



2024 Annual Report Annual Meeting 2/2/2025



Loving God and Loving People

2024 Annual Report

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH — ESCANABA, MICHIGAN

Annual Meeting Agenda — Feb 2, 2025

January 2024 - December 2024

1.	Opening Devotion - Pastor Michael Markwell	
2.	Approval of Agenda	
3.	Approval of 2024 Congregational Annual Meeting Minutes.....	3
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12.	Presentation and Adoption of 2025 Budget.....	19-20
13.	New Business	
	a. Council, Boards and Committees:	
	Audit, Investment Advisory, Nominating	
	b. Delegates: Synod Assembly, Delta Conference, Fortune Lake	22
14.	Synod Reports	
	a. Fortune Lake Camp Director's Report	23
	b. Bishop's Report.....	24
15.	Close of Meeting with Prayer	

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2024

11:35 Meeting called to order.

46 members in attendance.

Prayer: Pastor Mike

Motion to accept agenda: Jodi Chouinard/Linda Mason. Motion carried.

Motion to conduct Annual Meeting: Judi LaCosse/Dave Mason. Motion carried.

Motion to accept treasurer's report: Dave Mason/Terry Anderson. Motion carried.

Motion to accept reports: Linda Mason/Sandy Sovey. Motion carried.

Motion to approve budget: Ralph Johnson/Jim Franks. Motion carried.

Dave Mason and Gloria Johnson added to council motion to close nominations. Moved by Linda Mason and Patty Woerpel. Motion carried.

Motion to close secretary nominations and accept new nominations: Judi LaCosse/Don Woerpel. Motion carried.

Nominations for open investments – Dick LaCosse Synod Conference meeting Saturday in May.

Craig Woerpel – Self nomination.

Judi LaCosse – Self nomination.

Fortune Lake delegate Sunday afternoon.

Sandy Sovey – Self nomination.

Nomination Committee: Katie Stewart, Ralph Johnson.

Motion to accept ballot: Kathy Stewart/Maria Caron.

Closing Prayer

Motion to adjourn: Dave Mason/Ralph Johnson. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report

Immanuel Lutheran Church Expense Summary			12/31/2024
CATEGORY	2024 Budget	Spent to date	
Enabling Ministries	\$ 149,313	\$ 134,295.06	90%
Worship	\$ 2,630	\$ 2,790.48	106%
<i>Instrument Maintenance</i>	\$ 580	\$ 655.00	113%
<i>Music, Supplies, Copyrights</i>	\$ 800	\$ 1,282.00	160%
<i>Worship Supplies</i>	\$ 1,000	\$ 853.48	85%
<i>Other</i>	\$ 250		0%
Evangelism	\$ 1,425	\$ 768.12	54%
<i>Advertising</i>	\$ 450	\$ 104.50	23%
<i>Brochures, Web Site, & Supplies</i>	\$ 675	\$ 538.62	80%
<i>Hospitality</i>	\$ 100		0%
<i>New Member Ministries</i>	\$ 100		0%
<i>Other</i>	\$ 100	\$ 125.00	125%
Synod Ministries	\$ 12,500	\$ 10,173.00	81%
<i>NGLS General Benevolence</i>	\$ 11,000	\$ 9,488.00	86%
<i>Fortune Lake Camp</i>	\$ 1,500	\$ 325.00	22%
<i>Other</i>	\$ -	\$ 360.00	
Church Administration	\$ 20,650	\$ 17,799.14	86%
<i>Utilities</i>	\$ 15,000	\$ 13,373.62	89%
<i>Supplies, Postage, & Equipment</i>	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,135.90	92%
<i>Synod Convention & Delta Conference</i>	\$ 800	\$ 98.00	12%
<i>Interest fee</i>	\$ 100		0%
<i>Other</i>	\$ 250	\$ 191.62	77%
Staff Support	\$ 110,242	\$ 104,205.84	95%
<i>Supply Pastor</i>	\$ 938	\$ 700.04	75%
<i>Pastor</i>	\$ 82,915	\$ 82,629.12	100%
<i>Base Salary</i>	\$ 42,500	\$ 42,499.92	
<i>Housing Allowance</i>	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000.08	
<i>Social Security Allowance</i>	\$ 4,227.00	\$ 4,245.84	
<i>Education Allowance</i>	\$ 900	\$ 640.26	
<i>Milage</i>	\$ 1,200		
<i>Health Insurance & Pension</i>	\$ 21,088	\$ 22,243.02	
<i>Church Secretary</i>	\$ 10,530	\$ 11,559.41	110%
<i>Custodian</i>	\$ 4,992	\$ 2,104.50	42%
<i>Choir Director</i>	\$ 9,322	\$ 2,330.52	25%
<i>Base Wage</i>	\$ 8,872	\$ 2,330.52	
<i>Education allowance</i>	\$ 450		
<i>Organist</i>	\$ 270	\$ 3,750.00	1389%
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	\$ 580	\$ 300.00	52%
<i>Quilters</i>	\$ 115	\$ 252.25	219%
<i>Treasurer</i>	\$ 580	\$ 580.00	100%
Tax Obligation	\$ 1,866	\$ (1,441.52)	-77%
<i>Medicare</i>	\$ 353.71	\$ 273.19	77%
<i>SSI</i>	\$ 1,512.43	\$ 1,168.33	77%
<i>Other - Credits</i>	\$ -		
<i>Church Obligation</i>	\$ 1,866.14	\$ 1,441.52	77%

