

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY

Dear friends in Christ,

As Lutherans, we are set free to love our neighbors and seek justice. In Colossians 2, we read: “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving” (6-7).

I am abounding in thankfulness for you, church. You are an integral part of this mission as we envision a world experiencing the difference God’s grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation. The ministries of congregations including yours, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together today and every day so more people may know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. From providing food to people experiencing hunger, to helping train the next generation of leaders that will lead this church, your support is at work here at home and around the world.

Your generosity to each of the three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has made it possible for us to do this work

together. Your financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices are so valued.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to continue to walk in Christ, remembering you are rooted and established in faith, and free to love and serve your neighbors. Thank you, church, for the ways you connect with and support our siblings across the ELCA and in our communities.

In Christ,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yehiel Curry'.

The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

—Colossians 2:6-7



Immanuel Lutheran of Evanston

**Annual Meeting
of
Immanuel Lutheran Church**

2025 Year in Review

IN-PERSON & VIA ZOOM

Evanston, Illinois

January 25, 2026

12:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Evanston, Illinois
January 25, 2026, 12:30 p.m.

AGENDA

Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum	Michael Kloster, President
Opening Prayer	Pastor Michael Wonderlich
Adoption of Agenda	
Minutes of the 2025 Annual Congregational Meeting	4
Reports	
Celebrating Our Ministries	
Pastor	7
Congregation Council	11
Standing Committees	
Nominating Committee – Michael Kloster	13
Justice & Equity Committee – Audrey Moy	13
Sunday School – Laurie Stivers.....	13
Mutual Ministry.....	14
Personnel – Andrea Knohl.....	14
Property.....	14
Social Ministry – Charly Yarnoff & Nicolai Schousboe.....	15
Quilting Ministry	15
Stewardship – Michael Kloster	16
Worship and Music – Sara Krentz	16
Building Use Committee – Jane Kaihatsu	17
Special Committees	
Memorial Fund Committee – Marlene Chatain	18
Stark Mission Fund Committee	18
Finance	
Finance Committee Report	19
Budget Proposal 2026 & Fund Balances	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 Congregational Meeting on January 26, 2025

Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Congregational Council President Michael Kloster. Quorum was established.

Present: see Appendix A

Opening Prayer

Pastor Mark led the congregation in the congregational meeting opening liturgy.

Adoption of Agenda

It was MSC¹ to adopt the agenda as printed in the annual report.

Minutes of Congregational Meetings in 2024

It was MSC to approve the special congregational meeting minutes for March 10, 2024, and September 1, 2024. The minutes from the 2024 annual congregational meeting were incomplete and will need to be approved at the next congregational meeting.

Reports

Supplemented by a slide presentation, Michael Kloster highlighted Immanuel's four pillars and ministries. It was MSC to approve the following reports as printed in the annual report:

Report of the Pastor for 2024

Report of the Congregational Council for 2024

Standing Committees:

Nominating Committee

Justice & Equity Committee

Sunday School

Mutual Ministry Committee

Personnel Committee

Property Committee

Social Ministry Committee

Quilting Ministry

Stewardship Committee

Worship & Music Committee

Finance Committee

Special Committees

Memorial Fund Committee

Stark Mission Fund Committee

Old Business

There was no old business.

¹ Moved, seconded, carried.

New Business

Adoption of the Annual Budget

Treasurer Susan Ross and Financial Secretary Laurie Stivers spoke and answered questions on the Fund Balance Report and 2025 Budget Proposal. They noted that the budget for building use income has been increased from last year to reflect increased activity and that expenses have increased about 1% from 2024, citing increased salaries and utility expenses. The 2025 Budget Proposal is a deficit budget of \$86,000.

There were questions from members about the rate of returns for the Thrivent account. Recently the Finance Committee has worked to restructure our investment accounts to get a better return.

It was MSC to approve the 2025 Budget Proposal.

Election of the Congregational Council

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Dana Barron (chair), Greg Hummel, Jerry Larson, and Nicolai Schousboe, presented the following slate of candidates for Council:

- Michael Kloster, nominated for a second three-year term
- Jerry Larson, nominated for a second three-year term
- Laura McDaniel, nominated for a three-year term

It was MSC to elect the slate of candidates listed above. Thanks were given to outgoing member Diane Keely for her service.

Music Endowment Fund Update

A brief update noted that there has been momentum in giving to the fund in 2024, with plans for outreach in the coming year.

