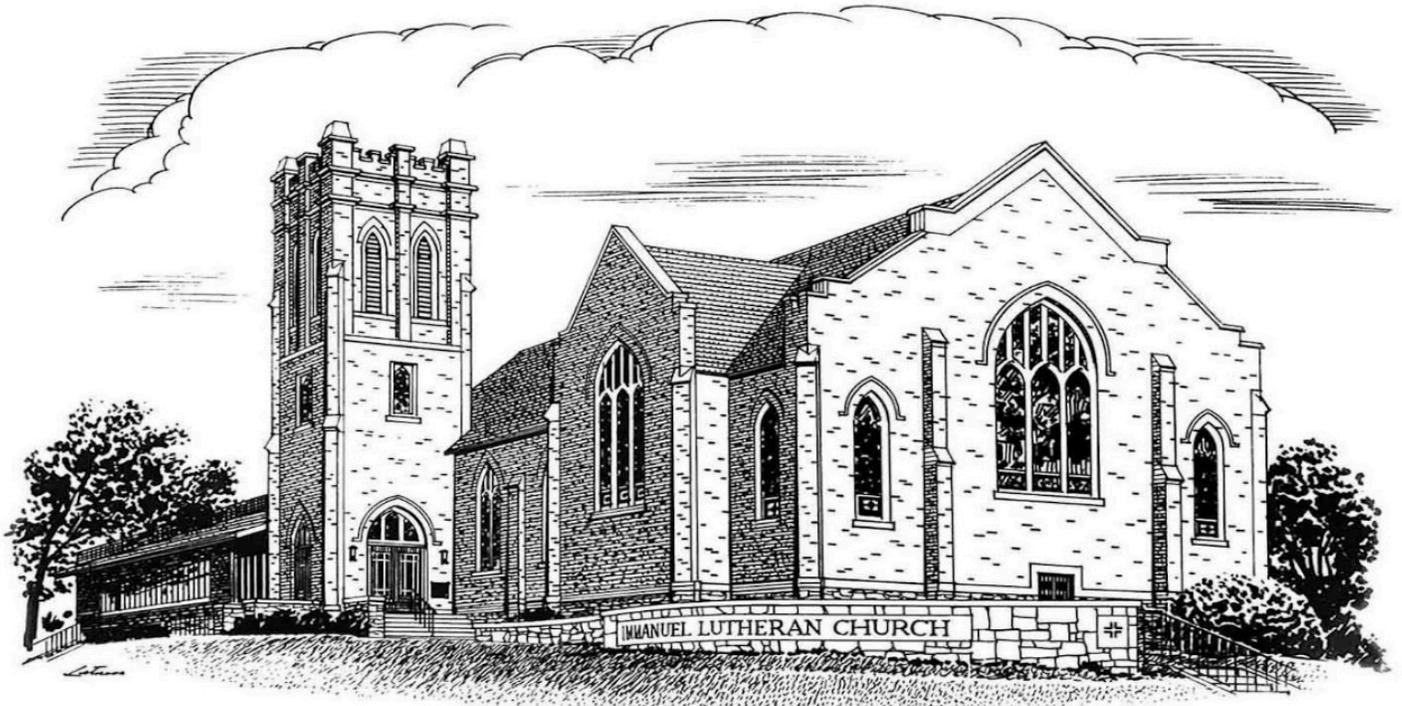


2025 Annual Report



Immanuel Lutheran Church
1700 Westport Road
Kansas City, Missouri
64111

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**Immanuel Lutheran Church
2026 Annual Meeting Agenda
February 22, 2026, 11:30 a.m.**

1. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum (10 percent of the voting members*)
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Opening Prayer
4. Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting
5. Reports
 - a) Congregation President
 - b) Pastor
 - c) Treasurer
 - d) Financial Secretary
 - e) Endowment Trust Fund
 - f) Committee Reports
 - g) Nominating Committee
6. New Business
 - a) Elections
 - b) Proposed 2026 Budget
 - c) Other
7. Other Business
 - a) Recognition of New Life – Baptisms and Deaths
 - b) Recognitions of Council members completing their terms
8. Resolutions
9. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

*According to Immanuel's Constitution, a voting member is a confirmed member who has communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding calendar year.

Minutes
Immanuel Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 23, 2025
12:00 pm
Luther Hall

Members present: Don Arney, EB Walker, Carmen Norris, Bill Moore, Libby Hardwick, Jean Nuernberger, Mary Jo Moore, Janette Rodecap, Sara Prem, Gretchen Bishop, B.J. Laven, Carol Powers, Connie Benolkin, Linda Taylor, Rebekah Blocksome, Rick Sundell, Connie Ross, Mason Carey, Micah Sievenpiper, Lynden Peters, Vicki Swanson, Ellen Wilcox, Candy Thompson, Foster Wright, Kathy Linder, Bonnie Thomas, Melodee Blobaum, Nancy Beckmann, Ken Beckmann, Sally Baehni, Henrik Andersen, Carolyn Wilson, Pam Edvalds, Karen Bame, Brian Thomas, Mike Ortmann, Carolyn Brauer, Larry Benolkin, CeCe Atherton, Kate Hauber, Tracy Atherton, Roland Pera, Scott Thompson, Chris Roth, Randy Callstrom, Rick Wilcox, Heather Winker

Present via Zoom: John Anderson

Call to Order

A quorum having been established, President Melodee Blobaum called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm.

Adoption of the Agenda

President Blobaum called for any additions to the agenda. Hearing none, she declared the agenda adopted.

Opening Prayer

Pastor Micah Sievenpiper offered an opening prayer.

Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting

Secretary Bonnie Thomas called the congregation's attention to the minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting, which were approved at the first Council meeting following the Annual Meeting, and which are printed in this year's Annual Report.

Ad Hoc Committee Report Presentation and Discussion

Jean Nuernberger of the Ad Hoc Committee for Change provided a review of the group's report and recommendations:

- The Committee worked for approximately six months to identify a sustainable pathway moving forward for Immanuel, recognizing that cash flow and cash reserves present a significant challenge for us moving forward.

- They identified three potential pathways; the focus for today will be on Pathway #1, which entails growing revenue through a variety of efforts.
- Our estimates suggest we have about 2.5 years left before existing cash reserves are depleted.
- Pathway #2 would involve remaining a congregation while selling our building.
- Pathway #3 would be a closure of the congregation.
- Pathway #1 will require regular communication regarding finances within the congregation; an outside appeal for donations beyond congregational giving; and additional efforts related to programming, collaboration, and evangelism to grow the congregation.
- Something like a merger could be considered part of Pathway #1, but it might also be part of Pathway #2 when dealing with questions of physical location and the status of our building.
- One of the Committee's recommendations related to Pathway #1 would be establishment of a Collaboration Task Force; Pastor Sievenpiper asked those who have agreed to be a part of that group to raise their hands. Members who have offered to participate so far: Jean Nuernberger, Mary Jo Moore, Randy Callstrom, Kathy Linder, Bonnie Thomas.

