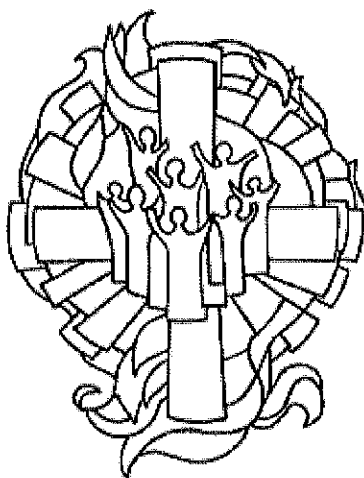


Immanuel Lutheran Church

A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Forest City, Iowa



*Building community in the name
and likeness of Jesus Christ.*

2023 Congregational Report

Annual Meeting

November 12, 2023, 10:45 a.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
“Building Community in the name and Likeness of Jesus Christ”

Annual Congregational Meeting

November 12, 2023

10:45 a.m. Annual Meeting

- I. Call to Order – Kathy McEnelly
- II. Opening Prayer – Steve Olmstead
- III. Approval of Agenda – Kathy McEnelly
- IV. Approval of last year’s annual meeting minutes (2/5/2023) – Kathy McEnelly
- V. Presidents Report – Kathy McEnelly
- VI. Election of 2024 Council Members – Kathy McEnelly
- VII. Installation of Council – Pastor Rod Hopp
- VIII. Senior Pastors Report – Pastor Rod Hopp
- IX. Associate Pastors Report – Pastor Zech Anderson
- X. Presentation of the 2024 Budget – Jen Jenkins
- XI. Adjourn – Kathy McEnelly

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Annual Congregational Meeting – Immanuel Lutheran Church
In Person/Zoom February 5, 2023

10:30 Call to Order

President Daryl Krieger called the meeting to order at 10:30. Pastor Rod offered the opening prayer. Hard copies of the ILC Congregational Report for the year were available to members both in attendance and online prior to the meeting.

Following a motion by Kay Sorensen and a second by Mark Jenkins, the meeting was opened. Following a motion by Karl Woolridge and a second by Jen Jenkins, the Minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting was approved.

Presidents Report

Daryl Krieger gave the President's Report. As outgoing president, he thanked the congregation for their support. He also expressed thanks to Tasha Banta for her dedication to the Children's Ministry and to Elizabeth Bohl for taking on the leadership of the Children's Ministry. He also expressed thanks to Elizabeth Carr for joining us as a Pastoral Intern.

Daryl also expressed thanks to the Council for diligently working toward revival and their discernment as they continue to work toward reenergizing the congregation. Council is working with Nathan Swensen as they work to accomplish their goals. We are continually seeking to move forward and reach beyond our walls as well.

Council

Leaving Council this year is Joyce Kasper, Daryl Krieger, Dave Melby and Marcy Hanson. New Members are Jan Buffington, Ellen Olson, Keith Walker, Matt Welp with Kathy McEnelly as President.

Returning Members are Ben Arentson, Lisa Chisholm, Chad Kozitza, Danielle Niess and Laura Winter with Linda Ferjak as Secretary and Jen Jenkins as Treasurer.

Council Executives are Kathy McEnelly, Linda Ferjak and Jen Jenkins. The role of Vice President is yet to be determined.

This ballot is brought as a motion from the council. A Second to the motion was given by Gary Gernetzke. Motion was approved. Council was installed by Pastor Rod.

Rod presented Daryl with a thank you card signed by congregation members. Kathy will take over as president.

Pastors Reports

Pastor Zech gave his report online. He spoke about the website, emphasizing that his focus is on Immanuel sharing its Story. The website tells the story of what is going on. His podcast started this winter. New to the site will be stories of individuals from Immanuel.

Council members have been meeting with Mitzi Schafer to help them learn how to get members to tell their stories. They have interviewed five people so far and will be reaching out to many more. He encourages members to be willing to share their stories.

Pastor Zech encouraged members to read the rest of his story and what he has been doing with Immanuel throughout the year.

Pastor Rod encouraged the assembly to read his report in Annual Report booklet. He went on to speak about the Church Council and the difficulties they faced throughout the tough years guiding Immanuel through the Pandemic. He expressed thanks to those who have left the council and to those staying on for their work as well as the staff for their help. He is working with Nathan Swensen, and a counselor to deal with the problems that confront him concerning the declining church worldwide. He emphasized that he puts his trust in God to lead us and confident that God will be faithful in our work. He would like to see council put together an evangelism strategy which would include proclaiming the good news and inviting others to join us. He would also like to see an increase in Small Group Ministry throughout the church, with a renewal and study of God's word. He went on to say that those congregations that don't tell their story will struggle to survive.

Pastor Rod spoke of his wishes for facility needs. He would like to see the Choir Loft connected to the existing platform and put on a slant facing the congregation and adapting the front pews to space more usable for smaller group ministries by removing four pews and using chairs in that space.

Pastor Rod expressed appreciation to Pastor Zech for his work in technologies, the office staff, Mike for his dedication and also gratitude for his recovery, and to Elizabeth for her presence this year. He concluded his remarks by offering his blessings to the Congregation.

Presentation of the Budget

Jen Jenkins thanked Kim Severson and Jaci Thorson for putting all the numbers together. The Finance committee meets several times in November and December to put this together. She gave a brief overview of the budget for the year. There were no questions asked.

