

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 10:28 a.m. by President Carol Moonan and opened with a prayer by Pastor Kim.

Present: Jim Erickson, Sandy Gabel, Olga Blanchard, Pastor Kim Sterner, Ann Bruce, Carol Moonan, Valerie Ellis, Su Erickson, Kathy Williams, Sue Addy.

Absent: Magan Ratafsky, John Brown

A motion was made by Olga Blanchard, seconded by Su Erickson to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2025 meeting.

The Financial Report was shared and reviewed by Ann Bruce and is attached to these minutes.

Unfinished Business

- A. Nominating Committee still needs individuals for the positions of Building and Maintenance, Education, and Worship & Music
- B. The Audit Committee is filled and will be done as follows: 2024 books - Ron Nawrocki, Bob Muehling, Mike Coyle; 2025 books - Ron Nawrocki, Dave Moonan, Jim Hill
- C. The Safeguarding God's Children program will be presented by Gayle Denny on February 7, from 9 AM - 12 PM. This program will be recorded and others who share the campus will be invited to attend.

Kathy Williams shared a draft of the Child and Youth Safety Policy which emphasizes the importance of being thorough in hiring practices for volunteers and paid staff. There is a need to develop a final draft of this policy, and consideration of issues like translation into Spanish may be needed. Kathy reviewed the draft policy and made note of suggestions for some changes. She will present a final draft at the January meeting for approval by the council.

Kathy Williams shared the draft on Sexual Harassment and Misconduct policy. Some suggestions were made, and Kathy will provide a final draft at the January meeting for council approval.

New Business

Pastor Kim's letter of agreement as Interim Pastor was presented and signed by the appropriate council members.

Council Reports

- 1. Building and Grounds - Jim Erickson reviewed this report which is attached. He said they will proceed with the kitchen sink disposal project in Building A. Discussion was held about the landscaping expenses in front of Building A not covered in the amount of \$3179.00. Council members discussed special fundraising ideas. Proceeds of \$1000 from the Advent Dinner will be donated towards the landscaping cost.

2. Evangelism - Sandy Gabel presented the Evangelism report which is attached. She indicated the Welcome Center is working well. Name tags for church members are complimentary the first time, but if needing to be replaced, the cost is \$8.00.
3. Fellowship - Valerie Ellis shared that 75 tickets had been sold for the Advent Dinner, and \$1375 was raised. She shared ideas for future fellowship activities including: Chili Cookoff, Women's Tea, Philipino Festival, Seder Meal, Thanksgiving Pie Social, Fall Festival, St. Patrick's Day dinner, Fish Fry during Lent, and dinner and a movie once a month.
4. Outreach - Su Erickson shared the Outreach report which is attached. Food boxes were provided to 286 households in November, an increase of 15% from last year. She indicated that the SW Valley IHELP (Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program) has acquired necessary insurance, and CELC will begin participating on the first and third Fridays hopefully starting in February, 2026. Volunteers are needed for the 3:00 - 9:00 p.m. timeframe.
5. Stewardship - Ann Bruce shared that offering envelopes have been distributed. She reported there will be a concert at CELC on January 18th at 4:00 p.m. provided by a couple from Ukraine. There will be a free will offering.
6. Worship - Carol Moonan reported that communion assistants and helpers are scheduled for the Christmas season. Poinsettias will be picked up on the 23rd and will be arranged at the altar for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.
7. Youth - Olga Blanchard shared this report which is attached. The youth plus the Sunday School presented a skit at A Place for a Parent, an assisted living facility in Goodyear. The performance was enjoyed by 10 of the residents, and the quilters donated a quilt to each resident along with a small prayer pillow. Fundraisers will include wrapping Christmas gifts after church as well as making sub sandwiches to sell on Super Bowl Sunday. They are planning a game afternoon on January 17th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and are looking forward to visiting an animal sanctuary in February.

Announcements

- A. Annual report are due December 21 from each committee
- B. The next council meeting will be January 11, 2026
- C. Budget Forum will be after the service on January 18, 2026
- D. Annual Meeting will be on January 25, 2026 after the service
- E. Safeguarding God's Children presentation will be February 7, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Valerie Ellis, seconded by Kathy Williams, to adjourn the meeting at 12:25 p.m. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Sue Addy
Council Secretary