



September 2023

## COUNCIL MESSAGE

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Summer has come and gone faster than anyone usually wants. As the children of Immanuel and beyond are ready to transition into a new school year it made us think about the transitions happening around Immanuel. This has been a time of transition that has been difficult for some, and your council wants you to know we are here for you. Our goal from the beginning has been to be upfront and honest with the congregation and we promise to continue that level of openness as much as possible during this time.

As mentioned previously at a Sunday worship service, the synod recommends one month of reflection time for each year of service our previous pastor provided us. So, in this case Pastor Sierra was with us for 7 years so that means 7 months before we should begin the call process. This time allows the members of Immanuel to decide who we are and where we want the church to go in the future. In the meantime, Sunday services, visits to those that have requested, youth opportunities (confirmation, youth gatherings, and child/youth/family events), bible studies and more must continue. To help support the continuation of these activities at Immanuel the council met with Susan Williams about the next steps. This conversation included the process of locating an interim Pastor and ensuring everything is ready before we start forming a call committee.

Part of being prepared included updating our constitution and bylaws, which has been worked on by a few members of council and the congregation. The updated constitution and bylaws were sent to the synod for review and will be available for the congregation to review prior to voting at the annual meeting in

October. The council has also begun thinking about the call process in an unofficial capacity. Just as a reminder to the congregation, the council will follow the current constitution procedures regarding formation of a call committee. This includes six members being elected by the council. These members will include a variety of ages, genders, and length of church membership. The council will avoid using people who have served on a call committee previously. If you feel like you would like to be on the call committee, please ensure a council member is aware of your interest. This interest is no guarantee of selection, but we would like to consider all possible options.

As we consider our options for the church moving forward, another option that was presented to council at the August meeting was from Pastor Janeva Stromberg. This was an offer to become a bridge interim pastor. Basically, a bridge interim pastor helps bridge the gap between the previous pastor leaving and the congregation locating a permanent interim or calling another pastor. After this offer the executive committee again met with Susan Williams from the Synod office. It was then determined that Pastor Janeva will work 15 hours a week in various capacities and will preach 3 Sunday's a month beginning in October.

As the altar remains empty from a pastor that we can call our own, remember that the church is still open. The business of the church continues to run and the events that fill the building with laughter, prayer, and fellowship remain.

## COUNCIL

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### YOUR 2023 COUNCIL:

Dan Hartog	Sarah Bauer
Cathi Nehring	Janie Richardson
Colleen Hendershot	Donna Oslund
Colleen Sinell	

These elected members of the Immanuel Lutheran Church Council are hard at work on your behalf, taking care of day to day operations such as paying bills, maintaining the building, praying for the congregation and growing together in leaderships so that our whole congregation might be able to focus on being grounded in Worship and Fellowship and Service to our Neighbor. Thank you for your prayer and support as they go about their duties. Council meets 3rd Tuesday of each month.

*Monthly Council Meeting minutes can be found on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall and also in monthly newsletter.*

## FROM THE OFFICE

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We now have a new email address for the church office:

**brunswicklc@gmail.com**

Please make the necessary changes to your contact information, thank you!

During this time of transition at Immanuel Lutheran Church may we all be listening for God's voice. He has a plan...may we all stand together as a church family and embrace what He has/will do for Immanuel.

Continued prayers to everyone in our church family.

Please contact the office with questions, suggested communications changes, new ideas for helping our neighbors and sharing God's love!

God bless, Gladys Nelson

## FINANCIAL

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The current general fund balance is \$12,188.99. Corn Feed and auction raised approximately \$6000.00. \$1500 of this was transferred into the scholarship fund, balance remained in the general fund. Each month we are transferring money, which would have been used for pastoral expenses, into the Misc. Transfer Acct., minus costs associated with not having a pastor. This shows us how we are doing as if we had a pastor and allows us to have money available for the cost of when we call a new pastor. Our monthly average giving through July is \$2056 compared to \$2017 for 2022. Actual vs. budget for expenses through June, we are at 48%.

Parking lot update: Parking lot loan balance as of 8/15 is \$37,498.26. Current balance in parking lot account is \$3924.82 with payments of \$508.77 monthly, this covers almost eight months.

