

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting
May 22, 2016

Agenda

10:15 a.m.	Worship
11:30 a.m.	Call to Order and Devotions

Action Item

Election of Church Council Members

Reports

Pastor's Report and Statistical Summary
Evangelism
Nominating Committee
Learning Ministry
Property
Social Ministry
Stewardship and Finance
Worship and Music

Adjournment

Pastor's Report

This report comprises the period of time from the beginning of 2015 to the present. Early in 2015 the church council and myself began to draw up concrete plans for moving our congregation forward in the areas of intentional cooperation and mission with our community. After several years of conversations regarding our mission and ministry we believed we needed to engage the services of a consultant to lead us through this process. After two different interviews the church council chose to engage the services of Partners for Sacred Places. You have already heard of their work among us which will continue through the end of the summer into the early fall. Partners for Sacred Places is the only organization in the country that helps churches and other religious institutions utilize their historic buildings as an asset within their community. A key component to their work is helping congregational members become more aware of their role they play in the promotion and “marketing” of their church to other potential partners. I am very pleased so far with our relationship with Partners for Sacred Places and look forward to continuing our work with them.

2015 and 2016 saw the changes in personnel in our music and worship program at Emmanuel. In August our choir director Barry Sawyer offered his resignation in order to retire. For six years Barry led our choir in offering a wonderful selection of vocal selections in worship. Sharon Bitner agreed to direct the choir until her announced time for retirement which came at the end of 2015. Sharon also led our musical worship with passion, devotion and skill. Our thanks and appreciation for both Barry's and Sharon's leadership is felt by our whole congregation. The Worship and Music committee decided to return to our combined position and so began the search process for a new Director of Music last fall. We were blessed to call Pamela Drenner as our new Director of Music beginning with the worship service on Ash Wednesday. Pam has been well received by the choir and members of the congregation as well as myself. Like the best church musicians, Pam combines musical skill rooted in a deep faith to lead God's people in their worship and praise and prayer.

Emmanuel's relationships with community partners continues to grow in 2015 and 2016. We added a refugee help group, Act For Humanity, to those who currently meet here. They provide educational opportunities and services to recent refugees in Lancaster. The Refugee Program which is housed at Reynolds Middle School utilizes our church nursery area for an after-school martial arts program. In addition to these the Bhutanese Community Development group meets at Emmanuel. They sponsor English classes as well as citizenship classes. The Migrant Education Program based at Millersville University continues to meet at Emmanuel for education classes. The Thursday evening Al-Anon group provides support for families struggling with addiction issues. Conversations with other community programs about potential partnerships are ongoing.

I want to thank our church council and the leadership of Keith Frey for becoming increasingly active and forward-looking as Emmanuel faces changing conditions in our community. The old ways of doing mission and being the church are changing rapidly,

sometimes more rapidly than we can adapt ourselves. Yet we are confident that God will lead us into new ways of being the church in the world. We look forward to the continued grace that we have already begun to see.

Respectfully submitted,
 Pastor Kurt S. Strause
 May 22, 2016

Statistical Report
 2015

	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Membership 1/1/2015	359	272
Added		
Baptism	2	0
Transfer	0	0
Confirmation	0	0
Affirmation	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Added	2	0
Removed		
Death	6	6
Transfer	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Removed	6	6
Membership 12/31/2015	355	266
Pastoral Acts		
Baptism	2	
Weddings	0	
Funerals	10	(4 non-member)
Avg. Worship Attendance (Sundays):	74	2014: 78
Avg. Sunday School Attendance:	19	2014: 20

Evangelism Committee Report
Activity of 2015-16

Students away at college were sent cheer boxes in mid-October conveying our thoughts and best wishes. They were: Declan Barber, Elizabeth Frey, Brittany and Victoria Knight, Megan Lynn, Rebecca Miller, Cory Nissly, Alexa Stewart, Elizabeth and Emma Strause, and Michael Thomsen.

