

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
Waconia, Minnesota
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday December 20, 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*

Council Members	Present	Absent
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 6:37 by Chuck Dueber President. The Duebers hosted the meeting at their beautifully holiday decorated home.

Nikki Wedge led us in devotions containing several bible passages regarding our busy lives. If you are too busy to spend time with God then you are too busy! Nikki also read our mission and vision statements.

Get to Know Our Staff: Mike Christopherson – Faith Lutheran Administrative Secretary and Administrator shared some of his many duties with us. The week is very full answering phones is just one of many duties. Mike said the beginning of each week usually deals with the financial part – bank deposits, cutting checks and balancing accounts. The end of the week deals with printing and collating bulletins. Pastor Dale said the job description is quite long. Mike also keeps the master calendar for the church and every thing that goes on here. Making sure everyone has a place to meet, rooms are set up as needed, all the ordering and receiving and working with the custodian. Regarding the Sunday offering – the counters work on Mondays. Mike enters this into the church data base. Tom asked about the software. Mike said the software for financials works very well. Mike shared his music background with us. Pastor Dale and Chuck both stated how efficient and knowledgeable Mike is and we are appreciative of his

abilities behind the desk to answer all our questions.

Get to Know Our Ministry: There was no ministry this month. Social Outreach is scheduled for January.

Pastor's Reports:

Pastor Dale: Pastor Dale thanked everyone on the council for a good year. He said he is looking forward to 2012.

The Sunday school programs last Sunday were great. There were 386 in attendance at the 8:00 service and 400 plus at the 9:30 service. And the 11:00 service was the one that Mike wrote.

Long Range Plan will be done by the end of the week Pastor Dale said.

The Bible studies held on Wednesday evenings at Bayview went very well. Pastor Travis held one in the fall and Pastor Dale had one that just finished up last week. The attendance for both was good and hopefully that will continue once they start up again late January/February.

Pastor Dale shared that he had given the executive committee a proposal for a Faith Formation position with a job title of "Children and Family Minister". This person would work with Mary Toufar. The hope is for an April 1st start. Pastor Dale said this is an exciting and important future hire with the potential building project. We are looking forward.

Looking forward to ministries for the baby boomers 55 and over and our aging members is very important also. Pastor Dale is working on this ministry.

Pastor Travis: Good News – was Pastor Travis's theme.

The Giving Tree – Pastor Travis said this went great. It was the biggest giving tree they had ever done. All the gift tags were taken and brought back - there were tons of gifts.

Redeemer Christmas Store - This is where the kids can come and shop for their family and get gifts for \$1.00. Our young people help the kids shop for the gifts and also helped with wrapping and with the meal.

St. Johns Lutheran Church – At their request we will be doing a family mission trip this year. We need at least 14 people to go.

Technology Committee – The Technology update plan is finished. It will start in January. Mass email updates will be coming late January early February.

Pastor Travis shared that he and 5 other first call pastors were selected for a grant for Luther Seminary in Austin. They will attend a retreat center once a month for prayer and retreat. They will study – "Belonging to the Body".

Pastor Brandy: Pastor Brandy shared 3 main things with us.

- 1) Sunday forums at 9:30 have been fun. There have been a couple kinds of forums – Faith beyond our walls and Social issues.
- 2) Synod assembly is February 17 & 18. So far Pastor Brandy, Pastor Travis, Pastor Dale, Sherm and Mary Toufar and Gretchen Pierskalla are going. There is room for 4 more. Please contact Pastor Brandy if interested.
- 3) Confirmation – Pastor Brandy noted that there are only 8 lessons left for this confirmation year. During Lent each of the confirmation students get paired with an adult in the congregation. This is another person for these kids to connect with. Someone other than a relative. This is very important and not a huge time commitment Pastor Brandy asks that if you are interested in being a mentor to contact her.

There was discussion about the connection of the kids and the pastors in confirmation. Pastor Brandy noted that she is usually with one of the groups every week because the group leader may have a conflict etc.

Pastor Brandy said that the Boundary Waters trip has a lot of interest this year compared to last year. So it is going much better and everyone is excited to go. Each person needs to have a deposit of \$175 in by January 15th.

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 Nikki Wedge. The motion was seconded by Tom Pierson. All approved. Motion carried.

Key Discussion Topics: Chuck said that last year we gave Christmas gifts to neighbors and we agreed that we will do that again this year. Pastor Travis will talk with Angela to get this taken care of.

Tom talked about how the Capital Campaign will work. This is a financial building program. We employ a consulting firm, Mark Davey & Associates, to do a feasibility study and recommend the next step. They need \$5000 up front. And \$28,000 to move forward if study is favorable to do so. Building funds are used to finance capital campaign.

A motion was made by Tom Pierson that Faith Lutheran Church enter into a contract with Mark Davey and Associates for a feasibility study for a capital campaign and funds to be taken from the building fund in the amount of \$5000 to pay them up front to do this study. The motion was seconded by Jack Shaw. All approved. Motion carried.

Chuck led discussion regarding the January congregational meeting and meeting needed in February and April. The January meeting will be to set the 2012 annual operating budget. In February we would be looking at voting to authorize the \$28,000 for the capital campaign to go forward and talk about the building project.

Jack Shaw gave us a building committee update. He said they sent out for bids a week ago. The bids are due back January 5th. They may be able to push that date back a week. So far they have got good response. Jack said that a request for proposal is lots of work for contractors. The invitation to bid was sent to 5 contractors and one has dropped already but Galen is talking to another contractor also. Jack says the process is working well and the committee is great.

Scott Johnson gave a Stewardship update. It is not what we would like to see. As of December 14th we have 275 pledges totaling \$515,030.36 and last year we had 325 pledges totaling \$584,000. We are 50 pledges down from last year. When the reminder cards were sent we got 16 additional responses. Pastor Dale is going to make a list of people who pledged last year but not this year. Once Scott has that he will divide up names and follow up calls will be made. It is hard to know why less pledges – economy – kids in college etc.

Chuck asked Kristin and Pastor Dale about the proposed worship times for next year. The summer service will be at 9:00. Then in the fall they are looking at (7:45) or 8:00, 9:00 and 10:30 with Sunday school at 9:00 and 10:30.

December general fund balance - \$16,000 December building fund balance - \$208,000 approx.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted – Rachel Hjelsand, Secretary