

Immanuel Lutheran Church

July 25, 2021

General Meeting of the Congregation



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Our Mission and Vision Statements

Mission Statement

We are a fellowship of believers committed to live and share God's love by serving our community and the world.

Vision Statement

We gather as believers who seek to grow in faith through worship, education and welcoming fellowship.

We seek to share God's love with the community through word and deed.

We extend Christ's love in service to our community and our world.

July 25, 2021 General Meeting of the Congregation

- 1) Call Meeting to Order
- 2) Opening prayer by Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras
- 3) Approval of January 26, 2020 Minutes
- 4) Business of the Church
 - a) Pastor's Report
 - b) Treasurer's Report
 - c) Committee Reports
- 5) Other Business
 - a) Election
 - b) Approval of Actions of Council during the Pandemic
 - c) Q&A
 - d)
 - e)
- 6) Closing Prayer by Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras

Immanuel Lutheran Church Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes - Sunday January 20, 2020

Council members present:

President Bob Henning, vice-president Linda Hulstrom, treasurer Matt Munson, secretary Mike Steltenpohl, financial secretary Patti Busche, Pastor Niveen Sarras, education Judy Nickolai, evangelism Janci Treutel, property Jerry Nickolai, stewardship Rick Lohr, worship Judy Kort.

Council members absent: None

Congregation members present: The 47 congregation members present all signed the roster sheet attached to these minutes.

1. The meeting was called to order by president Bob Henning at 10:30am.
2. The opening prayer was led by Pastor Viveen Sarras at 10:32am.
3. The minutes of the May 19, 2019 semi-annual meeting were read by Linda because they were not printed in the handout packets. A motion was made by Joanne Diestelhorst to accept the minutes and a second was made by Jerry Nickolai. Motion passed.
3. Reports and business of the church
 - a. Presidents report - printed in the handout.
 - b. Pastors report - Pastor Niveen presented her report that is printed in the handout and noted that we have added 2 new members.
 - c. Linda Hulstrom noted that there is approximately \$14,000 remaining on the loan for the 629 Hamilton lot.
 - d. Financial secretary report - Patti stated that the numbers of the financial secretary report match those of the treasurers report.
 - e. Treasurer report - Matt Munson presented the ILC Current Position and Designated Funds 2019 year-end reports as well as the ILC 2019 church budget of income and expenses. Matt also presented the 2020 operating budget report for congregational approval and offered clarifications and

answered questions. Janci Treutel thanked Judy Kort for the music she provides and that she doesn't take pay for all of it. Mike Steltenpohl noted to the congregation that we are leaving an amount in the budget for choir director and choir accompanist even though Judy Kort doesn't accept any salary for those positions. A motion was made by Bob Reinertson to accept the 2020 budget and a second was made by Harlan Grinde. Motion passed.

f. Audit report - Bob stated that the audit committee consisting of Kari Solomonson, Joy Karnitz, and Jackie Loos looked over all the financial statements for 2018 and verbally stated that everything looked in order but they will be providing a written report to the church council for approval.

g. Rick Lohr stated that the Stewardship committee is looking into ways the reduce the cost to manage Simply Giving and also looking at how they can reduce the cost of envelopes and the postage to send out those envelopes, when many are not being used.

h. Correction to the committee chairpersons listed in the handout - the committee chairperson for the scholarship committee is Kari Solomonson / not Jamie Rice-Heckendorf. It was also clarified that the usher coordinator is a sub-committee of the worship committee of which Judy Kort is the chairperson.

i. A reminder that the west and north doors need to be left open after the first service on the first Sunday of each month, so that entry is available to those attending the 11:00am service.

j. Bob Henning noted that the church council is working on various policies pertaining to same sex members or employees, same sex marriage requests, and how to handle church owned or donated items that are no longer being used at ILC.

k. Harlan Grinde reminded members that with fewer people in the congregation - more needs to be done by a fewer number of people. He thanked all those that do volunteer their time at ILC.

4. A motion was made by Janci Treutel to adjourn the meeting and a second was made by Bob Reinertson. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:03am.

