

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2015
7 p.m., ILC Library**

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

Devotions – Melanie

Refreshments – Eldri

Faith Story – Brenda

Motions:

Motion Made	Made By	Second	Outcome of Vote
Motion to approve July minutes	Pastor Susan	Christy	Motion carried
Motion to approve the Children Protection Policy	Paul Stordahl	Sharon Peterson	Motion carried
Motion to deny the India Festival request	Scott Sabin	Bob Peterson	Motion carried
Motion to approve that staff salaries be a priority for the 2016 budget.	Paul Stordahl	Scott Sabin	Motion carried

Action Items Assigned:

Action Items	Assigned	Target Date	Status

Council Reports:

Secretary’s Report – Gay Ludvig

- Review and approve July minutes. Pastor Susan moved to approve the July minutes. Christy seconded it. The motion carried.

New Business: Congregation Survey/ Kairos/ Core Values August 18th meeting

- We will receive a survey from Mary Pechauer, who represents Kairos, this coming week, and we are to complete the survey and send it back to Mary by noon on this Saturday, so she can collate the information to present it to us on August 18th. It will take about 30-45 minutes to complete. If one doesn’t have time to complete the survey by this Saturday, one may bring the information to the meeting on August 18th.

President Report: John

• Response from Synod re Constitution changes - update

The Synod approved of Immanuel’s Constitutional changes except for the 120 day deadline. The Synod did not want to be held to that deadline. The question remains: “Does Immanuel adopt the model language without the 120 days?”

- **Child Protection Policy**

The Children's Education Committee recommended that Immanuel accept the policy that Cindy Paulson had used in her former church. Eldri, who is a lawyer, went through the document and thought the policy was very good. Eldri recommended that Immanuel adopt the policy. Eldri will set the final copy on the website for the congregation to view. Paul Stordahl made the motion to adopt the policy, and Sharon Peterson seconded it. The motion carried.

- **Call Committee - update**

The Call Committee held a second interview with a candidate August 10th and is performing reference checks. The Call Committee interviewed two candidates over the past two weeks and has received profiles for additional candidates. One of the candidates that was interviewed took herself out of the running as she was pursuing a full-time call, not a part-time one. The Minneapolis Area Synod office has been in communication with additional candidates that are interested in Immanuel's position. These candidates are completing the paperwork which may be passed to the Call Committee for their review. Please keep the Call Committee, the Minneapolis Area Synod and the candidates who are considering the part-time position in one's prayers.

- **India Navrati/Dandiya Festival request- October 16th**

Shilpa Sastri wants to host his religious Navratri/Dandiya Festival in Luther Hall on Friday, October 16th. He wants the room from 6:00-11:00 p.m. There will be 150 people there, and Shilpa wants 10 rectangle tables, 1 round table and about 100 chairs. He will cater the food from outside the church and serve it in the church. He would pay the \$75.00 custodian fee and also give a donation to Immanuel. Since this is a religious festival, which conflicts with the ELCA's policies; they worship many Gods, Scott Sabin made a motion to deny the request. Bob Peterson seconded the motion, and the motion carried with one abstention. John will contact Shilpa to tell him that we deny his request for Immanuel's facilities.

Vice President's Report – Brenda

- **Personnel Committee -update**

Brenda and Jana Cinnamon met and made many revisions to the Employee Guidebook. The Personnel Committee will meet again in August.

Financial Secretary's Report – Scott Belseth

- **Actual giving 2015 vs. 2014**

- July giving: \$21,496 (34.1%) more than 2014 (\$84,599 vs.\$63,103)
- 2015 giving: Year-to-date \$3,601 (0.6%) less than 2014 (\$605,520 vs. (\$609,121)

- **Actual giving vs. budget:**

- July giving: \$8,851 (11.7%) more than budget (\$84,599 vs.\$75,748 budgeted)
- 2015 giving: Year-to-date \$812 (0.1%) less than budget (\$605,520 vs. \$606,332)

- **Attendance: Sundays in July 2015 (4) July 2014 (4)**

Treasurer's report Brian Nichols Expenses/Financial Reports:

- **Highlights of the Financial Summary:**

- Giving was almost \$9,000 over budget for the month of July and remains less than \$1,000 below budget YTD
- Church expenses were on budget for the month but remain \$12,000 over budget YTD
- Paid out almost \$50,000 in Benevolence in July
- Received \$18,548 in 5 for 50 contributions. Building fund balance less than \$30,000 or below 2 times the minimum monthly mortgage payment

