



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

Over the past year we have continued to experience changes in the world around us. Even as our church finds ways to adapt to this changing world, we find hope in the unchanging and always present promise of God's love through Jesus Christ. We change and adapt not to conform to the world but because we believe that the gift of God's Son is for the world, and that our congregations and worshiping communities are places to gather and be sent into the world, where we will tell the story of God's love in word and deed.

The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the churchwide organization provide ways for the church to move beyond the boundaries of structures and geography and to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, our cities, our country and beyond. We engage in this ministry knowing that our church walks by faith, trusting in God's promise in the gospel, and that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word. In John 15:5, Jesus reminds us, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." We are connected by the promise that we do all through Christ and can do nothing apart from him.

God gives the Holy Spirit, who uses gospel proclamation — in preaching and sacraments, in forgiveness and in healing conversations — to create and sustain this faith. Just as we rely on God to sustain our faith, we rely on each other to sustain the ministries that offer God's love to the world. Through your generosity to each expression

of this church — your congregation, your synod and your churchwide organization — you add to our collective voice proclaiming God's love for all.

I am grateful for your generosity over this last year. My gratitude spreads far beyond your generous financial gifts. You've shared your gifts of time through countless hours of volunteering, serving and accompanying. You've shared the gifts of your voices as we've tried to discover and learn how God is calling us to be the church now and into the future. And, finally, dear church, you have shared the gift of the realness of God's love with the world around you. Be well, dear church, and stand steadfast in the promise of God's love and grace as you take that promise with you into the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton".

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

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” —John 15:5



Immanuel Lutheran of Evanston

**Annual Meeting
of
Immanuel Lutheran Church**

2023 Year in Review

IN-PERSON & VIA ZOOM

Evanston, Illinois

January 28, 2024

1:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting of Immanuel Lutheran Church Evanston, Illinois
January 28, 2024, 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 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting	3
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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 29, 2023

Council President Dana Barron called the meeting to order at 1:09 pm, having determined that a quorum was present in person (in Fellowship Hall) and on-line. (See the appendix for the list of attendees.)

Hard copies of the 2022 Annual Report had been distributed in advance by email and were available in the room. The proposed 2023 budget had been reviewed during coffee hour on 1/22/22; hard copies of it were also available in the room.

Using the Opening Liturgy provided as a wraparound by the ELCA, 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.

Celebrating Our Ministries: As a reminder of events in the past year, Dana had assembled a show of photos, which she shared with the meeting.

Attention of the meeting was directed to the several reports as they appear in the 2022 Annual Report booklet.

Pastor's Report. Pr. Mark observed that we resumed live worship in the sanctuary post-Covid less than a year ago.

Congregation Council Report

Nominating Committee Report

Sunday School Report

Mutual Ministry Committee

Personnel Committee

Property Committee

Social Ministry Committee

Quilting Ministry

Stewardship Committee

Worship and Music Committee

Memorial Fund Committee

Stark Fund Committee

It was moved, seconded, and passed that these reports be accepted into the record.

Finance Committee Report

Hard copies of "2022 Income and Expense Report and 2023 Proposed Budget" (printed back-to-back on one sheet) and "Immanuel Lutheran Church Invested Funds 2020-2022" (one side) were distributed in the room.

Financial Secretary Mary Ann Kearns presented the income side, using estimated figures for 2022 because the office computer has been down. She noted that the budgeted income for 2023 is down by about 4% (a pessimistic estimate), due to the loss by death and moving away of several major donors. Nonetheless, estimated income for 2022 was about \$8000 over the (also pessimistic) budget estimate for the year because the remaining members of the congregation stepped up. Some questions for 2023 will be whether open offerings will rebound from the hit taken because of the pandemic and whether use of facilities income can be increased. It seems likely that the installation of air conditioning in Fellowship Hall will lead to increased summertime use of that facility and thereby increased income. An additional consideration on the income side is that the program of government handouts intended to counteract the fiscal effect of the pandemic has ended. Also, in 2022 we received a one-shot boost in the form of a technology grant from the synod. In any event, Mary Ann stressed that increasing use of facilities income is essential in order to support our programs.

