

**Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Church Council Meeting Minutes  
January 13, 2015  
7 p.m., ILC Library**

**John Urbanski called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.**

**Devotions – Pastor Susan**

**Refreshments – Sharon Peterson**

**Faith Story – Janis Cameron**

**Motions:**

<b>Motion Made</b>	<b>Made By</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Outcome of Vote</b>
Motion made to approve December minutes	Sharon	Christy	Motion carried
Motion made to accept the Schwan's and Handbell Choir's fundraisers.	Christy	Brenda	Motion carried
Motion made to accept the four decisions that the Council decided on to balance the budget.	Janis	Kim	Motion carried

<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Assigned</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
John will talk to the Constitutional Task Force about a list of highlights for proposed changes in Immanuel's Constitution.	John and his task force will discuss the highlights.	January 25th	Ongoing.

**Action Items Assigned:**

**Council Reports:**

**Secretary's Report – Gay Ludvig**

Review and approve December minutes.

**President's Report- John**

- Nominating Committee update

Brenda Tonjes will be the vice president.

Scott Belseth will be the financial secretary.

Jen Johnson will be in charge of adult education.

Katie Thormodsgard will be in charge of children's ministry.

Co-chairs for fellowship will be Paul and Melanie Carroll and Lou and Alecia Hernandez.

Jolene Held will be the chair of the senior high youth.

Brian Heinzen will remain in charge of properties.

Bob Peterson will chair the worship, music and arts' committee.

Lisa Anderson, Janis Cameron, John Weum, and Andy Vergeront will be on the nominating committee.

Synod delegates will be Pat and Bill Middeke, Dan Kosel, Amber Howard, Rich Strosahl, and Maggie Blomquist.

An alternate to the synod delegate will be Ben Orton.

Janis Cameron will be in charge of the audit committee.

- Proposal for 2015 youth fundraisers
- Schwan's Frozen Food Fundraiser:  
The Schwan's fundraiser allows Immanuel members and people outside of Immanuel with a connection to students to purchase food through Schwan's with 20-40 % of the sales coming back to youth for the first 45 days of the fundraising campaign. After the initial 45 days, 5% of the sales will be credited to students. Everything is done online, and there is no long term commitment for Immanuel. Kick-off date would be Feb. 15th, which coincides with Youth Rejoice as the congregation will learn about the ways Immanuel's youth are growing in their faith.
- Constitution review task force- update  
The Council accepted the document that includes proposed changes to the Immanuel Constitution as developed by the Constitution review task force. These changes will be made available to the congregation at the annual meeting on Jan. 25, 2015, and online. This would satisfy the requirement that Immanuel members receive the proposed changes at least 60 days before a congregation meeting to vote on the changes. The congregational meeting will be held in late April between the 9:15 a.m. and the 10:45 a.m. services, and Immanuel's Constitution would be finalized and approved at the congregational meeting in January of 2016.  
Brenda recommended that John and his task force gather the highlights of the report to give the members at the congregational meeting in Jan. so people wouldn't get discouraged trying to read the whole document which is lengthy. John said he would meet with his task force and bring the highlights to the Jan. 25th meeting.
- Fundraiser for "Handbells in Worship Sunday" on April 12th.  
In 2014 the Worship, Music and Arts' committee approved of "Handbells in Worship" Sunday for April 12, 2015. The handbell choir would like to add the 5th octave to their set now as Sara Ralston wants to expand the present set to increase participation. The choir hopes to raise money by playing at all three services April 12th, and having a "temple talk" at the end of each service. The 5th octave can be purchased for \$8,900. Christy approved of the Schwan's and Handbell Choir's fundraisers. Brenda seconded it, and the motion carried.

#### **Vice President's Report – Susan G was absent**

#### **Financial Secretary's Report – Bob Warner was absent so Brian Nichols handed out the 2014 December Analysis Summary.**

December 2014 giving was less than December 2013 and less than December 2014 budget.

#### **Treasurer's report- Brian Nichols: Expenses/ Financial Reports; Giving/Attendance**

Brian passed out a sheet describing the 2015 Budget Analysis. The Council needed to discuss what could be done to balance the budget. Four decisions were made after much discussion.

1. The \$11,000 that Immanuel needs to pay for Kairos upfront will not be taken from the budget, but would come out of the 2016 capital appeal fund.
2. Reduce the ELCA benevolence from 13% to 12%.

