

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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## VOTERS' MEETING

## MINUTES

**TO:** Stewards of Immanuel Lutheran Church & School  
Ministry Leadership Team  
Board of Directors

**FROM:** Russ Hoppe, Acting Secretary

**MEETING DATE:** Jan 29, 2024 7:00 p.m. (Location – Fellowship Hall)

**CC:** File

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- CALL TO ORDER at 7:00 by Tom Ruff, President
- Opening and Prayer by Pastor Auringer, reading from Psalm 18, Pastor relates us to David who is appealing to God to overcome his enemies. He points us to the Word, which empowers us to do things like David did.

### AGENDA ITEMS

Sept 25, 2023 Voters Meeting Minutes – Review and approval  
Motion to accept as presented by Rod Kumm, Seconded by Dave Rawlings;  
MOTION PASSED

#### Updates

- Tom Ruff reported that BOD nominations will be coming up soon, prayerfully consider serving or recommending someone to serve.
- **Overview statistics of Immanuel – Tom Ruff,**  
Tom presented the updated presentation from last year. Growth is continuing, we are large within LCMS, in terms of people and finances. Baptized membership is 1728, average weekly attendance is 566 for fiscal 2022-2023.
- **The Ministry Clarity process – Pastor Auringer**  
Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is helping us with our mission clarity. The team has identified the Four Pillars at Immanuel, Worship, Learn, Serve, and Connect. They then mapped our current ministries onto the pillars. The next step is to collect input from the congregation, which is the event planned for Feb 7. We need good participation to develop the total plan. Dave Rawlings asked if this process is clergy or lay led? members listed. Pastor Auringer responded that Pastor Keena from LCEF is guiding us through the process as LCEF and he have done this numerous times before with good success.
- **Financial Long Range Planning – Dan Ebert**  
This is a new committee created to work in conjunction with the Long Range Planning Team. It is chaired by Dan Ebert and the members are; Kevin Heneghan, Brian Parker, Carol Waddle, and Pastor Auringer. Our current capital campaign, Overflowing, is winding down this spring. The mortgage payment continues even

though the campaign is ending. Our current loan matures in 2025, and will be renegotiated. At this point we don't know at what interest rate and thus we don't know what the new payment will be. Additionally there are questions about coming expenditures; for example connecting to the new sewer plant. So the questions is what do we do in the gap? The committee distributed a short survey and asked each giving unit to answer the questions so that the committee can develop a plan.

- **Campus Long Range Planning – Tom Ruff**

- Waiting for ministry clarity and finance committee to catch up. Now engaging on 2 key projects – Sewer connection and site master plan.
  - We need to engage an engineer to coordinate with Duckett Creek Sewer District and develop a plan for the sewer connection and determine the costs for the project. The committee estimates that this scope of work will cost less than \$20K.
  - We need to engage an Architectural firm to develop a master plan, Tom shared a scope of work we have developed for them to quote on and we intend to solicit at least three proposals.
- Brian Parker moved that, The Long Range Planning Committee be authorized to expend funds of up to \$20K to engage an engineering firm on sewer and up to 25K\$ to engage and architectural firm to develop a master plan. Joel Miller seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED

## TOWN HALL QUESTIONS

How many people do we have? – 1728 baptized members as of July 2023

Where are we on pew covers? – Pastor Auringer answered, we have had 3-4 no shows by the company making the covers, we have asked them to amend the contract to add \$500/day liquidated damages beginning Feb 9, 2024 if the project is not completed by then and continuing until it is. We paid a downpayment when we started the process. If they default we may be asking for a refund. Our hope is that they come through on it.

What was our progress on Butengala tree fund raiser? Pastor Auringer spoke. We have not yet met with Hearts for Hope this year. We raised just over \$10K during Christmas. The cost of the project that needs the funding is likely to run into six figures. We have not pushed for more as we are waiting for more clarity.

We have some money in building and maintenance. How much do we add to the line item? This line item reflects income from facility rental. We no longer rent the facility out as we are using it more. The facility is aging, equipment is having issues and we are managing them on a case by case basis.

What is the contemplated completion of the sewer plant? The plant is likely to be online by the end of this year.

We have had excess funds each year, if we don't have a capital campaign, will we still have surplus funds to cover the mortgage? We don't know yet, but we have a team to work on it.

What are we doing with Pastor Fisher and New Melle? We are in year 4 of a 3-year partnership. The congregation has developed the to the point where they are paying for Pastor Fisher and ILCS is not contributing to his support. Mo District is leading discussions regarding the future relationship between, ILCS, St Paul and Messiah. We are awaiting their recommendations.

#### ADJOURNMENT –

John Waddell moved, and Dan Ebert seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:13 pm

Closing Prayer – Pastor Auringer led us in singing the Doxology

#### **HANDOUTS:**

- Agenda
- Sept Voters Meeting Minutes