ERLC Council Meeting Minutes

Elk River Lutheran Church, Elk River, MN - ELCA

The ERLC Council held a regularly scheduled meeting on **Tuesday, September 15, 2026.**

Call to Order

President Jeff Schrock called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Devotion and prayer led by Dan Nelson.

Roll Call: Name Highlighted Indicates Present

Δ Jeff Schrock - President	Δ Kent Larson - VP	Δ Amy Anderson - Treasurer
Δ Pastor Nathan Mugaas	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

August 2026 Council meeting minutes review and approval (Kelli Horner)

Motion to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2026, ERLC Council meeting made by Conni Natwick and seconded by Dan Nelson. Approved. Motion carried.

Pastoral Updates from Pastor Nathan:

- Kristina Erickson is on board as CYF Coordinator and having her help during this time of transition is a real gift. Important to keep in mind she is not a replacement for Pastor Anne.
- Elk River downtown businesses hosted day of creativity on August 22. ERLC didn't participate directly, but ERLC member Kelli Sweeney was featured artist at Thumbs Up. There are a few other members who are involved in downtown businesses.
- Attended Western ND Synod Bishop Installation of Lisa Lewton (former classmate). Good chance to see colleagues.
- CYF kick-off Sunday was great! Children Advisory team (CATs) did a pancake party for the kids and during worship some kids did special music and participated in a video.
- Leading a story-telling workshop in Sioux Falls, SD this week.
- Schedule is a bit busier with being short-staffed, but things are going well.

August 2026 Financials review and approval (Amy Anderson)

- Agreement to put regular monthly financial updates in the weekly bulletin.

- Consider giving a verbal update in worship in October timeframe.

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

New & Continuing Business:

- Associate Pastor Position:
  - Short term (interim):
    - Council Officers & Pastor Nathan met with John Hulden about an interim associate pastor. Synod recommended interviewing 1-2 candidates.
    - Bob Rusert is a retired pastor and has been served at 6 different congregations as interim pastor.
    - Amy, Kelli, and Pastor Nathan interviewed Bob and recommend moving forward to offer Bob the interim associate pastor position. The half-time position is a contract ending with a new associate pastor being called or when we, Bob or Synod decides to end the contract with 30-day notice.
    - Key responsibilities of the position: leading worship (preach ~once per month), leading pastoral visitation, helping develop long-term strategy/solution for facilities maintenance.
    - Next steps are reach out to Bob and we are proposing a start date of October 1.
  - Long-term (permanent call):
    - Council will appoint a call committee per the ERLC constitution/by-laws.
    - **Action**: Pastor Nathan will send and the council will review the associate pastor job description and ministry site profile that were used in Pastor Anne's call process to provide any recommended overall changes in our October meeting.
    - Discussed call committee nominations. A list was formed and the Council will reach out to nominees.
- ERLC Website:
  - Hold topic until future meeting.

- ERLC Exterior Improvement Project Update (Jeff Schrock):
  - Project is going well and is almost finished.
  - Signage is still an open question as there are very specific requirements from the city. The planning committee will be working through options.

- ERLC By-laws and constitution (Kent/Pastor Nathan):
  - No update.

Adjourn and Lord's Prayer

President Jeff Schrock adjourned the meeting at 8:08 pm and Justin Howland led the council in The Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 20, 2026, 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Horner, Secretary

Addendums – None