

**Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**164 Hanover Street**

**Meriden, Connecticut 06451**

**203-238-1248**

[www.immanuelmeriden.org](http://www.immanuelmeriden.org)

**2020 Annual Reports Booklet**

**for the**

**January 24, 2021**

**Annual Congregational Meeting**



**Immanuel**  
Lutheran Church

**Annual Meeting**  
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**Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Meriden, CT 06451**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**Sunday, January 19, 2020**

**Call to Order:** President Joanne Gardner called the meeting to order at 11:30am. Kyle Fohlin asked if there was a quorum present. It was determined that sixteen and a half persons gives us a quorum. There are 24 voting members present today.

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Richard Burgess led us in prayer.

**Approval of the Agenda:** A motion to accept the 2020 Congregation Annual Meeting Agenda was made by Wendy Becker and seconded by Diana Clancy. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

**Review of the Minutes:** A motion was made by Mark Gardner and seconded by Wendy Becker to accept the Annual Meeting minutes from January 27, 2019 as written. The motion carried.

**Report of the Nominating Committee:** *President Gardner introduced the nominees for Council; four candidates for the six two-year terms, Wendy Becker, Diana Clancy, Mark Gardner and Marilyn Kronenberger and one candidate for the 1-year term, Jack Zuber. By consensus, they were elected to serve on Council. Nominating committee members were elected under "Old Business".*

**Reports of Staff and Officers**

**Transitional Pastor:** Pastor Richard Burgess' report begins on page 5 of the 2019 Annual Reports Booklet. He reported that we are doing okay, but we have work to do. He also thanked everyone who makes worship happen every Sunday.

**President:** Joanne Gardner's report begins on page 7 of the 2019 Annual Reports Booklet. Joanne had hoped to present the year in pictures, however technical difficulties prevented that from happening. She hopes to share the slide show next Sunday. People will see a lot went on in 2019. However, we need to reach out more in 2020.

**Secretary:** Kim Freeman's report is on page 8 of the 2019 Annual Reports Booklet.

**Treasurer:** Cindy Zuber's report is on page 8 of the 2019 Annual Reports Booklet. End of year reports were distributed before this meeting.

**Director of Music:** Director of Music Andrew Hopko's report is on page 9 of the 2019 Annual Reports Booklet.

**Financial Secretary:** Lelita McKetty's report is on page 15 of the 2019 Annual Reports Booklet.

**Reports of the Standing Committees**

**Christian Education Committee Report:** The Christian Education Committee report begins on page 9 of the 2019 Annual Reports Booklet. Kim Freeman apologized for a few errors in sentence structure that appear in the report. She also shared two possible "Come and See" events in 2020. The book of CT and RI labyrinths, that includes Immanuel's should be published this year. The author may be available for an event at Immanuel. Also, there has been interest expressed in highlighting Immanuel's stained-glass windows.

**Property Committee Report:** The Property Committee report is on page 11 of the 2019 Annual Reports Booklet. Paul Olson thanked committee members for doing their best to keep things going and maintaining a big building with limited resources.

**Finance Committee Report:** The Finance Committee report begins on page 11 of the 2019 Annual Reports Booklet.

**Stewardship Committee:** The Stewardship Committee report is on page 12 of the 2019 Annual Reports Booklet.

**Worship & Music Committee:** The Worship and Music Committee report is on page 13 of the 2019 Annual Reports Booklet.

**Outreach Committee:** The Outreach Committee did not submit a written report. Joanne Gardner announced the movie War Room will be shown in February.

### **Reports of Special Committees**

**Scholarship Committee:** The Scholarship Committee report is on page 13 of the 2019 Annual Reports Booklet. Someone asked the committee if they would consider communicating information about Lutheran colleges throughout the year. Robert Siegler reported that there is a general scholarship available to members attending a Lutheran college such as Gettysburg, Muhlenberg or Concordia.

**Church 360 Members Task Group:** The C360 Members Task Group report is on page 14 of the 2019 Annual Reports Booklet.

**Martin's Messengers Card Group:** Martin's Messengers Card Group report is on page 14 of the 2019 Annual Reports Booklet.

**Audit Committee:** The Audit Committee's mid-year audit report is on page 15 of the 2019 Annual Reports Booklet.

**Unfinished Business:** President Gardner asked for nominations from the floor for the 2020 Nominating Committee. Kyle Fohlin made a motion, seconded by Kim Freeman to elect Jean Benoit, Joanne Gardner, Beverly Lange, Freddi Lindsey (off going council person) and Paul Olson to the 2020 Nominating committee. The motion carried.