Treasurer Susan Ross spoke to the expense side of the 2023 budget. Salaries are increased 3.5% across the board, with a greater increase for the Organist. The 5% projected increase for total expenses is "a reasonable estimate," but it does mean that the planned deficit for 2023 will be \$76,124. Such a deficit is not sustainable; Mary Ann reiterated that effort must be made to grow income in 2023.

Turning to fund balances, the point was made that offerings earmarked for Sanctuary Improvement have been insufficient to cover payments to the Housing Fund from which we borrowed the cost of the Sanctuary renovation. It is for that reason that we'll have to draw down the fund balances in order to meet cash flow needs.

There was no Old Business.

New Business.

Adoption of Annual Budget. It was moved and seconded to adopt the 2023 budget. The motion was carried.

Election of the Congregational Council. The Nominating Committee (consisting of Diane Keely, Hal Larson, Bert Mount, and Steve Warner, chair) presented its slate: 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. The nominations were seconded, and the slate was elected by acclamation. Lisa Larson, Bert Mount, Jim Skelton, and Susan Ross, whose terms had been completed, were thanked for their years of service to the congregation.

Music Endowment Fund update. Organist Emeritus Greg Hummel recalled that in his 50 years in the congregation, he had been aware of large gifts to the music program totaling some three quarters of a million dollars. Such giving was haphazard, not the result of any campaign. Now, he would like to spearhead a systematic drive to endow the fund of \$1 million. He thinks this is a feasible goal. 10% of the goal is already in hand.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned, with the Lord's Prayer, at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Warner
Secretary, Congregational Council

Annual Meeting, January 29, 2023
Members Present. In person or by Zoom

Christiane Djuric
Susan Ross
Anne Heider
Kit McCarthy
Steve Warner
Tyler Heyl
Jim Skelton
Laurie Stivers
Marlene Chatain
Hal Larson
Melisa Larson
Kathryn Skelton
Sara Krentz
Diane Keely
Bert Mount
Dana Barron
Grace Yarnoff
Mark Kearns
Mary Ann Kearns
Tom Couch
Jerry Larson
Greg Hummel
Terri Hummel
Mark Sloss
Kevin McDaniel
Charles Yarnoff
Michael Kloster

REPORT OF THE PASTOR FOR 2023

It remains a joy and privilege to serve as Pastor of Immanuel congregation as we continue to live into the 4 pillars that we use to focus our life together. I've decided to craft this year's report around these 4 pillars of Worship, Welcome, Justice, and Community.

The weekly worship of this community fills my life with beauty and calibrates my heart to better discern God's love and direction for my life. We've been blessed with excellent musical gifts in both our staff and congregation. One highlight for me was how Jimmy and Christine put together a joint piano and organ accompaniment to the setting 6 liturgy in our ELW. I relish time in worship to let choir anthems soak into my bones with a wide swath of musical genres accenting the themes of worship for the season we are in. We have a dedicated corps of folks that participate in the many tasks of preparation and participation in our worship, from lectors, acolytes, assisting ministers, table prep, choir, and running the technology for those joining via Zoom. Thanks to you all for helping to craft a vibrant worship experience in which to glorify God and be transformed through God's life-giving presence.

I once again was greatly impressed by the winners of our Organ Scholar Program at their Fall recitals. This continues to be a strong ancillary program to our commitment to vibrant worship, benefiting the greater church through our support of organ students from around our nation.

Another pillar is our welcoming of all. I've seen this time and time again, particularly if our worship guests come to Coffee Hour. Immanuel accepts people for who they are, and some new faces in our congregation reflect that reality of welcome. Our welcoming includes our hosting the Winter Indoor Farmers Market, and I was glad to see that as Chris Djuric and Laura McDaniel decided it was time for them to pass on the reins of leadership, we had a willing team of folks stepping up to take on the various tasks of facilitating the market. We've also been able to involve some people from the community to assist.

