

Fellow Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Congregational Council met on Tuesday, June 23, 2026. There were three topics for discussion.

First, we have had two former members who have moved the ashes from our columbarium closer to where family now resides. On each occasion the request was honored. At the same time we realized we needed a formal policy in place. We have included the new policy in this mailing. The abandonment of two niches now leaves us with two open niches. The niches are in the older section of the columbarium. If anyone is interested in the purchase, please contact John Kinard. The approximate cost is around \$1000 for the reprinting of the markers along with adjacent markers that are connected.

Second, Pastor Chris has asked for medical/family leave. Council gave unanimous approval for him to take this leave from September 14 - November 14. During this time it is the intent to have a supply minister of word and sacrament to shepherd the congregation during Pastor Chris' leave. We will be following the outlined guidelines from the SC ELCA on the medical/family leave time. We have already begun working with the SC Synod office in preparation for a supply during the pastor's leave.

Third, to prepare Immanuel for this two-month period we have addressed some concerns that have been given to the Mutual Ministry Committee as well as the Congregational Council on the role of lay ministers. Council voted unanimously to approve a policy which is in line with the state and national guidelines for the ELCA. We hope this will clarify concerns or questions from the congregation.

Please read the two new policies. Also let's keep Pastor Chris in our prayers as he prepares for and during his leave time.

If you have any questions, please ask members on the Congregational Council or Mutual Ministry Committee.

We pray for the Holy Spirit to continue to guide and direct our mission here at Immanuel.

Sincerely,

John Kinard
Congregational President