

**Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes August 27, 2024** Council Members present: Pastor Jamie Brieske, Sandra LaValley, Bill Schwengel, Sue Waits, Dave Schaffer, Karen Larson, Marcia Bowman, Shalyn Gagnon, Janet Carlson, Christopher Dean and Ryan Stilp.

Absent: N/A

Guests: N/A

Meeting called to order by Dave Schaffer at 7:00 pm.

### **Gathering and Devotion**

Marcia referred to *We Can Do Hard things* to reflect on the July special meeting.

### **Thank you notes**

- Alyssa Engedal for overseeing the makeover project for the bathrooms near the preschool. • Andy Engedal for painting the bathrooms.
- Don Schlieve for 1) installing the new lights, shelving units, soap dispensers, etc. in the bathrooms, and for building a riser for the sink, 2) helping to spread black dirt around the church property, and 3) temporarily taking on custodial duties at the church, for organizing the custodial storage areas and closet, and for cleaning the carpets in Luther Hall.
- Al Ludwig for helping to spread black dirt around the church property and for the use of his frontend loader for the project.
- Lang Jacobson for serving as an adult chaperone/guide/mentor for the ELCA youth gathering. • Chad Drier for serving as an adult chaperone/guide/mentor for the ELCA youth gathering. • Loren Anderson for doing the electrical work in the garage.
- Michael Rehak for his vision for and work on the Octogenarian Banquet.

### **Minutes**

The council met in closed session on 7/16/24 to discuss personnel matters.

### **Continuing Business - longer discussion**

- Synod assembly and related issues
  - Janet gave a synopsis of the assembly. She brought forward two resolutions that were discussed and asked everyone to review them before the next meeting so we can discuss them at that time. We should also consider what we want our part to be in the Loving Lutherans Challenge. • Discussion of budget and stewardship
    - We are operating within our budget, but we are behind in our General Fund giving this year. ○ Stewardship ideas
      - The last few years the Council has served as the Stewardship Committee. The Consecration model was used.
- Have members give a short message during services.
  - Sandy volunteered to speak about the food pantry.
  - Sunday school
  - Quilters/knitters
  - Testimony from youth
- Third quarter appeal.
- Have an appeal during the service where the youth who attended the National Gathering will be speaking about their experiences.
- October 13<sup>th</sup> for pledge date
- Pastor Jamie will draft an email and have the council review it before it is mailed in September.
  - How could we use the time/talents of church members to turn that into revenue?

### **Continuing Business - shorter discussion**

- Update of plans for fall survey of church members
  - Pastor Jamie, Chris, and Ryan will meet before the next council meeting to pull together information

for the group to review.

- The Council is in agreement that we would like to implement the survey before the end of the year. • Further discussion of possible fall/winter meeting with group of youth
- The group agreed that council members should meet the youth where they are (i.e. Wednesday nights) rather than having youth attend a council meeting.
- Chris suggested having the youth collaborate on a project.
- Volunteers: Dave, Chris, Ryan, anyone else who wants or is able to join is welcome.
- Pastor Jamie will ask Alyssa when it would be a good time to start the talks based on the fall programming.
- Discussion of church cleaning (see details and quote in the drive).
  - The church has temporarily hired Maug Cleaning Company to clean two times per week until the services needed can be reviewed.
  - Since Don Schlieve has been filling in as custodian, we would like to consider giving him a small gift for his services.  
Janet made a motion to give Don and Dee \$200 cash, and \$200 in a Menards gift card. Sandy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Discussion of earning interest on church checking funds
  - The balance varies, but it is frequently above \$30,000. Should we look into putting some money into an interest-earning fund?
- Staff connections and evaluations
  - Shalyn and Janet will do Pastor Jamie's evaluation in November.
  - All other evaluations should be done before 12/31/24, but they should be done periodically throughout the year.

### **New Business**

- Sandy brought up the fact that gas cards are appreciated by people who use the food pantry. Should we purchase more or ask for donation? Sandy and Sue had a concern about people who come to the food pantry only for gas cards. Long-term support of this is not sustainable. The council agreed that the pantry should remain food-focused at this time; gas cards will be purchased only if we receive a donation specifically for them.

### **Reports – Review prior to meeting**

- Pastor (in drive)
- Property (Bill)
  - Landscaping is complete.
  - New commercial carpeting machine is needed.
  - Old metal chairs – they are not needed or used, so they will be donated.
  - Newer black fabric chairs – we could use more of those. Pastor will ask Dee to get a quote.
  - Sidewalk repair vs. covered carport.
- Cemetery (Bill)
  - Not much activity.
- Finance (Dave) –
  - Reports are in the drive.
- Green Team (Sue)
  - No new activity.
- Trust Fund (Ryan)
- Faith Formation
- Preschool (Shalyn)
- ZIP

Marcia moved to accept the committee reports; second by Bill; motion passed unanimously. **Closing**

**Prayer led by Pastor Jamie**

## **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Dave; second by Marcia; meeting adjourned.

## **Offering Counters 2024**

January: Lang May: Marcia September: Jan February

.Dave June: Karen October: Karen March: Karen July: Various November: Sue April:

Sandy August: Karen/Sandy December: Bill

## **Devotions 2024**

January: Bill May: Sandy September: Dave February

.Dave June: (no meeting) October: Karen March: Jan July: (no meeting) November: Sue April:

Chris August: Marcia December: Sandy

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 7:00 pm Minutes submitted by Karen Larson**