

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

John Urbanski called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Devotions: Pastor Susan –

Refreshments: Scott Belseth –

Faith Story: Pastor Paul –

Motions

Motion Made	Made By	Second	Outcome of Vote
Motion to approve the amended November minutes	Gay	Sharon	Motion carried

Action Items Assigned

Action Items	Assigned	Target Date	Status

Council Reports:

Secretary's Report – Gay Ludvig

Review and approve the amended November minutes. After a few minor corrections, Gay moved to approve the amended November minutes. Sharon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

President's Report- John Urbanski

- **Nominating Committee Report**

John mentioned that the committee has met, and they have made some progress on calling people for Council and some committee chairpersons.

- **Congregation meeting and vote - Follow- up.**

The congregation authorized, in a special congregational meeting on Nov. 29th, that Immanuel Lutheran Church would use designated proceeds from a specific donor contribution to acquire property for the purpose of establishing a youth homeless shelter

in Eden Prairie. John planned to sign the paperwork this Thursday to the donor for the property across the street from Immanuel. Kim Rathjen is in contact with the realtor.

Vice President's Report – Brenda Tonjes

The Employee Guidebook has been circulated among staff to make any comments, suggestions or corrections. The decision to finalize the content in the Guidebook will be completed by the January Annual Meeting.

Financial Secretary's Report – Scott Belseth

- Scott had great news to share.
 - Actual giving 2015 vs. 2014:
 - November giving: \$6,376 (+5.7%) more than 2014 (\$117,614 vs. \$111,238)
 - 2015 giving : Year- to-date \$5,622 (+0.6%) more than 2014 (\$966,507 vs. \$960,885 LY)
 - Actual giving vs. budget:
 - November giving: \$20,870 (+21.6%) more than budget (\$117,614 vs. \$96,744 budgeted)
 - 2015 Giving: Year-to-date \$3,485 (-0.4% 0 less than budget (\$966,507 vs. \$969,992)
 - Attendance: Sundays in November: 2015: 5 2014: 5
- Four or five stocks have been received through calls or e-mails to Bill Hawkins who sells them immediately.

Treasurer's report- Brian Nichols

- Highlights of the Financial Summary:
 - Giving was almost \$21,000 above budget in November but remains \$3,500 behind plan YTD
 - Church expenses were over budget in November due to furnace repairs 1% of total: \$7,000
 - Program expenses were under budget for November and remain significantly under budget YTD
 - Overall expenses are over \$4,000 favorable to budget through November
 - Received \$22,717 for Building Fund in November which more than covers the mortgage payment of \$15,291.
- After this December, there will be \$193,000 left on the mortgage. After May 1st of 2016, there will be \$120,000 left

Staff Reports:

Church Administer - Bill Hawkins

- Tomorrow, Wed. Dec. 9th, a man will discuss the security system with Bill. Another person is coming this Thursday, Dec. 10th. This person is looking at the heating and air conditioning units, and he's making a proposal to make our building more energy efficient. Currently, our well water system isn't legal.
- Next Monday Northland will repair the font; they initially built the system, and their costs to fix the font will be cheaper than the other bidder.

Director of Faith Formation - Martin Rathjen

- The Confirmation Retreat was a great weekend. The weather was ideal and members are encouraged to go online to hear four teens talk about their faith.
- We are resurrecting the Monday morning e-mail
- Todd Monge will design the logo for the Capital Campaign Appeal: "Opening Doors."
- There will be a capital appeal video which will explain how monies will be used.
- He is already beginning to plan Lent.
- The deadline for Luther's Way was yesterday.

Pastors:

• **Pastor Susan**

- She with 15 others had a fabulous trip to Israel and Palestine! During the 10 days of the trip, no one missed connections, and the group saw everything they wanted to see. On Jan.6th the people on the trip will show pictures and share stories during Adult Faith Formation time. All are welcome to attend!
- On three Wed. evenings in January 13th, 20th and 27th participants will be encouraged to read the book The Couple Check-Up. The book costs \$15.00, though one does not have to purchase the book. In the back of the book, there is an inventory, that one can take. For another \$15.00 one's partner can also take the inventory. Each will receive a 15-20 page personalized print out of the couple's strengths and areas of growth. The pastors will lead conversations about how to keep your marriage healthy.
- Rich and Pastor Susan will not have the usual Christmas Eve supper at Immanuel they've done in the past. They will be doing their own ritual with their family.

