

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, June 21, 2011
7:00 p.m. - 8:40 p.m.**

Council Members in attendance: Stephanie Alstead, Mark Thompson, Ron Struss, Mike Tjaden, Chase Hippen, Jan Johnshoy, Kari Moeller, Rhonda Tjaden, Bill Short, Jon Severson and Claire Taylor-Sherman.

Council Members absent: Lee English, Paul Mattessich, Ray Peterson, Darlene Hagquist and Peg Wangenstein.

Staff: Rev. Cindy Bullock, Russ Carlson and Deb Alhquist (representing Education and Literature Committee).

Visitor: Loren Danielson, member of Finance Committee, on hand to present a revised Donation Policy for Immanuel.

1. President Stephanie Alstead opened the meeting.
2. Pastor Cindy shared a short devotion with the group, building on the prior Sunday's readings, regarding discipleship: we should not only be good disciples ourselves, but strive to become good at making disciples of others. She then led the group in prayer prior to the start of business.
3. Tonight's agenda approved as presented.
4. The minutes of the May 2011 Council Meeting were approved as amended.
5. Financial Report.

Mike, chair of the Finance Committee, presented the financial statements (balance sheet and profit & loss) for the month of May 2011 and year-to-date through May 31, 2011.

To obtain a better rate of return, we will be moving our money market account at one institution to our local bank. In addition, approximately half the balance of Immanuel's general checking account will be transferred to the new money market account as well.

The church reimbursed the ILC Foundation for a mini-grant that was not used. The Finance Committee decided it appropriate to move a \$38,000 bequest designated for poverty issues from the church to the Foundation.

Old Business:

Discussion of format of Council Meeting minutes to be included in the Messenger evolved into a consideration of whether the minutes need to be included at all. Summary of discussion points:

- a. Purpose of the Messenger is to act as one means of communication to the congregation regarding upcoming church events;
- b. Purpose of Council Meeting minutes is to create a permanent record of activity taken by the Council in its management of the business of Immanuel;

- c. Two quite different purposes -- especially when one considers that the minutes, when finally approved and published are roughly two months out of date;
- d. A motion was made to no longer publish the Council Minutes in the Messenger, but make a copy available to members on the bulletin board, in the church office and in a password-protected area of the church website. M/S/C After the motion passed, Rhonda Tjaden noted that the Messenger could be added as one of the options for subscription on our web site.

ILC Donation Policy: Loren reviewed proposed revisions to Immanuel's Donation Policy. After clarification and discussion, a motion was made to approve the Donation Policy, as amended at the meeting. M/S/C MANY thanks to Loren for his faithful and hard work to shepherd this matter through to conclusion.

Confirmation staffing: Matthew Tingler will be available to teach confirmation during the upcoming program year (Sept 2011 - May 2012). Of course, if he receives a call, he will need to resign. To prepare for his departure - whenever it might occur - Matthew plans to team teach, involving others so that should he receive a call there will be continuity in the confirmation program.

6. New Business:

Parish Administrator updated the Council on status of lease agreements with our four tenants. We share with Russ a HUGE THANK YOU in recognition of his hard, persistent and successful work negotiating these leases.

Committee Reports: Minutes of June meetings for Education and Literature, Worship and Music and the Communications Task Force are appended to the end of these minutes. So the date won't be missed, Rally Sunday for this fall is scheduled for September 11, 2011. Also, information to be posted on the ILC website should be sent to either Sue Klevan or Jean Edlund. Highlights for other committees as reported at the Council meeting:

- a. Membership & Evangelism: Did not meet in June, but can report that the Saints game on July 12 will be well attended - it was sold-out quickly. ILC will tailgate before the game in space #10. If interested in joining that part of the festivities, please contact Rhonda. National Night Out takes place in early August. ILC will be hosting another event with ice cream and yard games.
- b. Stewardship: Has met several times since the last Council meeting. Conducted a presentation of Shared Ministry during Adult Forum on May 21, 2011. Has chosen a theme for this year's stewardship drive: Stories to Tell and Gifts to Share, which builds on Shared Ministry concepts. The committee has sketched out a schedule of events and will post after it has checked for conflicts with other church activities.
- c. Youth: Planning for fall/early winter program is underway, and will be published soon.
- d. Social Justice: No June meeting due to scheduling conflict. Thoughts for future activities include hosting a film/discussion series at ILC addressing social justice concerns, e.g., sustainability, Equal Exchange Program, the theme of "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle".

