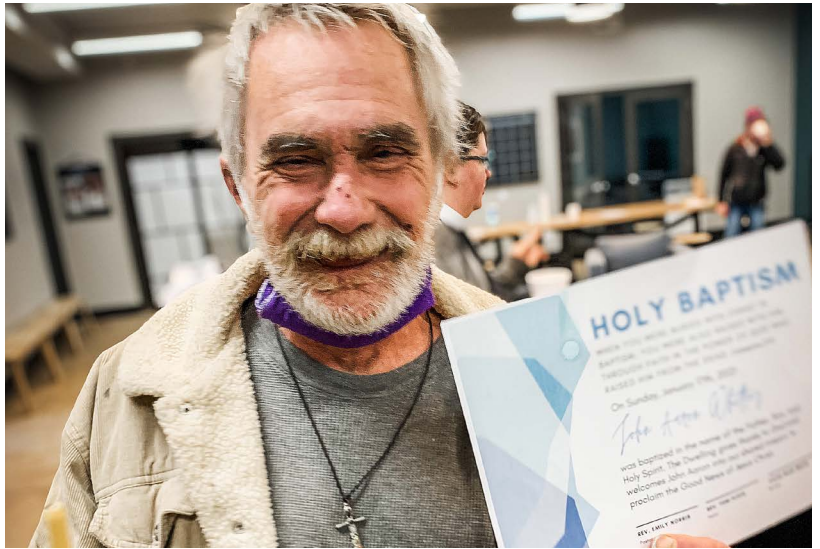


ANNUAL REPORT

2021



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP

*Elizabeth
Eaton*

Dear friends in Christ,

The last year has been one of adapting and learning. In many places we have seen vibrant and vital ministry spring forth from changes made due to the pandemic. Digital worship opportunities have introduced to our congregations people who may never have walked into one of our buildings. Many congregations have found new ways to invite people to share their generosity through online giving. And many ministries have found just how vital they are as they continue to serve alongside people in their communities.

The first chapter of James, verse 17, reminds us that “Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” Yes, this has been a season of change, but Scripture also reminds us that we serve a generous, steadfast God.

While we stay rooted in God’s enduring, unchanging promise, God also gives us the gifts of creativity and learning. Across all three expressions of the church we have used those gifts to serve God, love our neighbor and share the good news of Jesus Christ. In this time of change, we have opened our arms wider to meet people where they are, living into the reality that we are not defined or confined by the four walls of our buildings.

Through all this, I am so grateful for your generous sharing of creativity, time, talents and resources. All good gifts do come from God, and we are called to share and use those gifts. We have and will continue to answer that call. There is still much change and learning to come, but God’s steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

Elizabeth A. Eaton

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”



Immanuel Lutheran of Evanston

**Annual Meeting
of
Immanuel Lutheran Church**

2021 Year in Review

VIA ZOOM

Evanston, Illinois

January 30, 2022

1:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting of Immanuel Lutheran Church Evanston, Illinois
January 30, 2022, 1:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum	Grace Yarnoff, President
Opening Prayer	Pastor Mark Sloss
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Pastor's Report for 2021	7
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Evangelism & Communications – Laura McDaniel, Tom Couch, Jane Kaihatsu.....	17
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Social Ministry – Nicolai Schousboe.....	19
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Report of the Finance Committee	25
2021 Income – Mary Ann Kearns, Financial Secretary	
2021 Expenses – Susan Ross, Treasurer	
2022 Proposed General Fund Budget – presented by Susan Ross	
Improvements Fund as of December 31, 2021	
Fund Balances – December 2021	
Invested Funds 2019–2021	
Old Business	
New Business	
Adoption of Annual Budget	
Election of the Congregation Council	

Adjournment, followed by the Lord's Prayer and Benediction

The new Congregation Council will meet immediately following adjournment of the congregational meeting to elect officers for the coming year.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, January 31, 2021

Council President Scott Romans called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM, a quorum being present. See the appendix for the list of attendees. Copies of the 2020 Annual Report were distributed in advance.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to adopt the agenda for this meeting.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes from the 2020 Annual Meeting and the January 17 2021 Special Congregational Meeting.

The Pastor's Report was received as it appears in the Annual Report Book. Pastor Kim Beckmann made some comments on her report.

The Congregation Council Report was received as it appears in the Annual Report Book.

The Call Committee, Reopening Task Force, and Anti-Racism Task Force reports were received as they appear in the Annual Report Book.

The reports of the following standing committees were received as they appear in the Annual Report Book:

1. Education/Spiritual Growth
2. Sunday School
3. Evangelism & Communications
4. Property
5. Social Ministry
6. Quilting Ministry
7. Stewardship
8. Worship and Music
9. Personnel

The reports of the following special committees were received as they appear in the Annual Report Book:

1. Memorial Fund Committee
2. Stark Mission Fund Committee

The Finance Committee report was received as it appeared in the Annual Report Book. It was noted that the committee member list is missing Susan Ross, Treasurer. A detailed presentation and question and answer session was previously held about this report on January 24th, 2021.

A motion to accept all reports was seconded and carried.

There was no old business.

New Business:

1. Annual Budget: a motion to adopt the annual budget as presented from the Finance Committee was seconded and carried.
2. Election for the Congregation Council: the nominating committee consisted of Dana Barron (chair), Sara Krentz, Scott Romans, and Charly Yarnoff. Dana presented the slate: Steve Warner and Grace Yarnoff. A motion to elect both via voice vote was seconded and carried.

Council member terms have ended for Greg Hummel, Sara Krentz, and Erik Shearer. The Congregation expressed thanks for their service.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 AM and closed with a prayer led by Pastor Kim.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Krentz
Secretary, Congregation Council

Voting Members Present

Melanie Anderson
Linnea Balder
Dana Barron
Maren Baylaender
Fran Bushhammer
Marlene Chatain
Tom Couch
Nancy Darian
Chris Djuric
Linda Edlund
Anne Heider
Tyler Heyl
Greg Hummel
Terri Hummel
Dori Jacobson-Wenzel
Mary Ann Kearns
Diane Keely
Michael Kloster
Andrea Knohl
Keith Knohl
Sara Krentz
Hal Larson
Lisa Larson
Lawrence Lee
Kit McCarthy
Kevin McDaniel
Laura McDaniel

Gloria Meldman
Kim Miller
Bert Mount
Audrey Moy
Peter Moy
Scott Romans
Susan Ross
Nicolai Schousboe
Joanne Shearer
Merle Shearer
Joe Simchak
Terri Simchak
Jim Skelton
Kathy Skelton
Elizabeth Stegner
Laurie Stivers
Steve Warner
Charly Yarnoff
Grace Yarnoff

REPORT OF THE PASTOR FOR 2021

It has been a most interesting and exciting year. I accepted the call to be the Pastor at Immanuel and began my journey with you in March while all our meetings were online and vaccines for Covid-19 were just becoming available. The leadership of the congregation discerned that one of the lessons learned during this pandemic was a commitment to continue worship and meetings in a hybrid format when it was safe enough for us to gather once again in person. So, the Council applied for and received a grant from the Metro Chicago Synod for the cameras and equipment necessary for our worship to continue in a hybrid format. We then began worshipping either in person or online mid-July. This lasted until Christmas Eve, when a spike in cases drove us back to a Zoom only worship, which was led from the sanctuary with only worship leaders and the choir in-person. We also received a gift from a member of the congregation this fall, of an OWL Labs 360-degree camera microphone and speaker system, which enables us to conduct high quality hybrid meetings and classes.

