

**Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Church Council Meeting Minutes  
October 14, 2014  
7 p.m., ILC Library**

**John Urbanski called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.**

**Devotions – Lisa Anderson**

**Refreshments – Julie Tufford-Olig**

**Faith Story – Lorraine Maenke**

**Motions:**

<b>Motion Made</b>	<b>Made By</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Outcome of Vote</b>
Motion to approve September minutes	Janis Cameron	Paul Stordahl	Motion carried
Motion to support Erin Schmidtke at seminary	John Urbanski	Sharon Peterson	Motion carried
Motion to stay with Portico insurance for now	Paul Stordahl	Kirsten Stenoien	Motion carried

**Action Items Assigned:**

<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Assigned</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
The task force evaluating options for the Portico insurance will report back to the Council in November.	Brian Nichols, Brian Heinzen, Paul Stordahl, and Pastor Susan	November 11, 2014	Ongoing

**Secretary's Report – Gay Ludvig**

Review and approve September minutes

**Vice President's Report – Susan Geitzenauer was absent.**

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

- Giving was 6% below budget for September but continues to be favorable (\$12K) to budget YTD.

- Church expenses were 1% below budget in September but remain 1% (6K) over budget YTD.
- Program expenses were significantly over budget in September but are almost 14K under budget YTD.
- As in 2013, the timing of Evangelism expenses caused September to be over budget (\$4,319).
- Overall expenses continue to be almost \$6K less than budget YTD.
- Building fund contributions were \$30,759 in September. Building fund is \$55,412 or 3.6 times the minimum monthly mortgage payment. Bill Hawkins stated that the mortgage is down to \$439,655, and the balance should be paid off by April 2016. We're on target!

### **Staff Report:**

#### **Children's Ministry –Martin and Lisa**

- The committee is looking for a Director of Children's Ministry. Gretchen Roepke has volunteered to be in charge of the Christmas Program. Gretchen met with Gary Thrasher, and they are using "Go Tell It", the musical and scriptural celebration of the transforming power of Christ presented by Sunday school children and the musicians of Immanuel on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> at the 9:15 a.m. service.
- The Sunday school program has a good group of volunteers. Martin mentioned that more adults are needed in the preschool through kindergarten classes. Out of the 17 classes, 16 are led by teenagers. Martin mentioned that especially on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> when the confirmation retreat is held, there may be fewer teens in the classroom. Martin has requested on e-mail that the teen leaders let him know if they will be on the retreat instead of in the preschool or kindergarten classrooms, but so far, he has not heard from very many. He finally compiled a text group in the hope that more teens would reply to his request.
- The committee has posted the Directory of Children's Ministry job, and they have received two applications. The committee is accepting applications through October 30<sup>th</sup>. There is an interview for one of the applicants next Monday. Tonight at 8:30 p.m. Craig Holje is chairing the Children's Ministry Committee with Martin to discuss the next steps. A special thanks go to Lisa and Martin and their committee for all of the hard work they have done during this transition. Lisa mentioned that without Martin's effective communication, the process would not have been as smooth as it's been.
- There is no available candidate through Interserve so the committee is holding off on that possibility for now.
- The technology room needs updating; the software is old so a committee is being formed to discuss the changes that need to be made.
- The photo directory is on hold. Martin met with Olin Mills (Lifetouch), and they said there would be a discount of 20% off of the photos. The company would also print 100 books for Immanuel members who are not connected to the internet.

#### **President's Report – John Urbanski**

- Proposal to sponsor Erin Schmidtke at seminary  
Erin Schmidtke, a member of Immanuel, would like Immanuel to help sponsor her at the Lutheran School of Ministry in Chicago. "John proposed that \$1000.per school

year be provided towards Erin's seminary work, to be funded from the Council Directed Benevolence Fund." Sharon Peterson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

- Proposal for 2015 staff health and benefits' plan  
Portico, the insurance plan that covers Immanuel's staff, increased their premiums by 12% for next year. Their disability premium changed from 0 per month to \$900. per month. John asked the Council if the same insurance should be chosen for next year or should other options be explored during the open enrollment period. Paul Stordahl made the motion to stay with the current Gold plan, which Kirsten seconded. Paul also suggested that a subcommittee be formed to look at other options and bring the information back to the Council in November to make a decision. Those who volunteered to a part of the subcommittee included Brian Nichols, Brian Heinzen, Paul Stordahl and Pastor Susan.

### **Staff Reports:**

#### **Bill Hawkins**

- Bill met with a new communications vendor last Thursday as Immanuel's phone system needs to be updated. Martin is also involved in the discussion. Bill and Martin are going to contact the Geek Squad to get further information. They may purchase a new system outright.

