



## Council Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 9, 2020, 10:30am- 12:15 pm

“To worship God as an intergenerational praying community, learning God’s Word, and building lasting relationships as we grow in God’s love and grace.”

**Members Present:** Wendy Szczepanski, Rose Anderson, Miriam Flysjo, Craig Loen, Becky Hulden , Pastor Dwight Rudquist      **Members Absent:** none

**A. Opening Devotions** - Miriam. Next month Rose

**B. Sharing Story** - Rose, Becky

**C. Pastor’s Report-** Pastor Dwight

Pastor Dwight led worship five times including once at the Lodge. He had 3 phone visits and a hospital visit. He also attended various meetings at First. He thinks things are going well and is learning more about First every month.

The Gideons contacted Pastor Dwight and asked if they could make a presentation to the congregation. After discussing the pros and cons, the Council decided not to invite the Guideons to come citing financial reasons and lack of inclusivity.

We will continue to use Hidden In Christ for our vesper services during Lent. We discussed adding a short message to the service but decided to continue with the contemplative service as written.

Pastor Dwight asked if people like the way the readings are laid out in the bulletin. Yes, it is nice to have it all together. Printing out the reading from Psalms makes it very clear what the congregation is supposed to say. We are glad the absolution has been brought back. Pastor is thinking about changing the liturgy to a different setting after Easter.

**D. Treasurer’s Report** – Becky

Our income in January is about \$10,000 less than in December. We often have an increase in December and a dip in January. Becky will add the \$9000 from the fall gift to the Klinke fund.

Our income is about what we expected. We are about on track for our budget. We have more money in our checking account because we aren’t paying benefits for the pastor.

We got a statement from the synod. For the year 2019 we paid \$3300. We pay every 2 months so by the end of our fiscal year we will have paid \$3400. Next year we should look at raising our percentage giving from 2% to 3% of our budget.

**E. Steeple bids**

We have received one updated steeple bid and unfortunately, it is significantly higher than our fundraising goal. We are seeking two additional bids from two more roofing companies. When those bids come in, the council and the property committee will assess our options. We may need to do some additional fundraising. Please stay tuned for more information. We will share it when we have it. Thanks to everyone who worked so diligently over the past year to raise this significant amount of money!

**F. Coffee with Council (Stewardship) feedback and next steps**

We met in two small groups and the people were supportive.

After much discussion the council decided we need to form a task group to determine how to proceed with our Stewardship plan. We want the focus to be on each person making a prayerful decision about the ways they can support our mission at First.

We talked about various ways to get people to commit including: private commitment cards, having a commitment

ceremony, having a narrative budget which tells how our money is used in programs and time and talent cards. The task force will decide how to move forward.

If God is calling you to help on this task from the spring to June, please contact Pastor Dwight.

### **G. Sunday school-**

We decided to give Julie M. permission to move forward with the intergenerational Sunday School during coffee hour every week. We suggested she find other people to help assist. Pastor Dwight will work with her. If necessary we could shorten the service on the fourth Sunday of the month service so she can have some additional time for the activities.

### **Upcoming events**

Synod Toolkit, Gloria Dei Lutheran, St.Paul, February 22, 8-2:30- Pastor Dwight will have Angie register Craig, Wendy and himself.

MiChiLu Mardi Gras February 25, Chisago Lakes Lutheran 5-7. Pancake party. Last year was a lot of fun so we hope more people can participate.

Ash Wednesday, services, February 26, 10 am at The Lodge and 7 pm at church.

WiPoLu meeting, February 27, 6:30 here (Balsam Lake and other congregations to discuss how to move forward with our smaller congregations.) Pastor Erin and Krista Lind will be there to help facilitate the meeting.

Are we having the Pancake breakfast on Palm Sunday? Are there any youth to help?

Rose brought up the Events section in the Leader. She will get our Lenten services listed without charge. We have money in our budget for advertising so we could put an ad in the paper about our Lent services.. Rose will talk to Angie.

Motion to adjourn. Miriam

**Next meeting March 8 at 10:30**

**Our April meeting will be changed to April 19 to avoid Easter.**