Member-at-large, Chase: suggested that we contact our long-time benevolence partner,

Plymouth Youth Center, to see how it fared during the tornado in North Minneapolis.

7. Pastor Cindy's Report:

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.

Shared Ministry: To gather info on how other churches have successfully integrated the Shared Ministry concept into their church life, Pastor Cindy and Deb Alquist have/will visit several churches. To date, they have visited Nativity Lutheran in St. Anthony and came away with many good ideas. They plan to visit Trinity Lutheran in Stillwater in July and also hope to schedule at least one more visit during the summer. A Catholic church in Eagan is a possibility.

On-line calendar: Is closer to becoming a reality (goal is to have up and running by September 1, 2011). Russ will be the gate keeper. Share information about planned events with Russ as soon as you begin the planning stage.

Audio system upgrade: Moving to digital recording. Services will be recorded in an e-file for posting on the church website and burned to CDs for those members who can no longer be present at our services.

Flat screen monitor in Gathering Area: Cost is \$1600. Still considering and clarifying how it might be useful to aid in communicating to/with the congregation.

Youth Works groups: Nothing but positive comments to share on the ministry that is happening under our roof through Youth Works. The dedication/talent of the young adult supervisors is amazing. Asked that we be ambassadors for the group. Seek out Youth Works individuals who might be at services and VBS. It truly is a positive experience for both the youth attendees and ILC.

8. Closing prayer and then M/S/C to adjourn: 8:40 p.m.

Next all-committee night: Thursday, August 4 @ 6:30 p.m.

Next Council meeting: Tuesday, August 16 @ 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Taylor-Sherman, Council Secretary

Committee Notes for June 2011 Meetings

Education and Literature Committee

Sunday School:

Last Month

- 5th & 6th graders presented Living Bible Museum: Feasts with Jesus. Thank you to Stacey Van , Lee Rife and Linda Tantzen for helping.
- **Date of Rally Day has been set for Sept. 11.**

VBS:

- Received 19 registrations for VBS
- Received 5 registrations for VBS Extreme
- Received 23 VBS volunteer commitments
- 2 college aged staff members from last year are returning as staff
- **Committee has chosen to collect canned goods and money for Keystone Community Services as our VBS mission project.** Congregational challenge: meet our monthly goal of 300 pounds.

Confirmation:

- Have received 1 registration for Bay Lake Camp
- **Matthew Tingler will continue as confirmation teacher for 2011-2012**

Adult Forum:

- Have received 6 requests for speaker time from Immanuel committees.
- Have planned a theme of “Hunger & Poverty” for each Adult Forum that lands on the 5th Sunday of a month during the program year (October 2011 and January/April 2012). If you have ideas for a program, contact Deb Ahlquist.

Nursery

- 4 volunteers have been recruited to rotate as assistants on Sunday morning.
- 2 storage systems with bins have been purchased for nursery storage in the closet across from the nursery.

Worship and Music Committee

1. Wins/Accomplishments:

- Successful Art Show; was on display between Easter and Pentecost.
- A Memorial prayer service was held again around Peace Pole on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend.

2. Key issues/concerns:

- The committee discussed ways to raise awareness and interest in the Altar Guild ministry in order to increase membership.
- The invitation to communion as printed in bulletin was discussed and no changes will be made.
- Next year, an ad hoc task force will be recruited to facilitate the Art Show.
- After Pentecost, bulletins will return to smaller size. We'll use the larger size, with the side bar explanations, for festival Sundays and special seasons.

Communications Task Force

1. Wins/Accomplishments:

- a. Website and email were promoted to the congregation in May. 48 people have registered their email addresses and signed up to receive email.
- b. Expansion of website continues, quarterly utilization data attached.
- c. A second person has volunteered to be co-webmaster and is undergoing training.

2. Key issues/concerns:

- a. The proposed outdoor flagpole and banner received too much resistance and will not be implemented. Equipment will be returned for refund where possible.
- b. Emailing associated with sign-up on the website has been delayed for volunteer to get training in MailChimp.

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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.