

**IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
EASTON, CALIFORNIA**

Annual Report for 2021

Annual Meeting Agenda

January 30, 2022

| | | |
|------|--|-------------------------|
| I. | Call to Order..... | Fred Cogan |
| II. | Opening Prayer | Pastor Taylor Stempniak |
| III. | Minutes | Allyson Kahn |
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| | 1. Acceptance of the 2022 Budget | |
| | 2. Nominations and Election of Church Council Members | |
| | 4. Bethel Home Annual Meeting Representative Election | |
| | 5. Acceptance of Audit Report/Appointment of 2023 Auditors | |
| VI. | Adjournment | |

Congregational Annual Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the congregation of Immanuel Lutheran Church located at 5955 S Elm Ave. in Easton CA was called to order at 9:03AM on Sunday, January 31 by council president Fred Cogan and was conducted via ZOOM due to COVID 19. Pastor Taylor Stempniak opened with prayer. The minutes from the semi-annual congregational meeting held on July 26, 2021 were reviewed and approved: Deanna Dunbar/ John Jensen m/s/a All reports were reviewed. An update on the social hall remodel was presented by Jim Hansen. The design progress had been set back due to the architect contracting COVID 19. He is recovering and working on the following: design concepts for the kitchen, an outside venue to handle indoor overflow, and front facade modifications. The social hall fundraising was reported by John Marthedal: The social hall fund continues to grow, and reached approximately \$100,000 by the end of 2020 giving. We will be hearing more from John regarding fundraising once he receives estimates from the building committee.

New Business

The 2021 budget was reviewed by Marcia Hollenbeck: payroll was increased due to the addition of a full time pastor and staff raises, the addition of a pest control service, the live streaming service, and the combination of the line items of youth and children's ministries. The 2021 budget was passed unanimously: Carol Bennetts/ Barbara Petersen m/s/a The NALC ratification of constitutional amendments were reviewed by Pastor Taylor: The congregation voted to approve the changes to the executive council: Betty Moore/ Deanna Dunbar m/s/a. The congregation voted to approve the necessary changes to language in the constitution: Barbara Petersen/ Kathy Mehrten m/s/a. Nomination and election of church council members was presented by John Jensen: Kristi Hollenbeck for vice president, and Sharon Reynolds for financial secretary. Victoria Salwasser/ Debby Goff m/s/a. Thanks was extended to the outgoing council members, Marcia Hollenbeck and Pat Griffin. Bethel Home annual meeting representative election: Nancy Newsom and Deanna Dunbar both currently serve as the representatives and have agreed to another term. John Jensen/ Lance Petersen m/s/a The Auditors' Report was prepared by Mike Mosier and Cindy Slayton and was approved: Marcia Hollenbeck/ Phil Tews m/s/a. Mike and Cindy both agreed to serve as auditors for the upcoming year. Betty Moore/ Barbara Petersen m/s/a.

A move was made to adjourn: Deanna Dunbar/ Kathy Mehrten m/s/a. The congregation prayed the Lord's Prayer. Respectfully Submitted,

Allyson Kahn, Correspondence Secretary

Congregational Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes

Immanuel Lutheran Church Semi-Annual Business Meeting Minutes July 25, 2021 A meeting of the congregation of Immanuel Lutheran Church located at 5955 S Elm Ave. in Easton CA was called to order by Pastor Taylor Stempniak on Sunday, July 25, 2021 following Sunday morning worship. Minutes from the Annual Congregational Meeting held on January 31, 2021 were approved: Marcia Hollenbeck/ Kathi Mehrten, m/s/a. The Financial Report was reviewed by Financial Secretary Sharon Reynolds. She noted that while spending was under budget, giving was about \$9000 below spending. Staffing changes were covered by Pastor Taylor: The groundskeeper, Ron Mancillas, resigned due to personal reasons, and a gardening service Contracted to perform those portions of his duties. A fall approaches, the church will consider hiring another groundskeeper. Youth Pastor Jacob Wood submitted his resignation as of two weeks ago. His last day of employment will be August 31. That day will also be a youth service which Jacob will be leading. The church will begin the process of seeking a new youth pastor by forming a search committee. The Social Hall Remodel Update was addressed by Jim Hansen. He is in the process of finding a kitchen designer to work with the architect. The Caruthers Fair Food Booth update was as follows: Victoria Salwasser is in the process of meeting with the health inspector. Victoria will also be putting up signup sheets to organize help for the booth. Voting Delegate for Convocation: Pastor Taylor reported that Kristi Hollenbeck has volunteered to be a voting delegate and will accompany Pastor Taylor to the Convocation. Pastor also asked that anyone that has issues they would like brought to the national council should contact herself. The Bell Report was given by Pastor Taylor. We should expect the repairs to be performed

sometime in late August or early September. A crane will be rented to lower the bell in order for the welding to be performed. While the bell repair may be seen as an expensive endeavor, many good reasons were brought up for doing so including a church witness, an invitation to worship, and opportunity for service, especially for children to ring the bell. An estimate of \$6500 to \$8000 has been informally presented, but there have been many generous donations to help pay for this repair and restoration. The Nominating Committee positions are proposed to be held by John Jensen, Barbara Petersen, Karl Nielsen, Betty Moore, and Pastor Taylor. A motion was made to approve their appointment: Jon Marthedal/ Phil Tews, m/s/a. A motion was made to adjourn: Karl Nielsen/ John Jensen, m/s/a. The congregation prayed the Lord's Prayer. Respectfully Submitted, Allyson Kahn
Correspondence Secretary

Pastor

The Word of the Year is Rebuild

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord, Jesus Christ!

