

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 4, 2024 - 10:25 a.m.

Call to Order - Opening Prayer

Approval of Minutes of 2023 Congregational Meeting

Treasurer's Report

Pastor's Report

Continuing Business

New Business

Proposed Funds Policy

Siding at Parsonage

Elections

Proposed Budget

Adjournment

INDEX

Agenda	1	Budget	12-15
Minutes	2	Funds Policy & Report	17-19
Nominating Committee	3	Statistical Report	20
Pastor's Report	4-9	Membership List	21-23
Financial Reports	10-17	Proposed Resolution	24

Minutes of Annual Meeting of Congregation

Sunday, February 5, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 10:31 by President Linda Beulke. The Pastor led the congregation in prayer. It was determined that a quorum consisting of 38 members was present to conduct business.

Minutes from the 2022 annual meeting were reviewed. Motion by Arnie Beulke and second by Cindy Shetler to approve. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor noted his report in the annual report. He thanked everyone for their work as a congregation this past year. He indicated his desire to continue as Pastor of Immanuel.

Treasurer's Report: Charles Follette presented the treasurer's report. He recommended that the position of church treasurer be a paid position. Motion by Gail Hemeyer and second by Paul Swisher to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Continuing business

Linda Beulke reported on ongoing repairs to the video stream system. A new camera may be required.

New business

Toby Rath presented a report from the fellowship hall chair task force. Motion by Paul Swisher and second by Jon Iverson to allow up to \$10,000 from Thrivent funds and memorial funds for the purchase of chairs for the fellowship hall. Motion carried.

Pastor David Baer moved that Dan Selbo be nominated for Bishop of the North American Lutheran Church. Seconded by Bill Burlison. Motion carried.

Election of Officers

A slate of candidates was listed in the annual report. Paul Swisher moved that nominations cease. Seconded by Charles Follette. Paul Swisher amended his motion to state that a unanimous ballot be cast. Seconded by Jon Iverson. Motion carried.

Budget

The 2023 budget was outlined in the annual report. Motion by Gail Hemeyer and seconded by Meta Halverson to approve the budget as presented. Motion carried.
Meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Toby Rath
Council Secretary

2024 Nominating Committee Report

2024 Nominating Committee

Mona Balo	Dianne Kunz
Linda Beulke	Cindy Shetler
Corey Halverson	Mimi Swisher

Church Council Members

Linda Beulke	(Second term ends 2024)	President
Cindy Shetler	(First term ends 2024)	Secretary
Bob Haiwick	(First term ends 2025)	
Tony Rath	(First term ends 2025)	Vice President
Meta Halverson	(First term ends 2026)	
Richard Horak	(First term ends 2026)	

Treasurer

Mary Tracy	(First term ends 2026)
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Financial Secretary (appointed by the council)

Rita Shewmake

Nominees for Church Council (2 positions - 3-year terms)

Dianne Hunt
Mark Tracy

Nominee for 2024 NALC Convocation (1 voting delegate)

Charles Follette	<i>(Online meeting for 2024)</i>
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Nominees for 2024 Nominating Committee (6 positions)

Bob Grams	Tony Rath
Bob Haiwick	Ginger Smith
Midge Hemeyer	Jody Westberg

Pastor's Report

Much for which to give thanks: We are grateful for council members and other leaders in our congregation who give of themselves to provide leadership for our congregation. We are grateful for members of our congregation who gather regularly to hear God's Word and to receive the Sacraments. We are grateful for teachers who pass on the faith and share God's Word with children and adults. We are grateful for choir members and musicians who share their God-given musical talents to enrich our worship. We are grateful for members who provide food for funerals. We are grateful for those who encourage each other in faith and are there for each other in difficult times. We are grateful for those who pray for our congregation and its leaders and for Christians and ministries worldwide. We are grateful for those who provide words of encouragement. We are grateful for those who encourage others through their involvement in worship and congregational activities. We are grateful for those who support Immanuel financially and enable the work of our congregation. We are grateful for all those who serve Christ in "the least of these" with your time, talents, treasure, and trust, and serve in many ways that are known only to God.

Worship: The regular worship of God is the central activity of our congregation. The Lutheran Confessions define the Church as "the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel." As we gather for worship we are carrying out our chief mission and are truly the Christian Church. We are blessed by many members who gather regularly to hear God's Word and to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Our average worship attendance for 2023 remained stable from 2022, but it is down about 20 people from our average attendance prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

✝ Worship services are live streamed for those who cannot join us in person. We are grateful to Linda Beulke for making the internet streaming video possible.

✝ We decided to add our choir director, Toby Rath, to the musicians that receive a small stipend from the congregation.

