

Council Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Saturday, November 14, 2020, 3:00- 4:50 pm

Via Zoom

Next meeting December 12



“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 – Becky next time Rose

B. Sharing Story - Rose, Becky

C. Pastor’s Report- Pastor Dwight

Pastor Dwight has enjoyed meeting with the confirmation class via Zoom. He is looking forward to the next conversation with Trinity about shared ministry. Our service will be online for a while because of the surge in covid and the cold weather. Pastor Dwight had hoped to open up the church on Wednesdays for a time for people to be able to pray in the sanctuary. Because the pandemic has gotten so much worse the council decided this was not a good time to allow people in the building. Perhaps Pastor Dwight could offer a prayer time that could be recorded and put online. In addition, Pastor Dwight is looking at a devotional for Advent.

It is disturbing that many of our older congregants aren’t able to partake in worship because they don’t have computer access. Angie has put the service on DVD but no one has requested them. We have an active group who make weekly calls to members.

D. Treasurer’s Report – Becky

Income for October suffered due to fewer outdoor services. Our giving for October was \$3300 less than our budget. So far November is about where it needs to be half way through and there are 5 Sundays in November, so maybe we can make up for October with November giving. Now that we are back to a regular online worship service, hopefully members will mail their offering to church.

Our PPP loan of \$15500 was moved to checking. There is \$1000 in the Samaritan fund. \$56,000 in the steeple repair fund. Becky asked Janelle to check on the \$9000 that appears to be in two accounts (Misc. Savings and Undesignated Memorial fund - Klinke)

We have an invoice from Central Roofing for the steeple repair. Don approved to pay \$63,784 The bill included an additional \$1019 because they repaired the decking at the base of the steeple. There was an additional \$950 donated in November. Now we have \$57,216.49 (the total after the \$950 is added in) in a steeple repair fund.

Motion Craig motioned/Rose seconded that we take the money out of the steeple repair fund and an additional \$6567.51 from our checking account to pay the Central Roofing bill. In addition, any more money that is received and designated for the steeple repair fund, will be deposited into our checking account to pay back the \$6567.51 used to pay off the remainder of the bill. If more than \$6567.51 is received those funds will go into the property projects fund. Motion carried.

Wendy contacted Matt Silvers at the Chisago County Press about an article about the steeple repair and was asked to send photos. Angie has been taking pictures and sending them to him. Wendy will call Matt to see what else we need to do to get the article in the County Press.

Wendy will have Angie send out an update to MiChiLu and thank you for their prayers and support.

PPP funds were transferred to our checking account. The final step is for Janelle to send out loan forgiveness paperwork.

Becky did not apply for the Chisago county grant for non profits.

E. Discussion of mapping worksheet

We discussed the Assets Mapping sheet for the Shared Ministry with Trinity. Pastor Dwight he will compile our answers and send them out to the council before our Thursday Zoom meeting.

F. Transition – Shared Ministry with Trinity Lutheran, Lindstrom

The council will meet with Trinity members on Thursday evening via Zoom. We will eventually have a task force composed of other members of the congregation to discuss shared ministry but for now it will just be council members.

What will be the biggest stumbling block for our congregation?

Letting Pastor Dwight go. People are very happy with Pastor Dwight and don't want to change. We need to realize that if we share a pastor with another congregation the pastor could have a full time job and might be willing to make a long term commitment. There is no guarantee the synod would let us continue with our present temporary relationship and if they did we could potentially be looking for another pastor in a couple of years and we have no guarantee another church close to us would be looking to share a pastor in a couple of years.

Finances- can we afford a pastor? ... we had to let pastors go because we could not afford a full time pastor and then couldn't afford a .4 pastor.

Fear of losing our identity by joining Trinity for shared ministry. We don't want to become Trinity East.

There are some discussions we need to have at First:

Trinity is farther along the path of looking for a pastor. Perhaps we need to slow the process down. We don't want to make any changes during Covid.

What does it say about us that we have not had a long term pastor since Pastor Steve? Why have people left? Why haven't we had a good fit? What kind of questions do we need to ask to make sure we find the right pastor?

Becky wants to put together a history sheet about how many pastors we have had and how long they have stayed. Maybe part of the problem is we forget we need to be prayerful supporters of the pastor.

How is the congregation set up so it doesn't matter who the pastor is? Being a smaller church a lot of responsibility falls on the pastor. The pastor becomes the focal point. Bigger congregations have committees in addition to the pastor. How do we determine what things we can do with the help of the pastor? When we cooperate we get more services for each congregation like the youth program. Pastor Terry at Trinity sees it as a way to share ministry with greater cooperation to benefit both congregations.

G. Resume Zoom coffee hours?

We would like to resume the Zoom coffee hour just to be able to visit with people. At a later date the Zoom coffee hour could be used to talk about how the congregation views shared ministry.

H. Motion to adjourn Craig, second Rose