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Savings Budget	\$ 38,759	\$ 109,706.35	283%
Outreach Ministries	\$ 4,400	\$ 3,956.36	90%
<i>Gods Fund</i>	\$ 600	\$ 573.13	96%
<i>Outreach Service Projects</i>	\$ 3,800	\$ 3,383.23	89%
<i>Hope At The Inn</i>	\$ -		
Youth & Family	\$ 2,875	\$ 1,016.60	35%
<i>Adult Education</i>	\$ 200	\$ 297.60	149%
<i>Youth Education</i>	\$ 400		0%
<i>Programs & Trips</i>	\$ -	\$ 119.00	
<i>Scholarships</i>	\$ 1,000		0%
<i>Vacation Bible School</i>	\$ 1,000	\$ 525.00	53%
<i>Picnic</i>	\$ 75	\$ 75.00	100%
<i>Other</i>	\$ 200		0%
Youth Camperships	\$ 1,200	\$ 695.00	58%
<i>Camperships</i>	\$ 1,200	\$ 695.00	
Property Maintenance	\$ 17,000	\$ 14,999.32	88%
<i>Insurance</i>	\$ 4,600	\$ 5,800.00	126%
<i>Snow/Yard Services</i>	\$ 3,400	\$ 2,000.00	59%
<i>Supplies, Services, & Minor Repairs</i>	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,959.80	99%
<i>Capital Expenditures</i>	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,239.52	65%
Loan	\$ 13,284	\$ 89,039.07	670%
<i>Roof Loan Principal</i>	\$ 13,284	\$ 86,012.61	
<i>Roof Loan Interest</i>		\$ 3,026.46	
BUDGET TOTAL	\$ 188,072	\$ 244,001.41	130%

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INCOME AND TRANSFER SUMMARY IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

12/31/2024

SAVINGS ACCOUNT SUMMARY									
Category	Starting Balance	Investment Withdrawals	Cash Deposits	Vince Myers	Jefferson Annuity	Transfers In	Transfers Out	Balance	
Property Management Fund	\$ 1,410.65	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 580.00	\$ 4,550.92	\$ 954.27	\$ 96.87	\$ 9,992.21	\$ 0.50	
Outreach Fund (Good Samaritans)	\$ 1,754.61		\$ 1,776.00		\$ 954.27	\$ 476.50	\$ 3,770.73	\$ 1,190.65	
God's Fund	\$ 1,850.39						\$ 573.14	\$ 1,277.25	
Youth and Family Ministry Fund	\$ 4,425.78		\$ 295.00		\$ 1,076.52		\$ 1,016.60	\$ 4,780.70	
Fortune Lake Scholarships	\$ 2,704.50		\$ 75.00				\$ 695.00	\$ 2,084.50	
Choir Music Fund	\$ 514.01				\$ 122.25			\$ 636.26	
General Memorials	\$ (2,030.33)	\$ 13,700.00	\$ 620.88		\$ 122.25		\$ 11,638.04	\$ 774.76	
HATI	\$ 255.00							\$ 255.00	
Capital Fund	\$ 1,987.37		\$ 3,212.60				\$ 3,188.00	\$ 2,011.97	
Roof	\$ 4,018.00		\$ 85,231.90			\$ 1,126.05	\$ 89,073.57	\$ 1,302.38	
TOTALS	\$ 16,889.98	\$ 16,100.00	\$ 91,791.38	\$ 4,550.92	\$ 3,229.56	\$ 1,699.42	\$ 119,947.29	\$ 14,313.97	

Checking Account Income							
Category	January	February	March	April	May	June	
Benevolence							
Mission	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	
Total	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	
Bellin Rent							
Bulletin Sponsor			\$ 40.00		\$ 10.00		\$ 20.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 44.00	\$ 141.70	\$ 77.00	\$ 88.00	\$ 71.00		\$ 51.00
Direct Deposit	\$ 225.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 200.00		\$ 140.00
Envelopes	\$ 14,321.00	\$ 9,935.00	\$ 6,435.00	\$ 10,316.00	\$ 6,915.00		\$ 7,596.00
Flowers							
Loose	\$ 350.00	\$ 274.00	\$ 226.00	\$ 368.00	\$ 85.00		\$ 207.00
Other		\$ 258.00	\$ 117.82	\$ 34.00			
Parish Life							\$ 20.00
Rents	\$ 275.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 335.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 275.00		\$ 300.00
Special Offerings		\$ 50.00	\$ 87.00				
Special Service		\$ 290.00	\$ 642.50	\$ 620.00	\$ 168.00		
Thrivent Choice	\$ 12.00	\$ 226.00	\$ 14.00				
TOTAL	\$ 15,227.00	\$ 11,574.70	\$ 8,424.32	\$ 11,851.00	\$ 7,724.00		\$ 8,334.00
	\$ 15,257.00	\$ 11,604.70	\$ 8,454.32	\$ 11,881.00	\$ 7,754.00		\$ 8,364.00

