

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes – APPROVED 9/9/14
August 12, 2014
7 p.m., ILC Library**

John Urbanski called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Devotions – Brian Nichols

Refreshments – Paul Stordahl

Faith Story – Brenda Tonjes

Caring Conversation –Where have you seen God this summer?

Motions:

| Motion Made | Made By | Second | Outcome of Vote |
|--------------------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Motion to approve June minutes | Christy Woll | Brenda | Motion carried |
| | | | |

Action Items Assigned:

| Action Items | Assigned | Target Date | Status |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| | | | |

Council Reports:

Secretary’s Report – Gay Ludvig

- Review and approve June minutes

President’s Report – John Urbanski

- Sign up for Welcome Sunday service opportunities. John circulated a signup sheet for Council members for Welcome Sunday.
- Same gender weddings – task force recommendation. The task force met twice this summer. It was recommended that every confirmed member of Immanuel receive a survey in late September to pray thoughtfully about the following statement: “My opinion of same-gender weddings being performed in the sanctuary at Immanuel is...”

Strongly support Support Neutral Oppose Strongly oppose

5 4 3 2 1

Confirmed members must return the survey by October 20, 2014.

A finalizing letter will be brought back to the Council on Sept. 9th. The Council will have the final say about the procedure. Based on the results of the survey, the Council will determine if there is evidence that the congregation is accepting of same gender weddings in the church sanctuary.

- Constitution and Bylaws task force – update.
Seven people met over the summer in two groups of three plus John. The task force will compare the ELCA's Constitution with Immanuel's Constitution and decide on what changes Immanuel should do. There must be a 60 day notice before the Annual Meeting and a 30 day notice to the congregation recommending changes to Immanuel's Constitution.
- Possible Kairos meeting for long range planning / capital appeal. The Kairos group worked with Immanuel on the last capital appeal: 5 for 50 which was very successful. Pastor Paul and John would like to invite Pastors Keith and Mary to attend the Council's next meeting on Sept. 9th, and discuss what steps Immanuel needs to take next to raise funds in the spring of 2016. Perhaps \$600,000 could be raised with \$300,000 to go toward capital improvements such as new furnaces, a new roof or additional classrooms.
- Contemporary Music Leader position update. The Contemporary Music Committee wanted a 20- year- old, Brandon Temmel, for the position. He is a senior music major at North Central University who has been actively involved with contemporary music leadership for many years. He had excellent rapport with the Servant Singers. Gary will offer him the job. Brandon will work with Nicki Toliver up through Welcome Week. He will start the week of August 20th and work five hours per week with Nicki. He will be on a 90 day trial period.

Vice President's Report – Susan Geitzenauer was absent.

Financial Secretary's Report –Bob Warner was absent so Brian Nichols shared the data..

- Giving was almost \$25,000 over budget for June and is 5% over budget year to date.
- Church expenses were slightly under budget for the month and are within 2% of budget YTD.
- Program expenses are significantly under budget both for June and YTD.
- Received \$23,698 in 5 for 50 contributions.
- Giving was over \$12,000 under budget for the month of July but remains over \$15,000 over budget YTD.
- Church expenses were slightly over budget for the month and are within 2% of budget YTD.
- Paid out over \$50,000 in Benevolence in July.
- Received \$18,548 in 5 for 50 contributions. Building fund balance is almost \$50,000 or 3.2 times the minimum monthly mortgage payment.

Committee Reports:

Children's Ministry –Lisa

- VBS went very well; there were 130 children who attended. \$500 went to Prop.

- On August. 24th there will be a blessing at the beginning of another school year. Students, preschool through college age, and adults are invited to come to church and bring their backpacks! During both services children are invited to come forward with their backpacks. Along with the blessing, something will be given to the children to take home in their backpacks.
- Parents are encouraged to register their children for Sunday school which resumes on Sept. 21st.
- What colors does the church need to repaint the classrooms?

Adult Faith Formation – Lorraine Maenke

Lorraine met with Pastor Susan and decided that four times during the year, they will meet with the adult faith formation leaders.

Worship, Music and Arts – Janis Cameron

- The music for the choirs is not being properly filed so Janis would like to take some money from the committee to purchase files that Gary recommends will better preserve the music.
- Sarah Ralston will direct the Bell Choir, (Praise Ringers.) Lori Hanken will direct the Trinity Singers.
- The music room is very small so perhaps in the next capital appeal, money would be used to expand the area.

