

ERLC Council Meeting Minutes

Elk River Lutheran Church, Elk River, MN - ELCA

The ERLC Council held a regularly scheduled meeting on **Tuesday, September 16, 2025**.

Call to Order

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

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.

- Feedback from the Congregational meeting that the strategic plan should encompass all people / types of 'families', not just young families.
- Please consider a fan for the music area of the sanctuary

Action Items in BOLD

August Council meeting minutes review and approval (Kelli Horner)

Motion to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2025, ERLC Council meeting made by Sue Hales and seconded by Amy Anderson. Approved. Motion carried.

Additional updates from Pastor Nathan and Pastor Anne

Pastor Nathan:

- Fall issue of the Current was distributed
- Pete & Linda are in a rental house; timeline is not finalized.
- Guest preacher for Sunday (9/21) is ill, so will need to reschedule.
- Confirmation & fall programming is starting Wednesday (9/17). Last few Sundays have more attendance and a lot of visitors.

Pastor Anne:

- Had a 'breather' month after a busy summer
- High schoolers and quilters assembled 70 backpacks for LWR
- Almost booked a mission trip but did not work out – back to the drawing board.

- CYF kick-off Sunday is 9/28. Youth and families are participating.
- Kids Connect kicks off 9/21. Not a lot of volunteers signed up 6/20 slots are booked (by 2 people).
- Planning CYF nights for the program year
- Age to Age cohort – established a leadership team kicking off on Monday (9/22)
- Trunk or Treat – happening at end of October
- Starting on Christmas program
- Blue Christmas service planning underway
- Working with the hospitality team create boundaries, job descriptions, to help them feel less overwhelmed. Sue Sass agreed to lead the food on CYF nights.
- A lot of visiting, hospital visits, & phone calls happening with parishoners
- Bishop Theological Conference is coming up (Pastor Nathan and Pastor Anne attending)
- Progressive Youth Ministry conference in November

August 2025 Financials review and approval (Julie Marie Haugen)

- Offering is still behind, but hopefully increased attendance will see an improvement in offering amounts.
- We will need to consider making some difficult decisions soon 1) figure out where we can pull money from 2) cut expenses 3) ask for more money

Motion to approve the August 2025 Financials as presented made by Justin Howland, seconded by Dan Nelson. Approved. Motion carried.

New & Continuing Business:

- Congregational Forum update:
 - Sunday (9/7) – well attended & Wednesday (9/10) – less attended; generally positive feedback / have not heard anything negative.
 - Jim Hecker gave great comments around the stewardship drive
 - Carly's comments hesitation for youth to be involved in church due to conservative Christian / Christian national movement. Takeaway is we need to be clear about who we are and who we are not.
- Plans for Fall 2025 Stewardship Drive (for 2026)
 - Generosity team is reviewing draft material for mailings
 - Working with Nick Campbell on video project
 - Reviewed general 'narrative' budget – breaks down into 4 categories to give general sense of how our budget is laid out. Council agrees this is good information to share. Need to recalibrate numbers – recommend use \$570K.
- ERLC Strategic Plan (Jeff/Pastor Nathan)
 - Next steps: October meeting will review 2025 actions. Each month we will review where we are at. Target 2026 actions in January.

- Room Use Agreement Request:
 - Flute choir and brass band are looking to do a fundraiser (free-will offering) for local Elk River charities (CAER or Open Doors). Request made by Kathryn Warneke
 - Taylor will be the contact person going forward
 - Asking for the fee to be waived except for the custodian fee

Motion to approve the room use agreement with no fee for Flute Choir and Brass Band led by Kathryn Warneke made by Justin Howland seconded by Kent Larson. Approved. Motion carried.

- ERLC By-laws and Constitution:
 - Re-established contact with the Synod. We do need to incorporate latest updates from the Synod.
- 2026 Council Terms & Potential New Members:
 - If you have any suggestions for the Council, Endowment Committee or the Nominating Committee, please send names to Kent.

Adjourn and Lord's Prayer

President Jeff Schrock adjourned the meeting at 7:48pm and led the council in The Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 21st 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Horner, Secretary

Addendums – None.