

Notice of July 24, 2022 Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting of Immanuel Lutheran Church, La Vernia, Texas

The congregation of Immanuel Lutheran Church will hold its Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, July 24, 2022.

There will be only one worship service on that day, beginning at 9:30 am. Our meeting will begin at 10:45 AM.

According to our constitution, all voting members must sign in and be certified against our roster to vote. Article VIII, B.3 defines voting members as follows: "Voting members are **confirmed** members who have **communed** and made a **contribution** of record during the 12 months preceding the meeting at which a vote is being taken. Confirmed members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards are entitled to voice and vote in all congregational meetings and elections. Voting members eighteen (18) years of age and over may be considered for the Congregation Council."

Included with this notice:

- Agenda for the July 24, 2022 Meeting
- January 23, 2022 Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes
- Financial reports through June 2022
- Interim Pastor's Report
- President's Report (in packet at meeting)
- Any Ministry Reports

Please bring these documents with you to the meeting.

We pray that you will make every effort to attend this important meeting for our congregation.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
July 24, 2022

Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
2. Minutes from Previous Meeting – January 23, 2022
3. Financial Reports
4. Interim Pastor's Report
5. President's Report
6. Other Reports –

Property Update
7. Old Business:
 - Constitution Submission Update
 - New Building Phase 2 Information
8. New Business:
 - Vote for Audit of Church
 - Call Committee Update
 - Festival Reminder
9. Adjourn - Lord's Prayer

Interim Pastor's Semi-Annual Report

Rev. Eric M. Miletti

I have been an Interim Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church for nine months (October 2021 to July 2022). It has been a tremendous and fulfilling experience for my calling as an Ordained Pastor. I have learned much about the community and the Christian Pastoral leadership team here at La Vernia. My time at Immanuel is one of great joy and faith in what God has been doing in this community.

This report is an update of January's 2022 report; I have kept the same format.

1) Youth Ministry.

In general, the confirmation class has been a total success. I have not been able to teach the courses the church is accustomed to, but I will deliver all the lessons for the summer camp. I must acknowledge Ms. Tina has done excellent work with the whole group and the parents. Also, for the past six months, the children and the youth have been active in the worship service. I understand the children's sermons have been practical for education and connection with children. I am excited to see our children fully involved as the Lord leads us to follow his command: *'let the children come to me.'*

2) Engage in a Pastoral Fashion with Church Members and the Community.

Following the public commitment made on Sunday, November 28, when I invited the church members to share some time for connectivity, counseling, and getting to know the congregation, I have had over twenty meetings. Every one of these meetings has been a blessing for me and my ministry here at Immanuel. Also, I had the chance to bring communion to homebound members and other members and friends from the community, being asked to share God's table in multiple circumstances. Learning any church's cultural organization (*set of underlying beliefs, values, principles, and ways of interacting within an organization that defines and create a unique working environment*) takes time. And yet here I am under the impression that the Lord has expedited the process positively. Lastly, in this section, I want to emphasize God's grace blessed us on more than two accounts: the success of the Mid-Week Lenten Worship Services regarding attendance, five Baptisms, three funerals, and the receiving of 25 new members on Sunday, April 10th. Praise be to God!

Regarding my relationship with the community, I am part of the Veterans/Military Breakfast of Wilson County. This event is sponsored by Grace Bible Church of La Vernia and the Wilson County Veterans Service Office (WCVSO), and this coming August, I will be leading the devotional for the second time in a row. I am also active in the La Vernia Ministerial Alliance. Through them, Immanuel Lutheran called for a unique praying service the day after the Uvalde shootings (May 25, 2022) with the presence of some officials from La Vernia, including the official representation of the Mayor and La Vernia Police. Also, on June 16, 2022, the *La Vernia News* published an interview that Mrs. Nannette Kilbey-Smith did on my ministry. I want to express my thanks to the *La Vernia News* and Mrs. Kilbey-Smith. Finally, as a church, we were part of the July 4th Parade, and I was privileged to walk and lead the float with other church members.

3) Developing a Liturgy as a Spiritual Experience.

Based on my interaction and meeting with church members, I believe that we are thriving in regards to having Sunday's Worship Services as a unique spiritual experience with God and our brothers and sisters. I have purposely developed a more familiar environment through Sunday's liturgy to facilitate

an atmosphere of brotherhood for adoration. As I expressed in my last report, I have been working to establish every worship service as a unique spiritual experience, not just an everyday occurrence. I have also been practicing empowering church diversity (youth, adults, children) to more active participation in the Worship liturgy, inviting more than one communion assistant, and improving human interaction in our Facebook Live broadcast.

4) Inspiring the Church to Thrive Through Living, Preaching, and Teaching the Bible.

The average attendance has been excellent at the Bible studies we started about eight months ago. In these Bible studies, we have not just studied the word of God but Lutheran doctrine and theology. I support and encourage Saturday's Men's Bible Studies and Wednesday Bible classes as part of this effort. As a Pastor, I am convinced the inerrant word of God has the power to transform people and circumstances and that preaching the gospel as it is in the Bible is one of the main factors for a church's consistency and bright future.

5) Internship

At the denominational level (NALC), I have completed the process. I did my interview with the Rev. Jared Stillions last Monday, June 20, 2022. Right now, I am waiting on the final decision of the denomination to be accepted or not as part of the official NALC Pastoral Roster.

I cannot finish this report without saying thanks to the whole congregation. It has been a learning, growing, and rejoicing in the Lord experience. Again from the bottom of my heart, thanks!

God Bless,
Pastor Eric M. Milette