Category	July	August	September	October	November	December	Year To Date
Benevolence							\$ -
Mission	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 360.00
Total	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 360.00
Bellin Rent				\$ 7,429.71			\$ 7,429.71
Bulletin Sponsor				\$ 10.00		\$ 10.00	\$ 90.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 45.00			\$ 86.00	\$ 68.00	\$ 34.00	\$ 705.70
Direct Deposit	\$ 165.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 1,125.00	\$ 140.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 165.00	\$ 3,075.00
Envelopes	\$ 8,902.00	\$ 7,382.50	\$ 8,655.00	\$ 9,660.00	\$ 7,403.00	\$ 11,159.25	\$ 108,679.75
Flowers							\$ -
Loose	\$ 194.00	\$ 17.00	\$ 227.00	\$ 126.00	\$ 169.00	\$ 699.00	\$ 2,942.00
Other			\$ 126.56		\$ 40.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 676.38
Parish Life		\$ 10.00					\$ 30.00
Rents	\$ 275.00	\$ 275.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 275.00	\$ 510.00	\$ 3,695.00
Special Offerings							\$ 137.00
Special Service						\$ 150.00	\$ 1,870.50
Thrivent Choice		\$ 35.00		\$ 11.00	\$ 29.00		\$ 327.00
TOTAL	\$ 9,581.00	\$ 7,839.50	\$ 10,483.56	\$ 17,687.71	\$ 8,104.00	\$ 12,827.25	\$ 129,658.04
	\$ 9,611.00	\$ 7,869.50	\$ 10,513.56	\$ 17,717.71	\$ 8,134.00	\$ 12,857.25	\$ 130,018.04

TOTAL INCOME year-to-date	\$ 229,589.90
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Petty Fund	\$115.64
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Checking Balance	\$ 1,817.68
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INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS SUMMARY IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

12/31/2024

INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS SUMMARY - UPDATED QUARTERLY - 2024							
Category	Starting Balance	Investment Gain/Loss	Cash Deposits	Distributions	Withdrawals	Ending Balance	
Thrivent Dividend Income Plus	\$ 93,669.96	\$ 7,203.48			\$ 16,100.00	\$ 84,773.44	
Security Plus Flexible Annuity	\$ 81,323.44	\$ 2,431.74		\$ 3,229.55		\$ 80,525.63	
						\$ -	
						\$ -	
						\$ -	
						\$ -	
TOTALS	\$ 174,993.40	\$ 9,635.22	\$ -	\$ 3,229.55	\$ 16,100.00	\$ 165,299.07	

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ROOF LOAN SUMMARY - 2024					
Category	Starting Balance	Principal Payments	Interest Payments	Principal Balance Remaining	
Mission Investment Fund	\$ 85,991.95	\$ 86,012.61	\$ 3,026.46	\$ (20.66)	
				\$ -	
				\$ -	
				\$ -	
				\$ -	
TOTALS	\$ 85,991.95	\$ 86,012.61	\$ 3,026.46	\$ (20.66)	

RAISE THE ROOF CAMPAIGN SUMMARY - 2024						
	Starting Balance	Donations	MIF Payments	Other Payments		Balance
Mission Investment Fund	\$ 4,018.00	\$ 86,357.95	\$ 89,039.07	Wire fee	\$ 15.00	\$ 1,302.38
				Fundraiser Ad	\$ 34.50	
TOTALS	\$ 4,018.00	\$ 86,357.95	\$ 89,039.07		\$ 49.50	\$ 1,302.38

*Report filed before 4th quarter. Thrivant report not available.

Financial Secretary’s Report

Financial Status as of December 31, 2024		
ASSETS	Checking Account	\$ 1,817.68
	Savings Account	\$ 14,313.96
	Petty Cash	\$ 115.64
	Mutual Fund - Thrivent Diversified Income Plus	\$ 83,703.55
	Security Plus Flexible Annuity	\$ 81,345.34
	Building and Lot	\$ 3,000,000.00
	TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 3,181,296.17
LIABILITIES	Roof Loan	\$ -
	Tax Liability	\$ 1,441.52
	TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 1,441.52
	FUND BALANCE	\$ 3,179,854.65

Financial Secretary’s Report – End of the Fiscal Year (January 1, 2024– December 31, 2024)

Average Weekly Household Giving

Giving 0..... 0	\$17-18 1	\$46-50 5
Under \$1 3	\$19-20 3	\$51-55 5
\$1-2..... 6	\$21-22 1	\$56-60 1
\$3-4..... 6	\$23-24 2	\$61-70 3
\$5-6..... 7	\$25-26 0	\$71-80 5
\$7-8..... 3	\$27-28 1	\$81-90 3
\$9-10..... 2	\$29-30 3	over \$90..... 5
\$11-12..... 0	\$31-35 2	
\$13-14 1	\$36-40 0	
\$15-16..... 0	\$41-45 3	
		Total Giving Units 71

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
Audit Committee
Reporting for:
January – December 2023**

During the months of October, November and December 2024 we performed the Audit of the Treasurer and Financial Secretary's records for the year 2023, following in accordance with procedures recommended by the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

Random months for receipts and expenditures have been reviewed and traced. Receipts traced from weekly Sunday deposit reports to the bank statement and posting of fund designation. Expenditures traced from paid ledger folder to clearing of bank statement and posting of expense fund designation. Payroll records have been examined and compared to payroll tax returns filed. Petty Cash Ledger has been examined. Quicken reports have been cross referenced to the 2023 Annual Report provided at the Annual Meeting.

Records have been found to be in order with minimum items noted to Treasurer, with minor recommendations for future handling.

Submitted by:

Maria Caron

Sandy Gonsowski

Kim Pepin

(Copies of the full audit report are available in the church office.)

Pastor's Report

Greetings and peace to you,

As we complete another year in partnership of ministry, I am very pleased with the direction the congregation continues to go. Last year in my report to the congregation I wrote “[in 2023] we continued to build back some of our programming that had not been present since before the pandemic.” If I were to characterize 2024 in a similar fashion I would say that in 2024 Immanuel continues to follow the direction of the Holy Spirit in fulfilling her mission of Loving God, Loving People. We as a congregation no longer look back to what we were before the pandemic but rather where we are and where God is calling us.