**New Business:** The 2020 Proposed Budget was distributed today before this meeting. Finance chair Kyle Fohlin reported that in January 2019, upon Council approval, money from two funds, the Backman Altar Paraments & Linen special fund and the Ministerial Scholarship special fund was used to repay the Contingency special fund. He reported that 2019 was a good year for Immanuel's investments because 90% of the money taken from those two special funds was replenished over the course of the year in market gains. He cautioned that we could also loose on our investments in future years. He thanked members of the Finance committee and financial adviser Bill Nemphos. Kyle Fohlin made a motion to adopt the 2020 (proposed) Budget as presented, with an approximate total income of \$173,790.00 and approximate total disbursement of \$173,700.00. Mark Gardner seconded the motion. Following much discussion, the motion carried. Kyle pointed out that all though this appears to be a balanced budget, it is not because it includes the \$10,000.00 Contingency special funds. He explained the breakdown of the \$45,500.00 "Miscellaneous" income line item (building use, All Saints, misc. donations, current memorials, Samaris Trust and 2019 envelopes). He was asked what is the difference between the Samaris income, which is listed under "Miscellaneous" and the Dossin Family fund, which has its own line in the budget. Robert Siegler explained that the Samaris gift is invested in The Meriden Fund, which is managed by an outside entity while the Dossin Family Fund is managed by Immanuel. Kyle noted that about 24% of the income in this budget is attributed to gifts from past members. He also mentioned there should be council and congregation meetings on reviewing those memorial funds in 2020. Following a question from the floor regarding the building use income, Kyle explained that several support groups currently use the building making donations to assist with utility and upkeep expenses. Marilyn Kronenberger and Carol Kania, who count and record weekly offering and income, both mentioned that these groups donation checks/money orders always include "thank you" on the memo line. It was suggested there be a Building Use task group and/or a building use point person to investigate and manage other opportunities.

Following a question from the floor regarding the “Mission Support”, Kyle reported that the New England Synod asked congregations to continue their giving, making no specific percentage request. During 2019 several utilities and service expenses were put on budget plans, which breaks up the costs over 12 months. This helps with the budgeting plan, but the overall costs remain. Pastor Burgess thanked the Finance and Property members and everyone who has kept an eye an out for savings opportunities.

**Good and Welfare:** Lynn Tozier asked whether Immanuel has a mission/vision statement. Although there is a mission statement, it is not well known: “With God, We Welcome All, Live by Faith and Serve Our Neighbors”. Perhaps rethinking the current mission statement and working on a vision statement Immanuel will discover how God is calling us to serve.

President Gardner announced there would be a council meeting in the library immediately following adjournment.

**Adjournment/Closing Prayer:** Ricki Soucy motioned to adjourn, which was seconded by Diana Clancy. The motion carried. Pastor Burgess led us in prayer.

**Praise be to God!**

Kim Freeman, Council secretary

## **Reports of Staff and Officers:**

### **Pastor's Report for 2021 Annual Meeting**

2020 was a little different than most years in that in mid-March the COVID-19 pandemic hit and while not everything shut down, everything did take on a different form from that point on.

Starting the last week in March we have had all worship services, including Holy Week, Easter, and Christmas Eve, real time on Zoom with most posted on Facebook and YouTube the next day for people to view at their convenience. In July, we were able to move outside and worship in-person for the rest of the summer and worshiped inside in person for most of November, including Reformation Sunday. In spite of having to keep our distance when gathering in-person we were still able to have monthly healing services, an animal blessing, and a guest author presentation on a new Labyrinth book featuring Augustana Hall's labyrinth. I was particularly pleased that our choir was able to transform into a bell choir (Singing is one of the most covid-dangerous activities, but ringing bells is fine.) and was able to play on Reformation Sunday.

We are currently worshiping online only (Zoom, Facebook, & YouTube) but look forward to returning to in-person worship when it is safe again.

Since our two Bible Study groups and Pub Theology couldn't meet in-person, I combined them, renamed it "Tuesday Night at Immanuel", and moved it to Zoom. We have actually gained a few members in the new format. I plan on continuing Zoom even when we are able to gather in-person in the old formats again. Likewise, council, most of our committees, All Saints, and most of the non-Immanuel groups using our building have been meeting online rather than in-person.

In order to keep us connected, when the pandemic began in March, I started a daily email, "Flattening the Curve Daily Blurp". With Augsburg Fortress's permission I have been sending out the Word in Season devotions daily with some added thoughts, inspiration, or humor of my own and information on worship and Tuesday Night at Immanuel. The distribution has grown each month, almost entirely with non Immanuelians. Sadly, 6 of our members died this year: Ron Barton, Shirley Fohlin, Jerry Gianakos, Ruth Olson, Mary Robinson, and Ed Schleicher. Three of these deaths were clearly COVID-19 related.

The coming year is full of uncertainty. This is most obviously due to the pandemic, but it has always been so. God's people have often been called out of uncertainty into the promise of new life. God called Abram & Sarai out of Haran into a new life in Canaan. God called their descendants out of slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land where a new people had settled in their absence. When a large part of God's people were exiled in Babylon, they were called home to rebuild and reconcile with those who had stayed and grown apart. When Jesus died on the cross and his disciples were scattered in the chaos of losing their leader, Christ's resurrection called them into new life in the Spirit as The Church. When Martin Luther was kidnapped on his way home from Worms, God called him into a new life to reform the Church in the Reformation. All of us have ancestors who were called out of another continent to come here to a life full of uncertainty and opportunity.

It is not at all clear when this pandemic will end or what "the new normal" will be, only that it will not be the old normal and it will involve the internet in unprecedented ways. What is clear is that God has repeatedly called us out of uncertain, chaotic, even dangerous times into new life. May we at Immanuel rise to the challenge before us. May we continue to rely on our God who has been our help in ages past and will always be our hope for years to come.