• **Pastor Paul**

- Pastor Paul has met with the communications' team to discuss the Capital Campaign Appeal "Opening Doors." The team will decide what projects will be done to update Immanuel and what monies will be given to do transformational ministry as Immanuel moves forward. Redeemer Church will receive \$100,000, and there will be some maintenance on the house across the street if Immanuel purchases it. Pastor Paul has requested bids on facility needs and upgrades and site needs and upgrades. The only bid he has not received is on the parking lot.
- Immanuel's Tour of Transformation will be in Prague and Germany next August 8-19th. Pastor Paul and his wife, Karen Nelson, will lead the group along with Gary Thrasher.

Committee Reports:

Senior High Youth: Jolene Held and Middle School Youth Chairs: Christy Woll and Donna Bregel

- There are not many activities planned for the remainder of the year.
- Students participated in the 30 hour famine.
- Toys for Tots: Students in grades 7-12 and adult drivers are invited to join the senior and middle school youth chairpersons on Wed., Dec. 16th after caroling at 5:30 p.m. From 7:45-10:45 p.m. we shop for toys to be donated to Toys for Tots and go on a KARE 11 studio tour where we meet on-air staff and are a part of the live broadcast at the Toys for Tots' Tent!
- Mission Trip Deposits: Deposits are due Dec. 16th for all of the summer 2016 mission trips. The senior high youth will go again to Duluth for a mission trip and to Benton Harbor, Michigan

Worship, Music and Arts – Bob Peterson

- Our committee met last night. We spent more in December \$1505.
- Our wish list for next year would include a larger projector in the sanctuary, expanding the music room and having more storage room.
- We meet every other month except for November and December
- Bob has received feedback on the contemporary service that the music isn't as contemporary as previously. There is also a reduction in the energy generated by the musicians in the sanctuary. We need to begin and end with more praise, adoration and supplication. Bob will talk to Brandon, the music director. He also wants to create a small group that would create a better music selection.

Parish Fellowship Co-Chair – Melanie Leite-Carroll

- The Wednesday Cafe is going great!
- The advent celebration served 146, and the expenses came in under cost.
- The committee will spend the extra money to serve chili at the Annual Meeting on January 24, 2016.

Stewardship – Paul Stordahl

- Last year at this time we had received 256 pledges for a total of \$690,000.
- This year Immanuel has received 229 pledges for a total of \$672,000.
- Paul will send out a reminder to complete the pledge one has made for this year and encourage others who haven't pledged for next year to do so.
- A question was raised as to "What happens if Immanuel has a data breach with Simply Giving?" Martin will contact Vancor to see who is liable.

Social Concerns – Sharon Peterson

- The next week for Families Moving Forward will be December 27-January 3rd. Volunteers are especially needed to provide hospitality in the evenings and to stay overnight at the church.

Adult Faith Formation –Jennifer Johnson

- The deputy of jail programming will be coming to Immanuel for one Wed. session on February 3rd. Several members of Immanuel who volunteer at the Carver County Jail will tell their stories. All are invited to attend.

Children’s Education Co-chair – Eldri Johnson

- The Christmas Program is this Sunday, Dec. 13th at 9:15 a.m.
- There will be changes in the nursery; it needs painting.
- Eldri hopes to have an infant room for mothers to nurse their babies.
- Eldri would like some playground equipment for next year’s “wish list.”
- Eldri hopes to designate an area in the sanctuary for Pre-K and younger children to have a safe wiggle space.

Closing Prayer

Meeting adjourned at .9:02 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings:

Council	January 12, 2016	7:00 p.m.
Annual Meeting in Luther Hall	January 24, 2016?	12:00 p.m. in

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	NP
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	NP
Jennifer Johnson	P	John Urbanski	P
Gay Ludvig	P	Pastor Susan Weaver	P
Pastor Paul Nelson	P	Christy Woll	P
Brian Nichols	P		