Recently, I was looking through old notes from seminary to find the name of a book, and I came across a section titled "Honeymoon Period." The Honeymoon Period was normally considered to be the first year to year and a half of a new pastor's ministry, and my professor painted a cheery picture. During this time, congregations and ministers are excited to begin work together and are more forgiving of each other's mistakes. The arrival of a new leader often led to the creation of new ministries, and, most exciting of all, it often brought new members. No place in my notes did my professor discuss what a new ministry would look like if it was begun during the middle of a pandemic. We are navigating new ground and, at times, this can feel frightening or discouraging.

But allow me to let you in on a secret. Luke and I had a European honeymoon planned for after our wedding. Our passports have sat unused, but our marriage has continued to grow stronger and stronger. The adversity of this past two years has pulled us even closer to one another and helped us recognize our strengths and weaknesses. I believe that how our congregation chooses to respond to this adversity has the potential to do the same. Our world needs the gift of community more than ever, but most of all, we need the hope of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who provides for us the promise of life, even in the face of death.

We do not have to let this past year be defined by the pandemic. It may instead be defined by the three baptisms, the new members, and the returning members. It may be defined by our congregation's willingness to provide care for those who need community. The next year, we have an opportunity to rebuild, and we may choose to rebuild something stronger and more faithful, leaving behind a legacy of enduring faith, just as the generations before us did.

Time to Rebuild

I have heard folks lament recently about the numbers in worship, and I understand that with the history of this congregation, it's easy to become discouraged with what feels like low attendance. However, when I look at the numbers from the past year, I'm frankly ecstatic. I arrived to a congregation that was averaging 25-30 members worshipping in person. The past few months, we have averaged 50-60. We have almost doubled the number of people gathering in a little over a year, and by all accounts, that's a success! However, we want to continue to grow, and as we do, I would like to invite you, yes you, to be a part of this growth. As baptized believers of God, we are all called by the great commission to make disciples of all men. That means each member of our congregation has been invited to participate in evangelism. If we want to continue to grow, we need to release the notion that our church has to be perfect before we invite someone to worship here—there are no perfect churches. There is only a perfect God. Invite your friends to worship. Check in on your friends who you haven't seen in worship in a while, invite them again. It is easy to point to masking/lack of masking or music or whatever as the

reason people aren't here, but the overwhelming majority of Christians who haven't returned to church as the pandemic continues have said that their absence can be contributed to, "Just getting out of the habit." But now is the time! Let's get into the habit again! Let's take time to worship our life-giving God!

Choosing our Normal

As we rebuild, it may be tempting to find ourselves frustrated that things aren't exactly like they were before—but during this time we are given an opportunity to choose our normal. Think of it like this: Is it normal to have Sunday school with masks on? No, but how wonderful will it be to have Sunday school again! Was it normal to have Ummata outside? No, but it was delightful to gather and sing Christmas carols and give back to our community! Things may not look the same, and at times, they may not feel the same, but the opportunity to gather, support one another, and worship our God is the normal that we're seeking. Over the next year, we are hoping to revitalize Sunday school, develop dedicated committees to help plan and sustain ministries, and return to beloved events like Lenten services. Hopefully, in the next year, we will see an end to this pandemic, but while we await the Lord's deliverance, we will continue to do his good work and build the kingdom of God, even if things don't look exactly the same while we do so.

Moving Forward with The Social Hall

The building committee continues to make progress on the Social Hall. We give thanks for their hard work. One of the final steps that we must undertake before breaking ground is getting the designs approved by the county, and we are hoping to undertake this in late spring or early summer. While the pacing of our next steps will hinge on the efficiency of local offices, we are excited about the prospect of breaking ground before the end of the year.

What Comes Next

Last year, I ended this letter with anticipation of being able to worship in person again in the future, but this year, I end it rejoicing that we have been given that opportunity. Thanks be to God! As we look forward to the next year, let's work on rebuilding together. Let's commit to inviting our neighbors to join us at worship. Let's reexamine the ways we can invest our talents and our treasures into our faith community. Let's dare to hope for the future that lays ahead and boldly rejoice for where we are now because for all the good and the bad, this is the day that the Lord has made, we may rejoice and be glad in it!

As always, I am always a phone call away and happy to meet with you and your family.

Blessings,
Pastor Taylor
ptmarie96@gmail.com
(803) 767-5128

2021 Congregational Statistics

Total Active Family Units – (at least one attendance within the 2021 year) -64

Total Confirmed/Voting Membership –109

Total Baptized Membership – 141

Total Household Giving Units ~ 75

Attendance Summary:

Easter Outdoor Worship:99

Palm Sunday Outdoor Worship: 82

Highest non-Festival Sunday Morning – 79 on December 12

Lowest non-Festival Sunday Morning – 27 on January 24 Outdoor 15

Average Sunday In-Person Attendance including indoor and outdoor for a total of 50 reported Sundays = 60.5

Immanuel continues to stream online for those who are sick or can't attend church.

