



The Image

February 2023



State-of-the-Church
REPORT



Immanuel Lutheran Church

3214 Golf Road

Eau Claire WI 54701

immanuelec.org

office@immanuelec.org

715-832-7832

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"In Community" **2023 Lent Round Robin**

The invitation to Lent spoken on Ash Wednesday reminds us that we enter this season together "with the whole church." Though many common Lenten practices rightly invite us to individual acts of repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love, Lent

is also a time for deepening of community. As a community of ELCA Lutheran churches in Eau Claire, we encourage you to attend Wednesday worship services where pastors will rotate through the congregations bringing a new perspective on what it means to be in community with one another, with creation, and with God.



Ash Wednesday, February 22:

12 PM - Soup Lunch
1 PM - Worship
5:30 PM - Soup Supper
7 PM - Worship



Join us on Wednesdays

March 1, March 8, March 15, March 22, March 29:

5 PM - Soup Supper
6 PM - Holden Evening Prayer
6:45 PM - Learning/SHYN
7 PM - Choir Rehearsal



Holy Week Worship Schedule

April 2 - Palm Sunday 9 AM
April 5 - Holy Wednesday 6 PM
April 6 - Maundy Thursday 7 PM
April 7 - Good Friday 1 PM and 7 PM
April 9 - Easter Sunday 9 AM

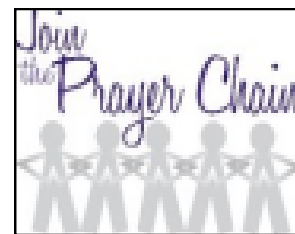


The **Immanuel Annual Meeting** will be held on Sunday, February 12, 2023, at 10 AM/following worship.

You can attend in person or virtually.

A Zoom link will be provided.

Whenever I experience times of difficulty, it is comforting to know that others are praying for me. And as the Immanuel Prayer Chain coordinator, I've heard this sentiment expressed by others, too. I believe a prayer chain is an effective way to bring the power of many prayers to those in need. At Immanuel we have an email prayer chain – no phone calling necessary! To be a member you simply need to pray as Jesus prayed – interceding on behalf of one another. Just as the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, so we also intercede (see Romans 8:26-27). If you would like to be a member of the email Prayer Chain, please let me know. If you have been a member in the past, please confirm that you would like to continue.



If you have a prayer request, you can call or email me or submit the request through our website at [Prayer Chain Request](#). A guiding principle of our Prayer Chain is absolute confidentiality. Prayer Chain participants will not reveal prayer requests to others who do not receive the prayer request emails. You can share as much or as little as you like in your prayer request.

Christ's peace,

Dee Schlieve

715-839-0526

dschlieve1965@charter.net



Knit Together

All interested parties are invited to join the newly formed knitting group! We meet every Monday from 1 - 3 PM at church through the

end of March, 2023.

Our main objective is to knit useful items such as hats, mittens and scarves for those in need in our community. Not only do we *knit together* as an activity, but we are reminded that we are *knit together* as a human family. Don't know how to knit or crochet? We teach! If you have yarn, patterns or knitting needles/crochet hooks you want to use or share, please bring them along.

Family FUN Day at Pinehurst Park

Mark your calendar and join us for a Family Fun Day at Pinehurst Park on Sunday, Feb. 26 from 1 — 4 PM!



[Pinehurst Park](#), located on the north side of Eau Claire at 3523 Delbert Road, has an assortment of winter activities to enjoy with your Immanuel Family:

- Cross Country Skiing
- Fat Tire Biking
- Snowshoeing
- Sledding
- Ice Skating
- Hockey
- Snowboarding
- Winter Kubb
- Crokicurl





Renewal WELCA Event

When: Sat. April 22nd, 2023
 Where: Central Lutheran Church
 28 Columbia St.
 Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
 Speaker: Cindy Tewalt

Luther Park Bible Camp Retreat

944 24 1/4 St.
 Chetek, WI 54728
 June 7th-8th, 2023
 Speaker: Gaye Lindfors

More information will come later for the registration forms.

Jacki Johnson
 Chippewa Valley Conference Coordinator
 715-864-1489 jackij7@gmail.com

Summer Camp 2023



Luther Park Bible Camp has been busy planning and preparing for summer of 2023 and are excited to offer safe summer programming:
<http://lutherpark.org/summer-camp>

Immanuel's Trust Fund is again offering 50% scholarships to all of our kiddos who attend camp. The sponsorship code is ILCEC23 - If you have any questions contact Alyssa Engedal at:
familyministry@immanuelec.org



A message from Immanuel Green Team:

Did you know that over 30% of landfill waste is organic? Composting diverts this waste from the landfill and creates a wonderful fertilizer that can be used on your yard or in your garden. Eau Claire County Office of Recycling and Sustainability is offering composting bins at a price of \$33.00 (regularly \$68). Place your order by March 3 to take advantage of this great price. Place your order online and learn more about composting at:
<https://www.recyclingconnections.org/eau-claire-county-shop>



15 Graeme & Bethany Fehr
 16 Don & Dee Schlieve
 18 Ed August & Jill Chapman
 28 Ron & Sue Waits

01 Leon Salander
 01 Mindy Rosenberger
 02 Jessica Dragseth
 02 Isaac Tucker
 03 Linda Lodahl
 05 Jacob Waits
 11 Zan Degen
 11 Emma Larson
 12 Rachel Neidermire
 13 Joan Stolp
 14 Rhea Malec
 15 Janice Heitkamp
 15 Cindy Bullock
 15 Michelle Johnson
 16 Larry Lundeen
 16 Dean Johnson
 16 Ashlyn Neidermire


18 Tim Fehr
 18 Julie Benware
 19 Beckham Evergreen
 19 Don Schlieve
 20 Gay Fehr
 20 Emrey Rassbach
 21 Isaac Anderson
 21 Madison Cox
 22 Keharron Bogstad
 23 Verna Scholze
 24 Sean Tarpenning
 24 Sarah Larson
 24 Meghan Kavanagh
 25 Frank LoRusso
 27 Richard Bresina
 27 Laura Ramow
 28 Dee Schlieve
 28 Darrell Becker
 29 Melissa Calkins

February 2023



If you shop on Amazon, log into Amazon Smile. We receive \$ from your purchases.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-0990139>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10 AM Bible Study 5:15 PM Meal 6 PM Worship 6:30 PM Learning/SHYN 7 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Mentor Meeting	2 Noon - 4 PM Material Witness Quilting	3	4
5 5 Epiphany 9 AM Worship 10 AM Learning & Fellowship	6 1 PM Knit Together 4 - 5:30 PM Food Pantry Open 6:30 PM - H3	7 9:30 AM - H3	8 10 AM Bible Study 5:15 PM Meal 6 PM Worship 6:30 PM Learning/SHYN 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	9 Noon - 4 PM Material Witness Quilting	10	11 Middle School Christ Jam Rice Lake
12 6 Epiphany 9 AM Worship 10 AM Learning & Fellowship ANNUAL MEETING	13 1 PM Knit Together 4 - 5:30 PM Food Pantry Open 6:30 PM - H3	14 Valentine's Day 9:30 AM - H3 	15 10 AM Bible Study 6 PM Fun Bowling Off-Site 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	16 Noon - 4 PM Material Witness Quilting	17	19
19 Transfiguration of our Lord 9 AM Worship 10 AM Learning & Ministry Fair	20 1 PM Knit Together 4 - 5:30 PM Food Pantry Open 6:30 PM - H3	21 9:30 AM - H3 7 PM - Council Meeting	22 Ash Wednesday 12 PM Soup Lunch 1 PM Worship 5:30 PM Soup Supper 7 PM Worship Choir after worship	23 Noon - 4 PM Material Witness Quilting	24	25
26 1 Lent 9 AM Worship 10 AM Learning & Fellowship 1 - 4 PM Family FUN Day at Pinehurst	27 1 PM Knit Together 4 - 5:30 PM Food Pantry Open 6:30 PM - H3	28 9:30 AM - H3				

2022 Council President's Report

Dear Immanuel Family,

It has been a good year with a return to more fellowship with each other and doing God's work. In thinking about and discussing as a council the highlights of 2022, there were many I would like to share with you now.