✝ We thank Lois Rath and Alona Westberg for beautifying our worship space and fellowship hall through seasonal decorations. We thank all of those who helped them with decorating the church for Christmas and removing the decorations. Bob Grams again obtained a Christmas tree for the sanctuary.

Outreach & Nurture: Kids Club ministry to children is offered on Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. during the school year. Brit Porterfield serves as our Kids Club director. Kids Club features a Bible lesson, music, crafts and a game each

week. About 25 children have been involved in Kids Club each week. Many of those children do not have a church home. It has been exciting to have the involvement of young children in our Kids Club ministry. Volunteers who have been involved in Kids Club are Jennifer Porterfield who has been teaching, Alona Westberg and Rea Weyerich who lead crafts, Toby and Lois Rath who lead music, and Joanne Baer, Dianne Kunz, Ardith Petersen, Lois Rath and Cindy Shetler who coordinate food. Dianne Kunz has also begun to care for the children who come on the bus from Sturgis and arrive about 30 minutes prior to the start of Kids Club.

✝ Vacation Bible School was held July 23-27, 2023. The three churches of Whitewood work together to offer VBS for the children of Whitewood. We had a good turnout of children, especially younger children. VBS is funded through the Churches Care for Whitewood cooperative ministry.

✝ Confirmation classes continue to be offered on Wednesday afternoons. We now have four young men in confirmation class.

✝ Our classes for adults continue to offer opportunities for growth in faith and discipleship. Our Thursday night Bible study continues to study the four Gospels using a Synopsis of the Gospels. Adult Sunday School used a video study of Luther's Small Catechism featuring Professor James Nestingen in 2023.

✝ A Mission Craft Sale was held in November. More than \$2,000 was raised to help children in the Whitewood and Sturgis schools. We thank Linda Beulke for spearheading this project.

✝ Church directory was updated. We thank Linda Beulke for creating our perpetual directory and updating it each year.

✝ Card Ministry continues to send birthday, baptismal anniversary and wedding anniversary cards to our members as well as get-well and sympathy cards. We thank Linda Beulke and Dianne Kunz for their hard work on this project.

✝ A Community Hymn Sing and Potluck Dinner with the other churches in Whitewood was held in December.

✝ A new television was purchased for the library social room. The old TV was moved to the fellowship hall. Having two TVs will enable more than one class to use the TV at a time. There were sometimes conflicts when Kids Club and confirmation classes both needed to use a TV.

✝ Gift certificates were given to the Kids Club volunteers to thank them for their service.

Building and Property: The congregation approved the purchase of new chairs for the fellowship hall at last year's annual meeting. We thank Toby Rath, Cindy Shetler and Shelley Iverson for serving on a task force that recommended the new chairs. The blue chairs that were purchased in 2012 have been sold to Kinkade Funeral Chapel in Sturgis and have been a nice improvement to their chapel.

✝ Changes at the parsonage to allow a laundry room on the main level were approved.

✝ Combination door lock was installed in west exterior door of the church.

✝ Discussed need to prepare lists of short-term and long-term property improvement needs and desires.

✝ Front door weather stripping was installed. The council is considering the possibility of repairing or replacing the exterior doors.

✝ LED light bulbs were installed in the chancel. Nearly all of the lights in the church building are now LED.

✝ Kitchen faucets at the church and parsonage were replaced.

✝ Mold problem at the parsonage was discussed.

✝ Moving and trimming some of the bushes at the church were discussed.

✝ Parking lot was repaired and re-striped.

✝ Roof leak at the church was repaired.

✝ Security cameras were purchased for the church to address liability and security risks. They will be installed this year.

✝ Siding for the parsonage and garage was reviewed and should be replaced. Bids were sought. A proposal will be brought to the annual meeting.

✝ Snow removal at church and parsonage was contracted with Chris Olson beginning in 2024.

✝ Spring work day to work on various projects at the church was held.

✝ Storage unit addition to the garage at the parsonage was completed.

Church Finances: Our congregation continues to be blessed by faithful giving from our members. The Church Council reviewed our savings and investment accounts and recommends that a Funds Policy be adopted to guide future Church Councils in handling the congregation's savings and investments. They are asking that the congregation adopt the proposed Funds Policy at the annual meeting this year.

✝ Mary Tracy began serving as our treasurer this year. We appreciate her using her bookkeeping skills to serve Immanuel. We purchased financial software and a laptop computer to assist in her work.

✝ 3 percent raises were given to the pastor, janitor, organist, and Kids Club director.

✝ \$500 was given to Immanuel's women's group to assist them with the expenses for their annual spring tea.

✝ \$1,000 was given to the Sturgis Kiwanis Food Pantry from our Special Local Mission Fund to assist them during a shortfall of funds and an increase in need for food. The Sturgis Kiwanis Food Pantry will be added to our missions budget for 2023 to provide ongoing support.

