

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

John Urbanski called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Devotions – Eldri

Refreshments – Bob Peterson

Faith Story – Scott Sabin

Motions:

Motion Made	Made By	Second	Outcome of Vote
Motion to approve the September minutes	Sharon	Christy	Motion carried
Motion that the Council approve the required ELCA model Constitution language of section 17.03.	Bob	Pastor Susan	Motion carried
Motion to approve the Gold Health Plan	Paul	Eldri	Motion carried

Action Items Assigned

Action Items	Assigned	Target Date	Status

Secretary’s Report – Gay Ludvig

Review and approve September minutes.

Sharon made the motion to approve the September minutes, and Christy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

New Business:

- Children’s Ministry
Cindy Paulson, Director of Children and Family Ministry, met with the Council to discuss the summer camping experience for Immanuel’s youth. The Children’s Ministry Committee met on Sept. 30th to discuss Camp Onomia this past summer. The committee feels that children need a strong camping experience to develop relationships and friendships with others before they move on to middle school and high school. Historically, the number of campers from Immanuel has declined from 72 students five years ago to only 14 campers this year. A number of parents are concerned about their childrens’ summer camp experience at Onomia. There has not been a consistent program director or summer staff at the camp. The dorms are in poor condition, often damp and smell of mildew or mold. The committee agreed the children would have a much better camp experience at a different ELCA camp for the summer of 2016. Since Paul Stordahl is on Onomia’s Board of Directors, he and Cindy will talk to the camp leader, Jim Schmidt, about not having Immanuel’s youth attend Onomia next

summer. Cindy and Paul will explore camps where children are having a positive experience, and they will list criteria they are looking for at a new camp.

President's Report - John

- Constitution provision Section 17.03
John suggested that the Council adopt the model language, subject to the congregation's vote, at the annual meeting in January 2016.
- Bob recommended that the Council adopt the required ELCA model Constitution language of section 17.03. Pastor Susan seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Choice of Health Plan
Immanuel has to decide on a health plan beginning Oct. 3-30th. Paul Stordahl made a motion to accept the Gold Plan, which has a 7% increase for next year, for Immanuel's full-time employees. Eldri seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vice President's Report – Brenda Tonjes

- Brenda is meeting next Tuesday for the final draft of the Employee Guidebook.

Financial Secretary's Report – Scott Belseth was absent so Brian Nichols gave out the information on Giving/Attendance.

- Actual giving 2015 vs. 2014:
 - September giving: \$8,169 (-10.0%) less than 2014 (\$73,649 vs. \$81,817)
 - 2015 giving: Year-to-date \$10,844 (-1.4%) less than 2014 (\$758,823 vs. \$769,667)
- Actual giving vs. budget:
 - September giving: \$14,627 (-16.6%) less than budget (\$73,649 vs. \$88,276 budgeted)
 - 2015 Giving: Year-to-date \$13,969 (-1.8%) less than budget (\$758,823 vs. \$772,792)
 - Attendance : Sundays in September: 2015: 4 2014: 5

Treasurer's report- Brian Nichols : Expenses/Financial Reports

- Highlights of the Financial Summary:
 - Giving was over \$14,000 below budget for September and is also about \$14,000 below budget YTD
 - Church expenses were consistent with budget for September but remain \$10,000 over budget YTD
 - Program expenses were within \$3.00 of budget in September but are over \$19,000 under budget YTD
 - Five for Fifty contributions were \$16, 715 in September which covered the minimum required mortgage payment

Bill Hawkins mentioned that cash flow is a concern. He mentioned that benevolences could be deferred a couple of weeks.

Brian encouraged committees to look at their budgets for 2016, and the first pass should be prepared for the November 10th Council meeting. The budget would be finalized in December.

Committee Reports:

Senior High Youth - Scott Sabin

- Confirmation will be this Sunday, October 25th at 1:30 p.m. There are 36 confirmands.
- On November 13-15 there is a confirmation retreat at Onomia.

Worship, Music and Arts – Bob Peterson

- The bell fundraiser brought in a \$1700 gift last month so there is enough money to purchase the lower half of the 5th octave.

Parish Fellowship Co-Chair – Melanie Leite-Carroll

- For the Welcome Sunday picnic after the service, 440 people attended.
- About 120 people attend the Wednesday Cafe each week.
- On December 3rd there will be an Advent Celebration which is being organized by Lynette Gust.

