



ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

We have seen many changes throughout the years and throughout the world. Sometimes we've been left yearning for the days when things didn't feel so complicated. Other times, we have seen something new happen and have asked, "Why did this take so long?" The church has been through its own changes as well. Some of these have left us wishing for simpler times while others have us waiting for even more to come about.

But, dear church, God still is unchanging. God's love is still the foundation on which the church was built. While we have seen many changes, both in the world and at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the eternal love of God and the good news that dwells with Christ's death and resurrection continue to provide hope for everyone. This is why our mission remains steadfast, whether that is through our traditional mission work in places near and far or from new ventures and visions that encourage us to think of different ways to reach even more people.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (13:16). That could not be truer in the work we have been doing in each expression of the church. Your gifts continue to benefit the good work of spreading the good news throughout your communities, your synods and the whole church. We are all answering the call to continue to do good work with the help of your support, whether that is through your resources, your time or your talents.

I am grateful for your generous support of each expression of the church. God calls all of us to continue to do the good work, and you continue to answer that call. We also continue to join you in that call and will remain true to looking toward God's unchanging promise. There is still much change and learning that will come before us, but God's steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God”

(Hebrews 13:16).



Immanuel Lutheran of Evanston

**Annual Meeting
of
Immanuel Lutheran Church**

2022 Year in Review

IN-PERSON & VIA ZOOM

Evanston, Illinois

January 29, 2023

1:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting of Immanuel Lutheran Church Evanston, Illinois

January 29, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum Dana Barron, President
Opening Prayer Pastor Mark Sloss
Adoption of Agenda
Minutes of the 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting 3

Reports

Celebrating Our Ministries

Pastor 6

Congregation Council 10

Nominating Committee 11

Standing Committees

Sunday School – Tyler Heyl & Laurie Stivers 11

Mutual Ministry – Kit McCarthy 12

Personnel – Andrea Knohl 12

Property – Hal Larson 12

Social Ministry – Nicolai Schousboe 13

Quilting Ministry – Chris Djuric 14

Stewardship – Michael Kloster, Dana Barron, Elizabeth Stegner, Kathryn Skelton 15

Worship and Music – Sara Krentz 16

Special Committees

Memorial Fund Committee – Marlene Chatain 17

Stark Mission Fund Committee – Laurie Stivers 17

Finance Committee to be attached

Old Business

New Business

- Adoption of Annual Budget
- Election of the Congregation Council
- Music Endowment Fund Update

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 30, 2022

Council President Grace Yarnoff called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm and determined that a quorum was present. See the appendix for the list of attendees. Copies of the 2021 Annual Report were distributed in advance via email. Pastor Mark led the congregation in prayer.

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 2021 Annual Meeting.

Events of the year were shared in the form of a video presented by Tom Couch.

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

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

Reports of the Call Committee, the Nominating Committee, the Reopening Task Force, and the Anti-Racism Task Force were all received as they appear in the Annual Report Book. Susan Ross made comments expressing gratitude for great participation over the year and welcomed future support and participation.

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

Education/Spiritual Growth

Sunday School

Evangelism & Communications

Property: Hal thanked Jim McCarthy for his work to restore the heat in the facility. The heating contractor has located a leak in the floor beneath Fellowship Hall, and the committee is currently getting quotes for repair work.

Social Ministry

Quilting Ministry

Stewardship: Michael Kloster made verbal comments about the work of the committee, their training with an outside consultant, and the results of this year's campaign.

Worship and Music; Sara Krentz expressed gratitude for the flexibility that has been shown by the congregation during the uncertainty that has come with Covid. She also highlighted that Greg is entering the 50th year of his service as Organist!

Personnel: Audrey Moy also highlighted the flexibility of our staff members during this uncertain time.

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

Memorial Fund Committee

Stark Mission Fund Committee

The Finance Committee report was received as it appeared in the Annual Report Book. A detailed presentation and question and answer session was previously held about this report on January 23rd, 2022.

A motion to accept all reports was seconded and carried.

There was no old business.

New Business:

Annual Budget: Financial Secretary Mary Ann Kearns and Susan Ross gave highlights of financial results for 2021 and the budget for 2022 that had been presented in greater detail to the congregation on January 23rd. A motion to adopt the annual budget as presented from the Finance Committee was seconded and carried.

Election for the Congregation Council: the nominating committee consisted of Linda Edlund, Anne Heider, Lisa Larson, and Steve Warner. Lisa Larson presented the slate of candidates for election to Congregational Council: Diane Keeley and Michael Kloster. A motion to elect both via voice vote was seconded and carried.

