



***Immanuel Lutheran
Escanaba***

2025 Annual Report



Loving God and Loving People

**Annual Meeting
February 8, 2026**

2025 Annual Report

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH — ESCANABA, MICHIGAN

Annual Meeting February 8, 2026

January 2025 - December 2025

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Notes

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

And also with you.

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

Receive our prayer, O God.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

Amen.

Founded on Faith

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

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

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

Al - le - lu - ia!

All Creation Sings, 1048

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Immanuel Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting

February 2, 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Gary Corrigan at 11:42 am. 32 people in attendance.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Terry

Motion to approve Annual Meeting Agenda: Linda Mason/Barb Noblet. Motion carried.

Motion to accept 2024 Congregational Annual Meeting minutes: Dave Mason/Maria Caron. Motion carried.

Motion to accept reports: Fred Breitzman/Deb Barton. Motion carried.

Motion to adopt 2025 budget: Gloria Johnson/Katie Stewart. Motion carried.

Vote on council: counters: Gloria Johnson, Dave Mason

Need nominations for following:
Investment advisory board (2)
Fortune Lake (1)
Nominating committee (5)

Motion to accept synod reports: Katie Stewart/Linda Mason. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 12:01 pm: Barb Denny/Linda Mason

Submitted by Samantha Barton

Treasurer's Report

Immanuel Lutheran Church Expense Summary			12/31/2025
CATEGORY	2025 Budget	Spent to date	
Enabling Ministries	\$ 152,808	\$ 142,962.96	94%
Worship	\$ 2,470	\$ 2,988.55	121%
Instrument Maintenance	\$ 670	\$ 590.00	88%
Music, Supplies, Copyrights	\$ 800	\$ 1,204.00	151%
Worship Supplies	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,194.55	119%
Evangelism	\$ 1,015	\$ 905.43	89%
Advertising	\$ 100	\$ 50.00	50%
Brochures, Web Site, & Supplies	\$ 600	\$ 432.35	72%
Hospitality	\$ 100		0%
New Member Ministries	\$ 100		0%
Quilters	\$ 115	\$ 423.08	368%
Synod Ministries	\$ 11,750	\$ 7,100.00	60%
NGLS General Benevolence	\$ 11,000	\$ 5,737.00	52%
Fortune Lake Camp	\$ 750	\$ 963.00	128%
Designated Missional Giving	\$ -	\$ 400.00	
Church Administration	\$ 20,850	\$ 21,516.00	103%
Utilities	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,313.97	102%
Supplies, Postage, & Equipment	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,831.86	107%
Synod Convention & Delta Conference	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,027.56	103%
Interest fee	\$ 100		0%
Unforeseen Expenses	\$ 250	\$ 342.61	137%
Staff Support	\$ 115,003	\$ 112,129.32	98%
Supply Pastor	\$ 960	\$ 879.10	92%
Pastor	\$ 90,009	\$ 88,042.16	98%
Base Salary	\$ 46,048	\$ 46,048.07	
Housing Allowance	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000.08	
Social Security Allowance	\$ 4,579	\$ 4,517.07	
Education Allowance	\$ 900	\$ 481.18	
Milage	\$ 1,200		
Health Insurance & Pension	\$ 24,282	\$ 23,995.76	
Church Secretary	\$ 10,920	\$ 11,287.00	103%
Custodian	\$ 5,200	\$ 3,896.06	75%
Organist	\$ 6,360	\$ 6,730.00	106%
Financial Secretary	\$ 580	\$ 300.00	52%
Treasurer	\$ 580	\$ 580.00	100%
Workers Comp Insurance	\$ 394	\$ 415.00	105%
Tax Obligation	\$ 1,720	\$ (1,676.34)	-97%
Medicare	\$ 325.96	\$ 317.81	97%
SSI	\$ 1,393.76	\$ 1,358.53	97%
Church Obligation	\$ 1,719.72	\$ 1,676.34	97%

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Savings Budget	\$ 24,575	\$ 24,239.08	99%
Outreach Ministries	\$ 4,400	\$ 5,939.71	135%
<i>Gods Fund</i>	\$ 600	\$ 299.99	50%
<i>Outreach Service Projects</i>	\$ 3,800	\$ 5,639.72	148%
Youth & Family	\$ 1,675	\$ 3,333.28	199%
<i>Adult Education</i>	\$ 200	\$ 362.70	181%
<i>Youth Education</i>	\$ 400	\$ 370.13	93%
<i>Fellowship</i>	\$ -	\$ 727.52	
<i>Programs & Trips</i>	\$ -	\$ 60.00	
<i>Scholarships</i>	\$ -		
<i>Vacation Bible School</i>	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,812.93	181%
<i>Picnic</i>	\$ 75		0%
Youth Camperships	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,420.00	118%
<i>Camperships</i>	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,420.00	
Property Maintenance	\$ 17,300	\$ 13,546.09	78%
<i>Insurance</i>	\$ 6,300	\$ 6,951.00	110%
<i>Snow/Yard Services</i>	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,200.00	110%
<i>Supplies, Services, & Minor Repairs</i>	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,075.09	77%
<i>Capital Expenditures</i>	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,320.00	26%
BUDGET TOTAL	\$ 177,383	\$ 167,202.04	94%

