



Council Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

July 18 (Saturday), 2020, 3:00 via Zoom

Next meeting: August 8, 2020, 3:00 via Zoom

“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, Becky Hulden, Pastor Dwight Rudquist
Members Absent: Craig Loen

A. Opening Devotions - Miriam. Next month Wendy

B. Annual Congregational Meeting-

It was decided to have the congregational meeting August 9 after the outdoor church service. Rain Date August 16.

The annual report will be emailed to people, put on the church website, mailed to those without email and available at the church for pick up.

The task force charged with the reopening of the church will devise a plan for how to safely have an outdoor worship service and annual meeting by looking at concerns like: marking off 6 foot areas, seating, how to handle bulletins, screening people, requiring masks and alternatives to singing.

C. Pastor’s Report- Pastor Dwight

Pastor Dwight expressed thanks to Rose and Angie for their help on the calling tree. He continues to call people and attend Zoom meetings.

He wants to continue the discussion about First’s mission in Taylors Falls but the present social distancing makes small group discussions difficult. What are our gifts and how can we use them in the Taylors Falls area? He is looking into setting up small groups that can meet via Zoom to continue the conversation since we can’t meet face to face. Knowing our mission is an important step in our process to call our next pastor.

D. Treasurer’s Report – Becky

Giving was much lower in June and the beginning of July. Since we aren’t meeting in person there is no loose offering so that is a loss of income. Right now the Steeple repair fund is \$42,000. Some people have converted their Maple syrup dollars to the steeple fund. We need an additional \$20,000 by September to pay for the steeple repair. The Pie-to-Go fund raiser is tomorrow.

E. Budget Proposal

Proposing an annual budget was difficult because Covid makes the future uncertain. The proposed budget is \$113,000 for the fiscal year. This amount is based on our present situation because we don’t know when we will meet in person and get a permanent pastor. The position of online worship coordinator was added due to the 10-12 hours a week Angie works to edit the online service. Angie continues to put in 15-20 hours a week as the parish coordinator. All the employees were given a cost of living raise.

Motion: Rose motioned to accept the proposed budget. Miriam seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

F. Education

For right now Pastor Dwight will do Zoom meetings for people interested in confirmation. He'd like to have some sort of adult Bible or book study via Zoom. He will speak to Michelle about the youth program and talk to other pastors about what they are doing with their youth. It will be difficult to carry out a youth program via Zoom.

Pastor Dwight will speak to Julie and Angie about having a short Intergenerational Sunday school activity/interaction perhaps on a Sunday with no Zoom coffee hour.

Angie has been doing a great job recording people reading books for kids.

We don't know how many campers have registered on Together with Friends. They just finished taping the segments.

G. Covid Task Force, Stages

We are still in stage 2. There is not much movement due to increasing cases in MN and there may be a statewide mask wearing requirement. We are hoping to have 2 outdoor services before winter: one in August and the other at the completion of the steeple project. Next meeting of the task force is July 23.

H. Pie Social – Sunday July 19, 3-4:30, drop off pies 2-2:30

Angie has organized it. She ordered containers for whole pies and separate pieces, placed an ad in the Chisago County press and made advertising signs and a donation can. Right now Miriam Flysjo, Joe and Wendy Szczepanski have volunteered to work at the sale.

I. Building Security

Building security was brought up as a concern. Perhaps we need better cameras as we can't tell who is entering the building. Right now our cameras don't record so we have no record if there is a problem. Do we need a camera on the playground area? Perhaps we need a security policy and the exterior doors should be locked if someone is alone in the building. The council decided to forward the concern to the property committee and have them consult a security expert to assess our current system and what our needs are.

J. Motion to adjourn was made by Becky and seconded by Rose.