Immanuel's Pastoral Acts:

Baptisms – 3

Weddings –0

Funerals – 8 Members

Confirmations- 0

New Members- 4

Personnel

The following is a list of Immanuel's employees as of December 31, 2021

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Reverend Taylor Stempniak | Pastor |
| Laurel Jacobsen | Organist |
| Eva Orum | Custodian |
| Marcus Orum | Custodian |
| Victoria Salwasser | Office Secretary/Parish Administrator |
| Jackie Caglia | Wedding Hostess |
| Christian Jensen | Sound Technician |

Youth Ministry

Robert and I took over the youth ministry for three months in the year of 2021. We began in October, and finished off at the end of December. During this time, we made several connections with new students. On Wednesday nights, we would host anywhere from 6-11 teens and pre-teens. Most of the children were friends of members in the congregation. Several Wednesday nights were extended to later hours due to these teens having fun and asking questions. We did several community outreach projects in this timeframe as well.

In October, we hosted our first trunk or treat-style event, and it was a great success! We called it "A Sweet Treat on Elm Street", and we invited all of Easton to join. Several members of the congregation volunteered their services by hosting a booth with candies and games. The youth really enjoyed this time, and have shown interest in having it done again next year. In October we also did a service project for the Marjaree Mason Center. We collected donations of various goodies to be made into goodie bags for the children living in the shelter, and with the help of the youth on one Saturday afternoon, we were able to make 110 goodie bags!

November was another great month in the youth group. We had larger amounts of youth friends join us, bringing us to many 9-11 student nights. We spent a lot of time talking about the importance of friendship, acts of service, and ways of being "a good person". These conversations definitely stuck with several of the students, since many of them kept bringing up the concepts throughout the remainder of my time as youth leader. Several of the youth attended the Easton Thanksgiving Service at Immanuel, which was wonderful and they had a great time ringing bells with us all!

As Robert's work schedule changed, he was able to begin helping with FCA on Wednesday mornings. December had a wonderful wrap-up event hosted by the Kahn family. We were all so grateful for them opening up their house to us and allowing us to have a lot of fun playing games and roasting hot dogs over a fire. We did a small gift exchange in the form of a game, which put everyone in a great mood with lots of laughter.

Thanks to everyone who helped out during the last quarter of the year in youth. We appreciate all of the meals brought, the conversations shared, and the time spent to be present for the teens of Immanuel.

Kaylee Hollenbeck

President of the Congregation

Dear brothers and sisters of Immanuel,

It is really staggering to me that 2021 has gone by so fast, and I find myself writing my last report to end my service as president. When I ended my first term, we were quite accomplished as we upgraded our church offices, the parsonage, the nursery, and updated our library, sound system, and been well on our way into a search for a new pastor. With all of those accomplishments under our collective belts, we set our sights on the social hall in conjunction with our pastoral search. And then COVID-19 hit. Two years later, we have an absolutely WONDERFUL pastor, and a great plan that is moving forward for remodeling the Social Hall. Throughout the last four years, we have seen some of our congregational saints go home. Glory. We have seen a slowdown in our entire society with far too many concerns as we have navigated some really tough days. COVID has done its best to tear us apart but we have stood strong. To date we have seen no outbreaks of COVID-19 in our church program. While we have had members who have contracted COVID, it has not been due to church attendance. Bravo to our entire church staff and council for choosing the best path to keep people safe and healthy, week in and week out. Thanks to our congregation for "going with the flow" of the changes that had to be made as a response to COVID.

Moving forward, we have quite a bit left to do before the COVID pandemic comes to end, but our best days lie ahead because we will choose to work together to see the end of the pandemic. So, let's start the next year still following God's will, letting him guide our steps, and sticking to HIS plan. It has worked so far, and so far equals so good. Thank you all so much for the support of the work we have done during the last four years, and thank you to every council I have had the honor to work with while leading Immanuel. You all have my greatest gratitude and prayers for good health and God's blessings.

Respectfully,
Fred

Quilting & Country Store

The Country Store was open twice this year. We had an outdoor sale in September of jams, jellies, succulents, baked goods and a few autumn decorations. We raised over \$900 for the church bell repair fund. Thank you to those who baked and donated jam.

In November, we held a sale of handmade items including, quilts, wall hangings, table runners, make-up bags, holiday decorations and baby items. We made over \$2000 for the social hall remodel fund.

I sold a total of 26 quilts at the store and out of the cupboards throughout the year. Deanna Dunbar and I worked from home to finish the beautiful quilts tops that my 2 sisters, Janice Mitchell and Marilyn Hemmel supplied for us. A big Thanks to these ladies for their time, talents and resources they share to keep this ministry going. I also thank all the wonderful customers who purchased our crafts to help support these projects at Immanuel.

With fabric donations from several people, I also completed 14 pillows that were donated to breast cancer survivors and 8 receiving blankets that were included with layette supplies that were donated to the Reedley Hospital OB department this Christmas.

It's great to have a hobby that can bless people and support our church ministries as well. My next projects are already lined up in my sewing room to get started on. I can't wait to spend time in there creating. If you have any hobbies or crafts, consider making a few extra things to donate at our next Country Store.