✝ A donation was made to the United Methodist Church in Spearfish to thank them for the use of their building for two large funerals for our members in 2023.

✝ The Church Council decided to sell the congregation's Exxon Mobil Stock when the price reaches \$115 per share. The 58 shares of stock were given to the congregation by a member and had a value of roughly \$2,350 at the time. The current value is almost \$6,000. The proposed Funds Policy directs the church to have very diversified investments rather than individual stocks. The price of the stock was near \$115 when the decision was made last fall, but it is now closer to \$100 per share. The Church Council will revisit the stock sale and recommended sale price during the months following the annual meeting. Giving gifts of appreciated assets — such as stock or mutual fund shares — to the congregation is a very tax-efficient way to give to the congregation. The proposed Funds Policy directs the Church Council to sell donations of individual stock and reinvest them in certificates of deposit, money market funds or more diversified assets. Gifts of mutual funds will be evaluated for safety and diversity before a decision is made whether to keep the gift in its original form or reinvest it.

Mission Giving: Our congregation has been very faithful in its giving to the work of Christ beyond our congregation through various missions and ministries. We give based on a percentage of our income, following the Biblical pattern of the tithe. The Church Council recommends continuing to give 31 percent of our income to support ministry beyond our congregation. The Church Council is recommending the addition of four ministries to our regular mission giving for 2024: Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in

North Dakota; Sturgis Kiwanis Food Pantry; Pastor Thomas Thorstad, a new NALC Global Worker in Laos; and Treasured Lives, a sex trafficking ministry in Rapid City (led by Kelly Patterson, who was a featured speaker for Immanuel Women's Tea in 2023).

The Church Council is recommending that we eliminate separate support for the Whitewood Food Pantry because that ministry is now a part of Churches Care for Whitewood which is supported elsewhere in the budget. The Church Council also recommends dropping support for Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Rochester, Minnesota, and Lutheran CORE. This was a decision to focus those funds elsewhere, rather than a concern over those ministries.

The council decided to redirect 2023 budgeted support for Lutherans Outdoors to our Special Local Mission Fund starting in March of 2023 because of Lutherans Outdoors' decision to hold LGBTQ Pride Camp at Outlaw Ranch the same week as children's camp. That decision by them and reports of their current teaching and leadership demonstrate that Lutherans Outdoors is no longer worthy of our support or trust.

My Call at Immanuel: I recently realized that, this year, I will have spent half of my life as pastor of Immanuel. I will begin my 30th year in Whitewood this fall. I turned 60 in October. I have been asked about my plans for retirement and the future. I currently have no plans to retire. My plan is to continue to serve as pastor of Immanuel while I am able and while it is good for the congregation for me to continue. I continue to evaluate whether I am an asset or a liability to our congregation. It is important that you help me to know when and if the time comes when I am no longer an asset or when you discern it is time for a new pastor here. I have witnessed situations where things became ugly because members thought a pastor should have retired sooner or was no longer an asset to their congregation. I pray that you will help me discern when that time comes, and I pray that time does not come soon.

'NALC News' Editor: I continue to serve as editor of the *NALC News*, the monthly newsletter of our church body. I am grateful to the congregation for allowing me time to serve the NALC in this way. It has been fulfilling to combine my journalism background with my service of the church. I believe it is also a faithful outreach from our congregation to other Lutherans in North America.

A Word of Confession: I always conclude my annual report with a confession of sin and request for forgiveness. I may have failed you as your pastor in what I have done or left undone this past year. I ask for your forgiveness. Like you, I rest in the confidence of God's grace and trust that God is at work to bring good in all things — even my mistakes and failures. I also ask for your prayers for me and for our congregation and its work in 2024 and the years ahead.

Pastor David James Baer

2023 Pastoral Acts

Baptism

Parker Joseph Loll	January 15, 2023
Wriggs Jeffrey Johnson	June 11, 2023
Winnie Jo Johnson	June 11, 2023
Tulsi Rae Aldren	September 10, 2023

Confirmation

None

Marriage

Kristina Cox and Zach Westberg	June 24, 2023
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Funeral

Delbert Zambon	February 25, 2023
Shirley Frasier	March 10, 2023
Jeanneane Cederburg	March 18, 2023
Steven Nelson	April 8, 2023
Dale Sogge	April 15, 2023
Jeannie Triplet	April 27, 2023
Douglas Crary	May 3, 2023
Larry Wanhanen	May 11, 2023
Beverly Karlson	June 23, 2023
Gary Andersen	June 29, 2023
Renaes Besler	June 30, 2023
Wendelyn Richter	June 30, 2023
John Ertman	September 6, 2023
Anna Sogge	September 15, 2023
Sandra Elfstrom	October 9, 2023
Leo Tammi	October 13, 2023
Loren Christensen	October 31, 2023