Tuesday evening the second week of August was Neighborhood Night Out and an opportunity to meet our neighbors. Emmanuel supplied folding chairs, tables, and balls, hoop and net.

We welcome ideas and new committee members.

George Ehemann

Nominating Committee Report
May 22, 2016

Four positions on Church Council are to be elected. The following persons are nominated:

Debra Barrett
Bill Hannegan
Lori Hockenberry (second term)
Nancy Lynn (second term)

Respectfully submitted,
Keith Frey, chairperson

Learning Ministry Annual Report May 2016

Christian Education opportunities: Sunday school classes for adults, youth, and children are held during the school year. There are SPARK pullout lessons for children during part of the worship service for the church school year, and Summer SPARK will be offered during the summer church schedule months. Wednesday Morning Bible Study is led weekly by Pastor Strause except during the months of summer.

Confirmation: *Reform* confirmation materials are used in the youth classroom. There are no youth being confirmed in 2016.

Youth: Although the 2015 Youth Mission Trip was cancelled due to lack of participation, A *Youth Mission Trip* is planned through “Youth Works” in Lynn, MA, in July 2016. *Youth Breakfast* has been offered during youth class one Sunday a month throughout the school year. Adults of the congregation take turns providing the food for this time for our youth to socialize.

Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central PA: July 15, 2015, 6 children and 2 adults attended The Wittel Farm *Faith on the Farm Summer Day Camp* event followed by swimming at Camp Kirchenwald. Two of our youth participated in the *Winter Youth Event* held at Camp Kirchenwald January 8-10, 2016.

Cradle Roll: Materials called “SPLASH” from Augsburg Fortress are mailed to children from birth to 3 years of age. (SPLASH refers to the water of baptism.)

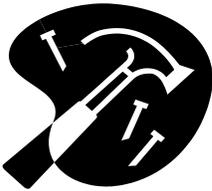
Social Events: A *Reformation Sunday Potluck* meal was held following worship service. A *Soup & Game Event* was held March 13. *First Sunday Coffee* continues to be held the first Sunday of each month. Various church committees and groups provided food for these popular events and groups during the school year, and then it is open to everyone/anyone in the congregation during the summer months.

Making Cards: Twice a year members gather to create cards to be sent every month and also on the birthday of each of our home bound and shut-in members.

The Learning Ministry Committee appreciates the time and effort contributed by all the many individuals who teach for our Christian Education opportunities, chaperone, give time, provide food items, or help in any way with these many opportunities to learn, grow, and share our faith.

Special appreciation and thanks to Learning Ministry Committee members Mary Kay Mulcahy, Lisa Nissly, Shree Shrom, Lois Strause

Margaret Thomsen,
Learning Ministry Committee Chair



**Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Property Committee
Annual Report
For 2015 and activity into 2016 to date**



The Property Committee is responsible for the general maintenance and improvement of the buildings and grounds of Emmanuel Lutheran Church. This includes the main Sanctuary, Chapel and Education Buildings, the Parish House and office and all surrounding property. The annual operating budget is established and monitored by the Property Committee. The committee is also responsible to assign and review the duties of the Church Sexton.

The total Property Expense Budget for 2014 was \$ 43,366. This budget is used to pay for utilities, supplies, services, property insurance, property tax (apartment) and minor repairs. Total property operating expenses incurred in 2014 were \$ 44,471. Our highest annual expenditures continue to be for heating and lighting. The budget amount for utilities in 2014 was \$ 27,900. Our total expense for utilities in 2014 were \$ 30,201, exceeding budgeted funds by \$ 2,301 (8%) and comprising 68 % of our total budget spending in 2014. The higher spending was mostly attributable to the unusually cold winter weather during the heating season last year.

The Property Improvement Fund (PIF) is used to finance major maintenance and improvements to the church buildings and property. These needs are outside the normal scope of the annual Property Expense Budget funding. The following expenditures were made from the Property Improvement Fund during 2014.

