

ANNUAL REPORT

2016

Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church
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STAFF

Jeff Schlesinger, Pastor

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2016 CHURCH COUNCIL

President - Randy Schlesinger
Vice President - Bob Kromm
Secretary - Sarah Goetz
Treasurer - Scott Schlesinger
Memorial Fund Secretary - Jill Ross
Council Member - Diane Englehart
Council Member - Bob Eich, Jr.
LYO Representative - Zach Ross

Immanuel Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 29, 2017 - 11:30 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Opening Prayer
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. 2016 Annual Congregational Meeting p. 1-2
 - b. 2016 Special Congregational Meeting p. 4
4. Pastor's Report/Parochial Statistics p. 5-8
5. Director of Music's Report p. 9
6. President's Report p. 10
7. Team Reports
 - a. Building & Grounds p. 11
 - b. Education p. 12-17
 - c. Worship p. 18
 - d. Altar p. 19
 - e. Parish p. 19
 - f. Gift & Memorial p. 20-21
 - g. Farm p. 21
 - h. Audit p. 22
8. Organizational Reports
 - a. Lutheran Youth Organization p. 22
 - b. Neighbors In Christ Ecumenical (N.I.C.E.) p. 23
 - c. Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America p. 24-26
 - d. Cemetery Board p. 27
9. Financial Reports
 - a. Treasurer's Report p. 28-30
 - b. Benevolence Report p. 31
 - c. Memorial Fund Report p. 32
 - d. New Building Fund Report p. 32
 - e. Endowment Fund Report p. 33

- f. Florschuetz Memorial Fund p. 34
- g. Farm Management Report p. 35

10. Old Business

- a. Benevolence Commitment 2016 (refer to handout)
- b. Distribution of 2016 Farm Benevolence Funds (refer to handout)

11. New Business

- a. Nominating Committee Report p. 38
- b. Delegates for MLHI Annual Meeting & 2017 Synod Assembly
- c. 2017 Budget p. 36-37
- d. Benevolence Commitment 2017
- e. Proposed change in Bylaw VI.B.1
- f. Sacristy Renovations with Memorial Funds
- g. Custodial Opening

12. Adjournment

13. Closing Prayer

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, COMPTON
 ANNUAL MEETING
 Sunday, January 24, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Council President, Randy Schlesinger, at 11:01a. There were 61 active members in attendance. The meeting opened with the liturgy led by Pastor Jeff Schlesinger and a hymn.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: A motion was made by Sarah Pfeifer and seconded by John Hoelzer to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 2015 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: A motion was made by Charlene Zimmerman and seconded by Minor Avery to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT – As submitted
 PAROCHIAL STATISTICS FOR 2015 – As submitted
 DIRECTOR OF MUSIC REPORT – As submitted
 COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT – As submitted

TEAM REPORTS:

- a. Building and Grounds – As submitted
- b. Education – As submitted
- c. Library – As submitted. Harold Schlesinger offered to purchase a set of the Mendota Area German Pioneer Families books for the church library, if the missing volume from the existing set is not located.
- d. Hospitality – As submitted
- e. Worship – As submitted
- f. Farm – As submitted
- g. Altar – As submitted
- h. Audit – As submitted

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:

- a. Lutheran Youth Organization – It was noted the report should reflect Tony Menzel, not Danny Menzel. Also, Marie Barnickel attended the Youth Gathering in Detroit.
- b. Neighbors in Christ Ecumenical (NICE) – As submitted
- c. Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – The spring Central Conference breakfast will be held April 14 at Bethesda Lutheran, Morrison.
- d. Cemetery Board – As submitted

A motion was made by Kirk Ross and seconded by Roger Kern to approve all of the above reports. The motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- a. Treasurer's Report – As submitted
- b. Benevolence Report – As submitted
- c. Memorial Fund Report – As submitted
- d. New Building Fund Report – As submitted
- e. Endowment Fund Report – As submitted
- f. Florschuetz Memorial Fund – As submitted

