

Immanuel Council MINUTES
Wednesday May 20, 2026 at 6:00 pm at Immanuel
Zoom ID: 832 9354 1222 Passcode: 511991
Call-In Number: 1-312-626-6799

Attendees: Pastor Connie Monson, Eve Erickson, Al Reedy, Jeff Stark, Robert Schlack, and Leanne Homa

Call to Order: by Council President Jeff Stark at 6:00 pm

Devotions by Pastor Connie read prayers on the Holy Spirit; Jeff volunteered to do devotions next month.

Pastor's Report: The Northwest Synod Wisconsin (NWSWI) annual synod Meeting, attended by Pastor Connie, Eve Erickson and Jeff Stark, included an update on synod missions. With church attendance declining and small churches closing, this is having a negative impact on the contributions to the very worthy missions that our synod serves, and the giving this past year was down by 10%. More later.

Secretary's Report: by Leanne, MM by Eve to accept last month's minutes, 2nd by Al, vote was unanimous

Treasurer's Report: not available for this week's meeting per Randy

Old Business:

1. **Justice Seekers Report**—by Eve & Pastor Connie—next meeting to be held is May 21st at Messiah Lutheran with Ted Rothe as the presenter on environmental concerns and what organizations, churches and individuals can do to make a difference.
2. **Allies and Advocates for Migrant Neighbors Report**—by Eve & Pastor Connie—AAMN funds and church mission funds are being used to help one family with expenses at this time.
3. **Art and Decorations Committee Report including Fellowship Hall**—by Leanne—Much thanks to Gordo Anderson for all his carpentry skills and to Jeff Stark for painting the Fellowship Hall, it looks lovely and has received only positive responses. Judy Florence will be donating one of her personal quilts to hang in the Fellowship Hall. The committee still intends to visit Messiah Lutheran in Washburn to see their cushioned folding chairs since we have been planning to buy something the same or similar. We want the entry way hall to be painted and have a mural painted on it. The threshold to the entryway needs to be updated so wheel chairs do not have to deal with the “lip” at the doorway. Eve will check with her carpenter, Bill, and

Jeff will check with his carpenter, Lucas. It was suggested we also get a new door.

4. **Mission Committee Update**—by Eve—The 100 Who Care Mission focuses on arts, museums, and cultural organizations this round. The voting will be held June 2nd. Yvette needs to know our churches' choice among these three: the Washburn Cultural Center, the Bayfield County Library, and the WOJB radio station (which is an affiliate of MPR and broadcasts from the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Anishinaabeg near Hayward, WI). Jeff is going to review the choices and get back to Yvette before June 1st. Yvette is interested in members choices.
5. **Luther Park Bible Camp Scholarship Update**—by Jeff Stark—tabled for a few months.
6. **Spring Clean-up progress**—by Leanne—five people helped on May 12th while others have signed up to help on days convenient for themselves. The list still has openings. Most of the jobs do not take a lot of time. The council decided the floors do not need to be waxed—the men of the church can relax about that. The kitchen list has been completed. The window-washing has volunteers already.
Outdoor work: We need to have a list, from those who tend to our outside projects, as to how we can help or hire things to be done. Weed whacking the ditches is an annual problem, and we need to find out what the Town of Bell requires and who might be able to do this job. Jeff will check with the Hokanson children about mowing the lawns, but they will not do ditches. More news to come on ditch work as research continues.
7. **Cottage Meeting Follow-up**—by Pastor Connie—the council's proposal last month was to avoid making lists and spreadsheets (a Skills Bank and Library of volunteers) to help others. We thought we could assume that our pastor already fields those requests. In fact, people do not call our pastor when they need rides, or need light bulbs changed, and other little projects completed. So, to give the congregation the opportunity to decide if they really want to cancel this mission or keep it, we need to bring it up with the congregation. It was suggested that we research what other churches are doing and perhaps to combine our services with that of another organization such as the Corny Club. Suggestions are welcome—talk to a council member.

New Business:

1. **Artisan Well issues**—The wellhead is in need of repair and cleaning. Yvette called Chris Kostac to clean it.
2. **Church Foundation**—needs to be graded and dirt hauled in to prevent more water from seeping into the east wall of the basement. Eve will call Doug Ballanger for recommendations. Yvette suggested calling All Things Basementy out of Duluth.
3. **Synod Budget**—perhaps to increase our tithe—this has been tabled until next month
4. **June 21—Joint Service with Peninsula Churches to be held at Cornucopia Town Hall**—fortunately, Eve Erickson and Karen Novachek have been working on a plan for organizing this day of worship and feasting. A Thrivent card from Messiah Lutheran will be used to have pulled pork catered by Jodi Hipsher at the Siskiwit Farmhouse. A division of labor has been designed with Eve & Karen overseeing the set-up, serving, and clean-up. Tentatively, Immanuel will provide the beverages, condiments, and paper products, Messiah will provide the salads, Bethesda & First Lutheran will bring desserts. Each church will provide two people to help with set-up, two to serve, and two people to help with clean-up. More information forthcoming.
5. **June 13—Lupine Day Sales (community area garage sale)**—We will be offering our Fellowship Hall and our church yard to those who want to set up a table to sell their treasures within the Cornucopia “shopping district”. We will have a sign-up sheet for reserving spaces, but you must contact Justine Broderson at the Coffee Shop to get your name on the map and to pay her the \$10 registration fee for this event.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at 6:00 pm

Adjourned: at 7:00 pm, MM by AI, 2nd by Leanne, motion carried

Submitted by Leanne Homa
Council Secretary