

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, August 16, 2011
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

Council Members in attendance: Stephanie Alstead, Mark Thompson, Ron Struss, Mike Tjaden, Jan Johnshoy, Peg Wangenstein, Rhonda Tjaden, Lee English, Paul Mattessich, Bill Short, Jon Severson and Claire Taylor-Sherman.

Council Members absent: Chase Hippen, Kari Moeller, Ray Peterson and Darlene Hagquist.

Staff: Rev. Cindy Bullock and Russ Carlson

1. President Stephanie Alstead opened the meeting.
2. Pastor Cindy shared a short devotion with the group and then led the group in prayer prior to the start of business.
3. Tonight's agenda approved as presented.
4. The minutes of the June 2011 Council Meeting were approved as amended.
5. Financial Report: The Treasurer presented the financial statements for the month of July 2011 and year-to-date through July 2011. Look for summary financial information from the Treasurer in upcoming Messenger (*or News and Notes?*). M/S/C to approve the report as presented.
6. Old Business: Mid-year budget check: General Fund income (primarily offering) through July 2011 is tracking budgeted numbers closely, and expenses are a bit under budget, resulting in a positive balance in the General Fund. The Capital Fund (which pays the mortgage) carries a balance of approximately 3 months worth of payments, but the pace of current giving to this account is slightly behind where we should be per pledges to the last Capital Campaign. A reminder to catch up on pledges to this campaign will be made in the fall.
7. New Business:
 - a. Pastor Cindy shared Megan's letter of resignation with the Council. Megan's last day as organist will be Sunday, August 28, 2011. Worship and Music Committee will plan a reception for Megan during coffee hour after services on that day. A HUGE thank you to Megan for being such a vital part of the ILC family and sharing her talent and warm, wonderful, positive personality with the congregation. She will be missed, but we wish her well as she moves forwards in Christ's call for her.

Bekah has publicized this opening in the appropriate venues. Members of Worship and Music Committee will also constitute the search committee for a new organist.
 - b. The Personnel Committee, which has fallen by the wayside, will be reconstituted. Suggest names to Stephanie Alstead, hopefully of people with skills learned in an HR or related function.
 - c. Paint-a-Thon - was a huge success once again. A HUGE thank you to Curt Hogenson for all the behind-the-scenes work that he does to make this outreach work smoothly. The homeowner was thrilled with the work and sent a thank you note, which will be posted on the bulletin board.

8. Committee Reports: Minutes of June meetings for Worship and Music, Youth, Stewardship and the Communications Task Force are appended to the end of these minutes. Highlights for other committees as reported at the Council meeting:
- a. Finance: Presented a report on increased cost of funding ILC's monthly support of a breakfast at Dorothy Day. The budget for this outreach was set at \$350/mo. Due to cost increases for food, this amount is no longer sufficient and the shortfall has been covered by individual members. There are other benevolence funds in the budget which could be allocated to the Loaves & Fishes account. M/S/C to increase the monthly budget for Loaves & Fishes to \$450/mo. M/S/C to reimburse members, providing supporting documentation, for their money spent during the first 6 months of 2011. A reminder to donate to Loaves & Fishes will appear in church communication.
 - b. Membership & Evangelism: Committee is developing its plan of work/activities for the 2011-12 program year and will soon post these on the church on-line calendar. New member Paul Kaardal volunteer to co-ordinate a picnic on Rally Sunday (September 11). Mark Thompson agreed to tap the Scouts and ILC Men's Breakfast group for help.
 - c. Property: primarily general maintenance activities, but we have had to deal with 2 roof leaks and a problem with the air conditioner - all have been fixed.
 - d. Social Justice: Has been reviewing the Church's benevolence-giving with Pastor Cindy and will bring a report/recommendations to the next Council meeting regarding such giving.
 - e. Communications Task Force - in addition to its report, Sue Klevan relayed that a member has volunteered to set up a Face Book page for the church. On a separate note, she asked that we all remember to feed information and pictures to her to be posted to the site.

9. Pastor Cindy's Report:

- a. Church directory: Olan Mills will take photos of the congregation in the fall; both a hard copy and web directory are provided to the church at no cost. Dates for photos: September 21 - 24 (Wed - Sat) and September 27 - 29 (Wed - Fri). One month turn-around for pictures. Ann Derr has agreed to snap candid shots to include in the directory.
- b. She presented a video to start us thinking on how we can form and articulate ILC's purpose/vision (as we did for the ILC Mission Statement, which articulates what we do). The vision, however, will articulate our hope for ILC and how ILC will act to impact us and others. For those reading this on-line, below is a link to the video:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4ZoJKF_VuA

Simon Sinek - Start with Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Action

10. Closing prayer and then M/S/C to adjourn: 8:30 p.m.

Next all-committee night: Thursday, September 1 @ 6:30 p.m.

Next Council meeting: Tuesday, September 20 @ 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Taylor-Sherman, Council Secretary

Committee Notes for June 2011 Meetings

Education and Literature Committee

1. Wins/Accomplishments:

Vacation Bible School ("VBS"), July 25 - 29, 2011:

Theme: Hometown Nazareth

54 children attended in the morning; 7 in the afternoon (VBS Extreme, cost: \$100)

Hundreds of volunteer hours donated. Many thanks!

