Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church Minutes
Sunday, March 15 22, 2026, 12:15 PM
Next meeting: April 12, 2026, 12:15 PM

Council Members Present: Rose Anderson, Kathy Carlsted, Becky Hulden, Craig Loen, Julie Valez,

A. **Opening Devotions – Julie (**Thank you, Julie)
   a. **April- Kathy**

B. **Sharing Stories of God's Love in our Lives –** Gratitude for safe and successful travels. Kind words of support between members at coffee hour.

C. **Pastor Justin's Report –**
   1. Technology upgrades and changes – no report
   2. Joint Council – met on 3/16 at ILC. Pastor Justin presented a draft of a One-Year Shared Ministry Covenant. We discussed the successes and concerns that we have and that we have heard in the congregations. Members of the Joint Council will make revisions and meet again to ratify it on Monday morning, 3/23/2026 at 9:00 at FELC. The completed covenant will be presented to the FELC Council on 4/12 and voted on by both congregations on 5/17/2026.
   3. Staff meetings at FELC – The FELC staff met on 3/5 with Angie, Pastor Justin, Tim and Becky in attendance. Angie presented an agenda with 21 items. Facility upgrades, Lenten and Easter worship services were all discussed.

D. **Treasurer's Report – Craig –**
   1. Our income for February was $9,908.96, which was below budget by $244.08. But we are still above our budget for income by 1.31% for the year.
   2. Our expenses for the first 8 months are $100,757.68 which includes the following line items:
      1. 6145 _ Pastor 90-day contract - $19,170.00 for 8 months. This is what we pay to Immanuel for Pastor Justin @ $2,130.00 per month.
      2. 6712 – Equipment Purchased – Parish Coordinator's new computer equipment - $2,296.00.
      3. We are above Expense Budget by 20.61% or $19,533.36.
   3. We had an offering of $500 for the Samaritan Fund in January.
   4. Julie made a motion to approve the Treasurers Report. Rose seconded. Motion carried.

E. **Building and Grounds Committee Projects – Don**
   1. Security cameras installation – Don is continuing to add security cameras indoors and out. He will give a more complete report in April.
   2. Bathroom remodeling almost done – painting planned by Angie and Carli – after Easter.
   3. Gift to Bruce - $300 Gift card to Menards. Angie got the gift card and council members signed the card today. Kathy will deliver the card and gift card to Bruce.

F. **Library Report – Julie**
   1. Julie will work with Tim to attach the plaque to the library. Then we will plan a dedication and contact the Chisago County Press with pictures.

G. **Sunday School –** will report twice annually

H. **Vision Group -> Mission and Outreach Committee**
   1. Leadership will be Rita and Wendy. No report.

I. **Shared Ministry – Better Together with Immanuel**
   1. The Joint Council met on Monday, March 16, 2026, at Immanuel with Pastor Justin. See the report under Pastor's Report.
   2. Music and Worship Coordination – Becky is attending weekly meetings with Immanuel staff and Pastor Justin. Toni is again employed fulltime and is not available to meet with this group.

J. **Personnel – all of these positions are addressed in the next Shared Ministry Covenant**
   a. Positions to hire over next several months
      i. Music and Worship Director – organist at both churches, direct joint choir, coordinate special music, participate in worship planning for both churches.
      ii. Choir accompanist – rehearsals and worship services
      iii. Financial Secretary – for both churches
   b. We need to update job descriptions for organist, janitor, and parish coordinator.
   c. Jerry Rhoads would like to retire from his Financial Secretary position. He is willing to wait until we have a replacement and will train that person in.

K. **Sunday Morning - Council Person on Duty (CPOD)**
   a. Security and emergency Plan – Angie D. – No report today.

L. **Caring Ministry**
   a. ELW Pastoral Care booklets are here and available for communion visits.
   b. Communion visits continue to 3 shut ins.

M. **Report on Events**
   a. Women's Retreat – 7 people attended for the entire weekend and 3 more came for the day on Saturday. Everyone agreed to begin planning to repeat this retreat next winter.
   b. Ash Wednesday – no report.
   c. Lenten services are going well at both churches. Many Immanuel members come regularly to the 11 AM service at FELC.
   d. Mi-Chi-Lu Pancake Feed – Rose and Eleanor worked at the event. Perhaps a lower turnout than last year.
   e. Game Night and Dinner – Only 1 table of folks (10 people) at this event.

N. **Upcoming Events: - leadership?**
   a. Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast – Combined with Youth Breakfast at ILC. Hopefully this will help us feel more connected.
   b. Maundy Thursday – 6:30 PM at Immanuel
   c. Good Friday – 6:00 PM at FELC
   d. Saturday Vigil – 7PM at the Nelson- Hulden Farm
   e. Easter Sunday - Sunrise (6:30 AM) and 9:00 AM at Immanuel
      11:00 AM at FELC
   f. Feed my Starving Children – Friday, April 17 at Hosanna Lutheran in Forest Lake. Sign-up for 10 people is almost complete.

O. **Motion to Adjourn MMC Adjourned at 1:30 PM**