



Council Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Saturday, March 6, 2021, 3:00- 4:45 pm

Via Zoom

Next meeting April 10 at 3:00 via Zoom

“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 **Absent:** none **Guest:** Julie Magnuson

A. Opening Devotions – Rose **April** - Becky

B. Sharing Story- Becky, Rose, Wendy

C. Intergenerational Sunday School – Julie Magnuson

Julie took on the challenge of what to do about Sunday School by deciding to introduce Sunday School for everyone. It was off to a good start and then we were shut down because of Covid. She continued to reach out to the students through monthly mailings and activities on the church website. She worked to get adults to record the reading of children’s books. She focused on events like Reformation, Christmas and Lent/Easter. Julie broke down the traditional Sunday School lesson and focused on a specific aspect of the lesson each Sunday. The first Sunday was Prayer partner check in, the second Sunday was ELCA craft day, the third Sunday was a get to know you interactive game and the fourth Sunday was library day. After Easter possible activities include celebrating the church anniversary, clean up day and a picnic.

Where do we go from here?

The Book videos that were recorded will still be there. We need to keep searching for answers for how to reach the children in our congregation.

The target audience is all of us. We need to use simple language so children and adults can learn together.

Julie did a good job of getting the ball rolling. We can continue the structure Julie started but maybe we want to rename the Sunday focus to something like: Talking to God. God’s big world. Playing in God’s world, and Reading in God’s world.

The council thanks Julie for doing such a great job introducing Intergenerational Sunday School. She did an amazing job despite the challenges of the Covid shelter at home. Wendy will ask Julie for a written report.

D. Pastor’s Report- Pastor Dwight

In addition to recording Sunday services Pastor Dwight has been recording Wednesday Lent services.

Pastor Dwight attended numerous Zoom meetings: council, coffee hour, Covid Task Force, Synod meetings, MiChiLu, Confirmation and the Synod ToolKit seminar.

There is a letter from the Covid Task Group about when we can return to in person worship that will be sent out to the congregation next week.

There will be a MiChiLu combined Good Friday service online. We will do our own Maundy Thursday service.

E. Treasurer’s Report – Becky

We were about \$1000 short in Feb. Direct deposit is about 1/3 of our income.

We are at the 2/3 point of our fiscal year which means we should be about 66%.

Income is at 61%, Expenses are at 75%

Becky still needs to check on the amount in the Samaritan fund. It is most likely a misprint.

Last year's budget compared to this year:

We are \$30,000 behind in our income compared to last year. Staff expenses are about the same.

Programming expenses- We are spending more than last year on our programming. Last year we were \$21,000 ahead. Now we are \$10,000 behind.

F. Production equipment for church service

Excel AV group did another estimate for production equipment. The estimate was about \$4000 more than BitWorks. The council decided we will hire BitWorks once we have the funds.

This equipment will allow us to continue posting our worship service online even after we begin to worship in person. The plan is to record the service and have Angie edit it and put it out on YouTube so people can view it later in the week.

One problem is we have a number of people who have no access to a computer so they have no way to access the service online.

Motion:

Becky made the motion to accept a bid of \$8192 by BitWorks, use \$2624 in the property projects -other (fund 3040) as seed money and raise the rest of the money so we can buy the production equipment. Rose seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Possible fundraiser on Palm Sunday. We have a number of volunteers to work the fund raiser. We will have the drive through breakfast from 9:00-9:45. The service will follow at 10:00, weather permitting.

G. Steeple lighting update

Bruce C and Joe S. cleaned the belfry, tacked on screen and mounted lights so the steeple is lit. Jeannie Fick has offered to pay for the cost of installing the lights.

H. Toolkit Reflections, Actions -

Wendy attended the seminar "How to make time for the Sabbath." The presentation focused on using our 5 senses and being intentional during worship.

Becky went to the treasurer seminar. She wants to improve the way she reports to the congregation and plans to look at the newsletter to make sure it's an accurate picture of our stewardship. Becky is better prepared to help the audit committee look at the records.

Miriam attended a seminar on a free Energy audit. The company EnerChange works with nonprofits to improve their energy use so they can save money and reduce their impact on the environment. She will give the handbook to the property committee so they can look into it.

Pastor Dwight attended the seminar on intercultural development. Since it would be difficult for us to have a discussion at this time, Pastor Dwight will present the ideas later.

Craig attended the Presidents/vice presidents meeting. He was happy to report we are following the guidelines of getting the minutes approved before they are shared with the congregation. We do a good job of getting our minutes approved within 3-4 days so we can keep the congregation informed in a timely manner.

I. Lent offering-

We did not designate where money collected during Lent will go. In the past the money has gone to Family Pathways, Together with Friends or the Samaritan fund. Since we aren't meeting in person there may not be much money collected. We decided to look at the amount collected and then determine how to allocate the funds.

J. Craig made the Motion to adjourn, seconded by Becky

Coming up: Drive through Breakfast Sandwich Fundraiser – Palm Sunday, March 28, 9-9:45am.

Weather dependent outdoor worship services, Palm Sunday and Easter.