#### **Pastor Susan**

- She met with the Eden Prairie Faith Foundation Committee and is excited to partner with other congregations on issues impacting Eden Prairie.
- Wednesday Café's attendance is way up. There is a charge of \$4.00 per plate with children 3 and under free. Some people have not paid, but presently there is enough money to meet the costs of the food. The eight meals have been through the first rotation, and the next one starts tomorrow night.
- Animate Bible, scheduled for the first 6 weeks of Wednesday night adult faith formation, ends tomorrow night.
- There was a good response to the Spiritual Direction meetings and there is a fabulous group of new members.
- Kim Rathjen will discuss the topic "hunger" on three different Wednesdays.
- Pastor Paul will lead a discussion on "Making Marriage Last" on Wednesdays Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> and Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Pastor Paul**

- Welcome Week was fabulous, and several people commented to Paul that they were amazed at how many volunteers Immanuel had for that opening service.
- The stewardship committee has a great team. Paul hopes that every family can grow in giving. As he said, "We need to put our lives in God's hands." He wants members to increase their giving by 1%. He said that the top state in charitable giving was Utah who gives 6% of their income, and the state of Mississippi who gives 5%.
- He is finally closing in on his doctoral work. He's completed 140 pages and has 40 more to go!

### **Committee Reports:**

### **Adult Faith Formation – Lorraine Maenke**

Lorraine met with her committee in September. Men served at Simpson House. Women will be singing at Elim Shores this coming Saturday.

### **Worship, Music and Arts – Janis Cameron**

- The Ascension choir will hold a bake sale to raise funds on December 6<sup>th</sup>.& 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Participation is down in all of the choirs including Reformation Choir.
- The bell choir, directed by Sara Ralston, is going very well. They are playing at a higher level and performing at both services.
- All choirs will participate in the Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> service.
- Brandon purchased a digital mixing board for Servant Song.

### **Properties – Brian Heinzen**

- The brick work on the north side of the building near the columbarium is finished.
- Immanuel has signed a one-year contract for furnace and AC service maintenance with Brent Hanson. The company will visit three times. They will come during the fall and spring and clean the condensers after the cotton seeds have fallen in July.
- Brian and Bill Hawkins fixed the lights on the cross, and they look fabulous!
- The East door is on order.
- Both snow blowers are not running, and the Council decided that Immanuel needs at least one working so Bill is going to talk to someone at Ace Hardware to get a bid.

### **Senior High and Middle School Youth –Kirsten Stenoien and Christy Woll**

- There were 24 high school leaders on the retreat, and it went very well.
- There were 30 middle school students attending the lock- in September 28<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be a mission trip next August from the 2-7<sup>th</sup> in Duluth.
- On Wednesday, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>, students in grades 7 -12 from Immanuel, St. Andrew Lutheran, Prairie Lutheran and Pax Christi will sleep outside in boxes to raise awareness of youth homelessness.
- Paul Erdmann has requested two fundraising events. One is the Immanuel 5K next August, and the other is a Schwann's Frozen Food Fundraiser. The Executive Council has tabled those requests for now. They would like Paul to discuss the need for fundraising at a future meeting.

### **Social Concerns – Sharon Peterson**

- The Families Moving Forward group slept and ate at Immanuel from 9/28-10/5. Their next stay will be during Christmas week (Dec. 21-28<sup>th</sup>).
- Feed My Starving Children is an inter-generational food packing event on Friday, Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen.
- Grief Coalition is a support group for people experiencing loss. This fall it will be held at Pax Christi beginning Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>, and it run for six consecutive weeks.
- "Seniors Who Serve" is a volunteer group of students from Eden Prairie High School who will meet once a month to give services to senior citizen in the community. Kim Rathjen has agreed to support this group and coordinate any materials they might request from Immanuel members.

### **Stewardship – Paul Stordahl**

- Stewardship Sunday will be held on Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>, and as in years past, a breakfast will be served to the congregation. Four weeks prior to this date there will be people who speak about their giving and their faith. The challenge for the congregation will be for each person or family to increase their pledge by 1%. Immanuel members are encouraged to talk to their family about their giving, pray about it, and then give. The message is, “Where Your Treasure Is, Your Heart Would Be Also.”

### **Evangelism – Julie Tufford-Olig**

- Julie said that there are two groups for Alpha. Alpha is a ten week course on the basics of the Christian faith. Classes for Alpha began on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> and they will meet for five 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.

### **Parish Fellowship Co-chair- Kim Brattensborg**

- The Wednesday Café is going very well. There have been about 130 people who show up each time, and they really like the new menus.
- Presently there are enough volunteers to cook, feed and clean up.

### **Old Business:**

- Same gender marriage- update  
The survey cards are coming in. The task force will meet on Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> to look at the results and report the results to the Council in November.
- Constitution review task force – update  
John recommended that a document be given to the Immanuel members at the Congregational meeting this January that would be comprised of the following parts:

Current Immanuel Constitution  
Proposed change (if any)  
Changes that are variations from the ELCA model  
Changes that are required provisions  
Recommendation, Rational, Action

Members would have time to look over the document as it might include many pages. There would be a special meeting in late April of 2015 between the 9:15 and 10:30 services to vote on the changes, and the final approval would be at the Congregational meeting in January of 2016.