Council member terms have ended for Tom Couch, Linda Edlund, and Scott Romans. The Congregation expressed thanks for their service.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:44 pm and closed with a prayer led by Pastor Mark.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Romans
Secretary, Congregation Council

Voting Members Present

Grace Yarnoff
Tom Couch
Dana Barron
Audrey Moy
Laurie Stivers
Susan Ross
Tyler Heyl
Kim Miller
Diane Keely
Hal Larson
Lisa Larson
Mary Ann Kearns
Sara Krentz
Steve Warner
Scott Romans
Mark Kearns
Anne Heider
Bertha Mount
Kevin McDaniel
Laura McDaniel
Jerry Larson
Kathryn Skelton
Michael Kloster
Fran Bushhammer
Charles Yarnoff
Pastor Mark Sloss
Christiane Djuric
Greg Hummel
Terri Hummel
Jim Skelton
Elizabeth Stegner
Nicolai Schousboe
Dori Jacobson-Wenzel
Gloria Meldman
Kit McCarthy
Marlene Chatain
Shearer

REPORT OF THE PASTOR FOR 2022

God's spirit of love and grace continues to enliven our life together. We have begun this year to emerge from the restrictions of the Covid 19 health pandemic, learning anew how to be the church in this ever-changing world. A year ago, we were worshipping via zoom with worship leaders only in the sanctuary to avoid the Omicron surge. I've been very impressed with how we've adapted to using technology within our worship space. When I tested positive for Covid in July, our technology crew even adapted to bring me in remotely to our sanctuary. We also were able this year to hide many of the cables that we had run to operate these technological advances when we first had returned to in person worship. We had 40 plus people worshipping via Zoom this past Christmas Eve, and I heard some positive feedback about how the multiple camera angles helped those worshipping at home experience a sense of being present. We were also able to upgrade the visual experience of those attending our Organ Scholar concerts this year with a TV in the front of the sanctuary to see the organ being played. Many thanks to Tom Couch and Kevin McDaniel for their ministry of technical skills making this possible.

Kit McCarthy and I partnered on beginning some Spiritual Direction Groups this year. Our first group met monthly for 5 months, February through June. This fall we were able to expand to two groups. This is one of my favorite events each month. It is such an honor and privilege to accompany others on their journey with God. Kit and I agree that we're also filled with both peace and awe as we facilitate this sacred time.

"Faith that Feeds" continues to have some robust discussion around a wide range of topics centering on faith and justice on Sunday mornings before worship. We've also continued with a small group spiritual growth, text study and sharing time, on Tuesday evenings via Zoom.

We've enjoyed some excellent collaborations with other local Lutheran congregations this year. We had a shared Pentecost worship with Grace, followed by an end-of-life workshop, then a joint Reformation worship with both St. Paul and Grace. This fall we also began a joint venture in Confirmation with Grace and St. John Lutheran churches. We hosted the six-week fall session, which is open for youth and adults to attend together.

This past fall we began to experiment with a reimagined Café Immanuel as a brunch offering following our worship on the last Sunday of the month. We've also continued to host a very robust Winter Farmers Market, engaging our community in several advocacy efforts. The market has also sparked growing support for supplies and helping hands for our quilting ministry.

With the retirement of Greg Hummel this year following his 50 years of music ministry at Immanuel's organ, we welcomed Christine Kraemer in May to a long term interim organist position through the rest of 2023. Immanuel continues to uphold its reputation for outstanding music and song in worship. The organ scholar program also continues to prosper since expanding to two annual awards. Concerts for graduate and undergraduate winners were both well attended, as was a third concert in September featuring Greg Hummel and other Immanuel musicians, as we conferred on Greg the title of Organist Emeritus.

After 40 years of service, our pipe organ needed some major renovations, which were completed in the fall. We also had new geothermal heating and cooling systems installed in the fellowship hall and church office. Thanks to the property committee for continuing to care for our aging church building.

We supported Interfaith Action's outreach to the homeless through those who walked on MLK day in the Walk for Warmth and in providing space in April for their overnight shelter. We joined 18 other faith communities in united support of Evanston's Reparations pursuits committing to educate about the need for reparations and lead in financial support. Altogether over \$800K has been committed so far by this coalition of faith communities. In our Sunday morning "Feeding Our Faith" class we focused throughout the fall on learning more about reparations and our Christian call for repentance and repair. In June Diane Keeley orchestrated a group to tour the Block Museum's exhibit "A Site of Struggle" depicting the violence and oppression that African Americans have been inflicted with. The group spent time in small groups to debrief together their experience. I applaud Immanuel congregation for its willingness to face the truth of some of the ugly and degrading experiences of the past that continue to influence life together in our nation today. It trust that we'll continue this momentum.