*The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. (Psalm 46.7, 11 NRSV)*

Peace, Pastor Burgess

## 2020 Statistical Information

<b>2020 Membership</b>	<b>Baptized</b>	<b>Confirmed</b>
(as of 12/31/20)	246	159

### **Members Received in 2019**

Baptism	0
Confirmation	0
Transfer	0
Total Members Received	0

### **Members Removed in 2020**

Death	6
Transfer	0
Total Members Removed	0

### **Baptisms in 2020**

(none this year)

### **Deaths in 2020**

Barton, Ron  
Fohlin, Shirley  
Gianakos, Jerry  
Olson, Ruth  
Robinson, Mary  
Schleicher, Ed

## From the Congregational President

Members of the 2020 Congregational Council:

Pastor Richard Burgess, Wendy Becker, Diana Clancy, Jack Zuber, Lelita McKetty, Freddi Lindsey,  
Kim Freeman, June Barton, Ricki Soucy, Mark Gardner, Marilyn Kronenberger

It has been my pleasure to serve this year as your Council President. Myself and the Council have worked as a team to represent everyone in our church family and make decisions that would best keep this wonderful parish thriving. It has been a most challenging year with the pandemic affecting us all in many different ways.

- Zoom worship
- In person worship
- Zoom meetings
- Website upgrade in progress
- Not being able to see each other in person and hug....

I want to leave you with some inspirational words from an author I found:  
"Keep Moving" by Maggie Smith

*Remember putting on glasses for the first time: suddenly, the trees had individual leaves; the moon had defined edges. Try to see through that clear lens---everything as it is, not blurred or diffused by grief or anger. Look around you and marvel. **Keep Moving***

*Stop calling your heart broken; your heart works just fine. If you are feeling --love, anger, gratitude, grief—it is because your heart is doing its work. Let it. **Keep Moving***

Thank you for all your support and contribution to the church!

-Wendy Becker



## **2020 Report of the Congregation Council Secretary**

At the January 19, 2020 Council meeting following the Annual meeting, I was re-elected to serve as Council secretary. I took minutes at twelve Council meetings, two Special Council meetings and one Executive committee meeting on March 18, 2020. It was at the March Executive meeting that the impact of the global pandemic became real, as Immanuel's leaders began to put plans in place to provide safer weekly worship, keep staff on payroll and keep in communication with members, friends and community groups that use the building. The meeting was conducted using landlines, cell phones and computer devices via "Zoom" video communications. This was my first social distancing experience as we all did our best to "flatten the curve" in the hopes of giving hospitals time to prepare for what lie ahead. Most, if not all committee and council meetings took place via Zoom after that.

Council put in place a "helping hands" ministry in March to be ready to assist members and friends with grocery shopping, picks-ups from a pharmacy, a telephone buddy to check in once in a while and prayer. We even had rolls of toilet paper we were ready to share, but it was never needed. In April we were alerted to a family from All Saints Episcopal Church who had several members test positive for COVID19 causing them to lose weeks of work while quarantining. Thanks to several generous Immanuel members and two of Immanuel's special funds, we were able to financially assist brothers and sisters in Christ. All these months later, the pandemic still rages on. Should you need assistance, please call the office at 203-238-1248, email [office@immanuelmeriden.org](mailto:office@immanuelmeriden.org) or contact a council member.

I worked to have Council minutes available electronically to Council members before committee meetings so action items and discussions could be shared with committee members as needed. Working with Immanuel's office administrator Diane Murphy, Council minutes were maintained both electronically and in a "Council" binder in the office, which is available for public reference. As a member of Immanuel's Executive committee, I prepared Council's meeting agendas. With email becoming the main way Council and committees communicated, I included the email dates of minutes on the monthly agendas.

The secretary serves as primary signer on contracts entered into by the congregation. During 2020 I worked with the Property committee to resolve a mix-up with the boiler service contract.

See you at worship,  
Kim Freeman, Council secretary

## **2020 The Report of the Treasurer**

I really do not know what to say about this year. Sitting here writing this report all I can think of is the precious members we lost. I cannot seem to make any sense of it all. We struggle and somehow life goes on, one day after the next.

It was another stressful year and really had nothing to do with finance. Thanks to the faithful members of Immanuel continuing to give their support whether they could be on zoom or for a short time in the parking lot they made sure their donations reached the church office to be counted. The churches biggest expense is salaries followed by benevolence, insurance. All the committee chairs are very responsible.

We had to dip into the contingency fund for the sum of \$5000 in order to pay all the expenses. This means we borrowed from the contingency fund because income was lower than expected and it also means that we have re-imburse the Contingency Fund. Council already voted to repay the fund by using one of the existing special funds account the Ministerial Scholarship Fund.

Reflecting on the past year, I would like to thank everyone for your support and contributions. Please give direct deposit a thought or two due to the church meeting on zoom it will be much easier for your contributions to make it to the church. It will make it much easier for you, the counters, the financial secretary and also the treasurer. I never thought I would like it but I signed up and I love it I never have to think of writing a check and if I miss a Sunday my contribution is there.

I would like to thank the dedicated Finance Committee for all their efforts in overseeing Immanuel, Kyle Fohlin, Cindy McCarthy, Beverly Lange, Robert Siegler, Lelita McKetty and visits from Bill Nemphos our Financial Advisor from Ameriprise.

