

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2026

Members present: Sandy Gabel, Olga Blanchard, Ann Bruce, Carol Moonan, Stevie Henderson, Jim Hill, Su Erickson, Valerie Ellis, John Brown, Beth Blankenship, Sue Addy, Pastor Kim Sterner

Members absent: Kathy Williams

The meeting was called to order at 10:23 a.m. by President Carol Moonan. Pastor Kim Sterner lead the council in prayer at the beginning of the meeting.

Pastor Kim shared information about her plans after retirement and said she was thankful for the work of the Call Committee and Council in their efforts to find a pastor for CELC.

The minutes of the previous meetings dated March 15 and March 29, 2026 were approved upon a motion by Su Erickson, seconded by Olga Blanchard.

John Brown presented the financial report for January - March, 2026 which included Cash on Hand, Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual, and Balance Sheet as of March 31, 2026. He indicated that through March there was an increase in the general fund, and expenses have been minimal during this time. These documents are attached to the minutes.

Unfinished Business - There was no unfinished business.

New Business

Jim Hill shared an idea he had observed at a church in Tucson called "noisy offering." This is a fund raising idea which can be accomplished once a month, for example. Children take up a special offering in cans at the end of the service, and congregational members toss in coins on these days. Council members agreed to pursue organizing this idea as a fundraising event.

President Moonan indicated the Council needed to approve two particular items prior to the congregational meeting on April 26, 2026 where a vote will be taken to extend a call to Pastor Jeff Hackler. These items are as follows:

Approve the revised Mission Spending Plan for 2026. Jim Hill made a motion to approve, Sandy Gabel seconded this motion. The motion was approved.

Approve the CELC Compensation Agreement in the amount of \$94,837. A motion was made by Ann Bruce, seconded by Stevie Henderson. The motion was approved.

These two approved documents are attached to these minutes.

Council Reports

Building and Grounds - Jim Hill reported that the aluminum can recycling program needs to be done correctly regarding collecting and storage of these items. Recycling brings in about \$100 a month and includes not only aluminum cans but also plastics. Discussion was held about building a storage container outside of the building which can be locked and encouraging the congregation

to bring recyclables on the first Sunday of each month. It was the consensus of the council to continue to support this program Jim will follow up with storage solutions.

Jim reported of the 91 line items to be completed regarding maintenance, 51 have been completed. Two major projects will begin in May; parking lot paving will be done May 21 - 23 and painting of Sanctuary A will be done June 3 - 5. Painting of classrooms will be completed June 9 - 11. The CELC Building and Grounds report for April is attached to these minutes.

Education - Beth Blankenship reported six children participated in the Easter Egg Hunt. She is creating surveys regarding the education program at CELC and will work further on this after the new pastor is on board.

Evangelism - Sandy Gabel shared that the Angels Among Us women's retreat put on by Ellory Christianson was very successful. Sandy is in the process of organizing purchase of name tags needed and encouraging members to wear name tags on a regular basis. Sandy continues to have success in getting greeters each Sunday.

Fellowship - Valerie Ellis shared information about the Easter Breakfast this year. Expenses were more than receipts so consideration will be given to doing this differently next year. Similarly, the Easter Basket raffle may need some adjustments before next year. The Meet and Greet event went well on both days. The Singles group is active and will be meeting again on May 12. Other events in process include a Murder Mystery Dinner and a Volunteer Appreciation Event.

Outreach - Su Erickson provided the report on the Outreach Food Pantry. St. Mary's Food Bank awarded CELC two grants. One is an equipment grant for a new commercial 2-door refrigerator. This replaces the old (failed) 3-door that had been donated by Not Hungry Tonight. Delivery should take place in the next two weeks. The second grant is an unrestricted grant for \$1500. CELC should receive the monies in mid-May.

Data for March 2026 is as follows:

Individuals - 1812
Increase over last year - 56%
Increase over last month - 18%
Households - 357
Increased over last year - 34%
Increase over last month - 17%

First Quarter (January - March, 2026)

Individuals - 4608
Increase over last year - 33%
Households - 921
Increase over last year - 25%

SW Valley IHELP April Newsletter at a Glance

18 Individuals served - 8 positive placements (61%)
8 Individuals served - 8 positive placements (61%)
6 secured permanent housing
2 reunited with family

38% negative exits (return to homelessness for various reasons)

Participant demographics and needs:

- 4 individual with mental illness
- 4 individuals with physical disabilities
- 2 survivors of domestic violence
- 1 veteran served

Stewardship - Ann Bruce described the fund raising project in process. A board which is divided into sections marked with different money amounts is available each Sunday. Congregational members are encouraged to select a section for their contribution, and when done, that particular section is covered and not available for selection. Funds from this project will be targeted for the painting project which will soon be underway.

Worship - Stevie Henderson said she had asked Faith Hanley to be Head Usher and ushers have now been scheduled through May. Discussion was held about making the children's space near the altar more structured during the worship service to reduce noise and distractions which may interfere with the congregation's attention to the worship service.

Youth - Olga Blanchard reported that four youth and one adult attended the Senior Tech Day. During this time, youth helped the adult with a phone problem, worked on constructing bird houses, and played the game Hangman.

Jim Erickson attended as backup support for the event. Valerie provided coffee and snacks for everyone, contributing to a welcoming environment. The youth had the opportunity to meet the candidate for the new pastor position. Additionally, two couples were present to meet the candidate as well.

Su Erickson provided an IT/Technology Report from Jim Erickson, IT Coordinator.

President Moonan suggested the next council meeting be held on May 31 rather than May 24 which is on Memorial Day weekend. Council members were in agreement.

A motion was made by John Brown, seconded by Sandy Gabel to adjourn the meeting at 12:17 p.m. The motion was approved and the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Addy
Council Secretary