

**Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Waconia, Minnesota**  
Church Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday August 16, 2011 at 6:30 pm

*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*

<b>Council Members</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Chuck Dueber, President	X	
Tom Pierson, Vice President	X	
Paul Thom, Treasurer	X	
Rachel Hjelsand, Secretary	X	
Jack Shaw, Building & Maintenance	X	
Nikki Wedge, Faith Formation	X	
Jay Roddy, Life, Growth & Mission	X	
Angela Rud, Social Outreach	X	
Scott Johnson, Stewardship	X	
Kristen Bruellman, Worship & Music	X	
Dale Peterson – Sr. Pastor	X	
Travis Gerjets – Associate Pastor	X	
Brandy Gerjets – Associate Pastor	X	

The meeting was called to order at 6:28 by Chuck Dueber President.

Pastor Brandy led us in devotions from Ephesians chapter 4. Pastor Brandy stressed that the message of One Lord, one Faith, one Birth is a message we can't hear enough. And it is very important that we move forward in unity as a council. She continued with the reading of the Faith mission and vision statement.

Chuck Dueber encourages us to remember to write thank you notes and bring them to the meetings for everyone to sign and was very appreciative of 100% of the council in attendance.

**Get to Know Our Ministry:** Nikki Wedge presented the update on Faith Formation. She told us their last meeting was in May. Faith Formation is now involved with all youth from birth to senior high. Summer camps were a huge success. There were 78 campers between Shores of St. Andrew, WAPO and BWCA. Mary attended Shores and WAPO with the kids. This is one more very important way of connecting with our youth. Mary hopes to continue to offer multiple camp opportunities for different age level kids.

VBS had 120 kids in attendance. There was a lot of positive feedback.

Summer Stretch only had 8 kids involved. Mary was hoping for a larger group but the group she

did have was very enthusiastic. This is open to grades 5, 6 and 7. They did several activities such as visiting Good Samaritan and playing Bingo with the residents, Feed my starving children and several other events to help others in need.

The final session of VBS in the park will happen August 17th and our congregation is responsible for teaching the lesson. Hopefully all goes well with this session since the first 2 sessions were cancelled due to rain and heat.

Fall schedules are approaching and Faith Formation will be meeting the end of this month. Nikki stressed how big a job this is for Mary. The 3 pastors are assisting and helping but ultimately this falls back on Mary. Nikki said they have divided the student age groups among the people on the committee so that they can assist Mary with the age group they are responsible for.

The Middle School group will now be called B.Y.G. Bridging Youth Group. They are going to focus on Wednesday night classes and forgo classes on Sunday. This age group will be encouraged to worship on Sunday mornings with their families.

Confirmation currently includes 8th and 9th grade. The program is beginning a move toward 7th, 8th and 9th for fall of 2012.

Senior High youth currently includes 10th, 11th & 12th grades. Mary would like to see 9th graders added to this group to increase involvement. The National Youth Gathering will be held July 2012 in New Orleans. This event happens every 3 years. It is open to this years 10th, 11th and 12th graders.

Rally Day is September 18th. More registration is being done on line instead of in person so there will not be as much pomp and circumstance on Rally Day this year.

Charles Dueber thanked Nikki for her very informative report and was grateful for her hard work with Faith Formation.

### **Pastor's Reports:**

**Pastor Dale:** Reminder to council members that we have mail boxes and to please remember to check them. If you have anything for the newsletter you need to get that to Jean by the deadline. After a busy summer it is nice having the staff settling in for the fall programs.

Pastor Dale wants to also stress that a Faith Formation staff person is needed. The next area we need to look at is help for Mary. A lot has been added for Faith Formation and it is hard for the current staff to cover everything that is in place. We need to look at – do we want a staff to maintain or a staff to grow.

**Pastor Travis:** The mission trip to Texas for a week of service was a very good trip. The youth shared their experiences with the congregation on the Sunday after they returned. Pastor Travis wanted to stress that they did NOT go to Mexico. When some of the stories were shared by the youth there was some misunderstanding as to if the group went into Mexico. This was not the case. They had a wonderful eye opening experience.