PIF Balance as of 1/1/2015			\$ 28,206
Income from congregational pledges and offerings			20,598
Expenditures:			
1. Drainage Repair – front of Parish house	\$	12,926	
2. Roofing – main tower flat roof		20,640	
3. Heating System - repairs		2,822	
4. Organ - repairs		2,140	
5. Misc.		2,459	
Total Expenses			(40,987)
PIF Balance as of 12/31/2015			\$ 7,817

So far this year, we have had expenditures for roof work and electric lighting improvements totaling \$ 4,008. The PIF fund balance as of 4/30/2016 was \$11,094

One of the major improvements to the church property has been a new gas fired boiler installed late in 2014. By allowing us to move from fuel oil to lower cost natural gas, we have realized significant utility cost savings.

Heating Utility Cost Comparison 2014 to 2015:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>Savings</u>
Gas	\$1,783	\$7,131	
Fuel Oil	<u>\$19,795</u>	<u>\$3,846</u>	
Total Heating	\$21,578	\$10,977	\$10,601

Ongoing issues that we hope to address in 2016 include:

- Exterior - continue with planned repairs and improvements to roofing and masonry
- Interior Plaster and Paint above east window in Nave

Special Thanks to:

- The congregation of Emmanuel for their continued generous giving to the Property Improvement and Renovation Funds.
- The committee members and others who have committed their personal time to help maintain our building and property.
- Bill Hannegan for continued snow removal, grass cutting and excellent landscaping services.

Committee Members: Pastor Kurt Strause, Frank Lynn (Chairperson), Steve Volker, Andy Nissly, Tom Mills, George Ehemann, Bob Miller, Chris Shrom, Tim Smith

Respectfully submitted: Frank Lynn

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Property Committee**

Wish List (not prioritized)

1. Continue comprehensive church renovations (SCHICKLE FUND PROJECT – study by architect completed in 2002) / 2016 pending Partner’s for Sacred Places project
2. Air conditioning system for Nave
3. Continue restoration of all stained glass windows in Nave and Chapel (Vents – 2000; Structural work to “Come Unto Me” – 2001; Chapel “Nativity” window – 2004).
4. Roof work:
 - Continue major work outlined by contractor (Diirner)
 - Replace flat roof on East side of Fireside Room
5. Replace obsolete fluorescent lighting fixtures in Ed. Bldg. – energy efficiency
6. Investigate and mitigate drainage problem at rear of Ed. Bldg at SW corner.
7. Install a ventilation system and ceiling fans in Chapel.
8. Refinish pews in Sanctuary.
9. Construct/Install outside storage shed for snow removal equipment (could tie to #6)
10. Revamp heat delivery system to Narthex including a new zone valve. (energy savings)
AND/OR
Install heat control in Narthex (energy savings) - Repair or install functional control valves at each radiator to provide manual control.
11. Improve handicap accessibility:
 - Disability/ Wheel Chair Accommodations
 - Accommodate wheel chairs during services. Remove part of screen in front row or part of pew(s) in back row.
 - Interested in curb cut at corner. City issued updated priority list. We are not currently listed. Contacted Doug Lamb - contract, bid price was \$9,350.
12. Air conditioning for Chapel to improve use during summer hot weather
13. Main kitchen improvements:
 - Needs cleaning. Offer was made to pay for cleaning service.
 - Replace flooring
 - Total revamp for public and church use - follow-up with Lancaster Dept. of Health for recommendations and upgrades needed.
14. Separate hot water from boiler in Parish House – energy efficiency

Social Ministry Annual Report 2015

Social Ministry has continued to support the mission of the church through a variety of ministries in 2015. These ministries involved both outreach to the community and ongoing congregational ministries. Social Ministry highlights included:

Lancaster County Council of Churches Community Meal Program-

Four times this year we provided meals at East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church. This year our numbers slightly decreased, as we served an average of 150 people each meal. Social Ministry has committed to 4 meals again in 2016.

