

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

ANNUAL CONGREGATION REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 2017

JANUARY 23, 2018



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The mission Of Immanuel Lutheran Church is to bring glory to Jesus Christ by preaching and teaching the Good News to all people, ministering to congregational and individual needs and providing programs of caring and helping to all ages, here and throughout the world.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

(adopted January 22, 1995)

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of your son, Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. We thank you for all your grace in our lives, for Immanuel Lutheran Church, and for the gifts you have given us.

We ask you to bless us with the Wisdom of Solomon, the generosity of the Widow, the humbleness of the Publican, the commitment of Paul, and the compassion of the Good Samaritan.

Guide us to go forward in faith, that even with many obstacles, we may accomplish your will. Receive our gifts, forgive our shortcomings, and instill in us a vision to share your grace to grow in community. Help us to be your witnesses in all we do and constantly renew us in our passion for the Gospel; in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Immanuel Lutheran Church
January 28, 2018

OPENING PRAYER

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM: (Chapter 10.04 of the Congregation constitution states: “15% of voting members shall constitute a quorum.” Chapter 8.02C defines voting members who “have communed and made a contribution of record during the current/preceding year voting members. (A quorum is 24 members.)

ACTION OF MINUTES 2017 CONGREGATION MEETINGS: pg: 3-5
January 15, 2017, December 10, 2017

VICAR’S REPORT 6-7

MEMBER STATISTICS 7

ATTENDANCE STATISTICS 8

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT 9

WOMEN OF THE ELCA 10

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Worship & Music 11

Organist/Music Director 11

Social Ministry 12

Stewardship 13

Quarter Sunday Report 13

Property 14

Christian Education 15

Fellowship, Outreach & Growth 16

Library 17

Finance Report 17

TREASURER’S REPORT 18

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT N/A

BUDGET REPORTS ADDENDUM

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Elect synod assembly delegates June 14-16, 2018- Thiel College, Greenville PA
Joint venture between NWPA and SWPA - Church wide representative: Mikka McCracken, Director, Planning Engagement- World Hunger

ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYERS

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
January 15, 2017

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President David Mays at 1145hours.

Order of Business: It was ascertained a quorum was present.

President David Mays led the congregation in prayer.

President Mays presented the minutes from the Congregational meetings from January 24, 2016. A motion to accept all minutes was made by Rick Kuntz, seconded by BryanTimm and passed.

President Mays then presented the Annual Report to the congregation. He thanked Bob Dorler for the President Report and thanked him for his service. The Congregation acknowledged with enthusiastic applause.

President Mays thanked the past and present members of Church Council for their support of the church's mission and their efforts in leading Immanuel. President Mays also expressed his thoughts on being on Church Council and advising the congregation to consider it in the future.

The Vicar's report was presented and there were no questions from the congregation. President Mays moved on to the reports of standing committees.

BryanTimm was thanked for the 12th Night Celebration at the Millcreek Brewery. Mary Hauser was thanked for all her work on Social Ministry and for the Chrismons.

Carolyn Kuntz was thanked for all her service on Christian Education and well wishes for her continued recovery.

Hannah Mays was thanked for everything she does for FOG. Also announced that the soup cook-off will be February 26, 2017.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and no questions were presented.

Old Business: There was no old business presented before the congregation.

New Business: Council members were called to serve on the church council:

Gretchen Andrews	Mary Hauser	John Siefert
Debbie Reddit	Hanna Mays	Cindy Eckman
Kim Lee	David Mays	Ben Reitz

The floor was opened for nominations for representatives to the Synodical Assembly at Thiel College June 15, 2017 to June 17, 2017. There were no other nominations from the floor.

No other business was introduced before the congregation. President Mays asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Stan Holsopple, seconded by Bryan Timm. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1205 hours.

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberly Lee, Secretary

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
December 10, 2017

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President David Mays at 11:44 am.

Order of Business: It was ascertained a quorum was present.

President David Mays led the congregation in prayer.

John Siefert passed out the budget report. David Mays explained that he spoke with the Bishop about the future of our church and will keep the congregation posted. A motion to accept the budget was made by Rick Kuntz, seconded by Char Feiler and passed.

President Mays thanked the past and present members of Church Council for their support of the church's mission and their efforts in leading Immanuel. President Mays will be done serving his term on council.

