

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**  
**VOTERS' MEETING MINUTES**  
**05/24/2021**

---

Attendance: 45

Meeting was called to order by Tom Ruff at 7:03 PM.

Pastor Roma opened with a prayer.

---

Tom Ruff reviewed the minutes from the January Voters meeting. Larry Landman made a motion to approve the minutes. Darwin Zimmerman seconded and all approved.

---

Rom Ruff presented the BOD candidates up for election:

Grant Goris  
Vern Boehme  
Tom Ruff  
Bonnie Schulte

Tom Ruff thanked all of those that ran. The ballots were cast and the results from the vote are:

Bonnie Schulte, Vern Boehme, and Tom Ruff

---

Pastor Roma presented the Pastor's Report for Pastor Auringer who was not feeling well and not in attendance.

We continue to wait for summarized results from the congregational survey. The synod has provided us with the raw data, but continues to process the summarized results.

Pastor Roma provided an update on the ministry in New Melle. New Melle plans to have a kiddie carnival in July. Details will be communicated to the congregation soon.

Pastor Roma discussed Janie Fisher starting as an intern at Immanuel in July.

Pastor Roma provided an update on filling the Business Manager position. This process is taking time and we are exploring all options to find the best fit.

Amy Schuldt asked for details about the survey results from the synod. Pastor Roma answered and explained that the synod wants to do the best that they can to assist us interpret the results.

---

Allison Dolak reviewed the Principals Report.

Allison Dolak reviewed the programs and closing activities for the school year.

Allison Dolak provided an update on the number of open slots in the preschool. There are currently 4 open spots. K-8 is full and has an extensive waiting list.

39 Kindergarteners graduated this year. 33 8<sup>th</sup> graders graduated this year. 73% of the 8<sup>th</sup> graduating 8<sup>th</sup> graders are continue on to a parochial high school.

Roger Huslage asked about the percentage of students continuing on to parochial school. Allison Dolak said that the number this year is higher than average.

A question was asked about the waiting list and if there are any plans to expand the school. Allison Dolak reviewed the past expansions and reasons that further expansion is not possible at this time primarily due to the septic. Allison also discussed the difficulty and complexity of expanding to 3 classrooms per grade level.

Bonnie Schulte commended the teachers and Allison for their outstanding performance during a difficult year. Bonnie requested her biggest takeaway from a tough year. Allison Dolak said the effort and attitude of staff and students is what made the year a success.

Dave Rawlins asked what percentage of the students are church members. Allison Dolak answered that the number is 38%. She also commented that some students are members of other local Lutheran congregations.

Larry Landman asked about what information St. Charles County is providing to us regarding future expansion and the impact on our campus/ministry. Allison Dolak said there are a lot of moving pieces and there isn't much definitive guidance.

---

Carrol Waddell presented the Treasurers Report.

Carrol Waddell thanked the congregation for the outstanding financial support through a year with many unknowns.

Carrol Waddell reviewed the previous capital campaign results and provided an update on the beginning of the new Overflowing campaign.

Carrol Waddell highlighted that the automatic giving had doubled per month due to the new online giving option.

Dan Ebert made a motion to accept the treasures report. Larry Landman seconded and all approved.

---

Mike Schlipp presented parking lot repairs and options.

Mike Schlipp reviewed the options to patch the trouble areas vs resurfacing.

Drainage issues and repair options were presented as well as options to repair ½ of the lot vs the full lot.

The proposal from the asphalt contractor is to repair drainage issues and to add a 2 inch cap on top of the asphalt. This would include the stripping work and the first seal. The expectation is that it would last 15 years. The repair bid was for \$175,485.

Anna Brandt reviewed some past expenses. On average we spend between \$15-24k each year to patch and seal.

Anna Brandt said the lot is sealed every 3 years because the quality job from the contractor.

John Waddell asked how many years it took before we began patching each year. Anna Brandt said that was starting around 2016.

John Waddell asked how long the bid would be honored. Mike Schlipp answered that the bid is good for 1 year.

Bonnie Schulte asked where the funds would come from. Anna Brandt answered that there were enough funds from this year due to reduced expenses.

Tom Ruff said that the BOD recommendation is to at least do half due to our current financial situation.

Bonnie Schulte asked if we don't use the excess funds for the parking lot what we would use it for. Anna Brandt answered that would be determined by the voters.

Les Blalock asked about warranty, frequency of sealing, and cost of sealing. Mike Schlipp answered that the contractor expects the lot to last 15 years. Anna Brandt said it costs \$8-10k every 2-3 years to seal and stripe.

John Waddell made a motion to cap the entire parking lot based on the bids that have been received and using excess funds from the current fiscal year. Larry Landman seconded. A vote was held a majority approved.

Mike Schlipp also provided an update on the organ and the fire alarms. A question was asked if these issues are due to lightning strikes. Anna Brandt will ask the insurance company about coverage.

---

Anna Brandt presented the proposed 2022 budget.

John Waddell asked how long we pledge to support New Melle. Anna Brandt answered that the original pledge was for 3 years.

Dave Rawlings asked a question about Janie's salary. Anna Brandt responded that we will pay her salary as an internship.

Les Blalock asked if we need to consider an increase in pay to Pastor Fisher for our current proposed budget. Anna Brandt provided some details around the expense and the flexibility for Pastor Auringer to provide assistance.

John Waddell made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Larry Landman seconded and all approved.

---

Tom Ruff provided background on the proposed constitutional changes.

Tom Ruff then reviewed the individual summarized changes.

Tom Ruff asked for questions/discussions that need to occur.

A question was asked about where the statements of belief would exist if they were removed from the constitution. Anna Brandt answered that all policies that exist contain the statements of belief.

Bonnie Schulte commented that the statement of belief should exist in the constitution so that it is difficult to change so that it would require the congregational approval. Tom Ruff requested input for a way to include the statement of belief in a way that would require voter approval, but not as a part of the constitution.

Dan Ebert asked why the statement of believe was removed. Tom Ruff answered that the district review process requested that we remove the statement.

Gloria Ehll commented that the vote for the constitutional changes should wait until the update for the statement of belief is addressed.

Gloria Ehll asked for the reasoning of why we needed to remove the statement of belief from the constitution. Tom Ruff answered that the review board suggested we establish something that would rarely need modifications to address the next problem that would need to be explicitly addressed. Tom Ruff clarified that there was no concern with the statement of belief and that the reasoning to remove it from the constitution was so that future concerns could be addressed effectively.

Allison Dolak provided the history of the statement of belief.

The group agreed that the BOD will review the situation based on the conversation and come back to the voters with possible solutions in the next meeting.

---

Tom Ruff provided an update on the balcony update committee. Tom Ruff requested anyone interested in joining the committee to please reach out.

---

Carroll Waddell thanked Anna Brandt for her time and service to the congregation as business manager. Anna will be missed!

---

Dave Miller made a motion to adjourn. Dan Ebert seconded and all approved. The meeting closed at 8:53 PM by singing the Doxology.