

March 2018 Church Council Minutes
Immanuel Lutheran Church
March 13, 2018

Those in attendance: Beth Hansen, Pat Hammer, Pastor Paul Nelson, Tammy Vergeront, Cari Larsen, Bob Peterson, Ruth Lunde, Tony Szczepaniak, Brent Apelt, Jennifer Johnson, Jackie Getchius, Jody Ebert, Zack Hansen, Tami Ehlers

Devotions were given by Tony Szczepaniak.

Cari Larsen related her Faith Story.

Secretary's report: Pat Hammer distributed February's minutes. Bob moved to approve the minutes, Ruth seconded the motion, which passed.

President's report: There are changes coming in the music staff. Gary Thrasher will reduce hours; Clark Weyrauch will become 4/5 Minister of Music May 1. Mary Beth Berg will reduce her hours from 20 per week to 15. A retired organist will fill in one Sunday per month.

The council retreat will remain on April 28.

Two fundraisers have been approved, Bill Middeke's bread sale and a fundraiser for Onward Eden Prairie. It will be made clear that Onward Eden Prairie is a separate entity from Immanuel.

Long Range Planning: Tony said that Jeff Kjelberg, owner and CEO of Kairos, will attend the next LRP meeting to help the committee focus and clarify their direction. Attendance and enthusiasm is excellent.

Financial Secretary report: Bob distributed the attendance and giving per week report. Bob trained two new counters.

Treasurer's report: Tami distributed the February Financial Summary, which showed that we are tracking close to budget. It appears that we have overspent on the expense side, but this is due to the billing cycle of our insurance. Unexpected repair and maintenance expenses (garbage disposal, lights in the parking lot) also had an impact.

Staff reports:

Martin is introducing a new weekly digital communication called FaithBit. He would like each council member to write a FaithBit, a short reflection (250 words or less) on how you have seen God at work, so Martin is ahead of the game at the first release next summer. There will be a few hard copies available at the welcome desk for those who prefer that format. (Martin's report delivered by Beth)

Paul – GivePlus will be announced again this weekend. Stewardship Sunday will be November 4, which is also All Saints' Sunday. Programming is in planning stages. Faith 101 will be offered this fall, also classes on marriage and parenting. Bingo is planned already for the tent meeting weekend (September 8).

Memorials discussion was revisited. Council was reminded that they could submit requests. Senior high meeting space is a lack, so Jennifer wants a cart for refreshments to encourage fellowship, also possibly basketball hoops in the parking lot. Worship music and arts has some requests also, including new choir robes and perhaps a copy machine for the music department.

New business: Audit committee found a discrepancy in the capital campaign expenditures, working with a budget of \$538,000. This resulted in our expenses being slightly over budget, rather than under budget as reported at the annual meeting. Some of the areas that caused this overrun were electrical costs, projection upgrades, and the roof. The shower has not been installed yet, which is an additional cost of \$2,000. Expenses are approximately \$50,000 over budget. Total pledges were \$719,000, so far we have \$490,000 with a year and two months to go. At the end of the capital campaign we will have an outstanding balance of \$215,000 instead of \$200,000. Construction overrides are not unusual, as remodeling is always an unknown entity filled with expensive surprises. Pastor Paul and Beth will clarify our expense position during an update of our Opening Doors campaign which is at the 2/3 mark this spring; coinciding with our next donation to Onward Eden Prairie. It would also be nice to communicate how many volunteer hours went into Opening Doors, as well as donations in kind.

Shower install may be a good project for the memorial funds, given the overrun on expenses to date. Council supported this. Perhaps an addition of a wish list to the web page would be appropriate.

Onward Eden Prairie's donation is approaching. We will give the balance of the promised \$200,000 this spring.

Bob moved to adjourn the meeting, Jackie seconded, adjourned.

We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Pat Hammer, council secretary