



Council Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

September 8, 2019, 10:45-am-2:00pm

“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: Pastor Mary Kaye, Wendy Szczepanski, Rose Anderson, Craig Loen, Becky Hulden, Miriam Flysjo **Members Absent:** none

A. Opening Devotions- Becky

B. Sharing story- where have you witnessed God’s Spirit in action? PMK, Becky, Miriam

C. Treasurer’s Report – Becky

September 1 the total offering was \$1322. As of Aug. 30 there was \$2594 in Checking.

Total \$70,529, including designated accounts. Payroll \$2829 for the two week period. We need about \$3000 a week to meet budget.

Becky will check with Janelle to ensure there is enough in the account to cover payroll this week. We need \$3800 every two weeks to just cover payroll.

D. Steeple Fundraiser Update-PMK and Wendy

Steeple fundraiser for Sat Sept 7 was cancelled due to Wendy and Joe’s sale. Wendy and Joe made \$1670 in cash on their yard sale fundraiser. There were other checks so the total was close to \$2000. We were at 63% of our goal. Now with this contribution we are close to \$23,000 which is about 70% of our goal for the steeple fund.

Next Fundraiser – at Leo and Carol’s on Saturday, Oct. 5 at noon. Serving pulled pork sandwiches.

E. Pastor’s Report – PMK

Talked to the council about reading through the minutes of the last 2-3 years to see what has been important and to follow up on items not finished.

Worship

Confirmation will be 9/22 or 10/6 so the one confirmand can be confirmed before PMK leaves. We are switching to another liturgy setting in October: setting 8, which the congregation knows. Michelle Lynch will be playing the piano for worship until further notice. She should be paid what Michelle Caneday was paid. \$85 a Sunday. The council agreed it is not the time to look for a new organist now.

When Michelle is leading the choir, both on Tuesday evenings for rehearsal, and when she directs the choir in worship, an accompanist is needed. That person will earn what Michelle Caneday earned.

We need a back up plan for running sound as Pete can't always be here. PMK will write a note to the people who are trained to ask them if they will be on a back-up schedule.

Pastoral care:

PMK has done a burial and 14 pastoral visits since our last council meeting, and anticipates there will be that many or more before her departure, (visits, hoping for no burials.)

Unfinished business

1. Nativity scene- Was restored by Carol Elliot Olson. Craig will verify where it is.
2. Church sign on county road 37 needs to be replaced. Don had done a lot of checking with the city and was going to get an estimate from a sign shop.
3. Side door by scary stairway is a safety concern. It needs a fire safe push bar. Check with Joe to see where what he knows. Does Joe want to install it? It might need a heavier door. Craig will call Joe.
4. Is there a rider on the insurance policy so kids are insured when working at the Sugar shack? They still clean buckets at the shack. From 3/10/19 minutes: We need to know what type of insurance coverage do we have :Replacement cost or actual cost or depreciated amount. Joe will call. We do not have an answer for this yet.
5. On 8/11/19 it was decided to form a Stewardship committee- Becky and PMK volunteered to be on the committee. PMK is leaving. Becky feels more called to provide pastoral care. Will need volunteers from the congregation to lead and be on this committee. Wendy will check to see if someone will head it up and volunteered to be part of the committee.
6. From 6/9/19 council minutes:The lights on the steeple were discussed and why they were removed. Joe said he was going to look at churches in Stillwater that light up their steeples to see how their lights are set up. If we are going to light up the steeple again it needs to be affordable and safe to maintain. Jeanne Fick has memorial money to get lights on steeple,(PMK unsure of how much.) Craig will call Joe.

Financial

1. From 3/12/17 council minutes: "Revelations (our financial program) entries for giving. Joe made a motion that all identified gifts of record have a Revelations account set up and that donors receive an end of year statement giving. Rose seconded. Motion carried.

We also need to acknowledge all those who give special gifts to the church. PMK made a motion we, as grateful recipients, on behalf of FELC, make it a practice for the Council to acknowledge gifts from nonmembers and gifts that appear noteworthy from members, within one month of receipt. Rose Seconded. Motion carried” PMK has been writing the notes. Becky volunteered to continue writing the thank you notes when PMK leaves.