The Budget comes as a motion from Council. Kay Sorenson seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Constitution Amendments

Kathy McEnelly reviewed the clarification of the amendments concerning the use of the Endowment Funds. Constitutional changes were reviewed. They are simply wording changes to better fit what Immanuel is doing.

This was brought as a motion from last year's Annual Meeting. Kathy moved to ratify the motion with a second by Ruth Melby. Motion Carried.

Western Iowa Synod

Volunteers to go as Delegates to the Western Iowa Synod Assembly to be held on April 21-22 in LeMars are Mindy Anderson and Ellen Olson. There is still a need for additional volunteers.

11:45 - Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Karl Woolridge with a second by Natalie Alsop. Motion approved.

Linda Ferjak, Secretary

2023 President's Report

It's been my honor to serve as your Congregational Council President for the past year. I've been blessed to lead a group of faithful servants who have worked to facilitate the business of your church and move our ministry forward. Council members staying on into 2024 include: Ben Arentson, Keith Walker, Danielle Niess, Laura Winter, Lisa Chisholm, Linda Ferjak, Matt Welp, Steve Westerberg, Jen Jenkins, and myself. Those concluding their council service are Ellen Olson and Jan Buffington.

Immanuel again participated in God's Work Our Hands Sunday on September 10. As we work to "Build community in the name and likeness of Jesus Christ" (our mission statement) doing God's work with our hands is key to our ministry and to spreading the love of Christ. I'm proud of the many ways that Immanuel reaches out into the community and into the world to help others in many different ways. On September 16, Immanuel participated in Forest City's city-wide garage/yard sales. This was a fund-raiser to help the general fund and we raised over \$4,200 due to the generosity of our congregation members donating items to sell.

We have been blessed to have Intern Pastor Elizabeth Carr with us, both teaching her and learning from her. She will be staying with us into 2024 helping to cover for Pastor Hopp's sabbatical. We have also been blessed by the partnership we have with Bethany in Thompson. Just a few months ago, we joined into a space rental agreement with Four Oaks Alternative School, and we have nine students going to school here in our building.

Your Congregation Council takes care of the "business" of the church, depending on the four boards and the staff to carry out our mission. Council members devote time and energy on behalf of our church and I am very grateful for those that serve!

I thank you for the opportunity and the pleasure of serving as your Congregational President.

Blessings,
Kathy McEnelly

2023 Annual Pastor's Report

The theme of this report will be "GRATITUDE." A quick look at the etymology of the word, "gratitude" reveals the origin of the word to be *gwerā-*, a proto-Indo-European root meaning "to favor." The gratitude of my heart flows from a place of deep appreciation to God for God's continual favor and provision, for the church, my family, myself, and for all of creation.

I am grateful for each of you who partner together as church to carry out the ministry and mission to which God has called, commissioned, and anointed us. Our passions as a Spiritual family include children, and the aging, feeding those who are physically and spiritually hungry, supporting the work of missionaries near and far, prayer for one another and the world around us, forming partnerships that strengthen us for ministry, and caring for our church home. Each of you participate and offer yourselves, your time, talents, and treasures in ways that make a difference and empower faithfulness from this body. I am grateful to be called "Pastor" among you. Together we enact the Gospel, the good news of God in Christ Jesus, and bear God's light.

I am also full of gratitude that we share a common set of values. These values are reflected in the passions mentioned above. This year led to a new partnership with Four Oaks, an organization that serves vulnerable children. Four Oaks now rents space at Immanuel to educate those children Monday through Friday. We also continue our partnership with Bethany Lutheran congregation in Thompson, Iowa. Again, we share a common set of core values that undergirds and strengthens this partnership. We have partnered with Wartburg Seminary this year to host and train up Intern Elizabeth Carr who has truly begun to live into her calling to the ministry of Word and Sacrament. We continue to partner with the Iowa Food Bank to feed any and all who come to our Wednesday evening meal. Some hunger for food, some for human connection, others for a place to sit. Each of these relationships flows from our values and passions. I am grateful for these partnerships that impact people in many and various ways.

I am grateful for our church staff who, week-in and week-out, give so much of themselves to make things happen. Each person plays their part, and lives into their responsibilities in love for God and God's church. Some have been serving in their roles for more than twenty years, while others are just getting started, yet together we continue to live and grow together, as children of God, in service to Christ's church and mission. I am grateful for our church staff.

Each year I try to remember to thank my wife and life partner, Renae, for the support, help, love, and care she provides to me, to our family, and to the church as we navigate this journey through life together. This year on July third, Renae suffered a left hemisphere cerebellum stroke, the balance and coordination center of the brain. I am/we are extremely grateful to God that God spared her any long-term lasting affects from this stroke. It was an unwelcome reminder that life is fragile and can change in an instant. Gratitude fills my heart for Renae, and I pray for her continued well-being.

I am grateful for the upcoming Sabbatical upon which I will embark beginning November twentieth, 2023, and from which I will return February twelfth, 2024. This twelve-week

sabbatical is a gift. It is meant to renew, and revitalize your spiritual leader through rest, study, travel, and a time of disconnect from the daily tasks of ministry, in order that I may return to serve together with you once again in our shared ministry and calling to be church and Christ for the world. I am deeply grateful for this gift of Sabbatical.

