

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Congregational Meeting

May 19, 2019

Agenda

10:15 a.m. Worship

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

Action Items

Election of Church Council Members

To engage in a two-year fund-raising campaign for roof and masonry repairs to the chapel and main church bell tower.

Reports

Pastor's Report and Statistical Summary

Evangelism

Nomination Committee

Learning Ministry

Property

Social Ministry

Stewardship and Finance

Worship and Music

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Pastor's Report

2018-2019

May, 2019

The ministry of pastor serves to proclaim the Word of God in public worship, to train and equip the saints of God as they serve in the world, to be the “public face” of the congregation in the community, and to minister to the needs of both members and others during times of joy, sorrow, and significant life-transitions. This description of the role of pastor is rooted in scripture and spelled out in detail in the constitution and official documents of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as our local constitution.

The reports you read in this bulletin of reports also reveal how I see my ministry at Emmanuel. I help, support, and work with leaders in the various ministries we all undertake together. I teach the Word, but I am not the only teacher. I reach out to the community in mission, but others do so as well. I try to reflect Christ in the community, but I know many in our congregation also reflect the love of Christ in their own lives and own contexts. I minister by visiting the sick and comforting with God's promises those who mourn, but many others visit and comfort as well. While pastors are leaders in congregations, I have always believed that pastors lead by walking alongside those who are also called to love God and love their neighbors as themselves.

We also face significant challenges at Emmanuel. The city continues to change rapidly in demographics of age, income, race, and culture. The place of traditional main-line Protestant religion within American society is also changing. While there are signs of some growth in our congregation, especially early in 2019 which aren't reflected in last year's statistics, we are a smaller congregation worshipping in an aging building. The proposed fund-raising appeal for much needed roof repairs is just one small indication of what we face. Increasingly our resources are diverted to “bricks and mortar” which means we have less available for other mission and ministry. Our hope had been by this time we might have partnered with other organizations or churches that produced some much needed income. While there have been some modest gains in that area, it remains very small compared to our over-all expenses.

Nevertheless, God is good, all the time. The spirit remains strong at Emmanuel. I believe strongly that God is very much at work here. We are very willing to serve our neighbor, give of our resources, support those in need. We hold fast to the traditions of Lutheran worship and hymnody while remaining open to the world around us. I sense a real joy when we gather for worship and fellowship, in learning and service.

It is a personal joy and privilege for me to serve as your pastor at Emmanuel. The support you show to me and my family is appreciated beyond words. I want to thank all those in leadership who work beside me as we seek to serve God in this community, but especially our council president Deb Barrett, treasurer Diane Ehemann, financial secretary Mark Moffett, and our church secretary Jan Longenecker.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Kurt S. Strause

**Statistical Report
2018**

	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Membership 1/1/2018	346	257
Added		
Baptism	1	0
Transfer	0	0
Confirmation	0	1
Affirmation	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Added	1	1
Removed		
Death	3	3
Transfer	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Removed	3	3
Membership 12/31/2018	347	258

Pastoral Acts

Baptism 1
 Weddings 3
 Funerals 4 (1 non-member)

Avg. Worship Attendance (Sundays): 61 2018: 62
 Avg. Sunday School Attendance: 17 2018: 17

Evangelism Committee Report

Early in the week before Christmas, neighborhood invitations to our Christmas Eve service were hung on the door-knobs of Pine and Walnut Streets within one block of the church (100 homes). The Service was well attended, and neighbors who came expressed thanks and appreciation.

An Evening Program with Brian McClaren will be attended 7 p.m. to 8:30 Saturday April 27 at Highland. At least one member of the Evangelism committee will go and hear McClaren speak about "being church" in a divided America. The event is sponsored by the Parish Resource Center.

Respectfully,
George Ehemann

Nominating Committee Report

Nominated for serving a three-year term on Church Council:

Karl Soutner, first term

Tim Smith, first term

Our thanks to Nancy Lynn and Lori Hockenberry who have completed serving two three-year terms on Church Council.

Respectfully submitted,
The Executive Committee, serving as the Nominating Committee

Learning Ministry Committee Report

Committee Members: Lisa Nissly, Shree Shrom, Mary Kay Mulcahy, Lois Strause, Margaret Thomsen

Faith development aspects of Learning Ministry were:

- Sunday School for adults, youth and primary grades
- Confirmation instruction
- SPARK for children during church service
- Wednesday Morning Bible Study
- Youth Mission Trip
- SPLASH materials mailed for ages 0-3
- Lutheran Camping

Congregational fellowship included:

- Youth activities
- Guttenburg Gabs Book Study
- 1st Sunday Coffee
- Making cards for Emmanuel's homebound and shut-ins
- Congregation social events: Reformation Sunday German potluck meal and February Sweet & Savory Pies lunch.

The Learning Ministry Committee appreciates the support of the congregation and is grateful for the guidance provided by Pastor Strause.