g. Farm Management Report – As submitted

A motion was made by Bob Kromm and seconded by Rhonda McCormick to approve the financial reports. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Benevolence Commitment 2015: The 2015 commitments were 18,000 for the Northern Illinois Synod and 6,000 for Mendota Lutheran Home.
- b. Distribution of Farm Benevolence Funds: John Hoelzer clarified the intent of the motion he made at the 2015 Annual meeting. The figures on the handout provided were then updated to reflect that and the 80/20% split of the farm income. Total farm income for 2015 was \$37,629.72. \$7,525.94 (20%) will go to the Capital Improvement fund. From the remaining \$30,103.78 (80%), \$8,000 has already been paid toward the Northern Illinois Synod commitment. The \$11,060 needed to complete the Synod and Mendota Lutheran Home commitments will also be paid from that amount. The remaining balance from the 80% of the farm income is \$11,043.78. A motion was made by Charlene Zimmerman and seconded by John Hoelzer to deposit \$8,000 of the remaining balance to the Endowment Fund and divide the \$3,043.78 between the Gary Wollersheim Rostered Leader Educational Debt Retirement Fund and the Polly Wollersheim Fund for Literacy – Arcot Lutheran Church, India. Both funds are being set up by the Northern Illinois Synod in recognition of Bishop Wollersheim's retirement. The motion carried.
- c. Projection System – Minor Avery presented several slides highlighting the proposal by Integrated Audio Systems to install a projector and screen. The quote for the projector and screen is \$11,920. An additional \$300 is projected for needed electrical cabling. Craig Ganz will be completing the wiring, and has offered to donate his time. A motion was made by Sarah Pfeifer and seconded by Kathy Ross to purchase the new projector and screen for \$12,220.00 from the Capital Improvement fund. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Recognition of Outgoing Council Members – Randy Schlesinger thanked Stanley Hoelzer, Rhonda McCormick, Emily Ross and Kim Ganz for their service on the Council. He also thanked Harlan Eames for the many hours he donates and excellent job he does. The Mark Ross family, Kirk Ross family and Dwight Frick were thanked for mowing the lot across from the church this past year. Randy also thanked all who helped clean up after the scramble before today's meeting.
- b. Nominating Committee Report – Diane Englehart, Bob Kromm and Bob Eich volunteered to fill the openings on the Church Council. A motion was made by Stanley Hoelzer and seconded by Minor Avery to approve these volunteers. The motion carried.
- c. Delegates for the MLH Annual Meeting and 2016 Synod Assembly – Christa Edwards and Bob Kromm volunteered to be delegates for the 2016 Mendota Lutheran Home Annual Meeting. Randy Schlesinger and Sarah Goetz will serve as delegates at the 2016 Synod Assembly. Harlan and Karla Eames volunteered to be alternates. A youth representative will be discussed at the LYO February meeting. A motion was made by Kirk Ross and seconded by Christa Edwards to approve the MLH and Synod Assembly delegates. The motion carried.
- d. 2016 Budget – The budget was presented. A motion was made by Kathy Ross and seconded by Christa Edwards to accept the budget as submitted. The motion carried.
- e. Benevolence Commitment 2016 – Following discussion, a motion was made by Greta Bates to set our commitment to Northern Illinois Synod for 2016 at \$18,500.00 and the Mendota

Lutheran Home for 2016 at \$7,000.00. Stanley Hoelzer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- f. Proposed Change in Bylaw VI.A.1 – Randy Schlesinger explained a suggestion to strike bylaw VI.A.1 regarding age of council members and re-numbering the subsequent conditions of bylaw VI.A accordingly. By doing this, all confirmed and active members would be eligible for council, giving the council youth representative the same vote as other members of the council. Currently, council members must be 18 to vote. For a change to a bylaw to be made, the congregation must be given 30 days notice. Since this has now been presented, it can be voted on at the next congregational meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Christa Edwards and seconded by Julia Hoelzer to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 12:18p.

CLOSING PRAYER: The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Goetz
Council Secretary

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, COMPTON
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
June 5, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 9:39a by Council President, Randy Schlesinger. The meeting opened with a prayer. There were 56 active members in attendance.

The first item discussed was the proposed amendment of bylaw VI.A.1. The amendment suggestion was announced at the 2016 Annual Meeting in January. The change being voted on was: Only a voting member of the congregation who has attained the age of 18 confirmed voting members of the congregation shall be eligible to serve as a member of the Church Council.

The second item discussed was air conditioning for the church sanctuary. Bob Kromm presented the information he and Craig Ganz gathered from Walter Brothers and Triple Service. Bob explained that if the sanctuary is air conditioned, electrical upgrades for the whole church must be completed first. The \$30,000 price provided includes both the electrical work and the installation of 4 wall units in the sanctuary.

Concerns about aesthetics, noise, cost to run and affect on the pipe organ were discussed. The intent is not to run the air conditioning 24/7. It can probably be tied into the existing timers, so the air would come on the day prior to a service, providing sufficient time to cool the sanctuary and let the organ stabilize to the temperature/humidity change.

Also discussed was how the air conditioning would be paid for. Scott Schlesinger shared there is currently approximately \$40,000 in the Capital Improvement Fund and \$30,000 in the Memorial Fund. Randy Schlesinger shared there are also persons who have offered contributions towards getting air conditioning.

Sarah Pfeifer made a motion to proceed with air conditioning for the sanctuary and installing the necessary electrical upgrades. Christa Edwards seconded the motion.

Randy Schlesinger announced an additional proposed bylaw change – The Church Council may enter into contracts of up to ~~\$4000~~ \$15,000 for items not included in the budget according to chapter 12.05 in the constitution without consulting the congregation. This proposed change will be voted on at the next congregational meeting, but was announced at this meeting to fulfill the requirement that the congregation must receive notice at least 2 weeks prior to voting.

