

January Voters Meeting Minutes

A. Meeting called to order.

Time 10:08 AM

Roll Call	Present (P)	Absent (A)	Excused (E)
<u>P</u> Pastor Sullivan			
<u>P</u> Glenn Brunner	President		
	Adult Discipleship		
<u>P</u> Paul Jerabek	Secretary		
<u>P</u> Dan Fager	Elders		
<u>P</u> Jack Novak	Treasurer		
<u>P</u> Greg Hlinak	Property		
<u>A</u> Jake Hlinak	Evangelism		
<u>P</u> Jason Belter	Youth Christian Education		

23 Members present, 16 voting.

B. Opening Devotion by Pastor.

C. Reading of previous meeting minutes.

1. If no additions or corrections, they stand approved as distributed.
Motion: Approve the minutes as sent and waive reading of the previous minutes.
MM and 2nd. Motion carried.
2. Agenda Additions: Unfinished Business - Items 2. Review and approve Rev 6 to the Constitution & Bylaws and 3. Review Member Help Program – Policy and Procedure I14-001. Also, New Business Items 1. Review updated Policy and Procedure – Use of Church Property IL06-002, 2. Review and approve the updated Planned Giving Plan, and 3. Approve the Budget for 2014.
Motion to approve agenda. MM and 2nd. Motion carried.

D. Membership Changes

1. Baptism: Austin Nemecek, 3NOV2013.
2. Transfer In: Pastor Ken and Diane Kratz.
3. Affirmation of Faith: Carl Pelnar via profession of faith.
4. Confirmation:
5. Transfer Out:
6. Loss to Eternal Life: John Siegmund 4DEC2013.
7. Members Released:

Motion: Approve all membership changes. MM and 2nd. Motion carried.

E. Reports

1. Pastor

Another year of grace has passed, and the LORD has certainly blessed us. 2013 was a year like many other years before, but also a year of change. On a personal level, my wife and I were blessed to welcome our 4th child into the world and see her become a daughter of Christ through Holy Baptism. We also have been privileged us to send two of our children to St. Paul's Lutheran School in Algoma. What a blessing it is to have such a wonderful Christian school in our area. My prayer is that more parents will make use of this wonderful opportunity God is giving us to educate our children in His life-saving Word.

In the area of worship, much has stayed the same, but we also tried some new things:

- Our 2013 Lenten Rotation was with St Paul's Lutheran Church and Emanuel of Kohlberg.
- In the summer we had a wonderful series based on the Apostles Creed, during which time we had the joy of meeting all the pastors in our circuit and hearing them preach. Even though we are not planning on doing this type of summer rotation any time soon, we are happy to have tried it.
- I began, periodically, to outline sermons in Power Pont – something different intended to help keep our attention on the Word.
- We started to make use of new electronic Supplement to the Hymnal.
- Because of the unfortunate changes to the NIV Bible, we started to explore using different Bible translations in worship.
- I started sending out a daily devotion via email.

In the area of Adult Christian Education, we offered the following courses:

- The beginning of Christ's life and ministry, last spring.
- A course on how the Old Testament connects with the New.
- A course that teaches the Small Catechism with Bible stories (The Picture Catechism)
- Stand alone Sunday Bible studies based on the liturgical lessons of the Day.
- Our first "online" Bible Class-taught by Professor Wessel at MLC.

The LORD blessed our 2013 Vacation Bible School with many children from the community who do not have a church home. He also blessed us with wonderful weather for our church picnic and great food and fellowship.

We started a new Sunday school curriculum called "Christ Light 2," which both teachers and students seem to enjoy. We started using the simpler AAT Bibles for Confirmation and Sunday School. Confirmation has also been restructured to encourage more parental involvement.

I had the privilege of ministering to those who were sick, hospitalized, or dying. I always consider such service a privilege and joy. Sadly, Aurora stopped informing ministers when members are hospitalized. If you know someone who is hospitalized or sick, please let me know so that I can come and visit.

I have had the privilege of visiting shut-ins on a monthly basis, and to offer nursing home devotions 3-4 times a month. Please remember them in your prayers: Wenzel Hrabik, Myrtle Luedtke, Dorothy Salzseider, Gertrude Heuer, Lorraine Graff, Roland and Edward Jergenson, Alvina Bargmann, Carol Heiter, Ron Stangel, Ethel Bothe, Joyce Kalchek, Dwayne Purzner, Donald Wessel, Milton Fager, Lavern Koehler, and Joyce Goetsch.