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INCOME AND TRANSFER SUMMARY IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

12/31/2025

SAVINGS ACCOUNT SUMMARY									
Category		Starting Balance	Investment Withdrawals	Cash Deposits	Vince Myers	Jefferson Annuity	Transfers In	Transfers Out	Balance
Property Management Fund		\$ 0.50		\$ 7,964.35	\$ 4,665.24	\$ 960.84	\$ 590.00	\$ 12,537.17	\$ 1,643.76
Outreach Fund (Good Samaritans)		\$ 1,190.65		\$ 6,448.68		\$ 960.84	\$ 50.22	\$ 5,989.72	\$ 2,660.67
God's Fund		\$ 1,277.25		\$ 100.00			\$ 255.00	\$ 299.99	\$ 1,332.26
Youth and Family Ministry Fund		\$ 4,780.70		\$ 886.00		\$ 1,083.92	\$ 614.00	\$ 3,135.28	\$ 4,229.34
Fortune Lake Scholarships		\$ 2,084.50		\$ 2,103.30			\$ 100.00	\$ 1,720.00	\$ 2,567.80
Choir Music Fund		\$ 636.26				\$ 123.09		\$ 250.00	\$ 509.35
General Memorials		\$ 774.75	\$ 7,700.00	\$ 2,456.50		\$ 123.08	\$ 500.00	\$ 11,403.08	\$ 151.25
HATI		\$ 255.00						\$ 255.00	\$ -
Capital Fund		\$ 2,011.97		\$ 6,238.27			\$ 1,702.38	\$ 1,370.00	\$ 8,582.62
Roof		\$ 1,302.38					\$ 1,302.38		\$ -
TOTALS		\$ 14,313.96	\$ 7,700.00	\$ 26,197.10	\$ 4,665.24	\$ 3,251.77	\$ 3,811.60	\$ 38,262.62	\$ 21,677.05

CHECKING ACCOUNT INCOME						
Category	January	February	March	April	May	June
Benevolence			\$ 25.00			
Fortune Lake						
Mission	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
Total	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 55.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
Bellin Rent						
Bulletin Sponsor			\$ 40.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	
Coffee Hour	\$ 102.00	\$ 89.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 67.00	\$ 69.00	\$ 87.00
Direct Deposit	\$ 120.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 555.00	\$ 140.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 225.00
Envelopes	\$ 7,285.00	\$ 14,210.00	\$ 7,553.00	\$ 9,171.00	\$ 8,780.00	\$ 8,860.00
Flowers						
Loose	\$ 259.50	\$ 300.00	\$ 309.00	\$ 229.00	\$ 445.00	\$ 153.00
Other	\$ 141.00	\$ 142.00	\$ 345.00	\$ 111.00	\$ 25.00	
Parish Life						
Rents	\$ 185.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 275.00	\$ 275.00
Special Offerings				\$ 50.22		
Special Service			\$ 525.50	\$ 453.00		
Thrivent Choice	\$ 25.00	\$ 14.00	\$ 38.00	\$ 633.00		
TOTAL	\$ 8,117.50	\$ 15,080.00	\$ 10,540.50	\$ 10,939.22	\$ 9,724.00	\$ 9,600.00
	\$ 8,147.50	\$ 15,110.00	\$ 10,595.50	\$ 10,969.22	\$ 9,754.00	\$ 9,630.00

Category	July	August	September	October	November	December	Year To Date
Benevolence			\$ 100.00			\$ 60.00	\$ 185.00
Fortune Lake				\$ 311.00			\$ 311.00
Mission	\$ 130.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 32.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 462.00
Total	\$ 130.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 132.00	\$ 341.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 958.00
Bellin Rent				\$ 7,630.31			\$ 7,630.31
Bulletin Sponsor						\$ 30.00	\$ 90.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 54.00		\$ 95.00	\$ 135.00	\$ 114.00	\$ 110.00	\$ 997.00
Direct Deposit	\$ 543.00	\$ 803.00	\$ 1,523.00	\$ 1,773.75	\$ 1,263.00	\$ 1,648.75	\$ 8,814.50
Envelopes	\$ 7,755.00	\$ 7,565.00	\$ 8,425.00	\$ 8,355.00	\$ 7,335.00	\$ 9,585.00	\$ 104,879.00
Flowers							\$ -
Loose	\$ 135.00	\$ 295.00	\$ 347.70	\$ 314.73	\$ 266.00	\$ 1,141.75	\$ 4,195.68
Other	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 203.00	\$ 167.00	\$ 40.00		\$ 2,174.00
Parish Life							\$ -
Rents	\$ 300.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 275.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 3,735.00
Special Offerings							\$ 50.22
Special Service						\$ 227.50	\$ 1,206.00
Thrivent Choice					\$ 240.00		\$ 950.00
TOTAL	\$ 9,787.00	\$ 8,888.00	\$ 10,943.70	\$ 18,600.79	\$ 9,533.00	\$ 12,968.00	\$ 134,721.71
	\$ 9,917.00	\$ 8,918.00	\$ 11,075.70	\$ 18,941.79	\$ 9,563.00	\$ 13,058.00	\$ 135,679.71