2. Becky made the motion: Congregational giving records will be made available to a called pastor for pastoral ministry and stepwise giving data be will be made available to the council and future stewardship committee. The stepwise data will show how many people give 0-\$50, \$51-\$100, \$101-\$120 a week without indicating names of givers. Motion seconded by Craig. Motion passed.
3. Council will get scanned sheet of weekly giving so members can be apprised of budget concerns before the next meeting. This information is not the weekly bulletin but is in the newsletter. If we don't have enough money to pay our staff we need to let staff know.
4. Craig asked bank about credit. Bank has to look at our records before they could consider a loan. They will look at three criteria: Do we have money saved? Do we have pledges? Do we have debt? Bank is not interested in the church building. A private person could guarantee the loan but that would be risky.
5. Our church is older..as are many churches. And if we keep doing the same things the same ways, and are unhappy with youth involvement, we will continue to grow older and older as a congregation.)..Pr. Mary Kaye estimates $\frac{1}{3}$ of us are 70+, $\frac{1}{3}$ are 50-70. We don't have engagement from everyone. We need to have disciples to do things to engage them and not make the person feel like they have to do the same job forever.

Could send a note to the neighborhood kids could use the playground now that there are new wood chips. If an invitation is sent out it would have to say that kids need to be supervised by an adult to make sure we are not liable. Maybe someone would be willing to supervise the playground a couple times a month.

F. President's Report – Wendy

A couple of people were unhappy with the God's work our hands Sunday. If doing outdoor jobs that take more time, a different time should be planned. Other people did like the chance to work together. It was an intergenerational event. We got to talk to other people. There were many activities for people with different interests and different ability levels. We need to plan 2-3 months earlier to get the word so people know it is coming and can plan activities. (It felt like it snuck up on us!)

Steps forward-

1. Work on resolving tasks that were started in the last few years.
2. Need a pastor here on Sunday when PMK leaves. Supply preacher- want Gospel proclaimed, sacraments given and sermon.

Difference between a supply preacher and an interim pastor. A supply preacher for one Sunday can be obtained with only a few week's notice. It could be a different pastor every week. The supply pastor earns \$150 a week plus mileage. The supply pastor does not do any visits. A Supplyplus pastor does the weekly service plus hospital visits and funerals. We are not sure about the fee for a supply plus pastor. When PMK does a pastoral care call for another congregation, she earns \$25 an hour +mileage from home for every visit.

An interim might be harder to find since our current pastor is only .4. The possibility of finding an ordained pastor to come here every Sunday to preach is slim. We have to pay mileage. In addition an interim pastor is not allowed to be called by that congregation.

There are a few possibilities for a pastor in the area:

Trinity in Lindstrom looking for ½ time pastor... could that person be ¼ here

Pastor at Church in Dresser just resigned so they are looking for a pastor.

Kristoff Schmidt is an ordained pastor and worship leader in Chisago Lakes.

TEEM (theological education in emerging ministry) program in seminary designed to help congregation... person serve while still attending seminary

3. Someone from the synod staff (probably Justin Grimm as he is assigned to northern area) will come to meet with council. Wendy will contact Bishop Lull about next steps now that PMK has resigned. We will see if it is possible to have the same synod person working with Trinity to work with us. The council is available to meet with the synod representative at 6:30 but not Tuesday. What to expect... will there be a pastor here by Oct 13?

Remember if we are going to share a pastor, we might have to change our worship schedule.

Stewardship questions from Ryan Brodin

What is FELC looking to get out of our conversations on stewardship?

The council discussed that the questions for stewardships are relevant to next step for our congregation. What do we want? What is important to us as a church? In addition to the questions from Ryan Brodin we added Question 9: What does God want us to do and be?

What is a good way to get this discussion going with our members? Pulpit talk?

After much discussion the council decided the best way to get input from the congregation was to have small group discussions. We decided the coffee hour was the best time to reach the most people. We are calling it **Coffee with the council** and will

start Sept. 15 and continue over the next few months. The congregation will have a few minutes to visit and then the council members will each sit at a table and discuss a couple of questions with the people at the tables. We will include the children too.

Becky will type up the first questions and give them to Angie to print out for the council members.

What did you do for God's work our hands? How did you like what you did? What suggestions do you have for next year?

What are you most excited about as a congregation? Where is the energy here?

What concerns or fears do you have?

Two council members will be at the exits to poll the members who don't go to coffee.

After Coffee with the Council there will be a short council meeting to determine our next questions and when our next Coffee with the council will be.

By talking to the congregation we will have better information before meeting with the representative from the synod. People will know we are trying to figure out our path forward by talking to members. Hopefully, this will increase engagement.

G. Other business

What about an intergenerational educational time? We could have an activity during coffee hour. There could be a different project at each table or the same project. The projects could be based on the scriptures for the day. It could be a skit, song, pictures.

October 6 reception for Pastor Mary Kaye with cake and fruit.

H. Motion by Miriam seconded PMK by to Adjourn

Next council meeting on Oct 13 at 10:30