- ◆ AMMPARO led the hosting and resettlement of Afghan refugees
- ◆ The council worked on and successfully completed the goals that we had set the year before during a retreat with Pastor Erin
 - ◇ Staff connection - each council member worked to develop and maintain a relationship with one of our amazing staff members
 - ◇ Longings and Losses conversations with congregants and community members led to many good discussions and discoveries
 - ◇ Cross generational activities during Lent were well attended and appreciated by those that participated
- ◆ WOW worship meals
- ◆ Communion with baked bread and wine
- ◆ Fellowship opportunities before and after the worship service
- ◆ Groups and committees were able to gather in person
- ◆ A successful stewardship drive
- ◆ Pastor Jamie's sabbatical - the congregation stepped up and came together to support and help
- ◆ Many improvements to our building and a resurfaced parking lot
- ◆ The development of a Green Team
- ◆ A celebration of Alyssa Engedal for 10 years of service
- ◆ A celebration of Reformation with the sounds of our organ
- ◆ Music Ministry was back in person thanks to Tammie, the WoW band, Leroy, the choir and handbells
- ◆ A returned commitment to the Lutheran Church Cemetery
- ◆ Our food pantry and blessings box continue to support our community

These are just a few of the highlights showing that we have much to be thankful for. In a very challenging time, with costs on the rise, and people with very busy schedules, our church is still going strong thanks to all of you and your generous donations of your time and financial giving. I would like to share a section of the devotion that I used at our January council meeting.

"No matter what circumstances may come in 2023, the basic job description of a Christian hasn't changed. It remains as remarkably simple as ever. Love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself. Live a virtuous life, make disciples of all and build the church. Pursue justice and wholeness in your community. And walk humbly with your God. The challenge is not in understanding it, but actually doing it. (Demars, Derek. 2022 December 31. *New Year's Resolutions for Christianity in 2023*. Theology Pathfinder. <https://derekdemars.com/2022/12/31/new-years-resolutions-for-christianity-in-2023/>)

As we discussed our hopes for 2023, most revolved around continued fellowship opportunities and building community. We will continue our support for our many missions and will have a ministry fair in February so we can get more people aware of and involved with all of the groups and committees that our church has to offer. I encourage you to get involved or try something new. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to the church leaders and council members. Thanks again for all you do!

Respectfully,

Jennifer Dean, Council President

2022 Pastor Report

Rebound 2022

Our synod used the theme *Rebound* this year to describe the goal to bounce back after the struggles we all faced as individuals and as a society due to COVID. In general, many church ministries also needed a rebound in 2022. At Immanuel, we did our best to embody this goal. So much of our ministry was resilient and we were able to rebound with energy and strength. As the apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 4:8, “We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair.” Our faith in Christ gives us hope even in difficult times. This hope creates resilience and the ability to bounce back from adversity.

The council started the year listening to the ‘*Longings and Losses*’ of the congregation and community and setting goals with Pastor Erin to help guide us. One of the many longings we heard was the desire to reconnect with others and the church. Many people missed the varied opportunities of fellowship, where they could share stories and connect in conversations with other church members. With this in mind, the council set a goal to have cross-generational conversations throughout Lent as our focus.

Deacon Laura led us in cross-gen conversations around the themes of creation and racial justice. We also fully reintroduced fellowship hour with snacks and coffee so that people would have the space and time to re-connect. One Sunday in Lent, we read Marv Kaufmann’s book together after worship and chatted about the joys and responsibilities of pets and other parts of nature that bring us joy.

Overall, the Lenten cross-gen conversations brought us the connection that so many of us were longing for. This energy continued through the spring as we celebrated Easter together in the sanctuary. Our youth led us in worship in May with the Manna and Mercy themes, we celebrated confirmation, and the choir lifted our spirits for Church Music Sunday. All of those special Sundays felt extra special as we rebounded back into the community fully.

With the help of the council and congregation, I took a sabbatical over the summer of 2022. This was an intentional time of rest and renewal. It was a true gift to have this experience, and it renewed my spirit and my call to ministry.

When I returned to Immanuel in September, I felt that we had indeed rebounded faithfully. Our faith formation programs had renewed energy. Our WOW worship, meals, and learning were strong in participation. Our council was joyful in their service. Overall, I am so grateful for the ways that Immanuel has faithfully answered the call to be the Church in this difficult time.

In closing the reflections on 2022 and looking to 2023 and our mission together I wanted to share this passage from Michelle Obama’s book, “The Light We Carry.”

As we continue to navigate pandemic challenges, reckon with issues of injustice and instability, and worry over an uncertain future, I wonder if it’s time to stop asking “When will this end?” and to instead start considering a different, more practical set of questions about staying upright inside challenge and change: How do we adapt? What tools do we have to sustain ourselves? Where do we find extra pillars of support? And if we work as one, what might we manage to overcome together? Pg. 20

Our faith and church community can be a pillar of support in our lives as we look to overcome challenges both big and small. May we rebound with gratitude and love, so that we may continue to live into our mission to be a Church without Walls! Amen.

In grateful service,
Pastor Jamie Brieske

2022 Faith Formation Ministry Annual Report

The goal of Faith Formation Ministry at Immanuel is to walk together in faith and fellowship with people of all ages as we navigate our life-long faith journeys. All of the ministries and events that I facilitate as the Faith Formation Minister are done with the goals of growing in faith and relationship together as priority. Here's a look back at some of the fun we had in several areas of Faith Formation Ministry in 2022:

Journey of Faith

We are so thankful to be back learning in person at Journey of Faith! Throughout spring of 2022, we continued with a theme we had started in the fall, which was working our way through the bible using the Manna and Mercy curriculum from Daniel Erlander. We ended our learning year sharing an overview of what we had learned all year with our Youth Led Worship service. Following summer break, we were once again blessed to have amazing high school youth willing to lead our younger learners. This year we are spending the year focusing on God's Amazing Creation! During Advent we took a break from studying creation to celebrate the birth of Christ, and heard how amazing it was - right from the animals who were in the stable!

VBS

Immanuel hosted about 40 kids for Vacation Bible School this past summer, at the end of June. Again this summer we were able to have awesome volunteers from Immanuel to lead the preschool class, as well as hired several high school youth from the congregation (Kylie Engedal, Alexis Drier, Rylie Hansen, Kaelyn Hansen, Kaatya Modl, Molly LoRusso & Kailey Hanson) to be our elementary leaders. Our theme was "Tree of Healing," and we spent each day focusing on ways we can care for God's creation - including nature, our selves, and those around us.

Summer Stretch

This summer we teamed up with Hope Lutheran for a great week of serving our neighbors and having fun together! We had 15 middle school and 5 high students from Immanuel, and 5 participants from Hope. We had a great time together! Some of the things we did include a day working at Immanuel, a day working at Hope, time spent at the Boys & Girls Club, and helping out at the EC Public Library. Our afternoons were full of fun, including swimming and seeing a movie. We ended the week with a fantastic day at Valley Fair!

