**1/29/17 Elk Creek Annual Congregational Meeting for the year of 2016**

The meeting was called to order by President Dick Schermetzler at 10:04 a.m. There were 50 members in attendance.

Pastor led us in devotions & prayer based on Lamentations 3:21-24 “…God, draw us together as your disciples as we discern the mission you call us to as a congregation and as disciples.”

**New Business**

1. **Approval of Required Amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations.**

**Due to the impact of this vote on our Congregational operations and Officer Election this is the first action item.**

* Members were provided with a written copy of 2016 Required Amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations as well as Second Approval of the Elk Creek Lutheran New Constitution.
* Dick pointed out changes and stated that most/all were required by the Synod

Motion was made by Steve Johnson to approve the Amendments and final draft of the Constitution as presented, 2nd by Barb Howard. Paper ballot distributed. Motion approved 48 to 1.

**Pastor’s Report**

* Baptisms - 4; Confirmations – 3; Weddings – 3; Funerals – 4 Transfers in – 6 Transfers out - 5
* Pastor identified that we have begun a new chapter, and it will be great to be able to walk with you in this new partnership
* Pastor thanked us for welcoming her into our church and making her feel a part of all we do.
* Pastor recognized our love for music, children, elders and everyone, stating that our congregation is very intentional, inviting, and sustainable as a ministry to those around you.
* Pastor appreciated our care and concern for Independence and our commitment to the health of their congregation as well as our own.

**Secretary’s Report** was not read aloud, instead proposed by Dick Schermetzler to be entered and apporoved as presented in the annual report. Motion to accept by Lynn Nelson; 2nd by Deb Ebert. Motion approved.

**Operating Report** (General Fund / Building Fund) was read by Brandi Berg.

Total Income for 2016 - $76,869.84 Total Expenses for 2016 - $70,613.23 Ending Balance for 2016 - $17,486.95

Building Fund Checking - $13,907.11 Memorial Fund - $2,147.11 Building Fund CD 2 - $13,493.58

Building Fund CD 1- $5,698.63 2020 Fund - $20,189.34 Clavinova fund – Closed out

Motion to General Fund and Building Fund Reports by Steve Ebert, 2nd Allen Rongstad, motion approved.

**Auditing Committee:**  Lynn Nelson shared the audit went well and commended Brandi on her thorough and complete job as treasurer.

**President’s Report** given by Dick Schermetzler.

* Usually our biggest issue in the year is an electrical system update or new entryway to the church form front and back, not so this year we lost our Pastor
* Plan to finish up and approve a new Constitution
* We need to find a parish partner and then look to call a new Pastor
* Thanked Tammy for all of her hard work on typing the updates to the constitution.
* Dick also asked for an update from the Transition Committee. Keith Nelson, chairman if the committee shared some of the responses presented on our profile that will be available to interested Pastors. Keith also shared that committee is in the final stages of the process pending review with Pastor Kaufman and Synod Approval.
* Dick thanked the committee for their good work.

**Following reports were presented as informational as part of the printed annual meeting:**

**WELCA**: presented by Becky Rongstad.

Total Income - $ 17,750.23 Total Expenses - $18,764.26 Ending Balance - $4.797.21

Max Rate Savings $4,399.01 Seminary Savings - $1,091.52 Seminary CD - $10,998.34

Following Reports were printed in the annual report as informational with no votes taken:

**CIA Youth Group –** presented by Lindsey Nelson. Total Income - $1,186.25; Total Expenses - $2161.48; Ending balance - $2,520.92

**Choir:** presented by Lynn Nelson; Ending balance $259.53.

**Memorial Fund:** presented by Barb Nelson. Ending Balance $2147.11. Memorials were given to various church organizations in memory Carol Schaal, Jane Collett, Ruth Traseth, Tommy Hammer, Ethel Fleming, Carolyn Enger, Reed Hammer, Steve and Lois Anniversary, Marshal and Luella Nelson, Martin and Olive Nelson, Patricia Kehrmeyer, Melvin Wirth, Clyde Belongia and Jim Kehrmeyer

**Sunday school** – No report provided

**Operating Budget and Building Fund Budget** **for 2017** were presented by Brandi Berg. Motion was made to remove Parish Secretary line item for $600 on second page of operating budget as it was a duplicate item. Mike Nelson made a motion to approve the general fund and building fund budgets as amended; 2nd by Keith Nelson. Motion approved.