Laura Nielsen

Repairs & Maintenance in 2021

Repairs and maintenance never stops at our church. In February the fire extinguishers were serviced, in July a gas leak was repaired in the Social Hall and a few new keys were made and the locks serviced throughout the church, in September the sound system and cameras were repaired, in November the pianos were tuned, in December the social hall heaters, oven, dishwasher and sink were repaired.

The big repair and revitalization was the cast iron bell and the bell tower, it was completely overhauled from June through October. It's beautiful and sounds great. Thanks to Chris Messenlehner and Neil Gertner (a bell repair specialist from Montana) for sharing their time and talents as well as Infinity Power solutions for getting the electrical up to date and the big metal cross grounded. The Bell is safe and sturdy now. Ringing the repaired bell correctly takes a bit of practice but thankfully, our ushers, Lee Terkelsen and Randy McFarland, are busy teaching anyone and everyone how to ring the big cast iron bell on Sunday mornings to call our community to worship. Thank you to all far and near who helped donate to this huge project. The bell is special to us and to our community, not only for joyful ringing but also for the somber tolls, remembering each year of a faithful servant's life this side of the cross.

With our groundskeeper, Ron moving to Southern California in April we hired Sanchez Yard Maintenance in mid-May to maintain the flower beds and sprinkler systems. In 2021 we also hired a cleaning service to clean all three buildings once a week. Marcus and Eva continue to maintain the church throughout the week and keeping it nice and tidy in between events. In January of 2021 we treated the sanctuary for subterranean termites and hired Official Pest Control to service the church every other month to help with spider webs and bugs.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes

The Washington Union FCA ministry introduces kids to Christ and encourages them to make a commitment to Him. The weekly gatherings were halted through the end of the school year in June 2021. In the fall the program started up again serving the students outside on the lawn in front of Grace Hall. Every week volunteers move 28 plastic tables and 224 chairs outside and back inside each Wednesday. The churches have served averages close to 200 students. Some weeks more than others. The four churches, Immanuel Lutheran, St. Jude Catholic, Easton Presbyterian and Sandals Baptist, take turns preparing lunch for the students one month for each church in the fall and spring. Nancy Marthedal, coordinates speakers each week as well as student leaders to pray with the students before the meal. Our church looks forward to serving for the FCA lunch program one month each semester. Kurt Wolfe is our lead person for this ministry and is always blessed when you would like to help in any way, by baking cookies or donating your time making sandwiches and helping to prep, serve and or clean up. Immanuel also supports Washington Union FCA financially by sending them a benevolence donation yearly.

Russ Dunbar Memorial Blood Drive

The Russ Dunbar Memorial Blood Drive has been pumping blood out of Easton for 18 years. Our community of donors gave 1,715 pints of much needed blood to people in need. That's an average of 98.28 pints each year. The need for blood is ESSENTIAL! Though 2021 was still a pandemic frenzy Immanuel brought in 60 pints of blood through the mobile units on Sundays and another 9 units from people who couldn't make it on the Sunday the mobile unit was out here so they used our code "I" 114 to assign their pint the donated at a local blood center to our drive. Thank you to the donors in 2021. We collected 10 pints of more than last year. The donation procedures continue to be safe, everyone wears a mask and there is extra sanitation between each socially distanced donor. Dates for 2022 are set. Mark the calendars in your phone or on your wall to be sure to donate if you are willing and able.

January 23, March 27, June 5, August 7, October 9, December 11, 2022. Keep Pumping Immanuel!

Breaking Grounds Café

This ministry to the students of Washington Union High School was a highlight of our church. From 2012 through March 2020, during the staff development hours at the high school on Wednesday mornings from 8:00-10:00 AM, the doors to Immanuel were open and the students came. We averaged over 100 every week with about a solid 30-50 who stayed for the whole two hours. The ministry is supported by donations and volunteers from St. Jude Catholic Church, Easton Presbyterian Church and Immanuel. The routine was set and procedures were followed. A system was set in place for inventory and serving healthy snacks, blended fruit smoothies and sugary coffee-flavored drinks. Students came to the social hall and hung out, played games, and enjoyed time together for social interaction with each other. Since the school was closed for the 2020-2021 school year Breaking Grounds did not happen last year.

Volunteers are needed to restart this ministry, and with the impending remodel of the Social Hall we have not yet gathered volunteers to start this ministry. Thank you to all who have continued to contribute monetary donations for this ministry. Breaking Grounds was able to continue our scholarship for a graduating student from Washington Union High School. The 2021 recipient of the \$500.00 Breaking Grounds Café Scholarship was Larissa Venegas who is attending Point Loma Nazarene University. This university offers a church match program so Breaking Grounds scholarship was \$250.00 each semester and was matched by the Point Loma so Larissa received a \$500.00 scholarship each semester. When will Breaking Grounds Café begin again? This is a question to be put on the hearts of those who must make it happen. Volunteers are needed to gather and discuss what type of ministry Immanuel can offer that will serve the needs of the students and better the kingdom. Your thoughts and prayers for this ministry are something Immanuel needs. Please contact Pastor Taylor if you would like to work with creating a version of this ministry that will work through Immanuel.