I've long had a passion for justice, and I've not been disappointed in discovering how this pillar of Immanuel congregation's ministry has been enacted given the Covid restraints that we've had to deal with. I've enjoyed the educational experiences that the Anti-Racism task force has provided, not only for the congregation, but also for the larger Evanston community. The congregation's support of LGBTQIA+ rights was evident, not only in our being a Reconciling in Christ congregation, but also in events like our Pride Sunday worship. We struggled a bit with trying to reimplement Café Immanuel as a feeding ministry this fall by distributing bag lunches. And even though it was decided to forego doing this after a couple of tries, it does reveal our commitment to caring for the needs of the least of these. We look forward to the day that Café Immanuel will be able to provide a sit-down gourmet breakfast in our fellowship hall once again.

After a year-long hiatus we were able to host the Winter Indoor Farmers Market again this year, which provides an opportunity for local food producers to maintain some income during the months that the outdoor weekly market is off. It is also an opportunity for the congregation to engage our community in various advocacy issues, which again highlights our commitment to justice.

I was also very impressed with Immanuel's response to the Stewardship campaign this year, which you can read about in that section of the report. May we continue to trust in God's abundance that flows through us in many examples of generosity.

It's been a joy to become acquainted with many of you this year and hear your stories of how God is at work in your lives. Our mid-week Zoom Spiritual Formation class and the Sunday morning Feeding Our Faith sessions I value as times to not only teach, but also learn from and with you about the mysteries of our God, who is so full of love and surprises. During Advent some of you joined me in doing Lectio Divina, spending time together in silence reflecting on a Scripture text. I value such times of paying attention to the Spirit's movement within our lives, and I look forward to beginning some Spiritual Direction Groups in 2022 to provide opportunities for those who participate to deepen their connections to God and discern how to live more fully from the gifts of God's love and grace.

Susan and I have also appreciated the many ways that you have welcomed us to Evanston, and I have experienced firsthand your love and support for me as your pastor, for which I'm most grateful.

It has been a joy and privilege to work with Jane Kaihatsu in the office and with Jimmy and Greg in worship, and with Grace and the Church Council during this unique year. I trust that the Spirit will continue to guide us all with grace and love in 2022.

Deep Blessings,

Pastor Monk

Parochial Report—Membership

	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Membership at end of 2020	211	180
Members Received during 2021		
<u>By baptism</u>		
Adult:	0	0
Child:	3	0
<u>By transfer or affirmation of faith</u>	0	0
<u>Youth confirmed this year</u>	0	0
Total Members Received	3	0
Members Removed during 2021		
<u>By death</u>	2	2
Ernest F. LeVon		
Mildred J. Carlson		
<u>For other reasons</u>	3	3
<u>By statistical adjustment</u>	0	0
Total Members Removed	3	3
Total Membership at end of 2021*	209*	175

(*Baptized membership includes 8 associate members.)

Confirmed members who commune: 95

Unconfirmed members who commune: 6

Christian Education:

Number of children in Sunday School (Pre-K–6th grade): 4

Number of youth in Confirmation Class: 0

Average attendance at Sunday Adult Spiritual Formation: 9

Worship Services in 2020

Average Sunday worship attendance: 2019: 52

2020: 58

2021 44 in-person, 21 online

Average attendance at monthly Three Crowns service: 0*

*Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Three Crowns monthly services were not held during 2021.

Attendance at Special Services of the Church Year:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Platform in 2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Platform in 2021</u>
Ash Wednesday (noon)	15	14	In-person	25	Zoom
Ash Wednesday (7:30 p.m.)	31	18	In-person	Not held	
Maundy Thursday	48	40	Zoom	26	Zoom
Good Friday (8:00 p.m.)	43	55	"	34	"
Great Vigil of Easter	63	50	"	40	"
Easter	113	72	"	62	"
Christmas Eve (9:00 p.m.)	73	65	"	48	Zoom*

*This service was with worship servers only and attendance by others via Zoom.

Devotional Services Average Attendance

Lenten Vespers, Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. 18

Advent Vespers, Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. 15

Occasional Services (Wedding, Funeral)

Funeral for Ernest F. LeVon

REPORT OF THE IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL FOR 2021

As much as we hoped that some of the challenges of 2020 would be left behind with the new year, 2021 has proven to be a complicated one for our congregation as well as our Council. Immanuel has continued to rise to these challenges, though, and develop new and creative ways to worship God, welcome everyone, build community, and work for justice. The incredible work of the various ministries of Immanuel are detailed in separate reports. I am continually inspired by the resilience and dedication of everyone at Immanuel.

For the first half of the year, worship services as well as Church Council meetings continued to be held via Zoom only. Uses of facility during this time were carefully considered by the Church Council after first being assessed by the Reopening Task Force to ensure health and safety guidelines were being followed. We are grateful for this collaboration and the thoughtfulness exhibited by all involved.

During this time, we also welcomed our new Pastor, Mark Sloss. We are grateful for the creative energy and vision he has brought to Church Council.

In June, Council voted to reopen the Church building with continued adherence to prevailing health and safety guidelines from the State of Illinois, the City of Evanston, and the Metro-Chicago Synod. Although this would mean that worship could once again be conducted in the Sanctuary, the Church Council recognized that in the spirit of Immanuel's mission of Welcoming, it was paramount to dedicate time and energy to creating hybrid church. Since that time, Immanuel has developed a rich and high-quality hybrid worship experience. This would not have been possible without the thoughtful consideration by the Church Council and the tremendous time and energy spent by Tom Couch, Kevin McDaniel, and others on implementing the Council's vision. It is with enormous gratitude that we recognize the incredible gifts and giving spirit of the Immanuel congregation.

In December, we all once again found ourselves in a time of rapidly changing Covid developments. Thankfully, the Church Council had prepared for this scenario back in August, at which time a motion was passed outlining a plan to return exclusively to Zoom worship in response to public health metrics and updated guidance. While our hearts were heavy to have to make the decision to revert exclusively to Zoom worship, we were grateful that a plan was already in place to keep ourselves and our community safe.

Council has continued to utilize the new meeting format that was developed during 2020, in which Council spends half of each meeting attending to the business of the church and half of the meeting thoughtfully and prayerfully considering Vision topics. Some of the Vision topics of this past year have included Hospitality- Moving from Welcoming to Inviting, Becoming Hybrid Church, How do we best use our facility to further God's mission, How do we Share our Impact Stories, and Visions for Growth, among others.

The following members served on Church Council during 2021: Dana Barron, Tom Couch, Linda Edlund, Lisa Larson, Bert Mount, Scott Romans, Susan Ross, Jim Skelton, Steve Warner, and Grace Yarnoff. The terms for Tom, Linda and Scott will end on January 30th.

The following officers were elected and served during 2021: Grace Yarnoff (president); Lisa Larson (vice president); Scott Romans (secretary); Susan Ross (treasurer); Mary Ann Kearns (financial secretary).