I am grateful for each and every one of you. This congregation is defined by its members. Together we work to live into our baptismal vows and to fulfill the mission of this congregation “Loving God, Loving People”. We walk together in joyous moments, and we sit together in grief. We serve alongside one another, and we allow ourselves to be served. It continues to be my great privilege to serve with the people of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Escanaba.

This year we celebrated three baptisms as we welcomed the newly baptized into God's family and our community at Immanuel. Every baptism brings me great joy but the three we celebrated this year stick out to me as a reminder of the intergenerational power of the gospel. We baptized an adult, a pre-teen, and an infant. God's grace and love is for all of us regardless of where we are in our life journey. The door to being welcomed into God's family is always open, we are never too young or too old.



Pastor Mike baptizes Iann



Pastor Mike reads the baptismal vows to Becky during her baptism

We continue to be a growing congregation. We have seen a 7% increase in average attendance in-person 2023 to 2024, and have seen a 22% increase in our online viewership from 2023 to 2024. As you will see in the financial reports, the congregation's offerings continue to increase allowing us to sustain the wonderful ministry we are doing. Regular giving increase 15% across the congregation and designated giving was exceptional as we worked to retire the roof debt. Paying off the roof mortgage was a huge task taken on by this congregation. Your generosity in retiring that debt will allow us to put our time and resources into the new places God is calling us. We continue to grow in our faith as well. We continue to grow in the ministry and work we do in the community. We are grateful for your generosity in your volunteering and your resources.

One area where we are placing energy and resources right now is in our children's ministry. Over the past year we have started to build new momentum in our youth and family ministry. Sunday school had been sporadic as we had low numbers of youth. At times no kids were present, but that's not to say we didn't have children connected to our ministry. We had conversations with parents and our volunteers to see how we could meet the spiritual needs of their families in a way that works for them. This fall Traci Corrigan and parents of our youth led an effort to have a mid-week children's program on Wednesday's overlapping with confirmation. The first two events were with great success as we had 6 kids participate in each event. We hope to carry that energy into 2025.

This past year I completed the course work for Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising through Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis' Lilly School of Philanthropy. This educational opportunity expanded my skillset as we navigated the capital campaign. In 2025, I have been accepted into the grant funded project 'Faith Forward', through Grandview University in Des Moines, Iowa. I will be working with lay leaders at Immanuel to develop and equip members of the congregation to pass on their faith to the next generations in their life, their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. This education opportunity will give us the support of the faculty of the university and colleagues in the cohort from across the nation. This year-long opportunity will provide an opportunity to explore this approach in a practical way as it relates to Immanuel.

As we conclude our year and look into the next one, it is my hope that we all continue to grow deeper in our faith, build stronger relationships within our congregations and continue to see where God is calling us to serve in our community and across the globe.

Sincerely,
Pastor Mike Markwell



Pastor Mike baptizes Ezra.

Membership Record for 2024

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

January – December 2024

* In-person	3,304
** On-line worshippers	1,443
Total Worshippers:	4,747
Weekly Average: In-person	64
On-line	28
Total Weekly Average:	92

Ash Wednesday, Midweek Lent and Advent, and Christmas Eve are included in these numbers.

MEMBERSHIP RECORD

January 1, 2024	Active	141
	Inactive	55
	Total	196

December 31, 2024	Active	122
	Inactive	75
	Total	197

PARISH REPORT

Baptisms

Ezra John Sarnowski 4-7-24
 Becky Ann Savard 6-23-24
 Iann William Blunt 9-15-24

Deaths

Marlene Ehle
 September 6, 1940 - February 2, 2024

Eric Mallard *
 March 24, 1999 - March 25, 2024

Donna Lewis
 September 29, 1941– April 2, 2024

John W. Miller *
 August 20, 1962 - March 13, 2024

Willard Mattson
 February 20, 1937 - June 19, 2024

Julianne K. Servant
 October 17, 1948 - October 17, 2024

Harriet Masta
 February, 1, 1930 - September 24, 2024

James “Jim” Judson

*non-member

Marriages

None

New Members

W. John and Terry Frankenstein
 Tyler, Avalina and Melvin Frankenstein

Students Confirmed

First Communicants

High School Graduates

Elliot Corrigan

President's Message

"Therefore, I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."

-Mark 11:22-24

Congregation Members,

This has been an amazing year of our congregation coming together to work towards eliminating our loan for the roof repairs. We have succeeded in paying of the remaining balance!! So many people stepped up to run various fundraisers such as the rummage sale, special meals, coin drives, candy sales, etc. It has been amazing to watch. Thank you to Sandy Sovey, Sam Barton, and Pastor Mike for being on the Capitol Campaign Committee with me. We cannot thank our anonymous match donor enough; it helped us get to the finish line and we are blessed by their generosity. It truly takes a village, and this village showed up to make it happen.

Giving has increased along with new members. We are headed in the right direction. Moving forward, the council will work on getting our budget back in the black, establish funds for the property committee, and work on communication between committees.

Thank you for the support in the continued work that we do.

Yours in Christ,
Gary Corrigan

Outreach Report

I can't believe another year has gone by! They aren't kidding when they said as you get older the years fly!

