

Joint Council Meeting for the dual parish of St. John Tecumseh and Immanuel Sterling
2/6/13 7:00pm at St. John

Present:

Ron Rathe	Ken Brinkman
Rick Thies	Sam Kuhl
Stan Karr	Kirk Bartels
Cheryl Bartels	Amy Borrenpohl
Tim Sugden	Jon Rathe
Pastor Wolter	

Meeting opened with a devotion and prayer from Pastor.

Ron asked the Treasurer's of the two churches if they had anything they wanted to bring up, regarding how things have been working? They reported that it is working well. Pastor has been doing well breaking down invoices with what belongs to each church. He color codes his mileage sheet per church also.

Special Church Services

- Alternating Lenten Services – Ron read letters received in St. John's suggestion box regarding splitting up the evening services between the two churches (alternating from week to week). The majority of those (who expressed their opinions at St. John's) wanted to alternate. Immanuel had asked at their voter's meeting the previous Sunday if they had a preference and they expressed no preference either way. Pastor was neutral and suggested the split if it was a majority. It was decided to try alternating the Lenten services and see how that goes and discuss again at our October meeting. The decision was not determined to be permanent. A motion was made to alternate Lenten services between the churches, service by service- and seconded. Motion carried.
- It was agreed between circuit Pastors (Gies, Mortenson, and Wolter) to "swap pulpits" during Lenten services.
- Ash Wednesday will be at St. John's. The youth will be having a Soup Supper prior to services. Pastor asked if we thought there would be other groups that might want to host a dinner the other weeks prior to service. Immanuel chose to not participate.
- It was discussed whether to have a Seder Service on Maundy Thursday. St John's has had them in the past. Pastor has also done them. Immanuel has never participated in one. The general consensus was not to have one this year, but discuss having it next year.
- It was discussed having two Good Friday services (an afternoon one and then an evening one). It was decided that there would probably not be enough participation in the afternoon one. There will only be one service.

- Dates and locations for Lenten Services all at 7:00 pm:
 - 2/20/13 – Immanuel
 - 2/27/13 – St. John's
 - 3/06/13 – Immanuel
 - 3/13/13 – St. John's
 - 3/20/13 – Immanuel
 - 3/28/13 – Maundy Thursday with Communion – St. Johns
 - 3/29/13 – Good Friday - Immanuel
- Easter – Discussion led to setting a 6:30 am Sunrise service at Immanuel and a 9:30 am service at St. John's.

Confirmation will be the 19th of May. Pastor will know prior to this time if someone is not ready to be confirmed and notify the families well ahead of time. Discussed whether to have separate confirmation services at each church or have one combined service. It was decided that each church will have their own confirmation service. Questioning will be combined on Wednesday, May 15th, 7:00 pm at Immanuel. The confirmands will be expected to write an essay and will read them during the service.

Pastor received a call from Jews for Jesus. It is an organization that will come and put up a display with discussion about the Passover, a shortened or full seder, etc. It was decided not to have them come. Pastor will let them know.

It was discussed and decided that next fall we will leave the confirmation/midweek classes the way they are now. 7th & 8th grade Confirmation classes will be at Immanuel and 5th and 6th grade Midweek classes will be at St. John's.

Our next meeting will be 10/23/13 at 7:00 pm at Immanuel.

A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor closed with prayer.