Following conversations at tables, each table group shared highlights of their discussion.

Points raised:

- If people commit to doing what needs to be done, we can make Pathway #1 happen.
- Pathway #1 involves doing the same things, but doing them differently, helping us grow into a larger group.
- If we could reduce our drawdown on the ETF to half of what we're doing now, that could be a near-term (one-year) goal.
- Looking for ways to increase building utilization and subsequent revenue would be an important part of Pathway #1. We know there are groups in the community that need space for their work, and that could be a positive alignment with what we need and can offer.
- It is hard to see the appeal of Pathways #2 and #3 at this point.
- Some other local congregations have experienced similar challenges; there is interest in exploring collaboration with them or even merging.
- Immanuel is the only ELCA church in Kansas City proper; is that a draw or a deterrent?
- If we do everything necessary to overcome our current financial struggles, how do we prevent them from recurring in 10-15 years without bringing in new, younger members?
- There is curiosity among younger generations about Christianity, but their current idea of what church is does not appeal to them.
- There are concerns about a potential catastrophic event in the financial market that would affect the ETF, which would change our situation quickly.
- There are questions about what we would do if we're unable to find tenants or building users who bring in additional revenue.

- We'll also need to pay attention to our tax situation to ensure there aren't financial impacts we're failing to address.
- Regular communication from the Council on how progress is going will be essential. We'd like to see at least two conversations per year similar to the one we're having today, so that everyone can stay in the loop.
- There is interest (related to recommendation #7 in the Committee's report) in becoming more of a "community church" – but we haven't specifically defined what that means.

Karen Bame noted that the Social Ministry Committee is working toward building connections with the community. They will be leading a food drive in March, and this year will be expanding beyond KU to other local organizations. They have also reached out to the neighborhood associations; the West Plaza Association will include a news item about our food drive in their upcoming newsletter and will be having their meeting here next month. We are starting to make some inroads there. We've also updated the "ministries" page on Immanuel's website to reflect what we're actively doing. More information regarding the food drive will be in the newsletter and email announcements soon.

At the conclusion of this conversation, President Blobaum initiated a non-binding straw poll via paper ballot to determine congregational support for Pathways #1, #2, or #3.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Sievenpiper stated that this has been a year of discernment. It's become clear that it will take all of us doing our part to keep things going. In moments when it feels exhausting, remember that the primary thing we do here is receive the grace of God. Look to what is feeding us, and discern how we can use that to feed the world. During Lent we will have the chance to worship in the place that isn't our own building, as we gather for evening midweek services at Atonement Lutheran. Noon midweek services will take place here at Immanuel, in collaboration with First Lutheran and St. Mark's Hope & Peace.

President's Report

President Blobaum shared her reasons for supporting Pathway #1, noting that it is an ambitious plan that prompts us to ask, "What if?" We won't know unless we try, and we all need to be involved to make it happen. She stated she is willing to give it a year and see what we can accomplish between now and the 2026 Annual Meeting. She also pointed out that there is a summary of the Council's major actions for the year printed in the Annual Report.

Results of the Straw Poll

Having tabulated the votes in the straw poll, Kathy Linder shared the results: 41 in favor of Pathway #1; 2 in favor of Pathway #2; and 2 in favor of Pathway #3.

Further discussion

With the straw poll results indicating broad support for Pathway #1, President Blobaum invited members to discuss next steps and ideas at their tables. Following discussion, each table shared highlights:

- We need to update the website to increase awareness of what we do and who we are.
- We could look into seeking bequests as a form of financial support.
- We are a “destination” church now, not necessarily made up of people who live in the immediate area; how do we become more connected to the community?
- There is interest in collaborating with other groups or organizations at their events to expand our exposure.
- There were questions about whether or not we should deviate from a traditional worship service, and how we can balance embracing our identity as Lutherans without letting our tradition limit us or intimidate those who don't share our background.
- One idea would be to look into becoming a site for the preschool that currently operates at First Lutheran.
- Creation of small groups could facilitate study opportunities and greater social connections. Groups could also be formed to listen to the needs of people both within and outside our congregation.
- The Evangelism, Marketing, and Communications Committee will be launching a new greeter program by Easter and is seeking interested people to participate. We are interested in increasing the sense of welcome visitors feel when coming to worship at Immanuel.
- There may be modest changes we could make to our facility to make it more appealing to outside users or tenants, such as restroom updates or new carpeting in the sanctuary.
- We have people in the congregation who may not know how they can best put their skills or time to work.
- People have many options for how they can spend their Sunday mornings. One thing we can do to stand out would be to feed people – through trunk-or-treat events, community dinners, a coffee bar after worship, or similar initiatives.
- In addition to our general welcome banner, special banners inviting the community to social events we host could increase our presence.
- Another idea would be to install a little library outside our building.

Committee for Justice and Peace Discussion

Rebecca Blocksome shared that the Committee for Justice and Peace has taken on the Council's priority of focusing on the LGBTQIA+ community. They participated in the Pride Festival this year and are planning to do that again. They are also planning a panel discussion on the experiences of trans people. The group feels like there is still more to

do, and they are wondering what their ministry should be at this time and how much the congregation as a whole is willing to be a part of this work. Rebecca invited everyone to share their feedback with her or other members of the Committee: Vicki Swanson, Linda Fox, Don Arney, or Pastor Sievenpiper.

Seeds for Outreach Grants

Kathy Linder shared that two applications to the Seeds for Outreach grant program are solidly underway – one is related to learning from LGBTQ organizations, and the other is focused on a worship experience at Hollis for Earth Day. There are two more grant applications currently taking shape. She noted that we have \$4,000 set aside for these projects, which must be collaborative in nature and geared toward reaching people who aren't currently worshipping with us in person.

Nominating Committee

Bonnie Thomas of the Nominating Committee reviewed the slate of candidates up for election:

- **For Congregation Council:** Scott Thompson (2nd term), Linda Fox (2nd term), Elizabeth Hastings (2nd term), Dave Peterson (1st term), Jean Nuernberger (1st term). Connie Benolkin moved to close nominations; Randy Callstrom seconded. The motion carried.
- **For Nominating Committee:** Bonine Thomas and Linda Taylor. President Blobaum invited additional nominations. CeCe Atherton and Carol Powers nominated themselves. Jean Nuernberger moved to close nominations; Vicki Swanson seconded. The motion carried.
- **For Audit Committee:** Rebecca Blocksom (1st term), Lynden Peters (2nd term), B.J. Laven (3rd term), Ingrid Peterson. President Blobaum invited additional nominations. Tracy Atherton nominated himself. Vicki Swanson moved to close nominations. The motion carried.
- **For Memorials Commission:** Nancy Beckmann. President Blobaum invited additional nominations. Sally Baehni nominated herself. Jean Nuernberger moved to close nominations; Rebecca Blocksom seconded. The motion carried.
- **For Synod Assembly representatives:** Melodee Blobaum and Jeff Fox. Connie Benolkin moved to close nominations; Jean Nuernberger seconded. The motion carried.