TOTAL INCOME year-to-date	\$ 166,242.05
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Petty Fund
\$25.28

Checking Balance	\$ 621.01
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(Continued)

INVESTMENT / PAYROLL WITHHOLDING ACCOUNTS SUMMARY IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

12/31/2025

INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS SUMMARY - UPDATED QUARTERLY - 2025						
Category	Starting Balance	Investment Gain/Loss	Cash Deposits	Distributions	Withdrawals	Ending Balance
Thrivent Dividend Income Plus	\$ 83,703.55	\$ 8,255.63			\$ 7,700.00	\$ 84,259.18
Security Plus Flexible Annuity	\$ 81,345.34	\$ 3,251.77		\$ 3,251.77		\$ 81,345.34
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
TOTALS	\$ 165,048.89	\$ 11,507.40	\$ -	\$ 3,251.77	\$ 7,700.00	\$ 165,604.52

TAX ACCOUNT SUMMARY * - 2025					
Category	Starting Balance	Transfers In	Interest	Transfers Out	Balance
IRS Withholding	\$ 548.04	\$ 2,030.01	\$ 4.35	\$ 2,109.10	\$ 473.30
State Withholding		\$ 747.73	\$ -		\$ 747.73
TOTAL	\$ 548.04	\$ 2,777.74	\$ 4.35	\$ 2,109.10	\$ 1,221.03

* This Savings Account is used to hold funds to pay quarterly IRS payroll withholding and annual Michigan payroll withholding

RAISE THE ROOF CAMPAIGN SUMMARY - 2025								
		Starting Balance	Donations		MIF Payments		Other Payments	Balance
Mission Investment Fund		\$ 1,302.38					Moved to \$ 1,302.38	\$0.00
							Capital Expenses	
TOTALS		\$ 1,302.38	\$ -		\$ -		\$ 1,302.38	\$0.00

Financial Status as of December 31, 2025

ASSETS	Checking Account	\$ 621.01
	Savings Account	\$ 21,677.05
	Petty Cash	\$ 25.28
	Mutual Fund - Thrivent Diversified Income Plus	\$ 84,259.18
	Security Plus Flexible Annuity	\$ 81,345.34
	Building and Lot	\$ 3,000,000.00
	TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 3,187,927.86
LIABILITIES	Roof Loan	\$ -
	Tax Liability	\$ 1,676.34
	TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 1,676.34
FUND BALANCE		\$ 3,186,251.52

Financial Secretary’s Report – End of the Fiscal Year (January 1, 2025– December 31, 2025)

Average Weekly Household Giving

Giving 0..... 0	\$17-18..... 0	\$46-504
Under \$1 3	\$19-20..... 3	\$51-554
\$1-2..... 4	\$21-22..... 0	\$56-600
\$3-4..... 5	\$23-24..... 2	\$61-707
\$5-6..... 2	\$25-26..... 2	\$71-803
\$7-8..... 2	\$27-28..... 2	\$81-901
\$9-10..... 4	\$29-30..... 1	over \$904
\$11-12..... 1	\$31-35..... 2	
\$13-14..... 1	\$36-40..... 3	
\$15-16..... 1	\$41-45..... 2	
		Total Giving Units.....63

Immanuel Lutheran Church**Audit Committee****Reporting for:****January – December 2024**

We started the audit during the month of May 2025 and got things wrapped up during the month of September 2025. We performed the Audit of the Treasurer and Financial Secretary's records for the year 2024, 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 2024 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

Pastor's Report

Greetings,

We are into the New Year. We have “closed the books” on 2025, which continued to be an active year for our ministry. I want to look back at 2025 for Immanuel. This year we have continued to strengthen our ministry, we continue to grow both in the width and depth of ministry. We have seen stewardship in both giving of our time and resources increase. This fall we needed to add 2 communion assistants each week and Immanuel responded with plenty of volunteers. We have been able to address some small capital needs this year including new computers and the new snowblower, all while regular giving has increased 4% year over year. Our budget deficit for the year was \$7,700, which is the lowest it's been in my time here and was lower than the earnings from our investment. We did not have to use principal funds from our investment this year to cover operational expenses. We still have a little way to go in reaching our financial goals but this was a huge milestone in our journey. Thank you for your dedication, prayer, and support. We continue to be able to do much of our ministry because of the great staff we have working with us.