## REGULAR EVENTS

### SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 9am

Streamed live on Website: under Worship tab  
Immanuellutheranbrunswick.com  
Also on Facebook and YouTube pages

### BIBLE STUDY 9:30am

Each Tuesday in Fellowship Hall  
Women of ALL ages welcome!

### WELCA WOMEN

Thursday, September 7  
Hostesses: Phyllis B and Donna O

### QUILTING

Every Monday @ 9 a.m.

### SENIOR LEAGUE

10 am - 1 pm  
4th Monday every month  
Join us for fun, fellowship and games with  
Mexican Train and enjoy a potluck lunch.

## OUR PEOPLE

### HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY

Sept 1 Alison Stromberg  
Sept 4 Dylan Prokosch  
Sept 4 Rosalie Ludwig  
Sept 9 Kirsten Lejonvarn  
Sept 10 Colleen Sinell  
Sept 23 Dylan Nelson  
Sept 23 McKayla Nelson  
Sept 27 Corrine Argetsinger  
Sept 30 Bryan Prokosch

### IN OUR THOUGHTS ...

*Those asking for the prayers of this congregation.*

Gwen Johnsen  
John M.  
Nancy Jacobson  
Jack Stephens  
Joan Lakedon  
Corinne Argetsinger  
Eldon Duke

Teri Svendsen  
Dale Doerr  
Al Dockendorf  
Wilson Hartog  
Brian Prokosch

## SYNOD INFO

### REMAINING STEPS OF THE CALL PROCESS

2. Interim Period
  - Transitional Ministry Forms
  - Selection of Call Committee
  - Role of Church Council is to focus on mission, oversee ongoing ministries, communicate with congregation, arrange for pastoral care.
3. Call Process
  - Call Committee completes the Ministry Site Profile
  - Names of pastoral candidates are sought
  - The Interview
4. Calling the New Pastor
5. Welcome and Installation

For more information on the call process, please see the NEMN Synod website: [nemnsynod.org](http://nemnsynod.org) or scan QR code



## BUILDING & GROUNDS

New door handle on front door installed.  
Steeple: in progress  
Windows: in progress

# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

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## CONFIRMATION

The school year is just around the corner and that means it is time to start gearing up for Confirmation 2023-2024. Join together with your fellow 7, 8 and 9 grade friends to go deeper in your faith. Learn about God and God's people. Discover more about yourself and your faith.

**Class:** Confirmation classes are held on Wednesdays from 6 - 8 pm from September to May. We gather for dinner and conversation at 6pm and then move into class time. This is a 3-year program. This year we will be exploring the Old Testament by getting to know the Bible Jesus knew.

**Mentors:** Each student has been paired with an adult in the congregation with the goal of building relationships across generational lines, learning from each other and growing in our faith together. Mentors will attend 4 Wednesday evening classes, plus our Christmas party. Students and mentors will work together to create a Bible Story Project.

**Orientation for Students & Parents** will be September 13 from 6-8 pm. Students are expected to attend with at least one parent or guardian. Supper will be provided. Please let Mel Pioske or Shirley Zierke know how many of your family plan to attend so we can plan for the meal. After supper we will go through the schedule for the year and cover expectations for both students and parents. We will also be training students to be acolytes.

Whether you are a returning student or a new student we are so excited to start the new year with you! If you have questions, please call or text Shirley Zierke 651-271-12248 or Mel Pioske 952-913-4190.

## CONFIRMATION

### THE SERVICE CONNECTION

God designed us to be in relationship to one another: to love one another, to support one another. There is no better way to show our love and support than through simple acts of service.

This year, we are introducing Service Connection. This is a way to connect service needs to service volunteers. Our confirmation students will be looking for jobs they can do to help you around your homes. For example: watering flowers, washing a car, picking up sticks in the yard, raking leaves.

Some things to keep in mind: you will need to provide all supplies and equipment. For safety reasons, students will not be allowed to operate power tools or go up on ladders.

If you have a simple task, please contact Shirley Zierke or Mel Pioske. We will need to know the size of the task and when you would like it completed. We will then do our best to match your task with a confirmation student that is available. Bigger tasks may require more than one student so may take a bit longer to complete.