Budget

Brian Thomas of the Finance Committee reviewed the 2025 budget. He explained that Council asked all committees to submit budgets reflecting 10% and 25% cuts to their current-year budget; that includes Social Ministry, which in the 2025 budget will be

funded at a 7.5% giving rate rather than a 10% giving rate. Projected revenue in this budget includes a higher rental rate for Purple Dragon Preschool. The property budget was also reduced, but we'll still address critical needs that arise even if they go beyond budgeted funds. For personnel, the Finance Committee assumed a full staff year-round, but already we're likely to see savings there, as the Music Director position is currently open. Another major change is to our mortgage rate, which was recalculated this fall from 4.625% to 7.125%. The rate will change again in October 2029, and the mortgage is due to mature in March 2032. Currently the mortgage makes up the bulk of our annual deficit. This year's budget anticipates withdrawing \$100,000 from the ETF.

Connie Benolkin inquired if a final report of the Financing a Faithful Future campaign will be produced this year as the campaign comes to a close. It was agreed that would be a good plan.

Bill Moore moved to approve the 2025 budget; Mary Jo Moore seconded. The motion carried.

Recognition of New Life

Pastor Sievenpiper requested a moment of silence to remember those who have died in the past year.

Recognition of Council Members Completing Their Terms

Pastor Sievenpiper offered thanks to Melodee Blobaum for her work on Council and for her service this year as the congregation President.

Additional Recognitions

President Blobaum offered thanks to Scott and Candy Thompson for organizing today's potluck meal, and to Terry Kueker for his many years serving as chair of the Property Committee.

Resolutions

Pastor Sievenpiper read aloud the resolutions:

1. RESOLVED, that we offer thanks to God for the gift of Jesus Christ, God's work, and God's love; that we ask forgiveness for our sins; that we pray for growth in our Christian faith; and that we seek strength and guidance from God to serve faithfully in the coming year.
2. RESOLVED, that we glorify God through worship and the ministries we offer for the sake of the gospel and to demonstrate God's love in the world.
3. RESOLVED, that we thank our capable staff — Robert Barthel, Abbey Brightwell-Gray, Phillip Cooper, Micah Sievenpiper — for their faithful service during the past year and their gifts in ministry as we continue our faith journey together.

4. RESOLVED, that we give thanks for the years of faithful work done by Suzanne Anderson and wish her all the best as she continues her vocation elsewhere.
5. RESOLVED, that we thank the many Immanuel volunteers whose service to every aspect of our ministry is as inspiring as it is vital.
6. RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Annual Meeting will be reviewed and approved by the Congregation Council at its first regularly scheduled meeting following the Annual Meeting.
7. RESOLVED, that the congregation establishes a standing Committee for Building Use to set parameters for the use of Immanuel's spaces in consultation with the congregation and to serve as the lead for finding potential renters and facility users and as the liaison with tenants.

The resolutions were accepted by acclamation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with Lord's Prayer at 2:12 pm.

Congregation President's Report

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

"What matters? In our work together, our ministry here...what matters?" Pr. Micah asked these questions in a recent sermon. It's a bold question for the people of Immanuel to consider in 2026 as we work together. At the most recent congregational update meeting on February 1, we discussed the Ad Hoc Committee's report and the decision we made together at our last Annual Meeting to proceed on Pathway #1. As you may recall, Pathway #1 lasts through 2026 with the expectation that we would implement recommendations found in the report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Change and evaluate our progress.

2025 brought the successful conclusion of the Financing a Faithful Future Capital Campaign. And as we enter the 2026 fiscal year, we have been blessed by your steadfast faithfulness in giving and pledging to the ministries of Immanuel. Because of your faithfulness in giving, the Council has been focused on our mission and the four key areas of worship, relationships, faith formation, and faithful administration.

The 2025 budget preparation was guided by Pres. Blobaum's commitment to creating a budget that was focused on what we needed and living within our means. The Council with the Finance Committee created a budget that continued to rely on drawing from the Endowment Trust Fund (ETF). And we were able to wait until late in 2025 to withdraw funds from the ETF. The 2026 budget process asked committees to prepare budget proposals that were flat, decreased by 10%, and increased by 10%. Again, the Council worked with the Finance Committee and has recommended a 2026 budget proposal that is largely flat with some cost-of-living increases for staff and related non-negotiable budget increases and an increase to our facility insurance premium.

The early months of 2025 saw the departure of our former music director; the Worship and Arts and Personnel committees held a congregational roundtable discussion opportunity and used a survey to gather feedback from the congregation. From your feedback, the position description was restructured, and advertising began in the summer. We hired Westin Sorrel as our Director of Music Ministry to fill this newly imagined role. He is a talented and experienced choral musician who began this fall and we look forward to his creativity and experience enriching our musical traditions and offerings. We were fortunate to host a recital this fall that opened our doors to the wider community and we look forward to more opportunities in 2026.

The Building Use Committee was formed at the 2025 annual meeting, and they began their work together this spring. They have reevaluated leases and reviewed options for all our property. I expect that they will continue to lead the stewardship of our properties and continue to evaluate opportunities in 2026.

Full funding of the Committee on Justice and Peace led to their first educational offering focused on the trans experience in Kansas City and has led to a relationship with Our Spot, an organization serving the LGBTQ community locally. This committee will continue to bring forward advocacy opportunities not only for our congregation members but likely involving partnerships with others. The Evangelism, Media, and Communications Committee has also been active and we can see their work in our grounds and in the renewal of the greeter program which provides welcoming faces at our entrances on Sundays. They are extending their work to Immanuel's online presence, including social media, to clearly communicate that we are a vital community in Kansas City. The Social Ministry Committee led a food drive focused on benefiting food pantries serving university students facing food insecurity. They also highlighted the needs of the Metro Lutheran Ministries Christmas Store's shoppers and encouraged members to purchase needed gifts. The Council thoughtfully considered the request of YouthWorks to use Immanuel as an anchor location for their program in Kansas City. We provided sleeping quarters for a much more limited number of youth and sponsors while all the youth gathered at Immanuel for evening study and preparation for the next day. We also limited the number of weeks Immanuel was available to them, and an Immanuel liaison was present daily to ensure clear communication occurred and difficulties were resolved quickly.

The Collaboration Committee was also formed in 2025, and they are working to identify how we might collaborate with other congregations. Their first focus is on other ELCA churches in the metropolitan area, and they held a fall forum for congregations interested in collaboration. Their work will continue and provide even more opportunities for Immanuel to partner with others in the Kansas City area. In addition to the committees and activities I previously mentioned, there are many other committees which have continued their faithful work at Immanuel throughout this year including the Altar Guild, Worship and Arts, the Prayer Team, Property work teams, Holy Waterers, Personnel, Funeral/Memorial Service Ministry, Christian Education including children's and adult education, Stewardship, and others I have surely overlooked.

