

Emmanuel Lutheran Church—York, Nebraska
Voters' Assembly Meeting
Monday, April 15, 2019

The Voters' Assembly of Emmanuel Lutheran Church convened Monday, April 15, 2019, at 7:07 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Richard Kant, President of the congregation with opening prayer by Pastor Ben Kaiser. Members registered their attendance by signing in at the door; quorum was met to conduct business.

The minutes of the January 21, 2019, Voters' Assembly meeting were reviewed; motion to accept the minutes was made by Paul Hubert, motion seconded by Garold Leggott. Motion carried by vote of the Assembly.

Request for approved Assembly members to be admitted by signing of the Constitution was made with none in attendance. A request was made for nomination of new members to be added to the Assembly with none presented.

The report of the Church Council was presented by Richard Kant in the absence of the Council Chairman. Items of business included the approval of disbursement of 2018 accrued interest from the Endowment Fund for scholarship awards. Recommended scholarship awardees attending LCMS synodical colleges or universities included Kirsten Wagner, Dylan Rahder, Wyatt Ehlers, Lauren Kaliff, Justin Bangert, Mark Gaschler, and Camille Bolte. Motion for approval was made by Richard Kant, motion seconded by Charlie Moore; motion carried by vote of the Assembly. A second request for disbursement of \$500 from the interest accrued by the Endowment Fund was presented for the purchase of semi-circular tables for the Sunday School nursery school classrooms was made via motion by Kant, seconded by Kolby Mason; motion carried by vote of the Assembly.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Garold Leggott in representation of Congregational Treasurer, Rob Schardt. The balance sheet, profit/loss report, and profit/loss comparison reports were presented. Leggott reported that an increase in giving is necessary to pay off the accumulating debt. Leggott noted that the current debt load of \$220,000 is nearly \$115,000 higher than one year ago. Motion to approve the financial reports was made by Arnie Otten and seconded by Ryan Koch; motion carried by vote of the Assembly.

Charlie Moore delivered the report of the Board of Elders. Transferring in to the congregation was Mark Gaschler from St. John's Lutheran in Scottsbluff, NE, who will be attending Concordia Theological Seminary at Fort Wayne, IN, this year. Accepted into membership by profession of faith were Tiffany Bittner and Ashley Luethje. Joining in communicant membership through adult confirmation were Dawn Sloan and Brandon Travis. Ms. Sloan and grandson, Maddox Robinson, were baptized April 14. With a member wedding of Ben Blum and Tiffany Bittner held March 23 at Faith Lutheran Church, three total weddings were held in that congregation during the renovation project. Use of the facilities at Faith was paid by Emmanuel on behalf of the couples. Funerals were held and broadcast via LiveStream for Lois Hoeft and Wanda Wimer in the Fellowship Hall in March. Lenten services and Sunday services were also broadcast via LiveStream using a portable video system to continue to provide worship outreach for those unable to worship in person. Moore noted that the Pastors have discontinued conducting worship services at Mahoney House assisted living facility since only one member of Emmanuel resides there at this time, but do continue to make regular visits to that member. Elders continue to distribute communion at the Willow Brook assisted living facility during their participation in LiveStream services. Moore reiterated the selection of scholarship recipients awarding scholarships to Kirsten Wagner, Dylan Rahder, Lauren Kaliff, Wyatt Ehlers, Justin Bangert, Mark Gaschler, and Camille Bolte. Many of the historical meeting notes for the Board of Elders, Church Council, and Voters Assembly have been digitized by Bill Bolte to make the documents more

accessible and reduce the amount of stored paper. The Board has discussed what amount of church involvement defines active membership with the goal to improve attendance; this is intended to align with the School Board and Faith Lutheran in which representation from the Board of Elders attended a joint meeting to discuss the topic. The Board of Elders has discussed taking the next steps to follow up with the Greg Finke program presented at Emmanuel in September 2018. Confirmation will be held Sunday, May 5th, at 10:00 a.m., with the witness paper ceremony held prior to that on Wednesday, May 1st. The congregation is invited and encouraged to attend either or both in support of the confirmands as they step forward in their faith. The Elders are eagerly anticipating the completion of the renovation project and the resumption of services in the sanctuary. The Board encourages prayer that God will be glorified as we worship Him in all the services this Holy Week.

Brad Wellmann presented the report of the School Board and the Principal's report. ALICE training has been completed by most of those assigned with just six individuals remaining to complete the active-shooter training course. Inspection of the school kitchen in March demonstrated that the kitchen was in compliance with regulations and that the surveyor was impressed with the quality of the food being prepared, noting that not many schools offer menus prepared from scratch. The School Board has evaluated offering Direct Deposit of payroll to teachers at the school. Those desiring to take advantage of the program will pay the one-time fee of \$25 to set up the service. The school musical and dinner theater, "The Mystery of Montley Manor," was presented by the Sixth- through Eighth-grade classes in the school gymnasium on April 12th, with 200 in attendance. The activities banquet will be held April 26th to recognize the achievements of students in the school. The final day of the 2018-19 school year will be May 15th with Closing Service that evening. All are welcome and invited to attend.

