

Emmanuel Lutheran Church—York, Nebraska  
Voters' Assembly Meeting  
Monday, January 21, 2019

The Voters' Assembly of Emmanuel Lutheran Church convened Monday, January 21, 2019, at 7:05 p.m. with members registering their attendance by signing-in. A quorum was met, allowing the Assembly to conduct business. The meeting was called to order by President of the Congregation, Richard Kant, with opening prayer by Pastor Ben Kaiser.

The minutes of the November 19, 2018, meeting were reviewed; motion to accept the minutes was made by Garold Leggott, motion seconded by Gaylen Thomsen and carried by vote of the Assembly.

New voting member, Seth Staehr, was welcomed and signed the Constitution.

Council Chair, Clarence Hoffman, brought matters of business of the Council before the Assembly. A proposal made by the Board of Trustees to request funds of \$278,459 from the Eunice Troester fund to replace the antiquated heating and cooling units in the gymnasium and school classrooms and increase overall climate control efficiency of 25-30% was placed before the Assembly. Discussion followed. Motion to approve the proposal was made by Arnie Otten, seconded by Doug Nienhueser; motion carried by vote of the Assembly.

Congregational Treasurer, Rob Schardt, presented the Treasurer's report that included balance sheet, profit/loss report, and profit/loss comparison report.

Charlie Moore delivered the report of the Board of Elders. Membership changes for November and December included transfers out of Cole Robinson to Messiah Lutheran, Lincoln, NE, Dale Staehr to Messiah Lutheran, Lincoln, NE, and LeeAnn McGregor to Faith Lutheran, York, NE. Moore will serve as the Board chair for 2019 with Derek Fenster serving as vice chair and Gaylen Thomsen serving as secretary. The Board welcomes newly-elected Elder, Paul Hubert, to the Board and recognized outgoing Elder, Gene Staehr, for his many years of faithful service to the Congregation. The year-end report was presented with 45 new members to the congregation with 40 departures, yielding a net membership gain of 5 for 2018. 11 new members transferred membership to Emmanuel, 2 joined via profession of faith, 9 joined by adult confirmation, and 23 new members arrived through the waters of baptism. 17 members transferred to other congregations, 4 were released from membership, and 19 members were called to their eternal home. 24 youth were confirmed in their faith on May 6. Pastor Mike and Pastor Ben continue to actively participate in the Leadership Learning Community to develop their leadership skills in their ministry. The Board of Elders is visiting home-bound members, brining the Lord's Supper to those unable to attend weekly worship. Greg Finke with *Dwelling 1:14 Ministries* and author of *Joining Jesus on His Mission* presented a "Kick the Tires" weekend September 14, 15, and 16, to leaders in the congregation, members, and to the public during Sunday worship services. Along with taking next steps with the Dwelling 1:14 program, the Elders are now reporting how Jesus is being seen at work around them. Six scholarships were awarded through the Endowment Fund to students attending Concordia-system institutions. Recipients included Justin Bangert, Cami Bolte, Dylan Rahder, and Kirsten Wagner from Emmanuel and Caleb and Zachary Staehr that are students enrolled in professional church worker programs with a family affiliation to Emmanuel. 2019 scholarship applications will be accepted through March 15, 2019. Two scholarships were awarded through the Roehrs scholarship fund, designated to members of Emmanuel Lutheran Church enrolled in professional church work programs at a Concordia institution. These recipients included Justin Bangert and Cami Bolte. The Board of Elders requested additional disbursement of funds from the Endowment Fund toward the renovation projects of the LCMS-Nebraska District Offices and the University Lutheran Chapel, to the Debt Retirement fund for Professional Church Workers, NACC, Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Facility for

Professional Church Workers, and to underwrite a portion of the costs of the weekly broadcast of The Lutheran Hour on our local radio stations. A tithe from the undesignated funds bequeathed by the Ina Ehlers estate was distributed to four local charitable organizations and ministries to provide aid and assistance to those in need. “Hope Heroes” family grief support group completed its inaugural season with 8 children and 5 adults (mothers and grandmothers) served. 7 members of Emmanuel and Kimberlee Tandy from East Hill volunteered during the 9-week course. Jim Fehringer submitted a very nice letter to the editor of the York News Times on November 14<sup>th</sup>, sharing the importance of awareness of childhood grief leading up to Childhood Grief Awareness Day which was on Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Elders has purchased a portable video system with the use of Memorial funds that is being used to continue to LiveStream worship services during the renovation project and provide a means to run visual enhancements on the TV screens in the Fellowship Hall. The portable system will also have the potential to allow the school to broadcast school programs or sporting events that occur outside the sanctuary. Worship during the sanctuary renovation project is being held in the Fellowship Hall. The Elders are trying to work with the engineers at the radio station to help relocate our transmitter unit during the renovation project. Elders are now visiting Willow Brook on Communion Sundays to distribute the Sacrament to the resident member and Lutheran guests there during the LiveStream broadcast of Emmanuel’s worship services. A concern regarding acoustic integrity of the sanctuary following the renovation project was shared with the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees has obtained documentation from two engineering firms asserting that there will be no loss of acoustic integrity with the new surfaces on the walls and ceilings.