## YOUTH GROUP

Calling all 7-12 grade students to join us for Youth Group which meets the first Wednesday of each month, 6-8 pm, supper is provided. We eat a meal together, play games, think about life and about God, grow in our friendships and in faith. All are welcome and please invite your friends!

### New Orleans 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

"Created to Be" July 16-20, 2024

Stay tuned for more information in the coming months.

# COUNCIL MINUTES

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## **Call to Order: 5:35pm**

*Members Present:* Dan Hartog, Colleen Hendershot, Colleen Sinell, Janie Richardson, Sarah Bauer

*Members Absent:* Cathi Nehring

*Guests:* Janeva Stromberg

**Devotion / Prayer:** Janeva – Thine the Amen Hymn #826

## **Treasurer's Report:**

**General Fund:** \$14,607.20

**Upcoming Bills:** \$4,622.00

### **Other:**

Corn Feed Auction - \$4,300

Other Donations (Pie Eating, Floats, Meal, etc.)- \$1,700

Out of Pocket Costs – approximately \$600 (some paid with Thrivent card)

Donna motioned to \$300 to the Mora food shelf from the anonymous donation. Seconded by Colleen Hendershot.

**Pastor Update:** no update at this time

## **Office Manager Report:**

Church Safety – driveway sensor installed along with door sensor. Extra batteries were given to Gladys for the door sensor.

## **Committee Reports:**

*Buildings & Grounds / Property Committee:*

New door handle on front door installed.

Steeple: in progress

Windows: in progress

*Youth/Sunday School:*

Youth trip to New Orleans for Synod Journey: July 2024

Fundraising plans are in the works, families at the meeting came up with many new ideas.

Currently have 7 interested youth and 3 female and 1 or 2 male chaperones that are willing.

*Worship & Music:*

August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting

Discussed pulpit supply. Mary is going to check with Katie about upcoming music concerns.

Discussed Sunday Schools / Children's Sermons – how to get more kids? Incorporating more Sunday School / Campfire type music. Change the standard lectionary to a narrative lectionary, so we can hear

more of the stories in worship.

Sarah B. motions to move to the narrative lectionary. Seconded by Colleen. Motioned carried.

Returning to monthly meetings

*Cleaners:* Shelby stated no details to share at this time.

Weekly walk through the parsonage to make sure there are no emergency issues.

Colleen H. moved to give Shelby \$20 per week to check the parsonage, mailbox etc. for issues and report to council. This will take place until a pastor is moved in. Seconded by Sarah. Motioned carried.

*Cemetery:* no update provided.

*Altar Guild:* no update provided.

*Scholarship Committee:*

Colleen Hendershot moved to place \$1500 in the scholarship fund from the corn feed. The remaining balance placed into the general fund. Seconded by Colleen Sinell. Motion carried.

*WELCA:* went for the August outing at the Pizza Ranch in Cambridge.

*Memorial Fund:*

Donation made to the memorial fund in Joe's memory that could be used to purchase a new or used laptop for the council. Up to \$500.

*Kitchen Krew:*

Big thank you to everyone who helped make the corn feed a success, from Barb!

Missing silver serving trays!

*KCELCA:*

No Community Picnic this year due to churches in transition.

*New Pathways:*

If we know a family in our community that could use the laundry basket of items, we have set aside for new pathways. Can we use it for them as well? – Shirley said that is what it is for and gives her blessing to use it for this need.

Janie to follow up with Shirley about possibly donating items to the food shelf.

New Pathways is looking for more churches to partner with (for the people to sleep in). If you know of any churches that may be interested pass the information along with Shirley Zierke.

## **Upcoming Events:**

Blood Drive – October 20<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 4pm

Blood Drive – December 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10am – 4pm

# COUNCIL MINUTES

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## Unfinished Business:

- oConstitution and Bylaw Updates (Donna / Colleen S)
- oBeing sent to the Synod for approval.
- oThen presented to congregation for annual meeting in October.
- oUpdate on road sign – new top pieces to be painted and then installed.
- oParking Lot Fundraiser Ideas: Need to make a push to make money to pay for parking lot loan.
- Pledge Cards / One Time donation cards
- Movie Night
- Dance with live band
- Parsonage:  
Have the property committee go through the parsonage and determine what needs to be done.  
Youth to help with cleaning of parsonage?  
Laptop: tabled until September