New Council members will be elected by the congregation at the annual meeting and new officers will be elected by the Council immediately following the annual meeting.

Yours in Christ,

Grace Yarnoff, President, Congregational Council

REPORT OF THE CALL COMMITTEE

At its 6/21/2020 meeting, Immanuel's Council established a Call Committee consisting of Tom Couch, Chris Djuric, Anne Heider, Tyler Heyl, Michael Kloster, and Lisa Larson. On 7/01/2020, Pr. Robert Biekman, Asst. to the Bishop of the Metro-Chicago Synod (MCS), for an orientation to the Call Process.

At the beginning of 2021, Immanuel was on the cusp of calling its next Pastor. The Call Committee members Tom Couch, Chris Djuric, Anne Heider, Tyler Heyl, Michael Kloster, and Lisa Larson had been engaged in the discernment process since June 21, 2020. During July and August, the Call Committee and the congregation prepared meet and introduce Immanuel to candidates. The Call Committee received a total of five candidates from the MCS: two in August, two in October, and Pr. Mark Sloss' Rostered Ministers Profile on 11/01/2020. In December 2020, Pr. Mark met online with Immanuel staff members (Greg Hummel, Jane Kaihatsu, Jimmy Morehead) and in-person at Immanuel with the Call Committee. After a compensation package agreement was reached at the end of December, the Call Committee unanimously voted to recommend Pr. Mark Sloss to the Council for consideration as Immanuel's next pastor. At a Special Council Meeting on 01/02/2021, the Council unanimously voted to recommend Pr. Mark Sloss to the congregation. To introduce the candidate to the congregation, the Call Committee provided informational materials about Pr. Mark, an informal Q & A opportunity on 1/10/2021, and an online Congregational Gathering on 01/16/2021 to meet the candidate. Pr. Mark presided and preached at Immanuel's 1/17/2021 online worship service, and he and his wife Susan spoke briefly at Coffee Hour. At the Special Congregational Meeting immediately following, the Call Committee members gave their reasons for recommending Pr. Mark and answered questions. The Congregation unanimously voted to extend a call Pr. Mark E. Sloss, and he accepted. Pr. Mark began his ministry with Immanuel on 3/01/2021, and the Call Committee was discharged at the Service of Installation on 4/11/2021.

The Call Committee members are grateful for the support and prayers of the Immanuel community and the work put into the Ministry Site Profile, sprucing up our building and online presence, and sharing who we are with candidates. At almost a year later, we celebrate the Holy Spirit at work in all of us and all those responding to the call to participate in the process. We celebrate the new energy brought by Pr. Mark and the opportunities for ministry that our partnership has brought forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Larson, Chairperson

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2021

The following individuals are nominated for 3-year terms of service on Immanuel's Congregation Council:

- Diane Keely
- Michael Kloster

Background: there are 3 Congregation Council members with terms expiring at the 2022 Annual Meeting (Tom Couch, Linda Edlund, Scott Romans). Electing two new members to the Congregation Council will bring the Congregation Council membership to 9 individuals. This is in keeping with the plan to reduce the size of Immanuel's Council from 12 members.

Respectfully submitted,

Nominating Committee: Linda Edlund, Anne Heider, Lisa Larson, Steve Warner

REPORT OF THE REOPENING TASK FORCE

2021 proved to be a continuing challenge re Covid. We reopened for Worship on July 19, 2021 and continued with hybrid worship through December 19th. Then with the arrival of Omicron, for Christmas Eve through the end of January 2022 we expect to have just the worship team present in the Sanctuary and the congregation all attending via Zoom.

Those decisions were made by the Church Council with input from the Reopening Team, now comprised of Greg Hummel and Kit McCarthy. We expect to be on call for consultation during 2022, basing our advice on sound medical, legal and governmental guidance. We hope and pray that 2022 will be the year the Covid threat moves from pandemic to endemic and Worship, coffee hour and other Immanuel ministries can revert to their pre-Covid norm in some substantial part.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Hummel and Kit McCarthy

REPORT OF THE ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE FOR 2021

Participants of the Anti-Racism Task Force in 2021 include Susan Ross, Charly Yarnoff, Nicolai Schousboe, Audrey Moy, Christine Imhoff, Diane Keely, Elizabeth Stegner, Laura McDaniel, Laurie Stivers Lisa Larson, Tyler Heyl and Pastor Mark Sloss.

Following is a review of task force activities during the year:

January

“How to be an Anti-Racist” book discussion (multiple sessions), facilitated by Melanie Anderson. Discussion of Ibram Kendi’s best-selling book published in 2019.

Isabel Wilkerson – MLK Celebration keynote speaker – hosted by the University of Chicago.

Lenny Duncan – Dismantling White Supremacy in the Church – hosted by Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northwestern University.

Alderman Robin Rue Simmons – It’s Time for Reparations – hosted by Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation.

March

The Color Tax: Origins of the Modern-Day Racial Wealth Gap – hosted by the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation.

April

Pr. Mark begins his ministry at Immanuel.

May

Evanston Juneteenth Fundraiser.

Anti-Racism Task Force Meeting

Consensus to promote learning & listening

Focus on including anti-racism in prayer

June

Montgomery Travelers Presentation, hosted by Immanuel with many thanks to Audrey Moy for facilitating the event. Speakers were Bruce Bondy, June Furlan, Van Gilmer, Hugh Semple and Sherri Simpson. Immanuel’s Anti-Racism Task Force made a donation of \$125 to the Equal Justice Initiative in honor of the speakers.

July

Montgomery Travelers Debriefing, hosted by Immanuel.

August

Generational Legacy: The Evolution of Black Activism, presented by WBEZ with speakers Clarence Page, Brenda Sheriff and Jamie Frazier, moderated by Alden Loury.

October

Discussion of Ava DuVernay's documentary "13th" about the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution, led by Todd Maxman, New Trier High School teacher. Hosted by Immanuel with many thanks to Audrey Moy for facilitating the event. Donation of \$125 was made to the HCBU Foundation in honor of Mr. Maxman.

Collected donations for Stateville Correctional Facility water. As a result of the "13th" discussion, Immanuel was made aware of the very poor water quality at Stateville and took up a collection to donate \$450 for water.

"We're Still Here: Native Peoples in the United States" presentation and discussion (2 sessions), led by Rev. Dr. Stephanie Perdew. Hosted by Immanuel with many thanks to Audrey Moy for facilitating the event. The presentation engaged those gathered in understanding significant moments in history for tribal people and nations in the United States; current native concerns and challenges; and the question of what non-Native people can do to learn about, advocate for, and ally with Native communities. Donation of \$125 was made to the American Indian College Fund in honor of Barbara Greathouse Perdew, Rev. Dr. Perdew's mother.

Feeding our Faith discussion of James Cone's "The Cross and the Lynching Tree: Religion and Violence."
Feeding our Faith discussion of "The Cross and the Lynching Tree: A Requiem for Ahmaud Arbery" – Sermon by Otis Moss III, May 17, 2020.

Presentations made in October spurred follow-up advocacy efforts at coffee hour and at the Farmers Market. Postcards to Illinois legislators about the conditions at Statesville were made available as well as letters to the EPA regarding the expansion of Line 3 on Native lands in Minnesota.

