

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Congregational Meeting

May 21, 2017

**Agenda**

10:15 a.m.     Worship

11:30 a.m.     Call to Order and Devotions

Action Items

Election of Church Council Members

Reports

Pastor's Report and Statistical Summary

Evangelism

Nomination Committee ( to be submitted later)

Learning Ministry

Property

Social Ministry

Stewardship and Finance

Worship and Music

Task Force - Partners for Sacred Places (PSP)

Adjournment and Closing Prayer



# Pastors Report

2016-2017

This past year at Emmanuel saw significant developments in our ministry. From my perspective I see God's gracious hand in directing and supporting our ministries of worship, service and learning in our community.

Our worship of God is central to the life our congregation and it is for the life of the Church as a whole. Without the regular gathering to hear God's Word, partake of God's Holy Communion, and our prayers of thanksgiving, praise and intercession, we would cease to be the church. Everything else we do; whether it's serving those in need, studying and teaching the Word to young and old alike, or sharing the Good News, flows out of and finds its source in worship. This year our new Director of Music, Pam Drenner, has continued to develop in her role, finding the "stride" in leading our musical prayer and praise of God, as well as helping the choir to lead us in that capacity. We have always had a strong musical tradition here at Emmanuel, much stronger than many congregations of similar size. Pam has continued in that tradition even as she broadens and expands the musical offerings during worship.

Our ministries of service seek to meet the needs of those in our community and throughout the world. This past year our School Kits and Personal Care Kits found their way to refugee camps in Jordan and Georgia (the Asian country not the U.S state!). We collect food for the Lancaster County Council of Churches Food Hub, we serve several times a year at the Community Meal. But what you might not know are the many ways members of Emmanuel volunteer their own time in service to others. Volunteering at Hospice or the Food Bank, the hospital or one of the nursing homes are also ways the love of Christ is extended. I am always amazed and humbled and grateful when I hear stories of Emmanuel members serving in the community. It says to me that the church's ministry doesn't always need a program; all it really needs are disciples of Jesus willing to put themselves at service to those in need.

Our relationship with the refugee community continues to grow. We are perceived as a place of welcome and hospitality to the community. The Migrant Education Program at Millersville University, the Refugee Center at Reynolds Middle School, the Bhutanese Community Development Committee, Bethany Christian Refugee Services, and the Act for Humanity Foundation all make use of our facilities. Over the past couple of years we have hosted four weddings for Nepali refugees; two Christian and two Hindu. I am pleased that this congregation takes seriously our Lord's call to welcome the stranger and provide for them in their time of need.

Our new parish secretary, Jan Longenecker, brings to our church office a fresh perspective on our "product" of bulletins, newsletters, publicity, etc. I am pleased and thankful for her work with us so far.

This past year has also been a time of personal transition for myself and my family. I have said it before, but it bears repeating: thank you for all your prayers, support and love during the time of my parents' illness and my father's death. I have come to know in a deeper and more personal way the importance of being ministered to during a time of need.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Kurt S. Strause

## Statistical Report

2016

	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Membership 1/1/2016	355	266
Added		
Baptism	1	0
Transfer	0	0
Confirmation	0	0
Affirmation	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Added	1	0
Removed		
Death	4	4
Transfer	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Removed	4	4
Membership 12/31/2016	352	263

### Pastoral Acts

Baptism	1	
Weddings	0	
Funerals	8	(4 non-member)

Avg. Worship Attendance (Sundays): 69                      2015: 74

Avg. Sunday School Attendance: 18                      2015: 19

## Evangelism Committee Report

Tuesday evening the second week of August was Neighborhood Night Out and an opportunity to meet our Pine and Walnut Street neighbors. Emmanuel supplied folding chairs and tables.

Diane and George attended a Parish Resource Center workshop on Monday evening April 24 with a group of twelve leaders from various denominations. The topic was "Take Out Church", a theme symbolized by the cardboard boxes (think pizza) that when filled with games, children's activities, and reminders of Sunday worship, travel with a family that might be away for a week on vacation. The goal is to maintain spiritual connections with families over the Summer. We came away with two boxes filled with stuff and some ideas from the other workshop participants.