5. Closing devotion was held by all members saying the Lord's Prayer.

2020-2021 Members of the Church Council

Bob Henning (2017-2021)	President
Linda Hulstrom (2021)	Vice-President
Matthew Munson (2018-2021)	Treasurer
Vacant	Secretary
Patti Busche (2017-2021)	Financial Secretary
Judy Nickolai	Education
Judy Kort	Evangelism
Sally Scinto-Reinertson	Property
Kathy Knox	Social Concerns
Rick Lohr	Stewardship
Judy Kort	Worship
Vacant	Youth

Committee Chairpersons

Jamie Rice-Heckendorf	Adult Library
Dwala Smail	Altar Guild
Jane Reilly-Smith, Marie Wierzba	Crossways Camping Ministry
Bob Reinertson	Endowment
Janci Treutel	Greater Wausau Christian Services
Vacant	Homme Home
Mary McDonell (Treasurer)	Immanuel Lutheran Church Women
Kari Solomonson	Scholarship
Judy Kort	Usher Coordinator

Personnel

Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras	Pastor
Jackie Loos	Administrative Assistant
Matthew Munson	Bookkeeper
Judy Kort	Organist
Karen Zuidema	Piano Accompanist
Jill Preston	Indoor Custodian

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Wausau, Wisconsin Annual Meeting Minutes

2020-2021 Church Council President's Report

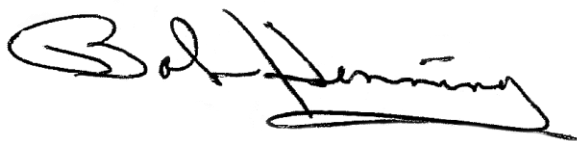
Greetings from the President,

It has indeed been a blessing for me to work with the great church council members we have from this church. I thank them for their commitment to serve this congregation. Any member of the congregation is welcome to join us at any Church Council meeting they wish.

I am happy to report that even with the pandemic our giving has stayed ahead of our expenses. As you look through the budget for 2021, I hope you will see that it is close to the 2020 budget. The church council will continue to look at ways to cut expenses or raise revenues to provide the best services for the congregation.

A special thank you goes out to Pastor and Jackie for the hard work of learning and growing that they put in to keep all the services and needs to the members of this congregation moving forward. We had many tough decisions to make, but make them we did, as a team, with all the interests and safety of members in mind. Welcome back to in-person worship.

It is hard for me to believe that 4+ years have passed and my term as president of ILC is coming to an end. It has been a great time for me in learning, growing and new experiences. I can't thank the congregation enough for the trust, faith and support you gave to me during the past 4+ year. See you down the road. God's Grace and Peace be with you.



Bob (Robert) J. Henning
ILC Council President

2020-2021 Church Council Vice-President's Report

This certainly has been a year full of new surprises and learning for us all.

Most recently, having to research and read a lot about Covid 19 and how we can help our congregation function and when we will be able to safely get together again.

In the meantime, I asked Bob Henning to install a secure mailbox I purchased so that we all can drop off our Giving envelopes whenever it is convenient for us, just outside the church office entrance. He did a great job of securing it through the concrete block. Thanks Bob! Mary McDonnell takes it from there. I have had personal employee interviews with both Jackie Loos our Administrator, who has been a great asset to our front office as well as helping Rev. Dr. Niveen in the technical aspects of our being online for Services and supporting Pastor in the office. We owe her many thanks for her outstanding work.

Jill Preston our Cleaning technician has continued to work even though this COVID-19 pandemic to keep ILC a healthy environment. In addition, she has cleaned the stove in the kitchen and hand scrubbed the kitchen floor, you will be pleasantly surprised, I'm sure.

Matt Munson our Bookkeeper and Treasurer has been diligently working on keeping our financial affairs in order. Many Thanks Matt.

As we did not have a Social Concerns chairperson this year, I did step in to see that we were fulfilling our responsibilities for the year, at Presbyterian church for the Community Dinners.

As normal, we had enough volunteers from ILC to offer these meals. Thank you all for helping serve our community. "Our hands God's work".

