

Church Council Meeting
September 11, 2018
Immanuel Lutheran Church

Members present: Beth Hansen, Pat Hammer, Tony Szczepaniak, Tami Ehlers, Dana Connett, Wendy Wurscher, Anne Walbrun, Kris Heinzen, Cari Larsen, Tammy Vergeront, Jackie Getchius, Pastor Angela Jacobson, Pastor Paul Nelson, Jennifer Johnson

Guest: Lyle Griner of All In Relational Ministry

Thanks to Bob for refreshments.

Cari Larsen gave devotions.

In lieu of a faith story, we shared our recollections of September 11, 2001.

Secretary's report: Minutes of the August meeting were distributed. Kris moved to approve the minutes as amended, second by Cari, the motion passed.

Special Guest: Pastor Paul introduced Lyle Griner of All In Relational Ministry. Lyle will lead a workshop for our congregation extending our theme of Faith Friends on February 2, 2019. Lyle shared information about his ministry, and then left the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Tami reported that giving was ahead of budget thanks to a large stock gift, expenses are running slightly under budget. Opening Doors report showed \$163,830 outstanding at this time.

According to a conversation she had with Ruth Lunde, Beth Hansen reported that Immanuel donated \$9,500 for Lutheran World Relief. It was not clarified whether this included \$5,000 in matching funds.

Staff reports:

Tammy Vergeront is in the process of organizing fall cleanup-watch for the date. Tammy would like to see some changes in the annual report, a little more visual and user-friendly. Tami Ehlers volunteered to help. She thanked Bob for training the counters, all is going very smoothly. Our garbage output has been reduced by a large amount thanks to use of the compostable utensils and plates.

Angela Jacobson thanked all for their support of the Erdmann family during Stephanie's illness and death. Special thanks go to Martin for covering Paul's youth duties.

An anonymous gift of \$21.4 million has been made to Luther Seminary; tuition is now free for all students (40 denominations are represented). Luther is piloting a two-year Master of Divinity program. Might Immanuel consider an intern?

Pastor Paul Nelson talked about how we need to support Paul Erdmann. He reminded us that four or five months out will be difficult as the rest of us move on while Paul continues to grieve. There is a wide net of support under his family at this point.

He thanked us for a fantastic weekend, especially Anne Walbrun (and the evangelism committee) who shouldered much of the planning for the Bingo Event and Tent Meeting. The Bingo event raised \$4,500.00 for PROP plus over 200 lbs. of food. Faith Friends t-shirts will be available this fall.

Stewardship Sunday is November 4th. The theme is Why Generosity? We are invited to write FaithBits about the power of generosity.

President's report: Beth talked about Paul Erdmann's leave status. We have a policy in place with the extent of the leave in the hands of the head pastor and executive council.

The Boy Scout policy is changing to bring girls into the organization, each troop makes that decision on their own. We are a partner organization with the troop that meets here at Immanuel and are being asked to approve any decision they make. Executive committee discussed this decision and agreed to advise the troop that Immanuel is in support of decisions that promote greater inclusion.

Transition of the president's role is being discussed, with the goal of greater continuity between elected presidents. We will ask the nominating committee to work on this and present to the executive council. A volunteer from council is invited to participate on this project as well. Bob Peterson is already on this group.

Long Range planning is still moving forward, meeting with staff at this time; the goal is to wrap up by October 1.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Pat Hammer, council secretary