Immanuel Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes

November 11, 2014

7 p.m., ILC Library

John Urbanski called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Devotions – and Faith Story - Lynette Gust

Refreshments – Christy Woll

Motions:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Motion Made | Made By | Second | Outcome of Vote |
| Motion to approve October minutes with corrections. | Sharon Peterson | Christy Woll | Motion carried |
| Motion to give $500 to Kyla Rathjen for her fellowship in Uganda. | John | Brian Heinzen | Motion carried |
| Motion: The council affirms the results of the all-congregation survey, and allows any couple the option of a wedding in the Immanuel Sanctuary, based on consultation with the pastors as part of their pre-marital counseling process. | John | Sharon Peterson | Motion carried, one no vote, one abstention |

Action Items Assigned:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action Items | Assigned | Target Date | Status |
|  |  |  |  |

Council Reports:

Secretary’s Report – Gay Ludvig

Review and approve October minutes with corrections.

President’s Report- John

John made a motion to give $500 to Kyla Rathjen toward her fellowship in Budondo, Uganda beginning in January 2015. Brian H. seconded the motion, and it carried.

Vice President’s Report – Susan G was absent

Financial Secretary’s Report – Bob Warner was absent so Brian Nichols passed around a corrected version of the October income and attendance results.

Old Business:

* Constitution review task force – no update
* Proposal for 2015 staff health and benefits plan: Brian Nichols said there will be a 12.8 % increase next year with the Portico Gold plan which Immanuel’s staff has now. Brian talked to Paul Stordahl and someone from the Association Financial Group to discuss options other than the Portico plan. A comparable plan had a higher deductible and didn’t include dental insurance. Thus, at this time it makes sense to continue with the Portico Gold plan. Paul mentioned that if there are significant increases in the premiums next January, then the Council could make a different decision.
* Kairos update:

Pastor Paul is working with Jeff on specifics that he could discuss when he returns to the Council.

* Same gender marriage

Background:

John stated that the bishop encouraged each congregation in the synod to come to a determination regarding same gender marriage after it was made legal in Minnesota. In the fall of 2013, the council began a discussion, and then took that discussion to the congregation, and based on feedback from the congregation, entered into a year-long process where we endeavored to hear from as many in the congregation as possible. Over the past year invited people to come together nine times for various discussions. A task force was assembled to construct an effective way of having the congregation weigh in on how Immanuel might proceed in regard to same gender marriage. The task force decided that confirmed members would be sent a survey in late Sept. to be returned to Immanuel by Oct. 20th so that the task force could tally the results. The results were tallied and now the Council should decide what the next steps would be. John pointed out that no couple is waiting for a decision now in order to get married. Immanuel members asked to have a say in this decision. If a decision is not made now, when is a good time to make it?

John made a motion that: “The council affirms the results of the all-congregation survey, and allows any couple the option of a wedding in the Immanuel Sanctuary, based on consultation with the pastors as part of their pre-marital counseling process.” Sharon seconded the motion. A discussion followed with each Council member giving his/her viewpoint. After much heartfelt discussion, the Council passed the motion, with one dissenting vote and one abstention. By the end of this week Pastors Paul and Susan and John Urbanski will e-mail as well as send a hard copy of the survey, the results, the rational and the decision of the Council. There will be a follow-up article in December’s Luther Way.

Treasurer’s Report – Brian Nichols

* October giving was $21,000 less than budget and year to date giving is now $9,000 less than budget.
* Church Expenses are within 1% of budget for both the month and YTD.
* Program Expenses were almost $5,000 over budget for the month but remain about $9,000 less than budget YTD.
* Building funds received in October were $13,532 or $1,759 less than the minimum monthly mortgage payment.
* Need $290K of giving in Nov/Dec to reach budget for 2014. Last year’s Nov/Dec giving was $268K, 2012 was $247K and 2011 Nov/Dec giving was $273K.
* Committee chairs should look over their budget for next year by Dec. 1st. The budget will be discussed at the December 9th Council meeting.

Staff Reports:

Children’s Ministry – Martin

* The task committee met with three applicants, and two people were outstanding. Those two will be given the Myers Briggs’ test and EIQ 2 test which describes the emotional intelligence of the candidates. A psychologist will give Martin and the committee a summary statement of the results of the tests and will suggest questions that the committee might ask the candidates. The candidates will take the tests online prior to their second interview on Nov. 23rd.
* The confirmation retreat this past weekend went really well; 135 people were there. The student leaders were very impressive.
* Gretchen is leading the transition with the children’s ministry team and she and Martin are doing a very good job.

