Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday August 10, 2025, 12:15PM

Next meeting: September 14, 2025, 12:15 PM

Council Members: Rose Anderson, Kathy Carlsted, Angie Dahlstrom, Don Hansen, Becky Hulden, Riley Linngren, Craig Loen, Julie Valez, Pastor Justin Fenger

Minutes of the meeting August 10, 2025:

Call meeting to order- Approximately 12:15 PM

In attendance: Rose Anderson, Angie Dahlstrom, Becky Hulden, Riley Linngren, Craig Loen, Julie Valez, Pastor Justin Fenger. Verified there was a quorum.
Don Hansen, Secretary, not in attendance, need minutes taken, Angela Dahlstrom volunteered to take minutes.

Amendment to the Agenda: Election of Officers was not on the agenda, and Craig requested to put Audit under the Treasurer's Report - Julie made a motion to amend the agenda to add Election of Officers and Audit. Riley 2nd the motion. All in favor. Agenda amended.

A . Opening Devotions – Becky read scripture

B. Sharing Stories of God's Love in our Lives- Becky shared that she heard Angie tell Riley how he sang one of her favorite songs in service today and brought Jesus to her. Singing is one of the few ways to bring joy and God's love to our lives.

C1. Election of Officers- Becky inquired if anyone would be interested to be president in the following year, in preparation for that position to be filled. There was discussion on filling positions for this year for President (currently Becky Hulden), Vice President (currently Kathy Carlsted), Secretary (currently Don Hansen) and Treasurer (currently Craig Loen). Rose made a motion to keep the positions as they currently are. Craig 2nd the motion. All in favor.

C. Pastor Justin's Report-

August 17 - In May at the Fall Gathering for Pastor Biship Lowell, Pastor Justin had a chance to talk to Biship Lowell and she said she would like to come this way to preach in the area. They talked about special offering "Planting Hope" to pay down seminary debt and LSS (Lutheran Social Service) is also looking to develop a space the East side of Saint Paul to gather and provide campus ministry. Ministry is declining and causing the selling off of campuses, so there is a push for encouraging campus ministry. Biship Lowell will be here August 17, 2025. Pastor Justin inquired if there was thoughts or suggestions on a special offering that may be taken for the cause, such as a "loose change offering"? A loose change offering would be something like the kids of the congregation go through the congregation and ask if anyone would be willing to donate "loose change" in their pockets for the special offering. Pastor Justin asked if anyone had suggestions for other ways to find extra funds to go towards "Planting Hope". Riley made a motion to go with the kids taking a "loose change" offering. Rose 2nd the motion. Craig suggested to include a loose offering 1x a month, where all loose money in the offering plate, that is not in envelopes, or check form, be donated to Planting Hope. The motion was amended by Craig to include

loose change offering by kids and loose offering both 1x a month as long as Planting Hope was in effect. Riley 2nd the motion. All in favor.

Healing Service- Pastor Justin discussed thoughts on trying to maybe help transition smoother services between Immanuel Lutheran Church and First Evangelical Lutheran Church. Not to be necessarily the same, but similar to help the transition between two churches. There was mention on the 5th Sunday of the month to have a healing service for anyone that is in need of prayer. There was discussion on what that would look like if the congregant would come up front and have people pray for them, and when. Becky suggested to have a prayer station during communion at the back of the church, where there can be a station set up, and they can walk to the back after taking their communion and they can stop and have someone pray with them as they walk back to their seat.

Synod Dinner- August 18, 2025, to celebrate benevolence. There are 3 available spots, Pastor Justin is going, Craig Loen is going, and there is one ticket still open.

Pastor Justin did say he may set his office hours to more coincide with Angie's office hours. Angie is in need of a larger monitor. At some point she may need a second monitor, but for now to the monitor she is using can go to Pastor Justin's office, and she will receive a larger monitor for work. Rose made a motion to purchase a larger monitor for $150. Riley 2nd. All in favor.

D. Treasurer's Report- Craig did hand out the budget and went over all accounting. Riley made a motion to accept the budget. Rose 2nd. All in favor.

A letter was submitted to the Church Council from the Audit Committee (Carol Nelson, Natalie Landgreen and Mary Anne Mattson) that they found that there has not been an annual report completed since 2017=2018 and they recommend we have an outside firm complete an audit. Becky had experience with Clergy Financial, and sent an email to Mark Freeman with Clergy Financial to ask for a recommendation. He recommended Daniel Grady. Becky corresponded with Daniel who was booked out for some time. Becky asked Craig as he was the Treasurer, if he would want to correspond with Daniel? Craig did agree that Daniel could contact him. It was decided an invoice should be obtained. There was discussion of there were other places that we may be able to get quotes from. A suggestion to contact Janet to see if she knows of auditors or for references, or to maybe call Zion in Chisago or other local Lutheran Churches for references.