## New Business:

- Annual Meeting Planning – October 15<sup>th</sup>
- Constitution
- By Laws
- Seminary Fund  
\$5,300 in fund for those who go to Seminary school.  
Transfer to the scholarship fund?  
Donna made a motion to transfer the money from the seminary fund to the scholarship fund and to leave it in the Thrivent account. Seconded by Colleen Sinell. Motioned carried.
- Office Changes  
Colleen H. is meeting with Gladys to support her needs, as needs.
- Donna moved to pay Colleen Hendershot \$15 per hour to support Gladys in the office. The hours will be submitted monthly. Seconded by Colleen Sinell. Motioned carried.
- To Do List for Youth  
Colleen S. will contact Shirley and Mel about this idea.
- Building and Grounds items? – window wells
- Cleaning up congregational members' yards after storms?
- Youth Trip and Friends
- Different payment plans for members and nonmem-

bers but same commitment for fundraising and expectations.  
New Orleans trip - \$300 for members, \$600 for non-members – this is nonrefundable.  
Chaperones will be covered 100% by the church through fundraising efforts of families.  
First Aid items (Sarah and Gladys) – Colleen Hendershot to keep this up to date.  
Need new AED pads and first aid kits should be checked.  
Can we get child pads.  
Fire Extinguisher yearly maintenance – already on schedule.  
Interim Bridge Pastor opportunity  
Janeva Stromberg proposed:  
Approximately 15 hours a week.  
Worship, administration of the worship, attend council, visitations to home bound (with congregational member), hospitalizations visits (with congregational member), and confirmation.  
Pulpit Supply for weeks she is here + \$800 per month.  
Thursday, Friday, Saturday off along with one Sunday a month off  
Independent contract with council and church  
Support with the call process as needed / allowed.

**August Minutes:** Read and Approved.

## Lord's Prayer

## Adjournment:

*Motion:* **Donna Oslund**      *Second:* **Sarah Bauer**  
*Time of Adjournment:* **8:14pm**

## SERVING US THIS MONTH

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MONTH	Sept 3	Sept 10	Sept 17	Sept 24
<b>Acolyte</b>	Haleigh Eggert	Ben Bauer	Ethan Stromberg	Alison Nehring
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Joy N & Mary F	Joy N & Mary F	Joy N & Mary F	Joy N & Mary F
<b>Coffee</b>	Connie K & Shirley Z	Jamie D & Barb D	Lia D & Judy D	Janie P & Ashley H
<b>Communion</b>	Cathi Nehring	None	Heather S	Dan H
<b>Counters</b>	Gladys N & Sarah B	Connie K & Joy N	Cathi N & Colleen S	Gladys N & Sarah B
<b>Lector</b>	Cathi Nehring	Sarah Bauer	Rick S	Abbi H
<b>Sound</b>	Dave H & Brady N	Dave H & Brady N	Dave H & Brady N	Dave H & Brady N
<b>Ushers</b>	Jason Nehring family	Bauer family	Eric Stromberg family	Dan Hartog family

**Ushers:** Don't know what to do? There is an instruction sheet on the back pew. Just follow along.

**If you cannot make assigned date:** Please call someone else to swap or sub. Remember to do so in a timely manner and let the office know of the change.

**Have questions? Or want to sign up to serve as a Worship Assistant?**

Call Connie Kawalek 320-679-1491

# SEPTEMBER 2023

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9am Worship & Streaming Online  6pm Backpack Blessing	4 9am Quilting	5 9:30am Ladies' Bible Study  5pm Worship	6 6-8pm Youth Group	7 1:30pm WELCA	8	9
10 9am Worship & Streaming Online	11 9am Quilting	12 9:30am Ladies' Bible Study  7pm AA Mtg.	13 6-8pm Confirma- tion orientation	14	15	16
17 9am Worship & Streaming Online	18 9am Quilting	19 9:30am Ladies' Bible Study  5:30pm Council Mtg  7pm AA Mtg.	20 6-8pm Confirma- tion	21	22	23
24 9am Worship & Streaming Online	25 10am Senior League	26 9:30am Ladies' Bible Study  7pm AA Mtg.	27 6-8pm Confirma- tion	28	29	30