Since the meal we provided April 26th, was donated by Lee's Famous chicken and the milk provided by Graykowski's dairy, I volunteered to do another meal on May 17 for a group who could not do their meal. We did provide a meal from Lee's Famous chicken again as they were so generous to us and provided us with the bags which made it handy to hand out meals during this time of the pandemic. Graykowski Dairy again provided us with a donation of milk. Bless

them. We learned that we were able to easily provide this meal with just 3 people as the meals were boxed offsite and we only needed to bag them with prepackaged treats and milk. Handouts were outside the church by drive up or walk up, to keep our social distancing. This meal was provided through a \$250.00 donation from Thrivent Financial that Joanne Diestelhorst obtained. Thanks so much Joanne!

I'm still hoping to have an antique sale at the church in the fall, but time will tell. The purpose of the sale is to support our Youth fund for Crossways Camping. We would only ask for one or two antique items per member as a donation, so please give this some thought if your spring cleaning.

Prayerfully,

Linda Hulstrom

Rev. Dr. Niveen's Report to the Congregation for July 2021

Dear Beloved Church,

Grace and peace to you. This year and a half have been a blessing and challenging year for our congregation. I thank God, through Jesus Christ, for both the blessing time and the challenging time. The blessing times are many, even though sometimes we do not pay attention because we are busy focusing on challenging times in our church and life. I have learned to look for God's blessings in all events in my life. For example, God has blessed me with a new confirmation class and new opportunities to use my teaching skills beyond my congregation. I am impressed to witness how the leaders of our church have been rising above challenges. For instance, the Altar Guild group worked with the congregation and me to address the decrease in the number of members in the group and the need to provide Holy Communion. I was glad that they decided to use the intinction for the third Sunday service. The congregation accepted this idea despite changes in the ILC Holy Communion tradition. But because of the coronavirus pandemic, providing Holy Communion was a great challenge. The church council decided to give the body of Christ without the blood of Christ during worship in person. I mailed only the body of Christ to those who cannot come to church. Since most of us are vaccinated and able to worship in person as before the pandemic, the church council decided to provide the blood of Christ in cups to prevent transmitting germs.

Another challenge we faced was keeping social distance, which led to closing our church for public worship. It is a blessing to see our church rise to this challenge, which affirmed to me that God is present in our life. Jackie and I have been working very hard to provide a worship service to our congregation at home. We created videos and used all media channels available to us to reach as many members as we can. We have created a YouTube channel for ILC, and we continue to use Facebook and Charter Channel 980. We also reached out to the radio station 550 AM to communicate with those who do not have internet or cable service at home. We found that using the radio service is very costly. We communicated with local TV stations like FOX WZAW and 7 WSAW.TV, which also turned out to be very expensive. Jackie and I used a telephone program, Twilio, to upload my

weekly sermon and make it available to the congregation by giving them a number to call and listen to the sermon. Unfortunately, the congregation is not interested in this service. However, my weekly sermons are uploaded on our website. I still mail the bulletin to our congregation, particularly to those who asked for hardcopy or do not have access to media.

Our administrative assistant, Jackie Loos, has played an essential part in creating worship videos and using the media to deliver the word of God to our church members. I am very grateful to Jackie's sacrifice and dedication to our ministry. I am also thankful to our Caring Tree Committee, who checked on the members of our church and provided updates updating our office of their needs.

I would like to quote Judy Kort's statement from her report:

“WE HAVE PREVAILED

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

BIBLE STUDIES AND ADULT FORUM

July 14: Adult Forum. Pastor Niveen led a discussion with the congregation on “A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment.” The ELCA churchwide assembly approved this policy statement in August.

July 28, 2019: Bible Study on “the prophetess Miriam.”

October-November 2019: The Forgotten Luther II: Reclaiming the Church's Public Witness.

The schedule and topics are the following:

February 9, 2020: Adult Forum on *How Do We Distribute Holy Communion in the ELCA?* Rev. Sarras used two ELCA documents: 1. Worship Resources: Frequently Asked Questions, and 2. Principles for Worship. This adult forum allowed the congregation to ask questions about our Immanuel Lutheran Church practices and traditions on how to distribute Holy Communion.

Lenten Bible Study: five sessions on studying “*No Wonder They Crucified Him: Discover why Jesus was a dangerous man.*” by Christianity Today (Editor), Christian Bible Studies (Editor).