Sincerely

Cynthia Zuber Treasurer

## **2020 Annual Report of Music**

I continue to be proud of the hard work and pleased with the accomplishments achieved this past year in the Immanuel music program. The year started off as normal with choir rehearsals and the choir singing service parts and anthems for our weekly services. With the strike of the pandemic in mid-March, all activities at Immanuel shut down. Due to the documented spread of Covid within singing and choir's, our choir did not formally meet for the remainder of the season. As we became more aware and comfortable with mitigation strategies, the choir decided to resume rehearsals in September and meet as a Handbell Choir. This was a new experience for many but our choir met this challenge with determination and continues to meet and rehearse to further develop skills and enjoy making music together. The repertoire presented to the congregation by the choir, Bell choir and organist continues to be quality sacred choral and keyboard music.

- January- March- Immanuel Choir rehearsed and continued to prepare new anthems for Lent and Easter Sunday
- March- July- Music Director provided all keyboard and vocal music for Online-Services
- July- August- Music Director provided music for our outside services with a keyboard and sound system. Freddi Lindsay assisted with the return of some singing and Cantoring.
- With the use of the keyboard, sound system and different environment, different types of sacred music was delivered at the services; ranging from traditional classical music to more modern sounding and recently composed pieces.
- Bell Choir began rehearsals in September with rehearsals being held on Wednesday afternoons.
- Bell choir led their first service on Christ the Kind Sunday and continued to work on Advent and Christmas music.
- Bell choir will continue to rehearse and prepare music for the months ahead and our eventual return to the Immanuel Sanctuary.

Andrew Hopko  
Director of Music

## **Reports of Standing Committees:**

### **2020 Annual Report for Property**

It's been a tough year for everyone. Even though the church building was closed it still has to be maintained. When we had church inside, Doug was doing extra cleaning to keep everyone safe. We managed to get in a spring and fall clean-up and Dan Luft finished all the outside lighting upgrade. Thanks to Doug, Kyle, Mark, and Ricki for helping with property this year.

Sincerely,  
Paul Olson

Members of the property committee are Kyle Fohlin, Doug Gardner, Mark Gardner, Dan Luft, and Ricky Soucy.

## **2020 Report of the Christian Education Committee**

2020 was a year of challenge for ministries of Immanuel Lutheran Church, and Christian Education was no exception. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a profound effect on our lives and on the ministries of our church.

Meetings of the Christian Education committee have been held via Zoom since the onset of the pandemic.

In the area of Youth Ministry, \$66.80 from cans and bottle redemption was dropped off at the office for the Youth Ministry special fund.

Author Bill Ludwig put together a book of labyrinths in Connecticut and Rhode Island, and visited Immanuel during the period in which we were meeting outside in the parking lot. Mr. Ludwig signed books, and the committee has purchased several copies of the book for those interested.

The committee coordinated a \$250.00 tithe donation to The Cove Center for Grieving Children. Known as The Cove, this very special group has met regularly in the past at Immanuel. At present, they are not meeting in-person.

Several adult study groups were led by Pastor Burgess this past year. When an opportunity to strengthen or challenge one's faith is offered, please make every effort to participate.

Also as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Christian Education committee co-sponsored Tea Party was not held.

In previous years, the Christian Education committee teamed up with members of the Outreach committee to be a presence at the Meriden Night Out at Hubbard Park; however, due to the Covid-19 pandemic this event was cancelled.

Covid-19 restrictions impacted our cooperation with Immanuel's Worship and Music committee and the Sunday Fundays, which take place during months that have a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday.

I would like to conclude with Kim Freeman's closing comment from the 2018 Christian Education committee annual report. It was applicable then, and is seemingly even more appropriate now.

*"The world was a noisy place in 2018 and will no doubt continue to be for years to come. We are tempted with 24/7 news cycles, entertainment on demand and meaningful secular events, fundraisers and activities every day of the week. This all leaves very little time to listen for God's small still voice, unless we decide and commit to making the time. Make time for God's church and all it has to offer, read the Bible, play spiritual music in your car and get involved in ministry. God will help you with your time management- ask for help through your prayers."*

2020 Committee Members: June Barton, Kim Freeman, co-chair, and Pastor Richard Burgess

Yours in Christ,  
Mark W. Gardner (co-chair)

## **2020 Report of the Financial Chairman**

The Finance committee met monthly during 2020 to review the fiscal matters relating to church operations. Our last in person meeting was in February. Beginning in April all meetings were held via Zoom. We continued to move forward with the church finances. Reports from the Financial Secretary and Treasurer were reviewed along with Special and Memorial Fund reports. Insurance, audit reports, and budgeting were addressed as needed throughout the year. The Finance committee also meets twice a year with Bill Nemphos our investment advisor.

In January 2020 the Finance Committee made a recommendation and council approved using \$1,500 from Paraments fund and \$5,980 from Ministerial Scholarship fund to replenish the Contingency Fund as part of the 2020 budget process. For that budget 51 pledge commitments were collected and recorded. At the annual meeting the congregation approved a \$173,790 annual budget, this budget factored in using the entire \$10,000 contingency fund. To date we have only used \$5,000 of the contingency fund. Utility bills were less this year because the building was not used by outside groups due to the COVID pandemic. That lack of building usage also affected miscellaneous building use donations.