Kolby Mason presented the report of the Board of Trustees. Romans and Wiemer accounting firm was released of its bookkeeping duties for the Congregation. Barb Fehringer has assumed the duties and allows for a more transparent presentation of the books. Mason shared that the renovation project is proceeding well, but there are no firm guarantees at this time whether it will be completed before Easter. Mason reported that a number of repairs will be required for the school kitchen including replacement of the flooring, removal and reinstallation of the equipment and for the replacement, installation of a stainless-steel backsplash, replacement of the sump sink, refinishing of the ceiling and repainting of all other surfaces. Estimated cost for the renovation is approximately \$20,000 with hopes of some funding contribution from the kitchen's funds and the remainder from undesignated memorials as approved by Church Council. Rasmussen company will begin the heating and cooling air unit replacement on May 16th once school is dismissed for the year, anticipating completion by the end of June. Mason reported that Kelli Kaiser and Karla Ott have been completing a review of the facility insurance policies which has raised questions of who is covering the contents of the pre-school whether it is Emmanuel-Faith School or Faith Lutheran Church. A letter has been drafted to the Faith Lutheran congregation to address this question.

Arnie Otten presented the report of the Board of Stewardship, sharing that the Board is examining ideas to level expenses while retiring debt. The Board is focusing on suggesting that members of the Congregation consider a thank offering in recognition of the blessings that have been bestowed upon the Congregation, over a three-year commitment. A letter is being drafted asking for an increase in giving in offering.

The report of the Board of Evangelism and Outreach was presented by Dan Stork, noting that the Board held a Spaghetti Dinner in February with funds going to the York Crisis Pregnancy Center. The Board also held a family movie night in January. The Board is planning an open-house of the newly-renovated facility for the public. An "Art of Marriage" retreat is being planned for June, that will be led by Ruth Kowalski. The Board is also working to promote member involvement throughout the community through outreach activity at community events to help bring more people into the Church, including providing treats at the ball fields

Pastor Kaiser presented on behalf of the Board of Youth that ELY will be hosting its annual Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday and the Senior class will be recognized in the 8:00 a.m. service and with a breakfast on April 28th that is open to all members of the Congregation. Pizza night to welcome back ELY and YFJ following Lent is planned for April 24th. A year-end outing is scheduled for May 8th at Recharge Lake. Four youth will be attending the National Youth Gathering in July; youth are selling custom-painted ceiling tiles removed from the sanctuary to raise additional funds for the trip. The Board is engaged in a study "Living the Sanctified Life," examining how Board members can and are connecting regularly with the youth of the Congregation to promote growth and Christian maturity.

Pastor Neidow reported on behalf of the Board of Christian Nurture, indicating that Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 22 – 26 and asked for support and items from the congregation for that event. Plans are being developed for the fall to move the intensive portion of Sunday School education for all grades to Wednesday nights, considering also to include study for parents or the possibility of offering meals to support attendance.

The Endowment Committee report was presented by Garold Leggott. The Committee held its annual meeting in February. Aaron Berthold stepped down from the Committee with the appointment of Kelsey Pieper to serve in his place. Leggott shared that interest rates are improving, but feels that they can find better. The Committee is exploring investment options for the Endowment Fund.

Pastor Kaiser reported that Sunday School kick-off is scheduled for August 25th with a presentation on August 24th by Kelly LaRue of the "Five Love Languages of Parenting" to head up the weekend. Pastor Kaiser noted that members residing in Willow Brook commented on how delighted they were to see the addition of new members and baptisms on April 14th. It was noted that the next Adult Instruction class will begin Thursday, May 2nd, to accommodate schedules of those unable to attend a class held on Sunday mornings.

Pastor Neidow recognized the efforts of the Board of Trustees in overseeing the renovation project. He also noted that in being at Emmanuel for 14 years this June, he sees the need for people to reconnect within the congregation.

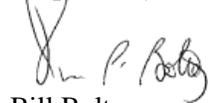
A request for additional old, unfinished, or new business was made by President Kant with no additional business presented.

President Kant informed the Assembly that the Council has been spending a lot of time addressing the debt. Security for the operating note is being provided by Designated funds; once the ceiling is reached, interest rates will increase on future borrowing

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m. in prayer led by Pastor Mike Neidow.

The next meeting of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council will be Monday, September 16, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bill Bolte,
Council Secretary *pro tempore*