



ANNUAL REPORT

2020



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Menominee, Michigan
Sunday, January 24, 2021

AGENDA FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Opening Devotions	Congregation President's Report
Adoption of Agenda	Pastor's Report
Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting	Resolution #3
Nominating Committee Report	Director of Youth & Family Ministry Report
Balloting	Summary of Membership Reports
Resolution #1	Committee/Organization Reports
2021 Budget & Treasurer's Report	Old Business - None
Audit Committee Report	New Business -
Financial Secretary's Report	Installation of Congregation Council
Resolution #2	Adjournment

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Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of January 26, 2020

President Debbie Villas called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. and declared a quorum of eighty-five (85) voting members.

Pastor Mark Laatsch opened the Annual Congregational meeting with the Litany provided by the ELCA.

President Debbie Villas offered thanks to the Fellowship Committee and the youth for providing the wonderful brunch. She reminded all members to state their name when speaking during the meeting.

President Debbie Villas asked for a review of the agenda. A motion to accept the agenda as presented was made by Gary Gustafson, seconded by Cathy Hipke; motion passed.

A motion to accept the minutes of the 2019 annual meeting was made by Boni Nerat-Heckel, seconded by Robin Gustafson; motion passed.

The Nominating Committee report was presented by Debbie Villas, recommending the following candidates for election: Jeff Hines, Bill Kuhnlein, and Jeremy Sallgren to Church Council 3-year term; Jim Zobel to Church Council 1-year term, Kylie Chevalier to Church Council Youth Representative 1-year term; Debbie Villas, Darrell Eland, and Mike Bellisle to Nominating Committee 1-year term; James Porras, Terrie Porras, and Debbie Villas to Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly; Al Rasmussen and Linda Davis to Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Annual Meeting. A motion was made by John Helfert that all of the candidates presented by the Nominating Committee be elected by unanimous ballot, seconded by Al Rasmussen; motion passed.

Dave Anderson reviewed the 2020 budget and presented the Treasurer's Report.

A motion was made by the Congregational Council, seconded by Dennis Siem to accept RESOLUTION #1 as presented:

“BE IT RESOLVED, that the Proposed Budget for 2020 be adopted as printed in the Annual Report; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the congregation give heartfelt thanks to our gracious God for his abundant blessings upon our congregation in the past year and that we express that thanks, not only in prayer and praise, but in working together faithfully in sharing our gifts, abilities and resources to fulfill the mission outlined in the 2020 Proposed Budget.” Motion passed.

A motion to accept the Audit Committee Report as presented was made by Rachel Raygo, seconded by Gail Sieglaff; motion passed.

A motion to accept the Financial Secretary's Report was made by Ivon Butman, seconded by Gary Gustafson; motion passed.

A motion was made by the Congregational Council, seconded by Sandy Zobel to accept RESOLUTION #2 as presented:

“WHEREAS, the Constitution and Bylaws of Emmanuel Lutheran Church require periodic review and revision; and

WHEREAS, the Congregation Council recommends the revisions presented to the Congregation prior to this annual meeting according to the procedures outlined in the Constitution for amending the constitution, bylaws and continuing resolutions; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Great Lakes Synod, ELCA has approved the recommended revisions; THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws of Emmanuel Lutheran Church be adopted by this legally called meeting of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, held on January 26, 2020.”

Motion passed.

President Debbie Villas reviewed her written report. A motion to accept the President's report was made by Barb Anderson, seconded by Cathy Hipke; motion passed.

Pastor Mark Laatsch presented his report as written. A motion to accept the Pastor's report was made by Dan Roetzer, seconded by Mike Bellisle; motion passed.

A motion was made by the Congregational Council, seconded by Linda Davis to accept RESOLUTION #3 as presented:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the congregation of Emmanuel Lutheran Church expresses its thanks to our church staff and all parish organizations and committees for their ongoing work and support, and to all who have served Emmanuel in its various elected, appointed and volunteer capacities this past year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the congregation give special thanks and recognition to our outgoing council members, Michael Bellisle and Debbie Villas, who have completed two 3 year terms on council, Darrell Eland, who has completed a 1 year term to fulfill a vacant seat, and one 3 year term on council, and Rhyon Anderson, who is completing a one year term as Congregation Council Youth Representative. We also give thanks to Jim Zobel, who is completing a term of office and is standing for re-election to a one-year term." Motion passed.

Director of Youth and Family Ministry Patti Treptow presented her written report. A motion to accept the Director of Youth and Family Ministry report was made by Terrie Porras, seconded by Rachel Raygo; motion passed.

The Learning Ministry and Summary of Membership Statistical Reports were presented. It was noted that the Emmanuel Youth Confirmands names were incorrect in the report. The corrected names would be included in next month's Messenger. A motion to accept the report with changes was made by Betty Kohrt, seconded by Dennis Siem; motion passed.

President Debbie Villas asked the congregation to review the Committee and Organization Reports as printed on pages 26 - 30.

Pastor Mark Laatsch led the installation of the new 2020 Congregational Council members and officers. The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m. on a motion by Robin Gustafson, seconded by Gail Sieglaff; motion passed.

Pastor Mark Laatsch led us in a closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted Ronda Pedersen, Council Secretary

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Candidates for Church Council

Three to be elected to a 3-year term

Jim Briar Linda Davis Betty Kohrt

Re-elect to Second Term

Stacy Hansen Matt Vanni Bonni Nerat-Heckel

Youth Representative

One to be elected to a 1-year term

Laura Magrane

Candidates for the Nominating Committee

The following members are placed in nomination to serve on the Nominating Committee. They are elected to a one-year term and are not eligible for re-election. Their task is to select candidates for election at our next Annual Meeting to be held January 2022. Three to be elected:

Kathy Bero Jim Zobel _____

Candidates for the Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly

Three to be elected to represent Emmanuel Lutheran Church as delegates to the Synod Assembly to be held on May 13-15, 2021. (This will be a virtual meeting)

James Porras Terrie Porras Deb Villas

Candidates for the Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Annual Meeting

Two to be elected to represent Emmanuel Lutheran Church at the annual meeting of the camp association to be held Spring, 2021. (date not known as of annual meeting)

Al Rasmussen Linda Davis

Candidates for the Mission Endowment Committee

Two to be elected to a 3-year term

Re-elect to Second Term

Denise Ruleau Nathan Anderson

CANDIDATES FOR CHURCH COUNCIL

Jim Briar - Jim and his wife, Cheryl, joined and were married at Emmanuel in 1982. They have 4 children whom they brought up in the church and have participated in their spiritual development as much as they could. Jim was a confirmation parent guide with all 4 of his children, and Cheryl has worked in the nursery. Jim has helped with various projects around the church and was a member of the Property Committee. He is currently a member of the Worship Committee. Jim retired from UTC in Peshtigo a couple of years ago, and Cheryl has worked at Caterpillar in Menominee for a number of years. Jim has always been a factory worker, so the committee thing is a little new to him, but he tries to be of service whenever asked and is willing to try.