I am grateful for whatever lies ahead. We do not know what lies ahead, however, we know who goes ahead of us into the future. This one is Jesus, and the Spirit of God will lead us. Yes, there is much to fuss about in the church today as society changes and those who participate in church and ministry become more and more the minority. Yet, God leads us. Jesus is always the head of the church and Jesus is faithful even in times of struggle. Through struggle we, the body of Christ will become strengthened for faithful ministry. The one thing we as Lutherans need to become better at is inviting people. I am grateful for those of you who invite, and I am grateful to God for God's faithfulness even through the dying and rising process.

I am grateful for generosity and generous giving. Immanuel has a long history and reputation for her generosity. The generosity of Immanuel is empowered by the generosity of her members. Throughout the year, and as we've emerged from the pandemic, many of you have been very generous in giving of your time, talents, and treasures. God's work Our hands make ministry possible. I am grateful to those of you who give generously of your time, talents, and treasures. As we head toward the end of this budget year, we will once again need the generosity of each of us to meet our obligation. Thanks in advance for all that you do to keep Immanuel strong and faithful.

God is the source of every good and perfect gift, and God looks with favor upon the Immanuel Lutheran congregation and you, her members. 1 Thessalonians 1:4 reads, "For we know, brothers and sisters, beloved by God, that he has chosen you." God has chosen us together to be the church for the world in this time and place; a church of radical welcome, of love and peace, of joy and harmony, of generosity and hope, of perseverance and prayer, of service and care, and so much more. I am grateful to God for all the blessings that flow from this fellowship of believers that we call Immanuel to one another, and to the world God loves. Together we continue to build community in the name and likeness of Jesus Christ. Join me in gratitude for God's calling, blessing, and anointing upon us.

I am grateful to God for God's continued provision and blessing upon my life, upon the church, and upon God's good and beloved creation.

God's peace be with you all,

Pastor Rod Hopp

Pastor Zech Report

Dear Friends in Christ, Grace and Peace to you today and every day.

First, as always a big THANK YOU! Thank you to all who have helped in so many different ways. Thank you for the time away for rest and continuing ed this year. Thank you for the help with worship. Thank you to the Sound Techs and Video Techs. Thank you to the Adult Middle School leaders. Thank you to the staff. Thank you for the prayers and support. Thank you for your help as Pastor Rod goes on Sabbatical. Thank you for all the cards during Pastor Appreciation. Thank you to the youth and the High School Leadership. Thank you to all who send in videos. And I'll stop there, or this could become my entire report. We've been in ministry together 7 years, and I truly am thankful for you all. I look forward to what the rest of year 8 has in store.

So where to begin in 2023? It seems like we just did this report not so long ago, and yet a lot has happened in 9 months. First what sort of thing have I been up to outside of technology? I continue to be involved with worship, preaching, visiting, Pastoral Care, Promiseland, Middle School, text study, High School, Synod events and other aspects of ministry. Here are some highlights from those areas in the past year. Middle School Ministry continues to go well. Pastor Rod, Intern Elizabeth and I continue to share leadership by each taking a month. The topics this year range from creation, overview of the Bible, an extended look at Christmas, Spiritual practices, death and new life. I am pleased with the adult involvement once again this year we have had this year, from having seven different adult leaders at different times, and an occasional guest coming in to help teach the group. I also want to thank the new group that is helping plan activities for Middle Schoolers this year. The activities have been fun and the youth told us that the 5th quarter was the best one yet. It was cool to have activities and music from the Wednesday night band. I look forward to more fun activities to come and seeing the Middle Schoolers continue to grow. On Wednesday nights, there is an adult opportunity before worship at 5:30 in the lounge. And I think it's been helpful to have a full hour this program year to meet. They have met around video series and a time of socialization; you should come and check it out! I continue to work with the High Schoolers and they continue to be a wonderful group to work with. Currently Intern Elizabeth and I have been working with Carter Benson and Luke Raulie to guide the group, as last year's Seniors have now graduated. Those Seniors did an amazing job last year, and I know this new leadership will do well too. We meet weekly to go over various topics and Bible devotions. And of course, there's some game time! I am extremely hopeful for this group as so far all those being confirmed this year have been attending and the group has been growing together. Sundays and Wednesday Night worship have been going well, I enjoy sharing the good news with you all while preaching and leading worship, I do still sing sometimes too. I continue to appreciate getting to know Bethany Lutheran Church and everyone there. Each year brings new opportunities there, and it has been fun to see them grow this year. One note on my synod involvement, I am a part of the Synod Assembly planning team and am one of the tech contacts if other congregations have questions as they grow in technology.