Two new council member candidates were noted, George Pfeiffer & Debbie Madurski. After a vote all of congregation approved. A motion to adjourn was made by Cindy Geddes and seconded by Kim Lee. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberly Lee, Secretary

Vicar's report

January-September 2017

by 09/23/16

Calls:			Mileage:			
			Date:	Miles	Destination	Miles-Total
Hospital	8	17.5 hrs.			January	12
Homebound	27	37.5 hrs.			February	18
other	1	4.5 hrs.			March	80
Worship:					April	0
Preaching/Presiding					May	70.8
Preaching	49	118 hrs.			June	233.4
Presiding						
Other (Holden/Conneaut/Chrism/Diaconal Consecration/ Pastoral Funeral/ELCA-Deacon Installation)	10	12.5 hrs.			July	0
Meetings:					August	43.5
Mentor-meeting	13	27 hrs.			September	39
Catechism Study	18	26.5 hrs.				
Pericope meeting	9	27 hrs.				
Deaconess Annual Conference						
Deaconess meeting local						
Council meeting	3	3.5				
Property Committee						
Baptismal Prep-Meeting						
Wedding Prep-meeting	1	1.5 hrs.				
Funeral-Prep-meeting						
Worship-Music Committee	4	3.5 hrs.				
Convoational Meeting			Mileage total:			446.7
Vicar Committee Mtg.	2	2 hrs.				
Vocations Committee Mtg.						
Youth Event						
Bishop-Relator meetings	1	1 hrs.				
Synod Assembly	1	2.5 days				
Synod Labyrinth Dedication						
Bishop meetings	2	4 hrs.				
Strategic Response during Disaster (Critical Incident Stress Management-CISM-Class)	1	2 days				
Pastoral Acts:						
Baptism	1	1 hrs.				
Funeral						
Other:						
TEEM-classes/Assignments	5/9	42/219 hrs.				
1. Hl. Communion class	2	2 hrs.				
1. Hl. Communion class - prep	1	1 hrs.				
Sermon-prep	36	370 hrs.				
Worship-prep (review, monthl. Prayers)	35	35 hrs.				
Newsletter	7	49 hrs.				
DIAKONIA-Translations	6	18 hrs.				
ELCA Gift Planner	1	1.5 hrs.				

Vicar Cowey Report – continued

Board-Certification Chaplaincy	2	3 hrs.
DIAKONIA-World Conference	9	9 days
Erie-Community: Being Mortal-What matters in the End	1	3 hrs.
On the trail of Martin Luther-Synod Trip	10 days	120 hrs.
Presentation Synod Trip	3 days	24 hrs.
Viewing		
monthly reports	9	11 hrs.
Vacation Days for DIAKONIA Conference:	10 days	

MEMBER STATISTICS

December 31, 2017

(Source: Shepherd's Staff computer program for churches)

Baptized Membership	214
Active (Communed and Contributed)	75
Members Removed by Inactivity/Own Request/Moved	4
Members Removed by Transfer	1

MEMBERS RECEIVED

Holy Baptism

Jaxon Joseph Ditzler (1/1/17)

Transfers In

Transfers Out

Bob Martin

Confirmation

NONE

Wedding

Saylor/Nau (10/14/17)

Deaths

Mary Lindquist – 12-1/17
Frances Mae Zurn Rapp – 10/12/17
Loraine Wambsgans – 12/31/17

Funerals/Non Members

ATTENDANCE STATISTICS

(Source: Weekly Summary attendance sheets from ushers. (N/A = no information available)

Average Weekly Attendance at Worship

	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2015	23	35	58
2016	18	36	54
2017	19	31	50

Summer Average for 2017

2015 (Sat. eliminated)	N/A	Sunday	44	Total 44
2016 Sunday: 8:15am	12	10:00am	29	Total 41
2017 Sunday: 8:15am	15	10:00am	25	Total 40

Special Services Attendance

(N/A = info not available)

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Ash Wednesday -	N/A	4 at noon 0-evening* (*cancelled due to weather)	5 at noon 29 - evening
Wednesdays in Lent	N/A	25 (E=at noon) 70 (L 7pm)	62 - evening
Monday in Holy Week	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tuesday in Holy Week	N/A	N/A	N/A
Maundy Thursday	25	16 (7pm)	35
Good Friday	24	N/A	26
Easter Vigil	N/A	N/A	N/A
Easter	38 (E) 74 (L)	130 TOTAL	45 (E) 48 (L)
Christmas Eve	67 (E) 91 (L)	84 (E) 81 (L)	71 (E) 66 (L)

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2017 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

My last year on council as President presented itself with some challenges within Immanuel. It was the strength and commitment of our congregation that helped us through the year. I pray that 2018 will bring Immanuel a new direction for the future.

