Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2026

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

Members absent: John Brown, Sandy Gabel, Jim Hill

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. followed by a prayer given by Pastor Jeff.

The minutes of the June, 2026 meeting were approved with the following correction: the date for Octoberfest is October 10th. Motion to approve by Su Erickson, seconded by Stevie Henderson.

Ann Bruce presented the financial reports, indicating the January - June budget fell extremely close to projections. She will head up another pledge drive in the fall and will be contacting the Lutheran Thrift Shop for grant opportunities.

Unfinished Business - Work is ongoing for the signage for the church. Randy Heibel and Jim Hill are continuing to pursue getting this completed.

New Business - There was no new business

Council Reports

Building and Grounds - Jim Hill provided highlights for the reporting period for Building and Grounds as follows:

-Total year-to-date items now equals 131, of which 107 are completed and 24 remain open
-The major expense for this reporting period is replacement of Bldg-A HVAC A2 which cost approximately $12,000
-The major activity for this reporting period was lighting upgrades from fluorescent to LED. To date Bldg-B Hallway, Kitchen, Classrooms A/B and Nursery have been completed. LED conversion is targeted for completion by the end of 2026.

Education - Beth Blankenship said the new Bible study after church has been well attended. Sunday School will resume on August 30, and children will be singing during the service on August 23. Sunday School will be held on the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

Fellowship - Valerie Ellis said Octoberfest will be held on October 10th from 4 - 7 p.m. German food will be provided, there will be a a craft table for children, and light music will be playing in the background. Tickets will be $10 each. A welcome back service for snow birds will be held in November with light snacks provided after the service.

Discussion was held about inviting the general public to the Boutique and Octoberfest, and the consensus was against doing this.

Health - Kathy Williams said the July distribution of adult personal hygiene products went well and the change in how she is managing the table has effectively solved any difficulty.

Outreach - Su Erickson said about 90 boxes have been going out on Tuesdays. It has been necessary to build the pantry back up since there were three weeks without contributions from St. Mary's Food Bank.

Since February, IHELP has helped a total of 46 individuals with 24 positive exits. IHELP is a true transition program and does not deal with issues of sobriety or mental health so the goal can focus on moving from homelessness to having a home and employment to maintaining living arrangements. Additional grant money is forthcoming.

Su mentioned the idea of an outreach monthly project for CELC where it can be decided where we want to put efforts in fundraising. She suggested using a schedule to determine what we will be focusing on by month to avoid stepping all over ourselves in these efforts. Pastor Jeff explained Gratitude Sunday which allows focusing on a single project at a time.

The first Saturday in November is the Cancer Walk - more information will be coming about this event.

Stewardship - Ann Bruce said she is thinking about having a talk with the congregation about what Stewardship does, using the example of the work done on Tuesdays with Outreach. She thinks it might be a good idea to explain what each of the council positions is all about, such as Worship, Health, and Fellowship to give people a better understanding of how they may be able to make a contribution.

Worship - Stevie Henderson said the full choir will likely be back by November. Discussion was held about looking for alternatives for wafers during communion and perhaps using some of the extra bread supplied to Outreach for communion in place of wafers.

Youth - Jennifer Cole said she needs some help in planning for the remainder of the year; at this point there are no plans for the youth due to busy schedules and lack of youth committed to participating. Discussion was held about joining in with other mainstream congregation's youth programs to offer our young people opportunities they don't have now because of small numbers and lack of interest.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Jeff had been approached about Stephen's Ministry for CELC. We have a trainer and there might be some cost involved. Council members were supportive of looking into this further, and Pastor Jeff will pursue doing so.

Pastor Jeff would like to begin training people to be lay ministers to go to nursing homes, hospitals or shut in homes to administer the sacrament.

Regarding the welcome back service, he suggested November 8th as a good date to hold this event.

Pastor Jeff will begin offering a Children's Message on the Sundays that we do not have Sunday School.

Discussion was held about welcoming visitors each Sunday. Pastor Jeff suggested having bracelets and visitor cards available at the welcome desk rather than recognizing visitors at the beginning of the service, to avoid making anyone feel uncomfortable. It is important to have the visitor cards filled out so he can make a follow up contact afterwards.

Pastor Jeff commented on the need for the sign in the front of the church to be updated. Council members agreed and indicated it is in process by Randy Heibel and Jim Hill.

The next meeting will be held on September 20, 2026. Pastor Jeff made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Cole, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned following The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Addy
Council Secretary