

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
Waconia, Minnesota
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday November 17, 2009

Mission: To learn, serve and share the Gospel by growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ, one another and those beyond our walls.

Vision: We will fulfill our mission through:

- *Unyielding faith in Jesus Christ*
- *Strong ministries that engage our members*
- *Active participation in our church and greater community*

CALL TO ORDER

John Roebke called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Council Members	Present	Absent
John Roebke, President	X	
Mike Haugsby, Vice President	X	
Chuck Dueber, Treasurer	X	
Marcia Willmsen, Secretary	X	
Dan Pannier, Life, Growth, Mission		X
Tom Kurtz, Building & Maintenance	X	
Cindy Roelefs, Faith Formation	X	
Keith Sjodin, Stewardship	X	
Brian Everett, Worship & Music	X	
Chuck Stevenson, Social Outreach	X	
Ann Marie Powers, Youth Representative	X	
Austin Stole, Youth Representative	X	
Whitney Vacek, Youth Representative	X	
Dale Peterson – Sr. Pastor	X	
Elizabeth Roebke – Pastoral Assistant	X	

Devotions – led by Marcia Willmsen

Prior Month Council Minutes: The minutes from the October 17, 2009 Council Meeting were approved via e-mail and were forwarded to Jean Krukowski to be posted at church and on Faith's website, and to Mike C. to be archived.

NEW MEMBERS - a list of all new Faith Lutheran members was provided at the council meeting. Each Council Member was assigned 2 – 4 new members to call and welcome to Faith Lutheran and ask if they have any questions regarding Faith Lutheran.

Action Item: All council members should contact the New Members assigned to them at the October Council meeting. The goal is to welcome the new members and answer any questions they may have. Also encourage them to get involved at Faith Lutheran Church.

REPORTS

Pastor's report – Pastor Dale:

- November has been a good month. Faith Lutheran belongs to the local Ministerial group which meets once a month. Pastor Dale will chair this group this year in place of Pastor John Wallace of the Moravian church who has left for a church in Ohio. The Ecumenical Thanksgiving service will be held at Faith this year, with every church in Waconia participating in the service.
- Confirmation Sunday held November 2nd was a great service. The confirmands did most of the service.
- Another great celebration was Elizabeth Roebke's ordination service held on Sat Nov. 14th. She is now getting ready for her first call to an ELCA Lutheran church in Billings Montana. A big part of our ministry is to help develop and support those who are entering the ministry. We are very happy to have Elizabeth help us during our time of need. This time has also helped Elizabeth prepare for her new call to the church in Billings.
- Dan Carlson will be with Faith Lutheran until Dec. 31, 2009. He gave his last sermon on Nov. 15th. It's great to see his ministry develop.
- Advent will be Taize services, a guided meditative service. This will hopefully be a time for people to take a break from the business of the holiday season.

Elizabeth Roebke – Interim Pastoral Assistant

- Elizabeth was ordained at Faith Lutheran on November 14th. Elizabeth thanked everyone for the give of a new set of Interpreter's Bible Books – 12 volumes.
- Elizabeth said that all Sr. High Youth programs are in place and running smoothly. Justin and Elizabeth are re-writing the spring confirmation curriculum. A Sr. High book study has started for Wed nights. It is difficult to plan for the future when we are on the verge of hiring a Youth & Family Director. Elizabeth does not know how much to plan, in light of this decision.
- The Women's book study is winding down.

Staff Updates – Mike Haugsby

- Youth Director Interview Update – we had voted an approved Sonja Nelson but she chose to accept a call in Sioux Falls. We are interviewing a new candidate whom Pastor Dale has talked to on the phone and he feels this might be a good fit. We are also looking further into one candidate we had met with who we felt was a viable candidate. We are moving forward without a sense of urgency to fill the position but to fill the position with the correct candidate. With Sue Megrund in place, our programs are running well. The position is still posted and Pastor Dale is still receiving resumes.
- Associate Pastor Update – the Call Committee right now in process of completing the Congregational Profile to give back to Pat Hanson of the Synod. Thanks to all council members who attended the initial Call Committee meeting.

Action Item – Mike Haugsby is in contact with Scott Stole – as new information becomes available Mike will pass to Marcia who will pass to council members.

Youth Report

- Ann Marie and Austin are leading music during Sunday School time. The Rev is going on but it's hard to fit into their schedule. The Rev is scheduled to start at 7:30 on Wed.

Treasurer's Report – Chuck Dueber

- Oct 2009 we are continuing to stay on our trend of being stretched in our moneys. Giving was down \$10,000 in October and in November. YTD figures are actually better than they were last year this time. Total Rev \$543,000.00 compared to exp of \$603,000.00. We are still borrowing money from the Building Fund, which will be repaid. If history repeats itself as it has over the past few years – our revenues should rebound in Nov and Dec. We are concerned due to the current economic conditions this year. Quarterly reports went out about a month ago, letting people know the current status of their contributions. We will be reviewing this information at our Congregational Meeting on Sunday Nov. 22nd. Mike Haugsby, Keith Sjodin and Chuck Dueber will figure out the best way to let people know if they are behind on their contributions – a gentle reminder. They will target the families that are not current. A reminder letter will also be sent to families who are seriously delinquent in their pledged contributions. This is only 5% of the congregation.

