

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Council Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2026 5:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Meredith Bloedel	Debbie Lindahl
X Wade Burlet	X Brian Marquart
George Erickson	X Mary Ellen Perry
X Pastor Ian Hewitson	X David Pundt
X Char Kinzer	X Paula Traylor

OPENING PRAYER: Char Kinzer led our opening prayer.

CALL TO ORDER: President Char Kinzer called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

Addition(s) to Agenda/Agenda Acceptance: Delete New Business #2 Youth Coordinator Retirement/Resignation Bonus.

Pastor Ian Hewitson moved that the agenda be approved as amended; Paula Traylor seconded his motion, and it was approved by voice vote.

JOYS OF IMMANUEL: Brian Marquart's sermons for the last two weeks during Pastor Ian's vacation; A solution to the missing music last Sunday; Manna for Malawi; The Ernst Family.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Discussion/Acceptance: Char Kinzer moved that we accept the Financial Report. Wade Burlet seconded her motion, and it was approved by voice vote.

1. **Right Path checking account #1170 balance of \$1,235.63.** Motion was made by Mary Ellen Perry to move \$1,235.63 from the Right Path checking account #1170 to the Area of Greatest Need savings account. Brian Marquart seconded the motion, and it was approved by voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance and Investment: Council expressed its appreciation for Jim Stolle's thorough and complete report.

Buildings and Grounds: Wade Burlet reported the Church mailbox is up. Someone parked in front of it at a recent gathering. Wade said he ordered a sign asking people not to block the mailbox. New handicapped parking spot signs have been ordered as well as three for 'Visitor's Parking.' A few small trees were removed in front of the Parsonage to enhance the view of the lake. Wade received a bid for security cameras for the office. After discussion, he was asked to have the bidder expand to include an intercom. Joe McNally will have knee surgery soon, and Wade will now be the committee's contact person.

Transition Steering Team: Char Kinzer reported that 50 surveys have been completed. Parishioners have until August 24th to complete. Each person in a family should complete to get a better sample. The Team will soon begin scheduling small group listening sessions.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Ian moved we welcome the Ernst Family into Immanuel Lutheran Church membership. The family includes Nathan and Anna and children Beckham, Kason and Rhett. Paula seconded his motion, and it was approved by voice vote.

Pastor Ian presented the Legacy Coalition Grandparenting Summit to be held at the Heritage Church in Baxter on September 19, 2026, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Pastor Ian said the program would concentrate on the important role grandparents play not just in their immediate family but in their church family as well. Tuition in advance is \$48, \$53 the day of the event. To register, contact:

<https://brushfirere.com/legacy-coalition/simulcast/616280>. The Legacy website is www.legacycoalition.com. Lunch will be included.

The Men's Den has finished their segment on the sacraments.

Pastor Ian was asked to furnish a list of area ministers to serve in case of emergencies during vacation and periods of absence.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Confirmation Youth Update:** Meredith Bloedel has volunteered to lead the current confirmation class with Paula Traylor's assistance.
2. **Committee Identification and Modifications:** Mary Ellen Perry wrapped up her work on Committees with Debbie Carlson. Char Kinzer will now try to use the information to help update the Continuing Resolutions to be presented to the council for their review.
3. **Church Security Policy:** A report is in progress.
4. **Parsonage Market Value Update:** Per Harry Kahnert's report, Brian Marquart moved that the Fixed Asset account #1520 be updated from \$306,719 to \$760,000. Mary Ellen Perry seconded his motion, and it was approved by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Website Updates:** Council agreed to recommend references to the Right Path Ministry be deleted, as the program has been eliminated. Website references of Sunday School should state that Immanuel Lutheran Church Sunday School classes are currently suspended during our transition period. Children are welcome, and childcare will be available during church services when needed. Confirmation programs are in place for those currently enrolled, at this time. All youth programs will be re-evaluated as we move through the transition period.
2. **Immanuel East Insurance and Property Tax:** Mary Ellen Perry moved that the 2026 property tax of \$967 for the Immanuel East Rental be paid from the \$1,700 escrow fund. Also, the annual Immanuel East house insurance of \$2,131.77 be paid with the balance from the escrow fund of \$733, and the balance of \$1,398.77 to be authorized from the Area of Greatest Need savings account. (Note: Future 2027 taxes and insurance should be covered by the escrow fund unless taxes increase.) Brian Marquart seconded her motion, and it was approved by voice vote.

3. **Updating of Membership Rolls:** Char Kinzer has been working with Debbi Carlson on the list of members active and inactive in our current system. She reported we have 354 active members and 54 inactive, prospective, and non-members. Char will ask a sub-committee of long-time members to examine the list for discrepancies and duplications and prepare a membership rolls recommendation to the Council at the next meeting as we prepare to true-up our database.
4. **iPad purchase for Square fundraising:** Char Kinzer moved that we authorize Deb Eatros to purchase a new iPad for use with our Square hardware for less than \$500 if the current iPad is not able to update to a compatible version. Brian Marquart seconded her motion, and it was approved by a voice vote
5. **Zoom meeting presentations by NALC and LCMC:** Char Kinzer reported that she will schedule a presentation at our September meeting from one of the two synods we are affiliated with to better learn the advantages of each.

COMMUNION ASSIGNMENTS FOR OCTOBER

October 4: Paula Traylor; October 11: Char Kinzer; October 18: Wade Burlet; October 25: David Pundt

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Council closed with the Lord's Prayer

ADJOURNMENT: Brian Marquart moved we adjourn at 7:06 pm. His motion was seconded by Mary Ellen Perry.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING September 15, 2026