

Emmanuel Lutheran Church – York, Nebraska

Voters' Assembly Meeting

September 19, 2016

Roll was taken by sign-in. The meeting was called to order by President Arnie Otten at 7:14 p.m. and opened with prayer by Pastor Ben.

Minutes of the July 18, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Two errors were noted: the minutes were incorrectly dated April 18, 2016 and Carsten Staehr did not sign the constitution. A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Gaylen Thomsen and seconded by Greg Staehr. The motion carried.

Minutes from the August 7, 2016 special voters meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve those minutes as printed was made by Dan Stork and seconded by Clarence Hoffman. Motion carried.

New members to the voters' assembly were welcomed. Justin Bangert, Jim Robertson, Carsten Staehr and Rob Schardt signed the constitution.

Dave Sjuts reported for the council that Rob Schardt has been authorized to borrow funds on behalf of the church. The council also authorized Barb Fehringer to serve as assistant to the treasurer and allowed her access to our online banking.

Treasurer Rob Schardt reported that \$15,000 had been borrowed for operating in August and repaid in September. Rob and Barb have been working to streamline the financial reports. They were thanked for making the reports easier to read and understand.

Leroy Ott presented the Elders report. The Elders recommend the following membership changes: Transfer in – Pennie Harms and daughter Simone from Holy Savior Lutheran, Lincoln; Transfer out – Eleanor Moore to Messiah Lutheran, Lincoln; Release of membership – Daryn, Carryna and Greyson Light to McCool Methodist Church, McCool. The equipment is now in place to send the audio from the 10:30 service to KAWL radio over an internet connection that should improve the audio quality. The service can be heard on 1370 AM and also 103.5 FM. The number of people who watch the livestream services is increasing. 103.5 needs to be added to the broadcast list on the church website.

Bruce Wagner reported for the School Board. Mr. Seim left the school on rock solid ground when the baton was passed to Mr. Bangert. We are very blessed to have our current staff, administration and board. There has been nothing but positive feedback from parents and students. Enrollment right now is 160. Thirty new Chromebooks have been purchased to accommodate the increase in enrollment in grades 6-7-8. A second para, Mrs. Brekke, was hired so that Mrs. Regier can help predominantly with the large kindergarten class. The church council approved an allocation of \$8,000 from undesignated memorial funds to cover this unplanned expense.

Mrs. Way submitted a written report for Little Blessings (attached).

Kolby Mason reported for the Trustees that the second floor school bathrooms came in right on budget and look great. Asbestos removal has begun on the annex, but there is no completion date set yet for that project. Please thank Warren Thomas, Grand Central Foods, for his donation of a floor buffer. New carpet has been installed along with a new rug to go under the popcorn machine.

For the Evangelism Board, Pastor Ben reported that the Trunk or Treat outreach event will be held October 31. Eleven new members were received on October 2.

Diane Buss reported that the Board of Youth just started meeting again last week. They are brainstorming ideas to get more youth involved. Upcoming activities include an ELY bonfire and hayrack ride, trunk or treat concessions, November movie night. They are also trying to get adults and students paired up for Bible study, and are working on their wishlist for the Stewardship Board.

For the Board of Christian Nurture, Deb Staehr recapped numbers from summer VBS. It was held July 11-15, from 9 am to noon, with 35 teachers and 126 kids. 59 students registered were from Emmanuel, 27 were from out of town or out of state and 11 with no church affiliation. A big thank you to the teachers, and to the Gerken family for the amazing decorations. Sunday School started for fall on September 11. Attendance is low and it is a struggle to find teachers. The Sunday School Christmas program is scheduled for December 11, at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Bangert presented the principal's report. Current enrollment is at 160 students; Little Blessings has 54 students totaling 214 students from pre-K to grade 8. Volleyball season and staff evaluations have both begun. The transition in administration has gone very well. The new pick-up procedure is working well. School is a week into MAP testing and the new Chromebooks have been very helpful alleviating a time crunch in the computer lab, as they can be used for testing. He is trying to find better ways to utilize funds. November 18th will be the annual school auction at the Holthus Center. Funds raised from the event will go toward resurfacing the school playground and updating the older of the two Little Blessings classrooms. Lutheran Schools Week will be the last week in January. Emmanuel is instituting the Spirit Packs backpack food program. The eighth graders will help pack the backpacks. The program exists for families that don't have enough food over the weekends. On Fridays, kids will take a backpack home stuffed with enough for seven weekend meals. The School Board made the decision with the program coordinators and should be up and running within the next couple weeks. The backpack program is completely free for the school. Ashley Luethje at Cornerstone Bank is the chairman of this project and will accept donations.

Pastor Mike challenged all to become everyday missionaries in our community. A Night in Bethlehem will be presented again, this year on December 17, from 4-8 p.m. Midweek classes have added grades 3 and 4, taught by Kathy Kern, to grades 5 and 6, taught by Mr. Bangert, and grades 7 and 8 taught on a rotation by Pastors Niedow, Kaiser and Trampe. Jessica Wagner has agreed to put together the Christmas cantata (held at Emmanuel) and the Easter cantata (held at Faith).

Clarence Hoffman asked the question, "when was last time you did something for someone you didn't know?" Food for the Poor gave us the opportunity to build a house in Haiti (at a cost of approximately \$3800) with our donations. Clarence made a motion that we take on that challenge with donated funds (not church funds). He will donate the first \$500. The motion was seconded by Gaylen Thomsen and carried. Anyone wanting to contribute should bring that donation to the church so that the funds are directed to the proper place.

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Pastor Mike.

Clarence Hoffman made a motion to adjourn with a second by Gene Staehr. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzie Ellis, Secretary