Our welcoming of all overlaps with another pillar, working for justice. In the early Fall, thanks to Chris Djuric, we became a 2-day per week northern drop off site for items to assist the large number of asylum seekers who had been bussed to Chicago. Once the word got out, we were inundated with donations, and folks in the community alongside Immanuel members jumped in to help with sorting and hauling. Our welcome and working for justice included our being a host site for the Interfaith Action's (IA) Overnight Shelter in April and participating in the IA Walk for Warmth on MLK day and in IA's Vision Keeper dinner. Michael Kloster was this year's Vision Keeper for Immanuel. He's a great example of someone committed to serving in many and various ways and open to discerning God's vision for both himself and Immanuel. Our commitment to doing justice also includes having an Advocacy table at the indoor market and various learning opportunities. Feeding Our Faith class on Sundays, and two field trip events to the Baha'i Temple and the Mitchell Museum inspired us to do justice. The vast number of quilts sent each year to Lutheran World Relief are visual evidence of Immanuel's commitment to this pillar of doing justice.

Our final pillar is building community, which is woven into almost everything we do together. It is probably most visible in our coffee hours as we share what's happening, highlight opportunities to serve, and acknowledge life celebrations. It happens as well in various meetings, Tuesday Spiritual Growth and Bible Study sessions, Choir, Committee and Council meetings, Quilting, etc. I'm privileged to see it happening with groups that gather for spiritual direction, as bonds of trust form in the process of assisting one another in listening for the Spirit's movements and prompts in order to deepen one's faith journey. It is a joy for me, as your pastor to see the spirit of compassion and care that you have for each other and for any who encounter Immanuel congregation. I see it as an extension of God's love, and God is truly present in our midst. For example, early in the year our Parish Administrator, Jane Kaihatsu, had hip surgery and

was out of commission for a while. Kathy Skelton stepped up to help in the office, and Jane made up time lost once she healed up and returned. So, thanks Kathy, and thank you Jane, you keep a lot of things running so smoothly in an ordered, thoughtful, and compassionate way.

Respectfully,

Pastor Mark

Parochial Report—Membership

	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Membership at end of 2023	116	99
Members Received during 2023		
<u>By baptism</u>		
Adult:	0	0
Child:	2	0
<u>By transfer or affirmation of faith</u>	4	0
<u>Youth confirmed this year</u>	0	0
Total Members Received	4	0
Members Removed during 2023		
<u>By death</u>	3	3
Linnea Balder		
Alice Hancko		
John Hancko		
<u>For other reasons</u>	1	1
<u>By statistical adjustment</u>	0	0
Total Members Removed	4	4
Total Membership at end of 2023*	116*	99

(*Baptized membership includes 8 associate members.)

Christian Education:

Number of children in Sunday School (Pre-K–6th grade): 3

Number of youth in Confirmation Class: 3

Average attendance at Tuesday Adult Spiritual Formation: 5

Average attendance at Sunday Feeding Our Faith: 8

Worship Services in 2023

Average Sunday worship attendance: 2022 33 in-person, 16 online

2023 35 in-person, 8 online

Attendance at Special Services of the Church Year:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>Platform in</u> <u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u> <u>(in-person</u> <u>& Zoom)</u>	<u>Platform in</u> <u>2023</u>
Ash Wednesday (noon)	Not held		Not held	Not held
Ash Wednesday (7:30 p.m.)	31	Hybrid	19, 0	Hybrid
Maundy Thursday	34	"	34, 0	"
Good Friday (8:00 p.m.)	38	"	34, 6	"
Great Vigil of Easter	30	"	27, 5	"
Easter	74	"	97, 12	"
Christmas Eve (9:00 p.m.)	58	"	43, 8	"

REPORT OF THE IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL FOR 2023

The business of the Council focused on several areas during 2023, including Immanuel's ministries and 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 29, 2023, the Council elected the following officers for the year: Dana Barron, president; Michael Kloster, vice president; Steve Warner, secretary; Susan Ross, treasurer; and Mary Ann Kearns, financial secretary. During its first regular meeting, the Council reviewed and approved all mission committees and task forces and their chairs and liaisons. In August, Mary Ann Kearns resigned as financial secretary, a role she held for many years, and the Council elected Laurie Stivers to the position. The Council thanks everyone for their dedicated service to Immanuel!

The Council supported and enhanced worship at Immanuel throughout the year. In April, as the COVID-19 pandemic lessened, we voted to make mask-wearing optional for all worship services and church-sponsored activities. We heard updates from Greg Hummel about fundraising for the Music Outreach Endowment Fund to create a secure music program and update the climate control of the sanctuary.