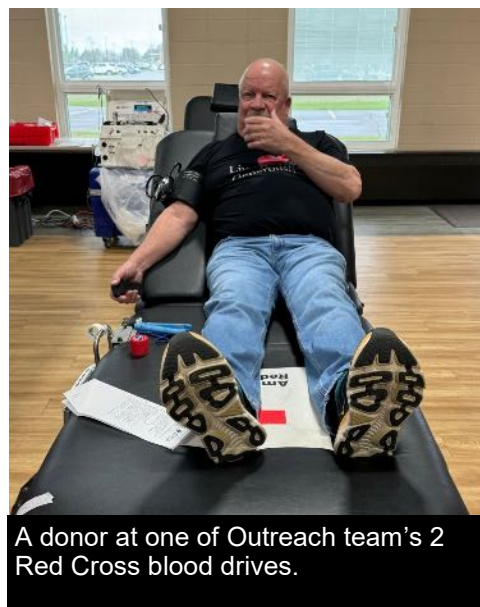
The Outreach Team had another busy year and with the help of the congregation we accomplished much.

Mitten Tree (106 mittens, hats, gloves, and scarves were distributed to 3 schools)

Jacobetti Home for Veterans (3 boxes off toiletries along with a check for \$230 that we collected at our Soup Suppers during Lent.)

2 Red Cross Blood Drives (55 units of blood were collected)

2 Bay College Meals (Over 120 students were fed) Diaper Drive for Mission of Hope (over \$1,000 of diapers were donated) Participated in Mission of Hope (Also a check for \$500 was given) Fall Harvest Collection (Over \$600 worth of groceries collected) Trunk or Treat (Held together with Christian Park) Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box (29 shoe boxes were filled plus money for shipping)



A donor at one of Outreach team's 2 Red Cross blood drives.

Monetary Donations were given to:

Mission of Hope

ELCA World Hunger

Bay Cliff

Jacobetti Home for Veterans

Memory Care Center

East Ludington Gallery

Harvest of Harmony for Advertising

Pregnancy Services of Delta County

Fortune Lake Camp

Thank you to the Team members that headed up these projects and to everyone that helped do God's Work by supporting them.

Financial Report

Beginning Balance: \$1,779.61

Income: \$3,044.27

Expenses: \$3,633.23

Ending Balance: \$1,190.65

We are always looking for new ideas and members.

Outreach Team:

Barb Noblet, Mary Ciminskie, Deb Barton, Lynn Burak, Jean Chapman, Gail Johnson, Sandy Sovey, Sandy Gonsowski, Donna Woerpel.

Thank you everyone again for supporting Outreach here at Immanuel and in our community.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barb Noblet Chairperson



Immanuel Volunteers at Mission of Hope.

Property & Management Report

It is good to start a property on a high note and that would be paying off our debt on the roof project! Our congregation stepped up big time to pay this large debt off in such a short time. I am, and I think most of us are very grateful for anonymous for the anonymous donor who helped us with the matching funds. We are very lucky to have a congregation that always seems to come together and be so generous!

We however ran into some unexpected issues with a circulation pump on the boiler that had to be replaced and quite expensive. We however did get it replaced but unfortunately the motor burned out three months later. Thankfully we had a warranty on it and it was replaced at no cost.

On another note we had our handicapped door openers installed and a big thank you to Jim Franks for taking on this project with the help of Pastor Mike! The property committee was able to get the fence in the south parking lot installed with money from an anonymous donor and the can drive which so many people bought in their cans and bottles. We raised over \$300 towards this effort and more money coming in from the can drive. A big thank you to all the people and the generosity you have shown here at Immanuel throughout the year!

I would like to thank all our volunteer snow shovelers and our lawn care people and we could use more volunteers in this area. Some of our property committee people are getting older and we could use some younger members to step up and take over some these activities. Thank you Lord for looking over our faithful church and congregation.

Submitted by property committee co-chair
Tom Kozar with Terry Anderson

Children's Ministry Report

This year in Children's Ministry has changed a bit. Last school year we did not have any children's programming. However, this fall we have started up again. We started Sunday school in the traditional way on Sunday mornings. This included two children who would regularly attend. After conversation with the parent of those children, I was made aware that we could potentially have more children if we switched to Wednesday evenings. After some conversations, it was decided that we would switch to Wednesday evening and would coincide our times with confirmation class on every other Wednesday. This has proven successful. We now have five children that regularly attend, and we are hoping to add a few more. There are currently three children who are here on Wednesday nights for confirmation class. Up until this point, I have been piecing together a curriculum, but I have ordered a curriculum book that will make lesson plans for all ages.



Youth and volunteers listen as Traci teaches.

I also purchased items for goodie bags to hand out to children who attended Christmas Eve worship. Twelve bags were handed out.

Respectfully submitted,
Traci Corrigan
Director of Children's Ministry



Confirmation students enjoy pizza during our Wednesday night class.

Worship and Music Report

The worship and music committee plans the weekly worship services as well as special services throughout the year. This includes hymn picking, selecting liturgical settings, incorporating special liturgical elements like candle lighting for All Saints Sunday, blessing of the quilts, our outdoor worship and much more.

Highlights of this year's worship and music committee include the dedication of the new Pentecost banners in May. We are thankful to Lynn Burak who made them. We also had a combined worship service this year with Bethany Lutheran at the Escanaba Marketplace to kick off our joint worship with Bethany Lutheran. We celebrated 60 years of worship and ministry in our current building in the fall of 2024.



Pastor Mike reads "The Quiltmakers Gift" as part of a Children's sermon



Worshippers sing Silent Night during Christmas Eve Worship

This past year we wished our former Music Director Tim Worth well, as he and his family relocated to Lower Michigan. Tim's Last Sunday with us was Easter. A search for a new musician was launched and in June we were excited to bring Jeanne LaCosse on board. Jeanne brings a wealth of experience as an accompanist and choir director. Jeanne's musical gifts continue to lead and inspire our worship whether it's on piano or organ.

