

January 2018 Church Council Meeting
Immanuel Lutheran Church
January 9, 2018

Those in attendance: Pastor Paul Nelson, Pat Hammer, Beth Hansen, Tony Szczepaniak, Bob Peterson, Mike Lindahl, Ruth Lunde, Jody Ebert, Martin Rathjen, Cari Larsen, Tammy Vergeront, Wendy Wurscher, Brent Apelt, Ben Orton, Scott Anderson, Jen Johnson, Julie Tufford

Jody Ebert gave devotions and related her faith story.

Thanks to Jody for the treats.

Secretary's report: Pat Hammer distributed last month's minutes. Mike Lindahl moved to approve minutes as modified, Tony Szczepaniak seconded the motion, which passed.

President's report: Beth talked about the parish nurse position and Pastor Angela's call, asking for any feedback from parishioners. Parish nurse position will be clarified at the annual meeting, with the number of hours and starting date specified.

Beth thanked outgoing council members Mike Lindahl, Chastity Thompson, Christy Woll, Jolene Held and Julie Tufford.

Vice president's report: Tony and the long range planning committee met January 6, discussed a congregational survey, but decided to focus on the existing survey before putting together a new one. They will take worship field trips, both to other Lutheran churches and to other denominations. A communication will go out in Luther's Way introducing the committee members and their mission. Next meeting is February 10; a June deadline will see the delivery of a recommendation. Pastors Paul and Angela attend meetings; more staff will be invited as things progress.

Financial secretary: Bob Peterson reported online giving and the Give Plus app are a positive development. 2017 giving came in over budget, with \$53,000 prepaid for 2018 giving. Attendance in 2017 was 1% higher than 2016's. Bob thanked long-time counters Arvin and Colleen Morehouse, who have been serving for 40 years.

Treasurer's report: Mike reported that we are on budget for the year in expenses, looks like we are over due to an increase in benevolence (18.4%) accompanying increased giving. Our total income was \$1,243,095.00 that came in \$43,003.00 over budget. \$53,000 was prepaid toward 2018 before the end of 2017; this will be reserved for 2018 expenses. Beth asked that council members make an effort to communicate our commitment to benevolence and our generosity to the congregation.

Opening Doors update showed that we have received \$539,612 to date, leaving \$178,940 outstanding. The campaign has about 18 months to go, wrapping up in May of 2019.

Staff reports:

Martin reported business as usual; Stepping Stones is back in the swing of things and confirmation continues. Martin was asked to include a note about the council meeting in the Monday morning blast.

Tammy had a very busy December with last-minute offerings.

Pastor Paul asked all council members to install the GivePlus Church app on their phone. The app was well used the last week of December.

Christmas was wonderful, contemplating changing service times next year due to the popularity of the 10:00 AM Christmas Eve family service. The 3:30 service had 750 people in attendance.

Planning for Lent is underway with the theme of Living Faith. Ash Wednesday is February 14 and Easter is April 1.

Thanks to God for the faithful and generous people of this congregation.

Annual meeting preparation: Beth announced that she and Pat Hammer will stay on council, as will Brent Apelt. We need a replacement for Mike Lindahl at treasurer, for Chastity Thompson in Children's Ministry. Ann Walbrun will replace Julie Tufford on Evangelism, Kris Heinzen will replace Christy Woll on Youth Ministry, Dana Connett will replace Jolene Held on senior high. We still need 3 people on the nominating committee. We discussed candidates for the audit committee, which has one vacancy.

Committee Reports:

Fellowship - Wendy Wurscher asked for chili for the annual meeting with much success.

Youth - Brent Apelt announced the fundraiser for Youth Rejoice to take place on February 25. Toys for Tots took place in December with an appearance on a local TV news program. Several ski trips are coming up.

Social Ministry - Cari Larsen and Kim Rathjen are planning a meeting to educate members about the available opportunities to serve others, and to explore possible avenues for future emphasis.

Stewardship - Ben Orton announced pledging for 2018 was 240 families pledging \$746,000, contrasted with 268 families pledging \$785,000 in 2017.

Evangelism - Julie Tufford will meet with her replacement, Anne Walbrun next week at the planned Evangelism meeting. Tables of 8 has increased participation this year.

Pastor Paul will teach Faith 101 this spring. Bingo in the tent is planned next fall; a beach party for young families is planned next January.

Properties – Scott Anderson thanked Tammy for facilitating the day-to-day stuff. He would like to replace some stained ceiling tiles and broken floor tiles this spring, possibly with congregation help. Watch for spring cleanup.

Worship, Music and Arts – Ruth Lunde thanked our staff for their hard work ensuring that Christmas went smoothly. The contemporary worship service is being re-evaluated. A large screen has been added to the back of the church. Renee Simenson's memorial gave another set of risers.

Adult Faith formation – Jody Ebert announced the Women's Wine Tasting January 26, 7 PM at Rustica. An art journaling event will replace the women's retreat on February 10. Book club meets every month. The SALT group is going strong, holding monthly events (next Thursday, 9:30 AM, Eric Dregni speaks).

Senior high – Jen Johnson – Paul Erdman and some of the youth plan a student leader game night for the first time as a reward for our volunteering kids. This will take place 2 to 3 times yearly.

Beth asked people to sign up for faith story, devotions and treats.

Treasurer Mike Lindahl proposed a budget of \$1,183,094 for 2018. The prepaid \$53,000 will not be included in 2017's offering, is designated for 2018. Assuming a flat budget both on giving and expenses. We are striving for 19% benevolence this year, up from 18%. After some discussion about where the extra 1% will be sent, consensus was to give it to local charities. The variance of income over expense is \$88,544. Removing the \$53,000 prepaid from that, we will put the extra \$35,544 into cash reserves. The staff got a 2½% raise. Personnel costs have gone down due to staff changes. Bob Peterson moved that we approve the additional \$5,000 in benevolence, second by Jen Johnson. Passed by voice vote. Bob Peterson moved that the proposed budget be approved with the one change to the benevolence line. Ben Orton seconded the motion, which passed.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Pat Hammer, council secretary