I am grateful for the relationships we share at Immanuel and our work together to proclaim the Gospel and share our faith with others. I've been thinking about bold questions for this year ahead. Where do we want to be? How do we get there? What do we need to do? Bold questions are a necessary part of our life together. What bold questions are you thinking about as we approach this next year together?

What matters at Immanuel? Is it the sanctuary—the place where our congregation has laughed, worshipped, mourned, and celebrated together? Is it a particular tradition you hold dear or one I hold dear? Is it the sense of belonging and knowing a place? Is it the music, the organ, the choir, the congregational or choir singing? We all have different answers to this question.

I give thanks daily for your commitment to Immanuel and your prayers for our work together as the people of Immanuel.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Nuernberger
Council President

Pastor's Report

Partners in Ministry,

This has been a year of taking new steps towards a bold vision for God's work at Immanuel. It was a year that began with a flurry of activity; we received the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee for Change, and we have responded with a surge of new and re-imagined ministries, alongside continuing work that has been important for a long time.

We have been more proactive in addressing ways we can use our building to empower our ministry, rather than being limited by it. Volunteers of multiple committees have taken on projects to care for the physical space. From major projects to minor maintenance and everything in between, I'm grateful for the work that so many people do to make sure this can be a place of hospitality and sanctuary. The Building Use Committee has been working on a number of projects. While a major initiative ended up falling apart at the last moment, we were deep in conversation about sharing space with another congregation. While Good Shepherd found another temporary home in a different location, we learned a lot, are and better equipped to address similar conversations in the future.

I was also deeply involved with the new Collaboration Committee that has been formed, and has been working to identify opportunities for collaboration in our context. Our Lenten education and worship were both collaborative efforts, and allowed us to build and deepen relationships with other ELCA communities in our area. We hosted a Collaboration Conversation event in October that invited other congregations to identify

specific ways we can work together to deepen our ministry and expand our reach. That work continues into the new year, focusing on sharing resources and joining together for advocacy and evangelism efforts.

Having more partners for ministry enriches what we're able to do. The Justice and Peace Committee, despite their relatively small size, continues to be active in responding to the challenges our world faces. LGBTQ+ inclusion has been an important facet of Immanuel's ministry throughout my time here, and we continue to see the work of God done, here. In September, the Justice and Peace Committee hosted a panel of people who were invited to share first-hand experiences of being a transgender person in Kansas City. I was grateful for the conversation, for the partnerships that made it happen, and for the ways this work will continue into the future.

At the end of 2024, we bid farewell to Suzanne Anderson, who had served as Immanuel's Director of Music and Choirs for years. I am grateful for the work of Renee Zimmerman, who served as Interim Music Director for the first half of the year. I am also grateful to the many people who helped steer the direction of our music ministry and identify Westin Sorrel, who we hired as Director of Music Ministry in September.

Other important work has continued, in addition to these new and revitalized ministries. It takes all of us together to do the work of God, and I'm grateful to share this ministry with all of you. We have learned together, on Sundays and throughout the week. We have shared meals to celebrate great occasions and to mourn the deaths of our dearest loved ones. We have joined our voices in praise and in lament; in prayers of thanksgiving and of protest.

2025 was a busy year, full of ups and downs. Right now, I feel a sense of urgency in the Gospel; there is a lot of brokenness in our world, a lot of fear in our lives, and a lot of anxiety within this congregation about what the future holds. Through it all, we look to the example of Jesus Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us, as together we proclaim the good news of God's grace in word and in deed.

In Peace,
Pastor Micah Sievenpiper

Music Director's Report

As I've stepped into my new role as Director of Music Ministry at Immanuel Lutheran Church, I am eternally grateful for all of the kindness and guidance from the church at large. I've been learning many things about the community and music ministry at Immanuel in my first few months working at the church. The choir has worked hard at continuing their faithful service by providing anthems and musical leadership roughly three Sundays a month during the academic year. Our multi-generational handbell choir, ranging from 6 – 13 players on any ringing Sunday, continued to play for services roughly once a month. Living Prayer brought more beauty and diversity to our musical

offerings and many volunteers offered music that enriched our services throughout the summer months.

Jonathon Moldovan has continued in his role as a Choral Scholar and we have hired Kennedy Cox as a Choral Scholar to help serve within the choir. Their presence aids us in note learning, consistency and being able to plan ahead for a slightly larger and more exciting range of repertoire. Robert's consistent and good-humored presence as organist and accompanist for the choir is a blessing to us all.

Immanuel is fortunate to have a large diversity of talented, committed musical volunteers. I am especially grateful to everyone who has helped mentor me to provide the best musical worship experience for all involved at Immanuel. The smoothness of that effort is a great testament to them. I wish you all the very best, and I hope that Immanuel will always be a place that seeks to make the best music possible for the glory of God.

Best,
Westin Sorrel
Director of Music Ministry

Adult Education

Don Arney | Pam Edvalds | Carolyn Wilson | Pastor Micah Sievenpiper

Our primary task is planning Sunday morning Adult Ed Classes. We are grateful for the members and guests who share their experience and knowledge as we explore the Bible, current events, ethical issues, church history, and the life experiences unique to each of us.

Altar Guild

Ellen Wilcox, Chair | Melodee Blobaum, Prior Chair | Karen Bame | Nancy Beckmann | Beth Callstrom | Libby Hardwick | Ellen Parson | Ingrid Peterson | Linda Taylor | Bonnie Thomas | Heather Winker

We are grateful to Melodee Blobaum for five years of dedicated service as Chair of Altar Guild. She served with patience, wisdom, faith, and humor. Melodee resigned after chairing her final meeting in August 2025 and Ellen Wilcox is serving as the current Chair.

With Pastor Micah's guidance, the work of Altar Guild is done quietly throughout the year to prepare the altar and the sanctuary for worship. In 2025, Immanuel's Altar Guild members conducted their regular duties, baking communion bread, pouring communion wine, filling altar candles with liquid paraffin, filling the ewer with water for the baptismal font, updating the hymn board, changing the altar paraments and the

banners in accordance with the liturgical calendar, hanging the Christmas greenery in the sanctuary, setting up and decorating the Christmas tree, placing the nativity scene under the tree, adorning the altar with poinsettias for Christmas and lilies for Easter, and more.

With many thanks to a hard-working team, respectfully submitted,

Ellen Wilcox

Committee for Justice and Peace

Don Arney | Rebecca Blocksome | Linda Fox | Pastor Micah Sievenpiper | Vicki Swanson | Mary Jo Moore

The Committee for Justice and Peace serves to coordinate and lead the congregation's efforts to respond when there is injustice in our community. This is a broad mandate, and a challenge to our work has been identifying specific ways we can engage in a world that make good use of our resources and align with our ministry.

