

2023 Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church Annual Report

for

the 2024 Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church Annual Congregation Meeting

January 28, 2024, at noon



Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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A congregation of the Central States Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

2024 Emmanuel Annual Meeting Agenda

January 28, 2024, at approximately noon

- I. Call to order
 - a. Certify voting membership and quorum.
 - b. Opening Devotions

- II. 2023 Emmanuel Annual Meeting Minutes
 - a. Motion to Approve: _____ Second: _____
 - b. Review, discuss, or amend:

 - c. Vote: _____

- III. Pastor's and Parochial Report

- IV. Council Report

- V. Treasurer's Report

- VI. Auditing Committee Report
 - a. Motion to approve: _____ Second: _____
 - b. Review, discuss, or amend:

 - c. Vote: _____

- VII. Committee / Organization Reports
 - a. Disciples of the Plains
 - b. Worship & Music
 - c. Sunday School
 - d. Youth / Luther League
 - e. 2023 Central States Synod Assembly
 - f. Phillips County Ministerial Alliance
 - g. Correspondence Activity

- VIII. Unfinished / Old Business
 - a. Playground update
 - b. Cemetery grant and repairs
 - c. Church management software implementation.
 - d. Smart board and monitors for Sunday School and Church office.
 - e. Other old business.

- IX. New Business
 - a. Constitutional & Bylaw Updates
 - i. Identifying typos before voting on amendments.

- ii. Constitution Amendments to conform to latest model for ELCA member constitutions.
 - 1. Motion to approve:_____ Second:_____
 - 2. Review, discuss, amend (where possible):
 - 3. Vote (must pass by majority):_____

- iii. Constitution Amendments not required by latest model for ELCA member constitutions:
 - 1. Motion to approve:_____ Second:_____
 - 2. Review, discuss, amend:
 - 3. Vote (must be majority at this meeting and by 2/3rd at next Annual Meeting):_____

- iv. Amendments to bylaws:
 - 1. Motion to approve:_____ Second:_____
 - 2. Review, discuss, amend:
 - 3. Vote (must be by 2/3rds):_____

- v. Amendments to continuing resolutions
 - 1. Motion to approve:_____ Second:_____
 - 2. Review, discuss, amend:
 - 3. Vote (majority needed):_____

- vi. Other Constitutional amendments, bylaws, or continuing resolutions not approved by the votes above:
- vii.
- b. 2024 Proposed Emmanuel Budget (including Support for Missions and DOTP Budget)
 - i. Motion to approve:_____ Second:_____
 - ii. Review, discuss, amend:
 - iii. Vote:_____
- c. 2024 Nominations and Elections to Congregation Council, Parish Council, 2024 Synod Assembly
 - i. Deacon – currently being served by Paula Weinman
 - 1. Nominees
 - a. Paula Weinman – incumbent
 - b.
 - c.
 - 2. Vote:_____

ii. Trustee – currently being served by Eric Krafft

1. Nominees

- a.
- b.
- c.

2. Vote: _____

iii. Parish Council Representative at large:

1. Nominees

- a. Brock Johnson
- b.
- c.

2. Vote: _____

iv. 2024 Synod Assembly Representatives (June 6-8, 2024, Olathe, KS:

1. Nominees

- a.
- b.
- c. (we can have three if one is a youth)

2. Vote: _____

d. Bill Schick memorial options

e. Other new business:

X. Acknowledgements and recognitions.

- a. Paula Weinman and Eric Krafft for completing their terms on the congregation council.
- b. Paul Merklein for his years of service on Parish Council and also as president of the council.
- c. Others

XI. Adjournment

- a. Tentative date for 2025 Emmanuel Annual Meeting: January 26, 2025 at noon.
- b. Motion to adjourn: _____ Second: _____
- c. Approve with recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

EMMANUEL EVANGELICA LUTHERAN CHURCH

Annual Meeting Minutes January 29, 2023

The Annual Meeting for Emmanuel Lutheran Church was called to order by President Brock Johnson at 12:10 p.m. on January 29, 2023. Pastor Lee led devotions with a reading from Acts chapter 8. He followed the devotions with a prayer. Minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting were presented as printed in the annual report. Sandi Preuss moved and Bev Miller seconded to approve the minutes as printed. The motion carried.