Treasurer's Report

	December 31, 2022	December 31, 2023
Operating Accounts	\$62,210.67	\$54,047.09
Investment Accounts	\$180,020.18	\$190,615.97
Total	\$242,230.85	\$244,663.06

Operating Accounts

	December 31, 2022	December 31, 2023
Black Hills FCU Checking	\$35,653.94	\$27,260.19
Black Hills FCU Savings	\$25.68	\$51.40
Black Hills FCU Money Market	\$26,531.05	\$16,735.50
Black Hills FCU 6-month CD (5/14/24)	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
Total	\$62,210.67	\$54,047.09

Investment Accounts

	December 31, 2022	December 31, 2023
Black Hills FCU 12-month CD (8/7/24)	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Series I U.S. Savings Bond	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Thrivent Opportunity Income Fund	\$13,403.15	\$14,867.74
Thrivent Diversified Income Fund	\$14,957.15	\$16,400.29
Thrivent Limited Maturity Bond Fund	\$111,251.22	\$118,226.89
Exxon Mobil Stock (58 shares)	\$6,397.40	\$5,958.92
Vanguard S&P 500 ETF (4 shares)	\$1,405.36	\$1,677.60
Schwab Treasury Money Market Fund	\$2,517.13	\$3,484.53
Cash at Schwab	\$88.77	\$0.00
Total	\$180,020.18	\$190,615.97

2023 Income

Regular Offerings	\$215,587.00
Donations for Church Use	\$960.00
Interest	\$4,964.03
Memorial Gifts	\$4,638.10
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$6,749.96
Events and Decorations	\$195.00
Craft Fair	\$971.38
Investment Income	\$3,415.62
Other Income	\$2,683.77
Total Income	\$240,164.86

Designated Fund Balances

	December 31, 2022	December 31, 2023
Building Fund	\$8,426.11	\$8,426.11
Contingency Fund	\$20,804.86	\$20,804.86
Endowment Fund	\$7,652.05	\$7,652.05
Memorial Fund	\$23,649.28	\$28,287.38
Special Local Mission Fund	\$8,268.61	\$8,268.61
Stained Glass Windows Fund	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00
Thrivent Choice Fund	\$9,354.66	\$0.00
Flowers	\$986.24	\$986.24
Other Designated	\$1,637.48	\$971.38
Total Designated Funds	\$82,079.29	\$76,696.63
Undesignated Funds (General Fund)	\$160,151.56	\$167,966.43
Total	\$242,230.85	\$244,663.06

Immanuel Lutheran Church Budget

	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
To do the work of Christ beyond our congregation			
Church Body Support (See Mission Giving Budget for detail)	\$26,000.00 (13% of income)	\$25,477.23 (13% of income)	\$26,000.00 (13% of income)
Global Mission (See Mission Giving Budget for detail)	\$18,000.00 (9% of income)	\$17,025.14 (9% of income)	\$18,000.00 (9% of income)
Local Mission (See Mission Giving Budget for detail)	\$18,000.00 (9% of income)	\$18,249.92 (9% of income)	\$18,000.00 (9% of income)
NALC Convocation	\$5,000.00	\$725.75	\$5,000.00
Total	\$67,000.00	\$61,478.04	\$67,000.00
To provide pastoral leadership for our congregation			
Salary & Social Security Allow.	\$77,000.00	\$76,999.93	\$79,310.00
Housing Equity Allowance	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Medical Insurance	\$12,000.00	\$11,160.00	\$12,000.00
Dental, Disability, Illness, Life Ins.	\$5,500.00	\$4,195.92	\$5,000.00
NALC Retirement Plan	\$9,780.00	\$9,780.00	\$10,020.00
Professional Expense Reimbursement	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Continuing Education	\$700.00	\$625.00	\$700.00
Mileage Reimbursement	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
Supply Pastors	\$800.00	\$308.47	\$800.00
Total	\$108,780.00	\$104,569.32	\$110,830.00
To enable the worship of God in our congregation			
Organist, Pianist & Choir Director	\$4,800.00	\$3,701.68	\$5,400.00
Music Supplies	\$600.00	\$618.28	\$600.00
Worship Supplies	\$1,600.00	\$2,547.57	\$2,000.00
Total	\$7,000.00	\$6,867.53	\$8,000.00