One area we continue to be active in is the care of creation, and this committee oversees the inclusion of weekly "Eco Clips" in Immanuel's Friday announcements. We have also worked to connect with other communities who share our goals. In October, we had some of our members participate in a "Guns to Gardens" event at Central Presbyterian Church, working to literally turn firearms into gardening tools, inspired by the biblical vision of swords being hammered out into plowshares. We also communicated opportunities for individuals to get involved in direct action like protests, demonstrations, prayer vigils, and advocacy training.

The flagship project of our year was an event titled "What We Should Know but Don't: Trans Experiences in Kansas City." This project was led by the Justice and Peace committee, supported by the Congregational Life Committee and the Memorials Commission, with the support of Our Spot KC. We hosted a panel of three people who shared what it was like to be or care for someone who is transgender in our context. We had 31 people attend, a combination of Immanuel members and participants from the wider community.

We are grateful for the support and participation of this community in our work, and look ahead to a year of engaged ministry.

Congregational Life

Scott Thompson | Candy Thompson | Beth Callstrom

The Congregational Life committee assisted last September with the Rally Sunday Potluck and will be assisting with the Potluck meal in February for the Annual meeting. We look forward to planning a number of other activities in the coming year. If you have any ideas for any activities we have sponsored previously (ballgame, picnic, Chris Cakes, bingo or trivia night), or something totally new, please contact us.

Evangelism, Marketing and Communications

Carolyn Wilson | Sara Prem | Committee Co-Chairs

Evangelism, Marketing and Communications Committee (EMC): Summary of activity in 2025

EMC began meeting in late 2024 so 2025 was our first full year of activity. In 2025 we made progress in a number of areas:

The enhancement of lighting features on the building exterior included refreshing the lighting on the monument sign and the lighting and messaging on the Westport Rd sign and replacing bulbs in the door sconces. The result of this effort makes the Church building more visible and inviting.

The final exterior lighting project is the Tower Lighting System – equipment has been purchased and we are waiting for Spring 2026 for the install.

Holy Waters. Rick Wilcox leads the Holy Waters and sits on the EMC. We defer to Rick and his team for updates but the love and care they have provided to the landscaping of the Church has resulted in lush and vibrant grounds.

Greeters. EMC has recruited a crew of about one dozen members who have stepped up to serve as Greeters on Sunday morning. We strive to have 2 to 3 people, wearing Greeter badges, manning the Bell Tower doors and the Bell Street door to welcome members and visitors. The Greeters were present in September, October, November and December and Carolyn Wilson wrote 12 follow-up letters to our visitors who signed the guest book!

Our goal in 2026 is to create a regular, static schedule for Greeters to streamline scheduling. We welcome any and all who wish to join the crew!

Marketing Materials. For Easter we created a 1/2 sheet featuring information about Immanuel and details about programs such as the Coffee group and Pews to Brews the

idea was to offer a take-home piece for guests what would highlight these community-building activities.

Our goal in 2026 is to create a monthly 1/2 sheet to be available for Greeters to offer every Sunday.

Social Media and Website. We welcomed Libby Harwick to the EMC in January! Libby will be working on beefing up our Social Media presence (Facebook, Instagram, etc) and helping to make the website more robust and up to date.

Submitted by Carolyn Wilson and Sara Prem, Committee Co-Chairs

FUNERAL COMMITTEE

The Funeral Committee at Immanuel was utilized multiple times during 2025. It was an opportunity to practice a caring ministry to grieving families at a fragile time in people's lives. After many years of competent and caring leadership from Gretchen Bishop and Milan Hanson, they stepped away from funeral ministry leadership. We thank Gretchen and Milan for their wonderful service whenever it was needed. We also heartily thank a cluster of volunteers who have been and continue to support Immanuel's efforts to execute this important aspect of care.

Funerals occurred at Immanuel Lutheran for Suzanne Steffen, Bob Hyland, Naomi Karmerier, and Betty Pera in 2025. The church also facilitated luncheons for all four funerals, and visitation refreshments for two of the funerals. As our church's demographic profile continues to change, we have had to institute some changes to successfully carry out the tasks of funeral ministry. The overall goal is care for the grieving family and friends of the deceased. Following are the updates we are making to provide comfort to the bereaved.

- For visitations, the church will continue the practice of providing cookies, coffee and water. The refreshments will be contributed from church volunteers.
- If a luncheon is desired, the new policy is that the family will be responsible for ordering and payment of the food.
- Volunteers will continue to organize the luncheon space with tablecloths, centerpieces, buffet tables, drink table, and desserts provided by our volunteers.
- The Funeral Committee, consisting of Heather Winker, Connie Benolkin and a host of volunteers will work closely with and follow the direction of Pastor Micah. He will communicate with and care for the family and subsequently share their wishes with us. In turn, the Funeral Committee will enlist the help of Altar Guild for the appropriate preparation of the sanctuary space and communion if wanted.

Our goal is the gracious, gentle, and respectful care of the family and friends of the departed. To that end, we are glad to offer our service.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Winker and Connie Benolkin, Committee Chairs

Memorials Commission

Kathy Linder | Sally Baehni | Vicki Swanson

The Immanuel Lutheran Church Memorial Fund, which consists of donations given in memory of loved ones, pays for items and projects of lasting value to the life and ministry of our congregation, community and throughout the world. Total Balance in 2025 was \$17,285.85 All expenditures are reviewed and approved by the Memorial Committee and the Church Council. Memorials were received in memory of Betty Pera, Naomi Karneier, Suzanne Steffan and Bob Hyland. And Alter Guild purchased a new Christmas tree from our Memorial Fund.

In September of 2024, the Memorial Committee recommended to the Council to set aside \$4000 for grants of \$500 each for 8 one-time grants to Fund “Seeds for Outreach” projects to be carried out in 2025. We had 3 applications approved and completed in 2025, Justice and Peace, Music recital in October and Holy waters throughout the summer.

Please contact any member of the Memorial Committee to suggest.

