



Council Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church
November 10, 2019, 10:45-1:00

“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, Craig Loen, Becky Hulden, Miriam Flysjo, Pastor Dwight Rudquist **Members Absent:** none

A. Opening Devotions- Becky

B. Sharing story- where have you witnessed God’s Spirit in action? Lefse making and meal
Pastor Dwight being here

C. Pastor Orientation

- a. Confirmation meets November 24, after church. Pastor Dwight will connect with Angie and meet with the confirmands
- b. Newsletter lead- Congregation likes reading what the pastor has to say. Pastor Dwight said he’d write for the newsletter
- c. Council meetings- Pastor Dwight will be able to attend the meetings
- d. Hospital Visits- Pastor Dwight will work with Becky and Angie to determine which people he will visit. Pastor Dwight and Becky will establish a protocol so they will find out when a member of the congregation needs a pastoral visit. We may need to have both a phone tree and email to inform the prayer chain of prayer requests. When a person calls the office they will be asked if it’s okay to share the information with the pastor and prayer chain.
- e. Pastor Dwight will attend staff meetings on Tues. at 9AM with Michelle, Angie and Wendy

D. Thoughts on sharing a pastor-

Wendy received 2 phone calls from Faith Lutheran in Balsam Lake about sharing a pastor. Faith has a full time pastor and have reduced the pastor’s time to 80% due to the congregation getting smaller. The congregation is trying to determine what the future will look like and they are open to the possibility of sharing a pastor.

Pastor Dwight inquired about other churches closer to FELC who may be looking to share a pastor. He stated that Pastor Dan, a retired minister, is a supply preacher in the Methodist

church. We could share a pastor with a Methodist church. Trinity in Lindstrom is looking for a part time pastor. Peace Church in WI is looking for pastor. Grantsburg may also be looking for a part time pastor.

FELC needs to stabilize our finances before we decide what type of situation we are getting into. We need to be faithful in our ability to fund a pastor. We have Pastor Dwight with us for 6 months so we can make an informed decision about our next pastor.

Jerry Wahl worked for Mpls area synod. He would be willing to have a coffee conversation with a few leaders of the church to figure out what is next. He will talk about what questions we need to ask before we look for a pastor. Our last two pastors left because we couldn't pay them. We have to look at this so we don't do it again. We will look at a meeting with Jerry Wahl in the New Year.

E. Treasurer's Report – Becky

Weekly income \$1340 Oct 27, Nov 3 \$2680— average \$2010. We have been getting about \$1800 a week. This is becoming our norm. We can probably make plans based on this.

We have \$73,000 in the bank but it is designated funds so we can't use it to pay a pastor.

\$29,000 of that money is set aside to repair the steeple.

FELC received a \$10,000 gift. Move 10,000 to savings. Should we tithe that gift? In the past the council has tithed larger gifts. Should publish it in the newsletter and bulletin.

Rose made a motion to move the \$10,000 to savings. Becky seconded the motion.

Discussion- We discussed what to call it... Rainy day, Emergency fund, name it after the person who gave the fund. After discussion it was decided the person giving the money wouldn't like a fund named after her so it was decided the money should be added to replenish the Klinke fund.

Craig moved to Amend to replenish Klinke fund.

Motion made by Rose was amended to: I move we move the \$10,000 gift to savings to replenish the Klinke fund. Motion carried.

Steeple repair \$29200.98. \$106 was raised selling lefse today and the lefse meal raised almost \$900.

Becky will ask property committee to get updated quote on the cost for the steeple repair and have them get the repair scheduled for the spring. If people know the repairs are scheduled we should be able to raise that last few thousand dollars. And ask about where the Klinke fund was tithed to.

Some people are wondering why our financial reports say there is \$70,000 in the bank but we continue to say we need money. We need to write a newsletter article to explain the finances. We know the money is in designated funds like the steeple fund so it can only be used as designated. We need to change the weekly income report so it makes more sense. Wendy will follow up to see where the numbers for the newsletter are coming from. Becky will make up a simple form to share with the council so we can see the giving trends.

Becky motioned to tithe 10% of \$10,000 gift and we figure out later where we will give the money at a later date. Seconded Craig. Discussion- In the past the church has given to Family

pathways which is food shelf and women's shelter and given to Together with Friends. We discussed if the money could be put in the Samaritan fund. Becky will check with the property committee to see what the tithe for the original Klinke fund went to support. Wendy will put the decision of what organization to support on the agenda for a later meeting.

The council voted on whether to tithe the \$10,000 gift. Motion carried

When PMK was here she had a credit card, which was cut up. We tried to cancel the card when she left and we can't cancel it without canceling the whole account. We need to keep the account because Angie and Michelle use it. A new card was issued in Wendy's name until we have called a pastor.

F. Organist position

Michelle wrote the ad and the council reviewed it.

Motion by Becky to use the ad and job description reviewed by council to put an ad paper for an organist with an end date of Dec 15. Pastor Dwight, Wendy, Michelle and Pete will be the interview committee.

Seconded by Rose

Discussion- Wendy has been meeting with Angie and Michell about staff meeting. Wendy will put ad in local Indianhead advertiser, Chisago Co press, church newsletter, bulletin, MiChiLu, Mpls and St Paul and NW WI Synod websites.

Pastor Dwight will be able to attend the weekly staff meeting. We have advertising money in our budget.

Vote on advertising for an organist- motion carried.

G. Stewardship

Angie ordered 10 books: Go, Ask and Tell. As we find people willing to help with the stewardship campaign we have books to give them. The people Wendy have asked say they are not a financial person. We need to open doors. We do not have an active committee on Stewardship at this time.

We met with Pastor Ryan in Roseville about stewardship. He talked about about people talking about what the church means to them. We can't do the traditional timeline. We knew we needed to get some people in place to lead the stewardship committee. If we can get 10 people to read the book we have a good basis for stewardship. Ask them to meet in January with idea of how book affected them. Becky will write something up to put it in the newsletter and bulletin and Pastor Dwight will speak to it from the pulpit.

We did talk about doing some stewardship in Feb-April. We need to have an understanding before we make our budget proposal at the June annual meeting.

H. Upcoming events

1. Making Lefse and the lefse lunch went well despite starting off by blowing a fuse. Many different people showed up to help make it and many laughs were shared. Some lefse was sold on Saturday and the remainder was sold on Sunday.
2. The next Steeple Fundraiser will be moved to Dec 8 right after church. It will be Brunch Sponsored by Joy and Dennis.
3. Nativity scene set up before Friday November 29- We need 3-4 people to move the stable as it is very heavy. Pete has the figurines. Craig will bring loose straw for manger scene.
4. Getting Ready for Jesus event - Saturday, Nov. 30, Sat. 2-4 in the fellowship hall. Angie and her mom will get free Advent calendars and come up with craft. If you have a Nativity set to display, please bring it to church before Sat. Nov. 30. We still need volunteers to bring a hot beverage and cookies. Are there any musicians who will play?
5. Christmas - decorations will be put up on December 1 - right after church.
6. The Ficke family is very interested in paying for lighting the steeple. Joe was checking on what it will cost to put in electricity in the ground so we can keep the family informed.

Holiday Services

- Thanksgiving service Community service at Baptist church. Wed, November 27 at 7:00. Community Choir meets at 6:00 to learn the song. All are welcome to join the choir.
- Christmas - Services - December 24 4:00 and 10:00. Pastor Dwight will officiate.

I. Motion to adjourn by Miriam seconded Craig

Next meeting December 8 at 10:30.

Minutes submitted by Miriam