



Council Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 9 (Saturday), 2021, 3:00 via Zoom

Next meeting: February 13, 2021

“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 :**

A. Opening Devotions – Wendy

February - Craig

B. Sharing Story - Rose, Becky

C. Pastor’s Report- Pastor Dwight

In the past month, Pastor Dwight has checked on some members of the congregation via phone. He has attended council and MiChiLu meetings via Zoom, officiated over two graveside services for non members, and recorded Christmas and December services.

It is difficult to think about moving forward with the shared ministry during Covid since we aren’t able to meet in person with the members. We hope to continue to talk about what we can do together with Trinity even if we don’t share a pastor.

The council feels the congregation needs to learn from the past before we can go forward. Maybe we need a committee to look back at our history of membership, giving trends and staffing to get an idea of what the congregation has looked like in the past. Pastor Dwight will call Krista to ask what steps we need to take to move forward.

Rose suggested we buy the Lenten devotional for the congregation. They cost \$2.25 each so we could get 50 for about \$100.

Motion: Wendy motioned to order Lenten devotionals to distribute to our members and friends of First Lutheran with funds taken out of the adult education budget. Second by Craig. Motion passed.

D. Treasurer’s Report – Becky

Our Income for the month is on track for our budget. We are halfway through the year, so we should be at 50% of our budget. Staff expenses are at 57% and Program expenses are at 62%. Becky will look at what is driving our program expenses.

We continue to get donations for the steeple fund. This month we received \$3700. The money will replace money we borrowed from our checking account.

Becky was happy to announce our PPP loan was forgiven.

E. Production equipment for church services

Bit Works is coming on Tuesday to look at the sanctuary and make suggestions for equipment so we don't have to use Angie's phone to record the service now and to enable us to record our services when we return to worshipping in person. Wendy, Don, Angie and Pastor will be there to explain our needs.

New fundraiser:

We are looking for a way to help pay for production equipment. Old Lutheran makes masks that we can buy for \$5 which we could suggest a \$10 donation. Maybe we can combine a pie fundraiser along with the mask fundraiser.

Jeanne Fick is excited about the steeple. She really wants to get the steeple lit up. Pastor Dwight will talk to Bruce about getting an estimate soon so it can be passed along to Jeanne.

F. Blessings for the New Year, January 17

The date of the blessing has been changed to Jan. 17 and will focus on blessing the new year.

G. Renting of church office space

Judy Peterson would like to rent a room from April - Nov. Pastor Dwight and Wendy will look into finding a contract we can use. Wendy will connect with Judy.

H. Motion to adjourn, second

Rose motion to adjourn Craig second.

Coming up: Toolkit for Congregational Leaders , Saturday Feb.27, 9-11:45 Zoom