Mutual Ministry Committee

Mutual Ministry Committee

The 2025 Mutual Ministry Committee: Pastor Micah, Beth Callstrom (Chair), Rick Sundell, Tracy Atherton, BJ Laven, Sara Prem

The Mutual Ministry Committee met 8 times during 2025 to discuss Immanuel’s ministry as a shared concern for both the laity and the pastor. The discussions were all confidential, caring and supportive. In general, topics discussed each meeting included the pastor’s needs and concerns, the health and well being of Immanuel’s congregation and members, any concerns, conflicts or misunderstandings within the congregation, ministry plans, and finances. I am grateful to all Committee members who engaged in these thoughtful and productive conversations throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Callstrom, Chair

Nominating Committee

Members:

Bonnie Thomas, chair (Council), CeCe Atherton, Linda Taylor, Carol Powers

The Nominating Committee respectfully submits the slate below. Nominations requiring election by a majority vote of the quorum present during the Annual Meeting are indicated in **bold**. All other positions and committee volunteers may change and are offered for your information.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Continuing Members

Henrik Andersen (2nd term ends 2027)

Leilani Boyd (1st term ends 2027)

Randy Callstrom (2nd term ends 2027)

Mason Carey (2nd term ends 2027)

Linda Fox (2nd term ends 2028)

Elizabeth Hastings (2nd term ends 2028)

Bonnie Thomas (2nd term ends 2027)

Scott Thompson (2nd term ends 2028)

Dave Peterson (1st term ends 2028)

Jean Nuernberger (1st term ends 2028)

Chris Roth (2nd term ends 2029)

Vicki Swanson (2nd term ends 2029)

CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEES

Nominating Committee

Vicki Swanson (Council)

Kate Hauber

Tracy Atherton

Audit Committee

Ingrid Peterson (3rd term ends 2027)

Rebekah Blocksome (1st term ends 2027)

Lynden Peters (2nd term ends 2027)

Tracy Atherton (1st term ends 2027)

TBD

TBD

STANDING COMMITTEES

Christian Education

Adult Forum: Pam Edvalds, chair; Don Arney, Carolyn Wilson

Sunday School: Elizabeth Hastings, Jeri Blaske-Yungeberg, Tori Friedrich

Finance

Jean Nuernberger and Brian Thomas, co-chairs; Kathy Linder, Leonard Carr, Dave Peterson

Committee for Justice and Peace

Dona Arney, Rebekah Blocksome, Linda Fox, Vicki Swanson, Pastor Sievenpiper

Memorials Commission

Kathy Linder, chair (2nd term ends 2029)

Scott Thompson (Council) (term ends 2028)

Nancy Beckmann (1st term ends 2028)

Sally Baehni (1st term ends 2028)

Personnel

Don Arney, chair; Randy Callstrom (Council), Mary Jo Moore, Ellen Wilcox

Property

Henrik Andersen, John Anderson

Social Ministry

Karen Bame, Pam Edvalds, Linda Fewell, Rick Sundell, Patti Winkler

Stewardship

Don Arney, Connie Benolkin, Jeff Fox, Mary Jo Moore, Heather Winker, Linda Fox (ex officio)

Worship and Arts

Tori Friedrich, chair; Karen Bame, Melodee Blobaum, Jean Nuernberger, Roland Pera, Linda Fox

Altar Guild: Ellen Wilcox, chair; Karen Bame, Nancy Beckmann, Beth Callstrom, Milan Hanson, Ingrid Peterson, Linda Taylor, Bonnie Thomas, Ellen Parson, Libby Hardwick, Heather Winker, secretary

Prayer Team: Jean Nuernberger, chair; Sally Baehni Beth Callstrom, Jeff Fox, Kathy Linder, Carol Powers

CONGREGATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Archives

Gretchen Bishop and Scott Thompson, co-chairs; Leonard Carr, Norma Carr, Milan Hanson, Mary Lynn Coleman, BJ Laven, Del Karmeier

Building Use Committee

Henrik Andersen, Kate Hauber, Bill Moore, Chris Roth, Linda Taylor, Scott Thompson, Marc Winkler

Endowment Trust Fund Committee

Randy Callstrom, chair; Milan Hanson, BJ Laven, Chris Roth, Rick Sundell

Evangelism, Marketing, and Communication Committee

Carolyn Wilson, co-chair; Libby Hardwick, Dave Peterson, Sara Prem, Rick Sundell, Rick Wilcox, Heather Winker

Funeral Committee

Connie Benolkin, Heather Winker

Library Committee

Linda Fox, chair; Scott Thompson, Candy Thompson

APPOINTMENTS

Community Liaison

Henrik Andersen

Insurance

Chris Roth

MLM Liaison

Beth Callstrom

Shepherd's Center Liaison

Kathy Linder

Westport Ministry in Housing

Karen Bame, Kathy Linder, Jean Nuernberger, Connie Ross, Rick Sundell

Voting Members to Synod Assembly

Mike Werner (term ends following 2026 Synod Assembly)

Katie Werner (term ends following 2026 Synod Assembly)

Personnel Committee

Don Arney (chair) | Jean Nuernberg | Randy Callstrom | Brian Thomas | Mary Jo Moore | Pastor Micah Sievenpiper

The committee communicates with staff as needed per the existing personnel policy manual. We made recommendations to the Finance Committee and council for the 2026 budget. Regular annual conversations with staff are currently being scheduled.

Prayer Team

Members: Sally Baehini | Beth Callstrom | Jeff Fox | Kathy Linder | Jean Nuernberger | Carol Powers |

Immanuel's Prayer Team offers opportunities for individuals to continue strengthening and deepening their relationship with God and supports the work of other committees. Our activities in 2025:

Melodee Blobaum continued to prepare Mid-week Prayers in January and February 2025. Those were sent through Constant Contact to all households.

The Prayer Team selected and purchased Lenten devotional materials and these made available at Immanuel throughout the Lenten season.

The Prayer Team and Congregational Life worked together for the Immanuel congregation to worship at Hollis Renewal Center on Sunday, April 27, 2025. Melodee Blobaum prepared the liturgy and worship service and Living Prayer provided the music. There was a time for fellowship prior to the service, an opportunity to prepare cards for those who are not able to regularly attend worship which were mailed to them, lunch following the service, good conversation, and games. Due to rain we were indoors at the Lodge.

Members of the Prayer Team cleaned up the Prayer Room/Library this fall. Trash and extraneous furniture and other items were removed from the room, windows were washed, the furniture was cleaned and rearranged in a more functional manner, and the floor was cleaned. Some items were donated to Blessings Abound. We received a donation of a table, chairs, and a rug. The room has become much more inviting for those looking for a book, seeking to pray or just sit alone, and can now be used for committee meetings.

We moved the Longest Night service to the first week of December and renamed the service to Waiting for Dawn: A service of Comfort and Light. Invitations were sent to all members of Immanuel who had lost a loved one during the year and others in the

congregation. This service provided an opportunity for those in attendance to light candles in memory of those they have lost and to be anointed with oil. Pr. Micah provided the homily for the service, which was followed by a soup supper in the Spong Common Room.

Consistent with the Ad Hoc Committee's Final Report, we are evaluating our ideas and activities using Immanuel's Vision for Ministry. If you have ideas or suggestions for our ministry or would like to join us in our work—please talk with any member of the committee.

