

September 15, 2026 - ELC – COUNCIL MINUTES

Present: Holly Bayerl, James Porras, Gary Miller, Jim Briar, Cindy Smith, Pastor Christine, Rob Jamo, Eileen Beyer, Brianna Camps, Travis Rod

Present to Report: Deb Villas, Patti Treptow, Judy Raygo

Absent: Janet Conklin, Matt Nowack, Gail Sieglaff, Allyson Bickel

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at **6:03 PM** by Council President **Holly Bayerl**.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was reviewed. Added Presidents Report under Committee Report. A **MOTION** to approve the agenda with minor change by **Rob** and seconded by **James**. **Motion carried**.

OPENING DEVOTION — Dwelling in the WORD 6:05 pm

Pastor Christine led the devotion on **Philippians 1:27-30**. **Travis** read the passage aloud first, with **Brianna** reading second, followed by reflection and discussion. Devotion concluded at **6:24 PM**.

SECRETARY'S REPORT — Minutes & Correspondence 6:24 pm

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. A **MOTION** to accept the report with a correction to the Finance Report brought forward by Rob was made by **James**, seconded by **Rob**.

Correspondence: No correspondence to share.

TREASURER'S AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT - 6:28 pm

Deb Villas presented the Treasurer's and Finance Committee report, including key balances, notable expenses, and budget comparisons. A **MOTION** to accept the Treasurer's and Finance Committee Report was made by **Cindy**, seconded by **Rob**.

The Treasurer's and Finance Committee report was **accepted as written**.

ACTION ITEMS – OLD BUSINESS

Council attendance policy – *Discussion summary:* Council agreed to table this topic until the October meeting with a verbal agreement to review the contents of the policy before then. Brianna to re-email to everyone.

Brat Fry – *Discussion summary:* October 2nd and 3rd is the next planned Brat Fry. Will report on results of all three sales at the October meeting.

Cap, Chimney, Roof Repair Report – *Discussion Summary:* In progress, no new updates.

Transition Team – *Discussion Summary:* The team is planning a congregational breakfast event on January 17 at 9:00 AM, between services. The purpose is to invite ideas and engagement from the congregation regarding our future and calling as a church. Council spent time discussing this focus and how it connects to current church operations and overall direction.

Rally Day Review – *Discussion Summary:* Attendance was low (31 participants). The group discussed the benefit of holding the event off-site. Fellowship Committee will consider hosting Rally Day at the church next year and bring a recommendation to Council.

God's Work, Our Hands – *Discussion Summary:* An idea was shared to provide "To-Go Potluck Meals" as an outreach activity by bringing prepared food to local organizations in need. The group discussed reaching out to a single site to see whether contributions such as salads or desserts would be helpful. Haven of Hope was identified as a likely first contact due to its smaller population. Holly will follow up with them to determine interest.

ACTION ITEMS – NEW BUSINESS

Confirmand Approval – *Discussion Summary:* Five confirmands will be presented for confirmation on October 25, 2026 - Daly Butler, Jordyn Sallgren, Jereson Camps, Dawson McKenney, and Josh Rod. A **MOTION** to approve was made by **James** and seconded by **Rob**. Their essays and faith testimonies will appear in the November Messenger.

Retirement – *Discussion Summary:* The Council expressed appreciation for Judy's more than 30 years of service as church secretary. Discussion focused on preparing a job posting for the role, with anticipated office hours of 12–15 hours per week and flexibility depending on the needs of the incoming secretary.

New Member Class, and October Member Installation – *Discussion Summary:* A new member welcoming is planned for October 4th with about a dozen new members expected.

Church Signage – *Discussion Summary:* The group discussed updating wayfinding signage for visitors, including bathroom signs upstairs and downstairs. Holly will gather information on signage options and costs and report back to Council for approval.

REPORTS – 7:36 pm

Youth & Family Ministry Director's Report: Patti reported on the recent youth retreat held at her home, noting it was a meaningful and successful experience for the participants. Report accepted as written.

Youth Representative Report (Optional): Travis shared observations about the impact of several recent youth deaths in the community, noting the uncertainty this has created among his peers. Council expressed empathy for the challenges facing local youth.

Committee Reports (Open Floor)

Property – Jim said the thermostats have been ordered. He will volunteer to install them with training of church staff to use the associated mobile app with financial savings anticipated.

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Presidents Report – Holly Bayerl Holly thanked the Fellowship Committee for their work on Rally Day and noted readiness for the start of Sunday school and welcoming new members. She expressed appreciation for Judy's many years of steady support and service. Holly also acknowledged the busy fall ahead and thanked Council members for their continued commitment. Report accepted as written.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Christine had no additions to make to her submitted notes. Report accepted as written.

Adjournment

Discussion summary: A **MOTION** to adjourn was made by **Brianna**, seconded by **James**. **MOTION carried**. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm. Pastor Christine led the council in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by Brianna Camps, Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council Vice President, on behalf of Allyson Bickel, Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council Secretary