

**Immanuel Lutheran Church and School  
Town Hall Voters Meeting 1-27-13**

Meeting was called to order by Dan Ebert.

Pastor Auringer said the opening prayer.

Minutes of the last meeting 10-21-12 were approved.

**Anna Brandt gave a Financial update:**

See attached handouts, Uplifting Campaign Funds, and Revenue & Expense Analysis. It was noted that an error was made in the prior year months of Oct, Nov, Dec revenue column. Current year actual & budget numbers were correct. Attached is the corrected graph.

Anna informed the congregation that we have completed the loan closing on the multi-purpose building. The multi-purpose building note balance is \$1,785,536 at a 4.875% Interest rate. The current church note/school building balance is \$5,600,043 at a 5.75% interest rate.

Anna also explained that the first 6 months of our fiscal year look good. Revenues decrease each month as the school year comes to a close and church revenues decrease during the summer months, so this cushion we have at the 6-month point is wonderful. I have every reason to believe we will come in on budget by fiscal year end June 30, 2013.

**Matt Peters is putting together a Nominating Committee**

We have 2 board members on the BOD whose terms are up; Darwin Zimmerman and Kelly Colbert. Nominations are now being taken. 3 current BOD members, Darwin, Dave and Mike along with Pastor Liefer and 2 stewards from the congregation will serve on the nominating committee. Matt is looking for 2 stewards to volunteer to serve on this nominating committee. A BOD nomination form was handed out at the meeting.

**Scott Hays gave the following highlights from BOD meetings:**

BOD Meeting Minutes are now posted on the website.

Highlights of the BOD Meeting will be in the Pulse.

If you have any questions, please contact a board member or e-mail [BOD@ILCSW.NET](mailto:BOD@ILCSW.NET).

Copies of the BOD Meeting Minutes will be left on the desk at the entrance to the narthex.

Shepard's Staff is being cleaned up and organized, with updated information.

Tuition for the 2013-2014 school year is set, with a slight increase. We are expecting around 230 students. School enrollment is a tribute to the great job by Allison Dolak, her staff, and teachers.

Fundraising committee is in full swing. BOD members Rod, Mike, and Kelly are having several planning meetings. Volunteer sign up has been great, but we need more.

The loan closing on the Multi-purpose Building was completed:

Church Note	5.75%	\$5,006,043
Multi-purpose Building	4.875%	<u>\$1,785,536</u>
<b>Total Mortgage Obligation</b>		<b>\$6,791,579</b>

I want to inform the Membership that the BOD is dealing with a heightened awareness of the fact that we have a shortage in meeting our mortgage obligation, and soon our reserve funds will be depleted.

Many families have met or exceeded their pledges and we thank you. Some families are behind and some families have contributed to the Uplifting campaign who did not pledge and we thank them also. All Uplifting contributions are used to pay our interest only mortgage payment. Our contributions have not kept pace with our payments as show on the attached graph.

We are praying that our Uplifting contributions will come in and that the fundraising activities will relieve some of this financial pressure. "It's a Matter of Principle" fundraising dollars as Mike will explain later, will help reduce our principal.

The BOD is reviewing and meeting with LHSA regarding our costs for continued membership and support.

The BOD, in conjunction with the MLT, is struggling with balancing the need to pay our bills, with the desire to add staff costs, such as the Business Manager position. It was suggested that a BOD initiative would be to figure this position into next year's budget.

**Mike Schumacher gave the "It's a Matter of Principle" update:**

Mike explained that we are getting a lot of response from volunteers to serve on the fundraising committee as well as working on fundraising events. The volunteer sign up has been great, but we still need more people to volunteer to be in charge of an event. There is a planning meeting on February 12 at 7:00. Because of the number of people, the meeting will either be held in the Fellowship Hall or gymnasium.

**Allison Dolak gave a school update:**

National Lutheran school week is coming up next week with many events planned for Wednesday thru Friday.

One of the school's biggest events is coming up on Saturday, February 23, the ILS 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Trivia Night and Auction. We are expecting a big turn out like last year. We still need more volunteers to work the event. We are looking for donations of items to auction off. There are also several levels of sponsorship.

Allison stated that she is asked many times, how can people help financially. Computers are getting old, the cost for a new computer is \$400 per classroom.

Grandparents Day will be the March 8. Allison is looking for a few surrogate grandparents for children who do not have grandparents or are not available to attend.

The flag pole will be installed in between the 2 buildings. A final revision of the plan was approved a week ago after 3 changes.

Building security has been a high priority. Many safety measures have been put in place to keep the children safe.

Everyone is encouraged to sign up for the school newsletter – The Eagle Weekly, which can be emailed to you weekly.

**Pastor Liefer gave his report:**

Pastor Liefer discussed how he and his staff write their own curriculum for Sunday School. The current program is “The Incredible Miracle of Jesus”. 15-30 children attended last year with 45-55 this year, with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade having the largest number at 25.

23 Students are being confirmed this year.

This year for the National Youth Gathering, there are 25 students and 4 chaperones attending. We have currently raised \$20,000 with an estimated cost of \$32,480 for the entire trip. More fundraisers are planned; Soup for Sunday, Adopt a Youth, Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Breakfast, Midweek Lenten Meals, Chik-Fil-A night, and t-shirt sponsors.

