

Immanuel/Bethesda Joint Council Meeting

March 18, 2026 at 6:30PM at Bethesda Lutheran in Bayfield, WI
Zoom 832-9354-1222
Passcode 511-991
Call-In #1-312-626-6799

Attendees: Pastor Connie Monson, Darin Anderson, Bob Eicher, Sarah Lund, Cris Lien, Jane Edwards, Al Reedy, Yvette Fleming, Jeff Stark, Eve Erickson, Robert Schlack, and Leanne Homa

Call to Order: by Bethesda Council President Darin Anderson

Devotions by Pastor Connie: a prayer by Rev. Cameron Trimble

Pastor's Report: Pastor Connie has a vacation is scheduled for April 9th-16th; Pastor Rachel Sieja will fill in on April 12th and Liz Seefelt from the BRICK will be the guest speaker on April 19th and 26th at Bethesda and Immanuel respectively; 2nd vacation is scheduled for July 26th-August 1st—pastors to fill in are not yet determined. Suggestions discussed include asking Pastors Will and Carolyn Mowchan.

Approval of joint November 19, 2025 minutes: mm by Jeff to approve, 2nd by Bob, motion carried

Old Business:

Justice Seekers Report: six local congregations are involved from our area included Bethesda & Immanuel; Eve Erickson from Immanuel, Karen Novachek from Messiah, Dianne Judd from Bethesda, Jay Pringle, and Mary Trettin from Messiah will be making a presentation on the Justice Seekers at a NW ELCA Synod Meeting on March 21st in Rice Lake, WI. February's meeting was by Pastor David Carlson, who serves Gloria Dei in Duluth, MN. His presentation at Messiah is called Eco Faith which is regarding environment concerns. March 19ths' meeting will held at Messiah Lutheran in Washburn, WI and focuses on health care with Red Cliff Clinic, North Lakes Clinic and Tamarac Clinic presenting. April 18ths' meeting will be held at Messiah Lutheran and the focus will be on working with all generations to work together.

AAMN (Allies & Advocates for Migrant Neighbors) Report: by Eve Erickson—41 pies were sold on PI (pie) Day at \$20/pie and raised over \$1200, including donations, for the AAMN fund which is used for family support and/or legal support for our migrant neighbors. 41 pies were prepared and baked from scratch on 3/14/26 at Bethesda with volunteers from Bethesda, Messiah and Immanuel Lutheran Churches—of which a good time was had by all!

New Business:

A joint worship service will be held at 11:00 am with Messiah Lutheran, First Lutheran in Port Wing and Immanuel Lutheran was originally planned for June 28th, but has been **rescheduled for June 21st** at the Community Center in Cornucopia. We are looking into having a band from Rhineland to play. A potluck dinner will follow the service. Organizing the set-up of the room, the potluck and clean-up will be discussed at another time.

Red Cliff 2.0 with Jim Pete: corrected dates to read: Jim Pete from Red Cliff is hosting tours of Native Areas on Saturday, June 13th, with possible overflow date on June 27th.

Synod communications & assembly: Scheduled for April 25th, attendees from our two parishes include Pastor Connie, from Bethesda are Diane Fizell and Darin Anderson, and from Immanuel are Eve Erickson and Jeff Stark. The ELCA has a NW Synod Weekly Blast written by Liz Bartsch that anyone can sign up for through the synod's website.

Added Business: Bethesda's Annual Fish Fry has been scheduled for July 24th. Volunteers needed.

Bethesda/Immanuel's Annual Church Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 23rd at the Little Sand Bay Picnic Shelter. This will include a potluck dinner and a Holden Service. Bob Eicher will check with those who know how to reach musician Dan Clark to handle the music.

Next meeting: June 17, 2026 at 6:30 pm at Immanuel Lutheran

Minutes submitted by Immanuel's Secretary Leanne Homa