Linda Davis – Linda is a third generation Emmanuel member. She was born and raised in Menominee and now resides in Marinette with her husband of 17 years, Roman, and her two teenage children, Brea and Gabe. Linda has been an active member of the church her entire life as part of the children's choirs and senior choir, and is now the director of those choirs. She has served Emmanuel as Fortune Lake representative, Meatball Supper director and most recently, helping to spread the word of God through music in our virtual services. It has always been a passion of hers to help serve the community both locally and abroad. It is an honor to serve on the church council.

Betty Kohrt – Betty and her husband, Tom, are lifelong residents of Menominee County. She was baptized and confirmed at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Wallace. Betty joined Emmanuel in 1976. Since becoming a member, she has served in various ways; ushering, serving communion, singing in the choir, helping with the meatball suppers, vacation bible school, and helping out wherever she can. Since retiring, Betty enjoys her grandchildren, walks with friends, golfing, shopping, and did she say golfing? Betty is truly enjoying the life God has given her.

Stacy Hansen - Stacy has completed her first 3-year term on council, and is seeking re-election to her second 3-year term. Stacy is a lifelong resident of Menominee, Michigan. She is married to Rick Hansen and they have two children. Austin is 22 and attends Central Michigan University and Gavin is 16 and is a sophomore at Menominee High School. Stacy and her family became members of Emmanuel in 2012. Stacy is employed at Menominee County as a Caseworker in the Friend of the Court Office. The office handles custody, parenting time and child support. Stacy has served on Emmanuel's Policy and Procedure Committee and currently serves on the Youth Committee. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, running and reading.

Matt Vanni – Matt has completed his first 3-year term on council, and is seeking re-election to his second 3-year term. Matt and his wife, Jennifer, have two children, Macy and Hudson. He has worked for the State of Michigan for the past 18 yrs. Outside of work and family, Matt enjoys going to the gym and fishing. Matt has enjoyed being a part of the church council the past three years, and during that time he has served on the Property Committee.

Boni Nerat-Heckel - Boni has completed her first 3-year term on council, and is seeking re-election to her second 3-year term. Boni is a lifetime member of Emmanuel; she was baptized, confirmed, married, and two of her children were baptized here. She is married to Jay Heckel, and they have two sons and a daughter; Max, Mason, and Ashley. Boni is a social worker/mental health case manager for Marinette County, and her husband, Jay, is the Fire Chief for the City of Marinette. Boni was a member of the youth group as a youth, has chaperoned youth outings as an adult, was a Sunday school substitute teacher, and confirmation small group leader. She currently serves on the Fellowship Committee and the Policy and Procedure Committee. In her spare time, Boni enjoys spending time with her children and family, watching the boys play football and other sports, spending time with friends, and camping.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

Laura Magrane - Laura has lived in Menominee for 4 years. She is a junior at Menominee High School, and has been a member of Emmanuel for as long as she has lived here. She is a member of the GLOW youth group and got the opportunity to experience the South Dakota mission trip, and has been actively involved in other church related activities. She was confirmed here at Emmanuel in 2018. She is currently vice president of the junior class at Menominee High School and really enjoys participating in leadership classes and the student council. She also is a member of many of the organizations that are affiliated with the school like BPA (Business Professionals of America), YAC (Youth Advisory Committee), yearbook committee, and key club. She participates in volleyball and softball. Some of Laura's favorite hobbies include spending time with her family and friends, as well as playing with her dog, cat, and bunny! She is so grateful and excited for this opportunity to serve the church and God!

RESOLUTION #1 (Moved by the Congregation Council & recommended for adoption)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Proposed Budget for 2021 be adopted as printed in the Annual Report; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the congregation give heartfelt thanks to our gracious God for his abundant blessings upon our congregation in the past year and that we express that thanks, not only in prayer and praise, but in working together faithfully in sharing our gifts, abilities and resources to fulfill the mission outlined in the 2021 Proposed Budget.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
2021 General Operating Fund Budget

	2020 Budget	Actual 2020	2021 Budget
REVENUES			
Regular Tithes & Offerings			
015-010101 - General Offering Envelopes	\$250,000	\$231,600	\$235,000
015-010104 - Sunday School Envelopes	\$200	43	\$100
Total Regular Tithes & Offerings	\$250,200	\$231,643	\$235,100
Special Services			
015-010201 - Christmas Offerings	\$5,500	\$2,430	\$4,000
015-010202 - Thanksgiving Offerings	\$700	\$600	\$700
015-010203 - Lent/Easter Offerings	\$5,000	\$3,602	\$2,500
Total Special Services	\$11,200	\$6,632	\$7,200
Rental Income			
015-020303 - Facility Use - Members	\$250	\$35	\$250
015-020404 - Facility Use - Non Members	\$1,000	\$620	\$1,000
Total Rental Income	\$1,250	\$655	\$1,250
Miscellaneous Income			
015-030001 - Bulletin Sponsorship	\$2,000	\$140	\$1,000
015-030002 - Messenger Sponsorship	\$0	\$200	\$200
015-030004 - First Envelope	\$475	\$480	\$475
015-030007 - Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$600	\$237	\$600
015-030010 - Fund Raising Events	\$0	\$0	\$0
015-030010 - General Miscellaneous	\$600	\$35,194	\$500
Total Miscellaneous Income	\$3,675	\$36,251	\$2,775
in/out?		\$83	
Total Revenues	\$266,325	\$275,264	\$246,325
EXPENSES			
Benevolence			
016-100101 - Synod/ELCA	\$15,046	\$13,909	\$14,100
016-100303 - Lutheran Social Services	\$0	\$0	\$0
016-100404 - Fortune Lake	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Benevolence	\$15,046	\$13,909	\$14,100
Worship			\$0.0600
016-150300 - Altar Supplies	\$350	\$37	\$175
016-150500 - Choir Supplies	\$400	\$0	\$100
016-150700 - Worship Supplies	\$1,100	\$1,624	\$1,500
016-150900 - Organist/Choir Director	\$9,900	\$4,888	\$5,580
016-150910 - Music Coordinator	\$0	\$0	\$0
016-151000 - Nursery Care	\$250	\$0	\$100
Total Worship	\$12,000	\$6,549	\$7,455

Learning

016-201100 - Sunday School	\$1,660	\$1,022	\$1,700
016-201300 - Vacation Church School	\$930	\$465	\$300
016-201500 - Confirmation	\$1,405	\$48	\$1,500
016-201600 - Youth & Family Director	\$31,525	\$28,115	\$31,841
016-201700 - Adult Education	\$250	\$0	\$100
Total Learning	\$35,770	\$29,650	\$35,441

Witness

016-251900 - Messenger	\$2,000	\$900	\$1,600
016-252200 - Evangelism	\$1,000	\$960	\$600
016-252300 - Devotional Materials	\$400	\$135	\$540
016-252500 - Fellowship	\$2,000	\$133	\$1,000
Total Witness	\$5,400	\$2,128	\$3,740