April 29, 2020: Pastor Niveen has completed a Bible study on Martin Luther’s article, “Whether One May Flee From A Deadly Plague.” It is available in video on our website, our YouTube channel, and Facebook.

Weekly devotional: Pastor Niveen shared a weekly video devotional on our website in the Video Gallery each Wednesday based on the book, “Where is God in a Coronavirus World?” by John C. Lennox. Each devotion was about 10 minutes and lasted for six weeks.

January 17, 2021: Virtual Adult Forum: ELCA “Social Message on Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy.”

January-May 2021: Virtual Confirmation Class with Pilgrim Lutheran church.

March-April 2021: Four Virtual Session Bible Studies for Lent—No wonder they crucified him.

Sunday School Children received Lent materials in the mail to guide them through the Lenten Journey.

EVENTS

August 5-10, 2019: Pastor Niveen attended the churchwide assembly in Milwaukee, WI. And lead Bible Study on the Prophetess Miriam.

August 20-23, 2019: Pastor Niveen was in Baltimore, MD, attending Congregational Vitality Training.

September 8, 2019: *God’s Work. Our Hands.* Our service activity was to assemble a Blessing Bags for the Homeless.

September 23, 2019: Thrivent Event: Thrivent offered a brief presentation on how planned giving can work for participants and their charities.

We had three Wednesday Advent Service at 1 pm & 6 pm with Holy Communion by intinction.

December 22, 2019: Christmas Songfest Service (Carols & Candles) and children program.

February 16, 2020: LSS Sunday. Our guest was Sarah Halstead, Church Relations Liaison for Lutheran Social Services. Sarah shared with us how our donations to Lutheran Social Services impact so many lives. Sarah preached and led the adult forum.

February 18 – February 21, 2020: Pastor Niveen was in San Diego, CA, attending Congregational Vitality Training.

February 26, 2020: Ash Wednesday at Immanuel Lutheran Church at 1:00 pm with The Distribution of Ashes and celebrated Holy Communion.

Round Robin Midweek Lenten Series: Making Change. The sessions were interrupted by COVID-19 pandemic and social distance. I completed the rest of the worship services on FACEBOOK.

March 8, 2021: Pastor Sarras was one of the Panelists for ELCA International Women's Day Benefit with our Presiding Bishop Eaton.

April 22, 2021: Pastor Sarras participated in leading an educational zoom meeting to celebrate The National Arab American Heritage Month. She talked about the identity of Arab Christians.

April 26-30, 2021: Pastor Sarras accepted an invitation from Augsburg Lutheran Seminary in Mexico and the Vice President of the Church Council of the Lutheran Church in Mexico to participate in symposiums. She discussed the book of Joshua.

May 14th & 15th, 2021: Pastor Sarras attended Virtual Synod Assembly. Al & Vonnie Solomonson represented the ILC.

ECUMENICAL EVENTS

November 27, 2019: ILC hosted the annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service. Rev. Jennifer Hoffman (was absent), the Pastor of St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Msgr. Mark Pierce, the Pastor of Saint Michael Catholic Church and The Church of the Resurrection. Pastor Sarras preached.

February 14-15, 2020. First United Methodist Church invited our youth to the Youth Lock-In (Grades 6-12). Activities included Nerf battle, role-playing games, and cookie decorating. Bob Henning participated in the event as a chaperon.

February 26, 2020: Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Service with Distribution of Ashes and Holy Communion at Grace United Church of Christ. Our church joined Grace United Church of Christ, First United Methodist Church, and First Presbyterian Church in observing Ash Wednesday.

February 17, 2021:Virtual Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Service. Our church joined Grace United Church of Christ, First United Methodist Church and First Presbyterian Church in observing Ash Wednesday. Five pastors led the service Jackie and Pastor Sarras were responsible for producing the video for the four congregations to watch online and on Charter Cable Channel 980. Also, ashes and Holy Communion were mailed to ILC congregation.

March 17, 2021. Pastor Sarras led a midweek Lenten worship service at St. Michael Catholic Church.