	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
To enable the work of our congregation			
Office Supplies and Repairs	\$1,400.00	\$3,430.50	\$3,000.00
Payroll Taxes	\$0.00	\$2,585.68	\$2,600.00
Offering Envelopes, ETF fees	\$0.00	\$201.76	\$500.00
Miscellaneous	\$400.00	\$3,344.71	\$400.00
Total	\$1,800.00	\$9,562.65	\$6,500.00
To share the Gospel in our congregation and community			
Curriculum and Supplies	\$1,500.00	\$228.83	\$1,000.00
Kids Club	\$3,500.00	\$3,832.96	\$3,500.00
Kids Club Director Salary	\$4,400.00	\$3,840.22	\$4,175.00
Youth Ministry	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Local Evangelism	\$700.00	\$680.00	\$1,000.00
Total	\$11,100.00	\$9,582.01	\$10,675.00
To care for the property entrusted to our congregation			
Custodian Salary	\$6,500.00	\$5,838.48	\$6,180.00
Snow Removal & Lawn Mowing	\$3,500.00	\$3,074.32	\$3,500.00
Insurance	\$6,500.00	\$12,443.00	\$7,000.00
Church Utilities	\$6,600.00	\$6,045.40	\$6,600.00
Church Maintenance and Supplies	\$5,000.00	\$5,648.15	\$6,000.00
Parsonage Utilities	\$3,500.00	\$3,318.51	\$3,500.00
Parsonage Maintenance	\$5,000.00	\$952.72	\$5,000.00
Total	\$36,600.00	\$37,320.58	\$37,780.00
TOTAL BUDGET	\$232,280.00	\$229,380.13	\$240,785.00

Mission Giving Budget

We give a percentage of our regular (undesignated) offerings to the work of Christ beyond our congregation. We give based on a percentage of our income, following the Biblical pattern of the tithe. Budgeted mission giving for 2024 is a percentage amount. An estimated dollar amount of our mission giving is reported as the estimated total amount for 2024 below and in the congregation's budget. The estimated total is based on total undesignated offerings of \$200,000.

	2023 Percentage	2023 Actual	2024 Percentage	2024 Estimate
CHURCH BODY SUPPORT				
North American Lutheran Church	7.0%	\$13,718.51	7.0%	\$14,000.00
NALC Theological Education Fund	2.0%	\$3,919.57	2.0%	\$4,000.00
NALC District Seminary Scholarship	1.0%	\$1,959.79	1.0%	\$2,000.00
NALC 2020 Vision Appeal	1.0%	\$1,959.79	1.0%	\$2,000.00
NALC Disaster Response	1.0%	\$1,959.79	1.0%	\$2,000.00
NALC Great Commission Fund	0.5%	\$979.89	0.5%	\$1,000.00
NALC Mission District (Dak.-Mont.-Wyo.)	0.5%	\$979.89	0.5%	\$1,000.00
Total Church Body Support	13.0%	\$25,477.23	13.0%	\$26,000.00
GLOBAL MISSION				
China Service Ventures	1.0%	\$1,891.68	1.0%	\$2,000.00
EECMY Lutheran Seminary in Ethiopia	2.0%	\$3,783.38	1.0%	\$2,000.00
Friends of Madagascar Mission	1.0%	\$1,891.68	1.0%	\$2,000.00
Global Health Ministries	1.0%	\$1,891.68	1.0%	\$2,000.00
Lutheran World Relief	1.0%	\$1,891.68	1.0%	\$2,000.00
Pastor Valery Hryhoryk NALC Global Worker in Belarus (ALWM)	1.0%	\$1,891.68	1.0%	\$2,000.00
Pastor Thomas Thorstad NALC Global Worker in Laos (ALWM)	0.0%	\$0.00	1.0%	\$2,000.00
Water Mission	1.0%	\$1,891.68	1.0%	\$2,000.00
Pastor Charles and Anita Jackson World Mission Prayer League	1.0%	\$1,891.68	1.0%	\$2,000.00
Total Global Mission	9.0%	\$17,025.14	9.0%	\$18,000.00

LOCAL MISSION	2023 Percentage	2023 Actual	2024 Percentage	2024 Estimate
Bella Pregnancy Resource Center	1.0%	\$2,027.77	1.0%	\$2,000.00
Churches Care for Whitewood	1.0%	\$2,027.77	1.0%	\$2,000.00
Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch	0.0%	\$0.00	1.0%	\$2,000.00
Emmanuel Lutheran (Rochester, Minn.)	1.0%	\$2,027.77	0.0%	\$0.00
Genesis Lutheran (Piedmont, S.D.)	1.0%	\$2,027.77	1.0%	\$2,000.00
Love INC (Sturgis)	1.0%	\$2,027.77	1.0%	\$2,000.00
Lutheran CORE	0.5%	\$1,013.88	0.0%	\$0.00
St. Dymas Prison Ministry (Yankton)	1.0%	\$2,027.77	1.0%	\$2,000.00
St. Vincent De Paul (Northern Hills)	1.0%	\$2,027.77	1.0%	\$2,000.00
Special Local Mission Fund *	1.0%	\$2,027.77	0.0%	\$0.00
Sturgis Food Pantry	0.0%	\$0.00	1.0%	\$2,000.00
Treasured Lives (Sex trafficking ministry)	0.0%	\$0.00	1.0%	\$2,000.00
Whitewood Food Pantry	0.5%	\$1,013.88	0.0%	\$0.00
Total Local Mission	9.0%	\$18,249.92	9.0%	\$18,000.00
TOTAL MISSION	31.0%	\$60,752.29	31.0%	\$62,000.00