**Election of Officers –** the following officers were presented for election for 2017.

**President Vice President Member at Large \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Dick Schermetzler (1yr.) Steve Ebert (2yr.) Jim Odness (3yr.) V-P Elect

Kevin Eid (1yr.)

Keith Nelson (2yr.)

Bruce Thompson (3yr.)

**Treasurer Financial Secretary WELCA Recording Secretary**

Brandi Berg (2yr.) Lynn Nelson Stephanie Rumstick (1yr.) Linda Odness (3yr.)

**WOSHIP APPOINTED POSITIONS**

**Memorial Secretary Board of Education Auditing Committee\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Becky Rongstad Amber Radatz Barb Howard

LaYona Manka (Leonard Robinson 3rd year)

Sherri Maug (Lynn Nelson 2nd year)

Lindsey Nelson

**Head Greeter/Usher Head Lector Stewardship Committee Music Committee**

Roger Rumstick LaVerne Schaefer Steve Johnson Bonnie Johnson

Jan Berg Tammy Danenberg

Mary Dubiel Becky Rongstad

**Joint Parish Board Memorial Committee Nominating Committee Worship Ministry**

Barb Fischer Sheryl Ellwood Brian Christopherson Barb Howard (1yr)

(Clarissa Clark 2nd yr) Tammy Danenberg Allen Rongstad Ryan Johnson (1yr)

(Mike Nelson 3rd yr) Crystal Johnson Allen Rongstad (2yr)

Donna Kehrmeyer (2yr)

Discussion regarding changing ballot as Nicole Nelson is not a member. Motion made by Linda Odness to remove Nicole Nelson as Member at Large and add Keith Nelson, seconded by Deb Ebert, motion approved

Kellen Nelson made a motion to cast a unanimous vote for all members on the ballot. Second by Jan Berg. Motion approved.

**Old Business**

* Dishwasher update
* Electrical work has been completed, however have not received a bill.
* It was suggested that perhaps we should look into putting central air conditioning into the parsonage. There may also be a rodent / bat problem that needs to be dealt with there as well. ( Not discussed and no action taken)

**New Business**

1. **Approval of Required Amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations.**

**Due to the impact of this vote on our Congregational operations and Officer Election was the first action item.**

1. **Two Point Parish Agreement with Immanuel Lutheran Church of Strum:**

Motion was presented as follows by Dick Schermetzler:

We authorize the Elk Creek Congregational Council to work with Immanuel Lutheran Church of Strum Congregational Council in order to develop a Two Point Parish Agreement. It is anticipated that this agreement will split the Pastor’s compensation 65% to Immanuel and 35% to Elk Creek. Said agreement will be drafted by both councils and will not become effective until it has been approved by each Congregation at a Special Congregational Meeting of each Congregation.

**Dick provided the following information:**

* Elk Creek council approved this motion at January’s council meeting.
* Synod has approved this motion to go forward with Strum
* Strum is voting today to decide if they want to form a 2 point with us. A copy of this motion was provided to Immanuel, they may be voting on the exact same thing or something similar
* Strum will be the big guy, we will be the little guy
* There are some possibilities for non-financial benefits too

General discussion was held among members with following issues brought forward:

* Effect of financial split on Pastor’s time spent supporting our congregation. Pastor Gail, along with the Synod, assured our congregation that the financial split does not dictated the support or time a Pastor would be present for us. “Similar to any other relationship; based on need is how much time would be spent at each given church.”
* Possibility of sharing practices and programs such as youth group or summer bible study

Motion was made by Lynn Nelson to vote on the Two Point Parish Agreement with Immanuel Lutheran of Strum as presented, seconded by Amber Radatz. Vote cast via paper ballot, motion approved, 40 to 6.

1. **Updated Congregation Roll**

Council has reviewed has been updating our Congregational Roll which is printed in the Annual Report

Constitution stipulates in order to be an active member one must contribute to the church (as recorded) and commune at least once (as recorded) within a two year period.

Our roll has been updated with those active as indicated and others place on an inactive roll.

Motion to recess was made by Steve Johnson, 2nd by Pam Johnson. Motion approved. We recessed at 1:00 pm. respectfully submitted by Linda Odness, acting Recording Secretary.