MISCELLANEOUS

Confirmation class is a three-year process. We have so far three students. We gathered students from Pilgrim, Immanuel, and St. Stephen Lutheran Churches. Vicar Will and I explored the Bible. COVID-19 has interrupted our class. We resumed in September 2020 through zoom and finished the first two years on May 2021. We will continue the last year in Fall 2021.

Worship Services has been online and TV. Jackie and I have been working very hard to create videos with good quality. I want service is available on Charter Cable Channel 980 at 11:00 am on Sunday or YouTube, Facebook, and on our website.

Pre-recording service was a time consuming. Thank God, we no longer do it.

We had five virtual Midweek Lenten Services.

Holy Week was both in-person and virtual.

The theme for the midweek and the Holy Week Lent services was “RETURN TO

THE LORD.”

PUBLICATIONS

“Jesus Was a Palestinian Jew—Not White.” *Living Lutheran*, April 1, 2021.

“Refuting the Violent Image of God in the Book of Joshua 6-12.” In *The (De)legitimization of Violence in Sacred and Human Contexts*, edited by Muhammad Shafiq and Thomas Donlin-Smith, 63-84. Palgrave Macmillan, 2021.

“A Message of Solidarity: A Palestinian Interpretation of the Nativity.” *Living Lutheran*, December 25, 2020.

“The Messianic Reign in Isaiah 11 a Message to Foster Children Post-Traumatic Growth: 1-10.” *Journal of Lutheran Ethics* 20, no. 6 (10/01/2020). <https://www.elca.org/JLE/Articles/1345>.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'N. Sarras', with a horizontal line underneath.

Rev. Dr. Niveen Ibrahim Sarras

2020-2021 Adult Library Report

Committee Chairperson: Jamie Rice-Heckendorf
Member: Jamie Rice-Heckendorf

No report.

2020-2021 Altar Guild Report

Committee Chairperson: Dwala Smail
Secretary: Sally Johnson
Treasurer: Kathy Knox
Corresponding Secretary: Joanne Diestelhorst

No report.

2020-2021 Crossways Camping Ministry Report

Representatives: Jane Reilly-Smith

The MISSION of Crossways Camping Ministries is: *“Bringing people together in Christ so lives are changed and communities enhanced.”* In everything we do, or Mission is our focus. We strive to provide “Quality, Faith-Empowered Programming” that leads to DISCOVERY of a faithful Savior, a deeper faith, a stronger sense of identity and strengthened connections with friends, family, community, congregations and creation.

Visit them online: www.crosswayscamps.org

Email them: info@crosswayscamps.org

Give them a call: (920) 882-0023

Camping ministry offers a unique opportunity to pull people out of their busy, hectic lives and allow them to truly disconnect from the buzz of their daily routine and reconnect with their faith. The relative quiet of camp leaves space for true rejuvenation through immersion in the beauty and awe of God’s creation. Some of the camp programs and retreats being offered this year include Youth Programs (1st through 12th grades), Youth Leadership Training Programs, Confirmation Camp and Mission Week, Family Programs, Grandparent KID Camp, Camp for Persons with Autism, etc.

Why is camp so powerful? The Effective Camp Research Project has found the following to be true:

1. Camp doesn't end when the week is over. Research shows that it has lasting effect.
2. 97% of those attending a Christian summer camp like ours report they had fun!
3. Kids report that by growing in faith and camp, it helps them in their daily life back home.
4. The 5 Fundamentals of effective camps are Faith Centered, Safe Space, Participatory, Unplugged from Home, and Relational.

Thank you to Immanuel Lutheran Church and the ILC Women for financially supporting Crossways Camping Ministries. This summer the ILC Women will help sponsor three children attending camp.

What can you do to help Crossways?

1. Pray for the organization, staff, volunteers and participants.
2. Attend Camp yourself with family and friends... AND invite others!
3. Volunteer at one of the Camps; get involved with the Board of Directors or one of the standing committees.
4. Provide a financial donation or donate items needed.
5. SAVE THE DATE and join the fun at the Annual Crossways Camping Ministries Harvest Gala on November 2, 2019 at Liberty Hall in Kimberly, WI
6. Go to the website for information on Thrivent Action Teams and Thrivent Choice dollars to benefit Crossways.
7. Visit smile.amazon.com and select Crossways Lutheran Camping Ministries as your charity.