In addition to Sunday services, this past year worship and music planned holy week service including hosting the ecumenical good Friday worship, Maundy Thursday. We had Ash Wednesday and mid-week Lenten worship as well as a new coffee house style mid-week Advent worship.

We look forward to continuing to plan engaging, innovative, and spirit-filled worship in the coming year.

Respectfully,
Pastor Mike



Parishioners gather at Besse Park for our outdoor worship

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN (ILCW) ANNUAL REPORT
JANUARY – DECEMBER 2024**

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN (ILCW) ANNUAL REPORT JANUARY – DECEMBER 2024

*We had a successful **Lenten Breakfast** on February 10th. We served over 100 people with “Find Your Mission” as the theme for our program. Pastor Mike Markwell had a message for us, and as usual we had a couple of soloists and The Remnants singing for us. In addition, Linda and Dave Mason sang a duet.

*Our ILCW group continues to send out **cards to our shut-in’s**, with Char Scheeneman leading this endeavor. Please let her know of anyone we should send cards to. At Christmas Barb Noblet, Barb Denny and Pastor Mike delivered gifts which included lotions, socks, large print word search books, mixed nuts and other items donated from the congregation to the shut-ins. It is a pleasure to be able to see how much they appreciate the visit and gifts.

*Barb Denny and Barb Noblet attended the Fall **SWO Convention at Fortunate Lake** held September 20th. Scholarships are available if anyone is interested in attending our SWO (Synodical Women’s Organization) Retreat held in the fall each year. Please contact Barbara Denny if you’re the least bit interested in attending.

*Donated **100 quilts to Lutheran World Relief and the people in North Carolina** in October. We meet on Monday mornings from nine to noon. Anyone is welcome to join us, that means if you have a friend who is a member of a different church, invite them to join us. We haven’t started evening quilting this year, anyone interested? Contact Barbara Denny and we’ll try to pick an evening that works. All the donations of sheets and material is much appreciated. Thanks to each of you.

*We held three **pasty sales** raising over \$7,500.00.

***Service Groups:** Served food at 4 funerals. This is something our ladies continue to do whenever a family requests us to serve. Everyone who is able to donate food and their time is so very much appreciated by the families.

***Officers** for the ILCW are: President, Barbara Denny; Vice President, Gail Johnson; Secretary, Cindy **at 5:30 p.m.** Our next meeting is March 10th. All the women of Immanuel are considered members, we would love to have you join us.

*Our **Lenten Breakfast and Musical Program** is scheduled for March 1, 2025. We appreciate all the help we get in this endeavor. Our theme is “Waiting for God’s Time.”
Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Denny, President



Immanuel Lutheran Church Women

Treasurer's Report December 31, 2024	
Balance as of December 31, 2022	\$1,230.80
ILCW Account Savings & Checking	
December 2022 Balance	\$1,112.49
December 2023 Balance	\$1,433.65
Pasties Account	
December 2022 Balance	\$118.31
December 2023 Balance	\$118.31
Balance as of December 31, 2023	\$1,551.96
<i>Respectfully Submitted,</i>	
Maria Luisa Caron	
Treasurer	

Immanuel Lutheran Church Spending Plan '25

CATEGORY	2024 Budget	2025 budget	24 to 25 Increase
Enabling Ministries	\$149,428	\$ 152,808	102%
Worship	\$2,630	\$ 2,470	94%
<i>Instrument Maintenance</i>	\$580	\$ 670	116%
<i>Music, Supplies, Copyrights</i>	\$800	\$ 800	100%
<i>Worship Supplies</i>	\$1,000	\$ 1,000	100%
<i>Other</i>	\$250	Remove Line	0%
Evangelism	\$1,540	\$ 1,015	66%
<i>Advertising</i>	\$450	\$ 100	22%
<i>Brochures, Web Site, & Supplies</i>	\$675	\$ 600	89%
<i>Hospitality</i>	\$100	\$ 100	100%
<i>New Member Ministries</i>	\$100	\$ 100	100%
<i>Quilters</i>	\$115	\$ 115	100%
<i>Other</i>	\$100	Remove Line	0%
Synod Ministries	\$12,500	\$ 11,750	94%
<i>NGLS General Benevolence</i>	\$11,000	\$ 11,000	100%
<i>Fortune Lake Camp</i>	\$1,500	\$ 750	50%
<i>Designated Missional Giving</i>	\$0	\$ -	100%
Church Administration	\$20,650	\$ 20,850	101%
<i>Utilities</i>	\$15,000	\$ 15,000	100%
<i>Supplies, Postage, & Equipment</i>	\$4,500	\$ 4,500	100%
<i>Synod Convention & Delta Con.</i>	\$800	\$ 1,000	125%
<i>Interest fee</i>	\$100	\$ 100	100%
<i>Unforseen Expenses</i>	\$250	\$ 250	100%
Staff Support	\$110,242	\$ 115,003	104%
<i>Supply Pastor</i>	\$938	\$ 960	102%
<i>Pastor</i>	\$82,915	\$ 90,009	109%
<i>Base Salary</i>	\$42,500	\$ 46,048	108%
<i>Housing Allowance</i>	\$13,000	\$ 13,000	100%
<i>Social Security Allowance</i>	\$4,227.00	\$ 4,579	108%
<i>Education Allowance</i>	\$900	\$ 900	100%
<i>Milage</i>	\$1,200	\$ 1,200	100%
<i>Health Insurance & Pension</i>	\$21,088	\$ 24,282	115%
<i>Church Secretary</i>	\$10,530	\$ 10,920	104%
<i>Custodian</i>	\$4,992	\$ 5,200	104%
<i>Choir Director</i>	\$9,322	Remove Line	0%
<i>Base Wage</i>	\$8,872	Remove Line	0%
<i>Education allowance</i>	\$450	Remove Line	0%
<i>Organist</i>	\$270	\$ 6,360	2356%
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	\$580	\$ 580	100%
<i>Quilters</i>	\$115	Moved to Evangelism	0%
<i>Treasurer</i>	\$580	\$ 580	100%
<i>Workers Comp. Ins.</i>	\$	\$ 394	
Tax Obligation	\$1,866	\$ 1,720	92%
<i>Medicare</i>	\$354.00	\$ 326	92%
<i>SSI</i>	\$1,512.00	\$ 1,394	92%
<i>Church Obligation</i>	\$1,866.00	\$ 1,720	92%

