

Church Council Meeting
Immanuel Lutheran Church
October 9, 2018

Members present: Beth Hansen, Tony Szczepaniak, Tami Ehlers, Dana Connett, Tammy Vergeront, Wendy Wurscher, Pat Hammer, Bob Peterson, Pastor Paul Nelson, Cari Larsen, Anne Walbrun, Ben Orton, Scott Anderson, Brent Apelt, Katie Thormodsgard, Ruth Lunde

Thanks to Anne for treats.

Anne Walbrun gave devotions.

Tami Ehlers related her faith story.

Secretary's report: Bob moved to approve the minutes with one deletion, second by Cari, the motion passed.

The minutes will be sent in draft form the day after the council meeting, not to be forwarded until approved the next month.

Financial secretary - Bob Peterson: Attendance is moving positively, especially factoring in a cancelled Sunday worship in April. Giving remains strong.

Stewardship - Ben Orton: Our Stewardship theme this year is Why Generosity? Asked 12 members to write a faith bit, and to read them in service. Stewardship Sunday is November 4.

Treasurer - Tami Ehlers said that September was a strong month; we are at 0% variance for the year. Year to date actual giving is \$758, 000. Opening Doors shows a remaining balance of \$148,481.

Staff reports:

Tammy Vergeront: The copier contract has been right-sized for a savings of \$200-300 per month. We have a different snow removal service which will save us some money also.

Pastor Paul-

- "Parenting in a Digital Age" and "Grandparents as Faith Mentors" classes will begin tomorrow night.
- Paul Erdmann comes back this Sunday, we welcome him as he returns to us.
- Advent planning is being finalized with Holden Evening Prayer included in our services.

- We discussed at adding a welcoming statement as follows: “You are welcome here! You are welcome to share in God’s love and grace. You are welcome no matter your race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. You are welcome without regard to physical or mental health, addictions, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, political opinions or anything that divides us. We welcome all because our unity is in Christ.” This statement would be added to our website and brochures. Bob moved that we approve the statement; Cari seconded the motion, which passed.
- Thank you card from PROP for the Bingo dollars raised was displayed.

Social Ministries-Cari Larsen:

- Families Moving Forward will be here November 4-11. Please help – Signup Genius has been set up.
- Sheridan’s Story weekend food distribution has commenced at Prairie View. Sheridan’s Story has served over 2 million meals statewide at this time.
- Doctor Swanson and his wife, our ministers that we sponsor in Tanzania, sent out an update. Keep them in your prayers.
- Update this week from Amextra, they are teaching high school students entrepreneurial skills. We sponsor a staff member there.
- Cari went to the zoning committee meeting last night, Common Bond was approved to send to city council.
- Onward Eden Prairie is accepting applications for residents at this time.

Fellowship-Wendy Wurscher: Welcome Sunday served 330 people with 20 volunteers. Wednesday Café has started and now charges \$2.50 for kid meals.

Senior High-Dana Connett: Meeting is tomorrow. They are discussing revision of the worship notes format in the interest of clarity and brevity. Senior High youth group is still in discussion. High school mission trip will meet November 28. Confirmation retreat is November 9-11. Thanks to Martin for his help in Paul E’s absence.

Worship, music and arts-Ruth Lunde- Praise Ringers, our bells group will celebrate their 30th anniversary in November. Smorgasbord is planned for December 6. Cornerstone Choir and Holy Commotion will sing for the confirmation service. Ascension choir is looking for an adult helper. Ascension Bake Sale is December 1-2. Altar Guild is looking to expand. WMA asked for a digital piano from the memorial fund.

Children’s ministry – Katie Thormodsgard-asked for financial clarity in the purchasing process. Sunday school rooms need updating, perhaps as part of the next capital campaign. VBS had the same number of participants as 2017, which is great considering that many churches are seeing a decline. Volunteer ratio at VBS was 1 adult to 7 kids. Camping (Onamia vs. Wapo) will move funds from Onamia to Wapo over the next two years, ending in 2020 with all \$6,000 going to Wapogasset.

Scholarship money for campers is always needed and they plan to add this item to the budget.

Evangelism-Anne Walbrun: Tables of 8 has begun. Young family small groups are coming together.

Properties – Scott Anderson: Thanks to Tammy for her daily work keeping the church in great shape. November 10 is fall cleanup, mostly focused inside. Outside work will be weather dependent. November 25 is Advent decorating.

President's report: Preliminary budget figures for each committee are due by the next meeting, November 13.

Vice President's report- Long Range Planning needs to meet with Fellowship and then will consolidate their findings for presentation.

Old Business- Council President's transition discussions are starting next week with the nominating committee.

Tony moved to adjourn, seconded by Dana. Passed.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Pat Hammer, council secretary