Properties – Brian Heinzen

- In the energy audit this summer, it was learned that 7000 watts per hour were being used to make coffee. It was suggested that with a timer on the machine, it could save \$300. per year.
- Brian has contacted several companies to repair the curb by the music entrance, but none of them called back, so Brian is still looking for a company to fix the curb.
- The baptismal font in church is leaking, and Bill drained it. Someone needs to caulk it before planned baptism on October 25th.

Stewardship – Paul Stordahl

- The stewardship theme this year is Transformative Generosity. Generosity Sunday will be on November 22nd this year. As Pastor Paul states in Luther's Way, "As God has created us in God's own image, we were made to give." "Giving transforms us."
- Beginning on October 19th there will be someone giving a "temple talk" at each service.
- A letter went out on October 13th to state where Immanuel is financially. Immanuel hopes to end the year strong in both the general fund and the 5 for 50 fund.
- Simply Giving is online on the front page so hopefully more people will contribute in that way.
- Paul is looking into people paying their pledge with credit cards in the future.

Social Concerns – Sharon Peterson

- There were 521 coats given to PROP this past month.
- There were 521 people who donated school supplies for PROP.
- Kim will be going to Mexico on Nov. 3-6th.
- Anna's Craft Sale is on Oct. 11th. Money raised by the sale will go toward Families Moving Forward. The Carver-Hennepin Chapter of Thrivent will match up to \$500. in sales. Thank you to all who donated their craft items for sale!

Adult Faith Formation –Jennifer Johnson

- The adult faith formation topics include "Spiritual Vitality" - what does it mean and how do we "get" it? On September 23 and 30th the topic will be "Getting to know our Somali neighbors." There will be a "Mental Health Awareness" topic on Oct. 7th, a four week book of faith journey from Oct. 14-Nov. 4th, "Diversity and Privilege", and several field trips on Wednesday evenings. Everyone is invited to come from 6:15-7:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Children's Education Co-chair – Eldri Johnson & Katie Thormodsgard

- There is a Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, Oct. 31st from 3:00-4:30 p.m. Immanuel members and friends park their cars together and open their trunks to reveal halloween-themed decorations. Children can walk between the trunks and receive candy and treats.
- On Sanctuary Sunday in January there will be a small area for kids to congregate in the main sanctuary and be able to talk, which was also done on Welcome Sunday.

- The Christmas Program will include children up to fourth graders. Fifth and sixth graders will serve as ushers.
- Kindergarten and First Graders will be in Stepping Stones, and they will receive a Bible.
- There was a discussion of piping music into the nursery during church services, but Bill mentioned that one church he knew that did that received a fine. Thus, Bill will look into the matter so Immanuel doesn't get fined.

Middle School Youth Co-chair- Christy Woll

- Immanuel will be collecting donations for PROP of new, unopened: bar soap and body wash, adult diapers, razors and deodorant. Drop off items before Oct. 11th. Immanuel students will be spending the night in cardboard boxes on Oct. 9th, raising awareness for youth homelessness.
- There were eight people on the retreat.

Staff Reports:

Church Administer - Bill Hawkins

- Pastor Susan's office is nearly done.
- Pastor Angela's office is being painted tonight.
- Bill's wife, Pat, will have a blood transfusion. On Thursday of this week she will receive a PET scan, and the results will be shared with her on Friday.

Director of Faith Formation- Martin Rathjen

- The 4th Grade Stepping Stones class will meet on Sunday, Nov. 1st and Sunday, November 8th at the 9:15 a.m. service.
- The communications' team is developing a strategic plan.
- The Monday morning e-mail will be revamped.
- The deadline for Luther's Way was yesterday. The deadline for Dec. is on/or before Nov. 16th. The deadline for January is on/or before Dec. 7th.

Pastors:

Pastor Paul

- This is clergy appreciation month.
 - Pastor Paul misses Pastor Susan since her office has moved.
 - Copies of Immanuel's Identity is a work in progress.
- Do we need to address other things besides the ministry here and reaching out to others?

Pastor Susan

- She is enjoying collaborating with Martin every week on the Bible readings.
- In Room A or the Living Room is almost completed; she is looking to pay someone to upholster the furniture..
- She reminded us to write on the Faith Talk Wall.
- She is looking forward to her Israel- Palestine trip from Nov. 3-13th. She hopes her group can see all of the sites.
- She encourages us to pray for peace in the Middle East.
- She is learning to work from 20-25 hours per week.

John Urbanski shared a letter from Justin Daleiden who thanked Immanuel for helping pay some of his funds for his ministry in Scotland this past year.

