Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church Minutes

Thursday, August 20, 2026, 6:00 PM
Next meeting: September 17, 5:30pm

Council Members: Angela Dahlstrom, Don Hansen, Rita Johnson, Craig Loen, Joe Szczepanski, Julie Valez, Pastor Justin Fenger

Julie Magnuson also present

GATHERING

A. Opening Devotions – Joe Szczepanski
September-Julie Valez

B. Sharing Stories of God's Love in our Lives –

BUSINESS

C. Pastor Justin's Report –

1. Developing communication plan for the 2 churches, developing a shared joint calendar, google calendar.
2. Wedding coming up at First
3. Vacation bible school was a success- 38 children attended- Thanks to Wendy for the help
4. Getting ready for the September activities and youth group and Sunday school beginning.
5. Mark Weslander is the parish coordinator at Immanuel and he has similar duties as Angie Linngren at First Lutheran.
6. Dadu Reeves-Is the new Organist for Immanuel Lutheran as well as the Joint Choir Accompanist.

D. Council Matters

1. Correction to Counters from June minutes showed a misprint. The counters are Kathy Carlsted, Rose Anderson, Eleanor Collins and Ruth Steinwell.
2. Miriam Flysjo – Sunday School reports proposed to be presented biannually. Once for the annual meeting and one in November
3. Do we want to appoint a Council on Duty? Council felt that we no longer need a COD because Angie Linngren is here at 8am on Sunday mornings.
4. Emergency preparedness plan- List of people has names. Potential to set up a meeting. Angela D. will coordinate first meeting
5. Personnel committed will review all employee position descriptions and update.

E. Treasurer's Report – Craig

1. Motion to remove Becky Hulden from general checking account and add Angela D. as a signer. Craig will remain on as a signer. Motion by Craig, seconded by Angela. Motion carried.
2. Annual report: Do we need to set another special congregational meeting to approve the 25-26 report? Yes, September 27 after worship.
3. Helen Sellman family – legal paperwork received. Two copies are available for viewing. Pastor will investigate endowment options for large donations
4. Determine date of 2027 annual meeting? Deferred until after next joint council meeting.
5. Budget: Budget Income and Expenses for 2026/27 is within 1 %
6. Detailed Treasurer report is available in the office for inspection by any member.
7. Shared ministry concerns from Janell -FELC accountant, regarding workman's compensation. Will check with AI for workman's compensation issues.
8. Motion to approve treasurers report by Angela and seconded by Julie. Motion carried

F. Building and Grounds Committee Projects – Don & Julie

1. Restriping the parking lot-Julie M. taking the lead at no cost. Don made a motion to approve striping contingent on striping plan. Julie seconded. Motion carried
2. Review what the role of the Building and Grounds committee is. Are the members the eyes and list creators, or is it intended the members carry out projects as well? A clear expectation of what is the role of the members is requested so everyone is on the same page. Each member needs to feel heard, and rather than take on projects, the group will create a FELC wish list with the most pressing needs at the top of the list.
3. Clarification on what the two rooms are called/used for on the first floor. Southwest room is now the Family/Fireside Room, and the northwest room is Community Room.
4. Joy B./Julie V- Requesting removal of couches and chair from the Sunday School room. Couches to hauled away at $40 each and chair at $20. Potentially move leather couch from Sunday School room to upstairs and remove two couches from upstairs room. Old chairs from the dining room are also still in the Sunday School Room to be removed. Potentially Bruce may have more info on those. Motion by Angela to spend $150 to remove couches and old dehumidifiers, Joe seconded. Motion carried
5. Pest control-mice box placement by September 1.
6. Julie will make a list of all potential projects and bring it to the council

PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

G. Music and worship

1. Toni is available to attend Tuesday morning worship meetings at Immanuel.
2. Both Angie from FELC and Mark from ILC create bulletins weeks ahead of each Sunday. Angie finalizes the bulletin for the upcoming Sunday by Tuesday at noon to get the information to Carli to create Proclaim for both churches. Mark is efficient and sends Immanuel's bulletin by Tuesday early afternoon. Changes made to the bulletin need to be given to Angie no later than noon on Tuesday for things to run smoothly.

SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS

H. Library Report – Julie

1. Open House – September 20th, one hour before church and until 1pm after church.
2. Ten new books purchased. Goal is to obtain newer books that relate to our world today.
3. Bookmarks will be offered at the open house.

I. Caring Ministry

1. Verna Grover is back home. Son is seeking home care while he is at work.
2. Mary Anne Mattson is back home after surgery. She is doing well.

J. Motion to Adjourn Motion by Don and seconded by Angela, Motion carried