Ballots were collected and counted for the two items being voted on. The vote to amend bylaw VI.A.1 passed with 47 Yes votes and 9 No votes. The motion to proceed with air conditioning carried. 35 voted Yes, 19 voted No and 2 abstained.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Fran Sellers and seconded by Lisa Rosenkrans. The meeting was adjourned at 10:18a and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by: Sarah Goetz



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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last year, having been here for just over two months, rather than submit for the annual report a record of what I had done, I reflected on my hopes for 2016. I summarized those hopes in three ways: (1) *learning together what it means to be a neighbor*, (2) *forming a strong relationship with First Lutheran*, and (3) *getting used to saying "I've never done it that way before."*

I've been here for well over a year now and I could fill this report with statistics such as how many meetings I've attended, what Bible studies I've led, the number of visits I've made, a list of funeral and weddings, how many miles I have traveled on your behalf and all sorts of other data. Reading material such as that may be very useful when suffering from insomnia, but since I'd rather you stay awake during this report, once again this year I'm going to do some reflecting rather than reporting. More specifically, I'd like to reflect a bit on how the three hopes I outlined last year have born fruit this year.

- *Learning together what it means to be a neighbor* (remember the lesson of the Good Samaritan – our neighbor is anyone, anywhere who we may encounter)
 - **VBS** comes to mind almost immediately. I was truly impressed how we reach out to many in our neighborhood to share the story of Jesus. **Breakfast in Bethlehem**, which was brand new this year, was another great example of reaching out to our neighbor. I was not responsible for either of these programs, but I'm excited about their continuation and being able to be part of them.
 - This year's Advent Tree **provided a Christmas meal for 95 families** in need in Romania through Another Child Foundation (ACF). In February ACF director Tim Oloffson will be with us and we'll see real pictures of families receiving our gifts. I can't wait to see those images and I am proud to be part of a congregation that is so generous.
 - Two new outreach programs were hatched last fall: the **New Move-In** program, and the **Community Walk** program. Designed to invite the old neighbors and new neighbors alike to come and encounter Christ with us, I very much look forward to further developing these programs further this year.
- *Forming a strong relationship with First Lutheran*
 - Our **joint worship services** and fellowship opportunities (and food, of course) that have accompanied them have extended the connection between the two faith communities way beyond simply sharing a pastor. How appropriate is it that word and sacrament are what bind us together?
 - Sharing confirmation and joint worship planning have been a blessing to me. I'm looking forward to joining together this year in a "God's Work Our Hands" project.
 - This relationship between First and Immanuel has a two year term attached to it – sort of a trial period. The end of that term will occur in October of this year. The **Parish Team** is working to put pieces in place to make it a more permanent relationship.

- *Saying, "I've never done that before"* (in other words, trying new things)
 - I've led a number of **"seminar" style Bible studies** over the year. Many who have participated have commented that they really haven't done Bible study before (at least not since Sunday school/confirmation days). I would encourage everyone to try to take advantage of at least one of these each year. This year's topics will revolve around Luther and the Reformation as 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation.
 - A **new and more permanent projector and screen** were installed that offers more possibilities for worship. Which reminds me of the video that I used during the **Season of Creation**. This liturgical season was one that I was pleased to share as caring for God's creation is central to who I am as a person of faith. It was also received with a great deal of enthusiasm. I look forward to making this an annual part of our worship life.
 - A **Gift & Memorial List** has been put in place so that we might be faithful stewards of the resources left in our care. In other congregations I've served, this has been an effective way to direct special offerings and positively move the ministry forward. I hope that proves to be the case here as well.
 - Two simple but rather significant worship changes: the acolyte taking the light down the aisle at the end of the service and someone from the congregation leading the dismissal ("Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**") The light coming down the aisle reminds us that Jesus, the light of the world, goes out the doors with us as we leave worship. The dismissal coming from one of you reminds us that it is our job as we leave to carry that light with us through our service to the world.

I probably have missed a few things in the three categories above. But I'll stop here as you have many other things to read about and ponder in this annual report. As we move forward into another year of ministry, let us remember that we are called to be Christ's presence in this place, a neighbor to all; that God has called us into a new relationship with another community of Christ and that we should tend to that relationship with hope and excitement; and that seeking new ways to proclaim and live the gospel is what all healthy congregations do.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your pastor in 2016 and I look forward to a fruitful 2017. God's grace be with you all!

