

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2025

At 10:15 am, the meeting was called to order and Pastor Kim opened with prayer.

PRESENT: Valerie Ellis, Jim Erickson, Su Erickson, Sandy Gabel, Olga Blanchard, Kathy Williams, Carol Moonan, Pastor Kim Sterner, Jo-Ann Wordell

ABSENT and EXCUSED: Ann Bruce, Magan Ratafsky, John Brown

Minutes from June Meeting - Olga moved that the minutes be approved and Kathy seconded the motion to approve with correction about the status of the IHELP program. Carol will make the correction. Approved.

Financials: June and July financial documents were reviewed. There were several questions about accounts in the financial documents. Ann will be at the September meeting and can answer them.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Carol thanked the Council for their fast review and approval of the MSP revisions when sent out recently, after changes suggested by Pastor Phil.
2. The status of the design and purchase of Welcome and Directional Flags for our campus was questioned. We will look forward to information from Magan in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Su gave an update on the status of the reorganization and start-up of the IHELP program. Su made a motion and Carol seconded that CELC again participate by hosting every-other Friday night, once liability insurance is guaranteed and night monitors are secured. CELC will need to provide volunteers 4-9 p.m. to assist with check in, serving meals, and evening activities until the night monitor arrives. The dates can be flexible and can be changed when our congregation needs to use the kitchen and sanctuary in Building B. Su will prepare the CELC schedule and work with the other churches for coverage. It is proposed that overnight guests remain in Building B for dinner, socialization, showers and sleeping. The Council approved this motion.
2. Grace Lutheran has changed their focus, based on a changing environment in their community. Instead of providing the pancake breakfasts, they are starting a new program "Connections" that will focus on the community around them, including college students and offer a weekly meal and fellowship program. Su proposed that we send our already budgeted \$350 to them

now, instead of waiting until December, to help them get started. By consensus, Council agreed with this proposal.

REPORTS:

1. Building and Grounds: Jim shared a handout with current and future projects. He has scheduled Cleanup Day for Sat, Nov 15, morning. Lunch will be provided. He is asking for emails suggesting projects we see that need to be done. He will have projects identified and available for members to sign up for, about two weeks before Nov 15. Ken Olson has offered to help to get additional estimates to handle the gopher infestation.
2. Evangelism: Sandy would like to become more familiar with Servant Keeper technology so she can better use it. Nov 2, All Saints Day will be a special welcome back to snowbirds. Oct 25, from 9-11 will be the next "Inquirers Class" for those considering membership in our church. They will be received as members the next day, Oct 26, Reformation Sunday. Sandy moved and Carol seconded that the church purchase and install 3-5 "Welcome Visitor" signs for our parking lot. This was approved unanimously by the Council. Jim will order the signs.
3. Health: Kathy discussed distribution of adult disposable hygiene products and will order more, using grant money. She has purchased sets of grief support books and has given several out to members of our congregation. She will order more. She plans to offer a CPR class in the fall.
4. Stewardship: no report
5. Youth: Olga reported that the Youth have been supporting the outreach program on many Tuesday mornings during the summer. They presented many toys to the New Life Shelter and received a thank you from Fara at the shelter, thanking them. Aug 17, 6 youth and 8 adults enjoyed the movie, "Evan Almighty" and pizza. The September car wash date was changed to September 20.
6. Education: no report
7. Fellowship: Valerie reported the Fall Festival will be Oct 18, 4-7pm, including crafts for kids, a cookie walk, tickets will be \$10, including the Brats meal. Advent Dinner will be Dec 5, 4-6:30. Again will have table hosts to decorate tables, focus on social time, no special paid entertainment.
8. Outreach: Su submitted a report and discussed that participation is slightly down, but emergency box requests are up. New tires were purchased and installed on the van. Maricopa County conducted an inspection of the Bldg B kitchen and food pantry. They awarded us with an "A" rating.
9. Worship: no report
10. Pastor: Pastor Kim requested we encourage the wearing of RED on Holy Cross Sunday, Sep 14, and that we have a cross processed from the back. She will start Confirmation Class that date, from 10:15 – noon, each Sunday, for two students, Cole Stafford and Baily Aguire. Pastor Kim brought up the topic of her contract as interim pastor is ending this fall. She is interested in

staying with CELC at least until Easter, April 5. Carol will check with Bishop Hutterer to see how we proceed with the extension of Pastor Kim's contract.

Next Council Meeting will be Sep 21, with Ann Bruce leading.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Ann Wordell, Council Secretary

Building & Grounds Report

August 2025

Solar Project: No further contact from Sun Valley Solar or Brightwell. No additional progress.

Cleanup Day: 11/1 or 11/15? Council input? Going to try and get better turnout this year including the other congregations. Will create list of projects – input please.

Unused Spinet Pianos Removed: Two spinet pianos (one in building A and one in building B) were removed (\$350).

Building A:

1. **Fellowship Hall** – Blinds Installed. Thanks Valerie Ellis, Ken&Karen Olson, Dave Bruce.
2. **Add donated ceiling fan to little side office in hallway** – Completed.
3. **Sanctuary Ceiling Fan in Choir Loft Area:** no longer working. Taken down. Need to do some work in Electrical Panel outside, waiting for weather to cool. Jim Hill helping.

Building B:

1. **Outreach 3-door refrigerator** – No change.
2. **Backflow Valve leakage West end of property:** Leak worsened. Temporarily fixed. Metro Fire has part on order and will schedule once they have it. \$2224 estimate.
3. **Women's Bathroom:** May replace one toilet that leaks.

Landscaping:

1. **Landscaping in front of Building A** – Have identified a couple of people interested in looking at options. Going to meet in September then get some estimates.
2. **Rodent issues** – Terminex rep contacted us on dealing with pocket gophers. Will get estimate.
3. **Irrigation Leaks** – Monitoring.
4. **Dead tree next to North Parking lot between building** – Removed.

Signage:

1. **Numerous “faded” parking lot signs** – Installed. Thank you Randy Heibel and Dave Bruce
2. **Trucks/overnight parking in parking lot** - Signs? Need to talk to Goodyear to see if codes apply.
3. **WELCOME signs:** discussed in spring. Next steps?

IT/Technology items:

1. **Servant Keeper** – Going to convert to annual payment (a little cheaper). We are not using to full capabilities, will be investigating how to get better use of tool this year. No Change
2. **Data Procedures/Policies for Servant Keeper/Instant Church Directory** – No Change.
3. **Windows 11 conversion** – Updated Miloy's office computer, Streaming computer, and receptionist computer. Will do finance after Ann returns in September.
4. **Replacement Laptop for Worship/Music** – going to investigate (like council go-ahead).
5. **General Purpose “lower end” laptop** – replace older ones we have with one. Zoom calls for Call?
6. **Welcome Video for Web site** – Going to be a Youth Project – need to check on progress.
7. **Training on Streaming Equipment:** Jim Hill volunteered to be my backup on how all the equipment and hardware is set up in the sound booth.

Future Building/Grounds Projects:

1. **Landscaping by Building A**
2. **Parking Lot/Asphalt**
3. **Painting Building B Sanctuary/Classrooms** – some old water damage classroom C wall.
4. **Florescent Tube replacement in Fellowship Hall** – On hold. Still need to analyze.
5. **Replacing Building A Kitchen Sink/garbage disposal** - Still investigating.
6. **Paint BldgA Hallway between office and sanctuary and fellowship hall** – no progress.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jim Erickson