

December Church Council Meeting
Immanuel Lutheran Church
December 13, 2016

Beth called the meeting to order. Pastor Paul gave devotions.

Julie Tufford related her faith story.

Secretary's report: Pastor Susan moved we approve the minutes with one change, seconded by Christy Woll.

President's report: This is Bill Hawkins' last meeting. He has been coming to council meetings since October 1999. Many thanks were expressed to Bill for his long and faithful service. Audit will take place in December, timing it to take place before Bill's retirement.

There are two candidates interested in Bill's position; interviews will take place on Friday.

Financial Secretary: Scott Belseth reported that giving year to date is up 3.5%, we are very close to budget and he has confidence that we will end the year strong, as is Immanuel's historical pattern.

Treasurer's report: Mike Lindahl reported that we are 1.5% ahead of budget expenditures and are right on target in giving. Opening Doors- \$508,000 has been spent so far, cash balance used to pay off the mortgage (\$50,000), which will be transferred back to the correct fund. We are ahead of our plan at this time. February is the deadline for Opening Doors projects to be finished, at which time we will move from the Thrivent fund to a conventional mortgage. On December 20 Beth and Pastor Paul will attend Redeemer's council meeting and present them with the \$100,000 we pledged. Bill pointed out that historically we have received 16.38% of our giving in December, which will put us exactly where we need to be.

A committee of members is repairing the baptismal font.

January is the last meeting for the existing council. Two volunteers have stepped forward as a result of the gold grow sheet. We still need to fill properties, financial secretary and fellowship.

Stewardship: Ben Orton reported \$653,000 pledged so far, the average pledge went up 6%. At this point the number of members pledging is down, but the amount per pledger is up. Last year we got just under \$800,000 in pledges. One of the Stewardship committee's goals is to increase the number of pledges.

Budget: Mike Lindahl walked the council through the 2017 budget. He asked all present to check his figures and report any discrepancies. Mike is hopeful that we will make our \$1.23M budget, but proposed various scenarios in case we fall short.

At this point it looks like we will be really close. We do have a healthy cash reserve, around \$70,000, and are reluctant to take measures such as not raising staff salaries or reducing benevolences.

Staff reports:

Bill Hawkins looks forward to finishing up his last month, will work with the audit committee this month.

Martin Rathjen: business as usual

Pastor Susan Weaver: SALT (Seniors Actively Living Today) is flourishing and is planning an event in January; as well as ministering to shut-ins. Susan is serving on the PROP shop board. Luke Bible study starts in January on 8 consecutive Wednesday nights.

Pastor Paul Nelson: Advent Saturday nights are going great, with an attendance of 45 last Saturday. The new sign is up and ready for its power hookup, one tree blocking it has to be removed.

Evangelism is trying to put an Alpha course together, also a Faith 101 course for new members or those searching to deepen their faith.

Fellowship: Melanie has sent her budget to Mike; her last event is the annual meeting. The search is on for someone to chair the funeral committee. Linda Herzog will replace Lynnette Gust in the kitchen Wednesday nights.

Adult Faith Formation: Jennifer Johnson –will meet again in January.

Youth: Christy Woll- money raised remains in individual youth accounts sometimes after kids graduate, so that is under discussion. Perhaps those funds could pass to younger siblings or go into a camp scholarship fund. The confirmation retreat hosted 120 people. Toys for Tots had 42 volunteers and spent over \$1,000.00. Confirmands will carol tomorrow.

Jolene Held: Senior high mission trip is to Boston next summer.

Children's ministry: Katie Thormodsgard –Kids' program is Sunday, Sunday school is running smoothly. God Squad is planning a mission trip. A random acts of kindness service is being planned for January.

Properties: Brian Heinzen- the hallway outside the fellowship hall will be painted, funded by the Opening Doors budget.

Worship, Music and Arts: Bob Peterson–Epiphany (K-2) choir is growing, up to 18 last rehearsal. Immanuel will need an additional \$500 license for streaming, plus copyrighting research. Clerical help is needed for this research. Would like risers

with a back rail. Copier in the music room is circling the drain, will ask for a used one in the bulletin. Trinity choir (7-12th grade) is suspended for now due to low attendance. Holy Commotion will continue.

Social Ministry: Cari Larsen- Many Christmas related service opportunities are available for those interested. The mitten tree will stay up into January. Youth housing project has been updated on our website. Immanuel hosts Families Moving Forward the first week in January.

The annual report will be presented at our Annual Meeting on January 29. Each portion of the council will have their own section, with a January 6th deadline. We meet on January 10th and will finalize the budget at that meeting.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Pat Hammer, council secretary

Those in attendance: Beth Hansen, Brenda Tonjes, Mike Lindahl, Pat Hammer, Scott Belseth, Jennifer Johnson, Katie Thormodsgard, Jolene Held, Julie Tufford, Christy Woll, Brent Apelt, Melanie Leite-Carroll, Cari Larsen, Ben Orton, Brian Heinzen, Bob Peterson, Pastor Paul Nelson, Pastor Susan Weaver, Bill Hawkins, Martin Rathjen