

## **Lincoln Heights Evangelical Lutheran Church**

### **Minutes of the Voter's Meeting - January 27, 2019**

The Voter's Meeting came to order at 9:20 AM Sunday, January 27, 2019 with an opening devotion and prayer from Pastor Pfeifer.

In attendance were:

Bob Arndt, Rev Matt Pfeifer, Paul White, Mike McKern, Leon Burger, Karl Kuhrt, Steve Winecke, Mark Behl, Brandon Otto, John Thielke, Tom Oswald, Matt Travi, Jay Pender, Greg Lewis, Larry Borchert, Aaron Dammann, Kirk Twelmeyer, Lee Bowman, Dave Froehlich

Minutes from the January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Voter's Meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.

Pastor Pfeifer included copies of his report and reviewed annual attendance statistics. Some key items were:

- Sunday attendance remaining consistent with 2017, a decrease in Advent and Lent service attendance, and an increase in other special service attendance;
- Growth in Bible class attendance and a slight decrease in Sunday school attendance;
- The 2018 Praise & Proclaim initiative;
- Review of 2018 community service and synod donations, including exceeding our synod Mission target and donations to WELS Christian Aid and Relief, Lutheran Military Support Group, Christian Life Resources, LWMS Kids C.A.R.E., and support for a member attending Martin Luther College.

Pastor's report was approved unanimously and the report is attached for reference.

It was approved unanimously to ratify the membership actions in Pastor's report.

John Thielke suggested that new members to the church sign a copy of the church's Constitution, as has been done in the past. Mr. Froelich agreed that this should be completed. Pastor will be putting a note in the bulletin this week for members to pick up a constitution and making it available on the website.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed by Mr. Otto.

- The 2018 finance report was reviewed with a few highlighted differences between the budget and actual amounts.
  - Assistance fund, where use exceeded budget by \$350;
  - Conferences (Member) was not used during 2018;
  - Copier expense was less than budgeted by ~\$800, as we did not make a December payment for 2019 copier support and maintenance;
  - Property maintenance was ~\$13,000 less than budget as fewer large projects than expected were completed in 2018;
  - Church cleaning was ~\$3,400 less than budget due to the cleaning beginning in February, the cleaners missing several weeks, and several one-time cleaning items not being completed during 2018;
- The dedicated funds and cash account balances were reviewed;
- The 2019 proposed budget and comparison to 2018 were reviewed with a few items specifically called out:
  - A decrease of ~\$10,400 was removed from the General Offerings budget to align with 2018 actual income;
  - The fund for covering conference cost for member attendance was decreased to \$500 due to no use in 2018;
  - Copier expense was increased to \$7,500, due to the current copier no longer being covered under a support and maintenance contract. The existing copier is 7 years old but still functioning. Additional discussion on the copier ensued, including discussion around lead time for a new copier and the option of purchasing a new copier immediately. Ultimately, the budget was not adjusted and \$7,500 remained in the budget, to be used if/when the existing copier breaks;
  - Evangelism, which was reduced by \$5,400, to remove the Praise & Proclaim one-time investment from 2018;

- Property Maintenance, which was reduced by \$11,000 to \$9,000. Major projects in excess of this budgeted amount will require usage of savings and voter approval;
- As presented, the budget shows a deficit of ~\$4,500;
- The 2019 Mission Pledge was kept constant at \$15,000. Mike McKern motioned to approve and Larry Borchert seconded. The decision was approved unanimously.

John Thielke motioned to approve the Proposed Budget for 2019 and Karl Kuhrt seconded the motion. All voters approved unanimously.

Dave Froehlich reviewed and asked for a motion to approve the church's secretary position and a pay increase to \$13.00 per hour. Tom Oswald motioned to approve and Steve Winecke seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Voters reviewed the Church Council positions open for election or reelection:

Tom Oswald was up for election as Secretary, to replace Mark Behl, and no other nominees were presented.

Fred Jensen was up for election as Treasurer, to replace Brandon Otto, and no other nominees were presented.

Dave Froehlich was up for reelection as President, for his third and final term, and no other nominees were presented.