On-going Initiatives

- Open invitation to join Intimate Dialogue on Race led by Van Gilmer
- Open invitation to join the Action-based Book Club, a group of local adults and teens committed to anti-racist work, equity, and relationship building
- Open invitation to join HEROS, Healing Everyday Racism in Our Schools, a group affiliated with New Trier High School but welcoming others
- Sunday School has focused on anti-racism
- Anti-Racism Task Force page added to Immanuel's website

The task force has many ideas for 2022. We encourage everyone to sign the ELCA Anti-Racism Pledge and participate in Immanuel's Anti-Racism activities!

Yours in Christ,

Susan Ross

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

REPORT OF THE ADULT EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH COMMITTEE FOR 2021

During 2021, there were several opportunities for adult education and spiritual growth

Midweek gatherings

Throughout the year, Immanuel members gathered via Zoom on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings for prayer, fellowship, and discussion of the lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday worship service.

In place of some of these gatherings around the Word, we met with members of the community and of other congregations for special events sponsored by the Anti-Racism Task Force:

- January 13: In an event hosted by the Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northwestern University, Lenny Duncan spoke on the topic "Dismantling White Supremacy in the Church."
- June 23: A multiracial, multicultural, interfaith group from the North Shore spoke on their journey in search of racial justice and understanding through their trip to Bryan Stevenson's Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) Sites in Montgomery, Alabama. Further discussion of this presentation was held on July 28th.
- October 5: Todd Maxman, a long-time social studies teacher at New Trier high school, led a discussion of the documentary film *The 13th*.
- October 14 and 28: A two-part presentation entitled "We are Still Here: Native Peoples in the United States" was given by Dr. Stephanie Perdue, the Senior Pastor of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Wilmette and a tribal citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.

During Lent, the midweek gatherings were devoted to discussion of *The Cup of Our Life: A Guide to Spiritual Growth* by Joyce Rupp.

Sunday "Faith that Feeds" discussions

Starting in September, members gathered both in person and via Zoom on Sunday mornings before the worship service to view and discuss a range of videos and readings:

- September 19: "Henri Nouwen: Being the Beloved of God"
- September 26 and October 3: Brian McLaren's *Faith After Doubt: Why Your Beliefs Stopped Working and What to Do About It*,
- October 10 and 17: James Cone's *The Cross and the Lynching Tree: Religion and Violence*
- October 24: "The Cross and the Lynching Tree: A Requiem for Ahmaud Arbery," a sermon by Otis Moss III
- October 31: Rick Steves: "Luther and the Reformation"
- November 7 and 14: Barbara Brown Taylor, "Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others"
- November 21: Amy-Jill Levine, "Life After Death: Jesus, Judaism and Justice"
- November 28: Wil Gafney, "Biblical Language for a God Who Transcends Gender"
- December 5: Diana Butler, "Jesus the Ingrate: The Subversive Power of Gratitude"
- December 12: Richard Rohr: "What is Contemplative Prayer and Why is it so Needed?"

- December 19: Richard Foster: "Celebration of Discipline (Prayer)"

Yours in Christ,

Charly Yarnoff

REPORT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR 2021

In 2021, the Sunday School teachers continued holding classes every other week.

1. Laurie Stivers joined Tyler Heyl as a Sunday School teacher to replace Susan Ross. We thank Susan for her participation and dedication to Immanuel's children.
2. Over the summer, Sunday school transitioned back to in-person classes, and we continued with the established curriculum, teaching stories in both the New and Old Testament.
3. In conjunction with the Antiracism task force, one initiative was to discuss with the kids the Ten Commandments from an antiracism viewpoint. This exercise is something the students will share in 2022.

Yours in Christ,

Tyler Heyl and Laurie Stivers

REPORT OF THE EVANGELISM AND COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRIES 2021

Evangelism

The face of Immanuel's evangelism effort shifted significantly in 2021. Many of the traditional programs were either put entirely on hold or dramatically scaled back. What shone brightly to the broader public and membership alike were the top-quality presentations of worship. Thanks to the efforts of many, but in particular Tom Couch, Immanuel has weathered the implications of the pandemic with amazing aplomb.

In fact, Immanuel has had a tech renaissance, if you will, in the past year. The pandemic gave birth to a new phrase, Hybrid Church. Services that are both live and produced for video consumption.

Last year Lisa Larson masterfully composed a grant application to the Greater Lutheran Church applying for several thousand dollars worth of video and audio equipment to facilitate Immanuel's Zoomcasts.

The application was approved, the money arrived, and we purchased three video cameras, a video audio switcher, a laptop computer, microphones and a remote camera controller that pans and zooms two of our three cameras.

The result has been a professionally produced weekly Zoomcast of our Sunday service (and other services as well). People can tune in, or Zoom in, if you will, from their homes to witness our services, the musical performances, sermons and readings.

Tom Couch and Kevin McDaniel designed the equipment usage and the Zoomcasts, with great help from Mark Kearns, Jim McCarthy and Tyler Heyl.

As we move into the future our video will only improve and with that improvement hopefully comes increased participation in Immanuel's activities.

Thank you to the amazing worship team leaders: Sara Krentz and Grace Yarnoff (Zoom), Jimmy Morehead (musical leadership), Greg Hummel (organ), Kevin McDaniel (sound), Tom Couch (video) and of course, Pastor Mark!

The focus and fate of long-standing programs like Cafe Immanuel, the warming center, and even the farmers' market will require discernment and prayer as we look to discover God's will for the future in 2022 and beyond.

We celebrate and embrace the adult faith formation group and the anti-racism task force which have both brought new faces to Immanuel. Thanks to Charly Yarnoff, Susan Ross, and Audrey Moy for their leadership.

Communications

In 2021, a routine was firmly established with weekly email blasts, or e-blasts initially containing Sunday Worship Zoom link and Worship bulletins. When Pastor Mark came on board in March, he worked with Jane and the weekly e-blasts were named "Immanuel Newsfeeds" in keeping with one of our traditional slogans of "Feeding Our Faith." The revised version contained not only Sunday worship elements but also notices about church and community resources and activities. The e-blasts are created during the week and are released every Friday afternoon.

We continue to use the email service Constant Contact for other special announcements about events or upcoming meetings. However, we found that Constant Contact was difficult to work with regarding the monthly newsletter production and we reverted back to using Microsoft Publisher and emailing pdf files. Members' contributions are the greatest source of news and content and we're so grateful for everyone – young and old – who have contributed in 2021. We encourage everyone to submit articles, poems, photos, and artwork to express themselves in our electronic communications, particularly during this time of uncertainty.

The Covid-19 pandemic has focused even more attention on the importance of having a functional and attractive website www.immanuelevanston.org. Those people seeking churches during these times when it's uncertain what places are safe to enter, will visit websites to get information. Pastor Mark has infused a new vitality and creativity with the look and content of our website. He's also skilled at doing many of the updates and implementing the creative ideas himself, and continues to challenge both himself and us to how we might engage the greater community with Immanuel.