Speaking of technology, the Immanuel Inter-Linked Community continues to move forward and grow. Yes, there is the occasional gremlin in the sound system, but for the most part it has been another wonderful year. The worship tech team has worked hard once again, and I appreciate each one that helps out throughout the year. There is still a constant presence of members and non-members who are unable to be in the physical sanctuary but are worshipping inter-linked at home. We average about 20 live screens on Sundays and if you figure at minimum 2 people per screen that's 40 people worshipping interlinked at 9:15am. A lot of people login to the website on Sundays to find the bulletin and announcement sheets for the week. And there are a few who check out the weekly sermons. Recording Bible Studies have also allowed others to check them out later. The Annual Meeting continues to be inter-linked as do some meetings. This allows for max participation, and anyone can join in no matter how far away. Once again, we had multiple online Bible studies on Facebook. One study was about Lent and the other was a summer look at the book of Acts. Both were well used and received by all those who participated. We had about 38 participants in the summer series. There was a podcast, but it didn't really take off, but it was still a lot of fun to make. On Facebook we continue to work on telling our story, and there are videos and shorts throughout the year that show who we are and what we are up to. And finally, we have made a texting group through the Remind app for all those who would like to be updated on big events or changes at Immanuel. As always if you have questions, feedback, or ideas about technology or being inter-linked please contact me, I'd love to hear from you about how things are going.

Ok that's great, but what are the plans for the future? As we head into 2024, I look forward to continuing to grow as the Hybrid Pastor, and continuing to help the youth groups grow. This past Summer we were going to go to Pine Ridge, but we couldn't get a big enough group. This upcoming Summer a small group of youth will be going to New Orleans for the ELCA National Youth Gathering. We will also be working on planning another weekend activity to do with another congregation in the synod. Always good to see how the church is larger than Forest City. As Pastor Rod goes on Sabbatical, I'm excited for the doors this will open in my ministry starting with the Christmas season. It's my second time doing this and I look forward to moving forward with all of you.

I am excited for the future and what God has in store for Immanuel. I am always grateful and thankful for being inter-linked with you and being inter-linked together with Christ. Ok if you made it this far stop by and see me sometime and tell me a joke, I can always use a good laugh. Ok I'm done now, I know it was a lot to read but, thanks for sticking with me and remember....

GOD IS GOOD! ALL THE TIME! ALL THE TIME! GOD IS GOOD!

Thank You! And I will see you in and out of worship inter-linked together in Christ!

Pastor Zech Anderson

Pastoral Intern Elizabeth Carr Report

Beloved Siblings in Christ, grace and peace to you from our Triune God; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, Amen.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the people of Immanuel Lutheran Church for this opportunity to serve God's Church in mission with you and to grow and be formed for ministry by all of you throughout my time here.

At the beginning of this internship, I was asked to create a Learning Service Agreement which outlined my aspirations and goals as I sought to grow and develop in my pastoral identity and imagination. This document is based on the Twelve Pastoral-Diaconal Practices which Wartburg Theological Seminary's core curriculum centers on as they form future valued leaders for the life and mission of God's church.

Over the past months, with much prayer and guidance, I have worked on these goals and truly feel I have grown and developed in each of these areas:

- Leadership-There have been many opportunities for development of leadership skills from small groups to boards, various ages and stages, organizing and helping with events, and observing how others lead.
- Theological Articulation-I have worked on articulating my faith and call story in a variety of settings, expanded my theological knowledge through readings, study, and learning from colleagues and congregants, and put into practice what I have been learning through preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and social interactions.
- Leading Worship-Planning and leading worship is one of my gifts and my joys. I have gained confidence and poise through active participation in worship leadership at Immanuel, Bethany, Forest Plaza, and Good Sam, learning to "go-with-the-flow" and give myself and others grace when mistakes inevitably happen.
- Preaching-This has probably been the area I was most trepidatious about, and it has turned out to be something I feel much more confident about now. The Spirit has shown up again and again, right when needed, and guided my sermon writing and delivery, to spread the Good News of the Gospel through the office of preaching.
- Teaching Adults-Participating in the Women's Bible Study, New Member Class, Circles, and Adult Sunday School has given me plenty of opportunity to work with adults in an educational format, although I feel I typically learn as much from other adults as I teach.
- Teaching Youth and Children-I have taught various ages of children and youth during Vacation Bible School, Promiseland, Middle School Ministry, and High School Youth Group, as well as having a lot of fun with these various age groups.
- Evangelism-Working with Pr. Steve Smith at Waldorf University and the North Iowa Ministerial Alliance in Buffalo Center has allowed me to reach out to those who may or may not have heard the Word of God before and be an example of God's love and grace for all of God's people.

- Pastoral Care-Through numerous visits with the homebound, sick, and hospitalized, as well as social visits, I have learned to develop trusting relationships, worked on empathetic listening, responded to crisis and grief situations, shared joys and pains, celebrated the Lord's Supper, and respected confidentiality as appropriate.
- Administration-I have engaged with the Congregation Council all year and each of the Boards for one quarter of the year, learning different aspects of congregational administration and leadership. I've also attended regular staff meetings and worked closely with church staff to see to the day to day running of the worshipping community.
- Stewardship-Encouraging faithful stewardship of time, talents, and treasure has been a focus of many of my sermons, conversations, and newsletter articles, as well as a lifestyle I attempt to model for others.
- Social Ministry-I have embraced opportunities for social justice ministry as they have arisen, preaching on topics such as inclusivity in the church and prison reform, and encouraging expansion of ministry in the area of hunger. I anticipate further social ministry work in the coming months as well.
- Raising up Leaders for the Church-I believe raising up leaders for the church begins with baptism and have encouraged everyone I can to take an active leadership role in the church as they are called and comfortable to do so.