As we reflect on the past year, we also draw attention to the work the council has done to lead us into the future. This last year, your council took on the task of developing a long-range plan. We have short term goals we will evaluate at the end of the program year, but this long-range plan is really a 3–5-year vision. The council identified the following goals:

- Encourage Families to engage with our ministry.
- Help Families create space for faith formation.
- Equip youth to be evangelists.
- Let people know who we are and why we are there.
- Keeping a ministry focus on outreach and community building.

But the long-range plan is a reflection of what is already going on. Immanuel is a congregation that has turned itself inside out. Sure, we still draw people into our building with worship, but so much of what Immanuel is involved in, is out in the community. We are truly going out to meet people where they are, not expecting them to come into us.

We have already started to live into these goals of the long-range plan through the Faith Forward Initiative that we have implemented into our children's ministry and children's sermons. Faith forward focuses on equipping parents and grandparents to be able to pass down their faith to the next generation. We have started to focus on how we tell the story of what we do and why through social media. Our outreach committee continues to lead regular projects including Mission of Hope, Harvest Collection, hygiene kits and so much more. Community flourishes here at Immanuel through the exercise group, bingo, and potlucks just to name a few.

I thank the leadership of this congregation for their continued support. Over the past few years we have worked to develop new leadership for this congregation. We are grateful for the gifts of our Council President, Gary Corrigan, and all members of council. But also, for the leadership in specific ministries and committers and for the leaders who serve each and every week to keep this congregation running smoothly.

It's my honor and privilege to continue to be the pastor of such a vibrant, growing, innovative ministry. Immanuel continues to be a vibrant ministry because of your participation. From our staff to our volunteers, to those of you who share your passions. Thank you, and I look forward to the ways God continues to be at work in 2026.

Pastor Mike Markwell



Pastor Mike joins volunteers Jim Franks and Rachel Markwell in the kitchen as they prepare a meal for dozens of bingo players at one of Immanuel's fun bingo nights where folks gather to play, laugh and win one of the myriad of fun gift prizes.

Membership Record for 2025

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

January – December	2024	2025
* In-person	3,304	3,337
** On-line worshippers	1,443	1,542
Total Worshippers:	4,747	4,879
Weekly Average: In-person	64	65
On-line	28	30
Total Weekly Average:	92	95

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

MEMBERSHIP RECORD

January 1, 2025	Active	122
	Inactive	75
	Total	197
December 31, 2025	Active	127
	Inactive	73
	Total	200

PARISH REPORT

Baptisms

Walker Robinson 5-18-26

Funerals (*non-member)

Thomas “Tom” A. Nowotny*
March 7, 2025

Lynne Winget
March 22, 2025

Callie Jefferson*
July 5, 2025

Richard Hanson*
August 1, 2025

Ryan Strem*
August 8, 2025

Jerine Paulin LaBelle*
August 11, 2025

Betty Denessen*
September 18, 2025

Jim Bonifas*
November 26, 2025

Phyliss “June” Carlson
December 8, 2025

Marriages

None

New Members

Robin and Christine Smauley
Bill and Bonnie Strem
Kristine Hovland

Students Confirmed

First Communicants

High School Graduates

President's Message

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

It has been another great year here at Immanuel. I am excited about the wonderful things that our congregation has been up to. We have added new members and reinstated prior members. We are seeing new faces and we hope to see that continue.

Some other things that have been happening at Immanuel:

- The mortgage for our new roof was paid off in record time.
- Stewardship has been strong and we are moving closer to having our church budget run in the black.
- A new snowblower was purchased for property and we are getting more use than we would like so far this winter.
- We sent several kids to Fortune Lake Bible Camp for a weeklong adventure of learning and worship, and we are looking forward to sending more this year. Our Children's Ministry continues to grow.
- We tried adjusting our start time for summer; however, attendance went down so we went back to our 10:30 start time. I appreciate the congregation's willingness to try new things out. As we move forward, we may try other things from time to time.

Our long-term goals for our congregation are to encourage families to engage in our ministry, help families create space for faith formation, equip kids to be evangelists, let people know who we are and why we are here, and keep our ministry focused on outreach and community building.

We hope to accomplish these goals by continuing to encourage attendance in our weeknight Children's Church, engaging families and sharing a meal with them. Continuing to participate in events such as Mission of Hope and Trunk or Treat. Sharing our stories on social media and at events. Continuing and growing events like bingo and potluck after church.