Members of the committee pray daily for Immanuel, the congregation, and for all who are on the prayer list in the weekly bulletin. We also offer prayers for requests made privately that do not appear on the public list. If you have a private request, please send it to the prayer team email, ImmanuelKCPrayerTeam@gmail.com

Since last year's report both Melodee Blobaum and Carolyn Wilson resigned from the Prayer Team. We are grateful for their service over many years and the joy, talents, energy, and faithfulness they shared with the Prayer Team and our ministry. We have been joined by Sally Baehini and Jeff Fox, and look forward to their continued contributions to our ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Nuernberger, Prayer Team chair

Property/Building Use

Members:

Henrik Andersen | Libby Hardwick | Kate Hauber | Bill Moore | Chris Roth | Linda Taylor | Scott Thompson | Marc Winkler

The Committee for Building Use was established to find ways to utilize Immanuel's space, in consultation with the Congregation, that fit within our mission and benefits both Immanuel and the greater community.

For 2025, the Committee focused on evaluating existing facility use by Oxford (Genessee) House, Purple Dragon, Youthworks, and MLM Christmas Store; in addition to new opportunities with ThirtyOne:Thirty Events, Narthex, and a potential use of the Gathering Space. Evaluations considered the costs involved with the use of space and the appropriateness. Recommendations were shared with Church Council and actions were approved by Council.

Oxford (Genessee) House is a self-run, self-supported recovery from drug and alcohol addiction home for women.

Purple Dragon Pre-School Daycare uses certain designated Sunday school classrooms for academic and educational purposes. Purple Dragon states their "goal is to nurture

the whole child – emotionally, socially, intellectually, and creatively – in a space where they can discover who they are and begin to understand the world around them”.

Youthworks partnered with Immanuel as a Housing Facility for their summer youth mission trips. Participants conduct community service projects while in Kansas City. Youthworks states “we provide meaningful Christ-centered mission trips for middle and high school students that broaden perspectives, ignite passions, expose possibilities, and inspire pursuits. Youthworks use during their 4-week visit in 2025 was successful.

Metropolitan Lutheran Ministry (MLM) Christmas Store has utilized Immanuel space for its Christmas Store for many years. The MLM Christmas Store is one of the largest gift-giving programs in the Greater Kansas City area. The store provides families with a joyful and dignified Christmas Shopping Experience.

ThirtyOne:Thirty Events is a full service coordinator for weddings, receptions or special events based out of the Metro Kansas City area. The Committee had initial conversations with its owner and began to explore the idea of expanding Immanuel’s role as a wedding venue and event venue as a way to promote Immanuel ministry. Church Council and the Congregation have been supportive of this concept. For 2026, the Committee will continue its evaluation and present any recommendations to Council.

Narthex (Properties) Management Inc.’s stated purpose “We exist to create pathways for growing churches to expand their ministry – providing the resources and real estate solutions they need to play offense and pursue Kingdom-honoring opportunities”. The organization helps churches turn underused space into steady, purpose- aligned income that supports ministry and strengthens financial health. From leasing to other congregations or hosting weekday programs to partnering with trusted organizations, Narthex identifies creative ways to activate church property. In September, the Committee evaluated an opportunity for another congregation (~120 members) to use Luther Hall for worship and prayer services as they rebrand and locate a new permanent location. The opportunity was approved by Church Council and presented to the Congregation. Facility use terms were negotiated but the (tenant) congregation chose to move to another temporary church location.

Social Ministry Committee

Karen Bame | Pam Edvalds | Linda Fewell | Rick Sundell | Patti Winkler

Please see the budget categories titled Ministry to Those at a Distance and Ministry to the Community for the list of the organizations that Immanuel supports. Immanuel has a history with supporting nonprofit organizations which do important work that Immanuel doesn’t have the manpower to accomplish on its own.

The committee continued to offer ways Immanuel could stay involved in ministry. Here are highlights.

- During Lent (March and April) – We collected food for neighboring college campus pantries which included MU Kansas City campus, KU campus in Lawrence, and KU Medical Center Westwood House pantry. This was very successful as we were able to deliver large quantities of needed items to each location.
- July – Christmas in July - A list of gifts needed by MLM for the Christmas Store was publicized, and we collected gifts throughout the month to be donated in December to the Christmas Store.
- October – Immanuel worshippers had the opportunity to walk in the CROP Walk, on October 6th. One of our committee members, Karen Bame, walked in her 36th consecutive CROP Walk! Donations were accepted in person and online for our Immanuel team. The donations continue to support the fight against hunger locally & worldwide.
- November – The Christmas tree went up again to collect more gifts for the MLM Christmas Store.
- December – ILC hosted the MLM Christmas Store December 7th through December 13th with ILC members on hand each day to help with logistics and hospitality. It was another successful partnership.

The Social Ministry Committee is happy to create opportunities through which the caring generosity of ILC's members can shine. We would welcome suggestions of other opportunities to serve our community.

2025 Social Ministry Committee: Karen Bame, Pam Edvalds, Linda Fewell, Rick Sundell and Patti Winkler

Blue Ribbon Past Presidents' Stewardship Task Force

This year a team of Immanuel's Council Presidents, past and present, led our annual Stewardship campaign. Members of this team included Don Arney, Connie Benolkin, Melodee Blobaum, Jeff Fox, BJ Laven, Mary Jo Moore, Jean Nuernberger, and Heather Winker. Linda Fox (Financial Secretary) and Micah Sievenpiper (Pastor) also served on this task force.

Every Fall, we are in the practice of reflecting as a community on how we are called to care for the gifts God has given us. This year, we centered our campaign on a theme of "Faith in Action." BJ Laven shared superb home-smoked BBQ at our kickoff luncheon on October 12, and each of the following weeks included a Temple Talk during worship. Each week explored a different perspective on putting faith into action: "With Grateful

Hearts” (Mary Jo Moore, October 19), “Sharing God’s Gifts” (Jeff Fox, October 26), and “So we can...” (Brian Thomas, November 2).

The campaign concluded with a community meal shared on November 9, collecting a good share of pledges for the coming year. The final total amounted to 45 pledges made for a total of \$310,260.00.

We are grateful for your continued commitments to supporting the ministry we share, and for the many ways this community makes faithful use of the gifts entrusted to our care.

Sunday School

Elizabeth Hastings | Jeri Blaske-Yungeberg | Tori Friedrich

The Immanuel Sunday School class is small, but we have a lot of fun while learning! We typically have 2-4 students for weekly Sunday School classes during the school year. There are also Confirmation students taking classes led by Pastor Micah.

In March, the Sunday School class shook instruments during service while putting away the Alleluias for Lent. The students REALLY love hiding them in a secret location in the church!

In May, we met at a local park for a fun outing to wrap up the school year.

Immanuel Sunday School kicked off the new school year on September 7. The students have been learning how to look up Bible verses in a regular Bible. The stories are a little more complicated than in our storybook Bibles, but they’ve been doing great with them!