Adjournment, Lord's Prayer, and Benediction

It was MSC to adjourn the meeting at 1:28 pm. The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dana Barron, Secretary

Appendix A
Congregational Meeting Attendance
January 26, 2025

Mark Sloss
Dana Barron
Nicolai Schousboe
Laurie Stivers
Diane Keely
Jim Skelton
Kathryn Skelton
Marlene Chatain
Bertha Mount
Michael Kloster
James McCarthy
Teresa Simchak
Kit McCarthy
John Ross
Susan Ross
Anne Heider
Jim Miller
Mary Ann Kearns
Sara Krentz
Charly Yarnoff
Laura McDaniel
Kevin McDaniel
Tom Couch
Jerry Larson
Steve Warner

REPORT OF THE PASTOR FOR 2025

Beloved people of Immanuel,

As I reflect on 2025, I am filled with gratitude for the many ways God's Spirit has been moving among us. This past year has been one of spiritual growth, hospitality, justice-seeking, creativity, and deepening faith. Together, we have continued to live into our calling to be Christ's hands and feet in our neighborhood and the wider world.

One visible sign of our congregation's welcome has been the continued success of the Winter Indoor Farmers Market. We were delighted to see increased participation and new faces filling our building, many encountering Immanuel for the first time through this vibrant community gathering. Along with this, the expansion of groups using our building throughout the week has further strengthened our role as a neighborhood hub of connection and care.

We also celebrated an important improvement to our worship space with the installation of air conditioning in the sanctuary, enhancing comfort and accessibility for worship, concerts, and gatherings throughout the year. Much of the power to run the system comes from the solar panels installed in 2024 on our fellowship hall roof.

Worship at Immanuel remains a central source of life and inspiration. We experienced vibrant worship with beautiful and meaningful music, including deeply moving midweek Lent and Advent Evening Prayer services. On the commemoration of St. Lucia, we held our second annual Carols and Cocoa event, which once again brought warmth, song, and joy to a dark season. We were also blessed by two outstanding Organ Scholar concerts in October and November, showcasing the musical excellence of budding church musicians.

Our congregation continues to live out its commitment to justice and public witness. Beginning in June, many members participated faithfully in the weekly "Beacon of Hope" protests, standing together for dignity, peace, and justice. We also hosted a community screening of the racial justice film *A Binding Truth*, creating space for learning, reflection, and conversation. In addition, we were honored to host a joint Pentecost/Pride worship service with four other congregations—a powerful and joyful witness to God's inclusive love.

Immanuel's spirit of service was especially visible on God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday, when members participated in a wide variety of service activities. Our Quilting Ministry continues to be a remarkable expression of love, creativity, and generosity. The quilts—beautiful in color, exceptional in quality, and abundant in number—continue to travel around the world through Lutheran World Relief, offering comfort and care to those in need.

Other partnerships also flourished this year. In both Spring and Fall, we provided safe space for Interfaith Action's overnight shelter. We hosted a watch party for the Bright Stars of Bethlehem Gala, strengthening our global connections, and on October 4th, we held a Blessing of the Animals in partnership with Tails Together, celebrating God's good creation in all its forms.

This year we were also honored to recognize Jim and Kit McCarthy as Immanuel's Interfaith Action Vision Keepers, giving thanks for their faithful leadership and commitment. On a more personal note, Kit and I completed facilitation of three Spiritual Direction Groups in the spring and began two new groups in the fall, deepening spiritual reflection and discernment within our community.

As I look back on 2025, I'm blessed to work with a very talented staff. Jane Kaihatsu keeps our parish office running smoothly, and Jimmy Morehead and Christine Kraemer use their exceptional gifts to beautify our worship. It's a joy to lead a congregation that is alive with faith, courage, generosity, and

hope. Thank you for your trust, your participation, and your love for one another and this world that God so deeply loves. It is a gift to serve as your pastor, and I look forward with anticipation to all that God will continue to do among us.

Respectfully,

Pastor Mark

Parochial Report—Membership

	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Membership at end of 2024	120	101
Members Received during 2025		
<u>By baptism</u>		
Adult:	0	0
Child:	0	0
<u>By transfer or affirmation of faith</u>	0	0
<u>Youth confirmed this year</u>	0	0
Total Members Received	0	0
Members Removed during 2025		
<u>By death</u>	1	0
<u>For other reasons</u>	1	0
<u>By statistical adjustment</u>	0	0
Total Members Removed	2	0
Total Membership at end of 2025*	118*	102

(*Baptized membership includes 6 associate members.)