Thank you for supporting Crossways!

For more information feel free to contact Crossways:

912 N Oneida Street, Appleton, WI 54911

Phone: 920-882-0023 Fax: 920-882-9474

ILC Crossway News: **Confirmation Class Camp**

On February 16, 2021, the Church Council decided to launch a campaign to raise

funds for our confirmation class to attend confirmation camp this summer. The congregation raised \$1,100, which means we met our goal. We have two camp participants: Grace and Emily Kallio. Thank you for your contributions! The church and the participants are very grateful.

Our beloved children, Grace and Emily Kallio will attend the conformation class camp at Waypost from Sunday afternoon, July 11 until Friday, July 16, 2021. Pastor Sarras will be away from office to join them.

2020-2021 Education Committee Annual Report

Committee Chairperson: Judy Nickolai (Pastor Sarras)

Committee Members: Jamie Rice-Heckendorf and Joanne Diestelhorst

Pastor Niveen took responsibility for the Education Committee during the Pandemic and mailed the Sunday School students materials to help them to grow in faith such as materials about Reformation, Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. She also emailed the Sunday School children online resources to use for certain Sundays. Pastor Niveen will resume the Children's' Ministry in September 2021.

2020-2021 Endowment Committee Report

Committee Chairperson: Bob Reinertson

Committee Members: Jo Bonstead, Adam Doede, Jack Fabry (Deceased)

2020 Events:

The Endowment Committee received one request for funding during 2020, for reimbursement of the cost of purchasing higher quality equipment for filming church services and weekly devotionals, prompted by the pandemic. The Committee disbursed \$142.98 for this, which was the balance remaining after application of a grant received from the ELCA.

Endowment Fund assets increased by 12.3% during the 2020 calendar year. As of June 29, 2021, assets had increased by 8.6% since January 1, 2021, to \$112,583.79.

We mourn the passing of long-time Committee member, Jack Fabry. Jack was an active and valuable member of the Committee for many years, and had a keen interest in the health of the Endowment Fund. He will be sorely missed.

Future Goals and Objectives:

The ILC Endowment Fund is a permanent invested fund, and a portion of the earnings on the Fund each year may be distributed “for religious purposes which enhance congregational life at Immanuel”. The Committee will accept grant requests through September 30, 2021. According to the ILC Bylaws, distributions from the Fund may not exceed 5% of total Fund assets.

2020-2021 Evangelism Committee Report

Committee Chairperson: Vacant

Committee Member: None

This report was originally submitted by Janci Treutel, then Committee Chair, for the May 2020 report.

Accomplishments and Activities (with a host of support, guidance and work from the members of Immanuel Lutheran Church)

- A Songfest Sunday worship service was held filled with favorite hymns requested by members and directed by Judy Kort. Many thanks, Judy!
- Partnered with God’s Work, Our Hands Project, preparing over 50 Blessings bag kits that were distributed at the Wausau warming shelter and The Neighbor’s Place
- Collected warm weather gear in our annual Mitten Tree Project for distribution to needy families and children.
- Held a Soup and Suds ILC event to combine the fellowship of a soup and bread supper with a craft class for making liquid dish soap for use at ILC and bar soap distributed to homebound and senior living center resident ILC members. Many thanks, Jackie and Pastor Niveen!
- Prepared and distributed bags of popcorn to invite, welcome and thank visitors to join us for worship at ILC.

- Held family bingo entertainment at the ILC Annual Church Picnic.
- Maintained personal contact with our members through regular phone calls via a calling tree during the state's shelter at home period. Special thanks to all members of the Care Team who gave of their time each week to make those calls!
- Future Goals And Objectives
- Explore opportunities that result in adding members to the Evangelism Committee.
- Continue projects and activities to integrate faith and life.

Respectfully submitted by Janci Treutel

2020-2021 Greater Wausau Christian Services Report

Name of Committee: Greater Wausau Christian Services

Representative for Immanuel Lutheran Church: Janci Treutel

Accomplishments

Future Goals and Objectives

No Report.

