

# ERLC Council Meeting Minutes

Elk River Lutheran Church, Elk River, MN - ELCA

The ERLC Council held a regularly scheduled meeting on **Tuesday, November 18, 2025.**

## Call to Order

President Jeff Schrock called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Devotion led by Dan Nelson.

**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 presented at this time.

## Action Items in BOLD

October Council meeting minutes review and approval (Kelli Horner)

**Motion to approve the minutes of the October 21, 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:

- At conference last week in Austin, TX, Progressive Youth Conference and Kristina helped out with Youth Group. Kristina has been helping out a lot, which is great.
- 11 9<sup>th</sup> graders confirmed their faith at end of October.
- 9 youth and 3 adults signed up for the summer mission trip. Still unsure if Jamaica will work out but remain hopeful. Dip fundraiser is ongoing and several other fundraisers are planned.
- CYF Night - sandwich making tomorrow night (goal is 1000 sandwiches). Three organizations will receive the sandwiches: Salvation Army Harbor Light, Simpson House, and Groveland
- Great attendance with Kids connect, but low on volunteers
- Kids Christmas Program is starting up, based on Advent theme of saying, "Yes".
- Synod opportunities:
  - Accepted/chosen for the Quality of Call Summit looking at the quality of calls for women – will be sharing.

- Part of the Nominating Committee – opening for youth and rostered males, vice president, lay male for the consultation committee.
- Doing a baptism this weekend and marriage counseling.

#### Pastor Nathan:

- Voting for the furnace replacement in place and check signed – replacement starts Wednesday, Nov 19
- Ken & Julie Nathe sold 101 Market – for poinsettias the cost is double the price.
- Arts and Decorating team needs a few more people to join the group. Let Pastor Nathan know if you have any people who might be interested
- Funeral planning – 68 people joined the event
- Estate planning event – a good first step toward inviting people to leave a legacy. Members spoke during the event.
- Life Groups – 9 different groups those have wrapped up. Grateful for hosts and leaders who made it happen.
- Will be thinking about budgeting soon (January). Staff will begin budgeting process prior to January.
- St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie has ministry called Church Anew. Church Anew published Pastor Nathan's article: "Stand-Up & Preach: 8 Comedy Secrets That Can Make You a Better Preacher." Also, Pastor Nathan will be participating in Church Anew's new coaching program – getting leadership/coaching training and paired with a coach.

#### October 2025 Financials review and approval (Julie Marie Haugen)

- Julie Marie and Kent gave a financial update during temple talk on Sunday, November 16. Hoping for a positive response.
- Income is \$130,000 behind as of the end of October. We may be able to use the employee retention credit to balance the budget or we potentially take a loss. No action for today, but next month will need to take action.

**Motion to approve the October 2025 Financials as presented made by Conni Natwick, seconded by Justin Howland. Approved. Motion carried.**

#### New & Continuing Business:

- Plans for Fall Stewardship Drive – Update (Pastor Nathan):
  - Stewardship video series was great
  - Generosity team helped with the mailings (design, editing and stuffing)
  - This coming Sunday (Nov 23) is commitment Sunday.
- ERLC By-laws and Constitution:
  - Pastor Nathan is trying to establish who to talk to at the Synod.
- Nominating Committee Update (Kent):
  - Jeff, Kent, and Sue's terms are ending. Jeff and Kent have volunteered to be nominated for

another 3-year term. Jeff agreed to be President and Kent Vice President again.

- Sue agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee for a 2-year term (2026 & 2027).
- Will need to find an additional person for the Nominating Committee, since it is typically filled with outgoing Council members.
- Endowment Committee:
  - Paula Donnelly and Hans DuBois are outgoing members
  - Steve Bucholtz is no longer on the committee due to health issues
  - Will need to fill 3 positions

- Endowment Committee Update (Kent):

- Committed and approved to give \$5,000 to CAER.

**Motion to approve \$5,000 donation to CAER from the Endowment Fund made by Dan Nelson seconded by Julie Marie Haugen. Approved. Motion Carried.**

- ERLC Strategic Plan (Jeff/Pastor Nathan)

- Connections:
  - Goal 1: Sending a Ministry Strategy Reflection Form to teams for input / gather information.
  - Goal 2: already have systems in place
  - Goal 3: Staff discussion/brainstorming
- Community:
  - Plan outside spaces – off to a good start. Need to meet with the city
  - Create a list of how ERLC is influential – no blockers
- Communications
  - Audit – have started thinking about it, finding some resources of how to go about it.

### Adjourn and Lord's Prayer

President Jeff Schrock adjourned the meeting at 7:39 pm and Conni Natwick led the council in The Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 16 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Horner, Secretary

Addendum:

### Motion to approve furnace replacement:

On November 13, 2025, the ERLC council voted via email on the following motion to proceed with the furnace replacement: **Motion to approve proceeding with Home Heating and Air for furnace replacement. Up to an amount of \$31,000. With the money coming out of ERLC employee retention fund account.**

The above motion was made by Jeff Schrock and seconded by Conni Natwick. 8 of 10 council members (Jeff, Conni, Kelli, Julie Marie, Amy, Kent, Zoey, and Justin) voted to approve the motion. Approved. Motion carried.