Properties – Brian Heinzen was absent.

Senior High and Middle School Youth –Brenda Tonjes

Her committee is considering having the middle school students go on a mission trip, but on a smaller scale than the senior high mission trips.

Social Concerns – Sharon Peterson was absent.

Stewardship – Paul Stordahl

Paul will get his committee together soon to plan for this fall.

Evangelism – John Bleifuss and Julie Tufford-Olig

- Julie requests buttons for volunteers in the parking lot to wear on Welcome Sunday so new people to Immanuel will know to whom to ask questions.
- John stated that training for leaders for Alpha will meet on August 19th. Alpha is a ten week course on the basics of the Christian faith. Classes for Alpha will begin on Sept. 18th and meet for nine more meetings every Thursday. There will be individual topics per session so if someone is absent on one session, he/she could still attend other sessions.

Senior High Youth Co-chair- Kirsten Stenoien

- Immanuel's Confirmation Ministry for students in grades 7-9 and Student Leaders (grades 10-12) is about to resume. Presently there are three groups, and perhaps there will be another group. Confirmation begins Sept. 17th, 6:15-7:45 p.m. Leaders have been selected.
- The backpacking trip was great! The weather was beautiful, and the mosquitoes were plentiful. Twenty-nine people went to the Bighorns.

Parish Fellowship Co-chair- Lynette Gust

Lynette has some kitchen concerns.

- She wonders why the tiles were never sealed. The tiles need to be cleaned by a professional so the kitchen is up to code. Lynette will talk to Brian Heinzen about hiring someone to do that.
- She's concerned that the hot water is not hot enough. Bill recommended that she turn up the temperature in the water heater.
- She would like volunteers to sign up to help with the picnic following the Welcome Week services.
- She would like a new garbage disposal.
- There will be eight new menus for Grow on Wednesday nights.

Staff Reports:

Bill Hawkins:

- Brent Hanson has been doing service maintenance for Immanuel in the past and some has been neglected. A different company approached Bill and did a thorough inspection of Immanuel's equipment and gave an estimate. The man took pictures, and he offered Bill four different plans of service. He recommended that Immanuel go on the "Silver" plan. The equipment would be inspected four times a year for \$5,000.
- Bill is going to talk to Brent Hanson to get a competitive bid. The new company would be on call 24/7 without additional charges.
- The back double doors on the west side need to be replaced. The gap needs to be closed.
- The wall on the columbarium needs to have some of the brick replaced which will cost \$1200.

Pastor Paul

- The backpacking trips are a testament to how lives are changed. The group saw incredible beauty and personal growth happened on the trip.
- The men's groups are ending. The four groups will meet next week for the last time. Three groups are from Immanuel and the other is from Redeemer. The question many in the group have asked is "What do we do next?" The groups were built on relationships, not a particular program.
- A postcard will be sent from Immanuel to every person in the community inviting them to Welcome Week.
- This fall Immanuel's focus will be raising up the divine gift of forgiveness, as well as repentance and reconciliation. This focus on God's gift of grace and how it can and does change us will kick off at our Welcome Weekend on Saturday, September 13th and Sunday, September 14th.
- Immanuel members who attended Camp Onamia the last week of June had a wonderful time.

Pastor Susan

- Mentioned that Brian Heinzen's mother passed away recently, and that is the reason he is absent. His mother had heart issues.

- Pastor Susan and her husband, Rich, plan to go on a trip to Israel and Palestine in November of 2015 and are encouraging members to join them.
- Pastor Susan met with the Fellowship Committee, and they planned new menus for the Grow evenings on Wednesdays. The suggested donation for a meal will be \$4.00. (Kids 3 and under are free!) She is encouraging all members to come for the meal, even though they may not stay for any programs. This will promote a community get together.
- On Saturday, September 13th, Lutheran Social Service will be meeting at the downtown Hilton Hotel to raise money for Lutheran Social Services. The Keynote Speaker is Leslye Orr. It is a dressy affair, and Moore by Four will sing. The cost is \$90.00 per person, and \$60.00 of that is tax deductible. She is encouraging the Council to attend.
- Pastor Susan went on a personal retreat to be alone with God north of St. Francis at a place called Pacem in Terris, which is Latin for peace.
- Pastor Susan attended a Faith Formation Seminar which was very stimulating. Here again the emphasis was on people, not programs. The focus was on Per formative to Formative, and how do we do this work together?