One area that I was hoping to make greater headway was in making a general visit to every member. There are still quite a number of members I have not had the privilege of meeting privately. I truly want to meet everyone. If I haven't visited with you privately yet, please help me do so by giving me a call so that we can arrange a day and time when I can come to your house or you to my office, so we can chat. Please encourage your family and friends to call me, or invite me over when they happen to be home. I would be truly grateful to receive your assistance to help me visit every member.

We had the privilege of welcoming the following people to our fellowship: Jody and Linda Vandertie via adult confirmation; Penny Reed, Roger Ihlenfeldt Jr., Jason Obry, and Carl Pelnar via profession of faith; Joshua Fager via transfer; Samantha Ferron, Asia Kittel, Alex Robinson, Emily Schunke, Tyler Shemenkowski, and Brooke Walechka via youth confirmation.

We had the privilege of seeing Emily Sullivan, Bryson Fenendael, Blake Christman, Abigail Cullen, and Austin Nemecek become children of God through the waters of Holy Baptism. We have had to say our tearful goodbyes to Larry Wech, June Pelishek, Lorraine Wessel, and John Siegmund, who now are enjoying Christ's presence in heaven. We look forward to the day they will rise from the dead and we can enjoy God's presence with them in the paradise our Savior is even now preparing for us. Keep their families in your thoughts and prayers. Finally, I would like to say "Thank you" to everyone who works so hard for our congregation: our church and financial secretary, organist, choir director, Altar Guild, Ladies Aid, OWLS, AV Committee, ushers, Sunday school teachers, helpers, and all members of ILSA, Vacation Bible School organizers, teachers and volunteers, Men's Club, Athletic Committee, Church Council, Board of Youth Christian Education, Property Board, Property Committee, Elders, Adult Discipleship Board, Evangelism Board, Audit Committee, Called Workers Care Committee, Student Aid Committee, delegates, those who help clean, decorate, and landscape the Church and its property, those who help fold the bulletins, keep track of the cradle roll and send out encouragements to the sick, those who help deliver sermons to the shut-ins, those who support the work of the congregation and synod with their generous offerings and alms, those who provide food and snacks and other materials our congregation may need, those who pray for our congregation and its members and anyone else whom I may have forgotten to mention. I thank God for ALL of you and the work you do for the LORD. May He continue to encourage you and bless all your efforts as we work together as members of one body to encourage one another with the Gospel, and share Christ's light with our community.

2. Elders

The basic objective of the Elders Board are the spiritual welfare of the Pastor and congregational members, individually and collectively, and supervision of the worship services. The Board supervises several individuals and committees: Audio-Visual Committee (A/V), Called Worker Care Committee (CWCC), church ushers and greeters, church music personnel, and Altar Guild. The Elders would like to thank all of these hard working people for their dedication and assistance.

Members of the Board: Daniel Fager (Chairman), Scott Kieckbusch, Dick Stuebs, Bob Heiter, Lloyd Nimmer, and Greg Habeck.

The Elders financial spending includes: postage costs, office supplies, the church phone bills, copier expenses, cost of Pastor's conferences and educational events, pulpit assistance fees, and supplies needed for worship activities. We anticipate about the same expenses in 2014 as 2013.

Some activities of the Elders are divided into three focus areas: ministry, worship, and membership. Some highlights from 2013 are:

Ministry – In March several members attended the Christian Service Seminars at Fox Valley Lutheran High. 13 of the 24 sessions were attended, providing great information for managing our church. Pastor was able to attend a week of Hebrew translation training this year. Pastor was busy this year, with a Bible translation study which was web shared by many members through email. This helped support several decisions on what translations we will use.

Worship - This summer we participated in an extensive pulpit rotation with our fellow congregations. It was a very informative and inspiring experience, and gave all a chance to meet our neighbors. In August, the Outdoor Service was again a successful event, highlighting the Vacation Bible School children with their songs of praise.

Our worship services and studies of God's Word is being supported through careful use of technology, graphic displays, video recording, and the hard working A/V committee.

The Alms Box offering program continues to provide awareness and financial support to sometimes overlooked organizations. Suggestions for a monthly focus can be given to the Elders or Pastor.

Membership – The board continues to use the pew registers to provide information on service and communication attendance, and to help identify our guests and visitors. This is an important activity to help the Elders keep in contact with our membership.