Penny Jacobsen presented the report of the School Board. ALICE active-shooter training for school faculty and support staff as well as 13 members of the congregation will begin soon. St. John’s Lutheran in Waco will be allowed to have *ex officio* representation on the Board to communicate school business back to their congregation. Jacobsen also reported that under Rule 14 governing school activities, the School Board cannot make decisions pertaining to those activities so the activities will be titled as “church” teams going forward. Jacobsen reported that the girls’ basketball team won the Chad Chapman tournament and that the boys’ basketball team has been involved in several games and tournaments. A new curtain and sound system have been installed on the stage in the gymnasium. After-school programs have been developed this year to provide extensions of learning to students in their areas of interest. Jacobsen reported that Stacy Turnbull will serve as president of the School Board in 2019, Liz Renner will serve as vice president, and Penny Jacobsen will serve as secretary.

Kolby Mason presented the year-end report of the Board of Trustees. With the unexpected death of Mike Eikenhorst, Seth Staehr was hired in March to serve as the school custodian and is doing a fine job. A tree was planted in memory of Mike in April. Door locks and security measures have been put in place for the safety of the congregation with additional security locks installed on doors. Carpet in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms was removed due to premature wear and replaced with an epoxy coating; the rooms were also repainted. Sprinklers were installed in the lawn and landscaping around the facility. Handicap parking areas were newly painted. A new sound system and stage curtain were installed in the gymnasium as well as new LED light fixtures. Funding for the purchase of the sound system and curtain came from money raised at the annual Believe event. Carpeting and new office furniture were installed in the school office. The roof and skylight were repaired. The proposed renderings of the sanctuary renovation project were approved by Voters with renovation beginning in January. An acoustic engineer provided assurance that there will be no compromise of sound integrity in the sanctuary following the renovation. Mason reported that Joel Troester was elected to the Board for a three-year term.

Nathan Beck reported that the Stewardship Board will be chaired in 2019 by Beck with Jim Robertson serving as secretary. The Board is focusing on church debt in meeting operating expenses.

The Board of Evangelism & Outreach report was presented by Pastor Ben Kaiser. Pastor Kaiser reported that the February outreach event will be a free-will pasta dinner on Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, with proceeds benefitting the York Crisis Pregnancy Center. A new adult instruction class will begin February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Kaiser reported on behalf of the Board of Youth that the Board has scheduled a lock-in for 8<sup>th</sup> grade and high school youth on February 1 that will be conducted by students at Concordia University. A second planning meeting is upcoming for parents in preparation for the 2019 National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN.

There was nothing to report from the Board of Christian Nurture.

Garold Leggott presented the Endowment Committee report in which \$160,000 was distributed from the Fund in 2018 of an available \$176,500. The balance in the Endowment fund is approximately \$1,050,000; it is estimated that \$157,500 will be available to pay out for missional activity in 2019. The annual meeting for the Board will be February 13, 2019.

Principal Brad Wellmann reported that the school added a new student in January from York Middle School, bringing the total enrollment to 140 students. Faculty participated in the annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Day professional development program held at York Public Schools. The trustees of the Victor and Rosa Blum foundation have generously agreed to provide \$25,000 toward curriculum development at the school as well as \$5000 to Little Blessings pre-school.

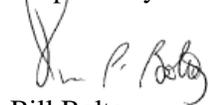
Pastor Kaiser and Pastor Neidow had nothing to report to the Assembly.

A request for additional old or unfinished business was made by Kant. Kolby Mason presented as a matter of report that Doug Nienhueser was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Rick Steever from the Board of Trustees.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m. with a motion of adjournment made by Rob Schardt; seconded by Dave Sjuts. The meeting was closed in prayer led by Pastor Ben Kaiser.

The next meeting of the Emmanuel Lutheran Voters' Assembly will be Monday, April 15, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bill Bolte,  
Secretary *pro tempore*