Christian Education:

Number of children in Sunday School (Pre-K–6th grade): 2

Number of youth in Confirmation Class: 4

Average attendance at Tuesday Adult Spiritual Formation: 5

Average attendance at Sunday Feeding Our Faith: 4

REPORT OF THE IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL FOR 2025

The Immanuel Lutheran Church Council remained dedicated to advancing the church's ministries and missions throughout 2025. The Council undertook all duties with the four pillars of Immanuel in mind: We worship God. We work for Justice. We build community. We Welcome All. The Council focused on enhancing worship experiences, supporting outreach efforts, maintaining property and facilities, and engaging with the congregation through visioning and strategic planning. Each Council meeting began with a time of reflection, prayer, and sharing, reinforcing our commitment to outreach and in-reach to our community.

Council Leadership and Organization

At the organizational meeting in January 2025, the Council elected the following officers for the year:

- **President:** Michael Kloster
- **Vice President:** Terri Simchak
- **Secretary:** Dana Barron
- **Treasurer:** Susan Ross
- **Financial Secretary:** Laurie Stivers

Throughout the year, the Council reviewed and approved all mission committees and task forces and their leadership roles. The Council expresses gratitude to all members for their dedication and service.

Worship and Ministry Initiatives

In 2025, the Council supported key initiatives to enhance worship and community engagement, including:

- **Music Ministry:** Efforts to expand the Music Outreach Endowment Fund continued, with substantial pledges received. A new concert series has been established for 2026 including a "masterclass" style performance by Vincent Debois from the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.
- **Invitational events:** The council spent time creating a schedule of "invitational" events" such as music concerts, easter egg hunts, fall picnic, and Carols and Cocoa. These present opportunities to invite friends to meet Immanuel in a social setting.
- **Justice Ministries:** Immanuel continued its commitment to social justice by participating in various initiatives, including educational speakers and partnering with local anti-hunger organizations to do successful matching grant fundraising (Evanston community fridges).

Stewardship and Financial Health

The financial stewardship of the church was a focal point for the Council in 2025. Notable developments include:

- **Giving Trends:** Giving exceeded the 2025 pledges, showing the generosity of Immanuel members and the belief in the powerful impact of our ministries.
- **Building Use:** Revenue from building use exceeded expectations; however, improvements in rental pricing and collection practices were identified as key areas for growth.
- **Cost Saving:** opportunities for cost savings are always on our mind and in 2025 we reduced our internet bill by over 50%

Property and Facility Improvements

The Council undertook significant property improvements in 2025 to ensure the safety and usability of the church facilities, including:

- **Building Use Committee:** a reinvigorated building use committee now meets on a regular monthly schedule to review opportunities for building use and potential revenue as well as the building improvements that are needed to provide a welcoming facility. A complete prioritized spreadsheet of needed repairs with rough estimate of expenses has been created. Next steps for 2026 will be to get quotes from contractors and bringing these improvements to the congregation for consideration. As firm quotes were not available at the time of the budget, it is expected that some improvements may require an additional congregational meeting to approve expenses above the threshold required by our constitution.

Visioning and Future Planning

2025 was a year of forward-thinking and strategic planning. The Council engaged in visioning sessions to focus on four key areas:

1. **Building Use** – Last year we worked towards increasing building use, this year we evaluated those expansions with an eye toward what works well (parking) and what has been more challenging (kitchen rental)
2. **Membership Growth** – the creation of a new service position to greet and welcome guests at the end of service has just begun, and we look forward to starting this initiative in 2026.
3. **Financial Sustainability** – Like past years, we employ long-term planning to close budget gaps and enhance stewardship.
4. **Justice and Outreach Ministries** – The Farmer’s Market community partnerships are growing and show potential to magnify the impact of that key justice ministry by working with outside groups to support local food systems and advocate for important local and national initiatives.

Appreciation and Looking Ahead

The Council thanks all members of Immanuel for their faithfulness and contributions throughout the year. As we look to 2026, we remain committed to financial sustainability, vibrant ministry offerings, and continued community engagement. With God's guidance, we will continue to build a welcoming and thriving church community.