Pastor Lee gave his report highlighting a few items in his printed report. He mentioned some important dates for the year. He also wanted to bring to the attention of the congregation some "Thank Yous" that needed mentioning. At the end of his report he played a video from Camp Tomah Shinga,

Brock gave a few highlights from his printed report detailing the events of 2022. He thanked the congregation for their support during the past year.

The Treasurer's Report was presented as printed. The Auditing Committee of Sandi Preuss and Connie Hanke reported that the books were in good order. Anthony Kirchhoff answered any questions and provided comment on various items in the report. Sandi Preuss moved and Connie Hanke seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed with the discussed corrections. The motion carried.

A series of committee reports were commented on. The following reports were printed for review in the Annual Report: Disciples of the Plains, Worship and Music, Sunday School, Luther League, Synod

Assembly Delegates, and Activity for Correspondence, Disciples of the Plains, and 2021 Parochial Report. Each of these reports were discussed and any comments or questions were addressed as necessary.

Old Business:

Robin Chester presented an update on the playground equipment. There are plans in the works to build a fence around the playground equipment at some point in 2023,

There was a continued discussion about the cemetery work that needs to be done. Paul provided a written update that Pastor Lee read detailing the work that needs to be done. After some discussion, Connie Hanke moved and Robin Chester seconded a motion giving Paul Merklein the authority to seek bids, and then write a grant for funding to complete the necessary improvements and repairs to the cemetery. Motion carried.

There was a discussion about the shortage of Worship Servers and Altar Care members. There will be sign up sheets available for anyone who would like to volunteer to help.

New Business:

The first item for new business was the approval of Resolution One: Vote to Call a Minister of Word and Sacrament. The Resolution reads: "Shall Kathryn Anne Whitney be called to serve as minister of Word and Sacrament of Disciples of the Plains Parish?" Robin Chester moved, Sandi Preuss seconded to approve Resolution One, After a short discussion, paper ballots were handed out, and after a brief period of time the results were announced: Yes: 26, No: 0, Abstain: 1. Motion carried.

The second item for new business was the approval of Resolution Two: Compensation Package. The Resolution reads: "Shall the Disciples of the Plains council be authorized to negotiate the compensation package with Rev. Kathryn Anne Whitney?" Sue Jackson moved and Dwight Ehm seconded to approve Resolution Two. Motion carried.

The next item for new business was the approval of Resolution Three: 2023 Emmanuel Support for Missions. The Resolution reads: WHEREAS moneys for the work on the church beyond the local congregation are channeled to the Central States Synod office and through them to the national office of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Central States synod Benevolence be 8% of actual Sunday giving.

AND BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the following monies are remitted at least quarterly to assist the various service agencies as detailed below. All percentages will be based on actual Sunday giving: The Oaks Indian Center, Oaks, Oklahoma - 1%; The Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission, Rock Point, Arizona - 1%; The Mosaic, Axtell, Nebraska - 1%; Phillips County Ministerial Alliance, Phillipsburg, Kansas - 1%; The Lutheran World Relief Gifts Program, Baltimore, Maryland - 1%; Camp Tomah Shinga, Junction City, Kansas - 0.5%. Actual Sunday giving shall be all giving that is non-designated giving.

AND BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the special offerings for special needs may be received at the discretion of the Church Council - said offerings not to be included in the above percentages.

Pastor Lee moved, and Paula Weinman seconded to approve Resolution Three. Motion carried,

The next new business item on the agenda was the approval of the 2023 Proposed Emmanuel Budget. Anthony Kirchhoff was available to comment on the budget and answer any questions. Any changes were discussed and all questions were answered. Robin Chester moved to approve the 2023 Proposed Budget. Sue Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried

Pastor Lee moved, and Bob Jackson seconded a motion to approve the purchase of technology equipment to aid in Sunday Worship services and Sunday School classes to include, but not be limited to: smart TVs, a smart board, and upgraded wireless internet. The total amount to be approved is \$7000. After some discussion it was voted on. The motion carried,

Church Council elections were held next. There was one nomination for Deacon as set by the nominating committee — Lindsay Gannon. There was one nomination for Trustee as set by the nominating committee — David Heersink. There was one nomination for Financial Secretary as set by the nominating committee — Alyssa Stites. There were no nominations for Synod Assembly Delegates. Alan Hanke volunteered to be on the nominating committee. Dwight Ehm volunteered to be on the Auditing committee. Robin Chester moved and Paula Weinman seconded that nominations cease and to cast a unanimous ballot for these positions. Motion carried.