The Church Council is recommending the addition of four ministries to our regular mission giving for 2024:

+ Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in North Dakota

+ Sturgis Kiwanis Food Pantry

+ Pastor Thomas Thorstad, a new NALC Global Worker in Laos. We support him and his family through Awakening Lives to World Mission (ALWM)

+ Treasured Lives is a sex trafficking ministry in Rapid City. Kelly Patterson, who was a featured speaker for Immanuel Women's 2023 tea, is a leader of this ministry.

The Church Council is recommending that we eliminate separate support for the Whitewood Food Pantry because that ministry is now a part of Churches Care for Whitewood which is supported elsewhere in the budget.

The Church Council is recommending that we drop support for Emmanuel Lutheran Church and Lutheran CORE. This was a decision to focus those funds elsewhere, rather than a concern over those ministries.

* The Church Council decided to redirect 2023 budgeted support for Lutherans Outdoors to our Special Local Mission Fund starting in March of 2023 because of Lutherans Outdoors' decision to hold LGBTQ Pride Camp at Outlaw Ranch the same week as children's camp. That decision by them and reports of their current teaching and leadership demonstrate that Lutherans Outdoors is no longer worthy of our support or trust.

Financial Secretary's Report

Our members were very generous in their support of our congregation in 2023. We received \$215,587 in regular offerings and \$4,638 in memorial gifts.

The table below illustrates the financial giving by members of Immanuel in 2023. Giving is recorded by giving unit. Normally, each household is considered a giving unit. This table includes only those who gave a gift of record in 2023. (A gift of record is a gift where the donor is known.) We are grateful for your faithful financial stewardship through our congregation.

Tax-free distributions from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) are available for those who are age 70½ or older for direct gifts to churches and other non-profit organizations. These are called “Qualified Charitable Distributions” (QCD). This is a significant tax benefit. Many of our members have chosen to give to Immanuel through their retirement accounts. Talk to your tax advisor, IRA custodian, or Pastor David for more information.

Anyone (regardless of age) may make direct gifts of appreciated stocks and mutual funds which result in no capital-gains tax. Talk to your tax advisor or Pastor David for more information.

You may make online gifts to our congregation through our website. Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing covers the processing fees for online donations.

You may use your bank’s “online bill pay” program to schedule regular gifts to Immanuel. Some of our members have found this a helpful way to schedule regular giving.

You are able to give to Immanuel through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Your gift is automatically transferred from your checking or savings account to Immanuel’s account monthly or weekly according to your instructions. Talk to Pastor David or Rita Shewmake if you would like to give to Immanuel using EFT.

Total 2023 Giving	Equivalent Weekly Amount	Number of Giving Units	Percentage of Members
\$7,500 - more	\$140 - more	4	5%
\$5,000 - \$7,500	\$100 - \$140	11	13%
\$3,000 - \$5,000	\$55 - \$100	13	15%
\$1,000 - \$3,000	\$20 - \$60	23	27%
\$500 - \$1,000	\$10 - \$20	13	15%
\$250 - \$500	\$5 - \$10	5	6%
\$0 - \$250	\$0 - \$5	15	18%
Totals		84	100%

Immanuel's Investment Funds Performance Information

Following is a summary of the investment funds owned by Immanuel and their annual returns and balances as of December 31, 2023. The proposed Funds Policy asks the Church Council to report Immanuel's investments to the congregation each year.

	Balance	Expense ratio	1-year annual return	3-year annual return	5-year annual return
Thrivent Limited Maturity Bond Fund A (LBLAX)	\$118,227	0.57%	6.27%	0.51%	1.97%
Thrivent Opportunity Income Plus Fund A (AAINX)	\$14,550	0.91%	8.55%	-0.50%	2.03%
Thrivent Diversified Income Plus Fund A (AAHYX)	\$16,400	0.95%	9.65%	0.58%	4.19%
Exxon Mobil Stock (XOM) 58 shares (3.82% dividend)*	\$5,799	0.00%	-9.4%*	117%*	36.5%*
Vanguard S & P 500 Index Fund ETF (VOO) 4 shares	\$1,747	0.03%	26.25%	9.96%	15.65%
Schwab Treasury Obligations Money Market Fund (SNOXX)	\$3,446	0.34%	4.81%	2.07%	1.67%

* Exxon stock return is stock price change from 1, 3 and 5 years ago.