PS

PAROCHIAL STATISTICS FOR 2016

1. Members Received During 2016

	Children	Adults
a. By baptism	4	0
b. By affirmation of faith	0	0
c. By transfer	0	2
d. From other sources & statistical adjustment ..	0	0
e. Members Received in 2016	4	2

f. TOTAL # OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS RECEIVED IN 2016 = 6

2. Baptized Members who were Confirmed in 2016 1

3. Members Removed During 2016

	Children	Adults
a. By death	0	6
b. By transfer	0	1
c. For other reasons & statistical adjustment ...	0	0
d. Members Removed in 2016	0	7

e. TOTAL # OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS REMOVED IN 2016 = 7

	Baptized Children & Adults	Confirmed Members
4. MEMBERSHIP, START OF 2016	483	330
MEMBERSHIP, END OF 2016	482	326
COMMUNED AND CONTRIBUTED END OF 2016		140

5. Average Weekly (Sunday) Worship Attendance

	total	summer	non-summer
a. in 2007	111	98	116
b. in 2008	104	89	111
c. in 2009	102	90	108
d. in 2010	107	83	117
e. in 2011	104	88	111
f. in 2012	93	90	95
g. in 2013	91	75	94
h. in 2014	87	89	86
i. in 2015	78	64	83
j. in 2016	78	66	82

BAPTISMS

Carson Bradley Honeycutt, son of Paul & Brynn Honeycutt	3/13/16
Raelynn Kay Albers, daughter of Justin & Hollie Albers	4/17/16
Bentley Callen Milus, son of Tony & Tanya Milus	11/06/16
Wyatt Raymond Dwayne Van Drew, son of Dustin & Ashley Van Drew	11/27/16

MEMBERS RECEIVED

Carson Honeycutt	3/13/16
Raelynn Albers	4/17/16
Bentley Milus	11/06/16
Wyatt Van Drew	11/27/16
Harold Schlesinger	6/07/16
Brad Ehlers	9/08/16

MEMBERS TRANSFERRED TO OTHER CONGREGATIONS

Kyle Kofoid to Paw Paw United Methodist Church 2016

DEATHS

<u>Name</u>	<u>birthdate</u>	<u>death</u>	<u>funeral</u>
Larry Wohlrabe	4/01/54	4/07/16	4/11/16
Ross Pinter	5/23/55	4/12/16	4/16/16
Joann Rebbholz	4/10/59	7/13/16	7/18/16
Darwin Ross	6/04/31	8/06/16	8/10/16
Erna Kroemm	5/06/29	9/19/16	9/23/16
Darlene Eich	8/04/26	12/29/16	1/04/17

CONFIRMATION

Made their Affirmation of Faith
on October 30, 2016

Luke Andrew Ross

WEDDINGS

Nicholas Ganz & Briana Arceaga 9/03/16

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
Our Mission

LIVING IN GOD'S GRACE AS A NEIGHBOR TO THE WORLD

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Immanuel was richly blessed with an abundance of musical talent this past year. Those sharing their gifts included Meghan Crumpton, Susan Goetz, Jill Hoelzer, John Hoelzer, Julia Hoelzer, Sam Schlesinger, Kimberly Schlesinger, Alex Schlesinger, Fran Sellers, Nicole (Sellers) Wagner, the Sunday School and the Vacation Bible Camp children. Thank you to each of them!

Musical opportunities with First expanded this year as our partnership with them continues to grow. I had the pleasure of playing at First for a couple of the shared mid-week Lent services, Good Friday, Christmas Eve and our joint services on the 5th Sundays. I was joined on the 5th Sunday combined services by John Montgomery, First's guitarist. Our partnership with First also allowed for more flexibility when either church had a Sunday when their normal organist/pianist was not available. Ron Duval, First's organist, substituted at Immanuel when I took a Sunday off in December. For my other Sundays off this year, thank you to Connie Avery and Debbie Rebholz for pushing the buttons on the Clavinova!

My other responsibilities included serving on the Worship Team, playing for Sunday School openings and making sure the pianos and organ were regularly maintained.

I am blessed to be the Director of Music at Immanuel and look forward to 2017.

Sarah Goetz
Director of Music

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2016 has been a relatively quiet year for Immanuel. Probably our most progressive step was the implementation of the sanctuary projection system. As with most projects, it required both time and involvement of the membership. But the end result is one of which we can be proud. My sincere appreciation goes to all who physically "lent a hand" and/or contributed monetarily to this and other improvement projects.

Pastor Schlesinger's enthusiasm in presenting new worship styles and opportunities for benevolence helps keep things fresh. I hear many favorable comments from both members and visitors. As always, this enhances and reflects Immanuel's good health as a congregation.

The Joint Parish Team does a great job fostering our relationship with First, coming up with innovative and creative ways to integrate the two congregations. Your work is also much appreciated and a vital link to our successful "sharing" partnership.

2016 Synod news was the election of our new Bishop. The process is fairly complex and was a learning experience for those of us involved either directly or indirectly. We extend sincere wishes for an enjoyable retirement to the Wollersheims and a strong faith-inspired leadership tenure to **newly elected Bishop Jeffrey Clements**.

2017 will present the opportunity to review our Shared Call. Depending upon the outcome, our parsonage may become family-occupied on a more permanent basis. That said, I hope to see some substantial upgrades made to the home.

Thank you to the members who so generously contribute their labor, time and financial support. Your church council appreciates it all and does its best to be a good steward in sharing God's grace.

And here's a final goal for 2017: invite your friends, your families and inactive members to worship or participate in an activity. Immanuel has so much to offer. Remember, we are "Living in God's Grace as a Neighbor to the World"!