Youth

016-252100 - Youth Activities	\$100	\$64	\$100
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Service

016-300000 - Outreach Services	\$100	\$0	\$100
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Support

016-352900 - Offering Envelopes	\$1,975	\$1,225	\$1,650
016-353300 - Stewardship	\$1,200	\$400	\$1,000
Total Support	\$3,175	\$1,625	\$2,650

Facilities

016-400500 - Custodial Supplies	\$1,000	\$1,729	\$1,000
016-403500 - Telephone	\$1,840	\$2,471	\$2,485
016-403700 - Utilities	\$15,000	\$9,341	\$12,000
016-403900 - General Maintenance	\$11,000	\$3,245	\$5,000
016-404300 - Insurance	\$3,850	\$4,104	\$4,500
016-404700 - Custodial/Maintenance Wages	\$9,700	\$11,525	\$11,576
016-404900 - Equipment Replacement Reserve	\$500	\$0	\$0
016-404950 - Equipment Lease/Maintenance	\$4,000	\$4,382	\$3,000
016-404970 - Annual Maintenance Inspections	\$3,425	\$2,537	\$3,000
016-405100 - Office Supplies	\$5,500	\$3,890	\$5,000
Total Facilities	\$55,815	\$43,224	\$47,561

Staff

Senior Pastor Salaries/Benefit

016-455301 - Base Salary	\$49,247	\$49,547	\$49,739
016-455501 - Housing Allowance	\$18,605	\$18,605	\$18,605
016-455701 - Business Expense Allowance	\$1,425	\$446	\$1,400
016-455901 - Pension/Health Insurance	\$46,143	\$41,304	\$44,073
Total Senior Pastor Salaries/Benefit	\$115,420	\$109,902	\$113,817

Secretary Wages/Benefits

016-457301 - Wages - Secretary	\$19,619	\$17,900	\$17,547
016-457801 - Social Security - Secretary	\$0	\$0	\$1,342
Total Secretary Wages/Benefits	\$19,619	\$17,900	\$18,889

Volunteers			
016-458301 - Volunteer Appreciation	\$780	\$262	\$250
Worker's Compensation Insur.			
016-459910 - Worker's Comp. Insurance	\$1,100	\$573	\$725
Supplemental Staffing			
016-456920 - Supply Pulpit	\$750	\$102	\$250
016-456927 - Interim Pastor	\$0	\$0	\$0
016-456930 - Other Ministerial Staff	\$0	\$0	\$0
016-456940 - Director of Operations	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Supplemental Staffing	\$750	\$102	\$250
Synod Assembly			
016-460000 - Synod Assembly Expenses	\$1,250	\$0	\$900
in/out?	\$0	\$83	\$0
Total Expenses	\$266,325	\$225,971	\$245,978
NET TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$49,293</u>	<u>\$347</u>

**EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
BALANCE SHEET - ALL FUNDS
Funds: General Operating Fund, Restricted Use Funds
December 2020**

ASSETS

Property, Plant & Equipment	\$1,822,453.63	
General Checking Account	\$51,859.73	
Dedicated Checking Account	\$32,942.82	
PPP Checking Account	\$34,700.00	
Petty Cash	\$100.00	
Mission Investment Fund	\$84,829.71	
American Mutual Fund	\$4,050.93	
Savings Bond	<u>\$500.00</u>	
Total Assets		\$2,031,436.82

LIABILITIES, FUND PRINCIPAL, & RESTRICTED FUNDS

Liabilities

Fund Principal

Fund Balance	\$1,909,113.36	
Total Fund Balance		\$1,909,113.36
Restricted Funds		
Temporary Restricted	\$98,323.46	
Permanent Restricted	<u>\$24,000.00</u>	
Total Restricted Funds		<u>\$122,323.46</u>
Total Liabilities, Fund Principal & Restricted Funds		\$2,031,436.82

Audit Committee Report

We have reviewed the financial records of Emmanuel Lutheran Church for 2020 and find them to be in good order and in accordance with the generally accepted accounting procedures. Our audit covered the general fund, the endowment fund, the restricted funds and the insurance coverage of the church. We reviewed the internal accounting controls to the extent necessary to render an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. No instances of noncompliance were noted with respect to the audit.

Respectfully submitted,
Audit Committee:

Marc Jamo, Kerry Delgoffe and Rachel Raygo

2020 Annual Contributions Report

Pledge Cards Received For 2020 120	Dollars Pledged for 2020 \$162,942.00	Pledge Dollars Received For 2020 \$164,217.88
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Contributions Received in 2020

GENERAL FUNDS	Year 2020
Fund 1 Sunday Offering Envelopes	231,816.94
Fund 2 Christmas Offering Envelopes	2,430.00
Fund 3 Thanksgiving Offering Envelopes	600.00
Fund 4 Easter/Lent Envelopes	3,602.07
Fund 5 Sunday School Offering	43.13
Fund 6 Bulletins	140.00
Fund 7 Messenger	200.00
Fund 22 First Envelope	480.00
Fund 24 Use of Facility Non Members	00
Fund 25 Use of Facility Members	35.00
Fund 26 A.A.	620.00
Fund 27 Miscellaneous Income	400.00
Fund 28 In & Out Council Pizza 33, Pastor Cr. Card 20, State Wis Refund 50, Public Health Refund 203,	306.29
Fund 44 V.B.S.	00
Fund 46 Fellowship	00
	240,693.45
GENERAL FUNDS TOTAL	
DEDICATED FUNDS	
Fund 34 Confirmation	00
Fund 150 Outreach	850.00
Fund 154 World Hunger	375.00
Fund 160 Designated Memorials	1,745.00
Fund 170 Undesignated Memorials	00
Fund 180 Kitchen	25.00
Fund 310 Youth Ministries	00
Fund 320 Youth Activities	100.00
Fund 321 Glow	00
Fund 322 Li Lutheran's	10.00
Fund 410 Altar Flowers	521.00
Fund 411 Easter Lilies	00
Fund 412 Poinsettias	243.00
Fund 420 Home Mission	1,188.68
Fund 450 Designated Contribution	5,368.40
Fund 451 Reader Board	4,344.00
Fund 480 Nat'l Youth Gather	1,135.00
Fund 481 Youth Mission Trip	399.00
Fund 900 Building Maintenance	25,844.84
	42,148.92
DEDICATED FUNDS TOTAL	

TOTAL BANK DEPOSITS 2020	\$282,842.37
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General Fund Pledges for 2021 (Received (93 Pledges) (Dollars Pledged \$134,306)

Summited December 31, 2020 by
 Marcia Peters, Financial Secretary

RESOLUTION #2 (Moved by the Congregation Council & recommended for ratification)

WHEREAS, the Constitution and Bylaws of Emmanuel Lutheran Church require periodic review and revision;
and

WHEREAS, the Congregation Council recommends the revisions presented to the Congregation prior to this annual meeting according to the procedures outlined in the Constitution for amending the constitution, bylaws and continuing resolutions; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Great Lakes Synod, ELCA has approved the recommended revisions;

THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws of Emmanuel Lutheran Church be ratified by this legally called meeting of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, held on January 24, 2021.

