



Council Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 13, 2021, 3:00 - 4:45 pm

Via Zoom

Next meeting March 6 at 3:00

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

A. Opening Devotions – Craig

March - Rose

B. Sharing Story - Rose

C. Pastor’s Report- Pastor Dwight

Things are going well. Pastor Dwight recorded several services including the Ash Wednesday service. He visited with various people in person or on the phone. He has attended Zoom meetings with the council, confirmation students, coffee hour participants, and other pastors.

For Lent Pastor Dwight is recording midweek educational Lent services that focus on the catechism. A Lent devotional will be mailed or delivered to the members of the congregation.

Pastor will continue to meet with the task force to look at when it is safe to commence in person worship once people are vaccinated.

D. Treasurer’s Report – Becky

Our monthly income was about \$10,000 for January, perhaps because there were 5 Sundays. We are at 58% of our budget. Tithes are close to 58%. Becky did not check with Angie and Janelle about the accounts that are somewhat over budget. Becky will check before the next meeting. The Samaritan checking balance is \$6, which might be a misprint. Becky will check with Janelle. Money earmarked for the steeple will continue to go into account 3040 (Property Projects - other). Currently there is \$2600 in the account.

Lighting of the steeple- The property committee is planning on making some internal repairs and cleaning in the belfry and continues to plan how to light the steeple.

Another project to start thinking about would be the repair or recoating of the parking lot.

E. Production equipment for church service

Bitworks submitted a quote does not include new microphones since the set-up includes tying into our current system. They bid \$8192 total: \$6642 for equipment (which includes 2 cameras that will be mounted in the sanctuary), \$1,550 for labor, which includes 4 hours in shop, 4 hours installation and 3 hours of training. There will be an additional cost for a cable to the office used for live streaming. Without the cable the service would be recorded on Sunday and be uploaded later for people to watch. It wouldn’t take long to install this system. Perhaps a month to get the equipment and then they can install it quickly.

We need to raise the money before the equipment is purchased. We talked about getting some masks and asking for donations. Another idea is a drive through Palm Sunday breakfast with breakfast sandwiches. Palm Sunday is March 28 so we need to decide before the next meeting what we want to do so we can get it organized. We decided to email about additional fundraising ideas.

Motion:

Becky made a motion and Rose seconded it to start fundraising for the production equipment. We will use the money in Account 3040 (property projects-other) as the seed money for the fund raising. Motion carried.

We would like to get a second bid. Pastor will check with other churches to see what companies they have used.

We need to think about fixing the parking lot blacktop. It is a good place for outdoor worship but it's in rough shape.

F. Renting of church office space

No more news on renting office space. Pastor will check with Angie.

G. Transition – During the last meeting, it was suggested that we should have a small group take an historic look at membership, staff, pastoral trends via the archives, council minutes and any other records that are at church. How should we move forward? The council decided we should table this for now but keep this in mind for when we are ready to search for a long term pastor.

On February 4, the council met with Krista Lind from the St. Paul Synod about our plans to go forward. It was suggested that we re-evaluate Pastor Dwight's contract to see if it states what our church needs from him and if that is something that he is willing/able to help us with and for how long.

Pastor is agreeable to becoming the called pastor for a two year term call. He wants to be sure what is best for the congregation. Switching from interim to settled pastor term call would involve very similar expectations and compensations.

Motion:

Rose made motion and Craig seconded to change Pastor Dwight's interim status to a settled pastorate call. Motion carried.

Wendy, Becky and Pastor Dwight will determine the process to move forward to change Pastor's status and they will look at the constitution.

H. Becky – new role

Becky is a trained Parish nurse. In the past she has taught classes on babysitting and home alone classes for youth, she provided programming for aging adults out in the community and resources for churches. She has led care ministry teams.

Becky is interested in providing classes for aging adults on topics like chronic diseases, preventing falling, and staying fit. She can teach classes online. She also can help when someone goes home from the hospital or rehab... to make sure they understand their meds and know when their next appointment is. Becky wants to be an unpaid staff person. She will connect with other MiChiLu congregations, write some articles for the newsletter and website as the faith community nurse. Becky has many connections with other faith community nurses. Becky will get a job description which can be on file at First. She figures she will put in 2-5 hours a week.

Motion:

Wendy made the motion, Miriam seconded, to consider Becky's offer to become our unpaid faith community nurse. Wendy and Becky will look into completing the proper paperwork. Motion carried.

Upcoming events: Toolkit for Congregational Leaders , Saturday Feb.27, 9-11:45 Zoom

Motion to Adjourn by Rose, seconded by Craig