Pastor Travis also shared an email he received from Guyuk, Nigeria. They wrote thanking us on behalf of the pastor and the entire congregation for our financial support which has helped them to raise the building of the church clinic. They also attached a picture of the building.

The Redeemer Lutheran Church block party is being held tomorrow.

Faith Neighbors ministry is going well. Pot luck picnics and other neighborhood get togethers are being planned and neighborhood leaders are being lined up.

As far as the technology group – Pastor Travis is planning on the systematic updates are in place by January 2012.

**Pastor Brandy:** The first week in August was the Boundary waters trip. Pastor Brandy said they had a wonderful time.

Work is being done currently to find guides for the 8th grade confirmation class. The confirmation class will meet with the church council on Tuesday Oct 18th. Council members will interview the confirmation class students. Then on October 30th will be confirmation. The synod assembly will be Feb 17 & 18 in Prior Lake. Susan Briehl will be the speaker. Registration packets will be out in September. Please call Mike at the church office if you are interested in attending.

The ELCA church wide assembly happens every 2 years.

### **Treasurer's Report: Paul Thom**

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report and Meeting Minutes as submitted by Treasurer Paul Thom and Secretary Rachel Hjelsand via e-mail was made by Tom Pierson. The motion was seconded by Nikki Wedge. All approved. Motion carried.

**Key Discussion Topics:** Pastor Dale updated us regarding the Long Range Plan for Faith Lutheran Church. Dan Watts and Lisa Moe chaired the 2008 committee. The pastors and Dan and Lisa reviewed the plan and realize that it just needs small updates. We went thru the plan with the changes that they had looked at. The Executive Summary will be updated. The Vision will change some words to show action in fulfilling our mission statement. The key strategies will be to give us direction so that we can achieve the vision. There were 6 key strategies but now will be 5. Mainly for the 2011 plan the need is to review, revise and recommend. On page 3 of LRP 2011 Mike will update the numbers and Susie will update volunteer numbers. The History is the same. Pastor Dale asks that we look at both LRP for 2008 and 2011 and send feedback to him by the next council meeting. We would like to have it completed by the November congregational meeting and to be able to say here is what is being suggested.

Charles Dueber talked about the building update and handed out a "Process and Time Frame for Presentation of Building Project to Congregation". We are looking at presenting possible building program in January 2012. Paul is working on financing. If we get the money then we will be prepared to present to the congregation that this is a viable project and it is the right time to move forward. The executive council has met with Galen Tongen and Jack Shaw who are willing to co-chair the building committee. We are very thankful for Galen and Jack for agreeing to chair this committee. In 2009 they worked very hard to make this the most cost effective decision. We will stay within the boundaries of the South building – it will be completely redone inside. The plan would be to do the executive offices, fellowship hall/kitchen and then renovation of the South building and link.

We need to create a plan, check the plan and implement the plan. Chuck asked the question "How will the congregation see this?" The Education need is great!! We need to keep in mind the next generation.

So with Galen and Jack in place as co-chairs for the bldg committee the next step is for formulate the rest of the people to be involved with this committee. Some names mentioned are Cindy Schmieg, Tom Kurtz, Mary Tofar, Kari Stevenson, Julia Halverson and Arnie Grangaard. Executive committee members will contact these people and pass on results to the rest of the executive committee. Also we will ask for volunteers from the congregation, other then the above mentioned people, to contact Charles Dueber if they are interested in being involved. This will be in the church bulletin over the next couple weeks.

A motion was made to form a committee appointed by the President of the church council that would have the power to report and investigate on the 2011 building project involving the renovation of the South building and the additions of the fellowship hall, executive offices and the link between the two existing buildings by Tom Pierson. The motion was seconded by Scott Johnson. All approved. Motion carried.

We closed the meeting by saying the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Rachel Hjelsand, Secretary