January and February giving and expenses were in line with budgeting and then with March came COVID, suspension of in person worship, and Zoom only services. May through Mid-October we were able to once again have in person worship but outdoors only. Mid October- Early December we were back to indoor worship but we are now back to online only via Zoom Facebook and YouTube. The decline in giving was noticeable but could have been much worse. Quarterly the congregation received \$6,000 payments from the Samaris Fund and In December the Church received as its annual payment from the Dossin Fund this year \$7,445. The church continues to be blessed and relies on those legacy gifts.

We also faced challenges with performing the end of year 2019 audit but that audit was completed, as required by our constitution, and approved in October. A recommendation was made by this committee and approved by council to suspend a mid-year 2020 audit due to the challenges of setting up in person meetings and having a fully staffed audit committee. Fully staffing the audit committee is a persistent issue and we are still in need of volunteers for 2021's committee.

Members with questions about our church's finances are welcome to attend any of our meetings. We are currently meeting on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. However, we sometimes move that meeting to the fourth Thursday depending on timing of statements and member schedules.

Members of the finance committee are currently Cindy McCarthy, Bev Lange, Bob Siegler, Cindy Zuber, Lelita McKetty, Pastor Burgess, and Kyle Fohlin. We want to thank the counters who meet weekly to count and record the congregation's offerings and also would like to recognize and thanks members of the audit committee. Thank you to all who have continued with giving via electronic and via mail and drop off.

Respectfully submitted for the Finance Committee,

Kyle Fohlin

## **2020 Report of the Worship Committee**

Members: Wendy Becker, Pastor Burgess, Diana Clancy, Freddie Lindsay, June Barton, Joanne Gardner, Kim Freeman

This year has been one for the books.

I want to thank all those who volunteer to help in any and all aspects of the service every Sunday. We make a great team and the committee welcomes anyone to join our efforts.

Maggie Smith writes: *Even though so much seems to be in pieces, trust your own wholeness. Accept that you cannot be sure of everything, but be sure of yourself.*

Wendy Becker, chair

## **2020 Report of the Stewardship Committee**

Immanuel's Stewardship committee met four times, beginning on August 6, 2020, to plan the 2020-21 financial commitment campaign. Due to the global COVID19 pandemic, all meetings were held via Zoom and tasks were accomplished through email conversations. We knew this year's campaign would be like no other with social distancing and mask wearing required and fellowship opportunities put on hold. We also knew and believe; God makes all things possible. We prayed for guidance and set out to identify the best ways to communicate our stewardship message.

Starting in September, stewardship articles ran in Immanuel's monthly Visitor and announcements were made during worship and Pastor Burgess' daily devotional email. Two stewardship packets were created. Approximately 75 were distributed to active members and about 45 were mailed out to inactive members. All packets included a redesigned pledge form that offered several different giving opportunities which we hoped would encourage most if not all cards to be returned. Many of the packets also included self-addressed stamped envelopes in respect to members and friends striving to stay safe in their homes.

Commitment Sunday was observed during worship on October 18, 2020. That Sunday turned out to be sunny and pleasantly warm so we were able to worship in the parking lot. We were not able to hold a pot-luck fellowship as in years past; however, celebrating with in-person worship and communion was a blessing.

Offering envelopes were available for pick up on Sunday, November 22, 2020 following worship. With COVID19 cases on the rise, that was the last in person worship until further notice. Envelopes can be picked up in the office during regular business hours, M-F 9am to 1pm. Please call Diane in the office before stopping in so she can have them ready. We hope to be able to safely deliver offering envelopes beginning in mid-January 2021. Electronic giving is available through a secure Vanco link on Immanuel's website at [www.immanuelmeriden.org](http://www.immanuelmeriden.org) under the "Members" tab. For more information about the on-line giving option please speak with any member of this committee.

During Advent and Christmas this committee sponsored "Strive to Tithe" when we encouraged people to invest some time identifying their income sources and challenged them to try to contribute a tenth of their weekly income for one Sunday's offering if they are not already doing so. We would be interested in hearing the experiences of those that tried a tithe. Did you feel called by God to give of your blessings? Did you have trouble figuring out what to do? Was it hard? Was it a joy?

A big part of stewardship is recognizing God's gracious gifts and working to take care of them. Immanuel has been able to continue proclaiming Christ in so many ways in the midst of a pandemic. Equipment has been purchased to help produce worship opportunities. Despite not singing for safety reasons, music continues to be a part of worship in varying ways. Pastor Burgess emails the daily

Word in Season devotions and the booklets are available in the entrance way for pick up. The parking lot can be transformed into another worship space in pleasant weather. Study groups and ministry planning is still happening. And we recognize every member and friend of this congregation as a blessing. We pray we have created an inspiring campaign that encourages all to see themselves as blessed to be giving.

Members of the Stewardship team in 2020: Pastor Richard Burgess, Kyle Fohlin & Kim Freeman

Praise be to God!

Kim Freeman, committee recorder

### **Reports of Special Committees:**

#### **2020 Gladys F. Hertweck Memorial Fund Report**

Meeting via Zoom on 12/2/2020

Attendance – Wendy Becker, Ricki Soucy, Freddi Lindsay, Kathy Hertweck, Tim Hertweck and Eric Kolasinski

Freddie reported that a letter had been received addressed to the Hertweck committee requesting the purchase of a scooter for a young man known to the congregation. After some discussion it was unanimously decide to approve this purchase.