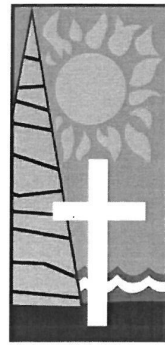
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Savings Budget	\$39,959	\$	24,575	62%
Outreach Ministries	\$4,400	\$	4,400	100%
<i>Gods Fund</i>	\$600	\$	600	100%
<i>Outreach Service Projects</i>	\$3,800	\$	3,800	100%
<i>Hope At The Inn</i>	\$0	Remove Line		
Youth & Family	\$2,875	\$	1,675	58%
<i>Adult Education</i>	\$200	\$	200	100%
<i>Youth Education</i>	\$400	\$	400	100%
<i>Programs & Trips</i>	\$0	\$	-	0%
<i>Scholarships</i>	\$1,000	\$	-	0%
<i>Vacation Bible School</i>	\$1,000	\$	1,000	100%
<i>Picnic</i>	\$75	\$	75	100%
<i>Other</i>	\$200	Remove Line		0%
Youth Camperships	\$1,200	\$	1,200	100%
<i>Camperships</i>	\$1,200	\$	1,200	100%
Property Maintenance	\$18,200	\$	17,300	95%
<i>Insurance</i>	\$4,600	\$	6,300	137%
<i>Snow/Yard Services</i>	\$3,400	\$	2,000	59%
<i>Supplies, Services, & Minor Repairs</i>	\$4,000	\$	4,000	100%
<i>Capital Expenditures</i>	\$5,000	\$	5,000	100%
Loan	\$13,284	Remove Line		0%
Roof Loan Principle				
** Roof Loan Interest				
BUDGET TOTAL	\$189,387	\$	177,383	94%

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2024 Council Members, Officers, and Delegates

Name	Term	Elected at this Annual Meeting	Term Expires at this Annual Meeting	Nominations for 2025
Current Council Members				
Richard LaCosse	1st	2023	2025	Willing to Stand for Second Term
Dave Mason	1st	2024	2026	n/a
Katie Stewart	1st	2023	2025	Willing to stand for a second term
Marylin Nobel	1st	2023	2025	Willing to stand for a second term
Gloria Johnson	1st	2024	2026	n/a
Vacant (up to 2 additional members)				Additional Nominations
Current Congregational Officers				
Gary Corrigan (President)	1st	2023	2025	Willing to stand for second Term
Charlene Scheeneman (Vice President)	1st	2023	2025	Willing to Stand for second Term
Vacant (Secretary)	2nd			Needs Nomination
Mary Ciminskie (Treasurer)		Appointed 2023		
2022 ELECTED POSITIONS AND STAFF OF IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH				
Audit Committee				
Sandy Gonsowski	1st	2024	2027	
Kim Pepin	2nd	2023	2026	
Maria Caron	1st	2022	2025	Needs Nomination
Investment Advisory Board				
Jim Franks	2nd	2022	2025	Needs Nomination
Tom Kozar	2nd	2022	2025	Needs Nomination
Richard LaCosse	1st	2024	2027	
Synod Convention Delegates for 2025 in addition to Pastor Mike May 15-17, Marquette				
2024: Judy LaCosse, Craig Worepel,				Needs nominations (2)
Fortune Lake Delegates in addition to Pastor Mike April 27, 2pm (CST) Crystal Falls, WI				
2024: Sandy Sovey and Rachel Markwell				Needs Nominations (2)
Delta Conference Delegates in Addition to Pastor Mike March 2, 3pm @ Bethany Lutheran, Perkins The fall meeting is usually first Sunday in October				
2024: Dave Mason and Barb Denny				Needs Nominations (2)
Nominating Committee for 2026 meeting in Addition to Pastor Mike				
2024: Ralph Johnson, Katie Stewart, Traci Corrigan				Need nominations (5)
STAFF				
Pastor: Mike Markwell		Financial Secretary: Kim Pepin		
Administrative Assistant: Mary Finlan				
Custodian: Misty Mason		Musician: Jeanne LaCosse		