Men's Ministry

The Men's Bible Study was up and running again in April 2021, gathering at L & D Café located at Fresno Livestock Auction. Kathy Seward agreed to cook and clean up in her café on Thursday mornings for the Men's Bible Study to gather at 6:00AM. The one drawback is the café was too small for the growing number of men who wished to gather for Breakfast and Bible Study. In November the Men moved back to Immanuel for their breakfast and study. Kathy continues to cook in Immanuel's kitchen. Currently there are on average 20-25 men gathering from 6:00-7:00AM every Thursday morning in the social hall. There is an open invitation to bring your buddies and come each week for delicious food and insightful discussion led by Phil Tews. All first time attenders receive a new Bible. The faithful clean-up crew has the kitchen back in shape by 7:30 each week, thank you to Mike and Ron Moser and Mike Bennetts and everyone else who stays to clean up. The Men's group also donated memorial gifts in memory of two of their faithful members, Glenn Nielsen and Don Pettitt and also contributed to the American Red Cross tornado clean up in Kentucky. This group is up and running full of faithful servants.

Music Committee

Our Music Committee continues to meet quarterly (or so) to plan music for the weeks ahead. Because we have a wide variety of people in our church, our goal is to incorporate contemporary and traditional music in to our services. That being said, if you have a song you'd like to hear, please leave a note in the offering plate or email your suggestion to our church office. We'd love to hear your ideas! And as always, if you feel led to participate in leading or playing music at any point for our worship service, please reach out to Allyson Nielsen or Pastor Taylor. The more people involved in our services the better! There is no need to feel obligated to commit to multiple Sundays either. We would love to see new faces anytime!

Allyson Nielsen

2021 North American Lutheran Church Convocation

Hello Immanuel,

I was given the opportunity to join Pastor Taylor at the NALC's Convocation. Convocation is the annual gathering of the North American Lutheran Church which is the denomination we belong to. They have opted to go from annual in person meeting to meeting every other year. This event is made up for 3 parts. I was able to go to two of them, the women's gathering and the main annual meeting.

Women of the NALC Gathering

The women's gathering was part bible study part business meeting. The day opened with a welcome and some music. Then Pastor Taylor's mother, Pastor Dawn lead the group in communion. There was then some discussion of the business from the last year and a call for nominations for the women's council. If in the future, one of our members nominate themselves to be on the board they can. The board is elected as a collective and then after the election, the board decides amongst themselves who will take on each role. Then we had a bible study on Habakkuk 3:17-19a. We were told that no matter the bad, be it COVID or life or death or illness, yet, we will rejoice in the Lord. We will be joyful in God our Savior. The Lord God is our strength. In the afternoon, we gathered in the four mission regions to discuss ideas we could take back to our churches. The main encouragement they gave us was to get out of the mindset that a women's event has to be a bible study. They mentioned many churches struggle to see new ideas and that's why the younger generation isn't coming to these events. A couple of the ideas they had that worked at other churches are a wine and cheese night or a pool party. I am eager to discuss these and other ideas with our women's council.

Mission Convocation

Convocation had two main goals. The first was to go over the NALC's 10-Point Vision Plan. They want to show the attendees what their goals were, and they encouraged us to see how these points could be implemented at their local church.

10- Point Vision

- Disciple-Making Cultures: A church body committed to developing disciple-making congregations and cultures.
- Congregational Multiplication: a body of believers committed to increasing our mission outreach and congregational multiplication efforts.
- Pastoral Support: A denomination in which every congregation receives regular and consistent pastoral support.
- Continuing Education: A continuing education emphasis that supports the ongoing development of all NALC pastors and lay leaders.
- Continental Restructuring: A strategy for continental restructuring able to expand with denominational growth.
- Seminary System: A denomination with the strongest and most highly respected Lutheran seminary training system in North America.
- Technology & Communication: A communication strategy focused on forming identity unity and testimony across our church body.
- Ecumenical Relationships: A denomination in which our international and ecumenical relationships strengthen our shared commitment to the Great Commission, the great commandments and the Church catholic, and which enhance our partnership on the congregational level.
- Financial Strength: A church body with the financial strength to support its God-given vision.
- Strategic Planning: A strategic planning team that continually prays for and works to develop the next step of our God-given vision and future.

The second main aspect of Convocation was voting on a few issues. The first was to change the wording of the constitution from a regional group of congregations to Mission District. This change was to facilitate continuity of language across all we do. This change passed and the constitution will reflect this change.

The second issue was about forming and placing a central office for the bishop. The plan would be to have an office in Dallas, Texas where the bishop and some of his staff would be based. This would prevent the office of the bishop from moving every time the person in the position changed. This passed and is expected to go into effect once the necessary funds have been raised.

The third issue deals with the structure of leadership. The NALC has grown since its inception and expanded beyond what one person can handle. To that end, they would like to appoint 4 quarter-time assistants to the bishop that would help him deal with any issues he needs to address. This also passed and will again go into effect once they have the necessary funds.

Future In-Person Convocations

2023- Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

2025- Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

Thank you for the chance to go and learn more about the NALC.

Kristina Hollenbeck

Fresno Mission Caruthers Fair

This year the food booth was better than we could have imagined! We set a great record and donated \$24,783.97 to the Fresno Mission just in time to win a \$10,000.00 marketing campaign for the highest donor on November 12th. (that happened to be us) Immanuel will advertise on one or more of their 5 stations local stations, 95.7, 99.3, 104.1, 105.5, and 940AM We will be able to divide this amount to multiple campaigns of our choice. Special thanks to John Ostlund for his donation challenge to the Fresno Mission for our church. Look forward to hearing radio advertisements for Immanuel Lutheran Church on the radio in the near future.

