



Council Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

June 13, (Saturday), 2020, 3:00-4:40 via Zoom

Next meeting: July 18, 3:00 via Zoom

Members Present: Wendy Szczepanski, Rose Anderson, Miriam Flysjo, Becky Hulden, Pastor Dwight Rudquist **Members Absent :** Craig Loen

“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.”

A. Opening Devotions - Rose next time- Miriam

B. Sharing Story - Miriam, Rose

C. Pastor’s Report- Pastor Dwight

Pastor Rudquist continues to be involved in the weekly taping of the Sunday service. He has made calls to members and attended several virtual meetings: church council, MiChiLu, Reopening task force and synod meetings.

A task force charged with making a plan to Reopen the Church has been organized. They will be deciding what our next phase will look like. Task force members are: Becky Hulden, Leo Nelson, Rita Johnson, Arne Lagus, Angie Linngren, Wendy Szczepanski and Pastor Dwight. The task force wants to be cautious about reopening. Their next virtual meeting is Thursday, June 18. The task force will also look into how to have the annual meeting if we are not meeting in person by August 9.

Pastor Dwight has been meeting virtually with MiChiLu clergy every week. Chisago Lakes has set a tentative reopen date of Sept 13. Some churches are getting pushed to reopen; most are satisfied with the status quo and proceeding cautiously.

Pastor Dwight also prepared Bible studies for Together with Friends.

Sunday, June 14 is the first Zoom coffee hour.

Part of the new contract the congregation made with Pastor Dwight is to look beyond the present situation to the next pastor and shared ministry. Pastor Dwight commented on how difficult it is to make plans for the future when Covid 19 makes it so difficult to meet with people. Virtual meetings are not the same as meeting in person. He does not sense there is a rush to survey the congregation about calling another pastor. The council assured him that we are happy with the present situation and appreciate what a good job he is doing in this difficult time.

Pastor Dwight agreed to write a short statement with a list of priorities so the congregation will better understand where we are in the call process. We may not be able to start to work on moving forward in the call process in the short term.

D. Treasurer’s Report – Becky

May was a 5 week month. We took in about the same amount as April. Pledged offering and direct deposit are pretty steady. Becky will consult Janelle and Joe to put together a budget for next year. We are somewhat short of our budget.

Steeple repair fund has \$38,000. We need to raise an additional \$24,000 to pay the repair bill.

Program expenses went up. Becky will have Angie look at what expenses went up so we can plan for next year.

E. Garbage service- In order to reduce our bill, SRC has been contacted to change our service from 2 trash bins and 2 recycling bins to 1 trash bin and 1 recycling bin per week. The current charge is \$80.14/month and will drop to \$39.67/month.

F. Steeple Update- Wendy

A contract with Central Roofing was signed on June 2, 2020. The property committee is working on how lighting the steeple will be achieved. Labor costs for mounting and running electricity to the lights will be the biggest expense to get the steeple lit.

G. Steeple Fundraiser Ideas –

Some ideas that have been suggested:

1. Giving the old green hymnals (no longer in use) to people who donate.
2. Giving steeple bookmarks that tell the history of the steeple.
3. Getting those who helped out with Maple Sapping to use their Maple Bucks on the Steeple.
4. Drive through summer dinner: Brats or pulled pork. Pack the dinner in a bag and bring them to the cars as they pull up.
5. Drive through Pie social. Get a piece or a whole pie when you donate.

After discussion the council decided to start with the pie social on Sunday, July 19 from 3:00-4:30. Wendy agreed to head it up. Pies will be baked in disposable pie tins. People can get a whole pie or a piece of pie in a container. We need people to volunteer to make pies. Right now we think we will let people make whatever kind of pie they want to make.

H. Plans for Youth and Education this fall

Pastor Dwight will talk with Michelle and Angie about youth and confirmation. Trinity and Chisago are open to sharing youth ministry, but no one knows what that will look like. Pastor Dwight needs to talk with them more to figure out how it will work.

There are a couple more people interested in joining the confirmation class. Pastor Dwight might set up a Zoom meeting to get the class going again.

The council would like to see Intergenerational Sunday School resumed when we are able to meet in person again.

The council would like to have a goodbye party for Michelle Lynch since the Youth ministry position has been terminated as of July 31 and she is furloughed from the choir position due to Covid 19. She will be able to resume the duties as choir director when it is safe to do so. Becky will set up a Zoom party for the week of July 31. People are invited to send cards to her.

I. Ideas for summer worship

We would like to do a Drive in worship in the parking lot. Our sound system will work outside, but perhaps we can get a radio transmitter to add to the sound system so people tune into a radio station to hear the service. We could bring around communion to each car. We would encourage people to stay in their cars. The council decided to have the task force look into it so we stick to the guidelines for a safe meeting.

We would like to add communion to the July 5 and July 19 services. The council is looking into buying individually prepackaged communion cups and wafers. The individual cups have a small amount of juice sealed in the cup and a wafer also in the package. People could come to church to pick up the individual servings or someone could deliver it to the people who can't pick it up. Another suggestion is people could provide their own wine or juice and bread to eat during the communion part of the service.

J. Ideas for contacting all of our members

After discussing a few different options it was decided that Pastor Dwight will talk to Angie and see if there is a way to do the phone tree that incorporates the prayer partners. Pastor Dwight will do some of the phone calls. We might have few questions to ask: How are you doing? Are you getting groceries? Are you able to participate in the online worship service? If not, how could we help you get it? Do you have any questions about what's going on at church?

K. Motion to adjourn, second

Rose moves to adjourn, Becky seconded.