

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council meeting minutes
March 16, 2025

Council President Carol Moonan called the council meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. with an opening prayer led by Pastor Kim Sterner.

PRESENT: Carol Moonan, Magan Ratalasky, Ann Bruce, Olga Blanchard, Sandy Gabel, Jim Erickson, Valerie Ellis, Su Erickson, Pastor Kim Sterner and Jo-Ann Wordell

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Kathy Williams and John Brown

MOTION: Olga made a motion, which was seconded by Su, to approve the minutes from the February 2025 council meeting.

Ann reported that the financial statements are in good order based on the church budget. At the last meeting John Brown spoke about investing some designated funds for a future solar project in a CD. He discovered the **rates** are better using the MIF General Fund, rather than a CD. He will pursue this as it provides more flexibility.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Ann provided an update on the transition team, noting the minor verbiage changes to the mission statement, which has been approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Su reported that LSS-SW is discontinuing support of the I-HELP program March 29. Su stated that with these reductions in funding, liability insurance is no longer being provided. The local churches of the SW Valley group are working on ways to continue the program. After a lengthy discussion, the consensus was that CELC cannot continue to host the program without more infrastructure, insurance and a regular case manager. The program is a transition program, not just a food and shelter program. She and Pastor Kim will continue to monitor and attend the SW Valley meetings to determine how CELC can help. We can offer support by providing some meals and laundry service.
2. Carol reported there are now 5 members who have agreed to serve on the Call Committee and 2 are still thinking and praying about their decision. The special meeting to vote on this committee will be held Sunday, April 6 after the service. This date will be announced online and in person the next two Sundays.

Fellowship – Valerie noted that she is coordinating Wednesday Evening Lenten soup dinners at 5pm, prior to services at 5:45. The first supper had 23 attendees. The Seder Meal on 4/17 will be a sit-down dinner and include an explanation of the Jewish Seder by Pastor Kim. Tickets for the Seder will be available in person and online starting March 30. Valerie is inviting the congregation to make Easter Baskets for a basket raffle to be held at the Easter Breakfast. Funds raised will benefit the front landscaping project. The Easter Breakfast will include some food items brought by the congregation as well as foods prepared by the committee. A free-will offering will be available. She will have a sign up soon for the breakfast foods to bring.

Worship – Carol reported that Easter Lilies can now be purchased for the altar on Easter Sunday, both in person and online using the website. They can be in honor of or in memory of someone if desired.

Outreach- Su reported the Outreach Food Pantry is serving 60-70 families per week. They are now receiving a delivery from St. Mary's each Monday. She will hold the Cereal March Madness again this year to raise funds to purchase cereal for the Food Pantry participants.

Pastor's Report- Pastor Kim noted she has been here for 4.5 months and that CELC is feeling like home now.

Announcements: The next Council Meeting will be April 13. The May meeting will be moved to May 11 (from the 18th) since more members can attend that date.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer. Then Su made a motion to adjourn, Carol seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jo-Ann Wordell

Proposed Changes to Mission Statement

"We are a Christian fellowship, reaching out to all people, so that all may see, know and experience God's love for them."

- Current Mission Statement - We are a Christian fellowship reaching out to all people, so they might experience God's love for them.
- Key Comments
 - Most people felt that the mission statement does reflect who CELC is and wants to be
 - "May" vs "might" to be more definitive
 - "All" instead of "they" to be inclusive of both inside and outside congregation
 - Add "See, know" to experience to make it more actionable.

Proposed Vision Statement

"To be a Christian fellowship that is Spirit-led and engaged in participation and service to our congregation and the larger community."

- Initial Proposal that was tweaked - "To be a church that is known for our participation in and service to our community."
- Key comments
 - Desire to see younger more diverse families with children
 - Increased Adult Education Opportunities
 - Community participation and outreach
 - Maintain music
 - Second Service
 - Tolerance and acceptance
 - Seek younger, experienced, bilingual pastor

Proposed Values

- **Christ-Centered**
 - Worship, Teaching, Learning, Interactions
- **Service**
 - Outreach, Community, Congregation
- **Welcoming**
 - Accepting, Tolerance, Inclusive
- **Community**
 - Relationships, Fellowship, Support
- **Diversity**
 - Ethnic, Age, Life Experience

These are the findings from our congregational meetings and discussion of the transition team.

