

The Annual Congregational Meeting of the United Evangelical Church was held January 25, 1974.

In attendance were George Tuerk, Mr & Mrs. George Sauer, Mr & Mrs. William Single III, Mr. & Mrs. Louis Parker Sr., Mr & Mrs. William Voelker, Mr & Mrs. William Lauckeman, Mr & Mrs. Martin Walsh, Mr & Mrs. J. Albert Fader, Sr., Mr. & Mrs. Louis Oberlander, Pastor and Mrs. Paul Rasche, Mildred Gronberg, Mae Kellner, Arthur Blode, Fred Long, Florence Gundlach, Roberta Jackson, Myrtle De Vaughn, Carol Rowell, Paul Bausisfeld, Ernie Jones, Albert Witzke, Ray Schmitt, Randy Schmitt, Denise Swancio, and Louis Parker Jr.

The meeting was called to order by President, George Tuerk.

The minutes for the November, 1973 Congregational Meeting were read and approved as submitted.

The Report of Income & Expenses for 1973 was reviewed and approved as submitted. It was

noted that the 100TH Anniversary Plates did not sell as well as expected. A large stock of unsold plates remains and receipts from the sales of the plates just barely exceeds their cost. It was decided to leave the disposition of these plates to the Anniversary Committee. The need to buy a money counter and Anniversary Fund Board remain and both are in the process of being accomplished.

Report of Organizations:

Ladies' Aid Society: Mrs. De Vaughn presented a check for \$500. to the Church on behalf of the Ladies' Aid Society. Mrs. De Vaughn reported a balance in their Savings Account of \$870.26 and a Checking Account balance of \$343.55.

Young Women's Guild: Mildred Bronberg reported 1973 receipts of \$5,197.43 (including \$1,096.74 from the 1972 Treasury balance) and expenses of \$4,528.37 leaving a 1973 year-end balance of \$798.18. It was gratefully noted, that the Guild's expenses

included a \$ 2,260.44 gift to the Anniversary Fund for carpeting the Church.

Sewing Group: Grace Fader reported for Emma Kohler, that the group had 1973 receipts of \$ 618.12 and had incurred expenses of \$ 457.51, leaving a balance on hand of \$ 160.61. It was noted that the group had contributed a \$ 100. gift to the Anniversary Fund, and the large number of items made by the group which are given to various hospitals.

Choir: Al Witzke reported a \$ 500. donation by the choir to the Anniversary Fund, and a current balance on hand of \$ 213.19.

Church School: Martin Walsh reported receipts of the Church School for the year 1973 of \$ 3,337.77, and total operating expenses of \$ 5,175.49. This meant a net loss for the year of \$ 1,837.72. Marty also called attention to the new Sound System that was installed at a cost of \$ 2,277.50.

Carol Rowell reported the donation

of \$619. to the Anniversary Fund and the installation of the new Sound System. With much concern, she reported that Church School attendance has taken a significant drop with weekly attendance averaging about 50% of the total enrollment. Carol thanked Mr. Tuerle and the Church Council for the new windows which were recently installed throughout the Church School Building.

United Youth Group: Fred Long reported 1973 receipts of \$2,112.63 and expenses of \$976.83, leaving a year-end balance of \$1,135.80. Fred pointed out the success of the Dinner & Show - "Dem Good Ole Days" which the group conducted. The youth contributed \$519. toward air-conditioning the gym from the proceeds of the show. Fred, also stated that the group is strong and enthusiastic with a strong nucleus of extremely enthusiastic youth with Bob Gundlach at the very heart of the group. Mr. Long made special note of Bob Gundlach's contributions, without whom, Fred said, "There would probably be no Youth Group."

Fred and Otts Block serve as the Adult Advisors of the Youth Group which now has 48 members. The Youth Worship Service has grown out of the Youth Group as has the group of acolytes that serve at the regular services.

Randy Schmitt reported that the Youth Services are being conducted the last Sunday of each month.

Audit Committee: Lou Parker Jr. reported that the Audit Committee had recently audited the Church financial records, and found them to be in good order. The Committee had only minor recommendations to make to Financial Secretary, Ernie Jones, which he may or may not institute at his discretion.

Pastoral Committee: George Tuerle reported that a young man that the group had interviewed did not wish to accept the position. George has been in contact with Eden & Lancaster Seminars and Conference ministers seeking other candidates.

New Business: Al Witzke stated that the Last Supper Tableau group needed funds to rejuvenate and add to its equipment and costumes for the tableau presentation. Al Foder suggested that Mr. Witzke prepare a list of these items and their cost to be given the Church Council. George Tuerk assured Al Witzke that the matter would be brought before the Council at its February meeting.

Grace Foder feels that new interest should be generated in the Church School Picnic, even if a new format, such as a boat trip, has to be adopted.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Rasche made note of the huge success of our 100th Anniversary observance and expressed his appreciation to the Committee.

The Pastor reported that our membership had declined only slightly, but average weekly attendance is falling off badly with average Sunday attendance of about 323 members. Ten years ago attendance was about 425

members per Sunday. Although not intended to console us, the Pastor stated that this pattern of decline exists throughout the nation. The Pastor feels that our evangelistic efforts have been weak.

The Pastor thanked the Church Council, especially Otto Block, who had done a great job as President, and to Lou Parker Sr. who had served many years as Secretary. Pastor Rasche also thanked the Church Staff, especially Grace Fader, for their cooperation, and the Church School and staff.

Pastor Rasche expressed optimism at the fact that Youth activity and worship have grown, but grave concern at the general condition of the congregation. Due to this concern he urged the need to practice "Evangelism", and to make an intensive evangelistic effort this year.

Bill Single made a motion to distribute a copy of the Pastor's Annual Report with the next copy the Endeavor due to the serious condition of the life of this

congregation. Ray Schmitt seconded the motion and it was carried. A General discussion followed as to how to re-vitalize our congregational life.

Ernie Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Al Fader, and was carried.

The meeting was closed with a prayer by the Pastor.

Respectfully submitted,
Louis W. Parker Jr.