The children and their families donated 364 pounds of food for the Keystone Food Shelf.

Sincere thanks!

Nursery: successfully staffed during summer with one paid staff and one volunteer staff.

Adult Forum: Schedule for Sept - Dec is nearly complete.

Hunger series - Committee will host a series on hunger on the 5th Sundays of each month for Adult Forum. Alice S. will help to organize this series.

Confirmation: Matthew Tingler returning to teach.

2. Key Issues/Concerns:

VBS - VBS Extreme did not break even.

Child Abuse Prevention Policy - needs to be reviewed in near future.

Nursery - one more staff needed during the program year; hrs. approx . 9-noon; Pay: \$9/hr.

Sunday School - teachers needed for third grade class.

Wednesday Nights - discussing how to provide appropriate activities for the children too old for the nursery

3. Key Dates: Rally Day is Sunday September 11, 2011.

Next Meeting: August 31 at 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel

Worship and Music Committee

1. Wins/Accomplishments:

Plan to use baked communion bread instead of wafers beginning in October. Volunteer bakers will get the recipe to use.

2. Key issues/concerns:

Discussed Fall schedule for choir rehearsals and Kindermusik classes; brainstormed other choir opportunities, such as pick-up choir, family choir, middle/high school choir for Easter Vigil

3. Key dates:

Sept. 11 Rally Sunday – Recruit members for Altar Guild, choirs, ushers, readers, communion assistants

Nov. 11 – Music Club meets – topic: folk dancing

Communications Task Force

1. Wins/Accomplishments:
 - a. News and Notes emails are being sent weekly to 49 people who have registered to receive email from Immanuel.
 - b. Immanuel's complete calendar is being updated online and is available to everyone on the website. Now individuals and groups will not only be able to view an up-to-date schedule from anywhere, but they will be able to check it when scheduling events. All changes to the calendar are made by Russ. Thanks Russ for making this happen!
 - c. Pastor Cindy, Russ and two committee members attended training at Luther Seminary on church use of websites and social media.
 - d. Website analytics show increased viewing of pastors and staff when Pastor Cindy started and service times at Easter and increased viewing of News and VBS in the summer as would be expected. Over half the website visits come from search engines rather than from people who use the url or link from the weekly email. However 90% of the search engine arguments used are some version of 'Immanuel st paul ' so these may or may not be from people already involved with Immanuel.
 - e. Several members have provided funding to upgrade the church service audio recording to digital. This will enable audio sermons to be posted on the website. Awaiting a bid from the vendor.
2. Key issues/concerns:
 - a. This is an opportunity: We would like to develop a group of "beat" reporters who provide news and photos for posting on the website and use in communications. The committee will assist the beat reporters with process and tools.
 - b. This is another opportunity: We encourage coffee hour sponsors to post photos or other visuals that help share their ministry with the congregation. This can be passed along for posting on the website.

Youth Committee

Summer trips:

July - 10 youth went to Chicago for the YouthWorks trip. Katy said the week went well and everyone had a good time. The YouthWorks team was impressed with the hard work and kindness shown by the youth.

August - 3 youth went to Wilderness Canoe Base and did a 5 day hike along the Superior Hiking Trail. It was a wonderful week being immersed in God's creation.

We will share pictures and stories from both trips during an Adult Forum early this coming program year.

Other news:

Katy Brukardt has accepted a full time teaching position in Saint Paul, but will continue to be involved with planning youth events.

Low number of responses for interest in the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, 2012 so far. Hoping to get more interest as we gather for the new program year. The Youth Gathering will be the main trip offered in 2012, but I have already heard interest from some youth wanting to do a canoe trip next summer as well.

Stewardship Committee

Wins/Accomplishments:

Theme for 2011-12 campaign will be Stories to Tell, Gifts to Share. This was chosen to highlight the stories of shared gifts like those of kindness, love, generosity and strengths that we bring to each other each and every week. Also chosen to honor the tradition we have of shared stories through our Adult Forum. As we look at new ways to celebrate our time and talents, we hope that we can draw a connection between the stories we share of ourselves and of our congregation to those gifts we share with each other, the gifts we utilize to serve our mission and collectively bring to the broader community.

Key issues/concerns: The committee has received the ILC offering Income report and the Capitol Campaign Income status report from the finance committee, as well as data reports from Russ that we plan to review and discuss at our next meeting. Data will be used in determining segments for special appeal letters for our Estimate of Giving campaign requests.

Key dates: Campaign theme will be introduced in the Sept Messenger in a letter/article written by the committee. The committee will continue to utilize the Messenger, News and Notes, posters and table tents featuring “stories” as aides throughout the campaign. The committee is planning to host Adult Forums on Oct 9, 16 and 23. October 30th is Campaign Sunday.

¹ Guided by the Holy Spirit, we are a family of believers growing in Christ, **WELCOMING** all God’s children, joyfully **WORSHIPPING** God through Word and Sacrament, and **SERVING** our neighbors with love.