Respectfully submitted,

Immanuel Lutheran Church Congregation Council

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2025

Committee Members:

Terri Simchak (3d year member)
Steve Warner (2nd year member)
Michael Kloster (1st year member) - Chair
Jim Miller (At large member)

The Nominating Committee met once as a full committee to brainstorm possible recommendations to council. Our goal was to provide two new members to the council. One to fill a 3-year term open as Dana completes her second full term. The second member will complete the final year of Steve Warner's term as he has decided to pass on the torch. Further coordination was through email and individual conversations as we had. Fortunately, the first members we asked were willing to serve.

Our recommendations are as follows:

Jared Peck: 3-year term
Jim Miller: 1-year term
Kit McCarthy: 3-year term (2nd)
Terri Simchak: 3-year term (2nd)

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Kloster, Chair

REPORT OF THE JUSTICE & EQUITY COMMITTEE 2025

We held two significant events in 2025: Jane Kaihatsu, church administrator, did an impactful presentation on the Japanese-American incarceration during World War II that her family lived through. This powerful talk examined themes of identity and belonging, resilience and survival, cultural preservation and much more.

We also screened the compelling documentary *A Binding Truth*, which examines the legacies of race and justice through the intertwined stories of two families sharing a last name. The film illustrates the deep-rooted systemic issues of slavery and its lasting impact on families and communities. We expect to continue our offerings in 2026 to bring about awareness in ways that are heartfelt and compassionate.

Respectfully submitted,
Audrey Moy

REPORT FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS 2025

Immanuel's Sunday School continues to meet every other week during the academic year. We take the summer off from class.

We have 2 students. One is in 1st grade and the other is in 3rd grade.

During Advent, the children selected items from the ECLA *Good Gifts* catalog to share through the ELCA program. During Advent, they had the opportunity to light the Advent wreath and decorate the Christmas tree in the sanctuary.

Because of Child Safety protocol, Kit McCarthy, Jim McCarthy, or Bert Mount take turns teaching Sunday School so there are always 2 adults in the room. Many thanks to these folks for their support of our Sunday School program.

We continue to use the ELCA published lectionary-based lessons which means that what we cover in class is part of the readings for the church service that day.

Yours in Christ,
Laurie Stivers

REPORT OF THE MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE 2025

The Mutual Ministry Committee met bi-monthly during 2025. Members were Pastor Mark Sloss, Mark Kearns, Grace Yarnoff, and Diane Keely. 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.

REPORT OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE 2025

On January 13th and 14th, the personnel committee met with the employees of Immanuel Lutheran, Jimmy Moorehead, 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 regarding ways to improve Immanuel and/or enhance their jobs. These specifics were addressed.

Thank you,
Andrea Knohl

PROPERTY COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS 2025

There were no significant projects in 2025. See the Building Use Committee Report for related activities.

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE 2025

God's Work Our Hands 2025 (Charly Yarnoff)

Members of Immanuel joined hands with our sisters and brothers at Grace Lutheran Church on September 7th to serve our community in several ways:

- Helping to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief
- Creating colorful greeting cards for Cards for Hospitalized Kids, an organization that distributes cards to children in hospitals throughout the country
- Bringing cold-weather gear and toiletries for people served by Evanston's Connections for the Homeless
- Providing cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, and baby wipes for people served by La Tiendita, a free store in the Washington Park neighborhood of Chicago
- Donating non-perishable food items for the Grace Lutheran Little Free Pantry
- Making cash donations to support the missions of Connections for the Homeless and the Grace Lutheran Little Free Pantry

Prior to our service projects, we enjoyed a delicious lunch of Mexican food prepared by Ernesto Rodriguez. We all then joined in prayer and song, and our hands were blessed by Pastor Mark. Seeing the work of so many hands in service of our community was inspiring!

Purple Pantry Drive 2025 (Charly Yarnoff)

At the Indoor Farmer's Market on April 5th, Immanuel sponsored a drive to collect food and personal care items for Northwestern University's Purple Pantry. We were joined by students from Northwestern's Lutheran Campus Ministry. Several shopping bags packed with items were collected and delivered to the Purple Pantry.

According to a 2023-2024 study conducted by the Hope Center for Student Basic Needs at Temple University, 41% of college students in the U.S. experienced food insecurity, defined as limited access to nutritious food. Northwestern University's Purple Pantry addresses this problem by providing food and other essential items to students.