Six years on council has allowed me to witness all the work being done at our church. It is a blessing that so many members are willing to volunteer their time and talents. It is this commitment that will help us to persevere with decisions in the future.

Please pray for our new President, Ben Reitz, and our council as we enter 2018.

May the Lord bless Immanuel Lutheran Church and its members as we continue our journey.

David Mays
Church Council President

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Much of the work previously done under WELCA by various circles is now being done by our amazing Social Ministry Committee coordinating events and soliciting member and visitor support for various efforts throughout the year. Our talented quilters continue their ministry on Monday mornings at 9:00 am.

The quilters at Immanuel made **41 quilts this year for Lutheran World Relief**. After a blessing at church on September 10th they were delivered to the Erie pick-up site and then on the way to the location that distributes them to those in need.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

See Music Director/Organist Report

MUSIC DIRECTOR / ORGANIST

Since I arrived in 1999 at Immanuel Lutheran, I have found the congregation to be one of great generosity, immense talent, fierce flexibility, and extreme patience. During the nearly two decades of leadership from Pastor Kim, we all benefitted from her patience and guidance.

It does one well to remember where we have been, it makes us who we are. I do find it dangerous to spend too much time in the past as it inhibits the ability to move forward. I personally find that it obscures my reality as a leader and makes me set unrealistic leadership goals. The beginning of 2017 was one such year for me in my role as a leader at ILC. The time, effort, and patience devoted to assisting our elected leader slowly revealed a clear dis-interest in the liturgical requirements of our church. Regardless of the outcome, it still has been a disappointing outcome for our community.

However, realizing there are congregations who share pastoral leadership, struggle with leaving their sanctuaries during the winter to stave off heating bills, and have suffered a decline of more than 80 percent of their attendance, I am reminded how blessed we are at Immanuel. Dwindling attendance, smaller Sunday schools, and distracted commitment to committees and duties have become common place in our society, not just a problem at Immanuel.

Knowing we are not the only ones who have seen decline is somewhat comforting, and leads us to the later part of 2017. The realization that our congregation is the driving force and the heart-beat of our church. Our future is what we plan it to be, and we must accept that there are no guarantees. We must accept that not every endeavor will go as planned, accept that our world has changed, and constantly think of creative ways to welcome people inside our building both on Sunday Mornings and throughout the week.

One such endeavor was the “Trail of Treats”. This event started as a simple idea to make ILC’s presence in the Lakewood Community known by passing out candy from the church on Halloween. The trail started in the bell tower entrance on 10th street, and exited through the main doors on Powell Avenue. Passing through the church that evening were counted 92 children, with parents, and I am reminded, 5 or 6 dogs. Bill Paulson and I took turns at the organ bench, and I was informed parishioners from a neighboring church came out and parked out front of the church to partake of the music emanating from ILC.

Brunch with the Bishop, started as an idea in the choir to have a fellowship event between services. Timing was such that Bishop Jones would be here for first communion, and the event was a hit success with attendance around 60 people.

These events have recharged my enthusiasm and serve as a reminder of the vast support and fellowship that still remains at ILC. They have been reminders that under a surface of problems that face every congregation stands a strong and vibrant resolve of community and fellowship. Our blessings are numerous, ILC remains strong in identity of liturgical worship, strong in musicality, and most importantly strong in its community. We must remain true to our mission, strong in our commitments, and tolerant of opinions. It has been a wonderful and challenging two decades of serving Immanuel, and looking forward to our future.

Cordially,
Bryan M. Timm

Social Ministry Meeting

Report for 2017

Members: Mary Hauser, Judy Stewart, Carol Ketchel, Penny Maloney

We planned and held the following projects:

February 5, 2017 – SOUPER BOWL placed soup pots at church doors to collect money for Holy Trinity Pasta Kitchen. \$176 was collected

February- March: Collected warm socks for overflow Shelter. Delivered 27 pairs of new socks, plus a bag of gently used socks.

