

**Immanuel-Sterling/St John-Tecumseh  
Dual Parish Council Meeting Minutes**

**October 22, 2014**

Acting Dual Parish President Galen Bartels called the meeting to order.

Pastor Wolter and the following eleven council members were in attendance.

- Immanuel – Galen Bartels, Rick Buehler, Stan Karr, Larry Rathe, and Tim Sugden
- St John – Cheryl Bartels, Kirk Bartels, Steve Bartels, Sam Kuhl, Ron Rathe, and Rich Ziegler

There was discussion of the dual parish functionality, feedback received regarding Sunday worship service times, and the possibility of a Saturday evening service (which may be explored further next summer). It is very important for the two congregations to continually look for opportunities to minister and fellowship together.

Pastor Reehl, from Grand Island, will be speaking at St Johns on Sunday, November 2 about the opportunity we have to partner together in mission and adopt an orphanage in Russia. Through Orphan Grain Train, orphans are provided with a loving home and the opportunity to hear about God's love for them. This could also include a mission trip next May, 2015.

The time and location of confirmation class, as well as transportation, was also a topic of discussion. This will be revisited with the junior high parents prior to the beginning of the next school year. A request was made for the Parish Council to meet earlier in the year (i.e. August) and possibly more than once annually. Pastor Wolter commented that the recent Pastor's Conference was very edifying.

The possibility of a joint Thanksgiving dinner was discussed. Pastor is to check with the Ministerial Association as there may be a conflict with a community event which the other churches in Tecumseh are hosting.

The holiday schedule and special/festival worship services were discussed.

**2014**

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|----------------------------|---------|----------|
| • Thanksgiving Day (11/27) | 9 a.m.  | Immanuel |
| • Advent Services          | 7 p.m.  |          |
| ○ December 3               |         | St John  |
| ○ December 10              |         | Immanuel |
| ○ December 17              |         | St John  |
| • Christmas Eve            | 7 p.m.  | Immanuel |
| • Christmas Day            | 10 a.m. | St John  |
| • New Year's Eve           | 7 p.m.  | Immanuel |

**2015**

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|-------------------------|------------------|----------|
| • Ash Wednesday (2/18)  | 7 p.m.           | St John  |
| • Lenten Services       | 7 p.m.           |          |
| ○ February 25           |                  | Immanuel |
| ○ March 4               |                  | St John  |
| ○ March 11              |                  | Immanuel |
| ○ March 18              |                  | St John  |
| ○ March 25              |                  | Immanuel |
| • Maundy Thursday (4/2) | 7 p.m.           | St John  |
| • Good Friday (4/3)     | 7 p.m.           | Immanuel |
| • Easter (4/5)          | 6:30 & 9:30 a.m. |          |

The times/locations for the respective Easter worship services have yet to be finalized between the two churches. This will be addressed with the voters assemblies of both and a decision made as the date approaches.

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for 4 p.m. on Sunday, February 22, 2015 at St John. Meeting adjourned with a closing prayer and singing of the doxology.

Cheryl Bartels, Secretary