
 - Jeff made the suggestion to conduct IT security type training – especially for staff and possibly for the congregation.

Pastor Anne:

- Mission Trip fundraising update: \$9500 has been donated or raised through the three fundraisers: Vintage Vegas dinner, Varty’s plant sale, and spirit wear sales. It is going great and Pastor Anne is asking the Endowment team for some additional funds.
- 17 kids participated in Palm Sunday program + student director and Melissa Macari-Coons.
- High School Senior Sunday blessing – 9 students participated and received a quilt
- Officiated brother-in-law’s wedding, which was very meaningful and also officiated Lisa Sampson’s (former ERLC CYF Director) wedding
- Went on last “first call” pastors retreat
- Last CYF Night on May 8 – 58 people attended
- Trinita Hospice is looking for volunteers and approached Pastor Anne. They have a lot of training (8 hours, interview and fingerprinting/background check). Looking at partnering with other congregations to do the training together in 2-hour chunks.

- Mortgage rate increased in April which is about \$4k more in interest per month.

Motion to approve the April 2025 Financials as presented made by Justin Howland, seconded by Amy Anderson, Approved. Motion carried.

Motion to renew \$21,000 CD maturing on June 11, 2025, for an additional year made by Conni Natwick, seconded by Justin Howland, Approved. Motion carried.

New & Continuing Business:

- Church Insurance Increase
 - Church Mutual insurance company has significantly raised the our insurance rates and deductible. Last time we “shopped” for insurance was 2017. Church Mutual has been good to work with, but we’ve never made a claim. They do have expertise in working with churches.
 - Council agreed to develop a task force to investigate / research options about insurance options and quotes. Jeff Schrock, Kent Larson, Julie Marie Haugen, Pastor Nathan, and Lori Sundman (bookkeeper) will participate.
- ERLC Strategic Plan:
 - Jeff met with Pastor Nathan, Pastor Anne, Taylor, and Linda to work through a rough draft of key action items for 2025, 2026, 2027 and plans to present to the Council during the June meeting.
- ERLC By-laws and Constitution:
 - Two years ago, revisions were made to the By-laws and Constitution. The Synod reviewed and had a lot of revisions/suggestions.
 - Pastor Nathan and Kent Larson will look at the revisions and bring back a proposal to the Council as needed.
 - Goal is to have proposed revised ERLC By-laws & Constitution by November 15, 2025, to be presented at the next Annual Meeting (January 2026).

Adjourn and Lord’s Prayer

President Jeff Schrock adjourned the meeting at 8:07 pm and led the council in The Lord’s Prayer.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 17th 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Horner, Secretary

Addendums – None.