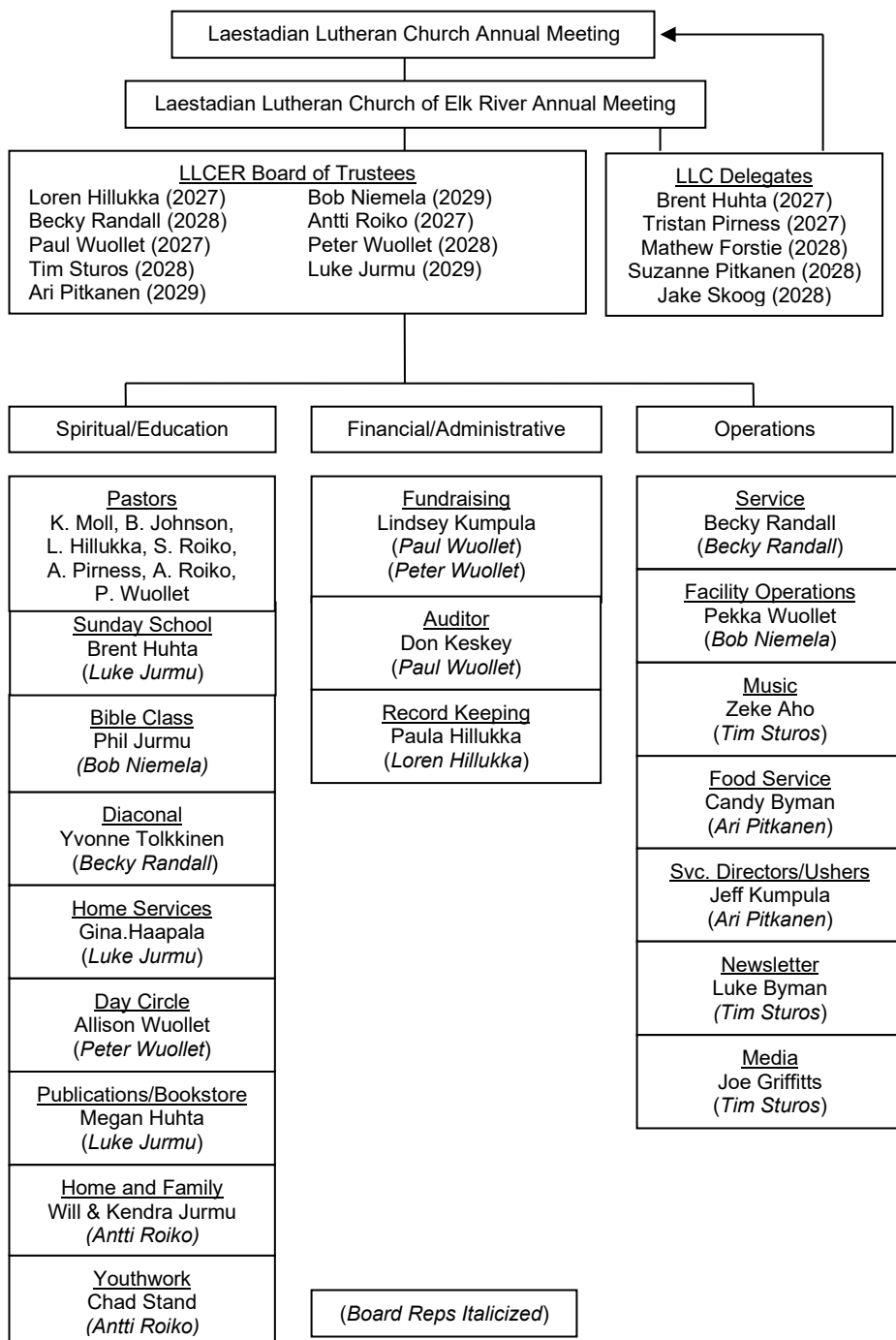


LLCER Membership Information 2026



LLCER Organizational Chart – 04/21/2026



Welcome to LLCER, the Laestadian Lutheran Church of Elk River! This handbook is intended to be a reference tool for congregation members. If you have additional questions, we hope you will always feel free to ask a member of the Board of Trustees.

HISTORY OF LLCER

Believers have been meeting in the Twin Cities area since 1895, when a small group gathered in northeast Minneapolis to establish the Finnish Apostolic Lutheran Congregation of Minneapolis. This is believed to be the oldest Finnish congregation in Minneapolis. Due to spiritual schisms since that time and many groups using the name “Apostolic Lutheran,” the name was eventually changed to the “Laestadian Lutheran Church.”

After holding services in the city of Minneapolis for a number of years, the congregation moved to Plymouth, Minnesota. Subsequently, many believers moved to areas west of Plymouth, and the Rockford (RLLC) congregation was established in 1992.

Believers have lived in the Elk River area for some time, attending services primarily in the Minneapolis and Rockford congregations. As more believers began to settle in the area, Bible Class was organized and held at Lincoln Elementary School (Elk River) in April of 2002. In November 2006, a group of believers gathered to discuss the interest in formally organizing a congregation. By the end of the evening, the Elk River Congregation had been formed, and the LLCER was formally accepted as a LLC member congregation in February 2007.

