

**St. John's
Lutheran Church**
together we grow & share
Reinbeck · IA

August 2025
NEWSLETTER
vol. 40 no. 6

St. John's Mission Statement:
We are called by God to come together to grow in the Word,
to share Christ's love in our community and the world.

"I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken."

Psalm 16:8

August is a time of transition. Summer comes to a close; final family vacations get squeezed in; pools, boats, and other summer toys get put away. Then school clothes come out; backpacks filled with supplies; and yellow buses start running the streets again as another school year begins.

For the Richter family, this is a big "transitional" August. Baby Bulb makes his or her entrance into the world, Maisy starts preschool at Immanuel, Dauli temporarily steps out of teaching Sunday School and Women's Bible Study for maternity leave, and my Monday morning golf comes to an end as I prepare for all the to-do's of fall ministry. Ready or not – here it comes.

Some of you may be feeling the same way. A little apprehensive for all that the "new season" holds for you to do. With the busyness of this season, I as your pastor want to give you a simple reminder. God is always with you.

As the Psalmist says in Psalm 16, the Lord is ALWAYS before us, right there at our right hand, therefor we will not be shaken. As long as God is with us, nothing can truly go wrong. With God at our side, we have peace, comfort, hope, and rest even on the busiest of days. And the good news is – God is ALWAYS with us.

Even on those extremely busy, stressful days, God is with us. On the really slow, dreadful days, God is with us. Whether you are starting a new school year or simply doing the same thing you did every day all summer long in retirement – God is with you.

The Father loves you and calls you by name. The Son has redeemed you in His blood and is ruling over you as King on His throne at the right hand of the Father. The Holy Spirit is in you, working in the waters of your baptism to daily drown you and make you dead to sin, daily bring you back to life as a new creation, alive in Christ, and keep you ever connected to Jesus who is the way, the truth, and the life, bringing you to the Father. God is always with you.

He goes before you as He leads you. He goes beside you as He walks with you. He goes behind you, protecting you from all enemies. He is in you, giving you life, peace, joy, and hope. He is your sure foundation, the rock your life of faith is built upon. He is your refuge, surrounding you and keeping you safe. You are never alone. You are never forsaken or forgotten. Nothing can snatch you out of His hand. Nothing can separate you from Him in the love of Christ. Nothing can shake you because God is with you. He is ALWAYS with you.

So, if this August is a month of transition for you or not, if you are wrapping up some things and starting new things, or even if you are doing the same things you do every other day, take comfort in these words. God is always with you. He is at your right hand, guiding you, protecting you, graciously providing for you, and accomplishing good works through you.

Therefore, through the stress, the fear, the anxiety, the overwhelmingness, or even through the routine, the boredom; through everything you go through all day, every day – God is with you always. Do not be shaken but take heart, and trust in the God of the universe who loves you so much He is always with you, right there at your right hand, giving you everything you need for this life and the next.

The Father who sent His Son to save you, loves you and is with you. Jesus, the Son who died for you and rose for you, loves you and is with you. The Holy Spirit who has been given to you to bring you salvation through your faith, loves you and is always with you.

Pastor Kevin



St. John's June 29th, 2025, Voters Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:25 AM with 22 members in attendance. Pastor opened the meeting with prayer.

A motion was made by Dauli to approve the minutes for the 11-17-24 voters' meeting, the 2-9-25 special voters' meeting and the 2-23-25 special voters' meeting. Emily W. seconded the motions. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Motions were made as follows for six other reports that were included in the meeting packet.

1. Connie L. made a motion to approve the Current State of the Church report. Ty N. seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.
2. Walt C. made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Karen C. seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried.
3. Emily W. made a motion to approve the Elder's Report. Dauli seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.
4. Randy T. made a motion to approve the Pastor's & Church Council report. Karen C. seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.
5. Ty N. made a motion to approve the Youth Financial Report. Karen C. seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.
6. Walt C. made a motion to approve the Partnership Steering Committee Report. Jim L. seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried. Dauli gave a brief statement about the process and work that has been done by the steering committee and thanked those that have served with her on this committee. The vision statement for the partnership has been created and approved by both boards. This will be presented to the congregations at the joint service in August.

New Business:

Pastor talked briefly about the Congregational Survey Results. He felt that the survey showed that we are a healthy congregation. The Board went through the survey and discussed the information that was gathered and looked at what actions could be taken from the results. Pastor reassured the members that he will not consider a call to be Immanuel's next Pastor.

The 2025 One-Year Strategic Ministry Goals were reviewed and briefly discussed. Some items that are being worked on include an activity outside of worship with Immanuel, men's and women's ministry (not Bible studies), recording Bible studies and posting on our website, increasing Sunday school classes to three levels, inviting VBS families to participate in Sunday school and the Christmas program, and starting a produce swap team for the summer of 2026.

The Investment and Surplus Policies:

The investment policy that was included in the meeting packet was summarized by Duane. By having this written as a policy the board will have the authority to use these funds without coming back to the voters every year. A short question and answer period followed. A question was raised about the process for spending the funds for missions and building repairs. The mission team will make recommendations for possible mission gifts. Anyone can submit recommendations for mission disbursements. Also, anyone interested is welcome and encouraged to join the mission team. The board approves the mission team's recommendations. Voters approve any funds spent on building repairs or changes. There will always be a report on where the funds have been spent. Randy T. made a motion to approve the Investment policy as presented in the meeting packet. Emily W. seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried.

