

META FINANCIAL GROUP INC

FORM 8-K

(Unscheduled Material Events)

Filed 2/26/2001 For Period Ending 2/26/2001

Address	121 EAST FIFTH STREET P O BOX 1307 STORM LAKE, Iowa 50588
Telephone	712-732-4117
CIK	0000907471
Industry	S&Ls/Savings Banks
Sector	Financial
Fiscal Year	09/30

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): February 26, 2001

FIRST MIDWEST FINANCIAL, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

0-22140

42-1406262

(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

(Commission File No.)

(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

Fifth at Erie, Storm Lake, Iowa

50588

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (712) 732-4117

N/A

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Item 5. Other Events

On February 26, 2001, the Registrant issued the attached press release announcing the declaration of a cash dividend to shareholders and the authorization for the purchase of shares by the Trustee of the Company's Employee Stock Ownership Plan.

Item 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits

(a) Exhibits

1. Press release dated February 26, 2001.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this Report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

FIRST MIDWEST FINANCIAL, INC.

Date: February 26, 2001

By: /s/ Donald J. Winchell

*Donald J. Winchell, Senior Vice President,
Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer and
Principal Accounting Officer*

Exhibit 99

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Investor Relations Telephone: 712.732.4117

FIRST MIDWEST FINANCIAL, INC. DECLARES CASH DIVIDEND AND ANNOUNCES STOCK PURCHASE BY ESOP

(Storm Lake, Iowa - February 26, 2001) First Midwest Financial, Inc. announced that the Company will pay a cash dividend of \$0.13 per share for the second fiscal quarter of 2001. This dividend will be payable on or about April 2, 2001 to shareholders of record as of March 15, 2001. The Company has paid regular quarterly cash dividends since the first dividend paid on January 5, 1995.

First Midwest also announced that the Board of Directors has authorized the Trustee of the Company's Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) to purchase up to 40,000 shares of the Company's outstanding common stock. These shares will be used in future contributions to participants in the ESOP.

At December 31, 2000, First Midwest Financial, Inc. had assets of \$505 million and shareholders' equity of \$41.4 million. The company's stock is traded on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol "CASH."

Corporate Profile: First Midwest Financial, Inc. is the holding company for First Federal Savings Bank of the Midwest, headquartered in Storm Lake, Iowa, and for Security State Bank, headquartered in Stuart, Iowa. First Federal Savings Bank operates as a thrift with four divisions: First Federal Storm Lake, Brookings Federal Bank, Iowa Savings Bank, and First Federal Sioux Falls. Security State Bank operates as a state-chartered commercial bank. Fifteen offices support customers throughout northwest and central Iowa, and in Brookings and Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

End of Filing

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