

Church Council Meeting  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
January 8, 2019

Those present: Beth Hansen, Tony Szczepaniak, Tami Ehlers, Pat Hammer, Bob Peterson, Pastor Paul Nelson, Tammy Vergeront, Martin Rathjen, Scott Anderson, Kris Heinzen, Dana Connett, Katie Thormodsgard, Jody Ebert, Cari Larsen, Anne Walbrun, Ruth Lunde, Wendy Wurscher, Ben Orton

Kris Heinzen gave devotions.

Dana Connett related her faith story.

Thanks to Kris for treats.

Secretary's report: Bob Peterson moved to approve the minutes, second by Dana Connett, the motion passed.

Beth asked all to look over the annual meeting minutes and send any recommendations to Pat.

Staff reports:

Tammy Vergeront –we finished out the year with much fast and furious giving, a busy end of year. Thanks to Dan and Twylla Vickmark for a 4 hour count the day after Christmas, due to the amount of cash at the Christmas Eve services. Had to fix the coffee maker and re-address the gas leak.

Paul Nelson – wonderful Christmas, the times on Christmas Eve worked well. The 4:00 PM service still had 700 attendants. So we will keep the same service times. The All In Event is coming up February 2, and will serve as council retreat as well as an open event.

Lent will highlight one of the 6 themes from the All In Event each Wednesday night. Fall worship will unpack parts of the service and connect those worship elements to daily life. Advent theme will be Everyday Incarnation.

The upcoming capital campaign already has 6 leaders, looking for 3 more. This committee will meet next week to discuss the scope and themes of our capital campaign.

Stewardship: We now have 285 pledges for \$841,000, up by 40 pledges from 2018. During the church Kilimanjaro trek in February both pastors will be absent. A letter will go out to the congregation detailing the plan they are leaving in place to cover their absence.

President's report: Thanks to all who have submitted their reports for the annual meeting to Terrie. Reports should go to Terrie as soon as possible.

All council positions have been filled except for VP and two positions at fellowship. Erin Heilman will take over children's ministry from Katie. Jerry Martin will fill the senior high vacancy. Audit committee needs two more members.

Long range planning committee: Tony shared some key observations. Our church has a strong sense of community, which provides a solid foundation. They also heard that our congregation is comfortable, wondering if we need to be more challenging. The committee heard a concern that we are not attracting 18-30 year olds. Facilities need updating, including Sunday school rooms and the roof; this will be addressed in the upcoming capital campaign. The committee discussed moving from a staff-centric model to a more lay-centric model. The committee will present at the annual meeting, then will move on to a formulation of 3 or 4 important goals. Thanks to Tony and the committee for much hard work.

Financial Secretary: Bob reported December attendance up by 500 over 2017. Annual giving came in under budget by approximately \$25,000, a consequence of a soft October and November.

Treasurer's report: Tami reported that giving for 2018 came in at \$1,148,558.00, which was \$27,836.00 under the budgeted amount. Expenses totaled \$1,194,769.00, which was \$34,917.00 under the budgeted amount, leaving \$7,018.00 for a net contribution to cash reserves.

2019 Budget Discussion (held in Luther Hall with large projector): Our proposed income for 2019 (God's Gifts) is currently \$1,213,392.00, which considers a 1% increase in giving adjusted for a 2017 pre-paid offering that was excluded from 2018 giving. Expenses are budgeted at \$1,228,300.00, which creates a shortfall of \$14,908.00. This includes a benevolence budget of 18%, staff salaries increased by 2%, moving our custodian to full time, and adding a part-time God Squad position. In response to this shortfall, Bob Peterson proposed budgeting benevolence at 17% in order to present a balanced budget to the congregation, rather than a shortfall. After some discussion, Kris Heinzen made a motion to this effect, proposing to present this budget at the annual meeting, which was seconded by Ruth Lunde. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Pat Hammer, council secretary