

Augsburg Immanuel Lutheran Church

Quarterly Voters Meeting

July 12, 2015

Vice Chairman Mo Schukar called the meeting to order. Pastor Frazee led those present in prayer and devotion.

Minutes from the April 12, 2015 voters meeting were read. A motion was made to accept the minutes as read, seconded, and approved.

Members:

Voting members: None

Communicant members: None

Transfers:

Transfer out: Jeff, Evonne, Zack, and Ali Stephenson transfer to Salem
Motion was made to accept the transfer, seconded, and approved.

Transfer in: None

Releases: None

Treasure's Report:

The report was presented. No questions were asked of the treasurer. A motion was made to accept the report as presented, seconded, and approved.

Elders' Report:

- Everything is going well. There are no church issues to report.
- Continue to meet with the Pastor on a regular basis.

Pastor's Report :

- Pastor reported leading another round of Lutheranism 101 adult instruction and refreshment that was well received by attendees.
- Pastor also reported that all five of the marriage counseling sessions have or are going smoothly.
- Pastor reported that all of his sermons are printed in full and available upon request, and reminded everyone that the sermons are always recorded and uploaded online as well.
- A copy of this report is included with the minutes.

School Board: No report.

LYF:

- As it is the summer vacation season activity has slowed with the group. Activity will resume as we head into fall.

Trustees' Report:

- The fire extinguishers in the church, parish hall, and parsonage need to be inspected. Mo Schukar will follow up with delivering the extinguishers for inspection.

Sunday School:

- Summer months and the attendance is down slightly.
- The addition of a part time teacher helps tremendously, but could use another part time teacher to cover vacations, etc.

Bible Class:

- The study titled "The Longer Look" continues. This lesson expands on the sermon text each week for a closer look at the scriptures and messages they contain. Classes are well attended and well received. All are encouraged to attend and learn more about the Bible and God's teachings.

Finance Man: No report.

Sexton:

- Looking for some dry weather to complete the cemetery expansion project.
- The tiling and drainage issue in the cemetery will also be addressed at that time.
- Members of the congregation will complete the work as time and weather permit.

Old Business:

- Pastor Wright of Altamont was elected as Circuit Visitor, but declined the position. Pastor David Speers of Blue Point has accepted the position.
- A discussion on the repair of the church's pipe organ continued.
 - Keith Williams of the organ repair company in Champaign Illinois addressed the voters about fixing the organ. The history of the organ and potential issues for its repair were discussed. A clean-up and tune-up of the organ would cost approximately \$3400.
 - A letter was submitted to the voters by Debbie Harmeier and Lisette Ehrat expressing their desire and reasoning for not having the old organ repaired. A copy of this letter is attached.
 - A discussion was held with several members expressing points for and against the repair of the organ.
 - A motion was made and seconded to fix the organ. The vote was by ballot with Bob Williams, Ron Harmeier, and Errol Rhoades appointed as tellers.
 - The motion failed in the vote with 7 yes and 8 no.

- A motion was made to give the money back to Scott Gerckin that had been donated for the specific intent of repairing the organ. The motion was seconded and approved.
- Church Directory:
 - A discussion was held about upgrading the church directory for the upcoming church anniversary in 2017.
 - An outside firm, Life Touch, had been contacted that offered a couple of different programs to come on site and take pictures for the directory.
 - Other possibilities were also examined that would require members to submit their own photos via the internet to a company that would then create the directory.
 - A discussion was then held on interest in the congregation for the completion of a new directory. A motion was made to present the question to the congregation in the bulletin for two weeks. Then on the third week Pastor would ask for a vote by the congregation during closing announcements. The motion was seconded and approved.

New Business:

- Lutheran Care Center was seeking someone to serve as a board member from the church. The council recommended JoAnn Givens for the position. A motion was made, seconded and approved.
- Voters meeting schedule
 - A discussion was held about the possibility of moving the voters meeting time from 7:00 on Sunday evenings to immediately after church service.
 - It was discussed that the October meeting might run long due to the process of nominating and voting in the elders, trustees, and council officers.
 - It was also discussed that the prior meeting minutes and treasurer's report could be included in the bulletin at church that day, thus eliminating the need to read them at the voters meeting. Thus shortening the meeting to accommodate people's schedules.
 - A motion was made and seconded to move all voters meetings except the October meeting to immediately after church services. A ballot vote was taken. The motion failed with 7 yes and 9 no.