CURRENT CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION C12.03.:

C12.03. Should a member's place on the Congregation Council be declared vacant, the Congregation Council shall elect, by majority vote, a successor until the next annual meeting.

PROPOSED CHANGE:

C12.03. Should a member's place on the Congregation Council be declared vacant, the Congregation Council shall elect, by majority vote, a successor until the next annual meeting. *This newly elected member shall be eligible to serve two full terms following the partial year of the vacancy they were previously elected to fill.*

2020 EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What a year! Looking back at last year's annual meeting, I think it is safe to say that none of us could have ever imagined what the year ahead would bring. It is hard to believe, but it has been nearly a year since this historic pandemic began. It's been nearly a year since we have worshipped in church together, or had fellowship together, or knelt at the altar together. It's been nearly a year since I was appointed the Congregation Council President. It has been a year like no other in my lifetime.

The year 2020 is a year in the life of Emmanuel that certainly could be measured by the many losses we've incurred. It's been a year of lost opportunities to worship in person. We have not been able to gather with our friends and family. Our relationships and human connectedness have suffered. We worry about our social-emotional well being. Many important church milestones like baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and even funerals, have been postponed. The memories of special celebrations have been lost and can't be replaced. There have been many learning lessons and opportunities missed. Some of us have even had to endure the loss of a loved one due to this unforgiving virus. We long to shake hands, give hugs, hear live music, and for our voices to be lifted in song once again. Yes, it has been a challenging year.

While we could certainly remember this year for all of its heartache, I would prefer to remember and recognize this year for all that we have to be grateful for. As I considered the happenings at Emmanuel during this difficult time, I am inspired by the many people who kept our church operating as normal as possible. While we may not be present in church physically, I assure you that Emmanuel Lutheran Church is alive and well! Rejoice!

First and foremost, I must give thanks to Pastor Mark. He has been a beacon of calm and hope during this pandemic year. He has guided us through this storm with confidence and resilience. No one can truly prepare for a situation like this. He confronted every unknown obstacle and carried the burden with grace. He has kept the well being of our members and the church mission as his focus. Pastor made daily decisions and modifications to maintain some semblance of normalcy. We are blessed to have him as our leader. I am grateful for his support and guidance.

Our church staff and employees have been invaluable throughout this experience, too. Their flexibility, patience and fortitude provided the stability needed to maintain a foundation of support. They have had to adapt their usual way of doing business. Judy never wavered in her dedication to Emmanuel by providing the necessary communication and oversight to continue quality services. She is a great ambassador of our church. Patti has had to be flexible and re-envision her programming and activities. She met this challenge head-on by providing numerous virtual experiences for our young members and keeping us connected through our online platforms. Her resourcefulness has allowed her to gain valuable knowledge through education opportunities for herself. This new learning will impact our youth and congregation into the foreseeable future. I am also grateful for Lee and Carol for providing continued maintenance and upkeep of Emmanuel. They have done this while having to follow new safety guidelines and procedures.

The physical church has been in good hands while our hearts have been lightened through the service of our musicians. A huge thank you to Barb, Linda, John and guest musicians for sharing their gifts and providing uplifting music during worship services. Never in my life have I appreciated music more!

While the virus has prevented us from gathering in large groups, the Congregation Council and the various service committees continued to meet in small groups or virtually to ensure the physical, financial, and spiritual needs of our church and its members were being addressed. The individual members of these groups deserve our heartfelt gratitude for their commitment to Emmanuel's mission and values. Please read the committee reports to recognize all that has been accomplished this past year. At the end of my report, you will get to see some of the incredible work completed. I think you will be amazed!

Last, but certainly not least, I am grateful for YOU, the congregational members and friends of Emmanuel Lutheran Church. You have made this year bearable. You have offered prayers when things seemed hopeless. You have been patient through many interrupted plans. You offered support and understanding as we struggled with impactful decisions. You volunteered to help when asked. You responded with offerings to keep our church financially stable. Your stewardship and faithfulness will always be remembered. I am proud and honored to serve as the president of the Emmanuel Congregation Council. You give me hope for a brighter 2021.

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not evil, to give a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

God’s peace and blessings to you,
Ronda Pedersen, Congregation Council President

2020 EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH PASTOR'S REPORT

“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” -- Philippians 4:6-7

Fellow workers of the Kingdom;

As I began to think about what to put into the 2020 year-end report, one thing jumped out to me: it is definitely not going to be written like my reports for previous years.

To say that 2020 has been chaotic is an absolute understatement. 2020 presented many challenges to how our ministry out of this church operates. In-person worship was suspended for the final 9 ½ months of the year. The work of most of our committees was compromised to some degree, some more so than others. Many faith passages, like First Communion and 3rd-graders receiving their Bibles were postponed. Life passages, like baptisms, weddings, and even funerals, were either postponed or were conducted in alternative spaces with limited gatherings. Much of what we knew and assumed about the church rattled us to the core in 2020.

But what remained unchanged was the foundation of the church. We still worshiped each and every week, and God was present in it. We found creative ways to carry out the various ministries of the church, and God was present in all of it. We honored the gifts and offerings of the members of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, and, there is no doubt, that God was present in it, utilizing the saints that make up this congregation to continue to do the work that we have been ordained to do.

While it's easy and natural to lament what was lost and missed in 2020, we are given the opportunity to celebrate what opportunities 2021 holds, based on especially what we've learned about ourselves during the past year. And, yes, God has endowed us with a greater understanding of not only who we are, but how to adapt to unforeseen circumstances. That's not a bad tool to have in our ever-expanding toolbox of how to be Christ's church.

Some of those tools include how we can be more active in the social media world and on our website. Emmanuel Lutheran Church now has a YouTube channel and our Facebook Live streaming services reached many people that had either been disconnected from the church for some time or had no previous connections to Emmanuel. While viewing worship from another structure does not have the same meaning as worshipping together in our sanctuary for most of us, for many who are on the fringes, this can be a very valuable tool in enabling them to see who we are as well as helping them to have a greater understanding of their faith.

Other tools are the new physical additions to our church in 2020. Mike Bellisle oversaw the project of putting in new floors, countertops, and a sink in our downstairs fellowship hall and kitchen. When it is safe to do so, we will be able to open up this space to our members and our community and take pride in the environment that we host our friends and neighbors. The other big addition (it's really hard to miss!) was the construction of the electronic sign out on 13th

Street, which Scott Nerat took the lead on and oversaw this project from beginning to end. Three years of planning, fund-raising, and application came to fruition in the days leading up to Christmas. Again, when it is safe to do so, this sign will be used to broadcast what we are doing and to invite our neighbors to come into our church and join with us in our mission. Many other projects were completed this year that the Property Committee will report on and should be commended for. Thank you for your tireless and attentive work addressing the needs of our physical structure.