Faithfully,
Randy Schlesinger

Building & Grounds Team

Committee Members: Bob Kromm (council rep.), Craig Ganz, Minor Avery, Ron Schlesinger

Purpose - Provide minor repairs and maintenance of church property and parsonage property.

Past Year

1. Installed water channel system along the east wall in the basement, behind kitchen cabinets.
2. Patched sanctuary roof because of wind damage.
3. Compton Fire Dept. flushed tile system around the church.
4. New screen & projector installed.
5. Installed new PVC piping to the septic & cleaned out tile on the west side of the overflow, down to the old Heiman house.
6. Installed new electric service into the church.
7. Installed air conditioning in the sanctuary.
8. Recauked stain glass window: overflow.
9. Removed dead tree in green space.
10. Trimmed bushes, trees & shrubs around the church and parsonage.
11. Installed new lighted sign north of the church off Rt. 251.
12. Repositioned banner and cross in sanctuary.

A special thank you to ALL who were involved in any of the projects.

Coming Year - Stay diligent in maintaining and upgrading our church and parsonage.

Respectfully submitted,
Building & Grounds

Education Team

Members: Kathy Ross, Sunday School Superintendent, Rhonda McCormick, Council Representative, Christina Barnickel, Marie Barnickel, Emily Erickson-Betz, Pastor Jeff

Special Guests: Lexy Rebholz, Debbie Rebholz, Greta Bates

The Education Team met twice in 2016. In January was our first meeting with Pastor Jeff. We discussed Sunday School, Vacation Bible Camp, Confirmation, adult learning opportunities, and Christmas. Pastor Jeff felt his strength was in teaching and would take a lead in Confirmation and offering adult learning opportunities. He likes to offer bible studies during each of the church seasons. Lexy Rebholz, Debbie Rebholz and Emily-Erickson Betz would take the lead for Vacation Bible Camp. They decided on the Barryard Roundup theme and will be a night VBC. It will start on Sunday night and end on Thursday night. Dinner will be served first and then the traditional VBC. Sunday School would like to try coordinating an event around Earth Day. It was decided we would try to put together flower pots for the families at N.I.C.E. Flowers are a luxury that wouldn't be purchased if you are on a limited budget. Christina Barnickel offered to lead this event.

In August, we met to discuss Rally Sunday and the fall semester for Sunday School, marketing efforts to VBC families, fall offering, volunteer policy/forms, and other outreach events. The theme for Rally Sunday was decided and marketing efforts were discussed. Vacation Bible Camp was a great success and pulled in multiple families from the community. We decided to put together a brochure to highlight the activities of the church. This would be sent with the flyer about Sunday School. Additional brochures would be available in the back of the church. In addition, we would try putting a banner outside for a few weeks before Sunday School starts. The last few years the fall offering has gone towards putting shoeboxes together for Operation Christmas Child. Pastor Jeff is involved in Another Child Foundation and wondered if we could do something with that organization this year. He would line up a meeting with the Director to discuss possibilities. It has come up during Vacation Bible Camp and other times what the church policy is on volunteers. Pastor Jeff has been involved in writing those types of policies at other churches. He would come up with a shell policy to discuss at our next meeting. We also discussed offering other educational outreach opportunities to build on the VBC base. Sparkhouse is offering churches an opportunity to offer a book fair. It was decided we would try it. We would also like to offer some sort of Christmas outreach event. Kathy will research the options. Lastly, adult learning opportunities were discussed. Christina has felt a passion to offer a women's community bible study. Beth Moore bible studies would be a good fit. She will research for a potential offering in the spring semester.

The Education Team will meet again on January 17, 2017 to discuss the spring semester of Sunday School, VBC, volunteer policy, Confirmation/LYD and spring/summer outreach opportunities.

It is exciting to have this committee active and leading the education process.

January 2016- May 2016

Number on Roll- 35

Average per Sunday- 20

Sunday School Staff

Break-Out Session Leaders- Rhonda McCormick, Kim Menzel

Games-Connie Avery, Rhonda McCormick, Kathy Ross, Lexy Rebholz

Story- Connie Avery, Rhonda McCormick, Kathy Ross, Lexy Rebholz

Crafts-Connie Avery, Rhonda McCormick, Kathy Ross, Lexy Rebholz, Christina Barnickel

Snacks- Connie Avery, Christina Barnickel, Karla Eames, Kim Menzel, Sarah Pfeifer, Rhonda McCormick, Emily Erickson-Betz, Lexy Rebholz

Music Openings-Sarah Goetz, Jill Hoelzer, Kathy Ross

High School- Hannah Crumpton, Kathy Ross, Sarah Goetz

Purpose: Spark-Activate Faith, Lectionary Series, Echo the Story, DVD series

We continued with our "one-room" Sunday School for most of the hour with break-out sessions for the last 20 minutes for preschool thru 6th grade. The curriculum used is Spark-Activate Faith, the Lectionary Series. This series ties right into the lessons that are being heard in church. Confirmation and the High School class are using Echo the Story DVD series. This curriculum tells the bible stories and encourages you to relate it to your own story. There are still some Sundays were all kids are together.

