

The January meeting of the congregation of the United Evangelical Church was held January 26, 1973.

Church Council President Arthr Block called the meeting to order and Pastor Paul A. Rasche opened it with a prayer.

The minutes of the Congregational meeting held on Friday, December 1, 1972 were read and approved as submitted.

There were 29 voting members in attendance.

Mrs. Myrtle DeVaughn, Ladies Aid President, again presented the church a check for \$500 in behalf of the organization. The report from the Ladies Aid pointed up another busy year here at the church.

The Young Women's Guild report was presented by Mrs. Mildred Gronberg, the treasurer of the organization. This group was very generous in their giving again this year as evidenced in the report. The total gifts for the year amounted to some \$2440 of which \$1825 went to our Church. The big fund raisers were the Lenten Sales, Crab Cake Supper, Mother and Daughter Banquet and the Christmas Candy sale.

Mr. Paul Bauersfeld presented the 1972 Church School report which revealed that there were presently 243 pupils in our Church School, the average attendance was 121 or 50%. The contributions to benevolences again was 25% of the offering. The Church School held a successful Fun Fair in June where proceeds netted \$300 and the entire amount was given to Eden Seminary as a memorial to our late Pastor Titus Lehmann DD. A modern sophisticated amplification system was installed in our auditorium at a cost of \$2200 by the Church School. The Church School Staff expressed thanks to the Church for installing the new paneling in the stairways of the Church School building by presenting the Church with a gift of \$400; Mrs. Carol Rowell, our present Church School Superintendent, presented the check. Mr. Martin Walsh, treasurer, read the financial report for the year 1972 - balance at year's end was \$5500.

The Sewing Group here at Church has 19 members on roll and about 12 to 15 on the average turn out for Tuesday's sessions. The report showed hundreds of useful clothing items, blankets, dolls, therapy balls and rolls of bandage made up for City Hospital, Rosewood and American Leprosy mission. Mrs. Emma Koehler's report indicated that \$310 worth of material went into these articles. The largest portion of operating income was derived from dues collected from the members, \$152 worth. The Lenten Bake Sale, a bus trip and donations netted another \$225. The balance in the treasury at year's end was \$107.

Robert Gundlach, the president of our Youth Group, read a report which was prepared by Fred Long, Adult advisor for the group. Total receipts for the year amounted to \$730; there was a car wash in June which accounted for \$158, a spaghetti dinner also in June netting \$272 and two sales held by Mrs. Roberta Jackson, one a fruit cake sale and the other a key chain sale which combined netted \$197. The group through out the year enjoyed varied activities such as a bus trip to Rehobeth and Wildwood, a cook-out at Double Rock Park, trips to Skateland and a luncheon. The group also planned a trip for Feb. 10 and 11 to Jamestown and Williamsburg, Virginia. The Youth Group in the fall of 1972 also started a young youth group ages 10 to 12 years. Florence Gundlach and Robert Gundlach donated a lot of their time instructing these youngsters in craft projects. In closing Mr. Long's report thanked the following people for giving of their time and talents - Pastor Rasche, Arthur Block, Robert Gundlach, Robert Jackson, Florence Gundlach, Anna Block, Roberta Jackson and Dorothy Long. The total expenses for the year was \$220 and the balance on hand December 31, 1972 was \$550.

Paul Bauersfeld reporting for the Men's Fellowship informed us that the men meet the second Wednesday of each month, a non-structured type meeting; attendance has been down and Paul urged more men to turn out for the meetings.

President Block thanked all the organizations for submitting the annual reports and reminded all that we are in our 100th Anniversary year and suggested that each organization make an effort to hold an affair to help the cause.

A member of the congregation asked about transportation to the 100th anniversary banquet. Mr. Block said that it was already cleared in the Church Council that we would hire busses where needed.

Arthur reminded everyone that patron ads would be \$1.00 for one line in our 100th Anniversary ad book.

Old Business: Mrs. Roberta Jacson said that she would have appreciated it if the Church Council would have informed the people that our church was not going to be active in the Key 73 Program. Mr. Block said that the men of the Church were being pushed now, to handle all the committee work which the 100th anniversary requires. Arthur said that he was sorry about there not being an announcement to this effect, but there was a time problem - Council Meeting decision to Key 73 Program Kick Off.

~~Pastor Rasche was called from the meeting because of an urgent sick call from a member in the hospital, and in his absence Mrs. Rasche read the Pastor's annual report. Noting some of the highlights of the report, I chose to pass on the following: Pastor Rasche expressed deep confidence in the church having a truly outstanding celebration for our 100th Anniversary because of all the hard work of the various subcommittees he had witnessed. In terms of progress, the Pastor was impressed with the rate in which the organizational life of our church has been moving. He thought special mention should be made of the fine work being done in the Youth Group by Mr. Fred Long assisted by Mr. Arthur Block. The "Canton Happening" the summer experience with children, an ecumenical endeavor with St. Brigid's Roman Catholic Church was most successful and pleased all. Pastor expressed gratitude to the hard working volunteers who made it all possible. The disappointing part of the picture was the failure of the Mission Study Group, announced for early in the year. This failure coupled with disinterest shown at earlier attempts at Bible study, or mission or current event seminars, dishearten the Pastor in his attempts to such ventures in the future.~~

Another of our losses during the year was the resignation of Mrs. Carrie Bentrup as caretaker and housekeeper after 17 years of loyal service with the Church; Pastor wished her health and happiness in her years of retirement. The fact that our attendance at church services fell off slightly from 1971 was a matter of deep concern, Pastor looked to our many special Centennial events to assist us in improving attendance in 1973. Attendance at church services in 1972 averaged out to 325 a Sunday, and membership of the church stood at 733.

Pastor Rasche said that our motive for our Centennial Year should be "We are a congregation under God and our entire effort should be to give a glory to His Name, and His Cause."

Ernest Jones, our financial secretary, reporting from memory said that for the first time in many years we met our budget, even though we got off to a poor start.

In response to a question regarding the progress in acquiring our Associate Pastor, Mr. Block remarked that we were in process of drawing up a job description so that we could clearly define his tasks.

There being no other business to come before the meeting, Ernest Jones motioned that the meeting be adjourned, Martin Walsh seconded it, and it carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Louis W. Parker, Sr.
Recording Secretary