Audrey Moy was this year's Vision Keeper, honored at Interfaith Action's Vision Keeper dinner in September. Audrey was a key leader in developing justice ministry programs via Zoom during the pandemic. I appreciate her and many other visionary leaders who have a heart for God's ways of justice. Our church council leaders continue to take time each month to do some visioning around how best to use the assets of our congregation to better lives and witness to God's love within us and through us. I encourage the whole congregation to join me in praying daily for these leaders.

I would also like to take this opportunity to share my appreciation for Jane Kaihatsu, our Parish Administrator. It's not easy to keep track of all the many balls in the air that she must juggle with on a daily basis. She is a skilled juggler, a partner in ministry and a joy to work

with. I also greatly appreciate the talents that Jimmy Morehead and Christine Kraemer employ to help us craft a moving worship experience each week. I'm blessed to work with such a dedicated and talented staff. I look forward to seeing how God's spirit of love and care will be at work through the body of Christ at Immanuel in 2023.

Respectfully,

Pastor Mark

Parochial Report—Membership

	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Membership at end of 2021	209	175
Members Received during 2021		
<u>By baptism</u>		
Adult:	0	0
Child:	4	0
<u>By transfer or affirmation of faith</u>	0	0
<u>Youth confirmed this year</u>	0	0
Total Members Received	4	0
Members Removed during 2022		
<u>By death</u>	3	3
Larry Lee		
Joanne Shearer		
Jean Kantner		
<u>For other reasons</u>	1	1
<u>By statistical adjustment</u>	0	0
Total Members Removed	4	4
Total Membership at end of 2022*	209*	171

*(*Baptized membership includes 8 associate members.)*

Confirmed members who commune: 95

Unconfirmed members who commune: 6

REPORT OF THE IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL FOR 2022

The business of the Council focused on several areas during 2022, including Immanuel's music ministry, missions, property and facility repairs, and building use. The Council also continued the practice of beginning each meeting with a time of reflection, including outreach and in-reach to members of our community, sharing, and prayer, as well as devoting a portion of each meeting to visioning.

At the organizational meeting on January 30, 2022, the Council elected the following officers for the year: Dana Barron, president; Bert Mount, vice president; Steve Warner, secretary; Susan Ross, treasure; and MaryAnn Kearns, financial secretary. During its first regular meeting, the Council reviewed and approved all mission committees and task forces and their chairs and liaisons. The Council thanks everyone for their dedicated service to Immanuel!

After 50 years on the bench, Greg Hummel announced his decision to retire as organist of Immanuel, with Easter Sunday as his last official day. In February, the Council appointed an Organist Task Force to create a plan for the future of the music ministry of Immanuel. At a special meeting on April 3, 2022, the Council heard the report and hiring recommendations of the task force. The Council approved a job description for an interim organist and hired Christine Kraemer to fill the role. Council also approved a revised job description for music director and renewed the contract of Jimmy Morehead. Finally, the Council officially recognized Laurie Stivers as associate organist. In August, the Council voted to confer the honorary title of organist emeritus on Greg Hummel. Immanuel is truly blessed to have so many talented musicians serving in our worship!

Immanuel's ministries were another focus of the Council this year, particularly as we continued to emerge from and navigate the realities of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Council encouraged the restarting of a reimagined Café Immanuel, and Council member Michael Kloster completed the certification to serve as a kitchen manager for Immanuel. The Council approved a mask-optional policy for the Indoor Farmer's Market, and, in October, made mask wearing optional during the spoken parts of worship, both subject to changes in Evanston's risk factor. The Council established a Children and Family Ministry Task Force, approved a proposal to design an outdoor Little Library in memory of Larry Lee, and agreed to serve as a host congregation for the Interfaith Action overnight shelter.

The Council also supported Immanuel's commitment to work for justice. Early in the year, Council passed a motion drafted by the Evanston Interfaith Clergy Leaders (EICL) to participate in the Evanston Reparation program. Immanuel pledged to help raise money to support reparations efforts in Evanston and educate our community about the history of racism in our country and the reparations effort in Evanston. In June, Pastor Mark Sloss and President Dana Barron signed a pledge of our intentions at a kick-off event.