Within the scope of childhood ministry, Diane and I mentioned our children's sermon and Spark methods to the group.

The acolyte's role was discussed. Even though not part of every church's liturgy, all recognized it as symbolically bringing the light of Christ into our presence. Equally important is the taking of His light into the world as we leave, and this could be symbolized by children recessing with small decorative lights.

George Ehemann

## Learning Ministry Committee Report

**Christian Education:** Primary Student, Youth, and Adult Sunday School classes meet September through May. SPARK pull out for children during part of the worship service is offered year around. Wednesday Morning Bible Study lead by Pastor Strause meets Wednesday mornings during the School year. Sunday School offering for the fall semester was sent to The ELCA Good Gifts Micro Loans for Women program, and the spring semester offering recipient is the Refuge Center at Reynolds Middle School, Lancaster.

**Confirmation:** Tommy Hockenberry has completed confirmation classes and will be confirmed in the near future.

**Youth:** The youth of Emmanuel participated in Crop Walk, Super Bowl of Caring, went to the Sky Zone, and helped prepare food for community meals. One Sunday a month there is a Youth Breakfast hosted by a variety of members of the congregation. The July 2016 Youth Mission Trip was to Lynn, MA outside Boston, and this summer the Mission Trip will be to Jamaica in Queens, NY.

**Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central PA:** One child from Emmanuel attended summer camp last year. This summer we are offering a \$200 scholarship per child who attends.

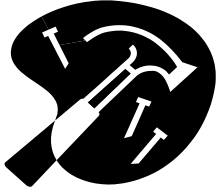
**Cradle Roll:** Materials from Augsburg Fortress are mailed to families with children from birth to 3 years of age.

**Special Events:** A *Reformation Sunday Potluck* following worship was held in October. A *Martin Luther Book Fair* offered the congregation opportunity to peruse and order books for readers of all ages about Martin Luther. A *Micro Loan Market* offering food items and Christmas stocking gifts was held the first 3 Sundays of December to highlight and raise money for the ELCA Good Gifts Micro Loans for Women - a program that provides micro loans to help women in developing countries around the world. A *Soup & Games Event* was held in February. *First Sunday Coffee* is held following worship on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday each month as an opportunity for social interaction.

The Learning Ministry Committee continues to appreciate the time and effort contributed by the many individuals who teach, chaperone, give time, provide food, or help in any way with these opportunities to learn, grow and share our faith.

Special appreciation and thanks to Learning Ministry Committee members Lisa Nissly, Shree Shrom, Lois Strause, and to Mary Kay Mulcahy.

Margaret Thomsen,  
Learning Ministry Committee Chair



## Property Committee Annual Report

The Property Committee is responsible for the general maintenance and improvement of the buildings and grounds of Emmanuel Lutheran Church. This includes the main Sanctuary, Chapel and Education Buildings, the Parish House and office and all surrounding property. The annual operating budget is established and monitored by the Property Committee. The committee is also responsible to assign and review the duties of the Church Sexton.

The total Property Expense Budget for 2016 was \$ 36,300. This budget is used to pay for utilities, supplies, services, property insurance, property tax (apartment) and minor repairs. Total property operating expenses incurred in 2016 were \$ 31,499. Our highest annual expenditures continue to be for heating and lighting. The budget amount for utilities in 2016 was \$ 19,600 (54% of our total budget). Our total expense for utilities in 2016 came in under budget by \$ 4,780 at \$ 14,820. This is primarily the result of the mild winter and the continued benefits of heating the main church with natural gas (the new boiler was installed in December 2014).

The Property Improvement Fund (PIF) is used to finance major maintenance and improvements to the church buildings and property. These needs are typically outside the normal scope of the annual Property Expense Budget funding. The following expenditures were made from the Property Improvement Fund during 2016.