Groundbreaking for the church building was held on June 26, 2016 and the first service was held November 19, 2017. Dedication services were held April 20-22, 2018.

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning Service.....	10:30 a.m.
Communion Service, 1st Sunday.....	10:30 a.m.
Sunday School (Sept-May).....	9:15 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service/Activity	6:30 p.m.
Song Service/Home Services, 1st Wednesday...	7:00 p.m.
Bible Class (all other Wednesdays)	7:00 p.m.
5th Sunday – No evening activity	

* Most events (besides Home Services) are held at the church located at 8595 201st Ave, Nowthen, MN 55330.

* There are some exceptions to this schedule, which are noted in the weekly newsletter and announced at services.



MINISTERS

Kevin Moll, Brian Johnson, Antti Roiko, Adrian Pirness, Loren Hillukka, Sam Roiko, and Paul Wuollet serve the congregation. Ministers from other areas of Minnesota also serve on a monthly rotation. Ministers from the East Central area serve on a less frequent rotation. Kevin serves the congregation as Lead Pastor. He is the primary contact for pastoral needs. (763.227.7301)

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Demographics: In 2026, our congregation has 198 adult members and 142 children in Sunday School.

Recordkeeping: Paula Hillukka maintains member records for the congregation. This includes events such as weddings, births, baptisms, and deaths.

Baptism Records: A supply of blank certificates are kept by Paula Hillukka and are also available at the church. Parents are responsible for requesting a certificate prior to the baptism.

- The day of the baptism, the minister, together with the parents, complete the certificate.
- The minister signs the certificate and leaves it with the parents after making an electronic or paper copy.
- The minister sends a copy of the certificate to Paula for data entry in the church records.

Baby Prayer: Prayers are conducted during services on a communion Sunday four times per year on behalf of babies born into the congregation. Contact Allison Wuollet to have your baby's name included.

Raffles: The congregation conducts fundraising raffles according to the laws of the State of Minnesota. All raffles are run through the Fundraising Committee.

Dues: Minimum annual dues requirements of \$12 must be paid by the end of the prior year to vote at the annual meeting held in March. Membership is limited to those who are at least 18 years of age. Those unable to pay the required dues are welcome to participate in congregation life and enjoy the spiritual aspects of the congregation. Suggested amounts and details on how funds are distributed can be found below under the heading "Sources and Uses of Operating Funds."

Communion: Laif and Amber Huhta ensure that supplies are available and organize communion dishes for each communion service.

Communication: LLCER has a weekly newsletter that is available each week at services. In this newsletter you will find a calendar of events for the month, a list of members whose committees are serving, and other useful information. The website is www.llcer.org

- To submit an entry into the newsletter, send it to newsletter@llcer.org Additional information is announced at the conclusion of each service.
- To view the calendar online, go to www.llcer.org and find the link for the calendar. It can also be added to a personal Google calendar by clicking on the plus button shown at the bottom right of the calendar.
- You can sign up to get the newsletter via email by going to the Resources page of the website and filling out a form.
- Text “@llcer411” to 81010 to sign up for the congregation’s Remind group text message updates.

Winter Weather Cancellation Policy: Activities will be cancelled if the temperature is forecasted to be -20F or the wind chill is forecast to be -40F. Activities will also be cancelled if the road conditions or visibility compromise safety, even if the temperature is not as specified above. The primary consideration for cancellation is the safety of the congregation members, taking into consideration the elders, young children, and those driving long distances.

LLCER BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Spiritual needs are the first priority of the board of trustees. The board also endeavors to maintain a steady course for the congregation in matters pertaining to financial and organizational needs. The trustees are servants of the congregation.

The board is made up of nine members, each serving a three-year term. Current board members and the year their terms expire are listed on the Organizational Chart on Page 2.

COMMITTEES

HOME/FAMILY COMMITTEE. (Will and Kendra Jurmu) Homes are the foundation of the congregation and this committee provides support for homes and families.

YOUTHWORK COMMITTEE. (Chad Strand) This committee organizes spiritual and temporal gatherings for the youth with emphasis on providing Christian guidance and fellowship.

SERVICE DIRECTORS AND USHERS COMMITTEE. (Jeff Kumpula) The Service Director ensures services start on time, handles all audio/visual equipment, and verifies that organists, song leaders, ushers, and collectors are present. The Service Director makes announcements at the conclusion of each service. A notebook is available for members to record announcements they would like read by the Service Director.

Usher duties include monitoring common areas, assisting guests with the facility and locking up after each service event.

FOOD SERVICE COMMITTEE. (Candy Byman) Seven coffee committees organize coffee lunch for Sunday and Wednesday evening events. There is another committee that does kitchen cleaning. Ladies, confirmation-age to 55, and confirmation through high school aged boys are assigned to a committee and committees serve approximately every seven weeks. The schedule is communicated in the weekly newsletter. It is the responsibility of each committee member to monitor when their committee is scheduled to serve. The committee assists in setting up coffee lunch and cleaning up afterward. There is a coffee shop that provides specialty coffee for sale, and a candy store is also occasionally open.



SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE. (Brent Huhta) The Sunday School Committee is responsible for the curriculum for preschool through ninth grade, schedule and teacher selection. They also organize additional events, such as the Sunday School Christmas program and Sunday School Picnic. To enroll your child, confer with Paula Hillukka beforehand, or arrive at Sunday School a little early.

BIBLE CLASS COMMITTEE. (Phil Jurmu) Bible Class is held every Wednesday evening except for when there are Home Services, Song Services, or Special Services. A separate Bible Class for children in 1st grade through 3rd grade is held in the Dining Room.

DAY CIRCLE COMMITTEE. (Allison Wuollet) Day Circle is held on Wednesday evenings during Bible Class twice a month during the school year for Pre-School and Kindergarten children. Families are assigned turns to teach with assistance from 9th grade students.

MUSIC COMMITTEE. (Zeke Aho) The Music Committee recruits song leaders and organists to serve at services and maintains their schedule. This committee also considers other music needs of the congregation.

HOME SERVICE COMMITTEE. (Gina Haapala) Home Services are held the first Wednesday of February, March, May, October, and November. The congregation is divided geographically into groups that fit into a home. Each group has an area representative who is responsible for arranging the service time, location, choosing a discussion topic, and taking a collection at the services. These collections benefit the work of the Diaconal Committee. To find out which home service group meets near you, contact Gina.

DIACONAL COMMITTEE. (Yvonne Tolkkinen) This committee helps congregation members in need of spiritual, social, and temporal assistance. This includes (but is not limited to) helping those with special needs or disabilities. Requests for assistance may be brought to committee members or to the Board of Trustees.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE. (Lindsey Kumpula) This committee coordinates fundraising efforts in the congregation. Typical fundraisers include meals, service auctions, event catering, building projects, recreation events.

SCHEDULING COMMITTEE. (Becky Randall) This committee develops the schedule of service events and speaker brothers, communicates changes to the congregation, arranges meals and lodging for visiting ministers, oversees planning of special events, and manages reservations for church use.

FACILITY OPERATION COMMITTEE. (Pekka Wuollet). This committee maintains and operates the church facility so it is ready for normal scheduled congregational use. If you see any maintenance needs, send them to llcermaintenance@gmail.com.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE SUB-COMMITTEE. (Will Jurmu)

Within 24 hours of any situation, actual or imminent, that endangered the safety and lives of participants or the security of the properties, must be reported to a member of the Emergency Response Committee. This committee reports to the Facility Committee. The committee is also responsible for maintaining emergency equipment (fire curtain, fire extinguishers, first aid box, defibrillator, etc.)

SOURCES & USES OF OPERATING FUNDS

Sources of Operating Funds

Our congregation collects money in various ways, through dues, fundraisers, donations, and collections.

The congregation realizes that each person's financial situation is different, and members are encouraged to be free to pledge as their situation allows. The suggested monthly amount is: \$280/couple, \$140/single, or \$70 for students and retirees.

These payments can be made either in one lump payment or smaller payments throughout the year. Payments can be submitted by:

- Placing them in the collection plate at services; checks should be made to LLCER
- Giving them directly to Peter Wuollet or Tim Sturos, the treasurer and assistant treasurer
- Electronic transfer (contact Peter or Tim)
- Via the website; go to www.llcer.org and click on the "Contributions" tab
- Via credit card with a congregation iPad kept with the bookstore.
- With the Venmo app

Uses of Operating Funds

Funds from members go to operate our congregation. This includes:

- Making mortgage and utilities payments for the church building and building and property maintenance.
- Ensuring all service needs are met, including minister's wages, proper sound equipment, books, and other needs.
- Supporting the LLC (see below for its functions) and Stony Lake Camp. Our congregation sends \$39/member/month to the LLC and \$25/member/month for camp support on each member's behalf.

FUNCTIONS OF THE LLC

The Laestadian Lutheran Church (LLC) is the parent organization of our congregation. The main responsibilities of the LLC include: Mission Work, Christian Education, Pastoral Needs and Publications. The LLC also conducts confirmation schools, schedules annual summer and winter service, schedules services in areas which do not have local ministers, and arranges foreign mission trips. More information can be found at: www.llchurch.org. LLCER is in the East Central Mission Area of the LLC.

LLCER Delegates: LLCER has a delegate committee of six delegates, three of which represent our congregation at the LLC Annual Meeting and at any other special meeting as determined by the LLC. They serve two-year terms and three of the six terms expire at each year's congregation annual meeting.

LLC CAMPS

The LLC operates four camps: Hasscib Lake in Michigan, Stony Lake in Minnesota, Prairie Shores in Saskatchewan, and Kamp Kipa in Arizona, along with the Silver Springs property in Minnesota. Various camps are held throughout the year for all ages. To sign up for camp or get more information, you can also go to: www.llchurch.org. Congregation members work in the kitchen at

camps throughout the year. Additionally, an annual “clean-up” is held each spring and volunteers are encouraged to attend.



llcer.org