A member counseling service is available to our congregation through the WLCS office in Appleton. We will fund the cost through Elders Budget and provide the services as needed. We are blessed to have several wonderful ways to share God's Word and activities with members and friends of Immanuel. The Quarterly Newsletter, worship services on website and DVD, WELS website, "Forward In Christ" magazine, Meditations booklets, church library, and of course our very own website. This provides news, information, and now through the work by Wayne Kittel, we have historical documents, photos, and special videos available to everyone.

Elders Board goals for 2014 will include an emphasis on stewardship activities, member contact for support and encouragement, and Church Anniversary planning. We will of course be focused on the Elders duties that are discussed in the Bylaws of our congregation, in the areas of Ministry, Worship, and Membership.

In closing this report, the Elders Board picked an inspirational Bible Verse. While there are several other excellent passages and readings, this selection can well guide us.

1 Peter 5:1-2 St. Peter writes: (1)So I exhort the elders among you, as to be a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: (2)shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

Comment: Leave the "Forward In Christ" magazine behind in the doctor or dentist's office. Also, leave a business card in it for the church.

3. Youth Christian Education

VBS Our VBS program was Aug. 12th – 16th this year. The theme this year was (Gone Fishing). "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." It was a 5 day program with stories of Baby Moses, Jonah, Young Samuel, Jesus' Death, and Jesus and the Catch of fish.

We had a float in the Trout Fest parade this year again. We used my boat with some signs we had made up at Office-Max. We also handed out close to 1000 handouts, with info and registrations on them. Last year we got some good turn outs do the parade.

St. Paul's We have four kids attending St. Paul's this year: Isaiah & Maria Sullivan and Dylan & Kayla Belter.

We had a "Building Rockets Program" this year. Our children worked together and launched at the school in Algoma. Paul Jerabek led this program, teaching the kids about rocket building and having a good time.

We had Christian Education Sunday on April 21. We had the children from St. Paul's come to sing at our church. With Lady's aide putting on pot luck after church for fellowship.

We purchased 20 books on Christian Education. The books will be used to hand out to parents of our congregation to help them understand how important Christian Education is.

Little Lambs Little Lambs is going good.

Sunday school Sunday school has had a great attendance this year. The Christmas program went well this year.

Christmas trees We are looking at purchasing 8 to 10 foot artificial trees for next year.

Question: "Is there trees in the church attic?" Answer: "That was all cleaned out long ago."

Goals for 2014

1. Working on making VBS to be a strong program for Immanuel.
2. Encourage Sunday school teachers to go to WELS seminars for teaching.
3. Encourage monthly Sunday school meeting.

4. Property

We at Immanuel have just finished off a busy year of repair and upgrades to our facilities. A new concrete walkway was installed in front of the church. Four of the stained glass windows were worked on as they received new wood trim and a paint job. The back of church was re-carpeted. A new riding lawn mower was purchased for use by our grounds keeper. New metal decorative kick plates were attached to the doors inside the church to solve the peeling wood veneer crisis. A brand new hot water heater was installed to replace the old leaker along with updated electrical wiring and plumbing. There were so many small jobs handled with care and help of volunteers of the church. That said, this board would like to remind all members that the volunteer is most valuable in cleaning the church. It may be vacuuming, or dusting, maybe changing rolls of toilet paper. Your time and effort is what gets things done and ready for use by the customer.

The budget for the new year of 2014 is now complete and ready for approval by the voters. The property board's focus on big projects for the next calendar year involves the restroom updates located by the Fellowship Hall. The plumbing is in need of replacement or repair. A second project continues with the stained glass window repair, as defined as a long term project. There will be other small projects that will be attended to on an as needed basis. Again this year, the board of property will rely on the volunteer to conduct cleaning duties, some minor repairs and upkeep of the buildings. May we offer strength through the cheerful volunteer!

Question: "Can we get railings installed?" Answer: "Looking into quotes."

Cold temps during the last week, our furnace is working hard. Windows in the Pastor's office are single pane and are not efficient. These need replacement.

The trees need attention. Maple trees that border the east side property line are deteriorating with age. Cracks in the trunk, dead branches, and disease are taking the trees life away. We want to take the trees down as they have become over grown and threatening surrounding buildings should they break apart. An estimate received from Fall-Rite Tree Service came in at \$2,850 to take down four trees, chip the brush, clean up, and grind out the stumps. The board thought the price was high. We intend to shop around.