Emergency Overnight Shelter (Nicolai Schousboe)

On Sunday, April 19, 2025, Immanuel opened its doors to receive cots and eqpt. to welcome guests to the Emergency Overnight Shelter. This setup 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 pm to 10:00 pm; Overnight, from 9:30 pm to 7:00 am; and clean-up, from 6:00 am 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 2025

A quilting ministry report will be submitted later.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2025

The 2025 Stewardship Committee consisted of Pastor Mark, Anne Heider, Gregory Hummel, Michael Kloster (chair), Laurie Stivers.

The theme of the 2025 Stewardship Campaign: Living Wisely in an Unwise World as Servants of Christ Temple talks were given by: Greg Hummel, Christian Kloster, and Laurie Stivers (read by Michael Kloster, due to Covid). A newsletter article was contributed by Charlie Yarnoff.

Immanuel once again stepped up to the challenge of living wisely in an unwise world as servants of Christ. We received pledges from 24 giving units. Despite the loss of some members, increased in pledge amounts has exceeded last year's pledge total!

As of this report, the stewardship team missed one goal which was to send acknowledgements and thank-you-notes to all pledging units. Contributing to this were some medical procedures and general busyness this year from the committee members. Next year, it would be good to return to that tradition and best practice. And it is still not too late if we can make time to send thank-you notes.

Ideas from previous years, such as matching donations or other incentives to encourage pledges and inspire giving are good ideas to keep in mind for future campaigns. The net effect on total pledges puts us above past years, which demonstrates the major success of the stewardship campaign and a strong show of support from the Immanuel congregation.

Thank you to the whole congregation, each of whom contributes their talents as well as their financial support 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 2025

In 2025 the Worship & Music Committee planned and led worship and administered the annual Organ Scholar competition. A few highlights include celebrating Pride in June on Pentecost Sunday, with a lovely visit from the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus and several other local congregations; the church was full to the brim with visitors as well as members making wonderful music.

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, with occasional assistance from Michael Kloster and Jim McCarthy. Nicolai Schousboe leads the ushers. Kit McCarthy scheduled worship leaders, led Altar Guild, and trained new volunteers.

Christine Kraemer is in her fourth year as the organist for regular Sunday worship. Jimmy Morehead finished his 8th full year as choir director, planning worship with Pastor Mark.

In the spring, Immanuel hosted two concerts for all to enjoy. In May, the concert was *Musique française: chanson et chorales*, French vocal selections with 4 local vocalists performing. In March, the Ravenswood Trombone Quartet presented a delightful program of trombone music.

We held Organ Scholar auditions in February 2025. The graduate student winner was Katie Gunn, a student at Indiana University, who presented a concert in November. The undergraduate was David Devine, a student at the University of Iowa, 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 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

BUILDING USE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2025

The Building Use Committee met monthly and was initially chaired by Kit McCarthy. We reviewed the different users and special events held at the church during 2025 and discussed their impact on church life and the building. The committee coordinated building usage among the different users and strove to keep all users, including our own congregants, informed.

Some topics discussed were scheduling of users and events, costs and repairs, and new inquiries for usage. Jim McCarthy, who also sits on the Property Committee, was helpful in the discussion of repairs. There is a new section on www.immanuelevanston.org under Welcome\Resources\Space Sharing, where Immanuel spaces are available for rent or use by the community as well.

BUC created a spreadsheet after a building walk-through by Council members, who identified areas of potential or enhanced use of church spaces and noted some repairs. This spreadsheet titled, "Deferred Maintenance" was submitted to Council and remains a living document. In 2026 BUC will further prioritize and research costs to be submitted later.

For six days in July 2025, Immanuel provided lodging for a youth ministry group called Serve Boldly from Minnesota. Approximately 38 middle-schoolers and their adult chaperones lodged at Immanuel eating meals and sleeping, while performing service projects in the Chicago area during the daytime. The newly installed air-conditioning/heating units in Fellowship Hall made their stay possible. The McCarthys donated a portable air-conditioner for the lower-level room. Kit & Jim McCarthy served as Immanuel Liaisons for the group. In 2026, Serve Boldly will return for two weeks in June.

Two recurring events were held in 2025: Spring (May) and Fall (November) Evanston Go Club Tournament and the Sherman Garden Apartments Holiday Party (December).