The last tool is one that I am hopeful for, and that is expanded fellowship opportunities. When the pandemic hit and restaurants shut down, many people's traditions were abruptly suspended. When we are able to return and to share in fellowship once again, my hope is that Emmanuel can be a central place in bringing people together, whether it is coffee fellowship in between worship services, or even something that expands out into the everyday realm. God created us for relationship and the church has traditionally cultivated those relationships. That's why we desire to be together on Sunday mornings. My hope is that we can be a center where people naturally gather to share in their life experiences and to dream together, because, ultimately, that is exactly what the church is called to be.

In closing, I would like to say "thank you" to my staff, Judy, Patti, Lee, and Carol, who weathered the storm that was 2020 with grace and with persistence in continuing to faithfully fulfill the duties that each have been brought here to do. "Thank you" to Ronda Pederson for accepting the nomination to serve as Council President during this past year. Her steady and optimistic leadership was an absolute gift during what could easily be termed a tumultuous year. On a side note, when she accepted the nomination back in January, I promised her that this would not be a difficult year and that we had done a lot of the heavy work in the previous years. In hindsight, two things need to be said: 1) I'm sorry. 2) My prophecy skills are lacking considerably. Last of all, "thank you" to our council members, to the countless volunteers who clean and count and everything else in between, and to those who serve on the various committees. We would not have the same positive outlook for 2021 if it wasn't for all that you faithfully and consistently do.

May you all have a most blessed 2021, and may God continue to use Emmanuel Lutheran Church in new and exciting ways, even as we take great joy in coming back to what is long familiar and comforting.

Thanks be to God.

Reverend Mark Laatsch

2020 EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY'S REPORT

A year ago, at this time, we were just beginning to hear the reports of Covid19, and little did we think that this virus would develop into a pandemic that would so drastically change the way we live. So, it goes without saying, 2020 was a difficult year. We had to cancel our in-person learning, fellowship events, and worship. Our outreach services had to adapt and find new ways to help people. But, despite all the negative effects of this unprecedented year, we did find ways to stay connected and continue to engage in worship, learning, and serving.

2020 found us getting creative with technology and platforms such as Facebook and YouTube. We learned that we can still connect with each other through online worship. As you watch the Sunday worship videos, you can see greetings and messages typed by many of you who watch the services. Our learning programs continued virtually through way of videos that we created here at church and made available to our parents to teach their children at home. Through technology, we were even able to provide our traditional children's Christmas program in a not so traditional manner.

Despite our efforts of virtual methods of ministry, we all miss being together and we long for the day we can finally be in the building of our church. God made us to be relational people and this pandemic has made that difficult, but this pandemic has also revealed how important our relationship and connection to each other and the church is. That understanding is a gift, it means that these things are important and they have value in our life.

This year of closures and quarantines makes me realize too how much I miss you all and how much joy I will feel when our doors are finally flung open to welcome you all back into our church building. I am deeply thankful for the continued support you have given me and the work I do for our church. While I continue to work on non-traditional ways to do our ministries, I find it important to also use this more quiet-time for professional growth that will benefit the church and our youth and families. I am grateful that Emmanuel has supported my continuing education and my enrollment in schooling that will provide me certification in youth ministry. This opportunity will strengthen my skills and knowledge in my calling to do God's work here at Emmanuel.

I want to thank you also for your support of the changes we needed to take in providing services and programs. This time has been challenging but also reveals how much Emmanuel means to all of you. I am glad that you miss church and miss gathering with each other. This "missing" means that your faith and this congregation is important to you. I am so proud of what Emmanuel has been able to do during these most difficult times. We are Emmanuel people - "God with us" and God truly is with us!

Through this most difficult year, we all have been pushed to the edge of our emotions, our health, and our personal financial stability. We had to dig deep at times just to make it through the day. But, as God continues to work through each of us, we will come out stronger, more resilient, more creative, more faithful, and more determined to do God's work and to be there for each other.

I will close with my favorite Bible verse that has led me and given me hope since I was a child, "All things work together for good, to those who love God." – Romans 8:28. God's peace and blessings to you all.

In service to our Lord, *Patti Treptow*

RESOLUTION #3 (Moved by the Congregation Council & recommended for adoption)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the congregation of Emmanuel Lutheran Church expresses its thanks to our church staff and all parish organizations and committees for their ongoing work and support, and to all who have served Emmanuel in its various elected, appointed and volunteer capacities this past year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the congregation give special thanks and recognition to our outgoing council members, Kathy Bero and James Zobel, who have completed two 3-year terms on council, Dave Anderson, who has completed a single 3-year term, as well as serve as Church Treasurer and Kylie Chevalier, who is completing a one-year term as Congregation Council Youth Representative.

LEARNING MINISTRY
Statistical Report 2020

Sunday School

Enrollment by grade:

Pre-school - 5	Kindergarten - 4	1 st Grade - 4	2 nd Grade - 4
3 rd Grade - 5	4 th Grade - 9	5 th Grade - 10	6 th Grade - 5

Average weekly attendance - January thru March - 14

September thru December - Canceled due to COVID-19

Teachers, helpers and worship leaders - 7

Confirmation

Grade 7 - taught by the Pastor - 15 students

Grade 8 - taught by the Pastor - 5 students

Vacation Bible School

COVID-19 No Vacation Bible School in person. Was done by Facebook

2020 SUMMARY OF MEMBERSHIP

	*Baptized	Confirmed
Membership end of 2019	1,038	820
Members received in 2020		
By baptism (15yrs. & under)	6	0
By baptism (16yrs. & over)	0	0
By affirmation of baptism	2	2
By transfer from ELCA congregations	0	0
From other Lutheran congregations	0	0
From other sources & statistical adj.	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
Total Members received in 2020	11	5
Baptized members confirmed in 2020		<u>4</u>
Sub-Total	1,049	829
Members removed in 2019		
By death	16	16
Transfer to other ELCA congregations	0	0
Transfer to other Lutheran congregations	0	0
To non-Lutheran congregations	0	0
Request	7	5
For other sources & statistical adj.	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total members removed in 2020	23	21
Membership end of 2020	1,026	808

* Baptized membership is the total membership of the congregation.

Child (non-confirmed members) is baptized minus confirmed members.

