

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2015
7 p.m., ILC Library**

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

Devotions – Scott

Refreshments – Sharon

Faith Story – Bob

Motions:

Motion Made	Made By	Second	Outcome of Vote
Motion to approve the September minutes	Brenda	Jen	Motion carried
Motion to approve calling Pastor Angela	Sharon	Bob	Motion carried

Action Items Assigned:

Action Items	Assigned	Target Date	Status

Council Reports:

New Business: Call Committee report and recommendation

Tom Getchius, chairman of the Call Committee, presented his information about the process that his committee went through to recommend that Immanuel accept Pastor Angela as their part-time pastor. Last March Pastor Susan requested that she be allowed to go part-time in about six months. Tom said the committee started with meetings with the Synod assistant. The Call Committee used the work from Karios and the CAT assessment, taken by the congregation, to describe the work that the part-time pastor would do. That would include a passion for ministry in daily life, building relationships, heading up the faith groups, and preaching once a month in worship. The committee included Pastor Paul, Pastor Susan, Jenna Cameron, Kate Brooke-Beyer, Sara Koepp, Lorraine Maenke, Rory Meagher, and Andy Vergeront. This group met on July 7th at Pastor Paul's home and looked at seven profiles of people interested in the part-time position. The committee decided on three candidates to interview; however, one candidate withdrew from the process as she was a finalist for another church, and a

second one lived too far away. The committee looked at another dozen profiles and interviewed three candidates. The one who stood out as the best person for the job has a mature faith and deep biblical knowledge, coupled with a passion for ministry in daily life. She's effective at building relationships, and organizing community grounded in the Christian faith. She lost her previous husband to cancer four years ago, and she has remarried a man who has three adult children. Pastor Angela has two teenagers from her first husband.

Tom recommended that Immanuel call Pastor Angela, and the Executive Council approved of this decision. John will email a letter to the congregation on September 9th giving the Call Committee's Process Update. He will announce a special congregation meeting on Sept. 27th to call a new associate part-time pastor. There will be two announcements about the special meeting : one on Sept. 13th and one on Sept. 20th. The congregation will vote on Sept. 27th to call Pastor Angela. If Pastor Angela is approved, she and Pastor Susan will begin part-time status on Oct. 1st.

Secretary's Report – Gay Ludvig

Review and approve September minutes.

President's Report- John

- **Kairos / Core Values update**

Mary, from Kairos, presented to interested Immanuel members on August 18th ways to identify Immanuel's Core Values. Core values are one's non-negotiables for who we are as a community. What drives our behavior? A Task Force needs to meet to articulate the six core values. Six members will help identify Immanuel's six core values. They include Martin, Kelly Meyers, Brenda, Pastor Paul, and Deb and Chapin Hall.

- **Vice President's Report – Brenda Tonjes**

She met once with her committee since August, and the committee is close to finalizing the Employee Guidebook. When the book is completed, Brenda will have her staff look at it and circulate the final copy to the Council for approval.

- **Financial Secretary's Report – Scott Belseth**

- The 2015 August Analysis Summary

- **Actual giving 2015 vs. 2014**

- August giving: \$926 (+1.2%) more than 2014 (\$79, 654 vs. \$78, 728)
 - 2015 giving: Year-to-date \$2,675 (-0.4%) less than 2014 (\$685,174 vs. \$687,849 LY)

- **Actual giving vs. budget**

- August giving: \$1,470 (+0.1%) more than budget (\$79,654 vs. \$78,184 budgeted)
 - 2015 Giving: Year-to-date \$658 (+0.1%) more than budget (\$685,174 vs. \$684,516)

- **Attendance: Sundays in August 2015: 5 vs. 2014: 5**

- **Treasurer's report- Brian Nichols was absent so Scott Belseth presented.**

- **Highlights of the Financial Summary:**

- God's gifts were slightly more than budget for August and YTD
 - Church expenses were \$1,200 under budget for August but remain \$11,000 over budget YTD
 - Program Expenses were over \$1,600 under budget in August and are more than \$19,000 under budget YTD

- Cumulative giving less expenses was almost \$3,900 better than budget for August and more than \$8,000 better than budget YTD
- 5 for 50 contributions were just over \$8,000 in August or almost \$7,000 less than our minimum monthly mortgage payment. Building fund is now 1.4 times the minimum monthly mortgage payment.