Upcoming Meetings:

Council Meeting September 9, 2014 7:00 p.m.

Closing Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Prayerfully submitted,

**Gay Ludvig,
Council Secretary**

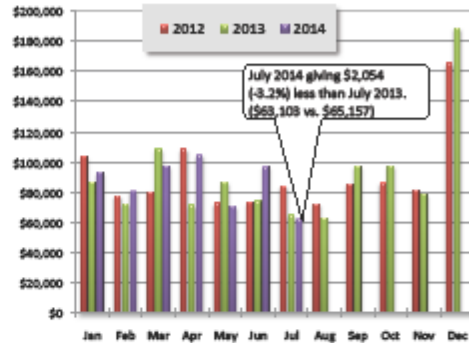
Attendance

P- Present, NP Not Present

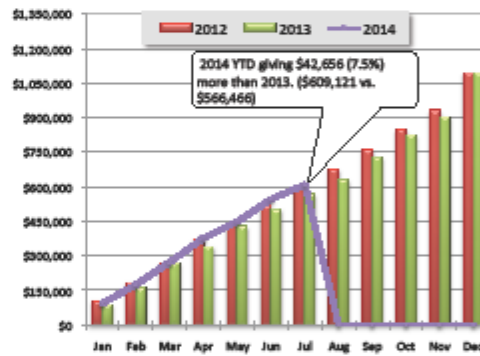
| Name | P/NP | Name | P/NP |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Lisa Anderson | P | Pastor Paul Nelson | P |
| John Bleifuss | P | Brian Nichols | P |
| Kim Brattensborg | NP | Sharon Peterson | NP |
| Donna Bregel | NP | Martin Rathjen | NP |
| Janis Cameron | P | Kirsten Stenoien | P |
| Susan Geitzenauer | NP | Paul Stordahl | NP |
| Lynette Gust | P | Brenda Tonjes | P |
| Bill Hawkins | P | Julie Tufford-Olig | P |
| Brian Heinzen | NP | John Urbanski | P |
| Eldri Johnson | NP | Bob Warner | NP |
| Gay Ludvig | P | Pastor Susan Weaver | P |
| Lorraine Maenke | P | Christy Woll | P |

Immanuel Lutheran Church Income Report for July 2014

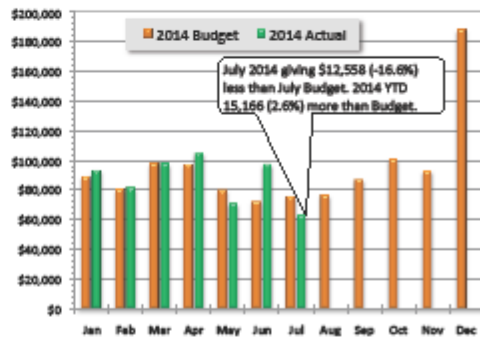
| Monthly Giving | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|--------|
| Month | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | Var \$ | Var % |
| January | 86,230 | 103,744 | 87,046 | 93,305 | 6,259 | 7.2% |
| February | 76,078 | 78,018 | 72,714 | 81,526 | 8,812 | 12.1% |
| March | 83,025 | 80,694 | 108,598 | 97,712 | (10,886) | -10.0% |
| April | 94,959 | 108,798 | 71,499 | 105,112 | 33,613 | 47.0% |
| May | 75,593 | 73,058 | 86,953 | 70,955 | (15,998) | -18.4% |
| June | 61,527 | 73,349 | 74,499 | 97,409 | 22,910 | 30.8% |
| July | 74,684 | 84,562 | 65,157 | 63,103 | (2,054) | -3.2% |
| August | 72,215 | 72,617 | 63,296 | | | |
| September | 73,812 | 85,876 | 97,427 | | | |
| October | 92,878 | 86,578 | 97,772 | | | |
| November | 82,900 | 82,074 | 79,017 | | | |
| December | 190,460 | 165,267 | 188,830 | | | |
| YTD | 1,064,363 | 1,094,635 | 1,092,809 | 609,121 | 42,656 | 7.5% |