The tellers were released.

Special Collections: No special collections in the third quarter.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded, and approved. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Steven R. Hickerson.

Augsburg Immanuel Lutheran Church

Organ Repair Informational Meeting

July 12, 2015

As the first order of business during the Voters meeting, a Discussion was held on the current state of the old church organ and possible repairs. Keith Williams of Pipe Organs in Champaign, Illinois attended the meeting to explain the repair process and organ maintenance.

Some facts about the organ:

- The Organ was manufactured by the Kilgen company. The company was in business from 1894 to 1939. They produced over 4000 pipe organs with many still in use today. One of the largest they produced is in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York.
- The organ is over 100 years old. The estimated production year of our organ is 1905.
- In today's dollars it would cost between \$275,000.00 and \$400,000.00 to replace it
- The organ has been upgraded over the years. When it was first installed it had to be pumped by hand. An electric blower was installed at some time in the past.
- Access to the inner working of the organ can only be gained by removing the ornamental pipes in the front (facing the congregation).

Currently, the organ is in working order, but in need of some maintenance. Cleaning, tuning, and review of the working parts of the organ are the main concerns at this time. Performing these functions would improve the workings of the organ and make it easier to play. This initial maintenance and cleaning would cost approximately \$3400.00.

The full scope of restoration of the organ can't be determined until the initial phase is completed. Like all things, maintenance and repair will be required going forward. Even though the organ is functioning now, it is anticipated that the leather component of the bellows will need to be replaced at some time in the future. A cost estimate for that repair is hard to determine without seeing the component, an estimate of \$4000.00 for the leather replacement was given.

A question of what ongoing or annual maintenance would be required on the organ if we make the initial repairs was asked. It was reported that once we tune the organ, it does not require repeated tuning for many years. Annual maintenance and cleaning of the organ would cost approximately \$200.00 per year after the initial repairs were completed.

July 12, 2015

To the voters of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Shobonier, IL

We, Debbie Harmeier & Lisette Ehrat as members of the original Organ Committee, want to point out some differences in the "Old" Kilgen organ and the "New" electronic organ. The Organ Committee was selected to help decide if it was feasible to fix up the old pipe organ or buy a new electronic organ. The differences are these:

"Old"

Would probably take \$100,000. to restore to original shape but still would be and old organ.

Climate control in the church affects the working parts. Even with the new A/C's it stays hot up where the organ is located.

Since the climate control can not be controlled the organ needs to be tuned at least once if not twice a year which could run up to \$750 per year.

The Kilgen organ was at about the medium class of organ in that day and never had all the bells and whistles of the high class Kilgen organ

The Kilgen organ is very hard to play in that you have to have strong wrists and hard pressure on the keys.

The hard touch to this organ would make it extremely hard to have most any guest organist because they would have to spend extra time in learning about this organ if they wanted to play it.

The old organ is beautiful with its rich wood and beautiful pipes and had it been sold or given to a museum we would have an ugly hole and lost the beauty of the original pipes. Today all of the speakers setting behind these beautiful pipes make the sounds appear to come through them.

We have checked with the four organists we have today and three of them say they would absolutely not play the Kilgen organ and the other organist would not be able to reach the organ to play it. So if the old organ is just fixed up with the funds available today to get it operational What happens then? No one will play it!

"New"

Purchase this new electronic organ for \$42,000.

Climate control is not an issue as it is electronic.

The electronic organ never has to be tuned.

The electronic organ has every instrument on it with a midi to make most any sound you want it to make.

The electronic organ is easy to the touch and can be played with little pressure.

Most any guest organist could play on this one as most of our organists have learned on the piano and then gone to the electronic organ.

The new organ is a beautiful instrument rich in tone and easy on maintenance.

We know you are concerned about the money that Scott Gerhken has contributed to this fund. We would like to make the following suggestions:

1. Do not fix the old organ in any way and pay the monies that Scott G. contributed through his mileage to the college for his tuition as he has gone back to school to receive his masters in music. He now has 3 children, goes to school 3 days a week and has no job until school goes back into session as a teachers' substitute.

2. Do not fix the old organ in any way and keep the monies in the organ fund that was contributed through the congregation for future electronic organ expense, if any.

3. Should there be any adult or child interested in taking organ lessons the funds could be used to help them or encourage them to become an organist.

4. Another suggestion would be to send it to the designated organizations that we collect for on special collection services.

L