Our donation to the mission include donations to the Caruthers Fair Project and not just sales at the fair. The total donations from the Caruthers Fair Project to the Fresno Mission since 2004 is \$191,347.76. This includes the 2020 Sandwich Sale that we did as a drive-through because there was no fair in 2020. Since it was advertised as the Caruthers Fair Sandwich Fundraiser, I thought it only right to include it in the total.

The fair booth operated with 50 people volunteering their time and most will agree it was too much fun to be called work. We started prepping the booth on September 20th, organizing and prepping a lot the week before. The Saturday before the fair, we moved and set up. Tuesday before the fair started, we shucked 35 cases of corn with a crew of about 20 people who were done in less than 2 hours. We sold all of that and needed to shuck another 5 cases on Saturday. Wednesday night was super busy and we had a steady flow all four days. Thank you to all the volunteers who came in an extra day and stayed a couple hours longer if needed. Thank you all for your time, energy and love for this mission project started by Immanuel in 2004. Are we going to do this again in 2022? I hope so.

Thanks for all of you and the work your do for this ministry,
Victoria Salwasser
Office Secretary & Fair Coordinator

2021 Church Audit Report

The financial records for 2021 were audited by appointed auditors, Mike Moser and Cindy Slaton on January 21, 2022. All records were found to be in order and in place.

Respectfully,
Mike Moser and Cindy Slaton

Immanuel Women's Ministry

Immanuel Women in ministry haven't stopped but we have slowed down after an abrupt stop that trickled into virtual gatherings in 2020. This year we started to gather again slowly and safely. In January we sent out a request for help with leadership within the Women's ministry and Nancy Newsom stepped in and led us through a book study of the book "Not a Fan", by Kyle Idleman, several women gathered weekly in February and enjoyed discussion about the book. In March, Marcia Hollenbeck introduced everyone through the Chimes Newsletter about Bible Verse Mapping, to help us all read the Bible with skills to help memorize verses and absorb the Good News. We also cooked soup and delivered to friends for a little extra love each week during Lent. Many people joined in helping with this project, not just women, got in on this way to show our love. Everyone who received the soup loved the connection with church as well as the soup itself. In mid-May we gathered together and oh what fun it was to be together all at the same time. We learned about succulents at Country Roots in Sanger, planted our own masterpiece to take home. We had a wonderful lunch at the home of Sharon and John Reynolds. Marcia led devotions and time was spent visiting all together. For some it was one of their first outings in over a year. I remember how nice it was to see the peace and joy of fellowship through togetherness. In June we gathered again for ice cream sundaes and Bunco! The prizes were great! Thank you all who donated them. In July we gathered for dinner and a cookie potluck. We divided all the cookies up and took them to our friends. The fun part was we delivered to our church family that we haven't seen in a long time, again the connections were as good as the cookies. In August a group of women planned a great baby shower for Karen and Christian Jensen. The whole church was invited for lunch which turned into breakfast and a lot of fun was had by all who attended. We welcomed baby Violet into Immanuel with loving hearts! September was filled with the ministry and missionary aspects of the Caruthers Fair food booth, although it is not necessarily a Women's Ministry event, we are a huge part of it. We helped with the Outdoor Country Store too. There were a few women who were part of breaking a Guinness Book of World Records for hanging socks on the longest clothesline, the socks were to be used as tools for sharing the love of our Lord and Savior. There were plenty to be sent all over the state of California and abroad. December was another fun project, we collected books, lots of holiday books, for the children at the Marjaree Mason center, we also packed up 96 hot chocolate kits and donated them along with the books. Our amazing Lord was part of this event as well, the very day we delivered the hot chocolates and books, someone had just donated ten dozen doughnuts to the Marjaree Mason Center. That's no coincidence. What could pair better with a doughnut than a cup of hot chocolate and a great story.

In August, September and October, Allyson Nielsen planned Intergenerational Creator's Corners, Saturday morning craft days, making crafts and enjoying fellowship together sharing creative gifts. The group made nail string art crosses, sweater pumpkins and fabric garlands. We had visitors from other churches join in the creativity.

The new year brings new beginnings. The Women's Ministry is a place for all women to share their gifts in order to enrich our walk with God. Please consider participating in re-shaping Immanuel's ministry in 2022. The leadership team is ready for refreshment, join us and share your time. There is something special about ministry partnership, involvement gives so much in return.

Blessings for new in 2022,
Victoria Salwasser, Women's Ministry President

Women's Ministry Treasurer's Report

The Women's Ministry started off 2021 with a balance of \$4,353.76 (\$846.25 of which was designated funds.) We end 2021 with \$4,689.20 (\$1,049.15 of which is designated funds).

Faith Bible Study currently has \$245.34 in their account, and the Recycling Fund (headed by Marilyn Nielsen) has \$803.81. These are the designated funds.

During the course of the year, we took in \$1,278.90 (Country Store, May event, and can recycling). We spent \$72.81 to make hot chocolate donation cups for kids at the December event, and donated \$500 to the Fresno Mission. \$370.65 was spent on spring and summer events which we managed in spite of COVID!

Hopeful (again) in the new year,
Carol Bennetts, Women's Ministry Treasurer

Nominating Committee

We'd first like to thank those council members who have served out their terms.