Mike McKern motioned to approve all three nominees for their respective positions. Lee Bowman seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

New business for 2019:

- The 2019 Synod Convention was discussed and we have the opportunity attend with a delegate. Tom Oswald was nominated as our congregation's delegate. Greg Lewis motioned to approve Tom's nomination. Mike McKern seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.
- The Child Protection Policy was discussed and commented on. Paul White motioned to accept the policy. Kirk Twelmeyer seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and was approved with one "nay" vote.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary Society ("LWMS") event was discussed and John Thielke suggested that Lincoln Heights forego an individual service on June 30<sup>th</sup> and encourage members to attend the LWMS worship service downtown. Short discussion ensued; no decision was made.

The next scheduled meetings are:

- Open Forums - March 24th, June 23rd, August 25th, and November 17th
- Voter's Meeting - January 26th, 2020

The Voter's Meeting adjourned with our Lord's Prayer.

*The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. (1 Corinthians 12:12-13)*

Paul describes the Holy Christian Church as united and unique. So also our congregation is united and unique. Thanks to the Lord that we have members with many different backgrounds, life experiences, education, talents and spiritual gifts. As we look back over 2018 we see how our members put their gifts and abilities to use in our local congregation: from music to maintenance, finances to flowers, teaching, serving, encouraging and more. As we enter this new year, look for ways that you fit into the body of Christ here at Lincoln Heights. Especially encourage others to use their God-given gifts as part of the body. And as we do this, we always remember our unity is not in what we do together but in the One who unites us. Christ unites us by his Word. We all drink from the living water of the Word of God. We all need the same forgiveness Christ offers and gives in his Word and Sacraments. May the Lord of the Church strengthen our unity and enable us to see the beauty of each other's unique place in his body this year.

## **Annual Statistics**

### **Worship**

Sunday worship is when the most people receive the blessings of the gospel in the Word and Sacraments. Attendance was even with last year and is at a level approaching the attendance levels of the late 1990's and early 2000's (as high as 126). May the Lord continue to move more hearts to gladly hear and learn his Word in worship. In 2019, attendance will include the Nuer and Kunama services that have not been tracked so far.

Lent and Advent midweek services saw a steep decline in attendance. I am interested in any feedback about these opportunities to prepare for the great celebrations of Easter and Christmas. The other special services had strong attendance.

We used a gathering rite for Advent produced by our synod. We will continue to look for variety within the liturgical structure of our services. Thanks to the musicians, ushers, altar guild and all who make worship go smoothly, so that Christ remains our focus.

### **Christian Education**

Bible class showed a some growth. Classes include Sunday, Wednesday, Drake Campus Ministry, Catechism, and Bible Information. Sunday School was a little down. Please talk to me if you have ideas for Bible study topics, formats or if you would like to host a study in your home.

Sunday School was down a little. We added a class for 5th-6th grade students that will prepare them for Catechism class. In two years they will learn and be quizzed on 58 Bible history lessons.

### **Evangelism**

Outreach efforts included: Easter for Kids, summer VBS, Christmas for Kids, a tent at the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Festival, and the Fall festival. We amended our budget to invest \$5000 to provide evangelism training through Praise and Proclaim. About 25 people were trained on a Friday evening with a dozen going door to door on Saturday. 500 homes were reached and 101 gospel seeds were planted. Three more members went out the next Saturday, reaching 78 homes and planting 10 gospel seeds. Four members reached about 100 homes before Christmas, planting 18 gospel seeds. Thanks to the Lord that we were able to reach almost 700 households in our neighborhood and share a short gospel message with 129 people. We trust the Lord to work through his Word.

Our website was redesigned to be user and mobile friendly. Sermons videos are available for visitors and members to view. Thanks to the technology committee for helping us use technology to connect people with the gospel.

### **Nuer Ministry (Sudanese)**

Peter Gatkuoth continues to lead the Sudanese members. They plan to attend morning (English) services on Communion Sundays and have Nuer services the other weeks.

### **Kunama Ministry (Eritrean)**

Simon Kamaty leads this group of believers. They meet for worship at 3 pm on Sundays.