February 18, 2017 – All Sew Saturday was held to work on quilts. Total of 6 women in attendance. Sewed together squares to make 2 quilt tops. Pinned together 2 quilt tops to be sewn later

May – collected for Habitat for Humanity Build. Collected \$150 and 2 large boxes of paper products including: 12 large paper towels, silverware, paper plates, cups, napkins. Penny delivered items to Habitat.

August – collected school supplies for Penny Maloney's sister who is a teacher in Erie School District.

September: All Sew Saturday 9/23/17- sewed tote bags to use for men's Christmas gift bags at Community Shelter Center.

October: Holy Trinity Sloppy Joe Dinner. 10 Volunteers and served 75 people

December: "The Social Ministry Committee collected and assembled 32 Christmas gift bags for residents of Community Shelter Services (16 men and 16 women). The embers of Immanuel donated most of items needed for the bags. Denise Arnold made headbands and scarves for all residents; she also made tote bags for women and men. We used \$250 Thrivent Grant plus \$375 from Social Ministry Budget and donations to buy the rest.

Each resident received: Thrivent T-shirt, tote bag, head band, scarf, gloves, 2 pair socks, 6 razors, 4 washcloths, 3 hand warmers, 2 notepads, 3 pens, 1 pocket calendar, bag of hard candies, 2 lip balms, 1 packet of tissues and a 5 ride bus pass.

In addition, we provided \$5.00 McDonald's gift cards for (10) residents with children.

Thanks to all the members of Immanuel for their generosity! We could not have done all this without your help!"

Mary Hauser
Social Ministry/Council Liaison

STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR 2017

No report at this time.

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO FOR IMMANUEL AND OUR COMMUNITY!

John Siefert

QUARTER SUNDAY REPORT – 2017

Quarter Sunday began in earnest in 2000. From the 2014 Annual Report it showed that since starting this effort we had collected a total of \$9062.07. The current computer records only go back to 2011. Money has been used for the bell/organ, youth ministry and building fund/roof project. During the year 2015 we collected a total of \$397.80 and in 2016 - \$354.75.

Months / Amount Collected

January	18.75	August	30.00
February	24.75	September	30.00
March	25.75	October	37.75
April	22.00	November	48.25
May	40.00	December	30.00
June	13.30	Total 347.80	
July	27.25	Total collected since inception: \$ 10,162.42	

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT- 2017

CHURCH RENOVATION- A separate fund has been established for the cost.

IMPROVEMENTS AND CHANGES-

Both of the church's rental properties (Powell Ave & 10th Street houses) are rented. A new tenant has rented the 10th street house but some items were fixed/replaced before they moved in. We asked our tenants if they were willing to pay extra for mowing? We asked our caretaker if he would be willing to mow for a fee and he was. The added cost was added to the rent. Rental contracts were reviewed and updated to protect us. The contractor we use for plowing the parking lot has been doing an excellent job for us and is cautious not to damage neighbor's fence. The plumbing contractor has been here several times (normal). There may have to be a boiler upgrade in the future. We have a lawn fertilizer service doing our yard that makes it look good but makes the grass grow like crazy. We had a sound system problem in August. Levco Communication was called, responded and had it working again but not to its full capacity. Our Waste Mgmt contract expired and not renewed because of the expense. We now have Advanced Disposal for our trash pickup and have containers that are taken out to the street. We had the berm repaved on the Powell Ave side of church because of the many potholes.

FUTURE CONCERNS-

Do we need a space in the church for the handicapped? Will hallway flooring by Sacristy room be done this year? Church sign needs cleaned and painted? Some outside stonework of the church needs re-pointed? All the wood furniture in the church needs cleaned and treated. Windows in the educational wing of the church need attention. Glazing has deteriorated and needs replaced and painted. Energy conservation is always on our mind. What can we do to make our church "green"? Replacement fixtures/bulbs, inside and outside, may have us updating the church and yet trying to keep costs to a minimum. There has been some concern about church upkeep, when there are times or circumstances beyond our control. We as a congregation need to step up and do the tasks that we can do. The committee is always trying to do what is needed at Immanuel to preserve our legacy. As always it's a matter of funding, time and effort to address church issues. Any concerns and/or suggestions the congregation may have are always welcomed by the Property Committee. If there is any particular cleaning/maintenance issue, a note may be left in the office for custodian or property member. Remember our church home is like your home. There is always something that needs done.