But these enhancements to the website could not be possible without the dedication and hard work of Michael Kloster, who serves as our IT Technical Advisor and Tech Support. Michael has devoted many hours to maintenance, repair and trouble-shooting. He's been a patient teacher to Pr. Mark and Jane as they learn

how to navigate the interior structure of the website. Additionally, Michael has worked with Kevin and Laura McDaniel to ensure critical continuity with the website.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Couch, Jane Kaihatsu, and Laura McDaniel

REPORT OF THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE 2021

During the year 2021 the property continued with daily inspection of the church until we re-opened the building in April.

The committee had many projects completed in 2021. Below is a list of them:

- Repair and painting of Sanctuary wall damaged by leak
- Painting of the downstairs multi-purpose room.
- Repair of leak in gutter on the south side of Church.
- Installed heater cables in gutter on south side of Church.
- Put up new banner on the north side of church.
- Repair of locks on tower doors.

I would like to thank all the people who gave of their time to keep the church safe and clean, from the daily inspections to cleaning of the bathroom and kitchen and maintaining the landscape.

I would especially like to thank the members of the committee and the Parish Administrator for all of their time and support throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Hal Larson, Property Chair

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE 2021

The Social Ministry Committee guides the congregation in extending Christian compassion and assistance to the ill, the aged, the orphaned, the underprivileged, the imprisoned, the homeless, the hungry, and others who have material or spiritual needs.

The committee is chaired by Nicolai Schousboe and includes Steve Andes, Terri Hummel, Audrey Moy, Bert Mount, Charly Yarnoff, Elizabeth Stegner. Nicolai is Immanuel's delegate to Interfaith Action of Evanston. The committee undertook the following activities in 2021. The name of the person taking the lead on the activity is in parenthesis.

God's Work Our Hands (Charly Yarnoff)

Members of Immanuel acted as God's hands in the community on September 12th. Due to concerns about gathering for traditional service work on God's Work Our Hands day, Immanuel--along with Trinity Lutheran and Grace Lutheran churches--focused on gathering donations for three important services in Evanston: Connections for the Homeless, Interfaith Action of Evanston's Hospitality Center, and Grace Lutheran's Little Free Pantry. The response to the call for donations was inspiring. Immanuel's donations filled two cars. All told, the three churches collected:

- 224 cans of food, enough for one month's stock at the Little Free Pantry.

- 104 toiletries kits, and about six bags of toiletries that were not in kits
- 15 packages of clothing items
- assorted other items including ear buds, luggage, and backpacks
- \$400 in monetary donations, \$200 of which was used to buy food and clothing items, with the remainder going to Connections for the Homeless.

Emergency Overnight Shelter and Friday afternoon warming center (Nicolai Schousboe)

Immanuel provided a place to stay warm and safe for Evanston's homeless community every Friday afternoon (from November through March 2020). We thus become part of the city- wide network of warming centers and soup kitchens coordinated by Interfaith Action of Evanston. Other congregations involved in this ministry are Beth Emet, Bethany Baptist, First Congregational, First Presbyterian, First United Methodist, Lake Street Church, Second Baptist, St. Mary's Catholic, St. Mark's Episcopal, St. Paul's Lutheran and the Unitarian Church. We were unable to resume our shelter (fall 2020 through March 2021) due to the coronavirus pandemic. Interfaith Action has now consolidated all the afternoon warming shelters at St. Mark's, where Interfaith Action currently holds their morning Hospitality Center.

Immanuel is undertaking hosting a new service this year, whereby we will host the Emergency Overnight Shelter for the last weeks of April 2022. Five members of Immanuel have attended orientation sessions conducted by Interfaith Action.

Interfaith Action of Evanston Walk for Warmth Jan. 22 (Nicolai Schousboe)

We received a very encouraging note from the Interfaith Action in Evanston planners who organized the 2022 Walk for Warmth on Martin Luther King day.

The number of walkers exceeded our expectations with almost 600 registered for the walk (actually 584 but close enough) including 438 adults and 146 kids. We ultimately had 44 "teams" of all sizes.

We also met and surpassed our \$30,000 fundraising goal with \$34,594 so far and donations are continuing to come in. Donations to the Walk will be accepted until the end of the month, so let your folks know there's still time to support Interfaith Action and the Walk. Thanks for getting both donors and walkers involved.

Much thanks to all who contributed and/or walked.

Yours in Christ,

Nicolai Schousboe, Chair of the Social Ministry committee

REPORT OF THE QUILTING MINISTRY 2021

The Immanuel Quilters started meeting the first Thursday of every month in-person again in late Spring. We continue to make quilts primarily for Lutheran Worlds Relief - lwr.org/quilts. Continuing pandemic problems cancelled the usual Fall quilt "ingathering" that a church in Park Ridge usually organizes. In the past, we were able to deliver our quilts to a truck at that church for shipment to a LWR warehouse. Consequently, we did not distribute any quilts to Lutheran World Relief in 2021.

This year we did donate two quilts to Impact Behavioral Health Partners - www.impactbehavioral.org - a Skokie organization that provides housing for people managing mental health issues. Immanuel member Maryann Kearns works for Impact and asked for quilts for new housing developed for their clients with children.

Thank you to everyone who has generously donated fabric, sheets and money to this ministry. We use the money to purchase fluffy batting for the inside of every quilt.

In Christ,
Christiane Djuric

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2021

After a couple of years where our Stewardship efforts involved only myself and the then-current pastor (first Pastor Keith, then Interim Pastor Kim), this year Pastor Sloss and Council President Grace Yarnoff really beefed up the committee by recruiting some excellent new members: Dana Barron, Chris Djuric, Michael Kloster, and Elizabeth Stegner as well as Pastor Sloss himself.

Pastor Sloss also got the committee engaged with an outside consultant, GSB Fundraising, having had a very positive experience with this consulting group at his previous church. Over the course of several months, the committee participated in GSB's stewardship growth program called "Building a Culture of Generosity". The program involved frequent online training and conversations with the consultant and an outline for how we could build up generosity in our congregation.

The training we received led to great results! Highlights include the following:

- Solicitation of a \$5000 matching gift grant
- 125% increase in the number of pledges over 2020 (from 20 to 45)
- 41% increase in the dollars pledged (from \$136k to \$192k)
- Growth of giving in 44% of pledge units (20 of the 45)

Beyond the numbers, we saw that some folks doubled their previous pledge, some increased by 50%, and so on. Happily, the conditions for the full utilization of the matching grant were met, and in fact, far exceeded!

The finance committee and officers can explain the impact of this campaign on the congregation's bottom line. Some of the new pledges came from individuals and families who have been giving faithfully for years. And we have lost some pledges due to death or moves. But both as a congregation and in the case of many individuals and families, it is most certainly true that we grew in our generosity this past year.

And importantly, we learned from one another. We heard many stories about the impact of generosity on our members' lives: stories of how we learned generosity, how we teach generosity, how generosity can surprise us, how the generosity of others can change our life. We look forward to continuing to share our stories with one another, learning from and being inspired by one another.

I'd like to thank those who agreed to give Temple Talks and write articles for our campaign: Parker Kloster, Elizabeth Stegner, Terri Hummel, Laurie Stivers, Charly Yarnoff. And a big thanks to the members of the committee: Dana, Chris, Michael, Elizabeth, and Pastor!

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Romans, Chair

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2021

2021 was full of many challenges and changes throughout the year, including how we worship. Many, many folks lent their expertise and time and I am grateful to all of them.