I have faith that God will guide our steps as we strive to move forward with these goals.

Gary Corrigan
President-Church Council

Outreach Annual Report

Another year in the books and what a busy year it was for Outreach and all the members here at Immanuel. I'd say we outdid ourselves so give yourselves a pat on the back for a job well done. We are blessed to be a blessing to others.

Here is a quick summary of some of the projects we were involved with:

- Toiletries for the Jacobetti Center for Veterans (Thanks Carl and Gail -Johnson for delivering them)
- Sandy Sovey, with her on going Saykllys Candy Sale for Mission of Hope Diaper Drive.
- 2 Pastie Sales
- Fundraiser for Pregnancy Services (Change for Life)
- 2 Blood Drives (29 units and 39 units collected)
- Bird feeders for Christian Park (13 Feeders/ 1 bag of bird seed)
- 1 Bay College meal serving 70 students (Sandy Sovey Chaired)
- Breakfast served here for Mission of Hope Diapers
- Mission of Hope
- Served Coffee and Sweets after Barbershop Concert
- Collected bags of candy for residents at Christian Park to hand out at Trunk or Treat
- 10 vehicles from Immanuel participated in Christian Park's Trunk or Treat
- Fall Harvest for Salvation Army (Jean Chapman Chaired)
- 16 Christmas Shoeboxes along with monetary donations (Sandy Gonsowski chaired)
- Mitten Tree 35 pairs of mittens/gloves and 38 hats were brought to Webster, Lemmer and Escanaba High School. (Lynn Burak chaired)

Monetary Donations Made:

- ELCA California Wildfires Victims
- Jacobetti Veterans Center
- God's Fund
- Pregnancy Services of Delta County
- Christian Parks Trunk or for birdseed
- Mission of Hope
- Community Foundation Feed the Kids Backpack Program
- Fortune Lake
- Mailing for Christmas Shoeboxes
- Lake State Industries
- ELCA Texas Flood Victims
- Shop with a Cop
- Memory Care Center
- Civic Center After School Program

Well, there you have it, Gods work with our hands. Thank you everyone who contributed, helped in anyway or chaired a project. Thank you to those that applied for Thrivent Grants. This couldn't be done without your help!

Respectfully Submitted,
Barb Noblet, Chairperson

Outreach Team:

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



November rummage sale donors, volunteers and shoppers brought in \$3500, and made it possible to make donations to the **Hope Project, Harlie's Angels, Players De Noc, Bay College, Delta Animal Shelter, Lutheran Social Services, the League of Women Voters, Boy Scouts, Pinecrest Care Facility and Lakestate Industries!**



During worship on July 20th, a blessing of the diapers was held for the many, **many** diapers that were generously donated for Mission of Hope.

Financial Report:

Starting Balance: \$1,190.65
Income: \$7,459.74
Expenditures: \$5,989.72
Ending Balance:\$2,660.67

Property & Management Report

Another year gone by and we didn't have any big property issues, at least nothing that we couldn't handle! We didn't have any major funding issues that came up but we did purchase a new snow blower as we had issues with the old one, however most of the money came from generous donors in our congregation so we didn't have to take out any money from property! A big thank you to these generous people!

I would again like to thank all the people in our church family that volunteer their time such as cutting the grass which takes almost four hours and also our snow shovelers who keep our entrances clear and also the side walks. I would also like to mention here that we are always in need of more volunteers to take care of these activities and you can contact pastor or myself. I would also mention that the new custodian that was hired this year is doing a tremendous job keeping our church in tip top condition! I would also like to commend Pastor Mike on wanting to keep up with our property maintenance and thankfully we have a Pastor that is also a handyman and has stepped up many times to help out with things that need to be done here, such as putting in a new faucet in the kitchen!! He is also very forward looking as to where we need to make future improvements with our property and by the way, thank you for being handy with the snow shoveling!

In closing I would also like to thank the pasty makers who have donated so much for property improvements and the many other giving people of our church.

Respectfully submitted by property committee co-chair Tom Kozar and Terry Anderson



Children's Ministry Report

Annual Report 2025-Children's Ministry

Immanuel Members,

It has been a fun year with the youth of our church! Over the past year we have had three kids participating in confirmation classes with Pastor Mike. 4 youth attended Fortune Lake Lutheran camp over the summer. We have had six kids participating in "Sunday School" which no longer happens on Sundays. We have adjusted the day we do our Children's Church programming and will continue to adjust to the needs of the families we serve. From this point forward, I will refer to it as Children's Church.