President: Fred Cogan
Recording Secretary: Allyson Kahn
Treasurer: Laura Nielsen
Trustee: Noah Cisneros
Deacons: Cindy Tews and John Jensen.

Those whose terms continue.
Vice President: Kristi Hollenbeck
Financial Secretary: Sharon Reynolds
Trustees: Karl Nielsen and Jim Hansen
Deacon: Barbara Petersen.

Those staying for a second term.
Deacons: Carol Bennetts and Gina Cogan.

We'd like to propose the following:

President: Mark Salwasser: *Mark has been proposed as president with the understanding that he will abstain from voting in all employee matters and will not be listed as an authorized signer of the checks. This is to avoid any conflict of interest.*

Treasurer: Pat Griffin
Deacon: Allyson Nielsen

After an exhaustive search with much prayer and diligence we were unable to fill 3 positions:

Recording Secretary
Trustee
Deacon

Thank you for allowing us to serve you on this committee and entrusting us with this task,
Barbara Petersen, Betty Moore, Carol Bennetts, Karl Nielsen, Pastor Taylor and John Jensen.

2021 Financial Secretary General Offerings Report

| Fund | Sum of Funds |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Bell Repair Fund | \$10,260.00 |
| Breaking Grounds Fund | \$1,223.00 |
| Caruthers Fair Fund | \$53,842.35 |
| Christmas Offering Fund | \$2,785.00 |
| Family Camp Fund | \$3,550.00 |
| Rescue Mission Fund | \$335.00 |
| General Fund | \$288,013.28 |
| Improvement Fund | \$210.00 |
| Lenten Service Fund | \$2,658.00 |
| Library Project Fund | \$430.00 |
| Memorial Fund | \$6,286.94 |
| Memorial Organ Fund | \$5,000.00 |
| Men's Bible Study Fund | \$1,000.00 |
| Mission Fund | \$950.00 |
| Program Fund | \$84.65 |
| Social Hall Fund | \$55,857.02 |
| Sunday School Fund | \$1,300.00 |
| Umatta Fund | \$382.56 |
| Women's Bible Study Fund | \$20.00 |
| Youth Fund | \$2,348.02 |

Total Giving for 2021 \$436,535.82

Financial Secretary Annual Revenue and Expense Recap for 2021

| | | Budgeted | Actual | Year to Date |
|---|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <u>Revenue:</u> | | | | |
| Designated Funds: | | \$ 0 - | \$ 148,522.54 | \$ 148,522.54 |
| General Funds: | | <u>\$ 304,992.00</u> | <u>\$ 288,013.28</u> | <u>\$ 288,013.28</u> |
| Grand Total: | | \$ 304,992.00 | \$ 436,535.82 | \$ 436,535.82 |
| | | | | |
| <u>Expenses:</u> | | | | |
| Designated Funds: | | \$ - | \$ 81,122.25 | \$ 81,122.25 |
| General Funds: | | <u>\$ 302,933.00</u> | <u>\$ 279,084.96</u> | <u>\$ 279,069.56</u> |
| Grand Total: | | \$ 302,933.00 | \$ 360,207.21 | \$ 360,207.21 |
| | | | | |
| General Fund Adjustments | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Designated Fund Year End Adjustments | | | | |
| Error Entry SH fund adj. to Social Hall | 256.71 | | | |
| Error Entry SH fund adj. to Social Hall | 180.00 | | | |
| Total designated fund adjustments | 436.71 | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
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| | | | | |

2021 Annual Designated Funds Statement

| Fund Designated Funds | Beginning Balance | YTD Deposits | YTD Withdrawals | Ending Balance |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Air Conditioner Repair | 14,547.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 14,547.00 |
| Bell Repair | 0.00 | 10,260.00 | (9,696.99) | 563.01 |
| Breaking Grounds Cafe | 960.52 | 1,223.00 | (500.00) | 1,683.52 |
| Building Improvement Fund | 45.00 | 105.00 | 0.00 | 150.00 |
| Care Bears | 740.26 | 0.00 | (162.00) | 578.26 |
| Caruthers Fair | 0.00 | 53,842.35 | (53,842.35) | 0.00 |
| Christmas Offering | 0.00 | 2,785.00 | 0.00 | 2,785.00 |
| Family Camp | 605.13 | 3,550.00 | (2,850.00) | 1,305.13 |
| Fellowship Club | 1,735.95 | 0.00 | (108.35) | 1,627.60 |
| Fresno Rescue Mission | 0.00 | 335.00 | (335.00) | 0.00 |
| Funeral Fund | 1,113.97 | 0.00 | (100.00) | 1,013.97 |
| Pars. Sprinkler upgrades | 500.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 |
| Library Project | 259.08 | 430.00 | (90.92) | 598.16 |
| Lenten Service | 0.00 | 2,658.00 | (2,658.00) | 0.00 |
| Memorial | 39,874.77 | 6,286.94 | (70.13) | 46,091.58 |
| Memorial-Organ | 70.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 70.00 |
| Men's Bible Study | 931.89 | 1,000.00 | (612.99) | 1,318.90 |
| Mission Cambodia | 0.00 | 950.00 | (950.00) | 0.00 |
| Mission - Special Gift | 945.55 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 945.55 |
| New Pastor Fund | 600.31 | 0.00 | (575.00) | 25.31 |
| Office Storage Room | 262.74 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 262.74 |
| Organ | 0.00 | 5,000.00 | 0.00 | 5,000.00 |
| Programs | 107.83 | 189.65 | (168.99) | 128.49 |
| Scholars Maren Marthedal | 500.00 | 0.00 | (1,000.00) | (500.00) |
| Senior High Fund | 256.71 | 180.00 | (436.71) | 0.00 |
| Social Hall Account | 132,254.72 | 56,113.73 | (3,300.00) | 185,068.45 |
| Sunday School | 1,174.75 | 1,300.00 | (855.21) | 1,619.54 |
| Tai Chi | 310.00 | 0.00 | (310.00) | 0.00 |
| Ummata | 1,087.99 | 382.56 | (552.68) | 917.87 |
| Women's Bible Study | 29.97 | 20.00 | 0.00 | 49.97 |
| Youth | 0.00 | 2,348.02 | (1,224.86) | 1,123.16 |
| Youth - Car Show | 13,325.73 | 0.00 | (722.07) | 12,603.66 |
| Total | 212,239.87 | 148,959.25 | (81,122.25) | 280,076.87 |