Regular committee members included Greg Hummel, Judy Kratochvil, Sara Krentz, Hal Larson, Melisa Larson, Kim Miller, Jimmy Morehead, and Kathryn Skelton. Pastor Kim Beckmann was with us for the first part of the year; Pastor Mark Sloss was called and joined us in March.

For the first half of the year, we continued holding worship from our homes, solely on Zoom. Jimmy led the live music and also processed recordings of organ music provided by Greg Hummel, Laurie Stivers, and Christine Kraemer. Tom Couch blended our individual choir recordings into anthems. For late winter and spring, we collaborated with some congregations in Pennsylvania (Christ Lutheran Allentown and St John's Lutheran), spreading out the recording leadership work and bringing an extra dimension to the sound. We again held Holy Week via Zoom, and we installed Pastor Mark on a lovely Sunday afternoon in April, with Bishop Yehiel Curry doing the installation.

In late spring we began planning in earnest to return to worshipping in person. The full committee had some in-person work days where we organized the space and tested sound equipment. We knew we needed to continue providing online worship through Zoom simultaneously. Tom Couch and Kevin McDaniel were heavily involved in setting up technology options, and we had much-appreciated help also from Laura McDaniel, Grace Yarnoff, and Jerry Larson in these areas. Nicolai Schousboe led usher meetings with assistance from Steve Warner and Bert Mount to develop new usher protocols. Grace and Scott Romans have provided at-home Zoom hosting for folks who are on Zoom. Kit McCarthy scheduled worship leaders and provided training and advice to everyone as we worked through best practices for masking and miking. Kathryn Skelton headed up the Table Preparation group. Tyler Heyl and Mark Kearns have pitched in to help with sound and video on some Sundays as well. We are very grateful for all their service.

Greg Hummel faithfully continued in his 50th (!!) year as Immanuel's organist. It is a treat to see him playing via the new camera installed on the balcony ledge for everyone following along at home, not just those choir members sitting regularly upstairs. Jimmy Morehead finished his 4th full year as choir director, planning worship with Pastor Kim Beckmann and then Pastor Mark. We are also very grateful to have Laurie and Christine recording some delightful postlude organ music in the first half of the year and playing occasional services in the second.

With the arrival of the Omicron variant in December, we had to return to largely worshipping via Zoom just in time for Christmas. Worship leaders and choir members were in church to provide sound for everyone else watching from home. We hope to be past this wave not too far into 2022, and to move forward with our in person plans again at that point.

We did not hold Organ Scholar auditions in 2021. However, we did hold the recitals for the two winners from 2020. In spring, Greg Hummel shepherded through a recorded version of Dale Nickell's concert, which we streamed in a premier viewing on Zoom with Dale present to answer questions, before posting on YouTube. In the fall, we held an in-person concert with Matthew Wachtman which we also showed via Zoom for folks to watch at home. Both were well-received, and we look forward to continuing this program in 2022.

Immanuel's worship life is enriched and supported by the work of others not on the Worship & Music Committee who offer their time and talents as Assisting Ministers, Communing Ministers, Lectors, Ushers, Readers, Altar Guild Servers, Choir members, and of course those who join in the worshipping Assembly,

both in person when allowable and in our Zoom community. We are very glad to see everyone who attends, whether that be in person or online.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Krentz, Committee Chairperson

REPORT OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE FOR 2021

Members: Pastor Mark, Grace Yarnoff, Scott Romans, Audrey Moy (Chair)

Staff: Jane Kaihatsu, Jimmy Morehead, Greg Hummel

This past year, the highest priority for this committee has been making the necessary adjustments to work through the rigors of the pandemic, as we anticipated reopening.

Staff reviews held in late summer/early fall, and annual reviews completed in November, indicated that staff members have shown great flexibility, and have done well going from remote work, to working through hybrid services.

Staff and members have shown growth as a team, and the talents of our staff, is inspiring.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Moy, Chair,
Personnel Committee

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MEMORIAL FUND COMMITTEE REPORT 2021

Memorial Gifts given in 2021: \$3,100

Gifts were given in memory of Ernie LeVon and Mildred Carlson.

Gifts designated:

Choir	\$100.00
Special Music Fund	\$100.00
Quilt batting/Quilting	\$100.00

Cards of acknowledgment were sent to donors as well as cards to family of the deceased in recognition of the donors.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Chatain, Chair

Committee Members: Marlene Chatain, Anne Heider, Elizabeth Stegner

REPORT OF THE STARK FUND COMMITTEE FOR 2021

The Stark Committee's mission is to spend an allocation of monies from the endowment fund created by Anna Stark.

The Committee requested and was granted Council approval to make the following gifts:

1. \$500 to Lutheran World Relief with a designation for the Yemen relief fund to help with the humanitarian crisis in that country.
2. \$500 to Connections for the Homeless in recognition and support of the work they have done to prevent evictions, provide shelter and to find housing during the Covid crisis.
3. \$300 to the American Indian College Fund. This gift was given in conjunction with the work of Immanuel's Anti-Racism Task Force (ARTF)
4. \$300 to The HBCU Foundation in conjunction with the ARTF. The HBCU Foundation provides scholarships, internships, and career opportunities to students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities
5. \$200 to Belen Mision Lutherana, an emerging LatinX "Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community (SAWC) in Elgin, IL.
6. \$200 to Bethel Imani, an emerging African Descent SAWC in Chicago's Englewood community.

Thank you to committee members Diane Keely, Glynis Kloster, Kit McCarthy, and Jim Rakowsky.

We thank Kit for her 3 years of service on the committee.

Laurie Stivers

Stark Committee Chair

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR 2021

Committee Members: Susan Ross, Joe Simchak, Sara Krentz, Hal Larson, Steve Andes, Mary Ann Kearns

Thanks to our church Treasurer, Susan Ross, Immanuel's first PPP loan was forgiven for the full \$31,200. In addition, we applied for a second PPP loan of \$31,230 which was also forgiven. In addition, we were able to sell some Target stock that had been donated to Immanuel a number of years ago that we had not been able to sell prior to now. That boosted our general fund income by another \$16,000. All three of those events (the 2 PPP loans forgiven and the sale of the stock) are what made it possible to have a surplus at the end of the year.

The budget proposal for 2022 shows a growth in giving by members (thank you all!) but also a deficit since we will not have another PPP loan and there is not more stock waiting in the wings to be sold! We know that we will have to pay more for an organist when Greg retires, and we committed to increasing the Pastor's salary when we hired Pastor Sloss. Other staff salaries show a growth of 4%. Overall, the proposed budget shows a deficit of almost \$55,000. For this year, that will be largely offset by the surplus of \$47,600 we had in 2021.

We have been very fortunate to get through 2 years of a pandemic without suffering big financial losses. Much of that has been thanks to the PPP loans, since we lost almost all of our Use of Facilities income as the building has been closed. It is difficult to know now, with a changed work environment, how much of that building usage we may be able to get back and how soon pandemic conditions will ease. We will continue to work with the COVID re-opening task force and with the Property Committee to see if there are upgrades to our building that we might need to make in order to make Immanuel attractive to organizations looking to rent space for work or events.

Special thanks to all of our members and friends who have continued to support Immanuel with your gifts and prayers!

Mary Ann Kearns

Finance Committee Chair

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Evanston
Income and Expense Report
 January - December 2021

	Jan - Dec 21	\$ Over (Under) Budget	Annual Budget	2022 Budget Proposal
Income	Calendar Year 2021			
OFFERINGS				
Envelope Offering				
Cost of Stock & online gifts	(506.77)			
Envelope Offering - Other	195,825.00	13,825.00	182,000.00	206,000.00
Total Envelope Offering	195,318.23	13,318.23	182,000.00	206,000.00
Open Offering	9,754.09	8,254.09	1,500.00	5,000.00
Designated Gifts	125.00			
Total OFFERINGS	205,197.32	21,697.32	183,500.00	211,000.00
OTHER INCOME				
Amazon Purchase Points	142.71	107.71	35.00	100.00
Dividend Income	237.80	(12.20)	250.00	100.00
Thrivent Choice	21.00	(179.00)	200.00	150.00
Misc.	75,105.34	43,905.34	31,200.00	250.00
Use of Facilities Donation	4,068.00	(4,932.00)	9,000.00	7,000.00
Total OTHER INCOME	79,574.85	38,889.85	40,685.00	7,600.00
SPECIAL OFFERINGS				
Initial	60.00	30.00	30.00	48.00
Ash Wednesday	30.00			
Easter	795.00	295.00	500.00	500.00
Christmas	145.00	(1,875.00)	2,020.00	1,000.00
Total SPECIAL OFFERINGS	1,030.00	(1,520.00)	2,550.00	1,548.00
Total Income	285,802.17	59,067.17	226,735.00	220,148.00
Expense				
MISSION - WORSHIP/FELLOWSHIP				
Salaries - IRS Account				
Pastor	28,386.97	(1,224.43)	29,611.40	37,223.00
Housing Allowance	35,679.88	0.00	35,679.88	35,679.88
Pastor's FICA	4,822.61	0.00	4,822.61	6,003.55
Pastor's Disability	1,028.33	(31.14)	1,059.47	947.74
Director of Music	20,537.08	1,600.08	18,937.00	19,694.48
Organist	7,160.88	(0.01)	7,160.89	13,022.33
Parish Administrator	17,085.00	0.00	17,085.00	17,768.40
Social Security - Other Staff	3,425.76	365.76	3,060.00	3,862.12
Total Salaries - IRS Account	118,126.51	710.26	117,416.25	134,201.49
Salaries - Other				
Car Allowance	0.00	(750.00)	750.00	750.00
Health & Life Insurance	28,383.34	0.00	28,383.34	37,485.26

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Evanston
Income and Expense Report
January - December 2021

	Jan - Dec 21	\$ Over (Under) Budget	Annual Budget	2022 Budget Proposal
Pension - Pastor	6,893.05	224.05	6,669.00	7,290.29
Professional Allowance - Pastor	137.90	(612.10)	750.00	750.00
Prof Allowance - Dir of Music	0.00	(250.00)	250.00	250.00
Vacation	1,875.00	(1,950.00)	3,825.00	3,825.00
Worker's Comp Insurance	701.53	42.53	659.00	771.68
Total Salaries - Other	37,990.82	(3,295.52)	41,286.34	51,122.23
Other Worship/Office Expenses				
Background checks	56.70	(143.30)	200.00	200.00
Call expenses	5,462.75	1,462.75	4,000.00	0.00
Computer Services	540.00	(750.00)	1,290.00	750.00
Evangelism	661.45	(838.55)	1,500.00	1,200.00
Food Ministry	66.00	(934.00)	1,000.00	1,000.00
Fellowship	0.00	(200.00)	200.00	200.00
Misc. Expenses	375.08	175.08	200.00	200.00
Music & Care/Worship Supplies	5,005.97	(1,194.03)	6,200.00	6,200.00
Office Supplies and equipment	5,907.97	(892.03)	6,800.00	6,800.00
Postage	253.65	(246.35)	500.00	500.00
Soc Min Anti-Racism Task Force	375.00	125.00	250.00	1,000.00
Stewardship	731.24	231.24	500.00	550.00
Sunday School Materials & Progr	277.05	(72.95)	350.00	350.00
Synod Meeting Expense	50.00	(550.00)	600.00	600.00
Technology Expense	447.49	(52.51)	500.00	500.00
Telephone	4,296.21	496.21	3,800.00	4,500.00
Other Worship/Office Expenses - O	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Other Worship/Office Expenses	24,506.56	(3,383.44)	27,890.00	24,550.00
Total MISSION - WORSHIP/FELLOWSH	180,623.89	(5,968.70)	186,592.59	209,873.72
MISSION - WORLD/COMMUNITY				
ELCA & Metro Chicago Synod	16,680.00	0.00	16,680.00	16,680.00
Interfaith Action Council	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Warming Center	0.00	(400.00)	400.00	400.00
MISSION - WORLD/COMMUNITY - Otl	250.00			250.00
Total MISSION - WORLD/COMMUNITY	18,130.00	(150.00)	18,280.00	18,530.00
MISSION - BUILDING AND FACIL				
Cleaning Service	4,619.00	(4,981.00)	9,600.00	7,000.00
Electric	1,419.37	(1,480.63)	2,900.00	2,900.00
Gas	6,523.39	323.39	6,200.00	7,000.00
Insurance	7,920.58	(451.42)	8,372.00	9,736.29
Maintenance	8,851.17	851.17	8,000.00	8,500.00
Maintenance contracts	4,640.10	(159.90)	4,800.00	4,800.00
Maintenance Supplies	603.68	(896.32)	1,500.00	1,000.00
Reopening Task Force	33.93	(766.07)	800.00	100.00

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Evanston
Income and Expense Report
 January - December 2021

	Jan - Dec 21	\$ Over (Under) Budget	Annual Budget	2022 Budget Proposal
Snow Removal	3,540.00	540.00	3,000.00	4,000.00
Trash Removal	721.74	(198.26)	920.00	820.00
Water	511.16	(288.84)	800.00	800.00
Total MISSION - BUILDING AND FACIL	39,384.12	(7,507.88)	46,892.00	46,656.29
Total Expense	238,138.01	(13,626.58)	251,764.59	275,060.01
Net Income (Loss)	47,664.16	72,693.75	(25,029.59)	(54,912.01)
Carryover surplus from 2021				47,664.16
Two Year Net Income (Loss)				(7,247.85)

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Income and Expense by Year - Improvements Fund
 As of December 31, 2021

	2021 December 2021 YTD	Years 2006-2020 Dec. 31, 2020	Total
INCOME - GENERAL			
IMPROVEMENTS INCOME			
Building Accessibility	9,203	673,071	682,274
	<u>9,203</u>	<u>673,071</u>	<u>682,274</u>
EXPENSES			
IMPROVEMENTS			
Improvements cost	0	616,772	616,772
Fund Raising	0	599	599
Loan Expense	0	1,369	1,369
Interest Expense	4,168	133,228	137,396
	<u>4,168</u>	<u>751,968</u>	<u>756,136</u>
EXCESS INCOME/(EXPENSE)	5,035	(78,897)	(73,862)

	2021 YTD Income/Cost	
Mortgage Loan, March 27, 2007	361,000	9,203 Gifts to Improvements Fund
Principal payments	(134,642)	7,567 Principal payments
Prepayments	(128,225)	4,193 Interest payments
Mortgage Balance December 31, 2021	<u>98,133</u>	(2,557) Net Gain (Loss)

**Fund Balances
December 2021**

Fund	Beginning Balance	Income	Capital Gains	Expense	Ending Balance
1 General Fund	93,984.86	285,802.17		238,138.01	141,649.02
2 Transfer Payments	(701.99)	14,697.01		11,860.08	2,134.94
3 Youth Ministry Fund	4,629.26				4,629.26
4 Special Music Fund	(2,220.06)	400.00			(1,820.06)
5 Sunday School Projects	1,982.64				1,982.64
6 Soup Kitchen Fund	712.82				712.82
8 Cafe Immanuel	1,536.81			225.24	1,311.57
9 Improvements Fund	(79,964.26)	9,202.70		4,167.56	(74,929.12)
10 Fagerstrom Fund	82,976.51	1,981.13	6,301.75	2,991.00	88,268.39
11 Memorial Fund	20,202.38	2,883.69		(250.00)	23,336.07
16 Endowment Fund	234,336.75	4,075.19	11,340.55		249,752.49
21 Stark Fund	83,628.85	1,693.65	4,713.12	1,000.00	89,035.62
26 Housing Fund	330,182.89	7,821.76	9,252.93		347,257.58
31 Music Endowment Fund	92,850.00	1,573.67	9,753.74	9,604.13	94,573.28
36 Social Ministry Special	2,572.35	660.00		450.36	2,781.99
41 Members in Need	1,252.88				1,252.88
42 Sanctuary Improvement	(157,267.52)	4,331.91		4,402.99	(157,338.60)
43 Food Ministry	2,224.77	2,375.00			4,599.77
	<u>712,919.94</u>	<u>337,497.88</u>	<u>41,362.09</u>	<u>272,589.37</u>	<u>819,190.54</u>

Immanuel Lutheran Church Invested Funds 2019 - 2021

	Endowment Fund			Fagerstrom (Property) Fund			Housing Fund		
	2019 12/31/2019	2020 12/31/2020	2021 12/31/2021	2019 12/31/2019	2020 12/31/2020	2021 12/31/2021	2019 12/31/2019	2020 12/31/2020	2021 12/31/2021
Thrivent Funds									
Money Market	9,024	9,052	9,052						
Moderate Allocation Fund S	108,707	225,284	240,700	115,200			146,399	177,940	205,583
Moderate/Cons Fund A					126,849	135,132			
Total in Investment Funds:	117,731	234,337	249,752	115,200	126,849	135,132	146,399	177,940	205,583
Housing Fund loan to Sanctuary Improvement							163,213	152,957	142,388
1st Bank and Trust Checking	0	0	0	-29,408	-43,873	-46,864	-714	-714	-714
Fund Total:	117,731	234,337	249,752	85,792	82,977	88,268	308,898	330,183	347,258

	Music Endowment Fund			Stark Mission Fund			Total Invested as of 12/31/2021
	2,020	2,021	2,021	2,020	2,021	2,021	
	44,196	44,561	44,561	44,196	44,561	44,561	\$ 794,180
Stark Fund - Fidelity Investmt.							
Thrivent Funds							
Money Market	0	0	100				
Moderate Allocation Fund S	81,354	92,350	103,577	84,783	93,628	100,034	
Total in Investment Funds:	81,354	92,350	103,677	84,783	93,628	100,034	
1st Bank and Trust Checking	1,000		-9,104	-6,999	-9,999	-10,999	
Fund Total:	82,354	92,350	94,573	77,784	83,629	89,035	

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

Litany

Today our congregation gathers in prayer and hope to begin another year of ministry. We bring with us the memory of a year like no other, even as we move into a future that we cannot yet imagine. Yet even now, as in every age, God is our refuge and strength. In times of plenty and want, in times of conflict and peace, in times of growing and pruning, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

We remember the past year with lament and gratitude. We have lost so much, and so much still feels uncertain. We have also witnessed God's hand at work in new and unexpected ways. We delight at hidden seeds bearing surprising and wonderful fruit. When our own resources fail, when we cannot predict the future, when we must rely on God alone, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

We celebrate this moment and the many ways God has held us together as a community. We give thanks for the gift of our church building and the welcome it provides, even as we bless God for the marvel of technology and the new bonds of connection it makes possible. When our bodies need sanctuary, when our minds need expanding, when your grace must transcend our limitations, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

We look ahead to the road we will travel together this year. We anticipate and receive with joy the new gifts God's love has planned. We pray for the grace to let go of what has served its holy purpose. When we are trailblazers or followers, when we are seekers or visionaries, when we must walk by faith and not by sight, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

And so we pray: Grace our meeting, O God, with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the Spirit who has guided the church from the beginning, the Spirit of our risen Lord Jesus, the Spirit who sends us as healers and restorers of your beloved world. You are the source of our life together. You are the rock and cornerstone.

You have called us for such a time as this.

God of the Fertile Fields

1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of
2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
trust from you all that you give; help us in
serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
love to share, teach us like you to care
toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.
no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

All Creation Sings #1063

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**O God,
you have called your servants
to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,
by paths as yet untrodden,
through perils unknown.
Give us faith to go out with good courage,
not knowing where we go,
but only that your hand is leading us
and your love supporting us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen. (ELW, p. 317)**

Change and the need for creativity have become constants over the last year and a half in many aspects of life, including the church. This was the case for **Living Christ Lutheran Church** in Flagstaff, Ariz., even before a global pandemic caused many of us to rethink what it means to be church. Generosity from all three expressions of the ELCA (the churchwide organization, the Grand Canyon Synod and members of Living Christ) helped turn a congregation “on the road out of town, near the mall” into an online presence reaching over 500 people a week from Phoenix to the Philippines. (Read more about Living Christ in the current issue of “**Stories of Faith in Action**” at [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://www.elca.org/SOFIA).)

Many other congregations have found new ways to connect both when in-person worship was impossible and when congregations began to return to their sanctuaries. Generosity, especially through Mission Support, helped us find and support these new ways of being connected. Early in the pandemic, ELCA Worship launched the “Worship in the Home” webpage, with Scripture, hymn links, prayers and reflections for each

Sunday. These resources were and continue to be used in congregations across the ELCA—even at **Sitka Lutheran Church** in Alaska, whose members printed and hand-delivered “Worship in the Home” resources to fellow members without internet access.

Change and creativity have taught us many things. As Pastor Sandra Rudd of Sitka Lutheran Church noted, “The pandemic was a stark illustration of the fact that the church is not a building. A lot of people say that, but we didn’t fully know it until we didn’t have a building to use. We learned that there are many ways to be connected as the church.” Throughout the pandemic, the ELCA has changed and adapted, doing ministry in new and creative ways, because of the generosity of its members. Even now, you may be gathering in a new way for your annual meeting, to discern how you will steward the gifts shared generously with your congregation to do ministry in your community and beyond. As you have these important conversations, remember that your gifts of time, talent and resources have helped create new spaces beyond our walls and buildings where we continue to worship, serve and love God and each other.

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