Regular tenants/users of the building include:

- Wilmette Band
- Chef Ernesto Rodriguez

- FA (Food Addicts) Support Group
- Isabelle Cowan, Voice Instructor of Private Students

Kit McCarthy has rotated off the Building Use Committee. We thank her for excellent leadership and thoroughness. Greg Hummel has joined BUC.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Kaihatsu, Chair. BUC members: Jim McCarthy, Steve Warner, Greg Hummel

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MEMORIAL FUND COMMITTEE REPORT 2025

Beginning Balance	\$16,766.34
Memorial gifts received for A.J. Becker, Edgar & Alice Graf	\$1,020.00
Ending Balance	\$17,786.34

A designated donation was given in memory of Kathy Roderer for the Music Endowment Fund.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene Chatain, Chair. Committee Members: Marlene Chatain, Anne Heider

REPORT OF THE STARK FUND COMMITTEE FOR 2025

A report will be submitted later.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR 2025

Please see *REPORT OF THE IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL FOR 2025 – Stewardship and Financial Health*.

Yours in Christ,
Mary Ann Kearns, Finance Chair

Immanuel Lutheran Church

	2025 General Fund Actuals vs. Budget			2026 Proposal	
	YTD (Jan - Dec 2025) Actual	2025 Budget	over Budget	2026 DRAFT Budget	Difference with 2025 Budget
Revenue					
OFFERINGS					
Envelope Offering	198,119.55	187,000.00	11,119.55	196,666.00	9,666.00
Cost of Stock & online gifts	-248.29	-362.00	113.71	-300.00	62.00
Total Envelope Offering	\$ 197,871.26	\$ 186,638.00	\$ 11,233.26	\$ 196,366.00	\$ 9,728.00
Open Offering	2,671.00	1,500.00	1,171.00	2,000.00	500.00
Total OFFERINGS	\$ 200,542.26	\$ 188,138.00	\$ 12,404.26	\$ 198,366.00	\$ 10,228.00
OTHER INCOME					
Thrivent Choice	107.00	60.00	47.00	75.00	15.00
Use of Facilities Donation	28,736.51	20,000.00	8,736.51	15,566.00	-4,434.00
Total OTHER INCOME	\$ 28,843.51	\$ 20,060.00	\$ 8,783.51	\$ 15,641.00	-\$ 4,419.00
SPECIAL OFFERINGS					
Ash Wednesday	10.00	10.00	0.00	800.00	790.00
Christmas	395.00	600.00	-205.00		-600.00
Easter	350.00	580.00	-230.00		-580.00
Good Friday	10.67	10.00	0.67		-10.00
Initial	17.00	15.00	2.00		-15.00
Maundy Thursday	10.00	10.00	0.00		-10.00
Total SPECIAL OFFERINGS	\$ 792.67	\$ 1,225.00	-\$ 432.33	\$ 800.00	-\$ 425.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 230,178.44	\$ 209,423.00	\$ 20,755.44	\$ 214,807.00	\$ 5,384.00
Expenditures					
MISSION - BUILDING AND FACIL					
Cleaning Service	6,340.00	7,000.00	-660.00	7,800.00	800.00
Electric	3,688.19	4,000.00	-311.81	4,000.00	0.00
Gas	7,816.58	6,000.00	1,816.58	8,000.00	2,000.00
Insurance	11,446.25	11,392.00	54.25	12,400.00	1,008.00
Maintenance	9,461.10	14,000.00	-4,538.90	12,000.00	-2,000.00
Maintenance contracts	8,248.36	7,000.00	1,248.36	8,500.00	1,500.00
Maintenance Supplies	2,301.97	1,300.00	1,001.97	2,500.00	1,200.00
Snow Removal	2,405.00	2,500.00	-95.00	3,000.00	500.00
Trash Removal	911.28	875.00	36.28	950.00	75.00
Water	773.36	950.00	-176.64	950.00	0.00
Total MISSION - BUILDING AND FACIL	\$ 53,392.09	\$ 55,017.00	-\$ 1,624.91	\$ 60,100.00	\$ 5,083.00
MISSION - WORLD/COMMUNITY					
Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches	250.00	250.00	0.00	250.00	0.00
ELCA & Metro Chicago Synod	17,040.00	17,040.00	0.00	17,040.00	0.00