U.S. Savings I Bond (Issued 6/1/22)	\$10,940
Variable interest rate - currently 3.94%	
Black Hills Federal Credit Union 6-month CD	\$10,306
4.50% interest rate - matures 5/14/24	
Black Hills Federal Credit Union 12-month CD	\$20,417
5.25% interest rate - matures 8/7/24	
Black Hills Federal Credit Union Money Market	\$16,735
1.25% interest rate	
Black Hills Federal Credit Union Checking	\$19,789
0.15% interest rate	

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Funds Policy

The Church Council recommends that the congregation adopt the following funds policy for Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Operating Fund

Our goal is to keep roughly 17 percent of our annual budget (2 months of expenses) (*about \$40,000*) in immediately available funds at a local bank or credit union. These funds are the general fund operating accounts used for regular income and expenses.

Contingency Reserve Fund

Our goal is to keep roughly 25 percent of our annual budget (3 months of expenses) (*about \$60,000*) in cash investments that can be accessed in case of emergencies or shortfalls in income. These funds will be held in bank or credit union certificates of deposit and brokerage money market accounts.

Memorial Fund

These are designated memorial gifts to Immanuel. They are kept separate in our accounting system. These funds will be held in brokerage money market accounts or at a local bank or credit union until spent.

Building Fund

These are designated funds for building improvements or expenses. This fund includes building fund gifts to Immanuel and funds designated as building fund by the Church Council or congregation. They are kept separate in our accounting system. These funds will be held in brokerage money market accounts or at a local bank or credit union until spent.

Special Local Mission Fund

These are designated funds for special local mission projects and expenditures as determined by the Church Council or congregation. This fund includes designated gifts to Immanuel and funds designated for the Special Local Mission Fund by the Church Council or congregation. They are kept separate in our accounting system. These funds will be held in brokerage money market accounts or at a local bank or credit union until spent.

Other Designated Funds

These are other designated gifts to Immanuel or funds designated by the Church Council or congregation. They are kept separate in our accounting system. These funds will be held in brokerage money market accounts or at a local bank or credit union until spent.

Investment Funds - Endowment

These are designated funds for Immanuel's Endowment Fund. They are long-term investment funds and should be invested in order to produce regular income over the long-term. Gifts may be given to this fund with the intent that the principle of the funds be maintained and only income from the funds be used as designated or may be given with the intent that the principle and interest may be spent. The intent of the donor will be honored. These funds will be invested in certificates of deposit or very diversified conservative mutual funds with the intent of producing regular income from dividends while preserving the original investment. The council will report the congregation's current investments and bring a plan for the coming year to each annual meeting of the congregation for approval. These funds will be held in brokerage accounts or at a local bank or credit union.

Investment Funds - Other

These funds are funds designated as longer term investments by the Church Council or congregation. They may be invested as determined by the Church Council or congregation. The council will determine the specific investments for long-term investment funds. These funds will be invested in certificates of deposit or very diversified conservative mutual funds with the intent of producing regular income from dividends, preserving the original investment and/or increasing the value of principle. The council will report the congregation's current investments and bring a plan for the coming year to each annual meeting of the congregation for approval. These funds will be held in brokerage accounts or at a local bank or credit union.



Statistical Report

	Baptized	Confirmed
Membership December 31, 2022	201	180
Members received:		
By Baptism	4	
By Transfer	4	4
Baptized Members Confirmed		0
Members removed:		
By Death	9	9
By Transfer	3	3
Membership December 31, 2023	197	172

Average Sunday Worship Attendance **75**

Average Number of Communicants **68**

Members Received by Transfer or Affirmation

Dianne Hunt
Eric Rath
Alvin (Butch) and Lois Rudd

Members Removed by Transfer

Marvin Hankel and Pat Walz
Dorothy Parfray

Members of Immanuel Lutheran Church

December 31, 2023

This listing of the current members of Immanuel is printed to provide an ongoing historical record of church members and to provide an opportunity for review. If you note any errors in the membership list, please report them to Pastor David.

* Indicates baptized children who have not been confirmed.

