

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 10:25 a.m. by President Carol Moonan and opened with a prayer from Pastor Kim.

Present: Su Erickson, Jim Erickson, Olga Blanchard, Pastor Kim Sterner, Ann Bruce, Sandy Gabel, Carol Moonan, John Brown, Valerie Ellis, Magan Ratafsky, Sue Addy.

Absent: Kathy Williams

Sue Addy has been appointed as Council Secretary.

A motion was made by Su Erickson to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2025 meeting and seconded by Sandy Gabel. The minutes stand approved.

The Financial report for the months of January through October was presented by John Brown and is attached to these minutes.

Unfinished Business

- A. Electric Piano in Sanctuary - no discussion held
- B. Miloy's proposed Concert Season November-February - dates have not been finalized
- C. Nominating Committee - some names have been proposed and individual members have expressed interest in being on the Council. Judy Turnen, Carol Moonan and Magan Ratafsky compose this year's Nominating Committee. Positions needing to be filled include Worship, Education, and Building & Grounds.
- D. Audit Committee - this committee has been selected and will be meeting in order to provide a report of the 2024 financials at the annual meeting.
- E. Constitution Updates - discussion on this topic is postponed for now

New Business

- A. Insurance Coverage for CELC - John Brown shared information about an insurance proposal from Atwood Insurance/Brotherhood Mutual. This policy provides a substantial savings over the current policy held by the Hanover Insurance Group (see attached). A motion was made by Olga Blanchard, seconded by Sandy Gabel, to change insurance to Brotherhood Mutual. The motion was approved and the policy will go into effect January, 2026.

B. Gayle Denny's Child Safety Presentation will be held on February 7, 2026 from 9 - 12 at CELC. This event will be open to all churches who use the building as well as having the presentation recorded and available for viewing on YouTube.

C. Council Reports

1. Building and Grounds - Jim Erickson reported there was a good turnout at the churchwide clean up day and all chores were accomplished. He listed building/grounds items needing to be addressed (report attached).
2. Education - Magan Ratalasky reported on the children's Christmas program which will be held on December 14th. The children will be presenting the program at an assisted living center in Goodyear prior to the date of the performance at CELC.
3. Evangelism - Sandy Gabel reported she is seeking greeters for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, Six people attended the Orientation and were welcomed on Reformation Sunday. The next Prayer Gathering for our 'Pastor to be' will be on December 28th after church service. Evangelism report is attached.
4. Fellowship - Valerie Ellis reported the worship and pie social will be held on Wednesday, November 19th at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are available for the Advent Dinner and Quilters Boutique, to be held on December 5, 2025.
5. Health - Kathy Williams has reported that the cost of AED batteries and pads would need to be included in the proposed budget.
6. Outreach - Su Erickson reported that the numbers of people needing help were up due to the SNAP funding cut. She indicated they have been able to meet needs so far. Turkeys will be available from St. Mary's Food Bank. Terminix will be contacted to inspect the kitchen area. Su shared donations of money and food have put the Outreach program in a good place for Thanksgiving..
7. Stewardship - Ann Bruce had spoken to the congregation at today's service about the importance of volunteering as well as donations for various projects needing to be completed. John Brown shared the 2026 Mission Spending Plan (attached) and asked each Committee Chairman to review their section.
8. Worship - Carol Moonan reported that Communion Assistants and Ushers are set for the month of December. She will be having hip surgery on January 6, 2026 .
9. Youth - Olga Blanchard reported she had met with the youth and planned activities for the year. It is a goal to attend summer camp for some of the youth, and activities are planned for fundraising to help with the expense.
10. Pastor's report - Pastor Kim reported she will be gone the last weekend of January. She said she would like to have a holiday party for council members and staff and suggested January 4, 2026 as a possible date. More information to follow.

Announcements

- A. Next Council meeting will be on December 14, 2025.
- B. Annual Reports are due December 21, 2025 from each committee.
- C. There will be a Budget Forum after the service on January 18, 2026.
- D. The Annual Meeting will be held after the service on January 25, 2026.
- E. The January Council meeting will be on the 11th.

Closing Prayer

A motion was made by Magan Ratalisky to adjourn, seconded by John Brown. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.