



Council Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 10, 2023 10:28am

Next meeting January 14, 2024

“Proclaim the gospel and Serve our neighbors.”

Members Present: Rose Anderson, Miriam Flysjo, Craig Loen, Becky Hulden, Kathy Carlsted, Pastor Dwight Rudquist
Members Absent: none

The meeting was called to order at 10:28 by President Becky Hulden. Craig led the opening devotions. Pastor Dwight volunteered to lead devotions in January.

Becky and Rose shared stories about God’s love in our lives.

Pastor Dwight reported that the MiChiLu meeting was postponed until this week. He did some visitations and said he will do more visits closer to Christmas. The date for the service at The Lodge will either be December 20 or 27.

Craig shared the Treasurer’s Report. Our income for November of \$8,263 is shy of the budget by \$2,247.83, but we are still above budget by 3%, thanks to the previous month being above budget.

Don Hansen, Becky Hulden and Craig Loen are getting their signatures figured out at First Resource Bank.

Our Primary Checking has \$1,122.87 less than October’s report.

Our Special Savings has \$2,100.87 more than October’s report.

Faithfully submitted by Craig Loen 12-10-2023

Property Committee Projects.

There is nothing to report on the elevator and regrading the south side. Renovations on the bathrooms are waiting for the 11% rebate in January. The council looked at a few types of chairs for the fellowship hall. It was decided someone should look at chairs and buy a couple so people can compare them.

Motion by Craig/Miriam We approve up to \$6000 out of the kitchen fund (line item 3040-1) to be spent for chairs and a chair rack for the fellowship hall. The motion passed unanimously.

Pastor Dwight reported that the Vision Group meeting met with Justin from the Synod to learn how the synod will support us now that we don’t know what is happening with our possibilities for shared ministry. Justin assured us that the Synod will continue to support us but it won’t be easy to find a part time pastor. We need to complete the Ministry Site Profile.

Pastor Dwight received an email from the synod about the Season of Renewal Cohort starting in February 2024. The cohort is intended for 7 congregations that are ready to address congregational vitality in this age. The process will take a year and consists of in person and online sessions. Work done for the Cohort will dovetail into filing out the Ministry Site Profile.

Rose/Craig made a motion We as a congregation choose to enter into the Season of Renewal Cohort offered through the St. Paul Area synod, with \$3500 fee to be taken from the Lowell Nelson outreach fund. (line item 3245) Motion passed.

The council proposed a special Congregational Meeting for January 14 to ask the congregation to approve spending for the Season of Renewal Cohort.

We will take some time in January and February to discuss what our mission statement means, how we are living into it and how we can do better. Becky will line up two people to deliver Mission Minutes on January 14 and 28.

The free pancake breakfast as part of the Lighting Festival went well. We served 105 people on Saturday and 30 people after church on Sunday. The church donated syrup. The leftover pancake mix and sausages will be donated to MiChiLu for the Fat Tuesday supper.

The Advent Wreath making event went well. Quite a number of families with little children participated. A pamphlet explaining Advent was given to each person who took home a wreath.

The Snack and Paint event went well. 12 people participated and they raised \$300 which was donated to Halos of the St.Croix Valley, a non-profit foundation that provides emotional and financial support to bereaved parents who have lost a child from miscarriage through the age of 20.

16 people attended the Lefse making event and made 13.5 dozen pieces of lefse. Attendees took lefse home and some was served during coffee hour on Sunday.

The Christmas Eve service will be at 4:00PM.

We are planning to make lefse at The Lodge in January. We will use the leftover Thrivant money to buy a lefse griddle for church.

Angie will send out Christmas cards and make gift bags for the children.

Kathy/Becky motioned to adjourn at 11:29.

Faithfully submitted,

Miriam Flysjo, council secretary