| Cumulative Giving by Month | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|--------|-------|
| Month | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | Var \$ | Var % |
| January | 86,230 | 103,744 | 87,046 | 93,305 | 6,259 | 7.2% |
| February | 162,308 | 181,762 | 159,760 | 174,831 | 15,071 | 9.4% |
| March | 245,333 | 262,456 | 268,358 | 272,543 | 4,185 | 1.6% |
| April | 340,293 | 371,254 | 339,857 | 377,655 | 37,798 | 11.1% |
| May | 415,885 | 444,312 | 426,810 | 448,610 | 21,800 | 5.1% |
| June | 477,412 | 517,661 | 501,309 | 546,019 | 44,710 | 8.9% |
| July | 552,096 | 602,223 | 566,466 | 609,121 | 42,656 | 7.5% |
| August | 624,312 | 674,840 | 629,762 | | | |
| September | 698,124 | 760,716 | 727,189 | | | |
| October | 791,002 | 847,294 | 824,961 | | | |
| November | 873,903 | 929,368 | 903,978 | | | |
| December | 1,064,363 | 1,094,635 | 1,092,809 | | | |



| 2014 Monthly Budget vs. Actual | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|-------------|-------|
| Month | Budget | Actual | Mo Var | Mo % | YTD Var | YTD % |
| January | 89,245 | 93,305 | 4,060 | 4.5% | 4,060 | 4.5% |
| February | 80,724 | 81,526 | 802 | 1.0% | 4,862 | 2.9% |
| March | 98,019 | 97,712 | (307) | -0.3% | 4,555 | 1.7% |
| April | 97,650 | 105,112 | 7,462 | 7.6% | 12,017 | 3.3% |
| May | 80,164 | 70,955 | (9,209) | -11.5% | 2,808 | 0.6% |
| June | 72,492 | 97,409 | 24,917 | 34.4% | 27,725 | 5.3% |
| July | 75,661 | 63,103 | (12,558) | -16.6% | 15,166 | 2.6% |
| August | 76,571 | | | | | |
| September | 87,225 | | | | | |
| October | 100,934 | | | | | |
| November | 93,085 | | | | | |
| December | 188,230 | | | | | |
| Annual | 1,140,000 | 609,121 | -- NA -- | -- NA -- | (\$530,879) | 53.4% |



2014 July Analysis Summary

July 2014 giving was less than July 2013 and less than July 2014 budget.

- Actual giving 2014 vs. 2013:
 - July giving: \$2,054 (-3.2%) less than 2013 (\$63,103 vs. \$65,157)
 - YTD giving: \$42,656 (7.5%) more than 2013 (\$609,121 vs. \$566,466)
- Actual giving vs. budget:
 - July giving: \$12,558 (-16.6%) less than budget (\$63,103 vs. \$75,661)
 - YTD: \$15,166 (2.6%) more than budget (\$609,121 vs. \$593,955)
- Attendance: Sundays in July 2014: 4 2013: 4

Immanuel Attendance: 2013 vs. 2014

| Date | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2014 Cum | Variance | Cum Variance | | | |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|----------|----------|--------------|--|--|--|
| January | 2,781 | 2,138 | 2,012 | 2,012 | (767) | (767) | | | |
| February | 3,145 | 3,305 | 2,050 | 4,061 | (1,240) | (1,367) | | | |
| March | 3,550 | 5,149 | 3,793 | 7,854 | (1,356) | (2,723) | | | |
| April | 4,415 | 2,210 | 4,325 | 12,179 | 2,115 | (608) | | | |
| May | 1,048 | 2,106 | 1,898 | 14,085 | (220) | (828) | | | |
| June | 1,721 | 1,075 | 2,017 | 16,102 | 172 | (656) | | | |
| July | 1,780 | 1,408 | 1,511 | 17,613 | 78 | (578) | | | |
| August | 1,544 | 1,408 | | 17,643 | (1,409) | (1,748) | | | |
| September | 2,857 | 2,076 | | 17,643 | (2,516) | (4,264) | | | |
| October | 2,670 | 2,861 | | 17,643 | (2,851) | (7,115) | | | |
| November | 3,111 | 3,040 | | 17,643 | (5,040) | (12,155) | | | |
| December | 5,000 | 4,748 | | 17,643 | (4,748) | (16,903) | | | |
| YTD Avg | 2,865 | 2,056 | 2,520 | | | | | | |
| YTD Total | 31,631 | 32,385 | 17,613 | | | | | | |

Immanuel Lutheran 3 Year Attendance Comparison