In terms of ministries, the Council dedicated special attention to the Winter Indoor Farmer's Market. Chris Djuric and Laura McDaniel resigned as co-coordinators of the market at the close of the 2023 season and requested that the Council consider whether and how Immanuel could continue this ministry. We created a Market Task Force to re-imagine this important ministry in terms of leadership and community engagement and are pleased that Immanuel has chosen to continue to host the market.

The Council continued our emphasis on community-building, one of Immanuel's core values. With the goal of engaging all members, especially those with young children, the Council hosted a congregational picnic in August. We hope that this will become an annual tradition. In memory of long-time member Larry Lee, the Council commissioned Paul Baliles, owner of Building Vision, to construct a Little Library modeled on the shape of our church building. Chris Djuric and Elora Kloster volunteered to do the painting, and we held an installation ceremony on September 17, 2023.

The Council also supported Immanuel's commitment to work for justice. At the initial request of Chris Djuric, Immanuel became a drop-off point for items donated to migrants being bussed into Chicago. We were amazed by the generous response from our congregation and neighbors.

The Council responded to several property and facilities needs in 2023, including building security. We authorized the pursuit of quotes for air conditioning in the sanctuary using renewable/sustainable energy. We also empowered the Property and Social Ministry Committees to secure financing to support the installation of solar panels on the roof of Fellowship Hall.

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, the Garden Club of Evanston, the Evanston Go Club, and El Molcajete Sauces. We resumed the process, begun in 2022, of evaluating our existing Building Use Policy and researching additional renters and opportunities. We established a dedicated Building Use Committee to continue this work and recommend that Immanuel consider how we might use our building space to increase revenue, thereby reducing the deficit in our budget.

Each month, the Council designated a portion of each meeting to the work of visioning. Topics during the year included goal-setting, strategies for building use, ways to build community within our congregation and beyond, outreach and relationship-building with our neighbors, stewardship, attracting and retaining volunteers and leaders, and collaboration among the Lutheran congregations in our area.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Barron

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2023

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Michael Kloster, Grace Yarnoff, Keziah Yarnoff, and Terri Simchak (chair) has a slate for the 2024 Annual Meeting: Steve Warner, nominated for a second three-year term; Greg Hummel, nominated for a three-year term.

REPORT OF THE JUSTICE & EQUITY COMMITTEE 2023

Curated Events in 2023

Wilmette

The Justice & Equity Ministry held two main events in 2023. On March 2, 2023, a group of members had lunch at Convito Café & Market, followed by a tour of The Baha'i House of Worship (The Baha'i Temple), led by Steve Sarowitz. Everyone assembled on the first floor of the Welcome Center, where Steve spoke of 9 major religions practiced in the world, and gave a brief historical overview of each, followed by a visit to the lower level to learn more about the faith, and browsed the bookstore before visiting the temple. This is a beautiful place to visit all year round. The grounds are lovely to walk, pray or meditate. <https://www.bahai.us/bahai-temple/>

North Evanston

On Saturday, November 4, 2023, The Mitchell Museum of the American Indian opened its doors to ILC congregants and friends for a tour of the exhibit titled: *No Rest: The Epidemic of Stolen Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2Spirits*. This exhibit seeks to bring awareness to the Native women and girls who go missing or are murdered every year. Unfortunately, these crimes generally do not receive news coverage. This outing was followed by lunch at Curt's Café. **There is still time to see this.** Please check the link. Be sure to mention that you belong to ILC, they will be very happy that you are supporting them. <https://mitchellmuseum.org>

Please Join Us in the New Year!

In 2024, it is our hope to host 2-4 special events. While we welcome friends and community members, we have you in mind when we plan these experiences. Together we can create a more equitable community. We hope to see you there!

Respectfully submitted,
Audrey Moy

REPORT FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS 2023

In 2023, Immanuel's Sunday School continued to meet every other week except for the month of August. We plan to continue that frequency in 2024.

Tyler Heyl completed his dissertation and successfully graduated from Northwestern. Many thanks to Susan Ross for assuming his teaching responsibilities starting in April of 2023.

Our student in the class for older children completed Sunday School and moved to Confirmation. With the addition of a new student, there are now 2 delightful first-graders in our younger student class.