The Council responded to several property and facilities needs in 2022. In February, the Council approved a motion from the Property Committee to repair the boiler system, including the installation of a new boiler pump, in order to address issues with the heating system. Later in the year, Council approved a bid from Flader Plumbing and Heating to install a ductless mini split heating and cooling system in Fellowship Hall and the office area. This allows for heat during the winter and air conditioning during the summer months. In July, the Council approved a motion from Christine Kraemer to allow for substantial repairs to the organ, which were completed in September. Finally, in response to a chronic leak in the ceiling over the northeast corner of Fellowship Hall, Council recommended that Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates make a request to the firm's pro bono program to create architectural specifications for the necessary structural work.

Beyond repairs, the Council engaged in conversations about the use of our building and facilities. We approved building use requests from a number of organizations, including the Chicago Trombone Band, a Northwestern group quilting project to benefit Lurie Children's Hospital, Zero Balancing, and Food Addicts

in Recovery (FA). We began the research process of identifying other potential renters and advertising opportunities and recommend that this work continue in 2023.

The Council designated a portion of each meeting to the work of visioning. Topics during the year included building community in a changed world, opportunities for ministry to/with families with children, ways to live out our commitment to Evanston's interfaith reparations effort, reimaging and restarting Café Immanuel, Immanuel's financial outlook and stewardship focus, building use, and equipping our members to be inviting.

On a personal note, it has been a privilege to serve as Council President for 2022, and I thank the Council and congregation for their support and encouragement.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Barron

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2022

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Diane Keely, Hal Larson, Bert Mount, and Steve Warner (chair) has a slate for the 2023 Annual Meeting: Dana Barron, nominated for a second three-year term; Kit McCarthy and Terri Simchak, nominated for three-year terms; and Jerry Larson, nominated for a two-year term.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Report from the Sunday School Teachers

In 2022, the Sunday School teachers continued holding classes every other week.

1. Before the summer, Sunday School held a scavenger hunt in the church to teach the children about important places and items in the church. This was also a graduation activity for some students as they transition to confirmation class.
2. We focused on encouraging the children to give back to our community and people in need. Over the year, the students voted to contribute some Sunday School funds to reparations efforts in Evanston. An anonymous donor also provided funds for the children to donate to Lutheran World Relief to help people in need worldwide.
3. In 2023, we will make some changes to Sunday School. First, we hope Sunday School is more visible in the church by having a bulletin board dedicated to Sunday School activities. Second, we will adjust the curriculum to help students with a wide age range get the most out of Sunday School.

Yours in Christ,

Tyler Heyl and Laurie Stivers

P.S.

Many thanks to Tyler for his years of teaching Sunday School. Tyler will be graduating with his PHD from Northwestern this June and will be moving to Michigan to start his professional career. We are very grateful to Tyler for his commitment to Immanuel, particularly teaching Sunday School and wish him all the best. Laurie

REPORT OF THE MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE 2022

The Mutual Ministry Committee met bi-monthly during 2022. Members were Pastor Mark Sloss, Elizabeth Stegner, Tyler Heyl, and Kit McCarthy. The goal of this committee is to support the mission of Immanuel congregation through our shared reflections on the past, the current state of our ministry, and our vision for the future. The committee provided opportunities for members of the committee to build deeper bonds with one another and to reflect on the needs of the Immanuel community and how to further its mission.

REPORT OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE 2022

On November 11th and 16th, the personnel committee met with the employees of Immanuel Lutheran Christine Kraemer, Jane Kaihatsu. and Pastor Mark to conduct an annual review, discuss their roles within the church, and their recommendations for improvements.

No major issues were brought to our attention and all said they were generally pleased with how things were going. Some areas were discussed related to items that could improve Immanuel and/or where their jobs could be enhanced. These specifics were addressed.

After our initial meetings Jane let us know she needed surgery and would need a replacement while she recovered. Kathy Skelton has been filling in for her position.

Thank you,

Andrea Knohl

REPORT OF THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE 2022

During the year 2022 the property committee was dealing with the continuing heating issues in Fellowship Hall and the church office. The issue was a leak in one of the pipes in the hall under the floor. After months of getting bids for the project the committee recommended that Flader Heating put in mini-splits in fellowship hall and the office. These units will also be used as air conditioning in the summer.

The committee also replaced the doorbell on the fellowship hall door and continued to deal with issues with the tower doors, and fixed the dishwasher.