During the spring sessions, some of the lessons and activities that were included were the following:

- Lent- The start of Lent, we had our Lent pretzels again.
- Palm Sunday/Holy Week- The kids did the palm processional and then sang a beautiful song, One Voice.
- Earth Sunday- Christina Barnickel led a special project for Sunday School for Earth Sunday. The kids made flower pots to be distributed to families at N.I.C.E. The whole day was spent on the first four days of the creation story.
- Last day of Sunday School – Our theme was "Super Sunday" and it was all about what makes Sundays so super! We finished the creation story and learned it is our day of rest. They also enjoyed a very super sundae as a snack!

The Sunday School staff is creative, dedicated and "activating faith into our kids." I appreciate all that they do for Immanuel Lutheran's youth.

Sincerely,

Kathy Ross
Sunday School Superintendent

September 2016- December 2016

Number on Roll- 35

Average per Sunday- 22

Sunday School Staff

Break-Out Session Leaders- Rhonda McCormick, Christina Barnickel

Games-Connie Avery, Rhonda McCormick, Kathy Ross, Jennifer Crumpton

Story- Connie Avery, Rhonda McCormick, Kathy Ross, Jennifer Crumpton

Crafts-Connie Avery, Rhonda McCormick, Kathy Ross, Jennifer Crumpton

High School Leaders: Daryl Rosenkrans, Sarah Goetz,

Snacks- Connie Avery, Emily Erickson-Betz, Karla Eames, Susan Goetz, Rhonda McCormick, Lexy Rebholz

Music Openings-Sarah Goetz, Kathy Ross,

Purpose: Spark-Activate Faith, Lectionary Series, Echo the Story, DVD series

We continued with our "one-room" Sunday School for most of the hour with break-out sessions for the last 20 minutes for preschool thru 6th grade. The curriculum used is Spark-Activate Faith, the Lectionary Series. This series ties right into the lessons that are being heard in church. Confirmation and the High School class are using Echo the Story DVD series. This curriculum tells the bible stories and encourages you to relate it to your own story. There are still some Sundays were all kids are together.

During the fall sessions, some of the lessons and activities that were included were the following:

- Rally Sunday- Blast Off into God's Word! Rally Sunday was a blast! The kids made their own straw rockets to launch, enjoyed out of this world snacks, and learned that digging into the bible is a blast!
- Creation Sundays- We followed Pastor Jeff's themes for the creation series, Animal Sunday, Storm Sunday, and Cosmos Sunday.
- N.I.C.E. Cookie Packets- In November, the kids enjoyed putting together cards and Christmas cookie packets for families at N.I.C.E. It was a good reminder that Christmas joy is found in the simple things.
- Advent- Our Sunday School offering was used to purchase ornaments off of the Advent Tree. We also had fun counting the Sundays in Advent.
 - First Sunday in Advent "Waiting and Watching"
 - Second Sunday in Advent "Fanfare for a King"
 - Third Sunday in Advent "The Joy of Christmas"
 - Fourth Sunday in Advent-cancelled due to weather

The kids enjoyed all of the activities during the Advent season. The Joy of Christmas Sunday was my favorite. The kids wrapped empty shoe boxes and placed hugs in them. The following saying was placed on top of the box.

This is a very special gift
That you can never see
The reason it's so special is
It's just for you from me.

Whenever you are lonely
Or are ever feeling blue

You only have to hold this gift
And know I'm hugging you.

You never can unwrap it
Please leave the ribbon tied
Just hold the box close to your heart
It's filled with hugs inside.

They also practiced their hearts out singing their songs for Sunday, December 18th. Although they didn't get to sing in church due to the weather, I believe there was a celebration in heaven when they heard them practicing- it was a joyful sound indeed!

It has been a wonderful semester of Sunday School. We are truly trying to incorporate our church mission into our curriculum as well as make it fun and meaningful for the kids. The Sunday School staff is creative, dedicated and "activating faith into our kids." It truly has been my privilege to serve alongside these wonderful people. I appreciate all that they do for Immanuel Lutheran's youth.

Sincerely,

Kathy Ross
Sunday School Superintendent

Confirmation Ministry Report

Confirmation Ministry is about faith formation. Thus it is made up of three facets: learning, service and fellowship. Students are invited to begin anytime from 6th through 8th grade and complete two years in confirmation. During those two years they participate in the following activities:

Learning

- Attend "faith formation" evenings with Pastor Jeff on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.
- Learn about being part of the worship community by completing 18 worship reports each year.

Service

- Participate in three planned service projects each year.
- Serve as acolytes.

Fellowship

- Participate in three planned confirmation fellowship events each year.
- Invited to be part of LYO.

In 2016 one candidate was presented for and was confirmed on October 30, 2016: Luke Ross.