SUMMARY OF MEMBERSHIP

Year	Child Members	Confirmed Members	Totals
2006	442	1087	1,529
2007	454	1101	1,555
2008	447	1114	1,561
2009	438	1113	1,551
2010	449	1116	1,565
2011	438	1,094	1,532
2012	430	1084	1,514
2013	433	1079	1,512
2014	394	1093	1,487
2015	407	1070	1,477
2016	288	1042	1,330
2017	179	1019	1,298
2018	220	855	1,075
2019	218	820	1,038
2020	218	808	1,026

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

None

RECEIVED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD THROUGH BAPTISM

Camelly Penny Lorraine Gleisner	Colin Robert Gleisner	Theodora Barry Bronold
Lucca Gerald Theuerkauf	Bodhi Edward Molnar	Mikenzie Sophia Powers
Hunter Todd Powers		

ENTERED THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

Faye Techmeier	Randy Tharp	Faye Ruleau	Hazel Peterson
Bennie Kamin	Scott Camps	Gary Peterson	Ward Uecke
Donna Bayerl	Norman Hipke	Jeanne Mushynski	Peggy Fischer
Adeline Miller	June Jacques	Jerome Camps	Robert Beyersdorf

EMMANUEL YOUTH CONFIRMED

Brian Anderson	Emma Heider	Anna Helfert	Hazel Knutson
Brody Nerat			

MARRIAGES

Dominic Mulzer & Katie Morois

REMOVED BY TRANSFER OR REQUEST

Kelley Menza, children, Lilliana and Soren

William, Lana and Sara Campbell

Donna Maquire

COMMITTEE AND ORGANIZATION REPORTS

Learning Committee

The Learning Committee assists in providing faith development opportunities for our members, from childhood through adulthood. Thank you to our Learning Committee members Sylvia Blom, Marie Engman, Karen Hines, Greta Hodge, Marilyn Mouritsen, Rachel Raygo, Bill Taccolini, Pastor Mark Laatsch, and Patti Treptow. Our learning programs include Sunday school, Monthly Bible Story Sunday, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation, and Adult Bible studies.

Sunday School: Runs September through May for all Pre-Kindergarten through 6th grade children. It is held during the 10:00 a.m. worship time in our downstairs education wing. Special Sunday school activities: 3rd Grade Bible Presentation, Children's Christmas Program, Communion Training, Family Seder Meal for First Communion, Palm Sunday Palm Procession, Monthly Bible Story Sunday, and the End of the Year Sunday School Party.

Vacation Bible School: VBS is held during the last week in July for those children entering Kindergarten through 5th grade.

Confirmation Program: We hold a two-year instruction program to prepare our 7th and 8th grade students for their confirmation. Students who have completed two years of instruction are able to affirm their baptism and be confirmed in the faith on Reformation Sunday the last Sunday in October.

Due to the Covid19 pandemic and guidance from our Synod, as well as CDC and State requirements, and our desire to keep our children and staff safe, in-person learning programs were cancelled on March 15, 2020.

Youth Advisory Council - "GLOW" God Lights Our World

The youth advisory council consists of confirmed youth members who are in grade 9th through 12th. Members of the youth advisory council will have the opportunity to build their faith, serve others, and engage in activities that promote discipleship, fellowship, and leadership. The youth advisory council selects one youth member to serve as chairperson. The chairperson will also serve as the youth representative on the congregational council upon congregational approval at the annual church meeting. The mission of GLOW is to provide connections and opportunities for involvement in faith building and discipleship for the youth of our congregation. To provide a voice for youth members so needs, concerns, and ideas can be shared with our congregational council. The Pastor and Director of the Youth & Family Ministry serve as staff advisors for the youth advisory council.

The Covid19 pandemic put a close on our meetings and activities. During January and February, we were planning our fundraising efforts for the ELCA Youth Gathering and a service activity at the Menominee Animal Shelter. But, as of March, we have not met. We are looking forward to the day we can welcome new members to GLOW, engage in fellowship, Bible study, and service to our community. Current members include: Trent Albert, Kylie Chevalier, Ashlee Erickson, Gavin Hansen, Laura Magrane, Matt Mellinger, Kaden Starzynski, and Zak Starzynski. Youth Leader: Chris Erickson, Advisors: Pastor Mark Laatsch and Patti Treptow.

Little Lutherans Youth Committee

The Little Lutherans Youth Committee provides activities for our children PreK through 8th grade such as service projects for our community such as snack drives for students and pet food/supply drives for the local animal shelter and fellowship events such as the Palm Sunday Egg Hunt, swimming parties, Christmas parties, movie nights, sledding parties, etc.

Because of the Covid19 pandemic, we were only able to complete one activity in 2020 and that was the kid friendly food collection. This collection of food was distributed by the Menominee Schools Liaison Officers to families in need in our community. Thank you to our committee members Judith Bockoven, Linda Davis, Stacy Hansen, Amy Laatsch, Amy Lenca, Joanna Magrane, Kim Schroeder, Molly Starzynski, and Patti Treptow.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee provides programs and events that help do God's work in our congregation, our local community, and worldwide. Our committee activities include: Souper Bowl of Caring, World Hunger projects, Easter Baskets for our shut-in members, Mother's and Father's Day Appreciations, Waterfront Festival Parade Float, Trunk or Treat, Coats for Kids, Christmas Basket Food Drive, Cookie Baking & Bake Sale, Local Tree of Love, and Ringing Bells for Salvation Army.

Due to the Covid19 pandemic, we were only able to do two activities during 2020. We collected gift cards from the congregation that were then given to three Rainbow House families, 13 residents of Haven of Hope Shelter, one congregation member, one congregation family, and two community families. We also have been reaching out to our members to check in on how they are doing, to pray for and with them, and to see if they have any needs we can help with.

Thank you to our committee members Kathy Bero, Sharon Burns, Linda Davis, Amy Gallardo, Nancy McDonald, Terrie Porras, Pastor Mark Laatsch, and Patti Treptow.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Human Resources Committee (HR Committee) meets periodically at the request of the Pastor, Executive Committee or Church Council to address issues that are affecting or may affect the Church that relate to employment, wages and salaries, benefits, and discipline issues. The HR Committee is also charged with addressing any issue requested by the Church Council. Committee members are James Zobel, chairperson, Randy Demeuse, Gary Gustafson and Tim Leinonen. Since the nature of the HR Committee's work is most often of a confidential nature, it has been directed to report its specific work only through the Pastor, Executive Committee or Church Council.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The mission of the Stewardship Committee is to help every person of our congregation use their gifts and abilities to proclaim and extend God's love to others. The Stewardship Committee has the primary task of teaching, interpreting and promoting Christian stewardship as a lifestyle. It plans and carries out the annual stewardship campaign for pledging time, talents and treasures. It regularly informs the congregation of its financial status in respect to the budget. The members of the 2020 Stewardship Committee were: Kathy Bero, Chairperson; Deb Villas, Cookie Kramer, Jeff Hines, and Connie Taccolini.

The 2020 fall Stewardship campaign theme was "*Love in Action.*" The campaign kicked off in September, and during the next month and a half we were reminded of the work that our offerings enable and we learned about the various committees we can pledge our talents to. We concluded our campaign with Commitment Sunday on November 8th and Celebration Sunday on November 15th the results of the campaign were announced to the congregation and the committee hosted the coffee hour with special treats. To date, we have received 90 pledges for \$131,186.00 as well as 5 Free Will offering pledges.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

The Memorial Committee has the task of maintaining and updating a list of suggested memorial gifts to the church. Fulfillment of this task may include selecting, pricing and purchasing memorial gifts as requested. The committee is currently composed of four voting members of Emmanuel, along with Pastor Mark, that volunteer to serve the church. The current members are: Judy Seglund, Marilyn Mouritsen, Victor Klumb, and Sandra Zobel. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact one of these persons listed.

