

NELC Council Regularly Called Meeting | Minutes

September 23rd, 2025* | 6:30 p.m. - 10:05 p.m. | Room 301, Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church
(*Regular meeting from September 16th was postponed one week due to Council members' illness and travel)

Meeting called by:	President Nate Greiner	Attendees: Nate Greiner, Wayne Jacobson, Julie Creeden, Beth Harris, Russ Curtis, Erik Blanchard, Doug Witham, Tim Boettger, Kristina McBurney, Mike Brost
Secretary:	Julie Creeden	Absent: Cindy Wilson due to illness

AGENDA TOPICS:

Call to Order at 6:30 p.m. | Nate Greiner

Prayer & Devotion
Scripture: Philippians 4:2–9
Reflection: Mike encouraged members to move from worry and anxiety to the peace that surpasses all understanding. He invited all present to share something they were thankful for or something worthy of praise.

Action item via email 9/17/25: Mission Fund Grant application

	Moved	Seconded	Vote
Approve the grant request of \$2,000 from the US & World Mission Committee for Lauren Dawson with ELIC	Russ	Julie	Pass

Secretary's Report | Julie Creeden

Action item	Moved	Seconded	Vote
Approve Council minutes from 8/19/25	Wayne	Erik	Pass

Treasurer's Report | Doug Witham

September 8 Finance Committee Minutes were reviewed by Doug.

- Giving is 1% ahead of projections. Noted a lack of memorial gifts.

Action item	Moved	Seconded	Vote
Approve August Financials	Erik	Wayne	Pass

Committee Reports

- Executive Committee: Has not yet met.
- Building & Grounds: Have not met since last Council meeting.
- Education Committee:
 - Beth will move forward with planning and initiatives.
- Endowment Committee:
 - The upcoming meeting will feature guest Sarah Buzynski, a recent grant recipient.
 - Discussion on updating fund usage processes and encouraging giving in line with new bylaws.
 - Recommendation made to seek an investment review (Doug will explore options).
- Evangelism Committee:
 - Planning to meet and report next month.
- Local Missions Committee:
 - There will be a shift from sending letters to conducting personal visits to grant recipients to understand how funds are being used.
- Stewardship Committee:
 - Julie reported that the Stewardship mailing went out on September 15th. Two Sundays will be devoted to preaching on Biblical stewardship. Ingathering will take place on Oct. 12th. Congregation members who are unable to attend will be encouraged to return pledge cards and Time & Talents sheets by October 19th.
- U.S. and World Missions:
 - No activity other than an email vote.
- Worship & Praise Committee:
 - The committee is actively meeting and planning.
 - Focus includes service evaluations, incorporating creative elements, and addressing the one service vs. two services discussion.
 - Engaging in ongoing feedback.
 - A formal recommendation will be brought to Council at an upcoming meeting.
 - A decision is needed no later than January regarding worship format and outreach strategies.

Pastors' Reports | Mike Brost & Tim Boettger

Mike:

- Shared continued implementation of new bylaws.
- Welcomed new members Tony and Denise Hanson.
- Distributed the NALC vision diagram and reflected on a recent visit to LeMars with Del and Kay Carpenter, where Bishop Selbo preached on future visioning.
- Emphasized the importance of distinguishing between evangelism and disciple-making, noting that true evangelism involves sharing the Gospel beyond church invitation.
- Reported a successful singles Zoom event and an in-person gathering with 12 singles and 2 couples.

Action item	Moved	Seconded	Vote
Approve new members Tony and Denise Hanson	Julie	Erik	Pass

Tim:

- Launching "The FORGE" men's Bible study with a movie kickoff and 5-week follow-up focused on mentoring younger men.
- Planning five community breakfasts centered on Biblical manhood (Genesis).
- In conversation with Meg regarding staging The Best Christmas Pageant Ever in December.

- Highlighted a forthcoming Lifewise documentary about the history of the Bible in schools, with potential for a Nazareth screening.
- Expressed gratitude to the Council for its support of community outreach and dedication to God's Word.

Administrator's Report | *Kristina McBurney*

Staffing Updates:

Hiring: Communications Director, Food & Pantry Coordinator

- Hired Zac Moore as new Worship & Tech Coordinator, today was his first day.
- Offered an internship opportunity to second candidate, Samuel Hoffmann.
- Creating job description for part-time Worship Leader
- Reviewing Communications Director job description

Administrative Updates:

- Preparing for 2026 budget process
- Met w/ Gordon and Flesch representative for follow up on new copy machine
- Coordinating w/Jordan Keating-Venghaus to create weekly mini Naz News and Friday email.
- Provided support Kick Off Picnic, picnic was coordinated by Meg Husted and Kim Albertsen
- Coordinated staff involvement for check in for September 10 Congregational meeting
- Have had several meetings with Kim Albertsen and Marc Rath to create plan for moving nursery closer to the Worship Center
- Met w/ Dan Olson to discuss Worship Center sound system
- Attended Sing Conference in Nashville with Nathaniel Parrish, Andy Walser, Meg Husted, Tim Boettger and Kris Boettger. The conference emphasized the preservation of hymns and facilitating congregational singing. The Getty's recently released a new hymn book with a mix of traditional hymns and contemporary hymns and liturgy. All conference participants received a free copy of the hymn book.
- Continue to participate in Thursday Worship and Praise Creative Team meetings

President's Report | *Nate Greiner*

Bylaw update:

Nate provided a summary of our Bylaw discussion; minor revisions can be addressed at the upcoming Annual Meeting if the congregation chooses to do so.

Nominating Committee:

- Mike Brost will convene the committee.
- Council members Doug and Beth will serve on the Nominating Committee per the Bylaws.
- Term Updates:
 - 3-year terms ending: Wayne, Kristie, Nate
 - 1-year appointment term ending: Julie
 - At the next Annual Meeting in January 2026, three people will be elected for three-year terms, and one person will be elected to finish Kristina's term which will end March 1, 2027.
 - Kristie has formally resigned from the Church Council; her replacement will be elected by the congregation in January.

Other Business

- **Independent Tax-Exempt Status:**
 - Anne Carlson to initiate Form 1023 to apply for recognition under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3).
 - Instructions available online; requires historical and financial information.
 - Filing fee is \$600.
 - Application will be retroactively applied upon IRS approval.
 - Form must be submitted with the church's updated Articles of Incorporation.
 - Annual filing of Form 990 will be required after recognition.
- **Materials distributed** from Ashlyn and McKenna regarding *Set Apart Ministry's* interest in the building that formerly housed the Blessed Beginnings School Age Program.

Executive Session

Nate closed in prayer.

Action item	Moved	Seconded	Vote
Adjourn at 10:05 p.m.	Erik	Doug	Pass

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m. | Next meeting: Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 6:30 p.m., Room 301, Nazareth Lutheran Church.