In December, we joined the Adult Forum to decorate cookies, sing some Christmas carols, and Connie Ross gave the children a tour of the church, sharing interesting facts about the space. Connie also once again provided our students with lovely Christmas tree ornaments.

Elizabeth Hastings (curriculum), Tori Friedrich (seasonal activities), and Jeri Blaske-Yungeberg (supervisor/administration duties) make up the Sunday School leadership team. They serve as the primary teachers. We meet as 1 group in the Gathering Space with 1 rotating teacher each week, and use a curriculum that can span the various ages well. Pastor Micah leads the Confirmation classes.

Worship and the Arts Committee

Tori Friedrich, chair | Karen Bame | Melodee Blobaum | Jean Nuernberger | Roland Pera | Pastor Micah Sievenpiper

Worship at Immanuel continues to be a central part of how we live out the Gospel. In 2025 a tradition of music was continued through the faithful service of Immanuel's choir, handbell choir, organist Robert Barthel, substitute Worship Director Renee Zimmerman, and new Director of Music Ministry Westin Sorrel. Immanuel's choir sang at 10:00 worship three Sundays each month, in addition to offering special music for other services, and the handbell choir played one Sunday per month. Immanuel's worship was also enhanced by instrumentalists within our congregation and guest musicians.

In the fall of 2025, Immanuel welcomed Westin Sorrel, a Doctoral candidate at UMKC as Director of Music Ministry. Westin brings with him a wealth of experience directing choral groups and in church music. In 2026, the Worship and Arts committee looks forward to supporting the congregation's desires for meaningful worship and music.

Worship and Arts Committee Members

Tori Friedrich (chair), Roland Pera, Jean Nuernberger, Karen Bame, Linda Fox, Pastor Micah Sievenpiper

Membership Report

Membership reported to the ELCA as of the end of 2024: 166 (baptized)

INCREASES

Baptisms: Essie Mabon Carey

Received by Transfer or Affirmation of Baptism: None reported

CONFIRMATIONS

Jack Friedrich
Charlie Friedrich

DECREASES

Deaths:
Suzanne Steffan
Bob Hyland
Naomi Karmerier
Betty Pera
Lee Craig
Mike Ortmann

Transfers and Withdrawals: None reported

Membership to be reported to the ELCA as of the end of 2025: 161 baptized

Financing a Faithful Future

In the Fall of 2022, Immanuel kicked off a campaign to finance necessary repairs to our building. The list of projects included a new boiler, repair and conservation of our stained glass windows, heating and cooling system repairs and replacements and, various roof repairs. We formed a fundraising committee to guide the effort to raise the funds which included Randy Calstrom, Sara Prem, Rebecca Blocksome, Connie Benolkin, Linda Fewell and Bonnie Thomas. The Church responded generously. We received over \$124,600 in pledges and over \$40,000 in 2022 gifts prior to the pledge campaign. In addition, over \$60,000 was applied as a result of bequests and gifts from the George and Eveyln Roberts estate, a gift in memory of Ann Erickson, and a gift in memory of Ken Ross. This resulted in \$224,453 raised for projects. Pledges were received in a three-year period from January 2023 through December 2025. 90% of the pledges were fulfilled, which exceeds the national average of 80% for nonprofit pledge Campaigns.

The chart below details the projects and their completion dates and final cost. The only remaining project is the north side, stained glass windows which will be completed in the Spring of 2026.

Respectfully submitted: The Financing a Faithful Future committee

Financing a Faithful Future Final January 2026

Projects:

Various roof repairs COMPLETE

New boiler COMPLETE

New water heater and piping COMPLETE

Air conditioning replacement or repair COMPLETE

Stained glass window(all) repair and preservation - PARTIAL

Total Pledged: \$124,320*

Pre FFF giving: \$40,133

Memorial Gift applied: \$60,000

Total funds estimated for projects: \$224,453.00

Pledges received: \$111,730

Percent of pledged not fulfilled – 10%

Pledges fulfilled – 90%

*Amended number: Originally presented as 124,600

Project	FFF Estimate	Paid on Projects to Date	Vendor	Status	Notes
Boiler Replacement	\$56,700	\$60,911	DMI	Completed	
Various Roof Repairs	\$30,000	\$27,816	Tile Roof Contracting	Completed	
Various Roof Repairs		\$10,000	Veterans Restoration	Completed	
Water Heater/Piping	\$5,500	\$5,530.35	EW Plumbing	Completed	
AC replacement/repair	\$27,921	\$21,678.63	DMI	Completed	
Stained glass repair	\$79,500	\$45,000 – South Side windows	Sentimental Art Glass	Remaining: North side windows plus 3 small windows and 2 transom windows in the Bell Tower and Entrance doors	Sentimental Art Glass has provided a bid for the remaining windows and will honor that price when work begins in Spring 2026.
		Total paid on projects to date: \$170,935.98			Amount remaining to complete windows projects: \$53,607

Endowment Fund

Members: Milan Hansen, BJ Laven, Rick Sundell, Randy Callstrom

The Endowment Trust Fund (ETF) was created in 1979 for the purpose of supporting the ministries of Immanuel Lutheran Church (ILC). In May 2005, ILC entered into an agreement with UMB Trust Services to act as the professional investment manager of the ETF. Per ETF policies UMB is required to maintain a diversified portfolio.

In September of 2020 the account management fee charged by UMB was reduced to 1.20%, for a guaranteed three-year period. In 2023 UMB agreed to keep the management fee at the 1.20% fee moving forward for an undefined amount of time.

The ETF portfolio had a change in value in the amount of \$36,654.59 for 2025. Beginning fund value on January 1, 2025, was \$386,586.01 and the fund value as of December 31, 2025, was \$396,312.87.

A total of \$35,000 was transferred to the Immanuel checking account to help cover operating expenses, \$20,000 in November and \$15,000 in December. In addition, at various times in 2025, stock donations to the ETF were sold and transferred to the checking account, according to the donors' wishes.

Should you wish to discuss a gift to the ETF (including gifts by will and planned giving), please contact Randy Callstrom or Linda Fox at your convenience.

Resolutions

1 - RESOLVED, that we give thanks for the faithfulness of God, God's love, and for the gift of Jesus Christ; we ask for the forgiveness of our sins, and we pray for our growth in faith and for strength, guidance, and wisdom as we serve in the coming year.

2 - RESOLVED, that we glorify God through worship and the ministries we offer for the sake of the gospel and to share God's love in the world.

3 - RESOLVED, that we appreciate and thank the many volunteers who serve throughout our ministries recognizing that their work is not only inspirational but also essential to our ministries.

4 - RESOLVED, that we are grateful for the faithful witness and work of Pastor Micah Sievenpiper and Immanuel's dedicated staff—Robert Barthel, Abbey Brightwell-Gray, Phillip Cooper, and Westin Sorrell.

5 - RESOLVED, that we empower the Church Council to review and approve the minutes of this Annual Meeting at their next regularly scheduled meeting.