Over the past year I have been using a curriculum that is geared towards multiple ages in one classroom. It worked well but did not have a lot of lessons to choose from. During our joint service at the Farmers Market over the summer, I was introduced to a curriculum called Godly Play. After discussing with Pastor, we have decided to start using this curriculum. I have been reading up on it and learning the process. As the title states, it is based in play, which I can confidently tell you, is the best way for children to learn! It will require some funding to get up and running, but we will be well within our budget, as I am finding some alternatives to the expensive supplies that they sell on their website. All curriculum books and some supplies will be purchased directly from the publisher. You will also see some changes to our Children's Church room including some shelving, a sand table, and a rug for story times which go along with the curriculum.

Moving forward, we would like to try to bring back a children's Christmas program. There will be continuing discussion with all parties involved when the time comes to plan. I look forward to continuing to serve the smallest members at Immanuel and look forward to what the next year will bring.

Yours in Christ,

Traci Corrigan

Children's Ministry Director



Our children's ministry just started a new curriculum, Godly Play. Our youth learned about the Story of Jesus' birth and were able to do a craft and play in our new sand table.



There were lots of questions as Pastor Mike chats with the children and demonstrates the washing of the feet by Jesus, from the gospel of John.

Worship and Music Report



Parishioners gather around tables for our Lenten Dinner Church

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 introduction of the Dinner Church Model for our midweek Lenten worship. During lent we combined our midweek worship and the soup and sandwich meal into a simultaneous event that brings worship

around the meal and folds the meal into the liturgy of worship. We had great turnout and response to the event. Following a brief message there were "Dinner Table Conversations" that invited attendees to engage in discussion around guiding questions that related to that night's themes and texts. This dinner church took place in the gathering area of our building. Thank you to all who provided meals and to Jeanne for bringing her musical skill and talents to worship.



Immanuel's quilters created a beautiful array of quilts that were displayed here at the Blessing of the Quilts.



Christmas Eve service was filled with music.

We continue to partner with our ecumenical colleagues for worship on Good Friday and had our second Christmas morning worship. These services are important opportunity for us to engage in worship with our siblings in Christ who are of different congregations.

We are grateful for all those who contribute their time and talents to enhance worship. From planning worship and organizing to providing musical gifts and talents. Thank you,

Respectfully,

Pastor Mike

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN (ILCW) ANNUAL REPORT JANUARY – DECEMBER 2025

*We had a successful **Lenten Breakfast** on March 1st, serving over 100 people with “Waiting for God’s Time” as the theme for our program. Pastor Mike Markwell had a message for us, and as usual we had soloists and The Remnants singing for us. We made a donation to the Victims Services Unit.

*Our ILCW group continues to send out **cards to our shut-in’s** monthly, with Char Scheeneman leading this endeavor. Please let her know of anyone we should send cards to.

*No one was able to attend the Fall **SWO Convention at Fortunate Lake** held in September. 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. The **Triennial Gathering of the SWO** will be held in Des Moines, Iowa on July 16-19, 2026, if anyone is interested, now is the time to plan.

*Donated **100 quilts to Lutheran World Relief** in October. For many years we delivered our quilts to First Lutheran Church in Gladstone to be delivered to Marinette donated for many years by Escanaba Moving Systems to be loaded onto the train, however this year we joined Bethany Lutheran along with a couple of other churches and rented a U Haul to deliver them to Marnette. We meet on Monday mornings **from ten to 12:30**. You are welcome to join us, and bring a friend if you would like. We iron, cut material into squares, sew squares into quilts, put quilts together and have a break for coffee and conversation. All the donations of sheets and material we receive is much appreciated. Thanks to all who are able to help.

*We held two **pasty sales** raising over \$5,200.

***Service Groups:** Served food at one funeral. 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 Charbonneau; and, Treasurer, Maria Caron. Our meetings are on the **2nd Sunday of every other month starting at 11:30 a.m.** Our next meeting is March 8th. 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 February 14th. We appreciate all the help we get in this endeavor. Our theme is “Wonderful His Love for Me.”

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Denny, President



Immanuel Lutheran Church Women

Immanuel Lutheran Church Women
Treasurer's Report December 31, 2025

Balance as of December 31, 2024	\$	1,175.50
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ILCW Account Savings & Checking

December 2024 Balance - Savings	\$	5.00
December 2025 Balance - Savings	\$	5.00
December 2024 Balance - Checking	\$	1,170.50
December 2025 Balance - Checking	\$	1,864.01

Balance as of December 31, 2025	\$	1,869.01
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Respecfully Submitted,

