

Church Council
Immanuel Lutheran Church
November 12, 2019

Members present: Jeannie DeRemer, Dana Connett, Jody Ebert, Tammy Vergeront, Lesley Greep, Pastor Angela, Anne Walbrun, Cari Larsen, Kris Heinzen, Paul Savereide, Beth Hansen, Erin Heilman, Twylla Vickmark, Pastor Paul, Tony Szczepeniak, Tami Ehlers, Pat Hammer

Devotions given by Anne Walbrun.

Jeannie DeRemer related her faith story.

Beth welcomed president-elect Tony Szczepaniak, who will attend council meetings in anticipation of taking the president's position in 2020.

Secretary's report: Motion to approve by Erin, second by Twylla, passed.

Financial secretary's report: Attendance down 200 people for the month of October. YTD attendance is down. Giving was down for October. We are at 74% of budget.

Treasurer's report: Tami reported that October giving was significantly below budget (\$26,000); as a result, year to date giving is also behind budget. Program expenses were over budget for October, but year to date spending remains below budget.

Building Up account tracking shows a total of \$210,848 received so far, with \$408,152 outstanding. Sanctuary wall stone will be installed soon; the new HVAC unit has been installed on the roof as well as the skylight.

Staff reports:

Pastor Angela (along with Pastor Paul) has been leading Breaking Down Walls on Wednesday nights, tomorrow will be Stephanie and Jorge Espinosa of the Shakopee mission church, Cristo Obrero, discussing their ministry and what it means to be a sanctuary church.

Advent Wednesday worship services will include the Holden Evening Prayer, December 18 is Traveler's Christmas.

Angela will share her trip to Ethiopia next Wednesday during the dinner hour. Dear Church book study concluded last night.

Pastor Paul: There were three baptisms, a wedding and a funeral this last month. Confirmation retreat was last weekend.

Service of Remembrance will be held on November 21 at 7:00 PM.

Thanksgiving Eve worship at 7:00 PM will feature three members speaking about gratitude.

Next Sunday the new member class will include 10-12 new households.

2020 adult faith formation will include a seven week series called Making Marriage Work and a bible study on the book of Mark.

Stewardship update: 180 pledges, \$550,000 pledged so far. The amount per pledge is trending upward. Served 225 people at the Stewardship breakfast.

November offerings are looking good so far, some catch-up giving going on.

Memorial funds-Jennifer Urbanski, chair of the Memorial Fund committee, had spoken to Executive council. Beth reminded council members that there are memorial monies available for their particular areas. The Memorial committee maintains a wish list, which should be used for something tangible, over and above the budget. Jennifer left an information sheet for each council member.

2020 Budget Discussion and Committee reports:

Tami Ehlers presented the first draft of the 2020 budget. In this draft, an increase in giving of 5% would be required to balance the budget against projected expenses of \$1,282,560. These expenses include the following assumptions: benevolence to remain at 17% (the 2019 budgeted level), salaries increasing by 2%, revised health insurance costs, and each committee's budgeted expenses that were submitted prior to the meeting (and further described below).

The largest expense change is from health insurance, which will increase 4% to \$146,000 next year. This is a first draft of the budget, which will continue to be discussed during December and January meetings in order to present a recommended budget to the congregation at the annual meeting on January 26th. Between now and then, our actual 2019 giving and expense figures will become known, and council will have more time to refine their projections, as all agreed that a 5% giving increase in 2020 is not a reasonable assumption.

Tammy Vergeront talked about church expenses and property expenses. Office expenses remain flat; bank fees are increasing due to more electronic giving. Expenses for repair and maintenance of properties are increasing due to an aging physical plant. Utilities increase by 2%.

Worship, Music and Arts: Jeannie DeRemer is searching for special music for the 5:00 PM Saturday service. Children's choirs are doing well, at about 16 members each. Budget will remain flat.

Evangelism: Anne Walbrun -budget will remain unchanged. Dedicated fund has \$2,000 earmarked for a potential shortfall in budgeted tent/chair/table expense for 2020 as well as the purchase of new volunteer t-shirts for the Bingo event. Food truck minimums of \$1,000 may need to be subsidized (unlikely).

Senior high: Dana Connett - budget is down a bit (\$350), no trip to Lutsen and fewer college freshmen. 120 kids attended the confirmation retreat at Onamia while the younger kids camp at Wapogasset.

Adult Faith Formation-Jody- AFF will take on babysitting costs for Wednesday evenings at a cost of \$500-600. Expenses for Women's ministry and SALT will remain the same.

Social Concerns- Cari- will meet with congregation members for allocation of benevolence dollars. Families Moving Forward will be housed in Immanuel over the week of Thanksgiving. The benevolence budget (currently 17%) is a council-wide decision.

Fellowship -Lesley- budget will remain flat.

Middle school- Kris- budget will remain flat. Confirmation retreat was last weekend. Lock-in is now a 7-midnight event. Toys for Tots is coming up in December culminating in a tour of KARE 11. Many other activities are planned.

Children's Ministry -Erin- budget will decrease by 1% thanks to their ability to utilize their dedicated account funds. Will bring back baptism birthdays. Camp Wapo scholarships -will ask for Memorial funds for that, but if not, remains as a line item. Sunday School and VBS fees go straight back into the program. 200 kids are enrolled in Sunday School.

Council retreat is scheduled for March 14, 2020.

President's report- It's time to start recruiting new council members. Outgoing members: Jackie Getchius, Anne Walbrun, Pat Hammer, Cari Larsen, Ben Orton, Zack Hansen, Beth Hansen.

Dana Connett, Kris Heinzen and Tami Ehlers are at the end of their first terms.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Pat Hammer, council secretary