- Kairos update  
Keith, who helped Immanuel with the 5 for 50 capital campaign, will not be able to guide us through Immanuel’s next capital campaign. Jeff, however, will and he will be putting together a proposal for the Council’s December meeting after he listens to the community and people at Immanuel.

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

**Council Meeting    November 11, 2014    7:00 p.m.**

### **Closing Prayer**

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Prayerfully submitted,

Gay Ludvig,  
Council Secretary

**Attendance**

**P- Present, NP Not Present**

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

**2014 September Analysis Summary**

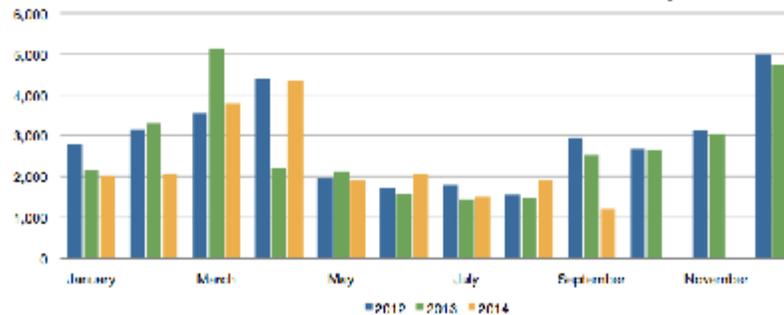
September 2014 giving was less than September 2013 and less than September 2014 budget.

- Actual giving 2014 vs. 2013:
  - September giving: \$15,610 (-16.0%) less than 2013 (\$81,817 vs. \$97,427)
  - YTD giving: \$42,478 (5.8%) more than 2013. (\$769,667 vs. \$727,189)
- Actual giving vs. budget:
  - September giving: \$5,408 (-6.2%) less than budget (\$81,817 vs. \$87,225)
  - YTD: \$11,916 (1.6%) more than budget (\$769,667 vs. \$757,751)
- Attendance: Sundays in August 2014: 4 2013: 5

**Immanuel Attendance: 2013 vs. 2014**

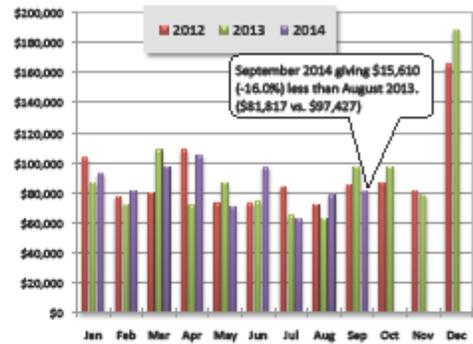
Date	2012	2013	2014	2014 Cum	Variance	Cum Variance
January	2,764	2,136	2,012	2,012	(127)	(127)
February	3,148	3,306	2,089	4,081	(1,210)	(1,337)
March	3,563	5,140	3,703	7,874	(1,366)	(2,703)
April	4,410	2,210	4,320	12,189	2,110	(690)
May	1,045	2,106	1,885	14,065	(221)	(886)
June	1,724	1,370	2,047	16,102	472	(410)
July	1,782	1,138	1,511	17,613	75	(280)
August	1,544	1,450	1,885	19,529	417	137
September	2,957	2,016	1,203	20,732	(1,313)	(1,163)
October	2,870	2,651		20,732	(2,651)	(3,827)
November	3,111	3,048		20,732	(3,048)	(6,875)
December	3,000	4,718		20,732	(4,718)	(11,593)
YTD Avg	2,888	2,636	2,304			
YTD Total	34,634	32,390	20,732			

**Immanuel Lutheran 3 Year Attendance Comparison**

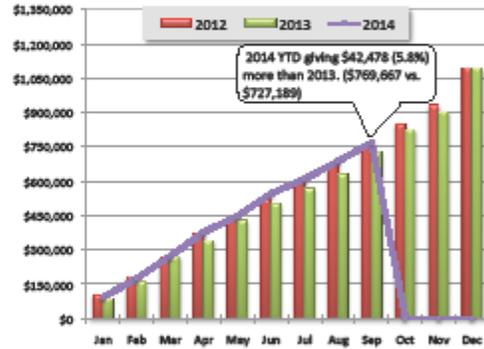


## Immanuel Lutheran Church Income Report for September 2014

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	78,728	15,432	24.4%
September	73,812	85,876	97,427	81,817	(15,610)	-16.0%
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	769,667	42,478	5.8%



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	687,849	58,087	9.2%
September	698,124	760,716	727,189	769,667	42,478	5.8%
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	78,728	2,157	2.8%	17,323	2.6%
September	87,225	81,817	(5,408)	-6.2%	11,916	1.6%
October	100,934					
November	93,085					
December	188,230					
Annual	1,140,000	769,667	-- NA --	-- NA --	(\$370,333)	67.5%

