

December 2017 Church Council meeting
Immanuel Lutheran Church
December 12, 2017

Those in attendance: Pastor Paul Nelson, Pat Hammer, Beth Hansen, Mike Lindahl, Tony Szczepeniak, Bob Peterson, Wendy Wurscher, Jennifer Johnson, Zack Hansen, Scott Anderson, Katie Thormodsgard, Mindy Johnson, Martin Rathjen, Brent Apelt, Ben Orton, Pastor Angela Jacobson, Ruth Lunde, Tammy Vergeront, Cari Larsen

Devotions by Cari Larsen

Faith story by Pastor Angela

Secretary's report: Ruth moved to approve the minutes as amended; Cari seconded the motion, which passed.

President's report: Beth thanked all for attending. She informed the council that executive council approved the associate pastor position and the parish nurse position. Beth will send out the job descriptions and other details.

Vice president's report by Tony Szczepeniak - Long range planning has met, will have their second meeting January 6. Goal is to have a long-range plan in place by June 2018. The committee will use an existing three-year-old congregational survey, the SWOT done at the council retreat, and a survey yet to be written (by committee members) and sent out to the congregation in the near future. Aiming for transparency and transformation. Beth asked that an article about the committee's work be written for the annual report, due January 8. Tony asked that each council committee fill out their visioning template if they haven't already done so.

Financial secretary's report by Bob Peterson-giving is \$63,809 over budget, \$68,000 over last year. Attendance is down 3%.

Treasurer's report by Mike Lindahl- we are managing expenses well for the year, year to date giving was \$75,000 above budget in November due to the one-time large gift, \$63,000 ahead of plan YTD. Program expenses are under budget by \$7,500 YTD. An e-mail will go out to the congregation reminding members to honor their pledges for 2017, to pledge if they haven't already done so, and to remember to donate stock before the year's end (stock gifts take a little longer to process).

Staff reports:

Tammy Vergeront- Thanks to Rich Weaver for updating the counter database. Please turn in your bills before the end of the year. Reminded us that December 31st is a Sunday, so all giving for 2017 tax purposes should be done by noon of that day. There is information on stock giving on the Immanuel website.

Martin Rathjen reported a healthy interest in the backpacking trip, with 45 people on the interest list.

Martin is presently working with the communications team trying to cover the cost of Luther's Way, which operates at a deficit. They are thinking about rebranding, and perhaps moving to a digital format with one Friday morning e-mail article at a time. Monday morning e-mail will remain the workhorse. September 1 will be the last print edition of Luther's Way, hard print copies will of course be available for those who don't use e-mail.

Paul and Martin are planning to lead a trip including hiking Kilimanjaro in February 2019, extending to meet our medical missionaries and explore Tanzania.

Pastor Angela thanked our storytellers at Advent Coffee House. The last one is tomorrow night, with a possibility of more in the future, very successful. January Wednesdays will feature Financial Peace University at a cost of \$99.00, 9 sessions in 6 nights with one Saturday morning session to be determined. Scholarships are available. Angela closed with two quotes from Canoeing in the Mountains.

Pastor Paul invited us to join him in prayer for transformational giving in our congregation. He thanked all for their part in Susan's farewell program. There were three funerals this past month as our congregation ages. A video camera has been installed in our parking lot outside the music room.

New business: Brent Apelt, Cari Larsen, Ben Orton, Pat Hammer and Beth Hansen are running for council again. Thanks to all who served. The nomination committee is hard at work filling other vacancies.

Budget: Mike Lindahl presented a budget based on a 2.5% increase, \$1,230,175.00. Salary and personnel expenses are down 0.6% due to reduction in staff with Susan's retirement. A projected surplus of \$16,000 gives some wiggle room. Benevolence, budgeted at 18%, will be revisited in January when we know more about our final numbers. We were reminded of our generosity to PROP, Redeemer Lutheran and Haven House.

Pledges are running flat with approximately the same amount per pledge, 80 pledges (of 300) remain out.

Prepare your reports to be included in the annual report, due January 8.

Updated bylaws will be posted to the website 30 days before the annual meeting.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Pat Hammer, council secretary