2020-2021 Homme Home Report

No report.

2020-2021 Immanuel Lutheran Church Women Report

2020 Report

Members: All Women of Immanuel

Treasurer: Mary McDonell

Circle Leaders: Claudette Harring, Dorcas Circle;
Vonnie Solomonson & Mary McDonell, Sarah Circle

2020 Financial Statement

Receipts

Memorial Gifts	120.00
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Disbursements

Equal Exchange	192.00
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Lutheran World Relief	200.00
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Gather Magazine for Church	20.00
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Monetary Staff Gifts	125.00
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Salvation Army	100.00
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Neighbors Place	100.00
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Balance December 31, 2020

Checking Account \$	915.08
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Savings Account	\$3,138.82
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Mary McDonell, Treasurer

2020-2021 Properties Committee Report

Committee Chairperson: Sally Scinto-Reinertson

Committee Members: Al Solomonson, Floyd Hallberg, Bruce & Kathy Knox,
Dan Westaby, Holly Westaby, Judy Nickolai, and Jamie
Rice-Heckendorf

As Properties Chair, my first obligation is to thank my committee members, as they have done more for this church and this congregation than I have. Special thanks to Al Solomonson for keeping a close eye on this church, mitigating emergencies, & reporting back, and to Jackie for not only making me aware of

physical issues here at Immanuel, but for contacting & scheduling needed repairs & inspections. Also, great thanks to President Bob Henning for always trying to save us money by attempting to try to fix it himself first!

Issues this year that have taken priority was the need for replacement of two of our circulating pumps at a cost of \$5100. Two reoccurring issues are the freezing of the sink in the Acolyte bathroom during winter and the leaking of the roof.

The freezing of the sink causes leaking; because the drainpipe is on an uninsulated, outside wall, the standing water in the airlock below the sink freezes, rendering the sink unusable & the drain vulnerable to bursting. The least costly solution for the bathroom is to shut off the water to the sink before fall freeze, blow out the drain, & mark it out of order during cold weather months.

The roof is scheduled to be repaired/ patched soon (with full warranty coverage) at a cost of \$3000, so hopefully that will resolve that issue. It has been held up because of rain on scheduled workdays. The plaster that has fallen inside as a result still needs repair and we are currently looking for a plaster specialist.

Also, the pilot lights on the stove have been replaced at a cost of \$100. Thanks to Al & Vonnie Solomonson for noticing the gas smell & reporting back to the Committee.

Future issues that will need attention are always a concern, always a constant, but cannot be predicted. From the boiler to the roof, we will do our best to keep things running at Immanuel!

Regards,

Sally Scinto-Reinertson

2020-2021 Scholarship Committee Report

Committee Chairperson: Kari Solomonson

Committee Members: Joyce Lohr, Cathy Groethe, Jamie Rice-Heckendorf

No Report.

2020-2021 Social Concerns Report

Committee Chairperson: Vacant

Committee Members: Joanne Diestelhorst, Judy Nickolai, Linda Hulstrom,
Judy McGill

2020-2021 Accomplishments:

No Report.

2020-2021 Stewardship Committee Report

Committee Chairperson: Rick Lohr

Committee Members: Rick Lohr, Jim Stolen, Wayne Kallio, Ben Harring, Tom
McDonell

We are thankful for our congregation's continued devotion to the financial stability of Immanuel Lutheran Church. This is especially true through the unsettled period of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Our 2020 stewardship campaign was based on the theme "Keep the Faith". We had a good response with 57 estimated giving cards returned for \$101,344. We are preparing for our 2021 campaign to build off that number. We encouraged members to convert to "Bill Pay" through their local bank or credit union to save fees paid to Vanco. That has been a success.

Immanuel Lutheran church is in a sound financial position and we encourage a your continued generosity in our stewardship efforts. Thank you for your contributions to the mission of Immanuel Lutheran through the pandemic!

Stewardship: Rick Lohr (chair), Tom McDonell, Ben Harring, Jim Stolen, Wayne Kallio

2020-2021 Usher Coordinator Report

No Report.