<b>PIF Balance as of 1/1/2016</b>			<b>\$ 7,817</b>
<b>Income from congregation pledges and offerings</b>			\$ 22,677
<b>Property Insurance Claim - roofing damage 2015 snow storm</b>			\$ 5,555
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
<b>1. Roofing Repairs - main church incl. snow storm damage</b>		\$ (8,651)	
<b>2. Electrical Repairs</b>		\$ (2,424)	
<b>3. Heating System Repairs</b>		\$ (1,764)	
<b>4. Misc.</b>		\$ (860)	
<b>Total Expenses</b>			<b>\$(13,699)</b>
<b>PIF Balance as of 12/31/2016</b>			<b>\$22,350</b>

So far this year, we have had only minor expenditures from PIF. The PIF fund balance as of 4/27/2017 was \$27,318

Ongoing issues that we plan to address in 2017 include:

- Exterior –contract is signed to replace the deteriorating siding at the rear (south wall) of the main church building. Commitment is \$ 25,736 with work to begin in July.
- Problem solve deterioration of decorative plaster at NE corner of Nave ceiling
- Add a hand railing to the Altar area
- Advise to focus group considering church building space utilization

Special Thanks to:

- The congregation of Emmanuel for their continued generous giving to the Property Improvement Fund.
- The committee members and others who have committed their personal time to help maintain our building and property.
- Bill Hannegan for continued snow removal, grass cutting and excellent landscaping services.

Committee Members: Pastor Kurt Strause, Frank Lynn (Chairperson), Steve Volker, Andy Nissly, Tom Mills, George Ehemann, Bob Miller, Chris Shrom, Tim Smith

Respectfully submitted:  
Frank Lynn

## **Social Ministry**

Social Ministry has continued to support the mission of the church through a variety of ministries in 2016. These ministries involved both outreach to the community and ongoing congregational ministries. Social Ministry highlights included:

### **Lancaster County Council of Churches Community Meal Program-**

Four times this year we provided meals at East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church. This year our numbers slightly increased, as we served an average of 165 people at each meal. Social Ministry has committed to 4 meals again in 2017.

**LWR & Ingathering-** Again utilizing the ELCA/LWR Baskets of Promise theme, during Lent we gathered items to complete 45 Personal Care Kits and on Ingathering Sunday in October, we gathered items to complete 100 School Kits.

**White Gift Offering-**With this offering we were able to provide money for the purchase of Christmas gifts for Luthercare residents and purchase the fruit and jelly items for fruit baskets for our octogenarian members.

**Conestoga View Christmas Gifts-**Christmas gifts were provided for 12 residents at the county nursing home.

**Fruit Baskets-** 25 fruit baskets were assembled for our octogenarian church members. Three additional fruit baskets were given to our church staff.

**Food Bank-**Needed food and other items have been collected through out the year for Saint John's Food Pantry and the Lancaster County Council of Churches.

**Harvest of Hope-** Free will offerings support the ELCA World Hunger Appeal by sharing the bounty from our gardens.

**Miscellaneous Ministries-** providing devotional booklets and calendars for shut-in members; seed money for Reynolds Jr. High PTO Boot Fund to provide winter footwear for students in need.

Thank you to all who have given their time, talent and treasure in support of our mission to serve others.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Barrett

## Stewardship and Finance Committee

The committee met four times during 2016. Members of the Stewardship and finance Committee include: Diane Ehemann, Mark Moffett, Paul Smith and Pastor Kurt Stause.

A very special “thank you” to Diane Ehemann who serves as Treasurer and to Pastor Strause for preparing the reports and compiling the budget for the next year. I would also like to thank the members of Emmanuel who count the offerings at the bank each week. They include: JoAnn Alexander, Bonnie Allman, Marie Brubaker, Judy Deichert, George and Diane Ehemann, Anne Lefever and Paul Smith. Thanks also to Betsy Weidler, who substituted several times throughout the year.

While our pledges for the General Fund are lower for 2017 in the amount of \$24,135, our actual income through the month of April 2017, is ahead of last year by \$4,882. We will have 53 weeks of income this year, as opposed to 52 weeks on a “normal” year, because 2017 has 53 Sundays.