	2025 General Fund Actuals vs. Budget			2026 Proposal	
	YTD (Jan - Dec 2025) Actual	2025 Budget	over Budget	2026 DRAFT Budget	Difference with 2025 Budget
Interfaith Action Council	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00	0.00
Interfaith Family Pride Festival	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
Reconciling Works	250.00	250.00	0.00	250.00	0.00
Total MISSION - WORLD/COMMUNITY	\$ 19,240.00	\$ 19,240.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 19,240.00	\$ 0.00
MISSION - WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP					
Background checks	11.50	25.00	-13.50	25.00	0.00
Computer Services	624.00	1,200.00	-576.00	0.00	-1,200.00
Credit Card/Bank fees	25.00	100.00	-75.00	100.00	0.00
Evangelism	0.00	800.00	-800.00	1,000.00	200.00
Fellowship	458.68	500.00	-41.32	500.00	0.00
Misc. Expenses	100.00	200.00	-100.00	200.00	0.00
Music & Care/Worship Supplies	6,187.70	7,000.00	-812.30	7,000.00	0.00
Office Supplies and equipment	3,535.89	7,000.00	-3,464.11	5,000.00	-2,000.00
Postage	429.00	400.00	29.00	500.00	100.00
Soc Min (includes Anti-Racism Task Force)	172.85	750.00	-577.15	750.00	0.00
Stewardship	146.80	200.00	-53.20	200.00	0.00
Sunday School Materials & Progr	311.48	500.00	-188.52	500.00	0.00
Synod Meeting Expense	729.00	750.00	-21.00	750.00	0.00
Technology Expense	2,584.95	1,900.00	684.95	4,200.00	2,300.00
Telephone	6,941.60	7,800.00	-858.40	3,000.00	-4,800.00
Youth Ministry	0.00	500.00	-500.00	500.00	0.00
Total WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP	\$ 22,258.45	\$ 29,625.00	-\$ 7,366.55	\$ 24,225.00	-\$ 5,400.00
Salaries & Taxes					
Director of Music	22,047.00	22,047.00	0.00	22,708.41	661.41
Housing Allowance	36,000.00	37,440.00	-1,440.00	36,000.00	-1,440.00
Organist	16,791.96	16,792.00	-0.04	17,295.72	503.72
Parish Administrator	20,499.96	20,500.00	-0.04	21,114.96	614.96
Pastor	45,611.04	44,171.00	1,440.04	52,060.00	7,889.00
Pastor's Disability	264.96	255.00	9.96	276.00	21.00
Pastor's FICA	6,720.96	6,721.00	-0.04	7,251.74	530.74
Social Security - Other Staff	4,539.48	4,884.00	-344.52	4,675.61	-208.39
Total SALARIES & TAXES	\$ 152,475.36	\$ 152,810.00	-\$ 334.64	\$ 161,382.44	\$ 8,572.44

	2025 General Fund Actuals vs. Budget			2026 Proposal	
	YTD (Jan - Dec 2025) Actual	2025 Budget	over Budget	2026 DRAFT Budget	Difference with 2025 Budget
Salaries - Other					
Car Allowance	494.69	750.00	-255.31	600.00	-150.00
Health & Life Insurance	23,060.64	23,054.00	6.64	19,530.00	-3,524.00
Health Savings Account - Pastor	900.00	750.00	150.00	1,000.00	250.00
Pension - Pastor	8,833.20	8,833.00	0.20	9,531.17	698.17
Prof Allowance - Dir of Music	0.00	250.00	-250.00	250.00	0.00
Professional Allowance - Pastor	375.00	750.00	-375.00	750.00	0.00
Vacation	1,717.20	3,978.00	-2,260.80	3,478.00	-500.00
Worker's Comp Insurance	1,129.25	1,272.00	-142.75	1,272.00	0.00
Total OTHER SALARIES	\$ 36,509.98	\$ 39,637.00	-\$ 3,127.02	\$ 36,411.17	-\$ 3,225.83
Total MISSION - WORSHIP/FELLOWSHIP	\$ 211,243.79	\$ 222,072.00	-\$ 10,828.21	\$ 222,018.61	-\$ 53.39
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 283,875.88	\$ 296,329.00	-\$ 12,453.12	\$ 301,358.61	\$ 5,029.61
NET OPERATING REVENUE	-\$ 53,697.44	-\$ 86,906.00	\$ 33,208.56	-\$ 86,551.61	\$ 354.39

**PRELIMINARY Fund Balances
December 2025**

INVESTED FUNDS

	01/01/2025 Beginning Balance	2025 Capital Gains / (Losses)	2025 Dividends & Interest	2025 Donations	2025 Expense	Byline checking Acct.	12/31/2025 Ending Balance
NOT DONOR-DESIGNATED							
16 Endowment Fund	251,268.03	20,388.89	7,090.09		-45,000.00		233,747.01
26 Housing Fund	<u>237,094.87</u>	19,597.37	6,816.93				<u>263,509.17</u>
	488,362.90						497,256.18
DONOR-DESIGNATED							
21 Stark Fund	84,991.80	6,531.51	2,482.31		-2,000.00	1,200.97	93,206.59
31 Music Endowment Fund	296,765.12	16,406.06	5,232.01	7,545.00	-144,000.00	-27,015.34 *	154,932.85