Pastor Susan

* She spent the past weekend on the retreat and noticed how dedicated the student leaders were.
* This Thursday night is the Night of Remembrance at church, and all who have lost loved ones are encouraged to come.
* She and Diane are leading the third part of the Spiritual Direction Group.

Pastor Paul

* Four-and-a-half years ago he started his doctorate. He meets one more time. He has written 155 pages and has another 20 pages to go.
* The men’s groups have been inspiring. There are about 16 men in their 30’s and two of them have joined the stewardship committee.
* Paul S. and Ben have given outstanding temple talks the past two Sundays.
* On Nov. 29th Immanuel members are encouraged to come to church to decorate for Christmas.

Committee Reports:

Senior High Youth- Kirsten

* She will talk to Paul Erdmann about the two fundraising events that he is proposing for the senior youth group and will invite him to come to Exec or Council.
* One hundred and seventy-five pounds of food were donated to PROP.
* Council reps are meeting this Thursday.

Worship, Music and Arts – Janis

* Gary Thrasher is thinking of creative ideas to get more people to participate in the choirs.
* Brandon is doing very well with Servant Song.
* Janis recommends that a sound board be installed and are looking for volunteers to staff it.

Parish Fellowship Co-Chair – Lynette

* She is very pleased with the numbers who are attending the Wednesday Café. About 120-130 show up each Wed. Another rotation starts tomorrow night with tacos being served. About 80% of the people pay, but the cost is being covered. If there is extra money, hot pads and frying pans will be purchased.
* There will be no Smorgasbord Dinner this year. Interested people may contact Lynette or Gary Gilbertson early next fall to plan an event.

Properties – Brian Heinzen

* New doors are on order.
* There is a working snow blower now. Martin gave Immanuel a good deal on his.
* The snow contractor is NOT the same one that was used last year. We went back to Reliakor for snow removal this season.

Stewardship – Paul Stordahl

* We are in the midst of the stewardship campaign.
* Two people have given temple talks, and two more will follow.
* There will be a stewardship breakfast on Stewardship Sunday November 23rd.

Social Concerns – Sharon Peterson

* On November 16th there will be a request from Immanuel members to bring coats and mittens to the church for disadvantaged people.
* From Dec. 21-28 Families Moving Forward will be staying at Immanuel, and volunteers are requested to contact Kim Rathjen to see where they might help.
* Sharon attended a meeting called “Toolkit Fall 2014” sponsored by the Minneapolis Area Synod with Deb Stehlin as guest speaker. Sharon passed around a handout that gave tips on how churches can become more welcoming. She stated that when someone new enters a church, he/she decides within 10 minutes on whether they want to stay. She said that 98.5% of people come to a church because someone they know invited them.

Adult Faith Formation – Lorraine Maenke

* Men are welcome to serve a meal at Simpson House in Minneapolis on Dec. 26th.
* The women’s retreat will be on March 7th next year.
* Her committee is meeting next Tuesday.
* Lynette mentioned that she appreciated the sessions that Pastor Paul is offering on “Marriage: Making Love Last.” One does not have to have attended the first session in order to attend the second session. She recommended that another session be scheduled in the future.

Children’s Education Co-chair – Eldri Johnson

* The children’s Christmas program will be held at the 9:15 a.m. service on Dec. 14th. Students will lead it. Students will usher, read and sing. Children are now signing up for different roles in the “Go Tell It” musical.
* Parents are encouraged to volunteer in the kindergarten and first grade classrooms to help the student leaders.
* She again mentioned how grateful she is to Martin and Gretchen for helping the committee with the transition to a new Children’s Ministry director. Craig has also been a tremendous resource to the committee.

Closing Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings:

Council Dec. 9, 2014 7:00 p.m.

Prayerfully submitted,

Gay Ludvig,

Council Secretary

Attendance

P- Present, NP Not Present

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | P/NP | Name | P/NP |
| Lisa Anderson | NP | Pastor Paul Nelson | P |
| John Bleifuss | NP | Brian Nichols | P |
| Kim Brattensborg | NP | Sharon Peterson | P |
| Donna Bregel | NP | Martin Rathjen | P |
| Janis Cameron | P | Kirsten Stenoien | P |
| Susan Geitzenauer | NP | Paul Stordahl | P |
| Lynette Gust | P | Brenda Tonjes | P |
| Bill Hawkins | P | Julie Tufford-Olig | NP |
| Brian Heinzen | P | John Urbanski | P |
| Eldri Johnson | P | Bob Warner | NP |
| Gay Ludvig | P | Pastor Susan Weaver | P |
| Lorraine Maenke | P | Christy Woll | P |