3. The Council expressed its desire to give 20% overall for benevolences, and we will look to make sure benevolence to all ministry partners is included from all areas of the church budget.
4. Brian would also look at the dedicated accounts fund to see if there can be more money shifted to balance the budget. Janis recommended that the memorial fund be perused as well. It was also decided that people who were dependents would pay 10% of their insurance premium next year. Janis moved to accept the four decisions, and Kim seconded it. The motion carried.

## **Staff Reports:**

### **Children's Ministry –**

#### **Bill Hawkins**

A Sunday custodian still needs to be hired. Darrell, the weekday custodian, has been coming in to open the doors.

The toilets were plugged up and Roto Rooter was called to fix them.

#### **Pastor Susan**

- Pastor Susan and her husband Rich had a lovely Christmas Eve dinner at church. About 30-40 people came including the Families Moving Forward group. MaryKay did the set up for the dinner.
- New spiritual direction groups will be set up in mid-February. These are groups of three to six people who meet twice a month for a total of six sessions to help each other discern the movement of God in their lives. Brenda went to two sessions.
- Pastor Susan will begin teaching the book of Revelation on Wed. 10:00 a.m.
- Kim Rathgen will continue a discussion on advocacy at the Wed. night Adult Faith Formation class on Jan. 21st at 6:15-7:45 p.m.
- Pastor Doug Cox will give an introduction to Islam, a glimpse at Muslim experiences in Minnesota, plus accurate information on topics as varied as “What’s the difference between Sunni, Shia, and Suffi?” to “How should we relate to Muslims in our midst?” Sessions will begin on Jan. 28th and continue on Feb. 4th and Feb. 11th from 6:15-7:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
- Pastor Susan will be on vacation the first week in Feb.

#### **Pastor Paul**

- He wants to gather a visioning group as to how the tools for assessment for the capital appeal will be used.
- He is happy that the year ended on budget!!
- He commented that even though we had a difficult year discussing the same gender marriage issue, only eight people left the church, which is 1%. He was very happy with the respect that Immanuel members gave each other and appreciated the process.
- There are 30 men going to the curling event on Jan. 18th.
- Monday and Tuesday will be Paul's last days for his dissertation class. He's been involved for five years, and he graduates on May 17th, the day after Marit graduates from college. What an achievement!

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Senior High Youth- Kirsten was absent.**

#### **Worship, Music and Arts – Janis**

Janis said that the Ascension Choir's bake sale brought in \$1,917.

The Trinity Choir will sing on Feb. 15th which is Youth Rejoice Sunday.

Reformation Choir is getting more participants.

**Parish Fellowship Co-Chair – Kim**

There will be a chili feed at the annual meeting on Jan. 25th.

**Properties – Brian Heinzen was absent.** Bill mentioned that two doors in the East end of the sanctuary needed to be replaced. Bill also mentioned that when the Boy Scouts had their sleep over, someone made a hole in the wall in Luther Hall.

**Stewardship – Paul Stordahl was absent.**

**Social Concerns – Sharon Peterson**

Sharon said there would be a tour of Reziak House on April 26th.

The next time Families Moving Forward will be at Immanuel is from March 15-21st.

**Adult Faith Formation – Lorraine Maenke**

- The men's curling event is scheduled for this January 18th at 2:00 p.m. at the Frog Town Curling Club. Cost is \$30 per person which includes instruction and playing time. Sign up is in the kiosk in the atrium, and people will meet at church at 1:15 p.m. to carpool.
- Immanuel Women's Retreat is scheduled for March 7th. It will be held at Mt. Olivet Retreat Center in Farmington. The speaker will be JoAnn Nesser.
- Wine tasting at Dunn Brother's Smith Douglas More House is this Friday Jan. 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

**Children's Education Co-chair – Eldri Johnson**

The Christmas Program went vey well.

Cindy Paulson who is the Children's Ministry Director began on Dec. 16th. She is getting to know the children and their families.

**Evangelism Co-Chair- John Bleifuss**

Alpha went very well this year, and he plans to do it again.

**Closing Prayer**

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

<b>Annual Meeting</b>	<b>Jan. 25, 2015</b>	<b>Noon</b>
<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Feb. 10, 2015</b>	<b>7:00 P.M.</b>
<b>Council Retreat</b>	<b>Feb. 28, 2015</b>	<b>8:30-3:00 p.m.</b>

Prayerfully submitted,  
Gay Ludvig,  
Council Secretary

**Attendance**

**P- Present, NP Not Present**

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