E. Building and Grounds Committee Projects –

-Building keys were given to Riley, Angela, and Rose. Rose received an office key as well.

- Technology quote from Matt Mitchell- he is on the calendar to come August 14th to install and update monitor equipment, TV, new desktop and soundboard.

-Bathroom remodel-Becky talked to Joy and Dennis Buccholtz, they did come up with a list of four different remodelers, however they had some questions such as; does the church need that as a second bathroom or do they want to convert it into storage or some other use? The church has quite a number of interior projects that need attention, which led to a discussion on which projects and what needs to be done, and by whom? Names mentioned to maybe ask were Rose, Joy, the Janitor, Don, Bruce, Julie Magnuson…which was sidetracked into a situation that was brough to Becky that needed to be delt with timely;

Pete Lindgren has 2-12 foot pews and 4-6 foot pews in storage that he has had for 20 years. They have been used maybe a few times for hayrides but otherwise kept in outbuilding storage. He has an event coming up at his place and is requesting them be taken care of in the next couple of weeks. They were the pews from when the church redid the balcony. There was discussion on if there was room in the church shed to store them or store them at another location. It was asked if we could have them sold? Becky did say Pete may be able to sell them. Angie made a motion to sell the pews and donate the money to the Planting Hope fund. Rose 2nd. All in favor.

Discussion returned to interior projects for the church and a need for a committee. Becky said she would write up some information on needing a interior project committee and Riley did say he would present the information during the church service.

F. Library Report – Julie had nothing new to report at this time

G. Sunday School – Miriam reported Sunday School was changed from the 2nd Sunday to the 3rd Sunday of the month. Angie and Krissy assist. For Mother's Day the Sunday School class made Flowerpot pictures with their picture in the center, for Father's Day the Sunday School class wrote what they appreciated about their Fathers and drew pictures for them. In July they heard the story of Noah's Ark and then drew pictures in chalk on the sidewalk of Noah's Ark.

H. Vision Group- Meeting with Becky, Joan, Roger, Miriam, Wendy, and Rita on Monday. The Hoping Season of Renewal Group will discuss evolving to a missions and outreach committee to work on welcoming and reaching out to the community welcoming and serving our neighbors.

I. Shared Ministry – Better Together with Immanuel
1. Pastor Justin will convene with a combined council made up of a few members from each congregation that will meet quarterly to monitor the ongoing relationship. Craig, Don, Kathy and Becky have volunteered to serve on this group.
2. Music and Worship Coordination – Becky reported that she has been meeting with Immanuel Worship Team to choose hymns, and then brings them to Angie, who shares them with Toni. They will work to streamline the process and meet together if possible

J. Personnel-
a. Angie's PTO – Craig made a motion to continue Angie's PTO up to 34 hours PPP, Julie 2nd. All in favor.
b. Hire a choir director for this fall- A need for a choir director was addressed. A job description is needed. Pastor Justin said he could get something together and send it to the council and then get it published. The allotted amount is $9000 for 9 months. It will also be put in the bulletin.
c. Extra hours for Carli to create screen presentations weekly (up to 3 hrs/wk)- Pastor Justin said at Immanuel they put the prayers and worship on the screen, and if the services are similar we can use the same info at First Lutheran which will save money if it is the same information for two churches. It would just be minimal adjusting. It is estimated about 4 hours for Carli at $16.00 an hour. Julie made a motion to approve the extra hours for Carli. Riley 2nd. All in favor.

K. Sunday Morning- Council Person on Duty (CPOD)

a. Duties and Schedule are handed out. Please switch with another council member if you cannot do it on your assigned Sunday.
b. Tour after meeting – a duties and schedule sheet was handed out and verbal instructions were given.

L. Calendar Planning Retreat for Fall 2025 – Spring 2026
a. Angie L, Pastor Justin, Miriam, Wendy, Council Exec

M. Report on Events-
a. Sunday July 13 at Winery- Was a good turnout. Lots of food. There was a band with the service.
b. Thursday, Holy Smokes- Good platform; Evolution, Theology, Science, Cancer, and God's Toodls for Creation. Held the 4th Thursday of the month.
c. Together with Friends-Pastor Justin missed the initial event but made it to the end, he said it was reported that there were more families that showed up. The event took a hit since covid, but this year it started to pick up. There were about 13-14 kids reported to be there this year.

N. Upcoming Events –
a. Mi-Chi-Lu picnic in Lindstrom Park August 24th, 2025.

O. Motion to Adjourn – approximately 1:45PM, Riley motioned to adjourn. Julie 2nd. All in favor.

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