Respectfully submitted by
Margaret Thomsen, Committee Chair

Property Committee 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 Property Expense 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 2018 was \$ 35,270. This budget is used to pay for utilities, supplies, services, property insurance, property tax (apartment) and minor repairs. Total property expenses incurred in 2018 were \$37,599 and over budget by \$2,329. Higher expenses (than budget) were incurred to pay for utilities and property tax in 2018.

The Property Improvement Fund (PIF) is available through annual pledges from the Congregation. It is used to finance all 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 from 4/1/2018 to 3/31/2019.

PIF Balance as of 3/31/2018				\$41,850
Income from Congregational Pledges and Offering				\$21,671
Expenditures:	Contractor			
1. Roofing - rear siding and wall caps	CJ Diirner	\$26,401		
- gutter guard on Parish House	Shrom Cont.	\$1,235		
2. Heating System - maintenance and repairs	JK Mech.	\$4,728		
	Clark Mech.	\$1,182		
	Kline's	\$385		
3. Flooring - fireside room and men's bathroom	Indoor City	\$7,686		
4. WiFi - install new system in church	Heritage Com.	\$5,442		
5. Hot Water Tank - new tank and wall repairs	Handyman Harris	\$2,351		
6. Lighting - repairs security and fireside room	Lancaster Elect.	\$2,096		
7. Plumbing - new toilets in children's bathrooms	JK Mech.	\$1,595		
8. Other - misc.		\$987		
Total Expenditures				\$54,088
PIF Balance as of 3/31/2019				\$9,433

Unanticipated expenses related to our heating system and plumbing issues have depleted our PIF funding and jeopardized our plan to address an actively leaking roof in the Chapel Building. We anticipate a special appeal to the congregation that will allow us to continue this work and allow PIF funds to recover for other needs such as interior plaster repairs in the main tower, narthex and sanctuary. See attached documentation.

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 landscaping services.

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

Respectfully submitted: Frank Lynn

Social Ministry Committee Report

Social Ministry has continued to support the mission of the church through a variety of ministries in 2019. These ministries involved both outreach to the community and ongoing congregational ministries. Social Ministry highlights included:

Lancaster County Food Hub, *Serving with Faith and Compassion*-(Formerly known as, **Lancaster County Council of Churches Community Meal Program**)-Four times this year we provided meals at East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church. This year the number of meals served decreased from last year, with serving an average of 130 people at each meal. Social Ministry has committed to 4 meals again in 2020.

LWR & Ingathering- Again utilizing the ELCA/LWR Baskets of Promise theme, during Lent we gathered items to complete 70+ Personal Care Kits and on Ingathering Sunday in October, we gathered items to complete 87 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 not provided for residents at the county nursing home in 2018.

Fruit Baskets- 20 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 the Lancaster County Food Hub.

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.

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 Report

Sincere thanks go to Diane Ehemann who serves as Treasurer and Pastor Strause for preparing the budget for the next year. I would like to also thank the members of Emmanuel who count the money at the Fulton Bank each week. They include: bonnie Allman, Fay Binkley, Marie Brubaker, Judy Deichert, George and Diane Ehemann, Sharon Styer, Margaret Thomsen, and Steve Volker. I would also like to offer a “thank you and job well done” to Dan Smith, who retired from the counting team in the fall of 2018.

As you may recall, we ended the year 2018 with a balanced budget with regards to income vs. expenses. We were actually behind \$306.02, but when that information was published, we received a donation in exactly that amount to allow us to finish the year with a zero balance in income vs. expenses. Included in our total income was a distribution of \$3,400 from the Endowment Fund.

Stewardship and Finance Committee Report cont.

A budget for 2019 was submitted to the church council in the amount of \$179,703, which was approved at the congregational meeting on January 27, 2019. The budget is almost the same as for 2018 (higher by \$1,446). Utility costs are somewhat higher in 2018 than they were for 2017, and will continue to be higher due to the increased use of the buildings by other organizations. Rental fees and donations from those groups will help offset the increased costs.

We finally received the invoice from Partners for Sacred Places, the organization we contracted with to help market our building space and renting them to other organizations. The amount of the bill was \$9,500, and payment will be made in the near future.

The Church Council approved the request from the Property committee that we engage in a fund-raising campaign called "Raise the Roof" to help pay for major improvements needed to our building. It will cost approximately \$60,000 to pay for the necessary repairs. Details are being planned by the Stewardship and finance Committee and Pastor Strause. It is expected to be a two-year campaign.

The records of the Treasurer and Financial Secretary for the year 2017 were audited by Pamela J. Bazella, CPA, of the firm Bazella, Dombrowski and Company, CPA. The report is included with this booklet of reports.

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

Submitted,
Mark Moffett, Financial Secretary
Stewardship and Finance Committee

Worship and Music Committee Report

Committee Members: Roger Strause, Chairman, Kurt Strause, Pastor, Rein Mutso, Diane Ehemann, Secretary, Marie Brubaker, Ellen Jetto, Valerie LeFever Hughes

Report

Our Music Director, Valerie LeFever Hughes, lead the congregation and choir in musical liturgy throughout the year.

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