2021 Annual Treasurer's Report

| | Approved Budget | Year to Date Actual |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Current Expense | \$304,992.00 | \$288,013.28 |
| Benevolence: | | |
| Bethel Home Village | 4,500.00 | 4,500.00 |
| FSU CRU | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| FSU Bulldog Pantry | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| NALC | 4,500.00 | 4,500.00 |
| Lutheran World Relief | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Retired Missionary Fund | 3,500.00 | 3,500.00 |
| Washington Union Scholarship | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Washington Union FCA | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Fresno FCA | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| The Great Commission | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| CRU Mission Support Ellen Nielsen | 3,600.00 | 3,600.00 |
| CRU Mission Support Andrew Nielsen | 3,600.00 | 3,600.00 |
| District Seminary Scholarship | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 |
| Lutheran Military Ministry | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 |
| NALC Disaster Response | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| | | |
| Total Benevolence | 29,200.00 | 29,200.00 |
| | | |
| Church Staff Compensation: | | |
| Pastors Base Salary | 44,379.00 | 44,379.00 |
| Pastor's Pension | 6,678.00 | 6,678.00 |
| Youth Ministry Salary | 19,096.00 | 16,930.80 |
| Organist's Salary | 6,695.00 | 5,038.00 |
| Secretary's Salary | 40,986.00 | 38,357.19 |
| Secretary Pension | 4,098.00 | 4,146.72 |
| Custodian Sanctuary Office | 1,560.00 | 1,547.00 |
| Custodian Grounds Keeper | 13,520.00 | 8,217.00 |
| Supply Pastor | 900.00 | 900.00 |
| Parsonage Utility | 3,380.00 | 6,855.33 |
| Sound & Technology | 4,800.00 | 4,725.00 |
| | | |
| Total Salaries | 146,092.00 | 137,774.04 |

Employee Benefits:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Payroll Taxes | 10,723.00 | 5,551.73 |
| Pastor Cell Phone Stipend | 600.00 | 600.00 |
| Staff Continuing Education | 1,800.00 | 745.43 |
| Worker's Compensation | 1,800.00 | 1,558.35 |
| Pastor Social Security Offset | 5,109.00 | 5,109.00 |
| Pastor in lieu of Health Ins. | 20,532.00 | 20,532.00 |
| Pastor Ancillary Benefits | 1,437.00 | 1,317.58 |
| Pastor in Lieu of Equity | 2,400.00 | 2,400.00 |

| | | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Total Benefits | 44,401.00 | 37,814.09 |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|

Our Church Home:

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Church Repair | 4,000.00 | 3,403.64 |
| Church Utilities | 14,000.00 | 12,304.83 |
| Grace Hall | 4,750.00 | 3,115.23 |
| Church Insurance | 7,500.00 | 7,303.00 |
| Parsonage Repair | 1,000.00 | 585.00 |
| Janitorial Kitchen Supplies | 3,000.00 | 1,063.77 |
| Floor Maintenance | 1,000.00 | 400.00 |
| Grounds Supplies | 750.00 | 1,020.00 |
| Grounds Maintenance | 9,600.00 | 9,700.00 |
| Pest Control Service | 4,249.00 | 4,137.00 |
| Janitorial Service | 5,000.00 | 6,160.00 |
| Taxes | 1,650.00 | 1,633.68 |
| Water Payment to Easton Pres | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 |

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Total Church Home | 57,699.00 | 52,026.15 |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|

Ministry Supplies:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Pastor: Professional Expenses | 1,000.00 | 1,087.43 |
| NALC Convocation | 8,000.00 | 3,964.10 |
| Office/Worship | 15,100.00 | 15,799.59 |
| Christian Education | 500.00 | 0.00 |
| Travel Reimbursement | 2,000.00 | 463.68 |
| Youth Work | 1,000.00 | 955.88 |

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Total Ministry Supplies | 27,600.00 | 22,270.68 |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Total Expenses | 304,992.00 | 279,084.96 |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|

| | | |
|------------|--------|------------|
| Net Income | \$0.00 | \$8,928.32 |
|------------|--------|------------|