

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Council Minutes - October 18, 2022

Council Members Present: Pastor Jamie Brieske, Becky Carter, Olympia Evergreen, Becky Ivey, Lang Jacobson, Sandy LaValley, Sue Waits, Bob Wilcox

Council Members Absent: Campbell Dean, Jennifer Dean, Molly LoRusso, Bill Schwengel, Ryan Stilp

Thank you notes were prepared Melissa Tarpenning, assisting with WoW meals; Don Schlieve building an organ case; and Grace Olson, who makes the communion bread.

Staff Recognition

Council discussed staff appreciation ideas for Alyssa Engedal, Family Ministry. who will celebrate 10 years at Immanuel this December. Lang Jacobson motioned to offer one month sabbatical time next summer, seconded by Sue Waits. Motion passed.

Thanksgiving and Christmas Services

Pastor shared she will contact area ELCA churches to see if any are hosting a service on Thanksgiving Eve that we can publicize in *The Image*. Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year and Grace Lutheran has offered to host a collective service. This will continue a yearly rotation of ELCA churches including Immanuel.

Review Stewardship Plan

Stewardship Sunday will be held on November 13, Stewardship Wednesday on November 16. Estimates of Giving cards will be shared at those services asking members to prayerfully consider a first pledge or additional pledge. For members absent, cards will be available the following Sunday/Wednesday. There is the option to E-Give by: 1) creating an online account via Immanuel website; or 2) contacting Sue Luthy; or 3) going through their bank/credit union.

Staff Connection

Council members shared their recent follow-up conversation/connection with the Immanuel staff they were paired with last year. All staff contacted felt supported and appreciated.

Longings and Losses Discussion

Council members shared feedback from conversations with individual Immanuel members and/or community members to grieve things past and look to the future.

Pastor Report

Pastor shared attendance is up at both Sunday and Wednesday worship, and the month has been very busy including two baptisms and welcoming new members. Pastor attended several committee meetings and community events including the annual JONAH fundraising event. The office is in the process of switching banking accounts to RCU, and moving toward payroll direct deposit.

Property Report

Sue Waits and Bill Schwengel recently met with a representative from Focus on Energy and Northwind Solar. Following the energy saving discussion lead by Pete of Focus on Energy, Jordan from Northwind Solar reviewed several solar options for Immanuel. After some discussion and review, the group decided to look at the feasibility of a solar installation to offset 50% of Immanuel's current electric usage. By early November, Jordan will provide Immanuel with a comprehensive bid along with information about available grants and incentives. Council should be able to review the bid at the November meeting but can not apply for the Solar for Good grant until April. If the council decision is to consider moving forward, Jordan offered to have a Q/A session with the congregation around February 2023.

Finance Report

Bob Wilcox shared our current month report shows we are ahead. We spent less than budgeted, however, we budgeted more expense than revenue. Overall for the year we are in the red, about \$20,000. Revenue is lagging, but expenses are under budget resulting in a \$17,000 variance (loss).

Green Team

The Green Team meets the third Wednesday of the month and will start small with battery collection. After Christmas, we will collect Christmas tree lights.

Bob Wilcox moved to accept all reports presented, seconded by Becky Carter. Motion carried.

Lang Jacobson moved to adjourn, seconded by Becky Ivey. Motion carried.

Pastor Jamie closed with prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

September minutes were previously approved via email.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 15th at 7:00 PM