## Pastoral Studies Institute

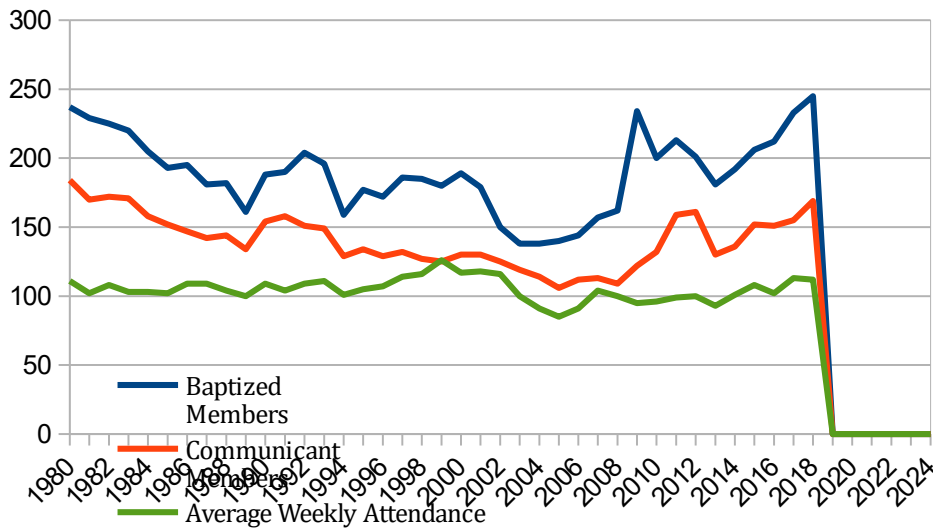
I continue to work with Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in the training of Luke Lu to be a Lutheran pastor.

## Other

We thanked God for his grace in Christ by serving in our community. About 80 meals are prepared and delivered to the homeless each week. We began cleaning up Watrous Ave to keep our neighborhood clean and we will also keep Sayer's Park clean in 2019. Join us in serving and making contact with the people in our community. Fellowship events included: New member potluck, Easter breakfast, an Iowa Cubs baseball game, book club and the Fall Festival.

With thanks to God gave \$15,795 as our Congregation Mission Offering to the work of WELS. We also gave special offerings to WELS Christian Aid and Relief of \$5000, a group who helped Lincoln Heights in the past and continues to offer humanitarian aid around the world. We also gave smaller gifts to the Lutheran Military Support Group, Christian Life Resources and LWMS kids c.a.r.e. We were pleased to continue to support our member attending Martin Luther College with the interest from our Church Extension Fund deposits.

Membership at Lincoln Heights Lutheran



## **2018 Membership Changes**

### Gains

By Profession of Faith – Jessica McDermott, Aster Isaac (Solit, Sida, Soma, Selena, Mishsho, Palma, Kelay)

By Adult Confirmation – Charlene Sievers, Matt Travi, Nyabile Gatwech, Buk Nyoach

By Youth Confirmation – Tera Mackenzie Pippett, Andrew Jay Pender, Berhane Ali Mikele, Kayla Rae Jensen, Jill Marie Holmen, Soma Yona Germano, Michael Frederick Froehlich, Marcko Mikele Dalay, Kothethin Gabriel Yien, Rachel Nyachoat Malual

By Baptism – Marta Louise Schaeffer (6/16/18), Piper Rose Kauzlarich (7/7/18), Graysen Andrew Behl (10/23/18)

By Transfer – Sarah Riese (from King of Grace Lutheran, Waukon, IA)

By Reactivation – Karl and Arabella Kuhrt

### Losses

By Release – Deb Curtis (Anna Haarstick, Aidan Haarstick), Andrew Haarstick, Rachel Malual

By Removal –

By Transfer – Mary Banak (to Mankato)

By Death – Neola Baccus (3/8/18)

***Communicants: 169***

***Baptized: 245***

### **Pastoral Actions**

#### Child Baptisms

Eshaida Armando Adem (4/15/18)

Piper Rose Kauzlarich (7/7/18)

Kelay Yona Germano (5/6/18)

Hayley Lynn Gomez (8/25/18)

Sakeyo Ali Kalifa (5/6/18)

Graysen Andrew Behl (10/23/18)

Marta Louise Schaeffer (6/16/18)

#### Adult Baptisms

#### Funerals

Neola Baccus (3/12/18)

#### Weddings

Patrick Hockett and Jaime Clark (10/30/18)





