Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2026

Members present: Sandy Gabel, Beth Blankenship, Ann Bruce, Carol Moonan, Stevie Henderson, Jim Hill, Su Erickson, Valerie Ellis, Kathy Williams, Jennifer Cole, Pastor Jeff Hackler, Sue Addy

Members absent: John Brown

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. followed by a prayer from Pastor Jeff.

The minutes of the August 16, 2026 meeting were approved with a motion from Su Erickson, second by Stevie Henderson.

Ann Bruce presented the financial report indicating the budget is in good shape. She asked members to be thinking about financial needs for the next year as budget development for 2027 will begin soon.

Unfinished Business - President Carol Moonan shared a brochure about the upcoming musical program by Theresa Walters which will be held on February 28, 2027 at 4:30 p.m. in the CELC Sanctuary. Grant monies will cover all expenses for this performance.

New Business - Darren Coyle will be making a welcome video for the church on October 3rd. Discussion was held about components to be included in this video, and it was recommended that any ideas be submitted to the church office for review by Pastor Jeff.

Discussion was held about having a joint Thanksgiving Service with the other churches. Pastor Jeff will talk to Jonathan about organizing this. November 18th is the target date for this event.

Council Reports

Building and Grounds - Jim Hill shared that the air curtain fan in the kitchen and LED lighting have been the two major projects he has focused on during the past month. There continues to be 24 open items and 120+ closed items on his punch list. He has purchased a new recycling bin for bottles which more easily accommodates all that have been received.

Education - Beth Blankenship reported that Miloy is starting work on the Christmas program which is set for December 20, 2026. The Cantata is scheduled for December 13, 2026. Beth suggested thinking about having some Intergenerational Activities perhaps around Lenten Season. Pastor Jeff shared the idea of ‘noisy offering’ as an activity children would enjoy being involved in.

Evangelism - Sandy Gabel explained the Pew Greeter concept and has started seeking members to consider becoming involved in this role. She is planning a November 8th ‘welcome back snowbirds’ event and is seeking individuals in the congregation to become ‘super hosts’ to those congregational members who spend the summers away from Arizona. Super hosts would serve as a resource to snowbirds, keeping them up to date on CELC happenings while they are away.

Fellowship - Valerie Ellis shared that the Fall Fest will be October 10th from 4 - 7 p.m. The Quilters Boutique will be held October 10th and 11th during the Fall Fest and before and after church on the 11th.

Health - Kathy Williams said she has placed an order for $160 for pull-ups, and half of the grant monies remains. She suggested we have an Undie Sunday again this year which will be done through Outreach.

Outreach - Su Erickson said the focus for outreach for October will be donations of underwear as well as it also being 'Socktober.' October 18th is "Drop your drawers at the door' aka Undie Sunday. Congregational members can bring items to church on Sundays in October and place them on the cart at the entrance to the church.

The next date for the Book Exchange is October 18th.

Stewardship - Ann Bruce said she is planning to look into a grant from Lutheran Social Services and the Lutheran Thrift Store which will go towards painting the Sanctuary.

Worship - Stevie Henderson said we will be continuing with the Assisting Minister and wanted anyone who is interested in doing this to contact her. She will begin clarifying the roles of the Altar Guild and Communion Assistants. Discussion was held about setting up and putting away items used at the welcome table each Sunday, and determined that those present at the table be responsible for putting things away (with the exception of the heavy Cross - someone will help put this away).

Youth - Jennifer Cole said the movie night will be rescheduled after the New Year, possibly January 31, 2027. Discussion was held about the small numbers of youth in our congregation, and Pastor Jeff suggested seeing about getting involved with the other four congregations to do youth activities. He will check with Jonathan on this topic.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Jeff said Miloy is trying to schedule being in the office on Wednesdays to facilitate planning.

He has received a resume for the position of Communications Manager and will forward this to John Brown as Administrator to handle.

Announcements - The next meeting will be held on October 18, 2026.

A motion was made by Pastor Jeff, seconded by Ann Bruce to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned following The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Addy
Council Secretary