In 2023 we will need to restripe and seal the church lot and deal with the leak issue on the NE wall of fellowship hall.

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.

Hal Larson

Property Chair.

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE 2022

Emergency Overnight Shelter (Steve Warner)

At 9:00 pm on April 17, 2022, Easter Sunday, Immanuel opened its doors to welcome guests to the Emergency Overnight Shelter. This inaugurated our participation in a ministry offered through Interfaith Action of Evanston for more than a decade. The other institutions involved are St Paul's Lutheran, Beth Emet-The Free Synagogue, Unitarian Church of Evanston, First United Methodist, First Congregational, First Presbyterian, Lake Street Church, and St. Luke's Episcopal. Immanuel is located squarely in the middle of this institutional cluster.

Constraints due to the pandemic limited the number of guests to 20, fifteen men and five women, all of whom are registered with Interfaith Action. Although that leaves out many of Evanston's homeless, whose needs are served in other ways by IA, it makes our job easier. Starting at 8:15, our volunteers assisted IA's paid staff members to set up cots, put up signs, and ready the supply of blankets and sheets distributed to guests. As guests arrived beginning at 9:00, we took temperatures, make sure that no one is exhibiting covid symptoms and all are wearing masks, show them where the restrooms are, and direct them to the sleeping rooms, men to the Sunday school room (used for the Farmers Market), and women to the Nursery room (across from the choir room).

Lights were turned off at 10:00. Guests are awakened at 6:00 am the following morning.

The tasks in the morning are to see to it that guests are ready to leave by 6:45, stuff the used blankets and sheets into laundry bags, put the full laundry bags outside to be picked up, disinfect the cots, take down the temporary signs, and pick up debris.

There are three shifts every night for two weeks: Set-up, from 8:30 to 10:00 pm; Overnight, from 9:30 pm to 7:00 am; and clean-up, from 6:00 to 7:00 am. On the first night, April 17-18, two volunteers will be needed for Set-up, to assemble the costs for the first time, and they should probably arrive by 8:15. After that first night, the shifts will be routine and only one volunteer is needed for each shift. The last night will be April 30-May 1.

It's important for volunteers to be courteous to guests, compassionate but firm in following the rules, and not to offer rides, money, or other favors to any guest.

Please consider joining Immanuel's volunteer corps.

God's Work Our Hands (Charly Yarnoff)

Members of Immanuel acted as God's hands in the community on September 10th. Along with Grace Lutheran Church, we gathered donations for four important services in Evanston: Connections for the Homeless, Interfaith Action of Evanston Snap Gap Collection, Hospitality Center at St. Mark's, and Grace Lutheran's Little Free Pantry.

The response to the call for donations was inspiring. Here are before-and-after photos showing just a portion of what was collected:

Before

After



Interfaith Action of Evanston Walk for Warmth fundraiser (Nicolai Schousboe)

Last Jan. 16 on Martin Luther King Day, 10 walkers from Immanuel joined 479 other registered walkers. donations are still coming in. Donations so far total \$26,645 toward our stated goal of \$30,000. But IAE would like to try to match or exceed 2022 Walk for Warmth donations of over \$40,000. IAE will still accept Walk for Warmth donations through 2/13/23 at <https://tinyurl.com/IAE2023W4W>.

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 2022

The Immanuel quilters meet monthly to assemble, sew and tie quilts. In 2022, we sent 110 quilts to Lutheran World Relief and 8 to Impact Behavioral Health Services. Lutheran World Relief distributes quilts around the world wherever there is a need. Impact Behavioral Health Services uses quilts for their family housing program in Evanston/Skokie. In addition to the quilts we assembled eight baby layette kits for Lutheran World Relief with items sewn and knitted by group members.

We are blessed to have continual donations of fabric and sheets for this ministry. We purchase batting to put in the inner sandwich of the quilts and that, too, is made possible by generous donations to the "quilt batting" fund.

Several years ago the quilters started assembling quilts at Immanuel's indoor farmers market. Sharing this ministry with the Evanston community brought in more fabric donations and more quilters! Half of the quilting group are not Immanuel members.

Quilts and kits are blessed in worship before they are sent off. It is always a joy to invite others to "see - touch - bless" the finished items!

In Christ,
Christiane Djuric

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2022

The 2022 Stewardship Committee consisted of Michael Kloster (chair), Pastor Mark, Dana Barron, Kathy Skelton & Elizabeth Stegner.

The theme of the Stewardship Campaign was "Gratitude for God's Abundance".

