

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School–Wentzville (ILCSW)
Voters Meeting Minutes 05.26.2026

Attendance: 114 (103 voting stewards, 11 non-voting stewards and guests)

ILCSW Board of Directors (BOD) Chair Becky Hoskins welcomed those in attendance. Becky noted reasons for holding this evening's meeting in the sanctuary, i.e., videotaping, space to accommodate attendees.

Becky Hoskins called the meeting to order at approximately 7 p.m.

Pastor Jason Auringer introduced Aaron Duport, Summer DCE Intern, and welcomed Pastor Sam Pitsch. Pastor Auringer opened the meeting with a reading and comments based on Luke 12:48 and with prayer.

Becky Hoskins presented for voter approval minutes of the February 2, 2026, Voters Meeting. Becky noted a correction to the spelling of the name "Swanson," under New Business – Master Planning and Schematic Design.

ACTION: Tom Ruff made a motion to approve the February 2, 2026, minutes as corrected. Jennifer Lewis seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Reports and Updates

Financial Report – Congregational Treasurer Carol Waddell and Executive Director of Finance Dan Ebert presented financial reports. Carol commented on contributions toward the general fund and toward monthly mortgage payments, sound management of church and school expenses, and use of electronic giving.

Dan Ebert commented on Immanuel's profit and loss statement entailing the first ten months (July-April) of the 2025-2026 budget year.

Darlene Whited asked for clarification regarding "ADJ to CC Contributions," i.e., Adjustments to Capital Campaign Contributions.

ACTION: Brian Parker motioned to file the financial reports for audit. Rich Heppe seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Ministry Updates

Pastor Jason Auringer noted that his ministry updates would be addressed through the 2026-2027 Budget and the Master Planning and Schematic Design agenda items.

ILS School Principal Dr. Allison Dolak commented on 2025-2026 year-end school activities, noting Eighth Grade and Kindergarten graduations, success of the school musical Frozen Jr., the girls track team placing second in the Lutheran Sports Association of Missouri State Meet, and wrapping up the school year with teachers and staff.

Russ Hoppe, Executive Director of Facilities, provided an update on space accommodating staff offices, upgrading audio-visual systems at both the Wentzville and New Melle campuses, a new business relationship handling cleaning needs at both campuses, and efforts at the New Melle

campus to rejuvenate Lutheran Park, area located across the road from St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Dan Ebert, Executive Director of Finance, stated his comments would be made during the 2026-2027 Budget agenda item.

Old Business

Master Planning and Schematic Design – Tom Ruff, Long-Range Planning Committee Chair, provided an update of the ILCSW campus expansion and capital campaign plan. Tom reviewed a high-level Master Plan timeline, commenting on the design of facilities to meet ministry needs, as well as planning for growth. Tom presented an overview of expansion of current space, including the Fellowship Hall and narthex, creating new meeting space and additional classrooms, and a school complex to allow for growth in school enrollment.

Kathy Wahler asked about the purchase of the additional land located at the front of the Immanuel-Wentzville campus and the impact Missouri State right-of-way requirements will have on the final amount of land acquired. Tom Ruff noted that the highway easement is already configured in the land acquisition acreage.

John Holste asked about the incorporation of the Immanuel-New Melle campus into these plans. Pastor Auringer commented that the current largest amount of growth is near the Immanuel-Wentzville campus, which necessitates focus on the Wentzville campus. The New Melle campus has not been forgotten but is in a “not yet” phase.

New Business

Election of Three Board Members – The terms of service of BOD members Grant Goris, Kevin Henneghan, and Becky Hoskins end June 30, 2026. Becky Hoskins introduced three candidates nominated for election with each holding three-year terms beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029: Rick Leitz, Dave Liefer, and Karen Modde.

ACTION: Vern Boehme made the motion to accept for Board positions the three candidates nominated—Rick Leitz, Dave Liefer, and Karen Modde. John Holste seconded the motion. Becky Hoskins stated if there no objections, the motion will be adopted by acclamation. No objections voiced. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Approval of 2026-2027 Budget – Dan Ebert presented for voter approval the proposed 2026-2027 Budget.

Mike Schlipp asked for clarification that the Lutheran High School Assessment expense is a yearly, not monthly, assessment.

Darlene Whited expressed appreciation for the clear nature in which Dan presented the budget. Darlene asked for clarification regarding the church ministry positions.

Rich Heppe asked what the current interest rate is on the church mortgage.

ACTION: Carol Vahsholtz made the motion to accept the 2026-2027 Budget as presented. Brian Parker seconded the motion. With no further questions, Becky Hoskins called the vote. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Feasibility Study – Walsh & Associates, Church Capital Campaign Specialists – Becky Hoskins commented on the fundraising feasibility and planning study that Walsh & Associates consultant Charlie McAllister is currently leading on Immanuel Lutheran Church and School-Wentzville's behalf. This study is the preliminary step in Immanuel's anticipated capital campaign to raise funds needed for capital improvements and land acquisition. If a positive report is received, Immanuel will move forward with a capital campaign based on a budget approved by the voters at the Special Voters Meeting held on July 20, 2025. Target campaign completion date by Christmas 2026. Voters will be kept informed of the project.

Land Acquisition Committee Report – Kevin Heneghan, BOD member and Chair of the Land Acquisition Committee, spoke about Immanuel acquiring the land at the front corner of the Immanuel-Wentzville campus, meeting with the developer, and working with an attorney in writing a Letter of Intent that was presented to the developer. Kevin noted that that letter included any purchase agreement being subject to a Due Diligence clause providing for appraisal, surveys, and title work. The amount of property currently under consideration, after Missouri State assumes right-of-way requirements, is approximately 3.62 acres. The Land Acquisition Committee members are Jason Auringer, Dan Ebert, Russ Hoppe, Becky Hoskins, Tom Ruff, and Kevin Heneghan.

Attendees brought no questions forward regarding land acquisition.

Becky Hoskins noted that the lawyer with whom Immanuel is working on the land acquisition is the same lawyer who was engaged in the Immanuel-Wentzville/St. Paul's-New Melle merger.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Becky Hoskins asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

ACTION: Rich Heppe made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Vern Boehme seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Closing Prayer – The meeting closed with all those present standing to sing *Praise God From Whom all Blessings Flow*, led by Jordan Glock playing the organ.

HANDOUTS:

- Meeting Agenda
- Voters Meeting Minutes: February 2, 2026
- Financial Reports
- Proposed 2026-2027 Budget