Because of Child Safety protocol, Kit McCarthy, Jim McCarthy, or Bert Mount take turns attending Sunday School so there are always two adults in the room. Susan Ross is also available to substitute; meaning there is a great deal of flexibility for the adults. Many thanks to these four people for their support and help with our Sunday School program.

We have new curriculum! We are using lectionary-based lessons which means that what we cover is also part of the readings for the church service that day.

Yours in Christ,
Laurie Stivers

REPORT OF THE MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE 2023

The Mutual Ministry Committee met bi-monthly during 2023. Members were Pastor Mark Sloss, Mark Kearns, Grace Yarnoff, and Kit McCarthy. The goal of this committee is to support the mission of the 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.

Submitted by
Kit McCarthy

REPORT OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE 2023

In November, 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.

Thank you,
Andrea Knohl

PROPERTY COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS 2023

The council approved moving forward with a solar panel project on the Fellowship Hall roof. Thanks to Bert Mount, Nicolai Schousboe, and Jim McCarthy for shepherding this project.

Plumbing issues – Flader routed out our sewer twice and used a camera and power wash to clear tree roots encroaching the sewer pipe on the north side of the building.

The Little Library in memory of Larry Lee was installed and dedicated. Flowerpots and gardens were well-maintained in our courtyard.

Work needed to be completed in 2024 will be dealing with the leak issue in the NE corner of the Fellowship Hall, replacing ceiling tiles in Fellowship Hall, hallway, and Pastor's Office, adding an additional Ring doorbell to the door outside of the Church Office and additional cameras too; fixing latches on windows in the Sanctuary, having air exchangers installed in the Sanctuary, fixing and painting the wall in the Game Room, plus sealing and restriping the parking lot.

This committee needs more people to assist in keeping our ministry facility inviting and functional. It is currently functioning without a committee chair.

Committee members: Jim McCarthy, Jim Skelton, Sara Mauk

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE 2023

God's Work Our Hands 2023: Summary for Annual Report (Charly Yarnoff)

Our congregation, along with Grace, St. Paul's, and St. Timothy's Lutheran Churches, joined together to serve the community for God's Work Our Hands on Sunday, September 10th.

Members of all four congregations participated in the following community service projects:

- Outdoor maintenance at the spiritual labyrinth retreat at St. Scholastica in Chicago
- Clean-up and maintenance at Lutheran Campus Ministry of Northwestern University
- Quilt-tying for Lutheran World Relief
- Making greeting cards for shut-ins and others
- Sorting donated items for Interfaith Action of Evanston, Connections for the Homeless, Refugee Community Connection, and Grace Little Free Pantry

To kick off the day of service, Immanuel hosted a potluck luncheon that filled Fellowship Hall with enthusiastic participants from the four congregations.

Donation Collection Site

In fall of 2023, Immanuel became a donation site for items needed at Chicago police stations and shelters for migrants arriving in Chicago by the busload from Texas. We took in items on Tuesdays and Thursday mornings, 9 am-noon, and they were then picked up by a Chicago volunteer and distributed where needed most.

Immanuel members, along with several community members, staffed collection days and sorted items. Some weeks this effort was massive as donations filled the youth room and spilled into the downstairs hallway.

As the migrant situation in Chicago changed so did what we collected. Initially we accepted sleeping bags and tents along with clothing for all ages and genders. By November we were only accepting adult winter coats and welcome bags that were handed out to migrants stepping off buses. In November, before Thanksgiving we paused all donations and remain on "pause" until February 2024.

Thank you to everyone who supported this ministry by donating things of your own, staffing a donation time, sorting mountains of clothing, praying, or all of the above. Your willingness to open our doors to this effort is a witness of God's love and care to a hurting world.

In peace,
Christiane Djuric

Emergency Overnight Shelter (Steve Warner/Nicolai Schousboe)

At 9:00 pm after Easter Sunday, Immanuel opened its doors to welcome guests to the Emergency Overnight Shelter. This inaugurates our annual participation in a ministry offered through Interfaith Action of Evanston for more than a decade. The other institutions involved were 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.

Starting at 8:15 pm, 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, 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 are turned off at 10:00 pm. 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 am, 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: 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, two volunteers will be needed for Set-up, to assemble the costs for the first time, and they should probably arrive by 8:15 pm. After that first night, the shifts will be routine and only one volunteer is needed for each shift.