Question: "Will you do away with the door between the Mother's Room and the Record's Room when the Mother's Room is remodeled?" Answer: "That was brought up. We're looking into it."

5. Adult Discipleship

This is likely our last report to you as a board. The Adult Discipleship Board should be disestablished at the Voter's Meeting as part of Revision 6 to our Constitution and Bylaws. The key responsibilities of the board are being disseminated to the other boards. It is the board's hope that you will continue to see efforts in the area of adult discipleship not only continue, but expand as well.

Your Adult Discipleship Board's 2013 goals were to:

1. Encourage and support planned giving.
2. Improve and cultivate the use of our church library.
3. Encourage participation in Bible Study and raise awareness of stewardship principles.
4. Open new lines of communication with various congregational groups to provide mutual support and encourage discipleship.
5. Find more ways to encourage new opportunities for women's discipleship.

We charged the Planned Giving Committee to produce several inputs for the newsletters and bulletins regarding the various forms of planned giving. We hope many of you will seriously

consider the numerous means by which we can produce good fruit through the return of some of the Lord's blessings He gives us each year. May our love for the Lord far outweigh our love for anything else or anyone else.

More books were bought for our church library. We produced an index of all the books (other than the children's books). The index is sorted by title, author, and shelf location so it is much easier to find a particular book of interest or to browse the file for subject material. We received a gracious donation from the Kewaunee Power Station of nine tables and eighteen chairs for our library. The Lord has truly blessed us! We still hope to have carpeting placed in the library someday if funds become available.

We continued to develop articles for our newsletters related to stewardship principles, prayer and Bible Study. We all know the importance of staying in the Word and our hope was that these articles would act as reminders of that importance. The Adult Discipleship Board hopes these past efforts will bear fruit.

We held a stewardship Sunday service last spring. It gave us an opportunity to meet our WELS Planned Giving counselor, Pastor Dennis Kleist. You can contact a member of your Planned Giving Committee or contact Pastor Kleist directly for more information. We hope the church and its ministries will be part of your financial planning.

Your Adult Discipleship Board's adopted Bible passage is: "If you live in My Word, you are really My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will free you." This passage was adopted to continually remind us of our role in serving the congregation. I hope you feel that we did so and encourage all of our wonderful church organizations to continue to work together in service to the Lord. In March of this year the synod committee for Adult Discipleship sponsored seminars for Christian Service held at Fox Valley Lutheran HS. A group of us spent a wonderful day with fellow Christians from area congregations discussing topics of interest. I hope many of you will consider participating in the future when these seminars are again offered. We developed a Young Adult Program in the hopes of encouraging more of our young people to find involvement. We hope this program or a similar program is continued. This responsibility will now rest with our Youth Christian Education board.

This year the board sponsored Laura Sullivan and Jill Belter to attend the WELS Women's Leadership Conference. They gave us a report on the conference and said it was very worthwhile and spiritually uplifting. We are thankful for their attendance and hope the congregation financially supports these programs and conferences in the future and that many more women will take advantage of these wonderful opportunities when they arise.

6. Evangelism No report.
7. Committees Athletic Committee, 1FEB tournament is cancelled.
8. Treasurer Reviewed the Treasurer's Report

Motion: To approve the budget for 2014 at \$245,000. MM and 2nd. Motion carried.

Motion: To approve all reports. MM and 2nd. Motion carried.

F. Unfinished Business

1. Review and approve Rev 6 to the Constitution & Bylaws. Reviewed. Read Article 10.
Motion: Accept the revision 6 to the Constitution and Bylaws. MM and 2nd. Motion carried.
2. Review Member Help Program – Policy and Procedure IL14-001. Reviewed.

G. New Business

1. Review updated Policy and Procedure – Use of Church Property IL06-002
2. Review and approve the updated Planned Giving Plan. Reviewed. Removed A/V Room as it is done.
3. Approve the Budget for 2014. Done after Treasurer's Report

H. Recommendations of the Church Council and New Business

1. Set evening Lenten Service time to 6:30 PM. Motion: Move Lenten Service to 6:30 PM. MM and 2nd. Motion carried.

I. Elections/Ratification of Appointments

1. Voting. Motion: To approve the appointments for 2014 as listed in the inside cover of the Annual Report. MM and 2nd. Motion carried.

Comment: "29MAR Seminar for Christian Service is coming up. No official mail was received yet."

J. Adjournment with Prayer Time 11:44 AM