In the fall of 2016, there were 11 students participating in the confirmation program: Trysta Foster, Kody Hoadley, Brooke Helman, Gaige Lampson, Summer Lampson, Rachel McCormick, Olivia Ross, Bethany Simpson, Jacob Swope, Kevin Swope and Aiden Znaniecki.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Jeff Schliesinger

Vacation Bible Camp
June 12-16, 2016

We would like to THANK...

Site Leaders: Storytelling: *Kathy Ross*
Music: *Meghan Crumpton*
Crafts: *Kim Menzel*
Games: *Ashley Clayton/Danny Menzel*
Zac Clayton

Crew Leaders: Purple Group: *Emily Ross/Olivia Ross*
Blue Group: *Luke Ross*
Pink Group: *Kayla McCormick*
Green Group: *Tony Menzel*



Openings & Closings: *Connie Avery, Emily Erickson-Betz, Lexy Rebholz*

Dinner Planner: *Rhonda McCormick & family*

Safety: *Stanley Hoelzer*

Other volunteer helpers: *Karla Eames, Christina Barnickel, Brittany Menzel*

Coordinators: *Lexy Rebholz, Emily Erickson-Betz, Debbie Rebholz*

Campers

Faith Baratta
Hope Baratta
Brad Betz
Brianna Betz
James Bradley
Madeline Courser
Caleb Crumpton
Liam Crumpton
Aliya Eames
Eliana Eames
Kate Hoffer

Nick Hoffer
Trekker Klema
Christopher Komitas
Dessa Komitas
Jackson Lemmer
Rachel McCormick
Lukas Nelson
Samantha Nelson
Alayna Nasalik
Cole Nasalik
Layla O'Brien

Addyson Rebholz
Natalie Rebholz
Madison Rod
Olivia Ross
Charlie Schoenholz
Cozy Schoenholz
Cora Sims
Evelyn Sims
Jenah Sims

THANK YOU to those who donated kitchen supplies and snacks for Vacation Bible Camp. Your donations were greatly appreciated!

THANK YOU to campers & families for donating food and paper product items to fill our silo & barn to be given to Neighbors In Christ Ecumenical (N.I.C.E.) food pantry in Lee, IL

THANK YOU to Kevin Ganz (pigs), Jenah Sims (rabbit), Adam Betz (tractor).

BIBLE STUDY

Our Friday morning Bible Study group continues to meet at 9:00 a.m. over coffee. We discuss the lessons for the upcoming Sunday. Discussion often veers away from the Scriptures being studied but that simply serves to prove the power of God's living Word. Attendance is open to all who wish to take a look ahead to the coming Sunday and group members are free to come and go as their schedule allows. Experience this study opportunity and find your mind and your faith stimulated.

LIBRARY

The Library of Immanuel is small and our purpose is simple, to provide materials in various formats that will further develop spiritual knowledge, be used for information, reference, and enjoyment. The collection includes books on Bible history and principles as well as Bible atlases and other practical references. It includes some regular adult fiction, children's books, large print books, and music CDs.

This year, our collection was increased with donations from Jean Albert, Colleen Zinke and Hal Schlesinger. We thank them for their thoughtful gifts to our book collection. We have added history books written by a local author, volumes of inspiration, a series of fifteen volumes of Christian fiction based on the stories of women of the Bible, and a three volume set of local history. These can all be found on the shelves in the book case, ready for you to look through.

As we have done in the past, we will keep in mind our purpose and the needs of all church members. Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

Connie Avery

WORSHIP TEAM

Team Members: Connie Avery, Christa Edwards, Jill Ross, Sarah Goetz from Immanuel; Deb Poterek from First; and Pastor Jeff Schlesinger

The Worship Team in 2016 once again took a collaborative approach to discussing and planning worship services. The team met several times during the year to decide which hymns and liturgy settings would be appropriate for the upcoming church season(s). To assist with selecting hymns, the team used several reference guides with suggestions for each Sunday based on the liturgical year and the readings for the day. For some Sundays, the team had difficulty deciding because all of the hymns recommended were well known and enjoyed. For other Sunday, the team "went rogue" as none of the suggested hymns were know and/or liked. We hope throughout the year that we provided an assortment of hymns and liturgy settings that achieved a combination of traditional and contemporary and which thoughtfully enhanced the theme of the day and celebrating worship together.

Respectfully submitted,
Worship Team

USHERS

We were fortunate to have a number of members assist in the roll of usher again this year. Thank you to everyone for volunteering!

(Duties include: posting the hymn numbers, collecting the offering, ushering for communion, turning on & off the lights for services, counting attendance, straightening up after church, handing out the bulletins, etc. Usher guidelines are available for those who want to volunteer.)

We have several openings yet for ushers on Sunday morning. Remember we only have ONE service at 8:30 a.m. year around. Families are also encouraged to be ushers.

Contact the church office or sign-up on the sheet in the overflow. If you don't know how to usher, we can train you!