SHYN

SHYN continues to meet weekly in the youth room on Wednesday nights and share in a variety of activities, including devotions & Bible study, caring conversation, and game nights. This group also has the opportunity to participate in a summer trip each year. This year, about 20 youth and 3 adults (Alyssa, Andy and Grace) went to the first Tri-Synod Youth Gathering, Rebound, which was offered by our Synod along with the La-Crosse Area Synod and the Northern Great Lakes Synod. Once the Rebound gathering ended, we headed west and spent some time exploring South Dakota. We had some adventures along the way, but had a great experience and all went back home with new friends and many stories to tell!

Milestones Ministry

Another ongoing ministry at Immanuel is our Milestones Ministry program. This is a unique way of intentionally marking various milestones from birth through end of life, and connecting them with others in our church community. Some of the life milestones we celebrate are: baptism, starting Journey of Faith classes, getting a Bible, starting confirmation, affirmation of baptism, graduation, and a special blessing for those who are 85 years and older!

2022 Faith Formation Ministry Annual Report Cont.

Day Camp Ministry

Camp Create is Immanuel's two-year-old day camp and takes place in the Journey of Faith classrooms & church nursery. We started this ministry in 2016, and have been continually amazed at how this program has grown and evolved since then. We currently offer two class sections, with up to 10 kids welcome in each section. This year we are also offering "Lunch Bunch," which is a once per week day camp ministry for kids at Create-A-World preschool. Lunch Bunch meets after preschool and we eat, play, and read stories together.



Faith Formation Ministry is an evolving, changing, and moving ministry at Immanuel, and we are always dreaming big and watching for where the Holy Spirit is nudging us.

God's Peace,
Alyssa Engedal, Family Ministry/Camp Create

2022 Create-A-World Preschool Annual Report

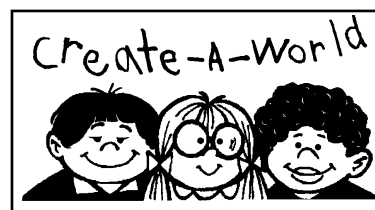
Hello Immanuel!

Preschool is off to a great start centering around two themes, space and nursery rhymes. We have 10 students in our Monday/Wednesday/Friday class (5 openings) and our Tuesday/Thursday class is full at 13 students. Katy LoRusso, Jennifer Larson and Melissa Corlett are all back for another year of teaching.

Our finances are in great shape thanks to two fall fundraisers. In October we held a clothing drive through Savers. Thanks in part to donations from church members, we raised \$500! If you are interested in holding this fundraiser for your non-profit use code V3V-8PK and our preschool will earn an additional \$50. Between our two fundraisers we raised \$2000! Both classes voted on an organization to donate 10% back to and they chose the Ronald McDonald House. We had fun delivering the \$200 check and having lunch at the play place! Our goal through fundraising is to cover scholarship costs and raise enough funds to install a poured in place rubber surfacing on the playground. Our next fundraiser is the Preschool Prix in May.

Public registration for the 2023-24 school year is on February 7th and registration forms can be filled out online through the church website. If you know a 2, 3 or 4 year old who would love our programs, please pass the word! Thank you for all of your support this year at Create-A-World!

Sincerely,
Katy LoRusso, Director
createaworldpreschool@gmail.com



Congregation Statistics for 2022 as reported to the Synod office:

Members as of January 1, 2022: 506

Baptized: 6	Deaths: 6	Confirmed: 6
Transfer Out: 4	Transfer in: 16	Adjustments: 4

Total Membership as of December 31, 2022: 508

JONAH in 2022

Celebrating 15 Years in the Chippewa Valley

“Our calling is not only to pull people out of the river, but to go upstream to find out what or who is pushing them in.” Jim Wallis

Mission and Values: JONAH- Joining Our Neighbors Advancing Hope-exists to deepen relationships within and among faith communities and partner organizations to empower people in addressing the root causes of social injustice in the greater community.

We organize diverse people around these common values:

- **Radical Inclusivity:** Belief in the infinite dignity and worth of every human life, in the ethic of shared abundance, and the intentional inclusion of all persons-especially people who have traditionally lived at the margins of society.
- **Love:** Opposition to all forms of oppression and inequity, and trust in the triumphs of love and hope over cynicism, hate, and fear.
- **Reconciliation:** The idea of repairing past harms, and restoring people and communities to right relationship.
- **Living for the Future:** Having the well-being of our grandchildren’s grandchildren as the criterion for the decisions we make and the structures we support.
- **Environmentalism:** Belief that we are responsible for the stewardship of the natural world.

How We Work: Founded in 2007, JONAH uses grassroots organizing to bring people in the Chippewa Valley together around social injustices and empower them to build a more just and healthy community for all. We specifically bring people together when a bridge is needed.

JONAH believes in the principle that those closest to a problem or issue are best equipped to address the problem. This principle also informs our local action agenda-the issues we chose to address reflect what is important to our Chippewa Valley community.

How Can You Take Action? Join one of the following:

- Affordable Housing Task Force
- Environmental Task Force
- Child Poverty Coalition
- Mental Health Task Force
- Immigration Task Force
- Criminal Justice Task Force
- Transit Alliance Task Force

Learn More: Visit the JONAH website at jonahjustice.org; email Ray Koch at rk9561@charter.net or call/text 715-225-5907; visit the JONAH Facebook page; or contact Lynn Buske at cvjonahorganizer@gmail.com

JONAH Faith Community Members

- Immanuel Lutheran Church
- Eau Claire Catholic Deanery (9 parishes)
- Eau Claire Friends (Quakers)
- First Congregational UCC
- First Presbyterian
- Grace Lutheran
- Hope United Methodist
- Spirit Lutheran
- St. John’s Lutheran
- Temple Shalom
- The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
- Trinity Lutheran
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation
- Unity of Eau Claire

AMMPARO AT IMMANUEL 2022

“Dios es nuestro amparo y fortaleza,” (“God is our refuge and strength,”)-Psalm 46:1

AMMPARO is a holistic, whole church commitment by the ELCA, as a church in the world, to accompany children today and in the future.

The word “amparo” in Spanish means the protection of a living creature from suffering or damage. The ELCA’s strategy to Accompany Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) was envisioned after witnessing the plight of children who are forced to flee their communities in Central America and Mexico because of complex and interrelated reasons, including chronic violence, poverty, environmental displacement and lack of opportunities.

Immanuel has become a partner with the ELCA’s AMMPARO ministry and has begun to work on how we see this fitting into our ministry as a “Church Without Walls”. AMMPARO in the Chippewa Valley has been active since 2019. Participating churches are Immanuel, Hope Lutheran, and University Lutheran. We have hosted educational events, worked with Latinx families, collaborated with community organizations—all to build awareness and serve our neighbor.