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.
Thank you for all your help.

Yours in Christ,
Nicolai Schousboe, Chair of the Social Ministry committee

REPORT OF THE QUILTING MINISTRY 2023

The Immanuel quilters meet monthly to assemble, sew and tie quilts. On January 22, 2023, the congregation blessed 183 quilts which were then boxed up and taken to a warehouse in Elgin, IL. From the Elgin warehouse they are shipped to a larger warehouse in Maryland where they are prepped for distribution throughout the world.

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

The quilters continue to assemble quilts at Immanuel's indoor farmers market. Sharing this ministry with the Evanston community brings in even more fabric and bed sheet donations!

Displaying finished quilts in the sanctuary is a wonderful way to invite others to "see - touch - bless" the finished items!

In Christ,
Christiane Djuric

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2023

The 2023 Stewardship Committee consisted of Michael Kloster (chair), Pastor Mark, Dana Barron, Anne Heider.

The theme of the Stewardship Campaign was "Living Out of God's Abundance".

Temple talks were given by: Bert Mount, Anne Heider, and Michael Kloster (by way of Steve Warner!). Immanuel once again stepped up and put living out of God's abundance practice. Of the pledges received at least 13 indicated an increase over previous years giving.

We also received 5 new pledges in 2024, compared to 2023! Although some of these families have given in the past, receipt of the pledges is a major goal of the stewardship committee for the benefit of the budget planning process.

In last year's annual report, I mentioned the idea of a matching donation, or other incentives to turn in pledge cards. Although we didn't implement that this year, I think it would still be a good idea for future stewardship campaigns.

The net effect on total pledges puts us very close to past years, when considering some attrition, this shows major success of the stewardship campaign and a big show of support from the Immanuel congregation.

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 2023

2023 saw a settling into our new normal worship practices and bringing back some favored worship events from before 2020. We were happy to have Lenten soup suppers before our Wednesday night midweek worship, and soup dinner included in worship on Maundy Thursday. These joined a new Holy Week activity of processing around the block with other local congregations and a donkey on Palm Sunday morning.

Regular committee members included Greg Hummel, Christine Kraemer, Sara Krentz, Hal Larson, Melisa Larson, Kit McCarthy, Jimmy Morehead, Pastor Mark Sloss, and Kathryn Skelton.

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, led Altar Guild, and trained new volunteers.

Christine Kraemer is in her second year as the organist for regular Sunday worship. Jimmy Morehead finished his 6th full year as choir director, planning worship with Pastor Mark.

We held Organ Scholar auditions in February 2023, on the same day as an indoor farmer's market. It was a bit chaotic, but everyone worked well together; the applicants enjoyed a trombone choir performance while they were waiting. The graduate student winner was Kelsey Berg, who presented a concert in November. The undergraduate was JoEllen West, whose concert was in October. Both of these were also broadcast on Zoom, and our website has YouTube recordings available.

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 worshipping 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 2023

TOTAL AMOUNT OF MEMORIAL GIFTS GIVEN IN 2023 \$1450.00.

Gifts were given in memory of Linnea Balder, Robert Beutelspacher and John Fridner.

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.

\$1783.94, taken from a designated gift amount given in memory of Larry Lee, was spent for the construction and implementation of the Little Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene Chatain, Chair
Committee Members: Marlene Chatain, Anne Heider, Elizabeth Stegner

REPORT OF THE STARK FUND COMMITTEE FOR 2023

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 Fund for critically needed earthquake relief in Turkey and Syria.
2. \$500 to the Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northwestern University to support their shared worship, meals and fellowship within their group and the university community.
3. \$500 to Meals-on-Wheels Northwestern Illinois to support critical program expansion following another IL program's disastrous fire.

4. \$500 to Solidarity Bridge, an organization in Evanson that provides health care to communities in Bolivia and Paraguay with whom they partner. Safe, affordable surgery and essential health care is provided as well as doctors' training and equipment.

Thank you to committee members Glynis Kloster and Jim Rakowsky.

I have completed 3 years of service on the committee. Steve Warner will serve as the new chair.