Maria Luisa Caron
Treasurer

Proposed Immanuel Lutheran Church Spending Plan 2026			
CATEGORY	2025 Budget	2026 budget	25 to '26 Increase
Enabling Ministries	\$152,808	\$ 154,442	101%
Worship	\$2,470	\$ 2,770	112%
Instrument Maintenance	\$670	\$ 670	100%
Music, Supplies, Copyrights	\$800	\$ 1,300	163%
Worship Supplies	\$1,000	\$ 800	80%
Evangelism	\$1,015	\$ 1,015	100%
Advertising	\$100	\$ 100	100%
Brochures, Web Site, & Supplies	\$600	\$ 600	100%
Hospitality	\$100	\$ 100	100%
New Member Ministries	\$100	\$ 100	100%
Quilters	\$115	\$ 115	100%
Synod Ministries	\$11,750	\$ 11,750	100%
NGLS General Benevolence	\$11,000	\$ 11,000	100%
Fortune Lake Camp	\$750	\$ 750	100%
Designated Missional Giving	\$0	\$ -	100%
Church Administration	\$20,850	\$ 21,350	102%
Utilities	\$15,000	\$ 16,000	107%
Supplies, Postage, & Equipment	\$4,500	\$ 4,500	100%
Synod Convention & Delta Con.	\$1,000	\$ 600	60%
Interest fee	\$100	\$ -	0%
Unforeseen Expenses	\$250	\$ 250	100%
Staff Support	\$115,003	\$ 115,753	101%
Supply Pastor	\$960	\$ 1,100	115%
Pastor	\$90,009	\$ 89,753	100%
Base Salary	\$46,048	\$ 47,990	104%
Housing Allowance	\$13,000	\$ 14,397	111%
Social Security Allowance	\$4,579.00	\$ 4,773	104%
Education Allowance	\$900	\$ 900	100%
Milage	\$1,200	\$ 1,200	100%
Health Insurance & Pension	\$24,282	\$ 17,193	71%
Employer HSA Contribution	New Line	\$ 3,300	
Church Secretary (780 hrs)	\$10,920	\$ 11,505	105%
Custodian (416 hrs)	\$5,200	\$ 5,720	110%
Organist	\$6,360	\$ 6,360	100%
Financial Secretary	\$580	\$ 300	52%
Treasurer	\$580	\$ 580	100%
Workers Comp. Ins.	\$394	\$ 435	110%
Tax Obligation	\$1,720	\$ 1,804	105%
Medicare	\$325.96	\$ 342	105%
SSI	\$1,393.76	\$ 1,462	105%
Church Obligation	\$1,719.72	\$ 1,804	105%

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Savings Budget	\$25,475	\$	29,400	115%
Outreach Ministries	\$4,400	\$	4,400	100%
<i>Gods Fund</i>	\$600	\$	600	100%
<i>Outreach Service Projects</i>	\$3,800	\$	3,800	100%
Youth & Family	\$1,675	\$	3,600	215%
<i>Adult Education</i>	\$200	\$	200	100%
<i>Youth Education</i>	\$400	\$	400	100%
<i>Fellowship</i>	new line	\$	800	
<i>Programs & Trips</i>	-	\$	-	0%
<i>Scholarships</i>	\$0	\$	500	
<i>Vacation Bible School</i>	\$1,000	\$	1,700	170%
<i>Picnic</i>	\$75	Remove Line		
Youth Camperships	\$1,200	\$	1,500	125%
<i>Camperships</i>	\$1,200	\$	1,500	125%
Property Maintenance	\$18,200	\$	19,900	109%
<i>Insurance</i>	\$6,300	\$	8,700	138%
<i>Snow/Yard Services</i>	\$2,000	\$	2,200	110%
<i>Supplies, Services, & Minor Repairs</i>	\$4,000	\$	4,000	100%
<i>Capital Expenditures</i>	\$5,000	\$	5,000	100%
BUDGET TOTAL	\$178,283	\$	183,842	103%

2026 Nominations Report

Name	Term	Elected at this Annual Meeting	Term Expires at this Annual Meeting	Nominations for 2026
Current Council Members				
Richard LaCosse	2nd	2025	2027	
Dave Mason	1st	2024	2026	Willing to stand for election
Sharon Hawes	1st	2025	2027	
Marylin Nobel	2st	2025	2027	
Gloria Johnson	1st	2024	2026	Needs Nomination
Bryan Burak	1st	2025	2027	
Brian Saranowski	1st	2025	2027	
Current Congregational Officers				
Gary Corrigan (President)	2nd	2025	2027	
Charlene Scheeneman (VP	2nd	2025	2027	
Sandy Sonvey	1st	2025	2026	Willing to stand for election
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	Needs Nomination
Maria Caron	2nd	2025	2028	
Investment Advisory Board				
Vacant				Needs Nomination
Vacant				Needs Nomination
Richard LaCosse	1st	2024	2027	
Synod Convention Delegates for 2025 in addition to Pastor Mike May 16, Escanaba, MI				
Rachel Markwell, Barb Denny				Jim Franks, Barb Denny
Fortune Lake Delegates in addition to Pastor Mike April 26, 2pm CST, Crystal Falls, MI				
Sandy Sovey and Claire Sovey				Sandy Sovey,
Northland Lutheran Delegates in addition to Pastor Mike February 15, 12:30 pm CST, Menominee, MI				
No Delegates Selected				Needs Nominations (2)
Delta Conference Delegates in Addition to Pastor Mike				
Dave Mason and Barb Denny				
Nominating Committee for 2026 meeting in Addition to Pastor Mike				
				Need nominations (5)
STAFF				
Pastor: Mike Markwell			Financial Secretary: Kim Pepin	
Administrative Assistant: Mary Finlan				
Custodian: Ken Paulin			Musician: Jeanne LaCosse	