During this past year we have continued to meet virtually and have been able to:

- Partner with JONAH Immigration Task Force.
- Partner with and promote the Synod’s Vecino a Vecino: Juntos en Ministerio (Neighbor to Neighbor: Together in Ministry), a new ministry of the Northwest Synod.
- Participated in a Zoom conversation with Eau Claire Police Chief Matt Rokus.
- Participated in Webinars by the ELCA on Immigration issues and initiatives.
- Participated in conversations with local and state legislators on the need for Driver’s Cards for Undocumented Wisconsinites.
- Partnered with Chippewa Valley Bridge Builders and Welcoming New Neighbors on various Immigration and Resettlement issues including their hosting of a family seeking asylum.
- Partnered with Vecino a Vecino, UWEC Latinx Student Organization, and JONAH Immigration Task Force in a Thrift Sale to raise over \$2500 for scholarships for UWEC Latinx students.
- Partnered with Eau Claire City-County Health Department to host Pop Up Covid Vaccination Clinics.
- Participated in a celebration of our area’s immigrant roots and lifted up our diverse cultures for the 150th birthday of Eau Claire in August.
- Hosted the Mexican Consulate Mobile Visit in September.
- Began a relationship with the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin’s Justice Task Force to advocate for the Afghan Refugees in Camp McCoy and subsequent resettlement opportunities.
- Established a fund to assist local Latinx community members that may need legal assistance, financial assistance, housing issues, and other immigration related legal needs.

TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMMANUEL AMMPARO FUND, PLEASE CONTACT RAY KOCH, SUE LUTHY, OR PASTOR JAMIE; or send check to Immanuel Lutheran Church: AMMPARO in the memo line.

To become involved or learn more about AMMPARO at Immanuel, please contact
Ray Koch or Diane Kaufmann.

2022 Caring Ministry Report

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."
Matthew 18:20

Immanuel's Caring Ministry continues to focus on Eucharistic Ministry. The Eucharistic Ministry is provided to anyone, regardless of age, who is unable to attend church services on a regular basis. Individuals/couples are partnered with a trained lay Eucharistic Minister who visits monthly and provides communion within a short service. We currently have nine Eucharistic Ministers serving ten partners.

If you are interested in becoming involved or know of someone who needs this important ministry, don't hesitate to reach out to me via the church office:
715-832-7832. At Immanuel, everyone is empowered to care for one another.

Deb Kavanagh
Caring Ministry Coordinator



2022 Food Ministry Annual Report



The Immanuel Food Pantry had a busy year with many changes. I assumed the duties of Food Pantry Ministry Coordinator when the position became open this past summer due to Erika Albano and her family moving to another part of the state. I attended a Feed My People regional meeting at Mt. Simon Park where I learned their ordering procedures, and networked with area food pantry partners. Shortly after that, the food pantry moved from the kitchen area to an open closet across from the Preschool room thanks to Alyssa Engedal and the Summer Stretch kids! Don Schlieve painted and installed doors, thank you!

Our annual Thanksgiving baskets were distributed during the week of Thanksgiving and all of the families were so thankful and appreciative. Thank you to members who donated all of the staple supplies for this meal and especially Hy-Vee for their donation of turkeys/turkey breasts!

The pantry has received monetary donations from many members allowing the pantry to remain stocked with healthy food options, gas cards and Kwik Trip coupons for eggs, milk and produce. Every person/family that visits our pantry expresses their thanks for the pantry. Thank you, Immanuel, for your monetary and food donations, and thank you to those who volunteer and welcome guests every Monday from 4 - 5:30 PM.

Our Blessing Box continues to serve those who need personal care items. Thank you, Steve Johnson, for volunteering to pick up and deliver the Weekend Kids Meals to Meadowview Elementary students each week. This partnership is essential in providing nutritious weekend meals for students in need.

I've included data for the past two years and number served. With rising food costs, we continue to see an increase. Again, thank you, Immanuel, for your continued support of this important ministry.

Sandy LaValley
Food Pantry Ministry Coordinator
Immanuellutheranec@gmail.com

Immanuel Food Pantry		
	2021	2022
# of Individuals Ages 0-17	123	192
# of Individuals Ages 18-59	218	264
# of Individuals Ages 60+	140	130
# of Households	170	223
Pounds of Food Distributed	4,300	4569

2022 Music Ministry Annual Report

We are excited to announce that we have finally had our first consistent in-person music making year for all of 2022, in two years!

We ended the last church choir year in May 2022 with our wonderful Church Music Sunday.

This summer was the third year of Praise in the Park for our WOW worship team. We led outside at Phoenix Park and inside worship in the Brewing Projekt when it rained one Sunday. The WOW team loves jamming and leading worship at these ELCA community wide events. It is a fun and powerful way to spread the word of God and to bring people together.



In the fall, the choir participated in the first annual Fall Arts Celebration. This collaboration opportunity allowed 5 churches to come together to support the Neighbor to Neighbor organization, as well as to provide beautiful music and artwork to the community. Each church brought artists from their faith communities to share and sell their art, while each church choir performed pieces from their fall season repertoire as well as two combined pieces that all the choirs performed together.

We also brought instrumentalists back into our building to play for Reformation Sunday!

Our Christmas Cantata was a hit, which included powerful modern readings of the Christmas story, as well as incorporating and inviting the congregation into our singing of traditional carols.

Upcoming events to look forward to are the Organ Dedication where we will sing "Come Thou Fount" accompanied by Leroy on organ and with a brass ensemble, and an Easter Celebration where we will sing the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's Messiah.

This year marks 10 years for me as the church choir director and music director at Immanuel Lutheran Church. In honor of that we are singing one of my favorite pieces "How Can I Keep from Singing" arranged by Gwyneth Walker, a female composer.

This spring we will be singing anthems that all have the theme "Come." Come as you are, Come to the table, Come let us sing, etc. The theme invokes inclusivity and welcoming.

We are averaging about 15-20 singers every week which is good. We have grown this year in choral numbers, as we have welcomed 5 new singers into our choir, with many more singers returning from the congregation that have been out for various reasons. We are always looking for more members and continue to expand our borders as a church choir to all those who would like to sing.

We are so thankful for all the musical gifts that the members of Immanuel share with our congregation and our spiritual community. If you are ever interested in participating in any of these ministries, please reach out to the church's Director of Music, Tammie Delveaux Rubenzer by email at tammiedelveaux@gmail.com to get involved in music at Immanuel!

Tammie Delveaux Rubenzer
Director of Music Ministry

ZIP (Zomba Immanuel Partnership) 2022 Annual Report

Happy 2023 from the ZIP team! We had a big year of updates from the ELCM and some successful fund raising efforts in 2022. We are excited that several ZIP members have expressed interest in visiting Malawi in August of 2023 along with Deacon Laura Ramlow, the NW Synod Malawi coordinator. It has been 4 years since any in-person visits have taken place and we are overjoyed for the opportunity!

In Malawi, the ELCM continues to expand and some big changes are happening! The Church body in Malawi is splitting in three Dioceses (like our synods), creating more leadership spread throughout the country. The Sadzi church in Zomba worked hard on an expansion to provide space for the growing congregation. We have seen some images online and look forward to worshipping with them in person in the new space. It is great to see the faith growing in Malawi!

Our partners in the ELCM expressed the importance of a visit from us as soon as possible to boost morale. Malawi started the year with declining Covid numbers while cholera cases started appearing in March of 2022. The end of the year brought the worst outbreak of cholera in two decades. These back-to-back disease outbreaks have created mental health crises for many in a normally joyful country. Our visit this August will be especially important to revive our friendships, strengthen our bonds and show our support.

The end of 2022 and beginning of 2023 bring discussions of cholera relief fundraising efforts in conjunction with the NW Synod. The Synod hopes to raise \$20,000 to assist in various ways, including: Educating church and local leaders in cholera prevention, symptoms, testing and treatment. Supporting construction of toilets and sanitation stations along with chlorine and hydration stations for communities. Creating teams to help families actively experiencing cholera and mental health resources for those impacted.

If you are able and called to give to this cause, you can give in several ways including a check to the Immanuel Office (specify Cholera relief), under the ZIP tab/Cholera on the Immanuel website [HERE](#), or through the Synod. All money will be sent to Malawi through the Synod. Send a check to:

The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

(*Please indicate 'Cholera Relief' in the memo line)

944 24 1/4 Street, Suite 2

Chetek, WI 54728

OR

You can give a gift online: <http://nswsi.org/giving>

*Please choose 'Malawi Support' in the funds list, and in sub-funds, please choose 'Cholera'

This year at Immanuel, some normalcy returned to our fundraisers with some big successes! In June, we assisted the youth in the annual Thrift Sale, raising around a thousand dollars for the ZIP team. 10% of the overall proceeds were donated to the Free Clinic. Thank you to the congregation for all the donations!

In July, we had another amazing daylily dig, raising over \$8000 for the ZIP fund! A huge amount of effort goes into this event every year, starting with weeding in the spring and summer and building new raised beds. Event prep includes meetings, organizing volunteers, updating signage, advertising and food for workers. Then comes the weekend long dig and its cleanup, including splitting plants, replanting beds and so much more. We are grateful for the Kaufmanns and Fehrs for their dedication to this fundraiser year after year. Any Immanuel member interested in learning more is welcome to join us for the 2023 dig!

In October, we brought back the in-person Chili Cookoff fundraiser. We had a great turnout with around 9 chefs, each creating a uniquely flavorful chili. We used a Thrivent grant to purchase compostable dishware to avoid cross contamination, along with all the side dishes and drinks. Donations came out to

ZIP (Zomba Immanuel Partnership) 2022 Annual Report cont.

around \$500 and a new member of ZIP, Katie Pospishil, was our winner with a sweet and savory chili. Congratulations!

Finally, ZIP would like to thank the congregation for their continuous support of the group and our Malawi family. It has been a difficult couple of years for many in Malawi, and your care, love and donations have helped many struggling families. Please keep us in your prayers this year and check out a meeting anytime! All are welcome!

Holli Jacobson, ZIP Coordinator



2022 Green Team Annual Report

The Immanuel Green Team kicked off in Fall 2022. Many thanks to Ray Felling who developed the Green Team logo. Outlined below are the programs initiated in 2022:

“Recycling Beyond Curbside” Collection

The Green Team implemented a program to collect batteries and Christmas lights. These items can not go in curbside recycling bins, but can be recycled for free at First Choice Recycling in Eau Claire. Both collections had good participation by the congregation and preschool families. The Green Team plans to expand to other recyclable collections in 2023.

Composting

A Wisconsin DNR audit reveals that over 30% of landfill waste is organic with that number approaching 40% when tissue and paper towels are included. Composting matters when it comes to strategies to reduce the size of our community landfill.

At no additional cost, the church plans to change trash haulers to EarthBound Environmental. EarthBound is locally owned and operated and offers curbside composting along with traditional trash and recycling services. The Green Team is currently reviewing other churches who have implemented building-wide composting

Solar Review

With available grants and financial incentives solar projects are becoming more financially viable. The Green Team, in collaboration with the Property Committee, is reviewing the feasibility of a solar project at Immanuel. In 2023, a recommendation will be completed and submitted to Council for their review.

Going Into 2023

In 2023, the Green Team will continue with the programs initiated in 2022 with a stronger emphasis on congregational communication and awareness. Through newsletters, information sessions and the website the Green Team can offer the congregation strategies to implement green habits in their own lives so we can all work to take care of God’s beautiful creation.

Green Team Members:

Sue Waits, Mark and Lois Helland, Sarah Aiken Felling, Levi Felling, Ray Felling, Nate and Linda Aaseng, Cindy Bullock, Jon Seamon, Michael Rehak, Pira Mueller, Peggy Blomenberg, Greg Kaufmann, Lang Jacobson

Sue Waits, Green Team Coordinator

2022 Immanuel Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Lutheran Cemetery Association Board Report

Immanuel Membership to the Board: Bill Schwengel and Steve Mikelson

Cemetery Board Reorganization

The Cemetery Board adopted by-laws during its March 24 meeting and established a six member board with two representatives from each of the three member churches – Grace Lutheran Church, Spirit Lutheran Church, and Immanuel Lutheran Church. Bill Schwengel (2 year term) and Steve Mikelson (4 year term) volunteered to serve as the representatives from Immanuel Lutheran Church. John Bowman retired from his volunteer capacity as Immanuel's representative after many years of service. The 13.5 acre cemetery dates back to 1878 when it was chartered as the Eau Claire Lutheran Cemetery Association.

Cemetery Clean-up

Volunteers from the member churches participated in picking up trash and overwinter debris on April 24. About 20 helpers picked up 30 bags of trash. A similar event on "Gods Work, Our Hands" Sunday was held on September 18 where headstones were cleaned and grave plots edged.

Omaha Street Improvements and Assessments

The City of Eau Claire renovated Omaha Street during the summer, installing new pavement, curb, gutter, and driveway approaches. Each of the five cemetery associations along Omaha Street were assessed the improvement costs according to the amount of street frontage. The Lutheran Cemetery Association's share of this cost is \$26,194.70. 10 percent of this assessment was paid out of cemetery funds in January 2023. The plan for payment of the remaining assessment will be decided by the board later this year. Each of the three churches in the association pays an equal amount of the cemetery expenses. Immanuel's share of the snow removal and lawn care is \$2500 per year. Because only \$700 was budgeted for cemetery maintenance in 2022, the Immanuel Trust Fund contributed \$1800 as a one-time grant. The church budget's cemetery maintenance allocation was increased to \$2500 for 2023.

Signage

Two new signs were installed following the completion of the construction along Omaha Street.

Plans for 2023 include two volunteer work days, one in the spring and one in the fall, and exploring the use of an electronic database for indexing and mapping of the graves.

Submitted by Bill Schwengel



2022 Report of the Immanuel Lutheran Church Trust

The stated mission of the Trust Fund is “to serve in partnership with Immanuel Lutheran Church to be a living witness to God’s love and concern for the world. This will be evident in the socially responsible investment and distribution of the Trust's assets and income for such purposes.”

The bylaws of the Trust stipulate that up to 5% of the fund assets, as determined by the previous year total market value as of September 30, may be distributed (so in 2023 the Trust can distribute up to 5% of the market value of the Trust on September 30, 2022).

The Trust Fund prioritizes the exploration of innovative ideas and projects that will build on or expand Immanuel’s mission in our congregation, our community and our world.

Grant disbursements in 2022 were made for the following purposes:

- To support Beacon House in their endeavor to help their clients become self-sufficient
- To help middle and high school youth from Immanuel attend the NW Synod of WI youth gathering and experience a camping trip in South Dakota
- To meet our obligation as a member of the Lutheran Cemetery Association to help maintain the cemetery
- To help Create-a-World replace the pea gravel under the outdoor playground equipment (targeted to happen in 2023 assuming they are successful in raising the additional funds)
- To help with the cost of sealing and striping the Immanuel parking lot
- To support Jessica Dragseth and Grace Olson with seminary education
- To Select Learning to create Spanish subtitles for some of their most popular courses
- To encourage and support the young people of Immanuel to attend church camp at Luther Park by offering 50% scholarships
- To the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi to address needs due to the COVID pandemic
- To Haven House, a refuge for homeless individuals in Eau Claire, who have no where else to go during daytime hours
- To BaredFeet to provide project materials for an arts program targeted at low-income families in Eau Claire and surrounding communities
- To Hope Village, which provides “tiny houses” for unsheltered families and individuals to Hope Gospel Mission to provide StepUp modular beds for their short stay facility

If you have any questions on how the Trust operates, how you can request a grant from the Trust or how you can give to the Trust or leave it in your will, please feel free to contact a member of the Board.

Market value at September 30, 2022: \$934,027.27

Market value at September 30, 2021: \$1,212,595.94

Current Board of Trustees: Pastor Brieske, Zan Degan, Lauren Likkel, Mark Helland and Bob Wilcox

Administrator: Dee Schlieve



*Help for Those
in Need*

Immanuel Lutheran - Eau Claire, WI
Consolidated Fund Activity Report as of December 31, 2022

Account Name	End Balance 12/31/2022	Purpose of Fund
Pipe Organ Fund Balance	\$235.00	For organ repair and maintenance
ALOA Fund	\$300.00	Dues for Association for Lutheran Older Adults
Camp Create	\$5,619.88	For Camp Create Program expenses
Lunch Brunch Balance	\$665.00	For Day Camp Ministry
A/V Equipment Balance	\$6.14	For purchases of A/V equipment
Advent Dinner Balance	\$136.00	To purchase food for the Advent Dinner
Choir	\$1,439.36	For choir music
Church Related Careers	\$130.98	For members pursuing church-related career
Discretionary	\$55.46	Pastor's discretionary fund
Faith Formation Balance	\$6,223.24	Snacks, meals, special projects, scholarships and youth offering
Handbells Balance	\$2,059.95	To fund handbells supplies
iPad Loan Program Balance	(\$1,827.03)	To loan ipads for church services
Kitchen Balance	\$1,425.04	For kitchen supplies
Landscape	\$185.00	For landscaping supplies
Capital Improve Fund Balance	(\$6,595.78)	For improvements to the building
Caring Ministry Committee	\$2,807.80	For Care Ministry coordination
Pantry Fund	\$3,211.08	For the food pantry
Malawi Fund	\$15,118.37	For Malawi
Material Witness Quilters Balance	\$645.69	For quilting supplies
Memorials	\$2,465.82	Non-specific purpose
	<u>\$34,307.00</u>	

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
Financial Report - General Fund
Actual for the 12 Months Ending 12/31/2022
Budget for the 12 Months Ending 12/31/2023**

	Actual 2021	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023
Giving				
General Fund Giving	\$266,467	\$283,000	\$257,578	\$270,000
The 2023 budget amount is an increase of 4.82% of the 2022 actual amount. General Fund giving in 2022 decreased by 3.34% from 2021 General Fund giving.				
Total General Fund Giving	\$266,467	\$283,000	\$257,578	\$270,000
Expenses				
Mission	\$27,080	\$29,250	\$29,250	\$28,650
Organizations we give to include the Synod, Lutheran Social Services, Luther Park Camp, Interfaith Hospitality, Cemetery Support, Community Table, Food Ministry, Neighbor to Neighbor and JONAH.				
Utilities	\$14,368	\$16,400	\$17,089	\$16,400
This category includes Electricity, Heat and Phone & Internet expenses.				
Maintenance	\$13,060	\$14,900	\$15,123	\$14,800
This category includes Snow Removal, Maintenance, and Office Equipment Maintenance.				
Program Support	\$10,205	\$13,250	\$11,591	\$11,900
This category includes Office Expense, Professional and Staff Development.				
Pastor's Salary	\$62,410	\$63,930	\$63,522	\$67,875
Pastor's Salary includes a Housing Allowance and is based on Synod Guidelines.				
Staff Salaries	\$87,846	\$95,280	\$94,932	\$97,025
No salary increases for 2023, except to full-time ministry staff, based on Synod Guidelines.				
Pastor and Staff Benefits	\$23,880	\$24,190	\$24,045	\$22,000
This category is for Pastor's Pension, Student Loan and Staff Retirement benefits.				
FICA Taxes	\$7,626	\$8,055	\$8,535	\$8,650
This is FICA expense on the Salaries.				
Witness/Service	\$1,138	\$1,200	\$1,171	\$1,100
This includes Advertising, Devotional Books and Hospitality Supplies.				
Faith Formation Ministry	\$1,121	\$2,500	\$1,586	\$2,000
This is for activities for the Youth and Family Programs.				
Worship/Music	\$3,665	\$4,200	\$4,983	\$3,500
This includes Worship Supplies.				
Learning	\$2,300	\$2,350	\$2,006	\$1,600
This includes Confirmation, Milestones Ministry, and VBS.				
Property	\$6,083	\$7,495	\$8,342	\$8,500
This category includes Insurance and Special Assessment by the City of Eau Claire.				
Total Expenses	\$260,782	\$283,000	\$282,174	\$284,000
The 2023 budget amount is an increase of 0.65% of the 2022 actual expenses.				
Gain (Loss)	\$5,685	\$0	(\$24,596)	(\$14,000)

Respectfully submitted,
Casper K. Haas
Chair, Finance Committee of the Immanuel Lutheran Congregational Council

01/17/2023

2022 Property Committee Report

Committee Membership: Al Ludwig, Kim and Suzi Sturz, Don Schlieve, Bill Schwengel, Mary and Brian Bischel

The property committee had a busy year keeping the building and grounds in good condition. We thank the congregation for their support in this mission and we encourage volunteers to join the committee and participate. We especially thank Kim and Suzi Sturz, for their day to day efforts as our church custodians.

Plumbing: Kjelstad Plumbing repaired plumbing in the men's restroom in May. There were no other plumbing repairs during the year.

Electrical: B and B Electric replaced bulbs in the south parking lot light pole fixture and replaced the emergency lighting unit in the narthex. The emergency lighting units had failed to operate during a fire department safety inspection. The battery was replaced in the other emergency lighting unit in Luther Hall.

Heating and Air Conditioning: Hovland's Heating and Air Conditioning replaced a startup component and the electrical shutoff connection on one of the air conditioner units on the north side of the building on August 8.

Church Grounds: We continued this year with no irrigation of the church lawn. Relying on natural precipitation and not having irrigation has kept costs and mowing time down. Lawn care was provided throughout the summer by Don, Al, and Brian. More volunteers are needed to assist with mowing. Mary kept up the flowers beds, as she has done in past years.

Sidewalk Repair: Resurrection Concrete completed mudjacking of two sections of sidewalk (one at the front entrance and one at the side entrance) on June 16. The repairs were done well and the slab now meets the threshold at the side entrance. A trip hazard on the front sidewalk was also eliminated.

Boulevard Trees: Nine ash trees were removed from the boulevard along Golf Road in September by the city forestry department in response to emerald ash borer infestation. The stumps were ground and the holes were filled. The city plans to replace the trees with a disease resistant species suitable for the location.

Memorial Tree Project: Two flowering crab trees were planted on church grounds after acceptance of the donations by the council. One tree was purchased by Jerry and Carol Hanson in memory of Carol's aunt, Barb Garnett. Neil Hanson purchased a tree in memory of Lynda Hanson. The location of the trees was decided to be in the area between the parking lot and Woodridge Drive and these trees were planted on September 24 by Lang Jacobson and Ryan Stilp. This area should be considered for future memorial trees, including the replacement trees for Art and June Peterson which were removed last summer because of emerald ash bore infestation. A memorial garden could also be considered for future plant donations of flowers/small shrubs.

Parking Lot: On July 6, the council approved expenditure of up to \$8613.00 for seal coating and line striping the parking lot with selection of the vendor at the discretion of the property committee. \$3000 had been allocated from the trust fund with the remainder assigned to the capital improvement fund. Bids had been received from Senn Blacktop and Superior Sealers. Two other vendors were contacted and declined to bid on the job. Although both bids received were close in cost, Superior Sealers specified a higher application rate. The sealcoating and line striping was completed on September 2.

Work Days:

Reorganization of the storage areas in the church building in the following areas was the focus of the June 18 Work Day: (This project was directed by Don Schlieve.)

2022 Property Committee Report Cont.

- Storage closet off Luther Hall with "accordion" door. Two shelves were built over the chair carts. A storage area for the hand bells was also created in this closet.
- Furnace Room. Two shelves were built to allow floor storage for tables and carts. Unneeded items from the furnace room were removed and disposed of, including unused and outdated paint.
- Classroom E. Classroom E is used mostly for storage and contains file cabinets with choir music, janitorial supplies, quilting group materials, round tables, and miscellaneous items. It was difficult for the users to get at their needed supplies and most in need of organization. The quilting group has purchased a 72 inch long heavy duty metal shelving unit which is now placed along the south wall (adjacent to hallway). Two shelves over the metal filing cabinets on the west wall approximately 20 inches deep were installed.

The November 6 work day accomplished various tasks done in preparation for winter: Volunteers raked leaves from the lawns and flower beds. Leaves and other debris were removed from the roof drains to prevent ponding of water on the flat roof. Debris was also cleaned from the gutters on the rear portion of the building. Leaves were bagged and removed from the grounds by Greg Kaufmann to be used as mulching for lilies on the Kaufmann farm.

Interior Carpentry: Don Schlieve built doors for one of the closets in the hallway and the stock items for the Food Pantry were moved there from the kitchen. Don also built the wood slat façade that covers the pipes of the organ.

Summer Stretch Youth Service Day: Immanuel and Hope Lutheran youth combined forces to help with projects around the church on August 9, including moving food for the food pantry, removing weeds from the sidewalks, and washing the classroom windows.

Sidewalk Edging Service Donation: Mary Bischel arranged for free sidewalk edging by Loew Service LLC on September 1. Mary had been doing edging along Commerce Valley Road when the owner of the company, Anthony Loew, stopped by and volunteered to have his company provide a complimentary edging service. The company does landscaping and snow removal in the area and wanted to donate their time to the church. Mary provided Tony and his assistant, Eric Hansen, with a complimentary plate of cookies.

Custodian Fill-in: Property committee members covered for Kim and Suzi during a week each in July, September, and December.

Energy Conservation: The committee is partnering with the Green Team to look at ways to improve energy efficiency in the church building.

Capital Improvement Fund/Maintenance Budget- The capital improvement fund grew to \$13,900 in January of 2021, mainly due to an August 2020 infusion of \$9353 in insurance money from Church Mutual Insurance Company to cover a settlement of roof and ceiling damage to the sanctuary. The \$17,500 sanctuary repair and painting costs were paid from this fund in 2021 along with the parking lot resealing costs in 2022. The fund currently has a deficit of about \$6500. This fund is important to maintain not only for preventative maintenance but also for emergency repairs and replacement of such items as furnaces and air conditioning units. Giving can be specifically directed to this fund. \$7000 was budgeted for general maintenance and repair costs in 2022. Actual maintenance and repairs costs totaled \$7370.

Submitted by Bill Schwengel
Property Committee Chair

Annual Report and Thank You! From Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson January 2023

Dear Pastors, Deacons, SAMs, lay leaders, members and friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

Happy New Year! Did you make a New Year's resolution? I wonder what would happen if entire congregations or even if the whole church council would make a New Year's resolution together. What would it be? What might be a God pleasing, faithful New Year's resolution for you, personally? Your church? Your church council?

What is your congregation's
New Year's Resolution?

Maybe the New Year's resolution might be to begin every church meeting in the next year by asking a God question like, "I wonder, what does God want us to accomplish in this meeting today? How might what we do in our meeting today please God and be faithful

to our baptismal promises?" As someone once famously said, "The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing. The main thing is Jesus." What if our New Year resolution is to repeat that phrase before every meeting?

As a synod, we are good at New Year's resolutions, or at least we always have resolutions at our synod assembly! This year our synod resolution will be to learn more about our indigenous neighbors. Jesus said that the main thing, the greatest commandment was to love God and love our neighbors. On Monday, January 23 we will be learning from our Ho-Chunk neighbors from Black River Falls at our Winter Theological Gathering *Rebound: Unsettled History-Hopeful Future* at Luther Park in Chetek. Click here to register. [Northwest Synod of Wisconsin | Winter Theological \(nwswi.org\)](https://nwswi.org/)

At the synod assembly on April 29 our theme is *Rebound: From Worry to Wonder*, there will be resolution that will come before the assembly encouraging every congregation to learn about their indigenous neighbors and write their own land acknowledgement and include it on their website and welcome statements in their bulletins. What if your congregation's New Year's Resolution was to learn more about your neighbors and discover new ways to love them?

Our synod's New Year's resolution is to love our neighbors by learning more about our indigenous neighbors and encouraging congregations to write and use land acknowledgements.

What is a land
acknowledgement?

It is formal statement that a public event is taking place on land

originally inhabited by [indigenous peoples](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenous_peoples). (Wikipedia) This statement recognizes and respects Indigenous peoples as the traditional stewards of the land and the relationship that exists between them and their traditional territories. Here is the link to our synod's land acknowledgment. [Northwest Synod of Wisconsin | Land Acknowledgement \(nwswi.org\)](https://nwswi.org/)



Synod staff update: In this new year there will be a new synod minister. Pastor Diane House will begin her call as our synod's new Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM) on January 9. We will officially welcome her at Winter Theo. We will miss Pastor Erin Nelson, but wish her well in her endeavor as owner of The Purple Tree, an eco-justice business in Hudson.

I am truly grateful for your prayerful and financial support of the work we do together as the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. Thank you for your partnership in the gospel of Jesus Christ so that the next generation will come to know and love Jesus and all generations will experience God's forgiveness and grace in their lives. Thank you for all the ways you are supporting Bible Camps, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Neighbor-to-Neighbor, Malawi, Lay school, Seminarians, Youth Gatherings, Justice Teams, World Hunger Appeal, Lutheran Social Services, Lutheran World Relief, Synod Ministers, Call processes, Area Strategies, Faithful Innovation and all the other work we do together in Jesus' name. Thank you and Happy New Year.

Bishop Laurie Snow-Anderson



A prayer for the New Year:

Eternal God, you have placed us in a world limited by space and time. In this new year, protect us from all the distractions and help us focus on the main thing, the transforming work you have done through Jesus. Grant that we may know your presence, see your love at work, and be strengthened by it to do what is most important; to love you and to love our neighbors. Help

us to find joy in this life of faith, and invite others to walk in the way of Jesus Christ our Lord, **AMEN**

Introduction to the NWSWI Land Acknowledgement: Let us acknowledge that we are on the ancestral homelands of indigenous peoples of the Council of Three Fires including the Ho-Chunk, Menomonee, Dakota, and the Anishinaabe (or Ojibwe) which includes the Bands of Red Cliff, Bad River, Fond du Lac, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Mille Lacs, and St. Croix. Each of these Nations and Bands is unique and sovereign. We are grateful to their ancestors for their deep commitment to caring for the land.

Calendar of upcoming synod events--for more information

<https://nwswi.org/home/calendar?sapuri=LvtYze5L2xIL2NhlvszMnN0bnc0P2VtYmVklmlyYW5kaW5n>

January 23 Winter Theological Gathering, Luther Park, Chetek

February 11 Christ Jam Middle school Youth Gathering, Bethany Rice Lake

February 15 Due Annual Reports to Bishop, Mission Support, Reports A & C.

March 11 Walking Together, synod wide learning event, Bethany Rice Lake

March 15 Resolutions for Synod Assembly deadline

March 12-18 YA trip to Pine Ridge

March 18-25 YA trip to New Mexico

April Youth Advocacy Day

April TBD Pre Assembly Forums on Zoom

April 29 Synod Assembly, Bethany Rice Lake

July 17-20 Rostered Ministers Gathering Phoenix AZ

July 24-27 TriSynod Sr. High Youth Gathering UW River Falls

Aug 4-20 Synod Trip to Malawi

September Fall Ministry Retreat Heartwood

November 1-6 Synod Civil Rights Pilgrimage

January 8-17, 2024 Synod Trip to the Holy Land

Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting

February 6, 2022

Call to Order: The annual meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Lang Jacobson with an approximate attendance of 26 members in person and 11 members virtually.

Opening Prayer: Lang led the congregation in prayer to open this meeting.

Review/Approval of 2021 Minutes: A motion made by Jan Carlson to approve the minutes from the 2021 Annual Meeting. Dee Schlieve seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by member vote.

Report of the Nominating Committee for Council Members: Currently, there are five positions open for election to the Council. Three current Council members are eligible and interested in a second term: Jennifer Dean, Beck Ivey, and Bill Schwengel. Two members are being nominated for their first term on Council: Ryan Stilp and Sue Waits. At this time, the floor is open for additional nominations during the annual meeting; no additional nominations were made.

Election of New Council Members: A motion to approve the ballot for the election of Council members was made by Greg Kaufmann, seconded by Jo Stolp, and approved unanimously by member vote. In the fall of 2021, youth members joined Council: Molly LoRusso and Campbell Dean. A motion was made by Dee Schlieve and seconded by Greg Kaufmann to approve Molly and Campbell to serve as youth members to Council. By member vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Jamie shared her report and some highlights. There have been amazing opportunities to see God at work during this past year through this pandemic and all that we are doing as a church and in our own faith journeys. It is exciting to look forward to what Immanuel has in store for this new year. The Council has been engaging in intentional work with Rev. Erin to find common purpose and look to the future towards what we can accomplish together with the mission of the church in mind. There is an update on the work with New Neighbors and the possibility of Eau Claire hosting Afghan families. The process is moving along quickly with the WI Refugee committee soon to decide on approval for the request that Eau Claire host Afghan families. There will be a fundraising component involved and those interested in donating funds may make contact directly to LSS, to Welcoming New Neighbors via RCU, or through Immanuel. Thank you for sharing your gifts and we look forward to the new year. A motion to approve Pastor's report was made by Kitty Rahl, seconded by Jan Carlson, and by member vote passed unanimously.

2022 Budget: Casper Haas shared the report for the budget proposed for 2022. The overall budget of \$282,000 for expenses is an increase over the 2021 year and aligns with an increase to the budgeted figures for giving in 2022. Immanuel finished 2021 with an approximate \$5,000 gain for the year which is positive.

Casper noted a few categories that show increases in the budget for 2022:

- ◆ Mission (giving to Neighbor to Neighbor)
- ◆ Utilities (lower 2021 electric expense with less church usage but keeping the budget the same rather than going down as use of the church could increase in 2022)
- ◆ Program support (guest pastor support will be needed from this category during Pastor Jamie's upcoming sabbatical)
- ◆ Staff salaries (new positions filled and increase in pay)
- ◆ Property (getting up to date on worker's comp coverage).

Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes Feb 6, 2022 Cont.

Casper thanked the finance committee and others for their support in this work. **Question:** How do you figure the percent increase when developing the budget? **Answer:** The finance committee uses a three-year trend of expenses and giving to help calculate the needs for the new year. The expenses or needs are identified and totaled for the new year and then a percent of increase is calculated based on the previous year's actual expenses. **Question:** How do we plan for an increase in giving as noted in the budget? **Answer:** Immanuel Council will assist with this. One way in which this may occur could be to return to a stewardship committee model to reach out to members in support of giving. Council has recommended the budget for approval by the congregation. A motion by Dee Schlieve to approve the 2022 budget, seconded by Bill Schwengel; the 2022 budget was unanimously approved by member vote.

Property Report: Bill shared the property report and thanked everyone for the support of the property committee and volunteers along with Kim and Suzi Sturz for their work at Immanuel. The oldest of Immanuel's five furnaces was inspected in May 2021. The technician indicated this furnace may need repairs and down the road it may come to an issue of replacement; perhaps in 2 – 3 years. The inspection indicated there is good air flow and exchange here at Immanuel, keeping the building safe. Fall of 2021 brought a successful Eagle Project completed by Aiden Tarpenning with two picnic tables and a Leopold table made and donated to the outdoor area of Immanuel. A few trees had to be removed due to ash borer disease on Immanuel property. The city may not have the infected trees in the boulevard removed as quickly as we have. Memorial plaques removed in this process will be returned to a tree when replanting occurs in the future. The parking lot needs some work with cracks in need of being filled, resealing, and new lines painted. This may be a big project if taken up for this year. There are some sidewalk repairs needed as well but not to the scope of the parking lot project. The capital improvement fund may be used to support some of these larger initiatives but may not cover the extent of expenses that would be needed. Members may give directly to the capital improvement fund which would support these larger undertakings. A special appeal in giving may arise as projects come to date as well. The biggest volunteer project for 2021 was completed by Kim and Suzi Sturz and Mary Bischel who painted the interior of the church which matches the sanctuary colors. Volunteers for lawn mowing are always appreciated. A motion to approve the property report was made by Jan Carlson, seconded by Deb Kavanagh, and by member vote passed unanimously.

Open Discussion/Sharing: Lang shared that Immanuel Council will begin work with some goals made for 2022. Council will be reaching out to others by phone to inquire about faith needs and what may be missing along with participating and sharing in lectures via Laura Rambo which have a cross-generational focus. We are grateful to have Pastor Jamie here with us at Immanuel these past few years.

Dee Schlieve expressed thanks to Council and Lang, Council President, for leading us through these last two years which have been some of the most challenging leadership times we have had. Thanks as well to Dee in being a part of that work as well and in training our newly hired staff.

Jo Stolp shared that as life has its ups and downs it is important to thank the staff of Immanuel, Pastor Jamie, Council, and everyone who helped us get through these times and to know that, through this all, life at Immanuel is good.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Jamie closed the annual meeting in prayer, sharing our gratitude for everyone who works towards the mission of the church so we can be a blessing to others.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Greg Kaufmann, seconded by Dee Schlieve, and unanimously approved by member vote at 10:30 a.m.



Immanuel Lutheran Church

Included in *The Image* this month are the reports for the Annual Meeting, which will be held on Sunday, February 12, 2023 at 10 AM.

Pastor Jamie Brieske

Jamie.brieske4hope@gmail.com

Alyssa Engedal

Family Ministry/Camp Create

familyministry@immanuelec.org

Grace Olson

Ministry Coordinator

office@immanuelec.org

Deb Kavanagh

Caring Ministry Coordinator

office@immanuelec.org

Katy LoRusso

Director, Create-A-World Preschool

createaworldpreschool@gmail.com

Sandy LaValley

Communications Administrator

Food Pantry Ministry Coordinator

Immanuellutheranec@gmail.com

Immanuel Lutheran Church
3214 Golf Road
Eau Claire, WI 54701
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