2020-2021 Worship Committee Report

Committee Chairperson: Judy Kort

Committee Members: Thelma Bursik, Joanne Diestelhorst, Joyce Lohr, Mary McDonell,
Dwala Smail

5 May 2020

Our committee and the congregation continue to appreciate and enjoy the leadership and efforts of Pastor Niveen. We appreciate her guidance.

At the close of summer, we bid farewell to Marino Taylor, who has served Immanuel for many years with his music. Marino is blessed with many fine qualities and talents. We continue to hold him in our hearts and prayers. We have been blessed to have Karen Zuidema help us out with her very fine piano work and also singing voice.

Last May a second service was added to the first Sunday of the month. This is a slightly abbreviated service, but with communion, held at 11:00 in the chapel. This is a benefit for some people who find it difficult to be at the 9:00 service.

This service was initiated on a trial basis. Attendance has varied--and sometimes depending on weather conditions, also. Continuation of this service will be under discussion when services at church resume on a "normal" (?) basis.

In September Evangelism (Janci) and Worship (Judy) combined efforts with Pastor Niveen to coordinate a Rally type Sunday. It was a service filled with many hymns--selected by the congregation and filled with the gusto of voices in song that is so much a part of the Lutheran tradition.

Once again, the veterans were honored at the November coffee hour time. This is always a special moment and a touching time.

Immanuel also hosted the Thanksgiving Eve service, complete with pie social after the service. A huge thanks to Linda Hulstrum and all who lent a hand to help. The service was led by Pastor Niveen and Father Mark, and included St. Stephen, St. Michael's and the Church of the Resurrection.

There were three Wednesday services for Advent, with the third Wednesday being the Blue Christmas service. This is a special service for people who may be in grief

at this time but is also for everyone giving a reassurance that God is ever present in our lives. Advent services were held only during the afternoon time.

A Candle and Carols service was also held on Sunday morning right before Christmas. This was another service of singing many of the songs for this Blessed Season and included the special program of the children and anthems from the choir and bell choir.

The Lenten Season was abbreviated this year due to the pandemic. Once again Immanuel was part of the round robin event with our area pastors sharing the pulpit at various churches. Ash Wednesday started with Pastor Niveen at Immanuel for the 1:00 service. That evening we were part of an ecumenical service held at Grace UCC church, to include the First Methodist and First Presbyterian Church, also. Some of our choir members were part of the combined choirs in 2 moving anthems for the season.

We had both afternoon and evening services with 2 of the visiting pastors. It is always special and enjoyable to have these guest pastors share their time and their sermons with us.

And this is where we are at the beginning of May--on temporary hold. Pastor Niveen still offers us a service, and we were able to finish the theme of Lent and to rejoice at the Easter service of the risen Lord.

Part 2

WE HAVE PREVAILED

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Pastor Niveen and Jackie gave their all -- their heart and soul -- to ensure that our spiritual needs were met during the pandemic and lock down. Countless hours and energy went into prepping for the services and taping the services.

If you recall, the services taped came from our chapel, from Rib Mountain, Pastor Niveen's garden, and Oak Island. (And how sure-footed was Pastor Niveen not to slip on the rocks and into the water at Oak Island.)

There were also the Wednesday devotional services: the goal of yoga being to calm and reassure people through the difficult times; the devotion of historical information of pandemics through the ages, and other topics.

They gave of themselves over and above for our spiritual needs. Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to them.

Many others looked out for the physical needs of the church.
And... we all continued to give our financial support to the church.

Because of the support, love, and encouragement from all-- the church has prevailed with the knowledge and belief that:

WE WILL CONTINUE TO PREVAIL AS A CHURCH.

Our church, Immanuel Lutheran, has been there for us through these dark and challenging times. We have been there for our church. I am reminded of an old gospel hymn:

*My church, my church, my dear old church; My father's and my own
On prophets and apostles built And Christ the cornerstone
All else beside by storm or tide may yet be over thrown,
But not my church, my dear old church, My father's and my own.*

(If interested, this hymn is found in the brown American Lutheran Hymnal on display on the top shelf in the gathering room, Hymn #27)

May God continue to send his Blessings to us all and to our church.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Kort

2020-2021 Youth Committee Report

Committee Chairperson: Vacant

No Report.