

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 10:21 a.m. by President Carol Moonan who led the council in prayer.

Members present: Jim Erickson, Kathy Williams, Su Erickson, Carol Moonan, Sandy Gabel, Olga Blanchard, John Brown, Ann Bruce, Valerie Ellis, Pastor Kim Stern, Sue Addy

Members Absent: Magan Ratafsky

A motion was made by Su Erickson, seconded by Sandy Gabel, to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2025 minutes. The motion passed.

The financial report including year to date and cash on hand handouts were reviewed by John Brown. The proposed budget for 2026, a break-even budget, was reviewed by John. A motion was then made by Ann Bruce, seconded by Olga Blanchard, to approve the proposed budget for presentation at the budget meeting next week after church service. The motion was approved. John reminded council members that this budget is subject to change depending upon the status of the call for a new pastor.

Unfinished Business

Nominating Committee - Jim Hill has agreed to the council position of Building and Grounds, and Stevie Henderson will be the Worship and Music council representative. The Education position remains unfilled.

Sexual Harassment Policy - this final draft was shared with council by Kathy Williams and is ready to be shared with appropriate individuals. Kathy also shared the final draft of the Child Safety Presentation handout and is ready to be used in the class on February 7th from 9 - 12.

A motion was made by Sandy Gabel, seconded by Carol Moonan, to approve both of these final drafts for use. The motion carried.

Jim Erickson provided an update from the Call Committee. The council had discussed and unanimously approved by electronic vote to open up the call to new graduates. The Call Committee is in the process of having the Synod add this change to the search criteria. The committee is also working on questions to be used in the interview process.

New Business

President Carol Moonan reminded council members about the Ukrainian Concert to be held on Sunday, January 18, 2026 at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. The goal of this concert is to raise funds and continue to make people aware of the situation in Ukraine. A freewill offering will be taken by cash, checks or credit cards. Checks should be made payable to Dmytro Somkin.

Council Reports

Building and Grounds - Jim Erickson reported that Jim Hill has replaced the kitchen sink, disposal and faucets in the kitchen in the A Building. He also repaired damaged tile on the counter top and a broken drawer. Jim is investigating why several of the lights in the parking lot are not

working. He has had the kitchen grease tanks outside of the garage pumped. The landscaping in front of Building A is complete and paid for thanks to some proceeds from the Advent dinner and generous gifts from congregational members. Further landscaping projects will include re-rocking some areas and continued monitoring of the gopher problem. Technology items included replacement of a laptop for worship/music as a budget item for 2026 and Wix renewal costs which is the platform used to manage our website. Painting of Building B sanctuary and classroom is still being pursued. Future topics include discussion with other congregations about storage considerations for the upcoming year.

Education - no report

Stewardship - Ann Bruce reported tax statements are ready to be picked up, and envelopes have been distributed.

Evangelism - Sandy Gabel reported she is seeking Greeters for a month's commitment at a time and working on a three month's commitment. She discussed the possibility of a Women's Gathering with Ellory Christianson who has recently written a program that would work for Lenten season called Angels Among Us. Sandy will work with Ellory, Valerie and Judy Turnen on plans. The date of March 21st was best for Ellory. Since there is a youth hike that morning, a luncheon and afternoon program might work best. Sandy asked if there might be anyone who would be able to coordinate a Men's Breakfast. Names suggested were Dan Shaffer and Bruce Haroldson. Judy Turnen is joining in prayer vigil planning to be held the first Sunday of each month.

Fellowship - Valerie Ellis shared plans for upcoming fellowship events. These included a Valentine's Dinner, Lenten Soup Suppers from February 26 - March 25, a fish fry on March 21, Easter Breakfast on April 5, perhaps an All Church Festival in May, and summer ideas such as dinner and a movie, September Fall Festival and December 11th Advent Dinner.

Health - Kathy Williams shared that the adult pull up program has distributed products, and they continue to be available to those in need.

Outreach - Su Erickson reported the food pantry ended the year with full pantry shelves thanks to the wonderful donations by individuals and an unexpected food drive by Clayco Construction. They delivered 1258 lbs. of food and water on December 22nd and look forward to working with us in 2026. During 2025, 3,236 households and 15,264 individuals were served. Four thousand dollars was collected in boutique sales, and a total of 197,137.02 lbs. of food was distributed.

IHELP will begin the week of February 2. There will be a CELC team training on Saturday, January 17 at 10 a.m. Michelle Harrison, Program Director will be in attendance. CELC will host the first and third Fridays of each month. Sign up sheets for meals and laundry will be posted soon.

Worship - Carol Moonan reported she has asked Miloy for the music schedule for Lent. Carol reported that the Quilters discovered a beautiful paramount made by Judy Wandler and will begin to use this on the altar next Sunday.

Youth - Olga Blanchard reported the Youth Group will have a game day on Saturday, January 17th. They will be selling sub sandwiches for Super Bowl Sunday as a fundraiser and orders will begin to be taken at church.

Pastor Kim reported she will be gone the last week of January. She has family commitments which will require her to be gone after Sunday, May 10. She indicated she would assist in finding supply pastors during this time, and hopefully we will have found a pastor to accept a call by that time.

Announcements

- There will be a budget forum after service on January 18
- The annual meeting will be after service on January 25
- Keeping God's Children Safe presentation will be Saturday, February 7 from 9 - 12
- The next council meeting will be on February 15

A motion was made by Olga Blanchard, seconded by Kathy Williams to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried, and Pastor Kim led the Council in a closing prayer.

Sue Addy
Council Secretary