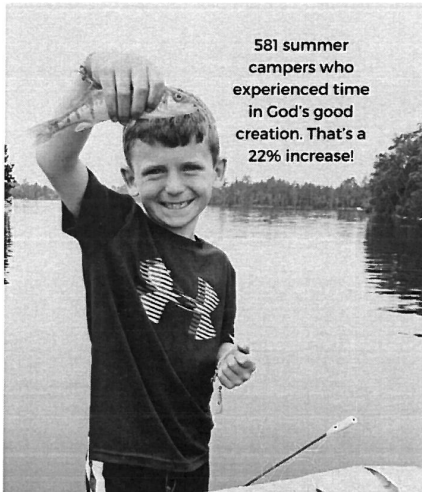


**A place of grace...
Fortune Lake
Lutheran Camp**

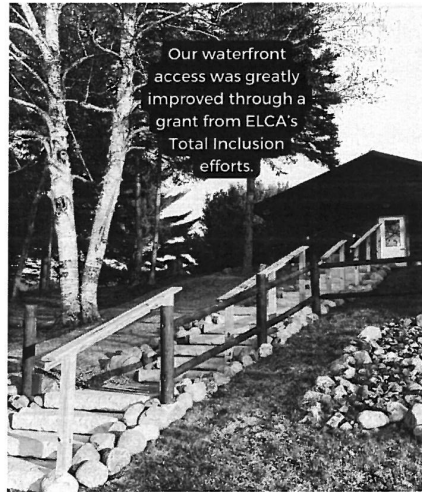
December 4, 2024

Greetings from Fortune Lake!

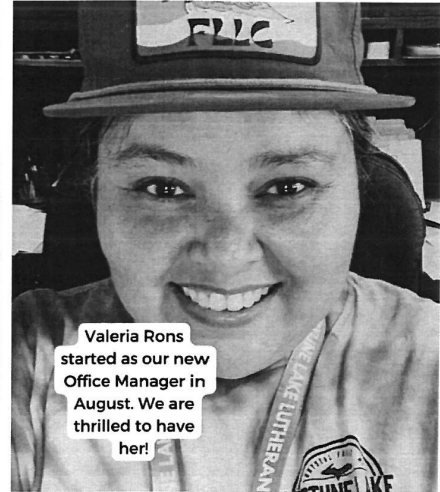
We pray for your faith community and are grateful for your partnership. 2024 was another blessed year for Fortune Lake, our 94th year of operation! Here are some of the highlights, in pictures:



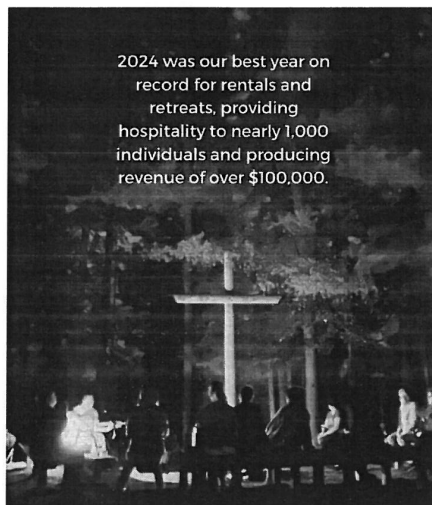
581 summer campers who experienced time in God's good creation. That's a 22% increase!



Our waterfront access was greatly improved through a grant from ELCA's Total Inclusion efforts.



Valeria Rons started as our new Office Manager in August. We are thrilled to have her!



2024 was our best year on record for rentals and retreats, providing hospitality to nearly 1,000 individuals and producing revenue of over \$100,000.

We are grateful for all of the ways in which we have partnered in ministry! THANK YOU for your prayers, your participation, and your financial support.

We hope to see you at camp in 2025 as we continue to live into the shared mission to which Christ has called us!

Grace & Peace,
Amanda Rasner, Camp Director

Bishop Finegan's Annual Report Letter 2024

*⁶I planted,
Apollos watered,
but **God gave the growth.**
⁷So neither the one who plants
nor the one who waters is anything,
but **only God who gives the growth.**
⁸The one who plants and the one who waters
have a common purpose,
⁹For we are God's servants,
working together; ...*
~1 Corinthians 3: 6-9

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

As we begin the Year of our Lord 2024, I share with you the scripture focus of our Synod for the next three years. The above verse from Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth is an admonition to those who would make a distinction between baptism at the hands of one leader against another, as if baptism ties the newly initiated to the baptizer rather than to the one in whose name we are baptized. Paul asserts that the life of faith is about more than one believer or baptizer, rather all believers are part of the life cycle of ministry; one planting seeds- for the next one to nurture- for the next one to enjoy the growth given by the grace of God, which in turn enables seed planting for future ministry.

Together, all of us are Seed Sowers with a common purpose, and there is blessing in understanding the impact we can have in different seasons of ministry.

For the year of our Lord 2024, we will lean into what it means to "plant." I confess, I do not always have patience for planting. When I have been frustrated at a lack of response for a given effort, I often hear the reassuring word, "but you planted seeds! Who knows how those seeds will bear fruit in the future." While this is true and I am glad to be reminded, I would much rather see the fruits of my labor now.

If only ministry could be more like mowing the lawn! One makes the effort, sees the rows where the grass has been cut and where it still needs a trim, and when it's all done, there is a sense of satisfaction as I can see what has been accomplished. There is an immediate return on the labor and time invested.

So often, ministry is not like this. And yet planting is so important! There is no harvest without planting. There is no fruit of our labor. There is no passing on the faith, teaching, raising up leaders, building relationships in and out of our congregations.

We give thanks to God for the growth we enjoy from seeds that were planted long ago. Each of us has a story to share of who passed the faith on to us and how. Who was it that planted seeds of faith in you? How were they watered? And each one of our ministry efforts began somewhere. Who planted the seeds of your congregation? Of LWR quilts and food pantries? We celebrate that others have laid a foundation for ministry, and still others have built upon it. But only God gives the growth.

This year, as we focus on planting, we not only enjoy the fruits of what others have planted, but we take our turn to plant seeds for future ministry, future generations, future Church. We plant seeds for fruit that we may never see and for a future Church that may be very different from the one we know. Yet we plant, trusting that God will give the growth.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