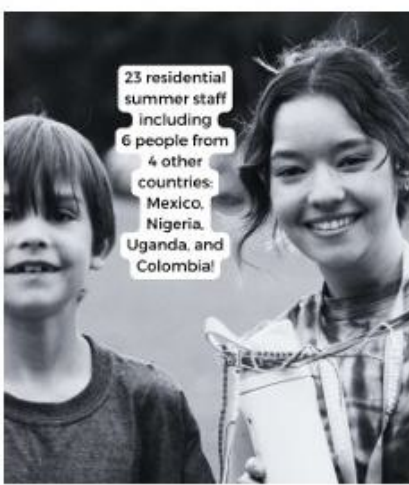


A place of grace...
Fortune Lake
Lutheran Camp

January 7, 2026

Greetings from Fortune Lake!

As you gather for your annual meeting, we join you in giving thanks to God for all that has been in 2025! Please see the photos below for some great news on how the Holy Spirit has been at work through outdoor ministry at Fortune Lake:



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

We hope to see you at camp in 2026 as we continue to live into the shared mission to which Christ has called us! Registration for winter and spring retreats and summer camp are all open, and there's something for everyone!

Grace & Peace,
 Amanda Rasner, Camp Director

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp
 138 Fortune Lake Camp Rd
 Crystal Falls, MI 49920

*A place of grace to experience
 and grow in faith*

906-214-CAMP (2267)
officemanager@fortunelake.org
www.fortunelake.org

Bishop Finegan's Annual Report Letter for 2026

⁶*I planted, Apollos watered,
but God gave the growth.*

⁷*So neither the one who plants
nor the one who waters is anything,
but only God who gives the growth.*

⁸*The one who plants and the one who waters
have a common purpose,*

⁹*For we are God's servants, working together;...*

~1 Corinthians 3: 6-9

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

As God's servants working together, we begin the Year of our Lord 2026 and the third year of our three-year theme of Seed Sowers. 2026 is the year we focus on "God gave the growth." Paul asserts in his letter to the Corinthians that 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, even as we ultimately rely on the Spirit of the living God to give growth to the seeds that have been planted and that we and others have strived to nourish.

As congregations celebrate anniversary milestones, and even as you read the annual report of your own congregation, it is natural to look back and see what has been accomplished. We celebrate the efforts of our committees and leaders, of our volunteers and members, but remember also to give thanks to God for it all. God gives the growth.

I think of the many times I worked so very hard for a particular outcome, and it did not succeed. And I think of the many times a small effort simply took on a life of its own and made a huge difference to congregational or community life. We do what we can, we experiment and try and

fail, and try again, but growth and success of any ministry effort is only by the grace of God.

Perhaps we are too quick to take credit, when really, we were simply in the right place and the right time, participating in what God has been doing all along.

In the focus of this year, I encourage all of us to be mindful to give God the glory. Whether we have a growing Sunday School or a well stewarded ending, increasing worship attendance or deeper discipleship for the faithful few, it is because of what God has done and is doing. This is the Holy Spirit of Christ at work, who according to Luther's Small Catechism: *Calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy* you, me and all of us together.

I encourage you, when writing reports for the year or some anniversary booklet, be careful of the "We did..." and amend that to something more like "God blessed us in this way...". It is a small change in language but a huge change in understanding of who is at work and to whom we ascribe agency.

I have said this before, but I say it again because I believe it captures so well what Paul has proclaimed and where the source of our hope lies for future growth, "You cannot make a bean grow by pulling on it." We do everything we can, investing our effort and resources, nurturing seeds of faith and ministry, but it is God who gives the growth. We thank God for the gift we receive in each other, for this gift of the community of faith, through which we are invited to participate in all that God is doing to make a difference in our world for the sake of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY

Dear friends in Christ,

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

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

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

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

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

In Christ,



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

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

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

—Colossians 2:6-7

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

MISSION SUPPORT

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

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

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

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

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

WHERE NEEDED MOST

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



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

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

Read about Mission Support and learn more at LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA.