

Voters' Meeting Minutes

A. Meeting Call to Order / Roll Call. There were 16 voters present. **Time: 1027**

Present (P) Absent (A) Excused (E)

P__Pastor Sullivan

P__Glenn Brunner (President)

E__Paul Jerabek (Secretary)

P__Dan Fager (Elders)

P__Brian Dax (YCE)

P__Greg Hlinak (Property)

P__Lloyd Nimmer (Evangelism)

E__Jack Novak (Treasurer)

B. Opening Devotion/Prayer. Pastor opened with a prayer.

C. Reading of previous meeting minutes. The reading of the previous minutes was waived. *The minutes were approved.*

D. Membership Changes.

1. Baptism: **Sylvia Mae Novak, Kaley Marie Obry**
2. Transfer In: **Lee Brunner**
3. Transfer Out: **Eileen Jansma**
4. Loss to Eternal Life: **Carol Heiter**
5. Members who have reached the age of 18:

All membership changes were approved.

E. Pastor / Board / Financial Reports.

1. Pastor

Adult Christian Education

Bible class attendance is far less than it should be – which is a great concern because biblical illiteracy is on the rise. Because the world is getting more and more hostile to Christianity, our need to be rooted in God's Word is all the greater. If you are not currently attending a Bible study, please help me understand why.

- Bible classes
 - Sunday: We are continuing our study of Exodus before church. Attendance is around 5.
 - Tuesday Bible Class: We are finishing our study of the "Picture catechism". Attendance is around 6-8. We will be picking a new topic in the fall.
- Bible Information Class
 - So far only one non-member has joined the class: Elena Kittel (Wayne's wife). The Brunner's also attended.
 - I hope to start a new class in the summer – maybe during the week.
- Other Bible classes
 - Before every meeting, Ladies Aid is studying either "19 Minutes with Luther" (a course on the small Catechism) or a topic suggested by a member.
 - The council and boards are also going through "19 Minutes with Luther" at the start of almost every meeting.

Nursing Home

- Kewaunee Care Center: The average attendance has been less than 15, and we currently have 3 members there.

Sick and Hospitalized

- Wayne Heuer was in the Hospital for almost all of March. He is at home recovering from cancer treatments.
- Kim Koss was hospitalized in March. She is undergoing cancer treatments.
- Marie Gaedtke was hospitalized in April due to a blood clot. She is recovering well.

Miscellaneous

- At a recent pastor's conference we studied the practice of wine or grape juice in Communion. This study was very thorough and is making me reevaluate my understanding of what Christ meant when He said: "Fruit of the Vine."
- Due to my many illnesses from Christmas through Easter, I have not made as many visits as I would have liked. God willing I will be able to make more in the coming summer months.
- Allan Ihlenfeldt/Lisa Dworak will be married at a private ceremony on May 9th.
- Confirmation Examination will take place on Ascension on May 14. Confirmation will be on Sunday May 17th. The students that are scheduled to be confirmed are: Sara Dax, McCoy Walechka, Amber Pilgrim and Brianna Bertrand.
- I am planning to go on vacation from the end of June until July 12
- From July 13-17 I will be in New Ulm, MN attending either a summer Hebrew Class or a summer seminar on Luther in preparation for 2017.

2. Elders

The first of our 150th events has now happened. The Charles Bonow concert went very well. Our organ was repaired in time for the event so the musical presentation was awesome. The social gathering that followed, gave all in attendance an opportunity to share some personal memories about our church. The only concern is that, although we had many guests, the church attendance was less than anticipated. The 150th Committee will now be planning the details for our next events. Remember to make plans to attend and invite family and friends to these, and all of our church services.

The Greeters List is available for review when people are scheduled to help welcome all to our church services. Please tell the ushers if you may not make your appointed time or ask someone to take your place, or don't hesitate to step up and act as a greeter if no one is doing this important service.

The church office is recording member data to keep our records up to date. The Elders are monitoring a list of absentee members, and these are being contacted to encourage attendance to our services for their soul's health and welfare.

The line item for our organ repair project indicates the current total. The final bill will come due soon, and we should be able to pay off the balance from the checkbook without borrowing money. The opportunity will then be for the final monies to be collected to this wonderful project.

The Elder's focus is to insure our worship activities are focused on God's Word and are received by our members.

3. YCE

2015 Goals/Mission: Expand and nurture Christian Education (Sunday School, VBS, Elementary & High School). Encourage participation of young people in our ministries and services.

The following is a summary of the 2015 1st Quarter activities of each area of responsibility of the Youth Christian Education Board:

YPS – YPS had an organizational meeting on January 21, 2015 with an attendance of 9. The number of attendees encouraged David Chaudoir and Amber Binney. We have been discussing how to incorporate fun activities with The Word, and vice versa. Contact will be made with St. Paul's and St. Peter's for source materials and future activities. The next scheduled YPS meeting is Wednesday, April 29, 2015 at 5:30-6:30 PM. Pastor will bring the Confirmation Class over at 6:00 to join the YPS group and be introduced to the YPS program.

Little Lambs – Continuing to meet approximately 3 times a month, mostly non-members at this time.

Sunday School – Mr. Novak is teaching the Book of Acts in the 7th and 8th grade class. The classes will be wrapping up the school year in mid-May. **WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF A 5TH AND 6TH GRADE TEACHER FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR.** One person has volunteered to be a helper/aide but a teacher is still needed to fill the vacancy.

Confirmation Class – There will be four new confirmands joining our congregation on Sunday, May 17, 2015. They are Brianna Bertrand, Sara Dax, Amber Pilgrim and McCoy Walechka. Examination will take place on Thursday, May 14th in the Ascension Service at 7:00 PM. Please take a moment to congratulate and encourage these young adults to remain faithful in The Word and to continue their service to The Lord by serving our congregation when and where they can.

St. Paul's, Algoma – In case you haven't heard the wonderful news, St. Paul's has put a new tuition program in place. **ALL TUITION WILL NOW BE \$400 A YEAR**, whether a member, or non-member, of St. Paul's congregation. That means that the cost of attending St. Paul's school will now cost only \$200 for all of Immanuel's school children. Immanuel has set aside funds in a Student Aid Account that will pay for half of the tuition cost of attending St. Paul's school in Algoma. Pastor has indicated there has been excitement and discussion of possibly more children from Immanuel attending St. Paul's. If you have any interest in sending your children to St. Paul's, please talk to Brian Dax or Pastor Sullivan for more information. If travel is an issue, there are some alternatives available to help with that. If we have enough students attending, other possible solutions may be discussed, such as purchasing a "mini-bus" or car-pooling. Please don't let the logistics deter you from making a God-pleasing decision. The Youth Christian Education Board hopes to use this new tuition schedule to further strengthen the feeder program for getting our young people to attend Manitowoc Lutheran High School.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) – Discussions have started regarding this year's summer program. Jill Belter, our current VBS coordinator, is expecting a child around the time that VBS will take place. She will coordinate the program for as long as she can, but if anyone is willing to help her out with this, please contact Jill Belter, Brian Dax or Pastor Sullivan.

Attached are the 2015 Goals for the Youth Christian Education Board. These goals and objectives will be our future "work list" that the Board is working on for the rest of 2015.

4. Property

Mission: To keep our facilities in good repair. Communicate with the planned giving committee on needs list. Develop long-range improvement / maintenance plans and incorporate them into congregational future budgetary planning.

Board: Greg Hlinak (Chair), Steven Ihlenfeldt, Gary Hardtke, Jason Karnopp, Jeff Christian, Fred Steffen.

Helpers: Bob Cox, Paul Nimmer, Jerry & Nancy Kohlmorgen, Larry Ihlenfeldt, Jean Klemish, Glenn Teske.

Bible passage: The men in charge of the work were diligent, and the work progressed under them. They rebuilt the temple of God according to its original design and reinforced it. (2 Chronicles 24 13)

- Goals 2015:
- * Number one priority is the 150th anniversary celebration that involves the organ tuning and repair. We will assist where we can to facilitate a coordinated smooth celebration.
 - * The correction of the moisture/mildew issue at the parsonage.
 - * Upgrades to the rest rooms and try to get those completed before the 150th celebration starts.
 - * Complete the focus on energy program involving church lighting.
 - * Stained glass window repair at the Altar.
 - * Church roof inspection and repairs.
 - * Parking lot (FLC) seal coating.
 - * Tree removal at the east property line.
 - * Church ceiling fan replacement.
 - * Flooring tile replacement at the Family Life Center entrance.

Caution: All these projects need to be completed in a timely manner. The amount of time that passes by does not make the conditions of maintenance any better. We do need to prioritize some of these projects as they depend on funds available to complete. It is obvious that if funding is not available, a project will be passed and will not get done this year.

Our current elevator contractor (A-1 Elevator of Green Bay) recently provided a price quotation to do some minor switch replacement work. The price quote given was outrageous in reference to the cost of labor. This labor expense caused us to investigate into other elevator companies that could provide a reasonable and fair price to do our elevator work. It was found that elevator companies are very expensive. The board did some checking with elevator companies around the Milwaukee and Fox Valley area. We found that they were more expensive than our current provider because of increased travel distance and that resulted in higher travel expense. The whole cost situation is not in our favor. There is no such word as reasonable or fair when it comes to cost of labor with these companies who come to our facility to do repair work on our elevators.

The organ tuning work is still in progress by Jack Breedis whom we contracted to repair the musical instrument. Some of the organ pieces have been taken to his shop in Green Bay for work there. Jack is re-leathering all valve seats and applying the magic he does to an organ to make it sound and work good. It is not clear when he will be finished. ***It was noted during the discussion that a key has been given to Mr. Breedis so he can enter the building and work on the organ without having to contact someone.***

The stage at fellowship hall has been nicely redone with newly constructed walls and a fresh paint job.

An electrical upgrade at the kitchen service windows has been added. You will find electrical receptacles under each window frame for electricity to supply food warmers and preparation devices. This electrical improvement will be very beneficial, convenient, and ease of food preparation to those using the Fellowship Hall.

Gretz Carpentry was recently at the parsonage to install a ventilation system above the kitchen stove and microwave oven. It is hoped that this installation will eliminate some of the moisture problems that have been experienced inside the building.

O LORD, One can see that there are a variety of situations that the property board faces. We experience daily maintenance issues. May we orchestrate the repairs of breakage that are unpredictable. We face the challenge of planning property board goals we would like to see accomplished and then plant the seed of action. Once those projects sprout we can watch them grow and then experience that satisfaction of

harvest once they are completed. We then carefully point our mission in the right direction and set sail toward the planned giving table to accomplish more of those goals. Since the ideas of our fore fathers were scratched on a piece of paper in the year 1945, to the laying of the corner stone of the church in 1951. Your "HARD WORKING" property board has been placing our best step forward in laying the groundwork in keeping your sixty-four year Immanuel Lutheran Church building in good repair.

5. Evangelism: There was no formal report. The Easter Postcards were sent out and the results of that effort will be reviewed in the next meeting. A meeting is tentatively scheduled in the upcoming week.
6. Committee Reports
 - a. Anniversary: See Elder's Report.
 - b. Audio/Visual: No report.
 - c. Athletic: The Time and Talent event is tentatively scheduled for November 1st.
7. Treasurer's Report: The President presented the report. There was some discussion on the organ funding. The other main discussion was concerning a shortfall in the adult envelope category. Congregational offerings are short of past history.

All reports were approved.

F. Unfinished Business.

1. Organ Work /Cost. This was discussed during the Property Board Report. The President pointed out that we still need approximately \$8,000.00 to pay off the bill.

G. Recommendations of the Church Council and New Business.

1. Review Board Mission Statements / Goals. The President presented them to the voters (They were attached to the agendas.) and asked them to review and comment in the future. Members were encouraged to speak to the board chairman.
2. Approve Planned Giving Table. It was discussed that a better format could be generated. Lou Richard recommended placing all capital improvement items under a header labeled Capital Improvements. The individual items can still be listed under that category. The voters approved this idea.
3. Guest Pastor (s). The President presented the idea that we should have more guest pastors for the purpose of freeing up time for Pastor to do visitations with inactive members. A motion was made to continue movement on this idea and to generate a plan of action (Elders for action.) and present it to the voters. The motion was approved. The target start of this plan would be 2016.
4. Red Cross Blood Drive (June 3rd). This was presented for the information of the voters. The President asked that the congregation make a greater effort to turn out for this event and donate blood.

H. Elections/Ratification of Appointments. None.

I. Adjournment with Prayer. Time: 1140

Glenn M. Brunner
Acting Secretary