



## Council Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 8, 2019, 10:45-1:00pm

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

**A. Opening Devotions-** Wendy    Next month- Becky

**B. Sharing Story-** where have you witnessed God’s Spirit in action? Becky, Craig, Wendy

**C. Pastor’s report –** Pastor Dwight

It has been a good start. Pastor Dwight is glad to be involved in community events and able to meet the local pastors. He made some calls but the people did not want visits. He made one visit in the hospital. Pastor Dwight wondered if there is a protocol for how he should use his 4 hours. It was suggested he keep a journal of how he has spent his time so we can talk about how it is working. In addition, the journal will give the council a better idea of what are needs for the next pastor. Pastor Dwight attended some of the staff meetings and has worked with Michelle to set up the Christmas services. He wondered if he can make some changes in the order of the service to facilitate the flow of the service and retain the theological meaning. The council directed him to speak with the worship committee and had no objections to his proposed changes. Pastor Dwight commented that we have a vibrant, caring congregation that has welcomed him and his family. He is scheduled to attend an interim pastors meeting at the synod this week and will connect with Krista Lind.

**D. Treasurer’s Report –** Becky

Becky presented a revised printed format to the council. The council reviewed the report and appreciated the new easy to understand format. The church received a \$1000 donation for the general fund.

### **E. Organization(s) to receive the tithe from the donation in October**

We are tithing from the \$10,000 gift we have received this fall. We discussed donating the \$1000 to a few different organizations, including Together with Friends and the Samaritan fund. Wendy brought up a fund through the Synod that is raising money to help congregations that need help in transition.

Becky made a motion, Seconded by Craig, that we send \$400 to Samaritan fund, \$300 to TwF and \$300 to synod for New Missions and Revitalization Task Force.

No further discussion. Motion carried.

### **F. Outreach - Becky**

Angie made an excel spreadsheet and put the people on the prayer list on the spreadsheet so we can keep track of who needs pastoral care. This spreadsheet is a place to start so we know why we are praying for people and who needs visits on a regular basis. We also have some long term shut ins that need visits.

We used to have a care team that met to discuss who needed visits. It would be great to figure out if there was a handful of people willing to make visits and communion to people who can't make it to church. Pastor Dwight is willing to meet with the volunteers. The visits would be put on a rotation so the volunteers know whom to visit. Dwight will be available for emergency visits.

Pastor Dwight and Becky will present the request for people to visit shut ins to the congregation and set up a training meeting for the volunteers.

Becky sent a link about door hangers inviting people to church for Christmas. We will ask Angie print 50 and will distribute after worship on Dec 15 at 11:00. Angie can send out email announcing it. We could bring the door hangers to neighbors and invite them to First Lutheran on Christmas. We could print some up and ask at next service if anyone has a neighbor to invite.

Wendy suggested joining the other churches in town to do a neighborhood outreach to invite residents of Taylors Falls to church. The flier would list all the local churches and worship times. It could be distributed at the Together with Friends closing dinner.

### **G. Stewardship – Wendy**

Angie is ordering 4 more books. After people have read the book, Wendy has heard the reoccurring comment... it is not my thing to try and raise money. Some people say God will provide, we have never worried about money. Maybe need to write something to remind people to read the book and view it as a starting off point. Some people have given Wendy some written feedback which is helpful. We invite people to read the book and to write down their thoughts as to where God wants us to go.

Wendy will write something for the news and notes in January to inspire more participation.

## **I Steeple Fund**

It was brought up how do we recognize memorials given to the steeple fund? After much discussion we decided we will have a celebration/dedication ceremony. At that time we will list all the memorial monies given to the fund.

As of Friday Dec 6, the Steeple fund had \$29,512.84.

Becky will ask the property committee to get an updated quote and put us on the work list for the spring or summer.

## **Upcoming events**

The meeting set up for shared pastor conversation at Faith Lutheran Church, Balsam Lake 1-19-20 was canceled. The synod person from WI couldn't make it. This meeting is an opportunity to meet the other church and find out where they are at. It is not binding. We only need a few people to attend. It is not necessary for the entire council to attend. We will look into meeting at another time or meeting without the synod person.

An interview was set up for the organist position for 12-19-19, 7:00.

2020 is the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of FELC. We are looking for volunteers to organize a celebration. We will put something in January News and Notes asking for volunteers to organize the celebration in the summer. Perhaps our celebration could include a sunrise service on Easter

Dec 29 will be a Lessons and Carols service. Tony B is scheduled as the substitute organist.

## **I. Motion to adjourn Miriam**

Next meeting January 12 at 10:30