Keith Sjodin made the Motion to approve the monthly Treasurer's report. Mike Haugsby - second. All approved.

- Accounting Policy – Chuck had e-mailed to all council members.

Action Item - we should all review prior to December's Council meeting so that we can vote for approval.

Public Safety Ministries Update – Chuck Stevenson – Social Outreach

The Public Safety Ministry created by Dan Carlson would fit with Faith's Mission Statement to share the gospel beyond our walls. Ongoing reporting and communication from Dan as to what the status is of the Public Service Ministry will be needed. Chuck presented the information to the Social Outreach ministry and everyone is on board with supporting this ministry. Chuck will go back to Dan Carlson to ask further questions. The Advisory Committee for the Public Safety Ministry has met, which Dale is a part of, to begin the ministry.

Stewardship Ministry Report – Keith Sjodin

- Fall Campaign – “Make it Simple” Recap was positive in all respects. Good Temple Talks, good Children's Sermons and a great slide show. Mike Haugsby and Keith Sjodin will give a presentation at the Semi Annual Congregational Meeting. The most recent update of total pledges is 246 totaling \$426,146.00. This is about 40 – 50 families less than last year. Calls were made by the Stewardship committee to reach out to families to turn in their pledge. At the next Stewardship meeting they will talk about another round of calls or letters to another group of people to urge pledging. They will compare this year's pledges to last year's progress at this time. Suggestion will be made to ask everyone to increase their giving a small portion each month which will multiply into the dollars we need to make ends meet. We will encourage all members at the meeting to spread the word with those not at the meeting. We are ahead of the curve – we have 2 months yet to Pastor Dale will mention in announcements.

Budget – Total Revenue is \$543,133.47. YTD budget for Revenue is \$592,428.00. We are \$50 short of budget. A positive point is that expenses are down this year. If we receive the unpaid pledges this year of \$56,722.00, we will bridge the gap we are experiencing. We are within \$3000 of spending our full budget this year – typically we do not spend our full budget.

- Building fund receipts are \$162,932.00. Average receipts per month are \$18,000.00. Our monthly mortgage payment is now at \$13,176.00. Total Building Fund Exp YTD is \$111,454.25. A short term, no interest loan of \$69,055.50 is the amount we have borrowed from the Building Fund to cover our General Operating Budget. The Capital Campaign Consultant expense of \$32,000.00 was paid from the Building Fund. We are concerned that some members may not be in agreement with using the money they contributed to the building fund, is being used to cover the general operating expense when we have a shortfall in monthly revenue. The Finance Committee will discuss this item.
- General Operating Budget - Our goal of pledges for 2010 is \$574,000 with a Leap of Faith of \$86,100.00 totaling \$660,100.00

Quarterly Staff Luncheon

The purpose of the quarterly luncheon is to touch base with council and staff, to get to know one another and to help re-enforce our commitment to supporting Faith Staff. We will begin these luncheon's starting Tuesday January 12th 11:45 – 12:45 approximately. One Council member will be the host, arranging for lunch to be delivered. This is just a time for sharing, playing an ice-breaker game. It affirms to the staff their important role in our church and that council supports them in their position at Faith. Volunteers are John Roebke, Marcia Willmsen and any other council members are welcome to attend.

Devotions for next meeting – Dec – Brian Everett.

Discussion Topic – Long Range Plan updates. Are we following the 6 strategies?

- 1) Bible Study – bring your own bible in June. Faith Formation – Justin has bible study for all of his volunteers. Ongoing Men's and Women's bible studies. Westview Acres on Tuesday mornings has significantly increased.
- 2) AAA – making progress to include more adults in Youth Education.
- 3) Community Mission Project – in 2009 we completed a playground. Social Outreach is already talking about next year's mission – possible Blood Mobile at Faith Lutheran church. NOTE: Huge need for Elderly to be picked up and brought to church. We need to figure out liability and if we could use the Good Samaritan van. This could be added to our Time and Talent list.
- 4) Create an over abundance of volunteers. Each ministry made a conscious effort to increase membership.
- 5) Determine a plan for current and future facilities. We have a Building Accessment Committee that has accessed our current building, what our congregation's needs are and have given a proposal to Council that includes 3 options that would meet our needs.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 - motion by Chuck Dueber. Second – Mike Haugsby.

Question – what about televising our worship services? This was discussed a few years ago to provide service to those who can't come to church. Russ Heagle may have the most information regarding this. Another huge area where we could connect with homebound members. Another possibility would be to broadcast on the radio.