Committee Reports:

- **Evangelism - Julie Tufford-Olig**
 - The Tables of Eight Kick-off Event is at Round Lake Pavilion on Sunday, September 20th from 4:00-6:00 p.m. About 100 people have signed up, and an e-mail was sent to those participants.
 - New members will meet on September 24th from 6:00- 9:00 p.m.
- **Children's Ministry- Katie Thormodsgard**
 - On Welcome Sunday, September 13th, there will be sanctuary bags for preschool children and children who can read. The bags will be filled with things to eat and play with during the service. While waiting in line for lunch following the service, children will be able to have their faces painted.
 - Cindy Paulson still needs one more teacher for Sunday School. This year there are not as many youth leaders who will assist.
 - Pre confirmation 5th and 6th graders will be called The God Squad to give them more responsibility than they had previously.
 - Sunday School starts on September 20th.
- **Adult Faith Formation - Jennifer Johnson**
 - Women's Bible Study will start with the Book of Acts on September 16th from 10-11:30 a.m. The group will meet every Wednesday morning at the same time after Sept. 16th. Study guides are available for \$12.00 on Welcome Sunday and also each Wednesday morning. Contact Jennifer Johnson if interested.
 - Jennifer will meet with her committee next on Oct. 20th. The committee will work with both part-time pastors for the fall topics. The topics will be presented on Wednesday evenings from 6:15-7:45 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Some of the topics include Spiritual Vitality - what does it mean and how do we "get" it?, Getting to Know Our Somali Neighbors, Mental Health Awareness, and Diversity and Privilege.
- **Properties Chair - Brian Heinzen**
 - There was an audit done on Immanuel's energy efficiency this summer. The old well system is no longer legal, and the audit recommended that we needed to make the church more energy efficient. Brian hopes that the 2016 Capital Appeal will include a more efficient system.
 - There are new doors in the sanctuary which are safer than the previous ones.
 - Another request that Brian has is that the 2016 Capital Appeal include a new furnace. Our present ones are 15-20 years old.
- **Worship, Music and Arts - Bob Peterson**
 - He and his committee talked about Spiritual Vitality at their last meeting, and they will use devotions each time they meet.
 - A volunteer pianist will work with the group Holy Commotion on Mondays.
 - The money raised for new bells totaled \$7,000.
 - Kristi Brackett will take over the Epiphany Choir.
- **Parish Fellowship Co-Chair - Melanie Leite Carroll**
 - She is planning on about 400 people attending the church picnic following the service on Welcome Sunday, Sept. 13th. She is interviewing volunteers to help in the kitchen, serve the food, and clean up afterwards.
 - Lynette Gust is organizing groups for the Wednesday Cafe suppers from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. A few more volunteers are needed.