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Connie Ganz, Kim Ganz, Carol Kern, Sarah Pfeifer,
Lisa Rosenkrans, Pam Wohlrahe, Charlene Zimmerman,
Karla Eames

Purpose: To prepare the altar area for worship services, baptisms, weddings, funerals and festivals.

Past Year: During the year, we cleaned the altar area and decorated the church with fruits and vegetables for Harvest Sunday. We were happy to have a new member join us in preparing for worship services.

Coming Year: We would welcome any volunteers who would be willing to join this committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Altar Committee

Parish Team

The Parish Team is comprised of the following committee members:

First Evangelical
Lutheran Church of Lee

Pastor

Immanuel Lutheran
Church of Compton

John Montgomery
Deb Poterek
Rita Thompson

Jeff Schlesinger

Diane Englehart
Emily Erickson-Betz
Sarah Pfeifer

Purpose: to lead the efforts of two congregations, First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lee and Immanuel Lutheran Church of Compton, in a partnership by living and working together in unity while maintaining unique ministries.

Throughout the year, team members toured the original and current church sites, parsonages and cemeteries of each congregation.

Among the completed items of business are a combined Church Family Directory and three Fifth Sunday Joint Worship Services.

Ongoing items for discussion and decision include schedule recommendations for Advent and Lenten services, a Living Nativity Scene, the publication of a Parish Pamphlet, the development of a Joint Ministry Covenant and Fifth Sunday Joint Worship Services for 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Englehart

Gift & Memorial Annual Report

The Gift & Memorial Committee reorganized and was very active in 2016. Highlights from the year follow...

- At the May council meeting two resolutions were passed to help more efficiently and effectively steward the memorial money and special gifts presented to Immanuel Lutheran:
 - 1st it established and appointed a Memorial Fund Administrator (Minor Avery) to oversee the Memorial Funds and maintain continuity from year to year
 - 2nd it directed the Memorial Team in the following way:
 - The Memorial Committee shall establish a "Gift and Memorial List"
 - The list will include non budgetary items (essentially a "wish list" to enhance the ministry) to which gifts can be designated
 - The list shall be reviewed and approved by the council at least twice each year to keep it current and the Immanuel Council can add items to the list at any of its meetings
 - When memorials are given, families will be asked to either designate them to one or more of the items on the gift and memorial list, or to allow the Immanuel Council to designate them as they see fit
 - The list shall be given to a family or donor in a timely fashion by the pastor or other congregational representative (i.e. council president or memorial chair) upon receipt of the gift
 - If the family or donor has not designated the gift within six months of receiving the list, then the gift shall be considered as "to be designated by the Immanuel Council as they see fit"
 - If a family or donor wishes to designate a gift toward something other than what appears on the gift and memorial list, it must be recommended to the council by the memorial committee and approved by the council
- The Memorial Team compiled that list and it was approved by council at its September meeting. The current Memorial List appears below.
- Procedures were established that if members or groups from the congregation wish to add something to the list that it be channeled through the Memorial Team to the Council. The Council can add items to the list at any of their meetings.
- Undesignated memorial money was utilized to purchase a new color copy machine for the church office.
- Members of the committee include Jill Ross (chair/council liaison), Randy Schlesinger, Kim Ganz, Minor Avery (Memorial Administrator) and Pastor Schlesinger

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Ross

Immanuel Lutheran Church Gift & Memorial List

Thank you for deciding to leave a gift for the ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church. Below is a list of unbudgeted items toward which you may wish to designate your gift. These are all things we feel would enhance our ministry. If you have any questions about any of these or wish to officially designate your gift, please talk to either Pastor Schiesinger or a member of the Gift & Memorial Committee. *If the gift has not been designated within six months of receiving this letter, it will be assumed that the gift is to be designated by the Immanuel council as they see fit*

Gift Opportunities

Cabinet for the Sacristy (\$1100)
Window Dressings/Shades for Overflow (\$1000)
Audio System Upgrade (\$5000)

Ongoing Funds

Scholarship Fund
Campership Fund
Capital Improvement Fund
Helping Hands Fund
Parsonage Improvement Fund

General Ministry Designations

Youth Ministry
ELCA Youth Gathering
Music Ministry
Kitchen Needs
Sunday School/VBS

Date recommended by Memorial Committee – 9/29/2016

Date approved by Council – 10/13/2016

FARM COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Charlene Zimmerman, Keith Eich, Stanley Hoelzer, Darwin Ross,
Allan Zimmerman, Scott Schiesinger (council rep.)
Farm manager: Zoeller Ag. Services (Keith Zoeller)

The farm tenant for 2016 was Steve Kromm. The lottery name drawing winner for 2017 tenant is Steve Kromm. All rents due from both the tenant and wind turbines were received on a timely basis.

FSA required that we plant 800 trees (saplings) on the CRP to replace some that had died. This was done in the spring. There are some beavers in the creek starting to build a dam. Zoeller is investigating this and will take whatever action is needed.

The 2016 Summary of Receipts and Expenses from Zoeller Ag Services can be found with the other financial reports.