The Hertweck family felt a great desire to do more with the fund due to the devastating effects of the pandemic on families this year. Kathy contacted the Executive Director of the Youth and Family Services in her town of Moodus. It was decided to issue two checks in the amount of \$750.00 each. The first to the Personal Care Products Program and the second to the General Fund. Both of these funds provide ongoing assistance for families in need throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Freddie Lindsay

#### **2020 Annual Report for Martin's Messenger's**

My Dear Friends,

Just a short report from Martin's Messengers to let you know we are still alive and operating. It has been a struggle this past year. It is very difficult to keep moving forward when we are not physically meeting. Also, we actively have only one person making cards. We need help. Remember there are supplies in the church office for you to use. It is so important especially in these days of quarantine to receive a card in the mail. Again, I thank you for all your help and if you need anything, call either myself or June Barton. Please stay safe & hope to see you all soon. God Bless!

*Jan Sprude*

*Martin's Messenger's*



## **2020 Report of the Scholarship Committee**

The Scholarship committee did not meet this year as we received no requests for grants from the Christian Growth & Learning fund, no applicants for the Calumet camperships nor applicants for the Memorial or Ministerial Scholarships. While the COVID crisis and the precautionary limitations that were imposed on meetings and travel were likely causes this year, we have seen little or no interest over the past several years in seeking these grants and camperships.

Camp Calumet in making tentative plans for how their 2021 resident camp might function this summer. At present, they plan to hold 3 two-week sessions and 1 one-week session. Given, however, that COVID information changes almost on a day-by-day basis, the programming might be entirely different by summer. For those interested, go to their web page to keep current. As usual, Immanuel offers camperships to qualifying members that reimburses about 45% of one week's registration fee. As most are aware, Calumet is a residential camp for boys and girls ages 8-18 located on the shores of Lake Ossipee in West Ossipee, New Hampshire.

Applications for Immanuel Scholarships can be obtained from the church office. To qualify for the Memorial Scholarship, a student member must have been accepted at one of the Lutheran colleges or universities in the U.S. or Canada and submit an application to the Scholarship Committee no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Grant requests should be submitted to a member of the Scholarship Committee.

Please refer to the Treasurer's Special Funds report for the year end balances of the Scholarships and Christian Growth & Learning funds.

Respectively submitted for the Committee

Robert Siegler

Committee: Heidi Adamski, Joan Chasse', Cynthia McCarthy and Bob Siegler

## **2020 Nominating Committee Report**

Committee members- Jean Benoit (declined), Joanne Gardner, Beverly Lange, Paul Olson, Freddi Lindsay, and June Barton (volunteered)

Please note that Jean Benoit respectfully declined to participate this year and June Barton volunteered to help in a non-elected volunteer capacity.

Meetings- We met via Zoom on Tues. Dec. 1st, 2020, Tues. Dec. 15th 2020, and Thurs. Jan. 7th, 2021. We also communicated as a committee via email.

2020 has been a challenge to secure volunteers for nomination on many levels. Limited in-person worship and virtual via Zoom doesn't lend itself to meaningful interaction when pondering consideration for Council membership. We came into this year's task with Council functioning with 10 members versus the normal slot of 12 required by the Constitution. Our ultimate challenge is to fill 6- 2year terms and 2- 1year terms. On a normal year this would be quite a feat.

Our strategy has been to ask off-going members to "re-up" and others from the congregation to prayerfully ponder joining our governing body of the church. Several off-going members have graciously agreed to serve in another 2-year term. We thank those who have served and have decided to take a break at this time. We will submit a list of candidates for nomination for the upcoming January 24th Annual meeting

Respectfully submitted, Freddi Lindsay



## **2020 Audit Report**

The audit committee met on July 29th. Ed Lange was the additional member who completed his review and audit. We are happy to conclude that there are no findings to report. All register accounts of money flows appeared to be precise and accurate.

Audit procedures were followed.

- Review of the recording of cash receipts
- Verify checking accounting
- Reconcile bank accounts
- Reconcile monthly and year end reports to ledgers
- Verify quarterly/ year-end tax filings
- Validate the financial secretary records
- Verified monthly income distribution
- Verified deposits made in a timely basis
- Verified check amounts in the ledger matched amounts on cancelled checks
- Verified salary / wages / benefit payments were in order
- Verified proper forms were prepared for the IRS
- Reconciled bank balances to month end balances in the ledger

This concludes the Audit report.

Wendy Becker  
Audit Committee Chairman  
c.c. Ed Lange

## **2020 Report of the Memorial and Special Gifts Committee**

Members: Cynthia McCarthy, Joan Chasse' & Pastor Richard Burgess  
Cynthia McCarthy managed the acknowledgements

The *Memorials & Special Gifts Fund* allocated funding for a Zoom audio recorder

Monies from the *Ministerial Scholarship Fund* were allocated to replenish the Contingency Fund.

A donation was made to The Cove from the *Youth Fund*.

