

October Church Council Meeting  
October 10, 2017  
Immanuel Lutheran Church

Those in attendance: Beth Hansen, Pat Hammer, Tony Szczepeniak, Doug Lobdell (for Ben Orton), Ruth Lunde, Jen Johnson, Christy Woll, Katie Thormodsgard, Wendy Wurscher, Cari Larsen, Julie Tufford, Brent Apelt, Bob Peterson, Pastor Susan Weaver, Tammy Vergeront

Beth Hansen called the meeting to order. Bob Peterson gave devotions. Ruth Lunde related her faith story.

Secretary's report: Susan moved to approve, second by Beth, passed.

President's report: Beth Hansen reminded all of Pastor Susan's upcoming retirement bash scheduled for November 26. Her final homily will be thanksgiving eve.

Financial Secretary's report: Bob said we are on the same pace as last year, so we will look for an upcoming communication asking members to honor their pledges. Attendance is down approximately 3%. Bob will gather the counters sometime this fall for an informational meeting and training in the use of the software.

Treasurer's report: Beth filled in for Mike Lindahl. Income is down 1½% year to date, expenses are down 1%. The gap is usually made up at the end of the year. Brandon's departure has given staff the opportunity to revamp the service.

Staff reports: Tammy Vergeront – met with properties -there will be a church cleanup the last Saturday in October, 8:30-12:00. Stewardship is launching an application called Give Plus Text this coming Sunday. This app offers text message giving and has been very successful in other churches.

Pastor Susan – Just came back from a bishop's conference at Cragun's focusing on outreach to our neighbors, good reminder that we exist for the sake of the well being of our neighbor. October 18 adult education is a video-Rick Steves' trip through Luther Land- bring a date! October 25 is Susan's last time to teach-How Lutherans Read the Bible. October 29 is Reformation Celebration between services. November 16 is the Service of Remembrance, an evening service for those who have lost someone.

Stewardship kickoff will take place in November on three consecutive Sundays, November 5, 12 and 19.

The budgeting process is beginning; Beth distributed the 2017 budget with YTD actual figures through 9/30/2017, which represents 75% of the year. Tammy would

like to see the income that goes straight into the dedicated accounts entered in the budget in the future, in the interest of transparency.

Long range planning committee report- Tony has 12 people serving, in the process of pulling together a kickoff meeting. Mission, vision and values are already in place. The second step is a SWOT, council already did one at workshop that the committee will enlarge upon. The third step is to formulate a three-year operating plan; longer term thought is the goal. So...all present were urged to use our mission, vision and values when planning the upcoming year, two years, three years. How does “we’ve always done this” align with our mission? What would your plan look like if you didn’t have to worry about a budget? What no longer serves our mission? This should be completed as part of the budget process before year-end.

Staffing updates: Gary Thrasher is dropping one day a week, Clark will pick that up, so Gary goes to three days, Clark to two. Pastor Susan’s retirement was discussed in executive committee, looking at various staffing options.

Committee reports (abbreviated)-

Stewardship-Doug Lobdell (filling in for Ben Orton)- Stewardship campaign theme will be Live Generously, with a launch of the Give Plus Text application. This technology will allow us to accept real-time contributions online, with other funds and special giving added in as necessary. The launch is this coming Sunday. November 19 is Stewardship Sunday with pledges accepted.

Children’s ministry- Katie Thormodsgard - New children’s books have been added to the library, emphasizing social justice and treating others with kindness and respect. Books for older kids are included. Sunday school is thriving, would like more youth volunteers. Beth will mention this in confirmation. God Squad numbers 50 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders, could use some high school leaders.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Pat Hammer, council secretary