We still have to be welcoming of others but still be aware of their place in our church. Our witness as a church in this community has been to provide a place for outside groups. How secure should we make the church and yet make it accessible? We must have trust.

Anyone is welcome at our meetings to learn, offer input and even join the committee. Meetings are usually held the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the church.

Thanks & praise to God for all He has entrusted to us and thanks to all members that volunteer their time and effort to make all this happen. A special thanks to Walter Coughlin, our custodian for all his extra time in service to us.

Respectfully submitted by the Immanuel Lutheran Church property committee,
January 2018

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

Thankfully Sunday School had another busy year.

January 8th: We collected 212 items from our mitten trees, all donated to the Bethesda Trinity Center. (Thanks to Anita and Joe Byrne for delivery.)

February 28th: We served a Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Sausage meal. \$54 profit was given to the Holy Trinity Pasta Kitchen.

March 26th: Pretzels were given to students as a reminder to say their prayers, and that prayers are said for them.

April 16th: Easter celebration with egg hunt and a piñata.

May 21st: Last day of classes for 2016-17. Year end stats: church - \$172.81; mission offering (pasta kitchen) \$300.71; Community Shelter - \$53.00

July 16th-20th: Vacation bible school with/at Lakewood Methodist Church held at Immanuel. We taught, fed and enjoyed 40-50 students each night.

September 10th: new year Rally Day celebration.

October 31st – 500 years as Lutherans. Thank you Martin Luther

December 3rd – Bishop Jones presiding, we had three students receive their First Holy Communion: Trista Paternosh, Brody Bonsell and Aydan Mays.

December 17th: Christmas play performed at 10.45 am service.

Our numbers of 13 students and 3 teachers may seem low to some, but many churches no longer offer Sunday School classes. We are very thankful for the congregational support we receive. Our Sunday School is truly one of Immanuel's blessings. Teaching our students is a privilege we take seriously with warm smiles, happy hearts and humor! Many thanks to the teachers who make our programs work Anita Byrne, Rick Kuntz, and Janice Kreger.

YEA SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Kuntz, Superintendent

FELLOWSHIP, OUTREACH AND GROWTH

2017 Fellowship, Outreach, and Growth Events:

In February, FOG hosted the third annual 'Soup Off'. We had ten delicious entries for our members to sample. The winning soup was Baked Potato Soup made by Stan Holsopple and Mary Masters. We had about 30 members in attendance and the event was a lot of fun. A 'free will' offering was collected for the FOG committee's use for the 2017 events.

On July 9th, FOG had its first Birthday/Anniversary event for members in our congregation that were celebrating either of those during the months of July, August, or September. We served cake and beverages in Leubin-McCray Hall for the event.

We had our annual Weather in Your Neighborhood picnic on August 3rd. WJET TV broadcast live from our church parking lot. We had fire trucks from West Lake Fire Department and a vehicle from Millcreek Paramedic Service on display.

October 8th was our second Birthday/Anniversary event for the year in Leubin-McCray Hall. Cake and beverages were served to honor those members having a birthday or anniversary in October, November, or December.

Respectfully submitted,

David Mays
Chairperson

LIBRARY

The library, located in the lounge, is a very under-utilized asset of our church. The shelves are full of books that will meet any need. There are books about the Bible and Christian living. There are biographies of Martin Luther, Katie Luther and others. We have loads of fiction books geared towards women (and men too!) Youth and picture books for our youngest members are plentiful. There are also Davey and Goliath DVD's to sign out. All that is needed is to sign the card in the back of the book and place it on the card file. Keep the book as long as you need to – then return book to the card file. I will put it back. New books are added yearly.

Our Immanuel Bookworm (Jeanette Swanson) has done a great job sharing book reviews of some of these resources and we invite others to read and report on the books too. Maybe 2018 will bring a children's reading session with discussion once/month or maybe an adult book discussion group – the possibilities are endless – we welcome your use and your suggestions for the resources entrusted to us.

Cindy Eckman

FINANCE REPORT 2017

The finance committee met in November to review the budget and approved the budget to be presented to the congregation on 12/10/17. The budget was approved by the congregation. We will be scheduling an audit in 2018.

I want to thank John Siefert for all the work he has done stepping up as treasurer. As any of us that have been in the position knows it is not an easy task.

Report submitted by Gretchen Andrews, Finance Committee Chairperson

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2017

No report at this time. Details will be provided at the meeting.

Thank you,
John Siefert