*Owed to checking acct

**NON-INVESTED
FUNDS****

	01/01/2025 Beginning Balance			2025 Donations / Income	2025 Expense	Loans Outstanding	12/31/2025 Ending Balance
1 General Fund	-25,716.45	--	--	230,178.44	283,875.88		-79,413.89
2 Transfer Payments	1,139.23	--	--	1,577.50	2,165.00		551.73
3 Youth Ministry	4,629.26	--	--	0.00	0.00		4,629.26
4 Special Music (Closed)	-1,370.06	--	--	0.00	0.00		-1,370.06
5 Sunday School Projects	1,882.64	--	--	0.00	0.00		1,882.64
6 Soup Kitchen	712.82	--	--	0.00	0.00		712.82
8 Cafe Immanuel	1,151.82	--	--	0.00	0.00		1,151.82
9 Improvements Fund	-59,296.85	--	--	11,300.00	3,069.09	-64,930.00	-51,065.94
10 Fagerstrom Fund	5,273.81	--	--	4,395.77	880.11		8,789.47
11 Memorial Fund	16,766.34	--	--	1,020.00	0.00		17,786.34
12 Solar Panels	-1,114.06	--	--	24,659.19	0.00	-32,500.00	23,545.13
32 Thrivent Invest. Settlement	218.22	--	--	81.78	0.00		300.00
36 Social Ministry Special	1,003.00	--	--	1,789.00	1,795.00		997.00
41 Members in Need	1,295.69	--	--	0.00	0.00		1,295.69
42 Sanctuary Improvement	-150,717.50	--	--	3,000.00	0.00	-129,651.82	-147,717.50
43 Food Ministry	<u>7,985.45</u>	--	--	<u>6,159.71</u>	<u>6,054.55</u>		<u>8,090.61</u>
	-196,156.64	--	--	284,161.39	297,839.63	-227,081.82	-209,834.88

** These non-invested funds are on paper only and they do not reflect additional assets, because there is generally little or no cash in the checking account to cover them. Future expenditures from these funds will require reducing the Endowment and Housing Fund investments, unless additional donations are received.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

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.

Founded on Faith



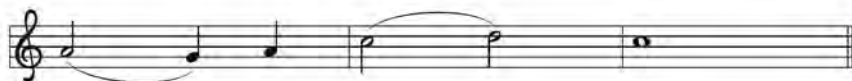
1 Found - ed on faith, the church— a - live by grace—
2 Your cross, O Christ, re - news our life each day.
3 E - quipped by prayer, we live the Spir - it's call.
4 Grow - ing in grace for God's cre - at - ed earth,
5 Found - ed on faith, called forth, em - pow' red to serve,



pro - claims the gos - pel here and ev - 'ry place.
Bap - tized in you, we learn and teach and pray.
Em - pow' red to serve with gifts, both great and small,
we yearn for jus - tice, peace, and hu - man worth;
we share God's end - less love with - out re - serve.



The word of God re - sounds through time and space:
Fed by your love, with thank - ful hearts, we say:
we bring the liv - ing hope of God to all.
a world re - stored; a faith - ful, car - ing church.
Then let us shout a - loud the liv - ing Word!



Al - le - lu - ia!

All Creation Sings, 1048

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THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY, GOD IS AT WORK ACROSS THE ELCA.

MISSION SUPPORT

A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice.

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Part of our church's long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger testifies to our hope for and commitment to God's promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. ELCA World Hunger walks alongside communities in more than 60 countries — including the United States — to create unique solutions to hunger and poverty.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

WHERE NEEDED MOST

Where Needed Most supports the powerful ways we work together around the world — supporting leaders, inspiring young people, fueling ministries and championing global mission. Gifts to Where Needed Most support and sustain the people, congregations, synods and ministries working around the world to realize the hope-filled future God promises.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Sign up to hear more stories of impact from the ELCA churchwide organization at [ELCA.org/subscribe](https://www.elca.org/subscribe).

Read about Mission Support and learn more at [LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA](https://www.livinglutheran.org/SOFIA).