- Council needs to determine whether CELC should adopt

Schedule (Next Page)

Building & Grounds Report

March 2025

Team Identification – Have identified a couple of volunteers willing to be on call for small projects.

Solar Project: Randy handed off the contact with SunValley Solar to me. Jason Roehl is the contact and had sent email that he had a potential investor that might be willing to put up the investment. I had a phone call with Jonah on 2/27 so I could come up to speed on the conversations he and Randy had previously had. I informed Jonah that we are very cautious and conservative moving forward due to our previous bad experience. We had some discussions on Building A as to whether a rooftop system on Bldg A rather than a canopy system might make better financial sense. I have a phone call with Jonah and the investor this next week to better assess what the proposal is, how serious the investor is, and get information to take a look at the financial implications for CELC. At this point in time, **further activity on the solar project is going to be slow and very cautious.**

Building A:

1. **Occasional mild/moderate sewer gas smell** – monitoring.
2. **Painting Fellowship Hall** – Is planned for March 21-22.
 - a. Have a small team of volunteers identified
 - b. Budget impact would be cost of paint and supplies (\$300-400)
3. **AED pads expired** (2 year life) – had to replace (\$274) (unit was beeping)
4. **Fan noise women's bathroom** – Need to investigate.

Building B:

1. **Building B kitchen's leaky water faucet with sprayer.** Done but still awaiting invoices.
2. **Building B water shutoff valve leaks. Tomas Flores Plumbing.** Was some confusion on what doing here. Jonathan and I talked and decided we were going to go back to the more expensive direct replacement valve so as not to have to deal with concrete and potentially causing more problems. Estimate from Tomas Flores Plumbing - \$3500. **Need council approval.**
3. **Outreach 3-door refrigerator** – No change.
4. **AED pads expired** (2 year life) – had to replace (\$274) (unit was beeping)
5. **Investigate a warning sign by stove** – all pilots light must be lit.

Backflow Valve leakage: Will continue to monitor.

Landscaping:

1. **Landscaping in front of Building A** – Have identified a couple of people interested in looking at options. Will try to meet this month.
2. **Astroturf** – has been disposed.
3. **Rodent issues** – Monitoring.
4. **Irrigation Leaks** – Monitoring.

Evangelism Team February Report

March 16 2025

1. Multiple conversations with Judy Turnen who has served faithfully as Evangelism Chair. Judy will continue to be part of the E/Team and will continue to be in contact with members through phone calls, notes/letters, especially those home bound and who are ill and/or on our prayer list. Cards will be sent at Christmas and Easter to all church members.
2. On February 25, Sandy met with Carol and Pastor Kim to go over ideas and concerns especially regarding visitor, visitor cards and follow-up procedures, and issues related to welcoming visitors to our church. One idea is to create a more visible Welcoming Center (Big Sign) and to find volunteers to sit at the table to encourage those who appear to be visitor to pick up cards. We also think we need a generic "business" card with Church vitals: phone number, address, website that can be included in written correspondence.
3. Suggested process for handling visitor cards: 1st to Pastor, 2nd to office mail box for handling by office/Jim to server, and to be picked up by Sandy for further review for contact. It was suggested that cards be kept for 3-5 years. Need a clearly marked box for cards once dealt with. (To be discussed).
4. Following some of the suggestions in the book BECOMING A WELCOMING CHURCH, it is a suggestion to try to have Parking Lot/Outside Welcoming Team...encourage folks to use some type of phrase like "I don't think I have met you yet" because we are all hesitant to assume a visitor when a long time member we just don't know.
5. Sandy will work specifically on trying to find EV/TEAM members for some of these needs.
6. Encourage during Passing the Peace time to meet folks we don't know. ALSO continue encouraging wearing of name tags.
7. Sandy will contact newest members for feedback on their experiences as new people/reactions to "friendly church" what we could do better..
8. Sandy has been in conversation and will continue to work with Jim on visitor/new member/data information. It is a general opinion that perhaps all names be recorded once we have any information to record with appropriate designations. To be Discussed.