- **Staff salary adjustment update Brian**
 - In July Immanuel was back to their budget, but there is no surplus at this point. Bob Peterson recommended that staff salaries be prioritized for the 2016 budget year. He mentioned that if there is a surplus at the end of 2015, that a one-time bonus be give to the staff. Paul Stordahl made a motion that there be no increase in staff salaries for 2015, but there should be a budget prioritization for staff salary increases for 2016. Scott Sabin seconded it, and the motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- **Children's Ministry – Eldri**
The committee hasn't met recently. Vacation Bible School had twice as many children this year than it did last year. There were more volunteers as well. It was a huge success!
- **Senior High Youth- Scott Sabin and Jolene Held**
The Senior High Youth Committee will meet next week. Pool parties for 7th, 8th and 9th graders will be held this August. There will be a 'Student Leader Training on Saturday, August 22nd at 9:00 a.m. The confirmation guides will meet on Monday, August 24th at 5:30 p.m. and also on Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m. The confirmation retreat will be on Nov. 13-15th. Their committee is looking at different mission work. This year the students went to the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota for a week. Jolene said they are hoping to help the homeless worldwide.
- **Worship, Music and Arts – Bob Peterson**
There will be no meeting this month. Bob will present information at the Sept. 8th Council Meeting.
- **Parish Fellowship Co-Chair – Melanie**
She and her committee are ready for fall. She and Alecia will meet next week.
- **Properties – Brian Heinzen was absent.**
- **Stewardship – Paul Stordahl**
His committee hasn't met. However, Pastor Paul and he sent an e-mail to the congregation on July 16th describing the different ways for Immanuel members to submit their gifts, that are alternatives to the weekly offering basket, since so many people are out-of-town during the summer months. The letter described Simply Giving, Online transactions, and Stock or Mutual Fund donations. They also discussed placing Simply Giving cards in the envelope containers on the back of the chairs in the sanctuary for those who feel awkward not physically placing anything in the offering basket.
- **Social Concerns – Sharon Peterson**
On Welcome Sunday, Sept. 13th, Sharon is requesting that members bring personal hygiene items to be divided among three organizations: Cornerstone: diapers, baby wipes, baby shampoo, baby wash and baby lotion Rezek House/LSS Metro Homeless Youth Services: laundry detergent, dryer sheets, household cleaners and cleaning supplies PROP and the PROP Shop: new socks and underwear in all sizes, children and adults.
- Kim Rathjen will visit AMEXTRA over the weekend of MEA in October 15-18th. Students in grade 7 and older are welcome with a parent. Interested persons should contact Kim. Sign up deadline is Sept. 1st.

- **Adult Faith Formation – Jennifer Johnson**

The committee is meeting tomorrow night to do more planning. Topics they are considering include Bible Fluency, Bible Bookmarks, and Aging Parents.

- **Middle School Youth Co-Chair Christy Woll**

The first Middle School Mission trip to Duluth was very successful. There were 7 boys, 2 girls and a chaperone. They are going to get feedback about the trip and they may go again next year. The children did yard work and cleaned windows. The committee will meet this Thursday.

- **Evangelism Julie Tufford-Olig**

The last chance to sign up for Tables of Eight will be on Welcome Sunday, Sept. 13th. The Kick-off Event will be at the Round Lake Pavilion on Sunday, Sept. 20th from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Your group will be given your booklet with menus for four dinners, plus the recipes for all menu items. You will also meet other members of your “table” and set the date for your first dinner. Refreshments at the Kick-off Event will be served and a \$10.00 donation is suggested to cover costs.

On Rally Sunday, Sept. 13th, Council members are encouraged to come early to help pass out bulletins and help in other ways.

Staff Reports:

- **Bill Hawkins**

The geothermal system that was installed in 1978 still works, but water gushes up through the ground which wastes water. Perhaps in the next capital appeal a new system could be installed. Immanuel’s closets are being used for storage. Presently props are not in storage where they should be because of space. Darrell emptied out the carpet, lumber and other items that were in the closet. The fire marshall wouldn’t be happy with Immanuel’s filled closets. Darrell has been shampooing carpets. Pastor Susan’s furniture is in place. The custodian service that Immanuel uses on Sundays has been great. In Sept. the custodian will be used more. Presently, the custodian arrives at 7:30 a.m. and leaves about noon.

- **Martin Rathjen**

There are two significant technology upgrades to assist in Immanuel’s communication as we care and serve Immanuel and the community.

- New phone system. Our VoIP phone system is now live (thanks to John Ebert!!!) The main number is still 952-937-8123. That hasn’t changed. Staff extensions have all changed. You can direct dial many of the staff. New extensions and direct dial numbers have been published on Immanuel’s website. The congregation will be informed Monday morning.
- Updated WiFi throughout the building (thanks to Jay Nelson!!!)

Martin attended a Confirmation Conference at the end of July. He learned that nation-wide 23% of 10th graders drop out of confirmation. At Immanuel, however, 24 out of 31 10th graders are returning. There are 40 members of Immanuel who will complete a survey at the end of August. There will be a review of the results at that time.

Luther’s Way material is due this Friday.

- **Pastor Susan**

Her newest granddaughter, Britta, was born on July 17th.

She really appreciates the work and time that the geeks and John Ebert have devoted to the new technology in the church.

The staff took the MCORE survey, and the results will be shared.

She appreciates the Faith Talk Wall that has been put up in the lobby. She encourages everyone to write on it!

She emphasized that when committees meet, they embed the scriptures that were written in a booklet that she gave us earlier.

The Youth Room, or Room A, has now had a face lift and will now be called The Living Room. The walls have been painted, the wooden tables are stained, the old furniture has been striped, and a team of women have sewn new cushions for the chairs. Art for the wall has been donated, and two arm chairs were donated.

- **Pastor Paul** will return from vacation this Friday.

Closing Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings:

**Council with Kairos: Core Values
Council**

**August 18, 2015 6:30 p.m.
September 8, 2015 7:00 p.**

Prayerfully submitted,

**Gay Ludvig,
Council Secretary**

Attendance

P- Present, NP Not Present

Name	P/NP	Name	P/NP
Scott Belseth	P	Bob Peterson	P
Donna Bregel	NP	Sharon Peterson	P
Paul and Melanie Leite Carroll	P	Martin Rathjen	P
Bill Hawkins	P	Scott Sabin	P
Brian Heinzen	NP	Paul Stordahl	P
Jolene Held	P	Katie Thormodsgard	NP
Alecia & Lou Hernandez	NP	Brenda Tonjes	P
Eldri Johnson	P	Julie Tufford-Olig	P
Jennifer Johnson	P	John Urbanski	P
Gay Ludvig	P	Pastor Susan Weaver	P
Pastor Paul Nelson	NP	Christy Woll	P
Brian Nichols	P		