Funds allocated to this account are provided by members of Emmanuel that wish to bequeath funds or items to Emmanuel in remembrance of friend or family member. Funds from the General funds are never used to support any projects of the Memorial committee, nor may any of the funds contributed to the memorial fund be used to support any of the general fund expenses. These funds are wholly separate from all other monies.

The Memorial Funds are contained within two separate accounts. The first is an account labeled as “Undesignated Funds.” These are funds that are contributed by individuals without any specific designation as to how they may be spent. The second is an account labeled as “Designated Funds.” These are funds that the donor has designated to be spent on a very specific item. They may only be used for the items indicated at the time of the donation. These gifts are recorded in the Memorial Book displayed in the church narthex.

All and any expenditures made by the Memorial Committee are presented to the Congregational council for approval prior to completing any planned purchase. During the church year of 2020 the Memorial Committee acquired the following items using funds from the *undesignated account*:

- Proposed Electronic Sign
- Baptismal Napkins
- * Outdoor Nativity Display and Cord
- * Banner Stand

from the *designated account*:

- Microphone Cables
- Books and Children’s Library materials
- Sunday School/Children’s Choir instruments
- Children’s Choir Music Book
- AED (Automated External Defibrillator)
- Children’s Library Furnishings

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Fellowship Committee has the task of planning, organizing, and carrying out programs activities that bring members together in fellowship for the purpose of building community within the congregation. The committee plans events during the year that are recreational, inspirational, informational, service in nature, and sometimes just fun!

In January of 2020, the Fellowship Committee planned the food for the Annual meeting. It was changed from the usual noon meal of soup and sliders, to more of a brunch, following the 9 AM service, with a menu of a variety of egg casseroles, a yogurt bar, and sweet rolls and muffins. The Committee was pleased with enthusiasm shown for the change.

With the introduction of the pandemic, all activities were suspended. The Committee usually has activities planned such as the WOW services, Rally Day Picnic, Annual Meeting meal, Hanging of the Greens, Painting and Potluck, and family bowling. We are looking to the future to enhance the coffee hour once a month, and something related to members birthdays.

Current members are Sue Larson, Ronda Pedersen, Joanna Magrane, Melanie Botbyl, Boni Nerat Heckel, Patti Treptow, and Debbie Thoune. We are always appreciative of help from the congregation members and welcome anyone interested in joining our Committee!

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

The Emmanuel Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund Committee serves as a stewardship vessel for our members and friends, of gifts apart from those received for the operational expenses of the congregation to the greater ministries of our church, throughout our community, nation, and world. The Committee members are Nathan Anderson, Denise Ruleau, Kathy Bero, Jeff Hines, Karen Hines, and Pastor Mark Laatsch. In 2020 the committee approved a total distribution of \$5368.40 which was designated toward: Compassion International (\$1073.68), Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (\$1073.68), Emmanuel Lutheran Church Home Mission Fund (\$1073.68) and the Northern Great Lakes Pastor Debt Relief Fund (\$2147.36). Thanks be to God for empowering Emmanuel to be a blessing to the world!

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The worship committee is responsible for overseeing the element of weekly worship, as well as special seasonal and festival worship. Their mission is to promote the centrality of worship in the life of the church, utilizing and coordinating the talents and services of our members and friends to glorify God in liturgy and music and celebrate God's gift in Word and Sacrament. The current members of the worship committee are: Polly Smith, Cookie Kramer, Deb Villas, Scott Bell, Dave Anderson, Jim Briar, Chris Nelson, and Pastor Mark Laatsch.

POLICY & PROCEDURE REVIEW COMMITTEE

This committee was established by the Congregation Council in 2018. The Council recognized a need to review the existing policies in effect at Emmanuel because it appeared that these policies had not been reviewed in sometime, nor was it clear when the policies had been adopted or who was responsible for updating them. The second need was to document the existing guidelines for each Emmanuel committee so as to help those committees function within the scope of the Church Constitution and the support needed by the Congregation Council. By better defining committee guidelines, the Congregation Council believed there would be improved communication between and among committees thus reducing confusion and improved efficiency in completing those tasks needed to support the church and congregation. Since this a task that involves each committee, those committees that have been reviewed were engaged in the process, those committees yet to be reviewed will also be engaged in this review process. The members of this committee are: Jim Zobel, chairperson, Deb Villas, Gary Gustafson, Jeremy Sallgren, and Boni Nerat-Heckel. If you have questions or input for this committee, please inform either the Church Secretary or Pastor, and they will forward your questions or input to the committee.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The mission of the Property Committee is to care for the church building and grounds that it may be an effective instrument in faith nurturing and community outreach as a gathering place for worship, learning, fellowship and service.

The Property Committee is responsible for the planning, administration, care, maintenance, repair, inventory, replacement, protection and use of all church property and grounds, and maintaining and updating decorations in the areas inside and outside of the church building, excluding the sanctuary. It oversees the work of the custodian and groundskeeper. It studies and provides for the accessibility of the church building to all persons. Members of the property committee are Bill Kuhnlein and Jeremy Sallgren, Chairpersons, Mike Bellisle, Matt Vanni, Jim Briar, Darrell Eland, Dorothy Jozwiak, Marc Jamo, Lee Parrish, Lenard Reid, John Helfert, and Scott Nerat, Gary Sevon, Judy Bockoven, Glen Magrane, and Kathy Saunier.

The committee had a busy year with Darrell Eland stepping down from the committee chair and I was appointed to resume his role. To say it was a learning process was an understatement. Darrell was a huge part of our committee and is sorely missed during these difficult times. He has always been a great church council member, committee head and has spent countless hours of service to our congregation. Darrell has been very open and helpful in the difficult process of learning things that happen day to day within the church. I have a huge amount of respect for him as a property head, member of our church and a friend. Without doubt he is very deserving of a break from the action.

As a group we have had a banner year of large projects that were completed. Each member of our committee has contributed many things to our group and given many selfless hours to complete all of our tasks. Over a brief discussion, Jeremy Sallgren and Bill Kuhnlein stepped up and were appointed to be co-chairs, and I was going to stay as the secretary.

Based on the water damage to the basement, a new floor was installed and the walls were painted. New kitchen counter tops and a sink were installed. Mike Bellisle was the one tasked with communicating with the insurance company and dealing with numerous contractors to ensure the projects were completed. The grade of the front part of the church was altered and changed based on the past water problems. Two new electrical outlets were installed in these areas. The committee was able to have heat tape installed by a contractor. Heat tape was placed in both areas of the roof that have had prior water damage and ice buildup.