Diane Keely
Stark Committee Chair

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Budget vs. Actuals: 2023 General Fund

January - December 2023

2024

	Total			Proposed 2024
	Actual	Budget	over Budget	
Revenue				
OFFERINGS				
Envelope Offering	192,994	200,000	(7,006)	189,665
Cost of Stock & online gifts	(784)	0	(784)	(600)
Total Envelope Offering	192,210	200,000	(7,790)	189,065
Open Offering	4,776	2,500	2,276	4,000
Total OFFERINGS	196,985	202,500	(5,515)	193,065
OTHER INCOME				
Amazon Purchase Points	0	75	(75)	0
Dividend Income	67	75	(8)	65
Misc.	162	0	162	175
Use of Facilities Donation	9,793	6,500	3,293	8,500
Total OTHER INCOME	10,021	6,650	3,371	8,740
SPECIAL OFFERINGS				
Ash Wednesday	0	5	(5)	0
Christmas	821	550	271	200
Easter	730	2,500	(1,770)	200
Good Friday	0	5	(5)	0
Initial	18	25	(7)	15
Maundy Thursday	30	5	25	0
Mid-Week Lenten Evening	0	5	(5)	0
Total SPECIAL OFFERINGS	1,599	3,095	(1,496)	415
Total Revenue	208,606	212,245	(3,639)	202,220
Expenditures				
MISSION - BUILDING AND FACIL				
Cleaning Service	7,110	7,000	110	7,150
Electric	3,782	2,900	882	4,000
Gas	6,434	10,000	(3,566)	6,500
Insurance	8,711	6,979	1,732	8,150
Maintenance	12,076	10,000	2,076	12,000
Maintenance contracts	6,569	5,000	1,569	7,000
Maintenance Supplies	198	1,000	(802)	600
Snow Removal	1,655	4,000	(2,345)	4,000
Trash Removal	721	820	(99)	820
Water	1,004	800	204	1,050
Total MISSION - BUILDING AND FACIL	48,259	48,499	(240)	51,270
MISSION - WORLD/COMMUNITY				
ELCA & Metro Chicago Synod	17,040	17,040	0	17,040
Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches	250	250	0	250
Interfaith Action Council	1,200	1,200	0	1,200
Overnight Shelter	0	400	(400)	200
Total MISSION - WORLD/COMMUNITY	18,490	18,890	(400)	18,690

	Actual	Budget	over Budget	Proposed 2024
MISSION - WORSHIP/FELLOWSHIP				
Other Worship/Office Expenses				
Background checks	17	200	(183)	50
Computer Services	874	750	124	875
Credit Card/Bank fees	48	0	48	75
Evangelism	50	1,200	(1,150)	800
Fellowship	122	200	(78)	500
Food Ministry	66	1,000	(934)	500
Misc. Expenses	309	200	109	200
Music & Care/Worship Supplies	8,831	6,200	2,631	7,000
Office Supplies and equipment	6,604	8,000	(1,396)	7,200
Postage	407	500	(93)	500
Soc Min Anti-Racism Task Force	250	500	(250)	750
Stewardship	178	550	(372)	200
Sunday School Materials & Progr	568	350	218	650
Synod Meeting Expense	597	600	(3)	600
Technology Expense	1,816	1,350	466	1,900
Telephone	5,587	5,415	172	6,250
Total Other Worship/Office Expenses	26,324	27,015	(691)	28,050
Salaries - IRS Account				
Director of Music	20,384	20,384	(0)	21,199
Housing Allowance	36,000	37,260	(1,260)	36,000
Organist	15,525	15,525	0	16,146
Parish Administrator	18,390	18,390	0	19,126
Pastor	39,454	38,194	1,260	42,472
Pastor's Disability	735	1,062	(327)	510
Pastor's FICA	6,214	6,214	(0)	6,462
Social Security - Other Staff	4,154	3,955	199	4,320
Total Salaries - IRS Account	140,856	140,984	(128)	146,235
Salaries - Other				
Car Allowance	0	750	(750)	750
Health & Life Insurance	31,085	38,750	(7,665)	32,020
Health Savings Account - Pastor	1,800	0	1,800	1,800
Pension - Pastor	8,167	7,891	276	8,493
Prof Allowance - Dir of Music	0	250	(250)	250
Professional Allowance - Pastor	350	750	(400)	750
Vacation	1,718	3,825	(2,107)	3,825
Worker's Comp Insurance	970	766	204	750
Total Salaries - Other	44,090	52,982	(8,892)	48,638
Total MISSION - WORSHIP/FELLOWSHIP	211,270	220,981	(9,711)	222,924
Total Expenditures	278,019	288,370	(10,351)	292,884
Net Operating Revenue	(69,413)	(76,125)	6,712	(90,664)

OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE

Current General Fund Surplus				48,243
Money from Investments (Endowment & Housing)				42,421

0

Fund Balances December 2023

Fund	Beginning Balance	Income	Capital Gains	Expense	Ending Balance
1 General Fund	117,655.49	208,605.63		278,018.62	48,242.50
2 Transfer Payments	1,047.23	2,158.00		1,990.00	1,215.23
3 Youth Ministry Fund	4,629.26				4,629.26
4 Special Music Fund	(1,370.06)				(1,370.06)
5 Sunday School Projects	1,782.64	100.00		-	1,882.64
6 Soup Kitchen Fund	712.82			-	712.82
8 Cafe Immanuel	1,117.96	100.00		66.14	1,151.82
9 Improvements Fund	(68,435.66)	9,169.28		3,719.37	(62,985.75)
10 Fagerstrom Fund	21,921.10	4,692.10	7,125.80	-	33,739.00
11 Memorial Fund	18,139.40	1,450.00		1,783.94	17,805.46
16 Endowment Fund	214,260.95	6,215.75	18,247.12	-	238,723.82
21 Stark Fund	71,269.03	2,575.67	7,583.47	2,000.00	79,428.17
26 Housing Fund	319,286.92	6,771.60	16,936.43	-	342,994.95
31 Music Endowment Fund	67,781.32	222,589.37	10,801.31	18,551.55	282,620.45
36 Social Ministry Special	1,786.18	-		1,085.04	701.14
41 Members in Need	1,252.88				1,252.88
42 Sanctuary Improvement	(158,913.33)	4,164.37		668.54	(155,417.50)
43 Food Ministry	7,385.77	3,250.00		1,529.80	9,105.97
	621,309.90	471,841.77	60,694.13	309,413.00	844,432.80

Immanuel Lutheran Church Invested Funds 2021 - 2023

	Endowment Fund			Fagerstrom (Property) Fund			Housing Fund		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
	12/31/2021	12/31/2022	12/31/2023	12/31/2021	12/31/2022	12/31/2023	12/31/2021	12/31/2022	12/31/2023
Thrivent Funds									
Money Market	9,052	0	0						
Moderate/Cons Allocation Fund S	240,700	205,151	229,614				205,583	188,502	214,977
Moderate/Cons Allocation Fund A				135,132	114,921	85,058			
Total in Investment Funds:	249,752	205,151	229,614	135,132	114,921	85,058	205,583	188,502	214,977
Housing Fund loan to Sanctuary Improvement							142,388	131,499	128,732
Byline Bank and Trust Checking	0	9,110	9,110	-46,864	-93,000	-51,319	-714	-714	-714
Fund Total:	249,752	214,261	238,724	88,268	21,921	33,739	347,258	319,287	342,995

	Music Endowment Fund			Stark Mission Fund			Total Invested as of		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	12/31/2023		
	12/31/2021	12/31/2022	12/31/2023	12/31/2021	12/31/2022	12/31/2023	\$	714,715	
Stark Fund - Fidelity Investmt.									
Thrivent Funds									
Money Market	100	0	0						
Moderate Allocation Fund S	103,577	86,848	89,639						
Moderate/Cons Allocation Fund S				100,034	85,268	95,427			
Total in Investment Funds:	103,677	86,848	89,639	100,034	85,268	95,427			
Byline Bank and Trust Checking	-9,104	-17,992	192,982	-10,999	-13,999	-15,999			
Fund Total:	94,573	68,856	282,620	89,035	71,269	79,428			

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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Son of God, Eternal Savior

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 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,

Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:

you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,

fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 655

Text: Somerset C. Lowry

Music: IN BABILONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710;

arr. Julius Röntgen

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Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America