- **Stewardship - Paul Stordahl**
 - His committee will meet in September and be ready to talk about stewardship in November.
- **Social Concerns - Sharon Peterson**
 - Her committee hasn't met recently. Immanuel members are encouraged to bring personal hygiene items to church on Welcome Sunday. The items will be divided among three organizations : Rezek House/LSS Metro Homeless Youth Services, Cornerstone and PROP and the PROP Shop. Those who contribute items will receive a free yellow Immanuel T-shirt.
- **Middle School Youth Co-Chair - Donna Bregel**
 - The Youth Board Meeting was held on Thursday, August 13, 2015.
 - The Mission Trip to Duluth in 2015 included 9 students and 2 adults. One sick child returned early. It was a great community experience for all of the students. The trip was very successful, and the discussion produced a commitment to continue this specialized mission trip for middle school students to Duluth in 2016. There was a great article in Luther's Way from Braden Johnson about his experience.
 - The next fundraiser will be Youth Rejoice in February. There is a motion to explore additional opportunities for fundraising. Six students in grades 7, 8 and 9 plus student leaders and a few parents enjoyed the pool parties hosted by the Gust family, the Bode family and the Hansen family this summer.
 - Upcoming dates include:
 - Sept. 16th - Confirmation begins
 - Sept. 30th - Service Projets
 - Oct. 2nd - Lock -In (Friday night). The Big Thrill Factory will be an evening activity.
 - The next YMT meeting is Thursday, Sept. 10th at Scott Sabin's home.
- **Senior High Youth Co-Chair - Scott Sabin**
 - The Senior High Mission trip next year will be in Benton Harbor, Michigan, from June 18-24, 2016. There may be an additional trip next summer near Lomas, Mexico.
 - There are 22 10th graders who have volunteered as student leaders to run small groups of 5-6 students each. The student leaders will be mentoring, listening and praying with their students.
 - Fundraising in the future will be more service based instead of endorsing a product.
 - There was a small group for fall clean up.

Staff Reports:

Director of Faith Formation - Martin Rathjen

- Articles in Luther's Way are due this coming Monday. Martin wants people to share their faith through stories of God at work in their lives.
- There are 8 new student guides.
- If members want an updated photo in the church directory, they may be photographed on Welcome Sunday, Sept. 13th at church.

Church Administer - Bill Hawkins

- The Lutheran Scholarship Fund has \$4,000. Students who intend to attend a Lutheran College are encouraged to apply.
- Members who sell stock must contact Bill so he can update their giving.
- Bill mentioned that some churches are wanting background checks on People Moving Forward. If they don't do the background checks, the church's insurance will not cover any incidents that might occur. Bill asked if Immanuel does background checks, and he was told that Immanuel doesn't presently.

- Bill's wife, Pat, has six weeks of treatment for cancer left. This past treatment has gone much better than previously. Bill appreciates everyone's prayers.

Pastor Susan

- There are a number of speakers, topics and Bible stories for adults of all ages to come together to listen and talk together about matters of faith. The time is from 6:15-7:45 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in the Fellowship Hall.
- A bookmark titled Top 40 Bible Readings will be given to each member at Welcome Sunday. The Bible Readings are from Genesis through Revelation.
- Women's Bible Study will begin on Wed., Sept. 16th from 10:00 -11:30 a.m. in the church library. The year begins with a study of the book of Acts. Study guides are available for \$12.00 beginning this Sunday, Sept. 13th and every Wed. morning thereafter.
- The Living Room has been emptied of "stuff" that is no longer wanted. Items are being left at a table by the West Door, and people are encouraged to take the items and leave a donation.
- The custodian, Darrell, has been fabulous in helping Pastor Susan move her furniture and files to her new office.
- Pastor Susan requests that people pray for her in her transition to part-time.

Pastor Paul

- The tent is going up this coming Friday for Welcome Sunday. Chairs are being rented, and there is no sound equipment needed.
- Thanks to Melanie for organizing the picnic following church this Sunday.
- Kairos is working with staff on the results of the MCORE survey. Pastor Angela will also take the MCORE survey once she is hired.
- This Oct. 4th at noon there will be an informational meeting on the Tour of Transformation: Prague & Germany that Pastor Paul, his wife, Karen, and Gary Thrasher will host next August 8-19, 2016. A German lunch of brats and sauerkraut will be served at the meeting.

Closing Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Important Dates:

Welcome Sunday	Sept. 13, 2015 p.m.	8:45 a.m.
Council Meeting	Oct. 13, 2015 p.m.	7:00 p.m.
?	?	

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