Temple talks were given by: Elise Kloster, Laura McDaniel & Tyler Heyl.

Immanuel once again stepped up and showed their Gratitude for God's Abundance and willing to generously share the fruits of their labor. Of the pledges received at least 14 indicated an increase over previous years giving.

Having served both last year and this year on the stewardship committee, one item that we may want to incorporate in the future is a matching donation to encourage returning of pledge cards. My impression is that the matching pledge is a good way to increase awareness of the benefit pledging has to the congregation.

This year the total number of pledges are down from the previous year. And total dollars pledged are less, due in large part to members who have moved out of town or passed away.

However, of those who pledged this year, the total increase in their giving compared to last year averages to 15% increase!

Thank you to the whole congregation, each who contributes their talents as well as their money as they are able. I am truly inspired by your commitment to serving this community and shining the light of the Lord for the world to see.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Kloster, Council liaison to Stewardship Committee

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2022

2022 brought us a number of things to celebrate, such as the return to Communion with homemade bread, and a rejuvenated organ with a number of repairs coordinated by Christine Kraemer. These included replacing the on/off key switch, restoring the pedalboard, restoring voicing of some pipes, and re-leathering the static reservoir and the tremolo puffer; these were all completed in the fall. (The organ is in good shape; with the amount of use it gets, some wear and tear is normal and expected over decades!)

Regular committee members included Greg Hummel, Sara Krentz, Hal Larson, Melisa Larson, Kit McCarthy, Jimmy Morehead, and Kathryn Skelton. Pastor Mark Sloss led us in his first full year at Immanuel. Christine Kraemer joined us mid year.

2022 marked Greg's 50th year on the organ bench, and he transitioned from being the primary organist to an emeritus role, with his last full regular Sunday on Easter. He returned to mark the official 50th anniversary in July, and then in September we held a delightful celebratory concert on a Sunday afternoon with Christine, Laurie Stivers, and Jimmy.

There are as always a number of volunteers to thank for their able leadership. Tom Couch and Kevin McDaniel have continued to work with the technology, getting us online every service. Nicolai Schousboe leads the ushers. Kit McCarthy scheduled worship leaders and trained new volunteers, and stepped up to lead the Altar Guild when Kathryn Skelton decided to step down from that role.

With Greg's retirement, Christine Kraemer has now taken over as the organist for regular Sunday worship. Jimmy Morehead finished his 5th full year as choir director, planning worship Pastor Mark.

We held Organ Scholar auditions in February 2022, with a very good audition group and a tough decision for committee members. The graduate student winner was Sol Rizzato, who presented a concert in October. The undergraduate was Katherine Jolliff, whose concert was in December. Both of these were also broadcast on Zoom, and we had the television from Fellowship Hall brought into the Sanctuary so we could show the balcony video in the front of the church, a rare glimpse for attendees who normally cannot see much of the organ performance.

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, bread bakers, Zoom hosts, and of course those who join in the worshiping Assembly, both in person when able 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

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MEMORIAL FUND COMMITTEE REPORT 2022

Memorial Gifts given in 2022: \$4,385.00

Gifts were given in memory of Jean Kantner, Larry Lee, Ernie LeVon, Joanne Shearer, John Strom, and John Wold.

A gift was given in honor of Elizabeth Stegner.

Gifts designated were for church music and for a Little Library.

Cards of acknowledgment were sent to donors as information was available, and cards with donor names were sent to a family member of the deceased according to information available.

As requested by ILC council, an expenditures of \$9,480.00 was paid from the Memorial Fund for organ repairs.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Chatain, Chair

Committee Members: Marlene Chatain, Anne Heider, Elizabeth Stegner

REPORT OF THE STARK FUND COMMITTEE FOR 2022

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 ELCA World Hunger to support that organization's efforts to alleviate food shortages.
2. \$500 to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services to support the work they do welcoming and supporting refugees and migrants in the United States.
3. \$850 to Evanston Reparations Community Fund. This gift was given as a part of our congregation's anti-racism initiatives.
4. \$150 to ReconcilingWorks, Lutherans for Full Participation. This organization advocated for the full welcome, inclusion, and equity of LGBTQIA+ Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their Church, congregations, and community,

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

I have completed 3 years of service on the committee. The committee is looking to add 2 new members and choose a new chair.

Laurie Stivers

Stark Committee Chair

FINANCE COMMITTEE

To be attached

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

And also with you.

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

Receive our prayer, O God.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

Amen.

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling,
the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love.
but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860

Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897

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