Duane gave a summary of the surplus policy that was included in the meeting packet. The decision to create this policy was made because we were blessed with a budget surplus last year. A short question and answer period followed. Emily W. made a motion to accept the surplus policy. Karen C. seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried.

The 2026 offering envelopes will not have the mission offering envelopes for specific giving. There will only be envelopes for general funds and missions. If someone wants to give to a specific organization, they are welcome to personally send their offerings directly.

Pastor walked the members through the process that has been taken to get to this point for fixing the sinking floor. The bid and recommendations from BAM basements was discussed. A question-and-answer session followed. A concern about the warranty was raised and it was decided that this would need to be investigated. Laura W. made a motion to accept the bid for the whole floor with clarification on whether the concrete defender and 5-year warranty are included in the bid. Larry G seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried. All information on this project will be presented during announcements so all members will know what is happening as we move forward.

The Valley capital campaign was explained and the recommendation from the Board to gift \$25,000 over a three year period to the campaign was presented. Laura W. made a motion to accept the Board's recommendation to the capital campaign. Ty seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.

Walt C. made a motion to adjourn. Randy T. seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:53 and closed with The Lord's Prayer.

**St. John's Lutheran Church
Board of Directors
Minutes for July 15th, 2025**

Call Meeting to Order at 6:02 PM. Tommy has devotions. Chapter 4 of Upside-Down Spirituality was discussed.

Tommy made a motion to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Gary seconded the motion, all approved and the motion carried. Scott made a motion to approve all reports as submitted, Gary seconded, all approved and the motion carried.

The first item of unfinished business was the settlement project. BAM basements have moved up the dates to complete the project to July 28th and 29th. There was a short discussion on the logistics of the project. It was also brought up that there are a couple of sidewalk sections that are creating trip hazards. Tommy made a motion to have BAM fix the sidewalks while they are here working on the floor. Gary seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.

Tommy reported on what he found out about the armed chairs we were considering ordering. After a short discussion Tommy made a motion to buy nine armchairs. Scott seconded the motion, all approved and the motion carried. Pastor will order the chairs so they arrive after he returns from the Youth Gathering.

Several options for logo promotional items were looked at from several different companies including Cornfed Designs. Gary made a motion to purchase 250 blue pens with a white logo. Scott seconded, all in favor and the motion carried. A discussion followed about where the funds would come from. Sandy made a motion to use the board's discretionary spending from surplus savings to pay for the pens. Tommy seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried.

Gary reported that he is still in the process of gathering information about possible companies for doing the lawn care next year. He will report back when he has all the information.

The Stop/Start exercise and officers' manual will remain tabled at this time.

The first item of new business is the gathering of names for possible members to serve on the budget committee. Several names were listed and Pastor will speak with them with the goal of having 3 members on the committee.

A request for members to sign up for the kitchen remodel team. They will be looking at possible items to be updated and then research options. Some guidelines will be provided for the team so they have an idea of where to start. A start date in September is being considered for this committee.

The board was asked to consider the idea of not having a meeting in August. Tommy made a motion to not have an August meeting. Scott seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.

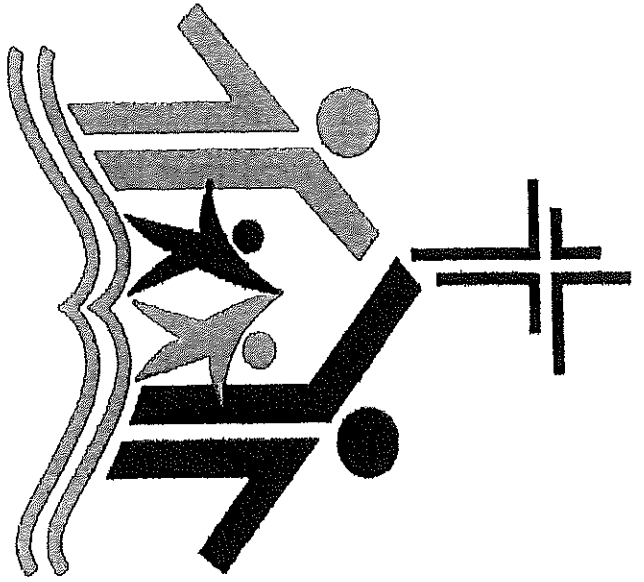
Possible dates for a fall retreat for the board were discussed. September 14th early evening was chosen. It was also decided to invite the Elders and council members. A specific time and place will be decided at a later date and will be emailed to all involved.

Tommy made a motion to extend the meeting five minutes. Gary seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion passed.

There are several dates for Immanuel Board Meetings still need to be covered. It was decided that Tommy will do August 12th, Sandy will do September 9th, Pastor will do October 14th. The meetings are at 5:30.

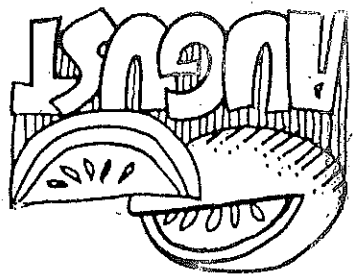
Tommy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Gary seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:37 and closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: Thursday September 11th, at 6pm – Gary has devotions.



TOGETHER WE WORSHIP

Joint Communion Worship
with Immanuel at St. John's
Sunday, August 31
beginning at 9 am
Luncheon to follow



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