Property Improvement Fund pledges are higher than those of last year by \$646, and at the end of April our receipts for Property Improvement are slightly behind those of last year by \$678. Our support of the Property Improvement Fund enables the Property committee to keep our buildings and facilities in good condition, and keeps us from having to make too many Capital Improvement campaigns.

The committee prepared a budget for 2017 in the amount of \$178,358, which was approved at the congregational meeting held January 22, 2017. Utility costs, one of our major expenses, are projected to be lower than last year by \$710. Health insurance costs are slightly higher than those of last year by \$423. Staff members received a pay increase of 2%, although the total amount for the secretary and sexton are slightly lower than those of last year by \$890 total due to reduced hours for both positions.

The church council entered into an arrangement with Partners for Sacred Places, which will help us to rent our rooms and spaces in the church to organizations within the community. Although we have not received an invoice for their services to date. It is expected to be approximately \$14,000, which will come from the planned distribution from the Endowment Fund proceeds for the year 2016.

The records of the Treasurer and Financial Secretary were audited by Pamela J. Bazella, CPA, of the firm Bazella, Combrwoski and Company, CPA. If you would like a complete copy of the report, please see Pastor Strause or myself.

Sincere thanks to all those who continue to support the mission of Emmanuel Lutheran Church to proclaim the Gospel to all the world.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Moffett, Chairperson  
Stewardship and Finance Committee

## Worship and Music Committee

**Committee Members:** Roger Strause, Chairman; Kurt Strause, Pastor; Rein Mutso, Diane Ehemann, Secretary; Marie Brubaker, Ellen Jetto, Pam Drenner

### Report

Our Music Director, Pamela Drenner, lead the congregation and choir in musical liturgy.

The youth of the congregation assisted in the worship by being Assistant Organists this year.



In addition to regular services, Pam organized and held hymn sing- a-longs at 551 West. Music and libations were enjoyed by all in attendance.

The committee oversaw the decorating of the church during the changing seasons and sponsored the Advent Workshop.

I would like to thank the Committee and Sub Committees for working hard and providing us with a meaningful worship environment.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Strause

## **Partners for Sacred Places (PSP) Task Force Update**

Committee Members: Karen Jordan, Tim Smith, Tom Santosusso, Marilyn Soutner, Keith Frey, Lori Hockenberry

Summary: Last Fall, Partners for Sacred Places gave us a review of their findings and some recommendations. At the suggestion of PSP, the Task Force shifted its focus from facilitating the work done in collaboration with PSP to determining how to move forward with the recommendations outlined in their report.

We discussed various ways of getting the word out that we have space available for sharing. We decided to update our website, thanks to Karen Jordan and Bill Hannegan, to include pictures and descriptions of the various spaces. Bill also put together our church's "story", which was added to the website.

We talked about using a commercial realtor, which PSP thought was a good and viable option. We contacted NAI Commercial Realtors. They could provide us with more exposure than we could on our own and there was no fee for them to market our space. They would only be paid should space be rented.

With Council's unanimous vote, we decided to engage in a six month agreement with NAI. We agreed that should space be rented, NAI would be paid six percent of the income stream we would derive and it would be paid annually. The Property Committee determined our cost per square foot and we worked with NAI to determine potential lease rates. NAI identified four separate leasable units, which are the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the education building, Sieger Chapel by itself and the area below Sieger Chapel, including the big kitchen.

At NAI's recommendation, we did a walk-through of our property with Walt Siderio, Lancaster city's zoning officer. He told us what was permissive zoning and what may not be, but that each situation was different and that we should contact him when we have a potential tenant.

The Task Force identified two concerns as we considered leasing space to tenants. One was the electrical wiring of the education building and the other was the security of areas of the church property that we don't want tenants having access to. The Property Committee had an electrician look over the space for rent and he determined that there was no need for a total rewiring of the education building. He said that we should consider upgrades/changes based on a prospective tenant's needs. The Property Committee also put together a comprehensive plan involving a locksmith to secure the sanctuary and the under croft when the need arises.

Since engaging NAI, we have had many interested parties, ranging from start- up congregations to Milagro House and the Literacy Council of Lancaster.