Pastor Liefer is currently meeting with the 25 plus teachers and making sure all our staff are setting spiritual goals for the year.

Bible study is doing really well. The numbers are up with a lot of new faces.

**Pastor Auringer gave his report:**

Pastor Auringer explained church statistics for 2012 (According to Shepherds’s Staff)

- A. New Stewards: 136
- B. Membership Losses (Transfer/Removed): 37
- C. Deaths: 9
- D. **Net Gain: 90**
- E. Confirmed: 62 (41 Junior, 21 Adult)
- F. Baptisms: 36 (31 Children, 5 Adult)

Pastor Auringer reported the following average church attendance numbers for all 3 services:

2010	496
2011	521

2012 574

150 Adults attended Bible classes last week:

The Dietrich Bonhoeffer class begins this Thursday. The 2 Sunday Bible Study classes; Love and Respect, & Faith, Science and Future will continue for several more weeks.

Ash Wednesday service is Wednesday, February 13. Worship at 7:00 PM. The 5 weeks that follow will have Lenten services at 3:45pm and 6:45pm with a soup supper in between.

Palm Sunday Weekend

5:00 PM Saturday: Cantata

9:30 AM Sunday: Cantata

1:00 PM Sunday: Confirmation

**No 8:00 & 10:45 worship**

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday: 7 PM

Good Friday: Noon & 7 PM

Easter Vigil: 5:00 PM

Easter Sunday: 6:30, 8:30, & 10:45 AM

Visitations have taken a lot of time and Pastor Auringer continues with regular shut in and hospital calls. He is wrapping up his 5<sup>th</sup> and final year of coaching basketball for the school teams.

The MLT's are currently setting up some MAT's. One is a Visitation MAT, which would call and reach out to our visiting church guests.

Pastor Auringer served on a committee and as a member of the LHS Association. They have been discussing a new dues structure for churches to be members of the association. A new dues structure would be phased in over 5 years, with a decrease by year 5. The church will need to make a decision to vote for "all in" and pay our total or not to be in the association. The pastor would like in the near future to have a town hall meeting to discuss this with parents and stewards of the church. We need to consider, "Is LHS still a mission of this church?" More about this later.

Pastor Auringer then discussed the proposed Business Manager position. He expressed that this is a "leap of faith" investment. It has been said that you need to spend dollars to make dollars. How can we run this church and school as effectively as possible? Currently, Pastor Auringer and Principal Dolak spend a lot of time on handling the building items. We need to get to a point where the Pastor and Principal are growing ministries instead of changing "light bulbs".

David Dolak has been giving his input and has a great understanding.

Pastor Auringer provided a hand-out on the Business Manager job description for everyone's review.

Pastor Hackbarth mentioned that back in 1982, he was told by someone, If we do not grow into a new facility, our stewardship could decline by as much as 25%. Since we have built this church, it is a totally different atmosphere, and you can tell by the numbers how much we have actually grown. It was expressed though, that we still need more stewards and dollars.

### **Question & Answer**

How many family units does the church have? 608 member households with 1400 stewards.

Why was the decision made to have 7th & 8th grade combined confirmation? 8<sup>th</sup> graders have a lot going on. A good time to start is getting the 6<sup>th</sup> graders started, then confirmed in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade year. The idea is for those confirmed in 7<sup>th</sup> grade to spend their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year coming back to learn about church.

What do we do in case of a tornado? Last year we had one tornado drill. Signs are placed over the safe areas. The plan is to have a practice session again soon.

What are some of the fundraising ideas? Sausage supper, fish fry, craft show, turkey shoot, golf tournament, fall festival, fun run/walk. It has also been suggested that we do a memorial garden with the church bell and pavers in honor of our deceased stewards.

It was suggested that a welcome packet be put together for prospective new members. This would be a nice personal touch. A visitation MAT team needs to be started to call on visitors to our church.

What is the biggest challenge for the school in the upcoming months? Allsion said the school is experiencing a fast pace of growth, and expectations are high. Space is becoming an issue and we will have to start turning students away. There is no room for double grades in Junior High. Next year is also an accreditation year. A 5 year goal and plan needs to be put together.

Do we have any plans for the balcony in the church and use of this space? We are making progress in this area in cleaning up items that are not needed. As our congregation grows we can see us finishing this space off with seating and a music area.

What is the planned use of the new fields beyond school use? We will not be using these fields until mid to late summer, to give the grass a chance to take root. The use of the field by others will be discussed by the BOD and MLT. Currently we feel we are not charging enough for the use of the multi-purpose building.

LHS assessment was discussed again. Parents will be called in for a meeting, making them fully aware of the decision that needs to be made. The way we see the new program working is year one dues are \$38,000 and by the time we get to year 5, it dues

will be \$22,000. It was stated that 50% of the students that graduate from LHS, go into full time church work.

A motion was made to adjourn.

Everyone sang Happy Birthday to Trudy Demien.

Pastor led the group in the singing of the Doxology.