The biggest project this year was the installation of the new church sign. This has been a long project that was spear headed by Scott Nerat. This process from start to finish was clearly a team effort. There were many hours of labor put into configuration/planning, electrical wiring, a new concrete slab to support the weight of the new sign. This included demolition of the old sign, digging down four feet for the new concrete base, and pulling permits with the City of Menominee. Each part of the process has had its own challenges, but people within the committee were always around to rally and provide labor on short notice. On 12/21/2020, we were able to put together each piece of the sign and connect the electricity. We were finally able to “see the light” and it was amazing to witness. Probably my fondest memory will be the dedication of so many people at our church to ensure this project never stalled. Tim Raygo volunteered to complete the electrical work and Pastor Mark were also a huge part of this project’s completion. Not be forgotten, the entire congregation played a critical role in supporting this upgrade and continuously donating money to allow this project to go from a dream to a reality.

Toward the end of the year, the committee was able to secure a snow removal service for the plowing of the lots along with the sidewalks. This was done to assist our maintenance staff during the winter months.

It has been an eye-opening experience during this pandemic and trying to deal with ongoing issues within our church. I am proud to be a small part of what was accomplished within the property committee. We have some smaller items to work on within the next year to continue with our goal to provide a church that people are proud to be a part of. Thank you to everyone for your support of our efforts each year. Although we are all volunteers, a total commitment makes “OUR CHURCH” a safe place where people can worship and be proud of. I can personally say I feel blessed and supported by each person within our congregation.

Respectively submitted,

Matt M Vanni
Secretary Property Committee

(The following groups are currently not meeting in person at this time due to COVID-19)



Women of the ELCA

The Circles continue to provide Bible Study and fellowship, meeting once a month, in the afternoon. If you are interested in becoming a part of our Circle ministry, please contact Barb Anderson for the Sarah Circle.

CIRCLE PARTICIPATION IS OPEN TO ALL WOMEN IN THE CONGREGATION

2020 WELCA Financial Report

Began year with	\$ 38.59
Circle Offerings for the year March & April	<u>\$ 75.00</u>
Total Income	\$113.59
Disbursements:	
Women of the ELCA--- Synod and Churchwide.....	\$50.00
Balance as of 12/31/2020.....	\$63.59

MOM SQUAD

Moms who offer encouragement, support, and friendship in our adventures as moms. The group is lead by Karie Anderson and they meet twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the church Friendship Room.

WEDNESDAY MORNING MEN’S GROUP

Join us each Wednesday, 7:30 a.m., at the Serving Spoon for a wonderful time of fellowship with friends, sharing stories, and enjoying a cup of coffee. Bring a friend!

SEEKING ENLIGHTENMENT GROUP

They meet once a month on Thursday evening at 6:30pm. It is a time of sharing and encouraging each other on our Christian journey. Contact Robin Gustafson at 906-290-1003 for location details.

PRAYER GROUP

Emmanuel Lutheran Church is a faithful praying community. For those who would like to take part in our Prayer Group, we meet Wednesday mornings at 9:30 to celebrate God's presence and to lift up our friends and neighbors in prayer. If you are interested in joining and would like more information, please contact Pastor Mark at the church at 863-3431.

CARE & SHARE ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

A support group for caregivers of loved ones with Alzheimer's and other dementias is offered on Wednesdays from 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the church conference room. June Ehlers facilitates this meeting. You may call her for more information at 715-582-3589 or 715-938-3589.

Annual Report Letter 2020

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. ~Romans 15:13

December 15, 2020

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod, Since the year 2020 was certainly not a year of clear vision, one can only hope that we will glean what can be learned from it in hindsight. I would guess that I am not alone in my relief to put 2020 in the rearview mirror, but the challenges and disruption that have marked this year will no doubt stretch into 2021.

Before we leave 2020 behind us, I wish to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for how we have faced this year together. I am grateful for the many creative ways that pastors, leaders, and congregations have risen to the challenge of offering online worship, devotions, events, and activities. Many of you learned new skills in order to stay connected. You made phone calls, sent encouraging notes, and mailed worship resources. We learned how to use ZOOM, FM transmitters, and Facebook Live. We learned how to make masks, give offerings electronically, have Zoom Council meetings, and put protocols in place to keep each other safe. Together, we pivoted, adapted, shifted gears, and shifted gears again. It has been exhausting, and while I know we are not done with this pandemic yet (and have no idea how it will shape our future), I have to say... Well done!! Excellent!! Keep up the good work!

Continue with patient resilience, and soon enough the pandemic will join the year 2020 in hindsight, and we will regroup, reassess, and reapply ourselves to the work of Christ in a post-pandemic world. To that end, we turn our faces toward the future with hope.

I think of my Uncle Paul used to work for Lutheran Bible Translators in Africa. He told the story once of going into a village to learn the particular dialect in order to translate the Bible into that language. However, he could not find a local word for “hope”... until that is, he heard the story of a boy whose father worked for weeks at a time away where the jobs were. And the boy would wait under the shade of a tree at the edge of the village to watch for his father to come down the road. The word, “hope” then was translated as “watching for you to come down the road.”

With hope we watch for all that is coming down the road. We watch for Jesus to come to us. We watch for how we will be new and different as church to become clear. We wait for an end to all that has made us weary this last year, and we watch for a return of so much that we have missed about congregational life. We hope, we watch, and we wait.

I hope the challenges of this year has given you a deeper conviction of the value of the life of faith. And I pray that you will be filled with the peace that only hope born of Christ can give.

May God bless us with faith, hope, and love in the Year of our Lord 2021, but mostly with hope.

Yours in Christ, Bishop Katherine Finegan



A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON

Dear friends in Christ,

This year has been a challenging one! The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the church and society. We have had to shift the ways we engage in ministry from a focus on in-person worship and meetings to livestream worship, virtual meetings and gatherings in the parking lot. We have had to shift to teaching children at home and working from home. We have not been able to travel to see friends or relatives or to celebrate life events. This has also been a time to address economic and social justice issues, to shift our thinking and our way of life.

In times such as this, our baptism in Christ makes a difference and makes us different. Like Christians before us, we recall that God is faithful to God's promises and God's people. We see that God enables us to connect with one another even when we are separated. Shifts in the world invite us to be innovative in how we do God's work and reach out to all ages in making disciples. We see that God is at work not only in our buildings but beyond them as well. We have found new ways to serve our neighbors and reach those in need.

As we experience this time of uncertainty, we sense something new emerging. In many places there are new strategies and renewed energy for ministry, often generated by emerging leaders. We have developed a framework to build on, and now is the time to engage in hard work together. As you do in your congregation, we want our collaborative efforts to be both faithfully thoughtful and sustainable. We want to build up the body of Christ today and for the future.

Looking across the church, I am grateful for your generous giving of time, talents and resources. Yes, God does continue to bless us! God will provide both relief from life's struggles and hope for a stronger church, God's church. We do not need to know how the future will unfold. As members in the body of Christ, we need only trust that God is with us and will provide.

Building up the body of Christ together,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

"The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love." —Ephesians 4:11-16