I cannot thank you all enough for this opportunity to learn and grow with you, and I look forward to our continued partnership throughout the coming months as together we "Build community in the name and likeness of Jesus Christ."

Yours in Service,
Pastoral Intern Elizabeth Carr

"I always thank God for all of you and remember you in my prayers. I call to mind before our God and Creator how you are proving your faith by your actions, labouring in love, and showing constancy of hope in our Saviour Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 1:2-4)

Board of Parish Life Annual Report

The Board of Parish Life members for 2023 were Kathy Leuwerke, Kathy Jerome, Linda Ferjak, Mary Kingland, Sandy Lillquist, Melanie Westerberg, Tina Berg, Lisa Chisholm, and Karen Keller. Pastoral Intern, Elizabeth Carr, served with the Board for three months. Pastor Zack Anderson joined the Board in October.

The Board of Parish Life strives to offer a ministry of hospitality to the congregation and an outreach to the community. The Board also oversees multiple areas of the worship service which includes communion servers, altar guild, ushers, and music and worship. The Vital Agers group is not active right now, but they are still listed under our committee.

We sponsored a New Member Reception in April where the new members were given prayer shawls. In May we held a Volunteer Appreciation Day. Pastoral Intern Elizabeth got key chains and necklaces to hand out and all the volunteers were given flowers. In July we hosted the Summer Picnic after the Outdoor Service at the Waldorf Pond. Brian Keely prepared the meat for Walking Tacos. The Waldorf Block party was held in August to welcome students to campus for the new school year. The Board hosted coffee hours in October. We also have Visitor Gifts for people visiting Immanuel. In the fall, we switch from flowerpots with seeds to mugs with hot chocolate, flashlights, and Hershey's Kisses. In December we will be preparing gift bags for children at the 7:00 & 5:00 Christmas Eve services. The gift bags will have an apple, stickers, a candy cane, and Hershey's kisses.

Mary Kingland has continued to schedule ushers throughout the year and last year she put together a guide for new ushers which is kept in a drawer in the Narthex. Melanie Westerberg has scheduled communion servers throughout the year. We are looking for a volunteer to fill that position. Melanie has a list of those who have volunteered to serve, and the process is easy. Anyone in the congregation who might be interested in filling this need is asked to contact any BPL member or either of the pastors.

Thank you to all the members for their time and talents in 2023!

Respectfully,
Karen Keller

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees was comprised of the following members in 2023: Pastor Rod Hopp, Daryl Kreiger, Mike Oleson, Bink Keller, Mike Korth, Kristene Petersen, Kim Severson, Laura Winter, Jan Buffington, Kathy McEnelly, and Jen Jenkins.

The Board of Trustees focuses on all areas of finance and budget, property, and personnel.

In the area of finance and budget, the Board reviews monthly financial statements, noting all account balances (income and expenses) and makes recommendations to the Council about variations in budgeted expenditures as well as distribution of income. The Board also consults with the Endowment Committee, particularly regarding funds distributed yearly by the Endowment Committee for Immanuel's use. The annual budget is prepared by a Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees adds input and recommends a final budget to the Council for approval.

At the end of September, our financials are sitting at a negative \$27,709.27. In September of 2022, we were at a negative \$35,166.39 for comparison. In 2023, we did have to borrow \$10,000 from the Contingency fund. We were hopeful to be able to pay that back with the December income.

In the area of Property, the Board reviews needs of the parsonage and the church facility. Mike Oleson informs us of repairs and maintenance that he has taken care of and of items that need to be addressed. We also had a committee put together to review the needs of the parsonage.

In the area of personnel, the Personnel Committee was represented by Kim Severson. The Personnel Committee oversees staff policies and employment issues. Staff positions and job descriptions are recommended and updated as needed.

Respectfully,
Jen Jenkins

Hello from Promiseland!

We have had a wonderful 2023 year and looking forward to the JOY in 2024!

Our year started off with me taking over as director and I have enjoyed this first full year SO much! The excitement from the students radiates through the church and I love seeing that that excitement is coming from learning to love and live like Jesus.

We had a wonderful week of Vacation Bible School in June with over 100 students and over 30 volunteers. The kids learned the stories of Noah, Jonah, the Woman at the Well, and Walking on Water. The learning came in a variety of ways—crafts, science experiments, conversations, song, and fellowship at a shared dinner. The success we saw in the family dinner after VBS each night was amazing and something I will always be sure to include!

This 2023/2024 year is all about the joy we have in Jesus. We have spent a lot of time talking about how there can be things in our lives that are less than ideal and not how we want them to go, but we have that constant joy in our hearts from Jesus, which helps us get through the tough times.

One of my greatest goals as a children's ministry director, teacher, and mom is for the kids I am leading to feel safe. The volunteer teachers on Sundays and Wednesdays have helped create that safe feeling which has led to incredible conversations with the kids. They are discussing feelings, actions, and growing as people in a strong faith. It's a joy for me to watch these kids grow with one another.

Our Wednesday curriculum comes from Spark and is following the lectionary. The students learn and study a story and Bible verses on Wednesdays and then hear the sermons from Pastors Rod, Zech, and Elizabeth on Sundays. It's been great to hear the kids answering questions and having conversations during Children's Time based on what they learned on Wednesday at Promiseland!

The curriculum on Sundays is also from Spark, but is a plan called "Holy Moly". Each week the students learn about a different person in the Bible. I feel like this is giving the kids a more focused view on the people we are learning about on Wednesdays in our Bible stories.

We are preparing for the Christmas program this December, "The Holy Family is Here!" The students are excited to share their singing and learning with the church!

As we look forward to Vacation Bible School in the Summer of 2024, I plan to have a similar schedule as VBS 2023. Watch out for information on volunteering to teach, donate supplies, donate food, or serve meals each of the four afternoons!

Thank you so much for trusting me to be one of many leaders for our children's faith journeys.

Elizabeth Bohl

Board of Mission and Outreach 2023

The focus of the Board of Mission and Outreach is to fulfill the mission and outreach ministry of Immanuel. The 2023 members are Ken Korth, Jaci Thorson, Ben Arentson, Ruth Melby, Ellen Olson, Keith Walker, Becky Stumme, and Elizabeth Carr. Chad Kozitza also served on the Board from January to May.

Various quarterly mission emphases were designated throughout the year. During the first quarter (January–March), the mission emphasis was Hunger, and the money donated to this mission (\$1,094.98) was shared with the Forest City Neighborhood Food Bank (\$365.00), Immanuel’s Wednesday Night Meals (\$364.99), and the ELCA’s World Hunger fund (\$364.99). During the second quarter (April–June), the mission emphasis was Missionary Karen Anderson, and the money donated (\$1,529.04), which includes \$544.00 raised from the Red Geranium fundraiser, was applied to our 2023 covenant commitment. During the third quarter (July–September), the mission emphasis was Bible Camps, and the money donated to this mission (\$1,240.80) was shared equally with Ingham/Okobojo Lutheran Bible Camp, Lutheran Lakeside Camp, and Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp. For the fourth quarter, the Board chose to finish the year with a monthly emphasis instead. For the month of October, the mission emphasis is Missionary Karen Anderson and as of this writing, \$189.38 has been donated. For the month of November, the mission emphasis will be the Good Samaritan Fund, and the mission emphasis for the month of December will be chosen at the November Board meeting.

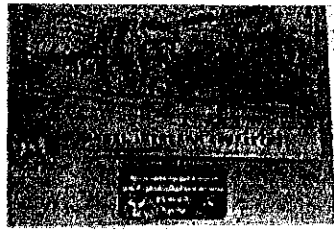
This year’s Lenten offerings (\$265.00) were used to support the Northern Lights Alliance for the Homeless Shelters (Mason City), the ELCA’s Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, and Immanuel’s Good Samaritan Fund.

At the time of this writing, \$692.53 is needed to meet our 2023 covenant commitment to Missionary Karen Anderson.

The Board has recommended to Council that the net proceeds from this year’s Thanksgiving Meal be divided equally between Missionary Karen Anderson and Wednesday Night Meals.

Various kitchen items, blankets, sheets, and winter apparel were donated to meet the needs of the Waldorf University international students as well as clothing and a clothes rack for a new interview closet for all Waldorf students to use. Members of the congregation also supported the summer needs of two international students through donations of food, gift cards, and fellowship. The students have been very appreciative of the congregation’s ongoing support.

One goal of the Board of Mission and Outreach this year was to strengthen our relationship with our companion church in Chile, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Magallanes. Jaci has done an exceptional job of rekindling this relationship through the sharing of messages, pictures, and videos. It was interesting to learn that a few days before the first message was received, Pastor Rocio Morales had been looking at a picture given to them by Immanuel and had thought about trying to find a way to contact Immanuel. As Pastor Morales stated, this reconnecting of the two churches is truly God’s will.



Once again, thank you for supporting the efforts of the Board of Mission and Outreach. Your generosity has touched the lives of those both near and far.

Respectfully,
Becky Stumme

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN WOMEN 2023 ANNUAL REPORT
JANUARY – SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	\$1930.95
INCOME:	
Circle Worship and Project Offerings	731.00
Income from Funerals	1650.00
Income from Coffee Hours and misc.	<u>1132.28</u>
	\$3513.28
EXPENSES:	
WELCA Coffee Supplies, Synod Dues	455.15
DO DAY Quilt for Auction, LWR (Shipping)	<u>225.00</u>
	\$680.15
Balance as of 9/30/2023	\$ 4764.08
Bills outstanding as of 10/19/2023 for batting and LWR	(\$465.40)

Last year we voted to keep whatever was in the Kitchen fund each year in order to cover any major expenses that might come up in the kitchen. We also voted to keep whatever was in the Do Day fund so we could continue buying batting and sending money to LWR when we send quilts and kits in May and October.

The money we will disperse at the end of this year will be from the General WELCA fund and we usually split that 3 ways. One third each to Immanuel, Local, and Missions. Sadly, we have served at 10 funerals this year so that has raised money for the WELCA fund. The serving of coffee after church is a service and a fundraiser but it does not raise money like it used to.

Thanks to all who continue to serve and to those who help us out in our service and mission efforts. This May and October, we sent a total of 221 Quilts, 143 Personal Care Kits and 204 Backpack School Kits to Lutheran World Relief!!

Barbara Braun
WELCA Treasurer

2023 Pastoral Acts

Sacrament of Holy Baptism (13)

4-26	Aiden Christopher Frascht	8-13	Anastasia Mae McCormick
5-7	Alora Elouise Ungs	8-13	Genevieve Lorena McCormick
8-6	Stiles Steven Book-Bolen	8-13	Elias Frederick McCormick
8-6	K. J. River Book-Bolen	8-27	Samuel Cade Christensen
8-6	Kinsley Lynn Book	9-17	Evelyn Jean Strom
8-6	Oaklynn Lou Book	10-11	Colter Remington Benson
8-6	Braelynn Lee Book		

Confirmed (12)

Ashlee Aukes	Keaton Hanson
Kiara Bina	Ashlen Kingland
Cooper Blaser	Witten Linder
Elaina Eastvold	Emerson Moore
Rylee Eastvold	Tyler Niess
Aiden Frascht	Caiden Squier

Member's Deaths, Funerals, Burials, and Memorial Services (20)

1-2	Robert Lowell Johnson	5-23	Dean Myron Anderson
1-16	Eleanor Louise Lovik	5-26	Roger Albert Drugg
1-24	Lois Marie Holst	5-27	Irmalee Olson
2-1	Max Allen Paulson	7-31	DeWayne LeRoy Johnson
2-21	Melody Ann Piehl	8-12	Orlyn Stoll
2-23	Carla Jo Duffy	8-23	Mary Kathryn Harland
4-10	Thomas Wayne Banta	9-5	Mary Beth Wooldridge
4-22	Clara Verdene Eisenmann	9-9	Eric Arthur Gustafson
4-24	Alice Lorraine Jolivet	9-9	George 'Gus' O. Bartleson
5-6	Vincent I. Langerud	9-23	Marjory Frances Solberg

Members Transferred Out/Joined Another Congregation (7)

Cynthia Ryder	Paul & Deb Jensen
James & Rozamond Hemberger	Dan & Kim Langfald

New Members Received In (15)

Michael & Elizabeth Bohl, Stanley, Mary Kate
Roland Drew & Colleen Schmidt
William & Danielle McCormick, Elizabeth, Anastasia, Genevieve, Elias
Katie Strom
Tracy & Carol Merritt

Good Samaritan Account

Beginning Balance 1/1/2023	\$ 3,552.12
Income	
Member Donations/Thrivent funds	\$ 346.63
Expenses/Disbursements	
baby formula, car repairs, clothing, gas, glasses, groceries, hotels, household items, moving expenses, prescriptions, rent, utilities (helped 38 people)	\$ 2,448.03
Account Balance 9/29/2023	\$ 1,450.72

**Endowment and Memorial Trust
January 1 - September 30, 2023**

Committee Members: David Damm (chair), Mark Johnson (treas.), Jennifer Jenkins, Cindi Lehmann, Kathy Leuwerke, Steve Westerberg, Pastor Rod Hopp, & Kim Severson

	12/31/2022	9/30/2023
Investments:		
VanguardTtIStockMktIndex	\$ 898,074.63	\$ 1,008,974.68
VanguardTtIBondMktIndex	\$ 81,484.26	\$ 80,730.06
VanguardIMoneyMarketCash	\$ 48,968.14	\$ 34,448.83
Subtotal: VanguardBrokerage acct.	\$ 1,028,527.03	\$ 1,124,153.57
ILC Endowment Health/Senior	\$ 58,863.67	\$ 54,347.54
ELCA Mission Investments	\$ 36,736.91	\$ 37,618.88
Total all funds	\$ 1,124,127.61	\$ 1,216,119.99
less Endowment Health/Senior	\$ 58,863.67	\$ 54,347.54
less council roof fund	\$ 90,308.83	\$ 90,308.83
less capital expenditures	\$ 41,666.78	\$ 41,666.78
Net Endowment Balance	\$ 933,288.33	\$ 1,029,796.84

Income(Jan 1, 2023 - Sept 30, 2023)

Bequests/Donations (2)	\$ 2,946.52
Total income	\$ 2,946.52

2023 Expenses/Grant Funding as of 9/30/2023

Ingham Okoboji/Riverside for Bible & Confirmation Camps	\$ 837.50
ELCA Mission Support	\$ 5,666.66
Elizabeth Carr (Pastoral Intern) Stipend, Housing, & Expenses	\$ 9,767.09
Festival of Homeletics for Pastoral Intern Elizabeth Carr	\$ 689.85
Good Grief Books	\$ 258.00
GSB Fundraising: Strategic Planning	\$ 2,855.00
Pastor Rod Continuing Education	\$ 2,000.00
Pastor Zech Continuing Education	\$ 1,000.00
Property Expenses (filters, defib battery & pad, paint, concrete repair, electrical outlet installation)	\$ 1,811.28
Waldorf Peer Ministry Scholarship	\$ 1,400.00
Total distributions	\$ 26,285.38

Ending Account Balances for 2023

	1/1/2023	9/30/2023
Account	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
General Fund Checking	\$ 37,197.86	\$ 9,556.22
Good Samaritan Fund	\$ 3,552.12	\$ 1,450.72
Deferred Savings Account	\$ 62,082.01	\$ 53,514.53
Balance Description - Reserve for Deferred Savings Account		
Camperships	\$ 1,546.93	
Contingency Fund	\$ 5,000.00	
Firm Foundation	\$ 11,543.43	
Interest Earned	\$ 1,043.75	
Library	\$ 1,650.12	
Mission/Fair Trade	\$ 288.64	
Mission Savings	\$ 1,083.33	
Music Fund	\$ 1,343.86	
Nursery	\$ -	
Prayer Shawl	\$ 186.66	
Promiseland	\$ 2,701.46	
Scholarship EPIC Match	\$ 600.00	
Seniors	\$ -	
Undesignated Memorial	\$ 10,192.42	
Waldorf Like Fire	\$ -	
Waldorf Peer Ministry Scholarship	\$ 50.00	
Youth	\$ 7,957.37	
Youth Mission Trips	\$ 8,326.56	
Total for Deferred Savings	\$ 53,514.53	

Treasurer's Report
Immanuel Lutheran Church
FY September 2023

	Year-to-date Actual	Annual Budget	Percent of YTD Budget
Income			75.00%
Regular Offerings & Envelopes	313,870.67	494,997.00	63.41%
Other Income	83,874.49	116,963.00	71.71%
Total Income	397,745.16	611,960.00	65.00%
Expense			
Staff Support	285,802.65	379,556.00	75.30%
Administration	96,315.49	140,807.00	68.40%
Ministry Areas	53,336.29	91,597.00	58.23%
Loan re-payment/contingency	(\$10,000.00)	0.00	0.00%
Total Expenses	425,454.43	611,960.00	69.52%
Income Less Expense	(\$27,709.27)	0.00	

	A	B	C	D	E	H	I	K	N	O
1	Immanuel Lutheran Church									
2	Operational Budget									
3	Calendar 2024									
4									%	
5									Variance	
6									CY23	
7									Budget to	
8									Budget	
9									CY24	
10										Row
11										#
12	REVENUES	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Projected	Budget	Budget		
13		CY 20	CY 21	CY 22	CY 22	CY 23	CY 23	CY 24		
14	Weekly Offerings	439,016	472,129	462,076	470,000	457,046	478,547	477,282	-0.3%	7
15	Missions	16,438	15,633	16,614	18,550	14,126	16,450	16,750	2%	8
16	Fees	8,134	15,930	10,792	21,085	5,193	11,750	15,400	31%	9
17	Reimbursements	40,205	50,131	53,927	43,330	59,463	52,088	72,328	39%	10
18	Endowment Funding	40,000	42,500	55,000	55,000	50,000	50,000	54,000	8%	11
19	Other (Use of Savings, Memorials)	3,004	6,456	3,070	6,471	8,250	3,125	5,000	60%	12
20	PPP Grant	67,400	0	0	0	0	0	0		13
21	Total Revenue	614,197	602,779	601,478	614,436	594,079	611,960	640,760	5%	14
22	EXPENSES									
23	STAFF SUPPORT									
24	Salaries	277,245	276,785	277,689	280,935	274,283	278,621	281,779	1.1%	19
25	Benefits	100,831	109,332	108,963	113,477	100,948	100,935	102,027	1%	20
26	Total Staff Support	378,076	386,117	386,652	394,412	375,231	379,556	383,806	1%	21
27	PROPERTY									
28	Utilities	17,297	18,917	27,382	21,364	33,916	28,562	35,000	23%	24
29	Insurance	16,393	19,543	22,280	20,000	25,306	23,200	27,000	16%	25
30	Property	61,011	60,930	68,914	70,958	64,200	66,200	70,650	7%	26
31	Total Property	94,701	99,390	118,576	112,322	123,422	117,962	132,650	12%	27
32	ADMINISTRATION									
33	Communication	1,130	1,822	1,696	1,695	1,200	1,695	1,550	-9%	30
34	Continuing Education	3,874	1,133	493	1,000	0	250	0	-100%	31
35	Conventions/Meetings	-	880	2,451	2,000	2,400	2,750	2,500	-9%	32
36	Mileage	2,113	1,893	5,459	3,050	4,721	5,000	5,000	0%	33
37	Office	11,814	11,127	9,526	11,700	10,630	11,050	10,979	-1%	34
38	Postage	2,426	848	1,319	1,465	1,200	1,400	1,400	0%	35
39	Publications	606	538	439	600	520	600	575	-4%	36
40	Leadership	783	261	207	0	0	100	0	-100%	37
41	Total Administration	22,746	18,502	21,589	21,510	20,671	22,845	22,004	-4%	38
42	MINISTRY AREAS									
43	Board of Education/Disciplieship	9,347	18,318	12,019	10,500	4,941	9,207	15,737	71%	41
44	Mission/Outreach	53,624	49,320	44,988	52,500	48,026	50,450	50,750	1%	42
45	Board of Parish Life	37,948	29,709	29,387	23,193	26,851	31,940	35,814	12%	43
46	Total Ministry Areas	100,919	97,347	86,393	86,193	79,818	91,597	102,301	12%	45
47	DEBT REPAYMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
48	Total Expenses	596,442	601,356	613,211	614,437	599,142	611,960	640,760	4.7%	49
49	REVENUES IN EXCESS OF EXPENSES	17,755	1,423	(11,733)	(0)	(5,063)	(0)	(0)		51
50	Transferred to/from Deferred Savings/Closings	-	0	0	0	0	0	0		53
51	Profit/Loss	17,755	1,423	(11,733)	(0)	(5,063)	(0)	(0)		55