Aldren, Jon Heidi	Baumann, Mark Agnes Jessica	Follette, Charles Stores, Sharon
Aldren, Ryan Jennifer Levi* Maysa* Tulsi*	Besler, Derek Beulke, Arnold Linda	Follum, Ray Lynelle Grams, Robert Linda
Andersen, Sharon	Burleson, Bill Chris	Haiwick, Cody
Arehart, David Janelle	Burleson, Bo	Haiwick, Marlyn Judy
Arehart, Dylan	Burleson, Chance	Haiwick, Robert Gina
Arehart, Madalyn	Christensen, Claudia	Halverson, Corey Meta
Bader, Orin	Davis, Harold Cindy	Heinrich, Rick Debra
Baer, David James Joanne	Dubbe, Donald	Hemeyer, Gail Midge
Baer, David Jeremiah	Eckhart, Linsey	Hoon, Darlene
Balo, Guy Melvin	Ertman, Helen	Horak, Richard Linda
Balo, Mona	Flagstad, Bruce Kathie	
Bates, Marilyn	Flagstad, Kirsten	

Hunt, Dianne	Mollman, Julie Mason*	Reed, Rodney
Hunt, Ted Dena	O'Dea, Dale	Richter, Doris
Iversen, Audri (Swisher)	Olson, Chris	Ripley, Cyrus Claire Maxine
Iverson, Elijah	Olson, Cullen	Ross, Connie Jim
Iverson, Grace	Olson, Kaden	Rost, Kaylene
Iverson, Jon Shelley	Olson, Kelton	Rost, Kathy
Johnson, Will John Kylee Weslyn* Jordy* Wriggs* Winnie Jo*	Olson, Tammy Camden*	Rudd, Alvin (Butch) Lois
Jorgenson, John Dianna	Petersen, David Ardith	Sandidge, Billie
Karas, Kathi	Porterfield, Brittan Jennifer Brighton* Thea*	Sandidge, Lance Ava* Lillian* Dean*
Knutson, Todd Carla Joan Mitchell Amelia Karl*	Pulling, Chad Jaime Desirae Alex Paul Peter	Sandidge, Leon Shanna
Kunz, Dianne	Pulscher, Darrell Dorothy	Sandidge, LeRoy Linda
Lange, Donna	Rath, Anthony Brenda	Schumacher, Gerald
Loll, Brandon Alyssa Holden* Parker*	Rath, Eric	Shetler, Cindy
Miller, James (Wally) Cleo	Rath, Jason	Shewmake, Rita
	Rath, Tim	Sleep, Richard Karen
	Rath, Toby Lois	Smith, Jordan
		Smith, Vaughn Ginger Grace Gavin Stella*

Sneesby, Jean

Sulzbach, Rose

Swisher, Paul
Mimi

Thompson, Gene
Kyla

Thompson, Katy
Ancher*
Rylan*

Thompson, Rocky
Jennifer
Duprel, Brayden*

Thompson, Trampus
Trinity*
Truett*
Truston*
Kassidy*

Tinklenberg, Ariel (Smith)

Tracy, Mark
Mary

Vasknetz, Steven
Carletta

Vercoe, Carol

Wagner, Kip
Kristi

Wanhannen, David

Wanstedt, Jack
Barbara

Wessel, Doug
Ardean

Westberg, Bryan

Westberg, Jamie

Westberg, Jeff
Julie

Westberg, Jody

Westberg, Tony
Alona

Westberg, William

Westberg, Zach
Krissy
Nathaniel
Rylan
Abigail

Yuill, LaVon
Alyssa

Yuill, Russell

Zambon, Jean

Zwingelberg, Audrey

Total Baptized **197**

Total Confirmed **172**

**ASSOCIATE
MEMBERS:**

Barker, Randee

Olstad, Jeff
Diane

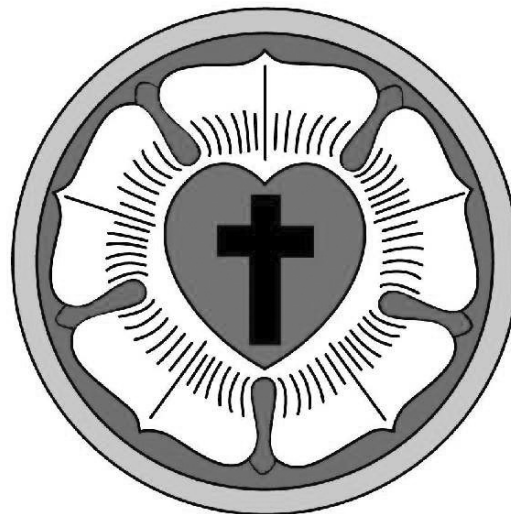
Petik, Kathy

Quail, Duane
Harriet

Sturgeon, Guyla

**INACTIVE
MEMBERS:**

Immanuel also has a list
of inactive members for
whom we have a continuing
pastoral concern.



Proposed Resolution for Annual Meeting

The following resolution is proposed by the Church Council for consideration by the 2024 annual meeting:

Be it resolved that Immanuel Lutheran Congregation authorize the Church Council to coordinate installing new siding on the parsonage house and garage at a cost not to exceed \$50,000. Funding for this expense will come from the congregation's Building Fund, Contingency Fund, Thrivent Choice Fund and general investment funds.

