

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

February 3, 2016

The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer.

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

- Immanuel – Galen Bartels, Rick Buehler, Ed Heiden, Dawn Kahler, Stan Karr, Larry Rathe, Tim Sugden and Rick Thies
- St John – Cheryl Bartels, Kirk Bartels, Steve Bartels, Jennifer Brinkman, Ken Brinkman and Sam Kuhl

The Ash Wednesday worship service will be held at Immanuel. The Lenten theme will be the “Seven Deadly Sins”. Confirmation will occur on Palm Sunday, March 20 at each church, respectively. There will be three confirmands this year, one at Immanuel and two at St John. Their night of questioning will take place at St John on Wednesday, March 16 following lenten worship. The Maundy Thursday service will be held at Immanuel with Good Friday service held at St John. A prayer vigil will be held at the churches on Saturday, March 26. Easter worship will be held at 6:30 am (St John) and 9:00 am (Immanuel). To allow flexibility in scheduling, the choice of Easter service time will rotate annually between the two churches (2017-Immanuel).

There was some discussion of Sunday worship service times. If there is a reason to consider changing the service times in support of the ministry of the church, then further discussion may take place in the future.

Galen Bartels proposed a joint worship service be held twice a year, rather than just once annually and discussion followed. A joint traditional worship service with communion will be held at 10 am on May 22 at St John. The fall outdoor contemporary joint worship service will be held at 10 am on September 11 at Immanuel. The host congregation will coordinate plans for a meal following worship.

Feedback regarding 2015 Christmas Eve service times and the absence of a Christmas Day service was discussed. Discussion included the possibility of a joint childrens’ service or alternating of the childrens’ program and candlelight every other year for Christmas Eve worship at each church. Proposed Christmas Eve service times would be 5:30 and 7:30 pm.

The Parish Council approved the (church) expense (approx. \$30) for special event/service bulletin covers (i.e. confirmation and baptism).

Motion to adjourn made by Ed Heiden and seconded by Sam Kuhl. Motion carried. The meeting was closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Cheryl Bartels, Secretary