LWR & Ingathering- Again utilizing the ELCA/LWR Baskets of Promise theme, during Lent we gathered items to complete 45 Personal Care Kits and on Ingathering Sunday in October, we gathered items to complete 50 School Kits.

White Gift Offering-With this offering we were aided in providing Christmas gifts for Luthercare and the purchase of fruit for fruit baskets for our octogenarian members.

Conestoga View Christmas Gifts-Christmas gifts were provided for 12 residents at the county nursing home.

Fruit Baskets- 25 fruit baskets were assembled for our octogenarian church members. Three additional fruit baskets were given to our church staff.

Food Bank-Needed food items have been collected through out the year for Saint John's Food Pantry and the Lancaster County Council of Churches.

Harvest of Hope- Free will offerings support the ELCA World Hunger Appeal by sharing the bounty from our gardens.

Miscellaneous Ministries-Devotional booklets and calendars for shut-in members; Shepherds.

Thank you to all who have given their time, talent and treasure in support of our mission to serve others.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Barrett

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
2015 ANNUAL REPORT

The Stewardship and Finance Committee met four times during 2015. Members of the committee include: Janice Dunlevy, Diane Ehemann, Mark Moffett, Paul Smith, and Pastor Kurt Strause.

I would like to thank the above committee members for their support of the work of our committee, especially to Diane Ehemann who serves as Treasurer. I would also like to thank the members of Emmanuel who count the offerings at the bank each week. They include: JoAnn Alexander, Bonnie Allman, Marie Brubaker, Judy Deichert, George & Diane Ehemann, Anne Lefever, and Paul Smith. Thanks also to Betsy Weidler, who has filled in several times during the year.

A very special thanks to Janice Dunlevy, who “retired” from the counting team after many years of service. Her willingness and dedication were very much appreciated.

The committee spent time throughout the year discussing ways to increase our income. The church council entered into an arrangement with Partners for Sacred Places, which will help us accomplish that goal. The fee for their services is \$14,000, which will come from the planned Endowment Fund proceeds for the year 2016.

Pledges for the General Fund for 2016 are \$116,190, which is lower than those of 2015 by \$5742. Pledges for the Property Improvement Fund for 2016 are \$17,936, which is slightly higher than those for 2015 by \$312.

The committee prepared a budget for 2016 in the amount of \$178,054, which was approved at the congregational meeting held January 31, 2016. Utility costs are significantly lower than those of last year by approximately \$4,300, thanks in part to the new gas furnace installed in December, 2014, and lower than expected energy costs. Health insurance premiums have risen approximately \$1200. Staff members received an increase of 2% in compensation for the year 2016.

The records of the Treasurer and Financial Secretary were audited by Pamela J. Bazella, CPA, of the firm Bazella Dombrowski and Company, CPA. If you would like a complete copy of the report, please see Pastor Strause or myself.

Sincere thanks to all those who continue to support the mission of Emmanuel Lutheran Church to proclaim the Gospel to all the world.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Moffett, Chairperson

Worship and Music Committee 2016 Annual Report

Committee Members

Roger Strause, Chairman
Rein Mutso
Marie Brubaker
Pam Drenner

Kurt Strause, Pastor
Diane Ehemann, Secretary
Ellen Jetto

Report

Barry Sawyer and Sharon Bitner led the choir and congregation in liturgical music this year. Barry Sawyer resigned as the Director of Music in August 2015. Sharon Bitner continued to provide musical leadership through the end of the year and resigned December 2015. Sharon Levering supplied January until Ash Wednesday at which time Pamela Drenner became our Music Director leading the congregation and choir in musical liturgy.

The committee oversaw the decorating of the church during the changing seasons and sponsored the Advent Workshop.

I would like to thank the Committee and Sub Committees for working hard and providing us with a meaningful worship environment.

I would like to thank Barry Sawyer and Sharon Bitner for providing excellent musical leadership and inspiration throughout the year.

The committee extends a warm welcome to Pam Drenner and her husband Don to the Emmanuel congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Strause