The following amounts were received into the *Memorials and Special Gift Funds*:

A total of **\$507.37** was given to the **Parish Aid Fund** as miscellaneous donations by Laurel Streilkauskas, Kelly Guzze, Bertille Black, Joan Chasse', Lelita McKetty, Kyle Fohlin, Joanne Gardner, Kim Freeman, Kevin Robinson and Cynthia & Kevin McCarthy

A total of **\$190.00** was given to the **Current Operating Fund** as miscellaneous donations by Rev & Mrs Perry Beaver, Cynthia Kania and Quintino & Tammy Dimattia

A total of **\$500.00** was given to the **Current Operating Fund for Energy & Heat expenses** by the Adamski family

A total of **\$100.00** was given to the **Music and Fine Arts Fund** by Jerry & Linda Gianakos and Andrew Hopko

A total of **\$66.80** was given to the **Youth Fund** from can and bottle recycling

A total of **\$465.00** was given to the **Current Memorial Fund** by Bertille Black in memory of sister, Patricia Freed and Kim & Jim Freeman, Marilyn Kronenberger and Cindy & Kevin McCarthy in memory of Shirley Fohlin and Marilyn Kronenberger in memory of Ruth Schleicher

A total of **\$1525.00** was given to the **Memorial Fund** in memory of Shirley Fohlin by Bertille Black, Cynthia & Carol Kania, Pamela Kline, Judith Mik, the Rev. Perry and Sally Beaver and Quintino & Tammy DiMattia and in memory of Edward Schleicher by Cindy & Kevin McCarthy, HBN Shoe Company, Phyllis Walter and Kim Freeman and in memory of Ruth Tozier & Richard Wollenberg by Cindy & Kevin McCarthy and in memory of Ruth Olson by Gary Olson, Kim Freeman, Jennifer & Kathie Backus, Erikka & Brad Byrge and the Meriden Turner Society and in memory of Ron Barton by John & Sue Scarmana, Ed & Bev Lange, Kim Freeman, Bertille Black and Dianne & Joseph Delibero

Sincerely,

Cynthia McCarthy

(If any errors or omissions are noted, please call the church office)

## 2020 Regular Fund Report

Starting Cash Balance                      \$9,489.71

	ACTUAL Y-T-D	
INCOME		
ENVELOPE & PLATE	97,218.47	1
MISCELLANEOUS	39,172.00	
TRANSFERS		
	0.00	
CONTINGENCY	5,000.00	
	0.00	
	0.00	
DOSSIN FUND	7,445.00	
PREPAID PLEDGES	300.00	
OTHER	905.70	
SUB-TOTAL	150,041.17	
INTEREST & ADJUSTMENTS	16.76	
IN / OUT	119.95	
SPECIAL FUNDS	2,327.57	
TOTAL INCOME	152,505.45	
DISBURSEMENTS		
PASTOR'S SALARY	30,339.40	
PASTOR'S ALLOW.	29,086.60	
SUPPLY ORGANIST/PASTOR	384.90	
TOTAL PASTOR	59,810.90	
MUSIC DIRECTOR	15,300.00	
M.D.'Ss ALLOW	0.00	
PARISH SECRETARY	13,476.48	
SEXTON	6,010.08	
PAYROLL TAXES	2,614.25	3
OFFICER STIPENDS	0.00	
TOTAL WAGES	37,400.81	
ADMINISTRATION	2,013.33	
CHRIS ED./YOUTH	136.36	
YOUTH	0.00	
FINANCE	1,234.39	
SYNOD ASSEMBLY EXP	185.00	
OUTREACH	145.00	
PROPERTY	6,685.61	
UTILITIES & SERVICES	21,717.16	
STEWARDSHIP	939.44	
WORSHIP	2,762.09	
INSURANCE RSV	12,000.00	

TRANSITION		0.00
BENEVOLENCE-NES	2	8,630.34
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS		56,448.72
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES		153,660.43
IN / OUT		70.00
MISCELLANEOUS		0.00
TOTAL DISBURSMENTS		153,730.43
TRANSFER TO SPECIAL		2,327.57
TOTAL DISBMTS & TRANSFERS		156,058.00
Cash Balance		\$5,937.16
Tax Reserve		
Fund Balance		\$5,937.16

# 1 Envelope & Plate Budget Y-T=D Weeks/ All others Y-T-D Months / 12  
# 2 10% of Envelope & Plate and Miscellaneous Income  
# 3 Payroll Tax Paid Quarterly

## 2020 Special Fund Report

	January 2020							December 2020
FUND	BEG BAL	INCOME	DISB	TRANS IN	TRANS OUT	SUB- TOTAL	INT INCOME	END BAL
Altar Paraments	8,889.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,889.33	1,422.75	10,312.08
Candle	809.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	809.48	129.56	939.04
Chr.Growth & Learning	10,130.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,130.81	4,472.31	14,603.12
Council Goodwill	412.65	63.00	(100.00)	0.00	0.00	375.65	57.01	432.66
Fair	431.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	(431.70)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Thrivent	19.00	455.00	0.00	0.00	(474.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Memorial	30,030.57	1,525.00	(260.54)	0.00	0.00	31,295.03	5,042.69	36,337.72
Ministerial Scholarship	32,852.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	(5,000.00)	27,852.34	5,258.08	33,110.42
Music & Fine Arts	6,971.59	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,071.59	1,124.94	8,196.53
Welca	323.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	323.27	51.74	375.01
Organ Repair & Major Maint	5,731.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,731.99	917.42	6,649.41
Parish Aid	1,312.91	507.37	(200.00)	0.00	0.00	1,620.28	0.00	1,620.28
correction to reg from special	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Carlberg Major Repair build maint	27,270.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	27,270.74	4,364.74	31,635.48
Outreach Ministry	22,509.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22,509.17	3,602.64	26,111.81
Youth	824.57	66.80	(250.00)	0.00	0.00	641.37	140.35	781.72
Cash Flow Contingency	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	(5,000.00)	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
Insurance Reserve	3,870.27	65.40	(10,559.11)	12,000.00	0.00	5,376.56	0.00	5,376.56
Pre-paid Pledges	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(300.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bequests	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Endowment Principal	120,271.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	120,271.64	0.00	120,271.64
Endowment Interest	60,959.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60,959.53	29,006.40	89,965.93
Hertweck Principal	6,354.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,354.08	0.00	6,354.08
Hertweck Interest	4,687.38	0.00	(1,500.00)	0.00	0.00	3,187.38	1,767.21	4,954.59
Scholarship Principal	31,769.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	31,769.64	0.00	31,769.64
Scholarship Interest	56,107.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	56,107.26	11,214.02	67,321.28
Grant Fund	17,943.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17,943.05	2,871.82	20,814.87
Dossin Fund	139,875.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	145,252.90	0.00	145,252.90
Total (EX. Mortgage)	600,658.33	2,782.57	(12,869.65)	17,000.00	(11,205.70)	601,743.09	71,443.67	673,186.76
MISSION BOND INTEREST	5,560.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,054.43	0.00	7,054.43

GRAND TOTAL      606,219.31

680,241.19

ALLOCATION BASE      444,849.09

NOTES:

1. ALLOCATION OF INTEREST IS PRORATED BASED ON EACH ACCOUNTS BEGINNING BALANCE  
ALLOCATION BASE DOES NOT INCLUDE PP PLEDGES, CONTINGENCY, PARIS AID, INSURANCE RESERVE, , FAIR,  
DOSSIN FUND NOR ENDOWMENT MORTGAGE
2. INTEREST ON ENDOWMENT PRINCIPAL SCHOLARSHIP PRINCIPAL & HERTWECK PRINCIPAL IS CREDITED TO THE  
RESPECTIVE INTEREST ACCOUNTS
3. 20% OF THE INTEREST GENERATED BY THE SCHOLARSHIP PRINCIPAL & INTEREST ACCOUNTS IS CREDITED TO THE  
CHRISTIAN GROWTH & LEARNING FUND
4. ENDOWMENT MORTGATE BALANCE IS REDUCED EACH PERIOD BY AMOUNT PAID AGAINST PRINCIPAL
5. DOSSIN & DEBT REDUCTION FROM AMERIPRISE ARE MARKET VALUE
6. DIST OF INTEREST WILL INCLUDE POSITIVE & NEGATIVE ADJUSTMENTS DUE TO FRANKLIN FUND INVESTMENTS
7. RECEIVED 5% DEP INTO REG FUNDS AMOUNTING TO 6539.88

## 2021 Proposed Budget

### INCOME

STARTING BALANCE	\$ 5,937		
ENVELOPE AND PLATE	\$ 102,000	Miscellaneous Income	
		Bldg. Use	\$ 2,000
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 40,300	All Saints	\$ 12,000
		Misc. Donations	\$ 1,200
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	\$ 142,300	Current Memorials	\$ 500
		Samaris	\$ 24,000
		2020	\$ 600
DOSSIN FAMILY FUND	\$ 7,200		
CONTINGENCY FUND	\$ 10,000		
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 165,437		

### DISBURSEMENTS

WAGES & BENEFITS	\$ 104,613		
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 2,500		
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$ 500		
YOUTH	\$ 50		
FINANCE	\$ 500		
STEWARDSHIP	\$ 1,000		
OUTREACH	\$ 500		
PROPERTY	\$ 7,500		
UTILITIES & SERVICES	\$ 26,500		
WORSHIP	\$ 2,700		
INSURANCE RESERVE	\$ 12,000		
SYNOD ASSEMBLY EXPS.	\$ 200		
BENEVOLENCE - NES	\$ 8,970	6%	
<b>TOTAL DISBMTS</b>	\$ 167,533		



**Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Meriden, CT 06451**  
**Congregation Annual Meeting Agenda**  
**Sunday, January 24, 2021**

1 Call to Order:

2 Opening Prayer: The Reverend Richard Burgess

3 Acceptance of the Agenda:

4 Review of the Minutes: *Annual Meeting Minutes from January 19, 2020*

5 Report of the Nominating Committee/Elections:

6 Reports of the Staff and Officers: *(Transitional Pastor, Director of Music, President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Financial Secretary)*

7 Reports of Standing Committees:

A Property:

B Christian Education:

C Finance:

D Worship & Music:

E Stewardship:

F Outreach Committee:

8 Reports of Special Committees:

A Gladys F. Hertweck Memorial Fund Trust:

B Martin's Messengers:

C Scholarship:

D Nominating:

E Audit:

F Memorials & Gifts:

9 Unfinished Business:

A

10 New Business:

A 2021 Budget Presentation:

B

11 Good & Welfare: Council will meet via Zoom immediately following this Meeting.

12 Adjournment/Closing Prayer: