

Partnership News

May 2024

Immanuel Lutheran Church
St Paul Lutheran Church
Monona Lutheran Church
Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church

Pastor Michael Erdman
Pastor Grant Sorenson
Pastor Thomas Nowak

Monthly Partnership Game Night, starting on June 4th @5:30pm at St Paul

Pastor Michael Erdman

Church is more than a relationship between you and God. It is a relationship between you, God, and your fellow believers. Church is a community. We support one another. We help one another. We bring hot dishes to those who are sick or recovering. We borrow each other's leaf blowers. You get the idea.

In order to be a community, we need to spend social time together regularly. Obviously, Sunday morning worship is a good start, but technically we are not supposed to be chatting with one another during the service. We need social time where talking is encouraged! Additionally, we need regular social time together with our fellow partnership congregations, who we don't see on Sunday mornings.

To begin to meet this need, we are launching a monthly Game Night. The plan is to do one on the first Tuesday of every month, starting at 5:30pm with a meal. After the food, we will have a variety of games available, including cards, party games, and activities for kids. There will not be a worship service or bible study. Socializing is the goal.

We hope that everyone of all ages and stages of life will join us each month. Our first Game Night will be on June 4th @5:30pm at St Paul.

(Each church will have a sign-up sheet, so we can better plan on how much food we need. Please do sign up, but if you forget, please come anyway. We will have plenty of food.)

Partnership Launch Resolution

Pastor Michael Erdman

We have come a long way in the last year, building up this partnership together. It turns out we could do quite a lot together without any formal agreement. However, we are now reaching the limits of “informal partnership.” We could be doing a lot more, and I know that many of you are itching to get started on just that.

The following resolution is designed to help us take that next step and launch the next phase of our partnership together. It seeks to accomplish four things that we need to take the partnership to the next level:

- 1) Formally enter into partnership together.
- 2) Build a common vision together by working with Nathan Meador.
- 3) Hire Larry Ulrich as a coach to help us revitalize our congregations together in the partnership.
- 4) Establish a Provisional Partnership Council to lead this process.

Much of the resolution is focused on point #4, establishing the Provisional Partnership Council. This group would be comprised of the pastors and two lay delegates from each church. We would authorize this group to make basic decisions for the partnership, so we can keep things moving without getting bogged down with getting approval over and over. More important decisions will still require a vote from each congregation, but each congregation would agree to vote on those proposals quickly, to keep the process moving forward.

If you would like to know the full details, I encourage you to read the full resolution printed below.

We cannot proceed with the next phase of the partnership until all the congregations pass the resolution below. The exact timing of this will be different for each congregation, so pay attention to your church announcements.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please share them with us. We want everyone to be fully informed, and we want every concern to be heard. Please feel free to contact me with your thoughts on my cellphone (952-491-3191) or by e-mail

(pastor@immanuelmadison.org). Additionally, there are members of the Partnership Committee in each congregation. They would be happy to speak with you and answer questions!

Immanuel: Pastor Michael Erdman, Suzanne Folberg, Stephen Lee, Bonnie Perkins

St Paul: Pastor Grant Sorenson, Kay Daubenspeck, Linda Williamson

Monona: Pastor Thomas Nowak, Jeff Thur, Bess MacLeod

Our Savior Deaf: Pastor Thomas Nowak, Richard Belling

To Formalize our Partnership and Start our Work Together

Whereas, God has invested greatly into our congregations and blessed them with property, finances, pastors, and members; and

Whereas, Jesus Christ instructs the church, in the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30), that he expects the church to earn a return on the investments God has made, and not to merely bury those gifts in the ground and wait for the end; and

Whereas, The congregations of Immanuel Lutheran Church, St Paul Lutheran Church, Monona Lutheran Church, and Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church can accomplish far more together than they can apart, with greater opportunities than any one congregation could manage alone; and

Whereas, These congregations have already been working toward building a partnership, hold regular meetings together, have hosted more than fifteen joint events; and

Whereas, Reaching the partnerships full potential will require a formal commitment, greater investments of time and finances, and greater coordination and leadership between the congregations; therefore be it

Resolved, That the congregations of Immanuel Lutheran Church, St Paul Lutheran Church, Monona Lutheran Church, and Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church (hereby called the Member Congregations) formally enter into partnership with each other, and be it further

Resolved, That the Member Congregations agree to work diligently together on the Why Discovery Process lead by South Wisconsin District

Executive for Missions and Mercy, Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador, and be it further

Resolved, That the Member Congregations agree to hire Larry Ulrich of Generis to consult on this process, and that the congregations of Immanuel, St Paul, and Monona agree to contribute \$2,667 each over the course of the one year contract, understanding that each congregation will have the right to cancel this contract on 30 days notice; and be it further

Resolved, That the Member Congregations endorse and approve of the creation of a Provisional Partnership Council to lead this partnership process, comprised of the pastor(s) of each congregation and up to two lay delegates from each Member Congregation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Member Congregations shall elect the lay delegates of the Provisional Partnership Council by majority vote in a voters meeting, and may remove or replace these delegates at any time by the same voting process; and be it further

Resolved, That the time and dates of the meetings of the Provisional Partnership Council shall be published at all Member Congregations, that the meetings shall be open to all members of the Member Congregations, and that minutes from the Provisional Partnership Council shall be made available at all the Member Congregations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Member Congregations empower the Provisional Partnership Council to make discretionary administrative decisions by majority vote for the Member Congregations (these are decisions that would not require a vote or the spending of more than \$500), with each Member Congregation holding the right to veto any such decision with a majority vote of their leadership board or voters assembly; and be it further

Resolved, That the Member Congregations agree to bring to a vote any decision of the Provisional Partnership Council that requires a formal vote (by either a leadership board or voters assembly) or requires the spending of more than \$500, within 30 days of the Provisional Partnership Council making that decision by majority vote; and be it further;

Resolved, This resolution not take effect unless or until all Member Congregations adopt this same resolution.