The outgoing Council members were thanked for their service on the Emmanuel Church Council. Becky Whitney was also recognized for her years of service as the custodian.

Pastor Lee moved, and Amy Stephen seconded to give Emmanuel's Council the ability to negotiate the compensation for a new custodian whenever one is found. Motion carried.

Robin Chester moved and Alan Hanke seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Eric Krafft
Secretary

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

2023 Annual Pastor's Report

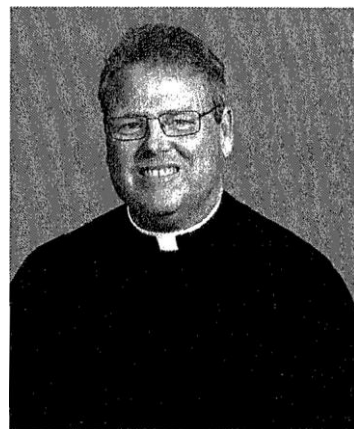
January 28, 2024

Dear Emmanuel Friends, Members, and Ministry Partners:

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

WE ARE CHURCH.

As we reflect on 2023 and plan for 2024, we must remember that we ARE the church. During our Zoom Bible studies this year and the continuing studies by the councils from all four parish congregations, we have been using Rev. Kelly A. Fryer's book, Reclaiming the "C" Word



— Daring to be Church Again. One point that Rev. Fryer makes very clear is that we do not "go to church," because going implies that we can also choose not to go. It makes being part of the church a decision like whether to put on our socks. Rev. Fryer reminds us that in our baptism, we do not "go" to church, we are the church in all the wide variety of ways that entails. The question then for us as individuals and as the people of Emmanuel becomes: How are we doing at being the church?

With the realities in which Emmanuel must live giving shrinking membership in the congregation, shrinking population in the community, and shrinking resources (realities that most churches in rural and inner-cities areas also face), I would like this report to focus on who we are as Christ's church. For every one of you have been called in your baptism to be the church in the world. Your life, your vocations, your mission fields are those you touch every day. And as a congregation, our mission is not simply measured by numbers in worship but by how we have responded to the call to be the church in our community for the sake of the world.

ROSTERED MINISTRY DUTIES AS THE CHURCH

First, however, I need to provide you with some statistics for the Word & sacrament ministry to which you have called me. In 2023, I made 462 pastoral contacts. A pastoral contact can be a phone call to check up on someone or a trip to an out-of-town hospital to visit a sick parishioner. I have led 47 classes of Bible study or confirmation. I have led or participated in 139 worship services. I have attended 67 congregational or parish meetings. And I have attended I I synod meetings or events.

Almost all my continuing education for 2023 was done on Zoom, which helped to keep costs and travel time down. I attended the Festival of Homiletics via Zoom, which is a fancy phrase for "festival of preaching," from May 15th through May 18th. The Festival of Homiletics brings pastors from across globe and many different seminaries together for lectures, workshops, and worship. It is an in-person event with thousands attending each year. But ever since COVID, they have included on-line options. I also attended various synod gatherings, the Central States Synod Fall Theological Conference that focused on dialogue between Pentecostal and Lutheran Christians and attended two more Zoom classes regarding the year of Mark's gospel.

Even given this busy schedule, there were periods of time that I was unavailable due to illnesses and hospitalizations. Thank you for your support during these times, especially when both Pastor Kathy and I were ill at the same time. We both are doing very well right now. We anticipate and pray for a healthier 2024.

Pastor Kathy was officially called as a Word and sacrament minister of this parish on January 29, 2023. Pastor Kathy and I have worked towards having a consistent and more frequent sharing of pulpits, which I feel is working. We have also done collaborative projects together, such as the Longest Night Services this past Advent that were provided to help support those who struggle during the holiday season. We also gathered to participate in congregation vitality surveys conducted by the synod.

I continue to serve as co-dean of the Western Kansas Conference of the Central States Synod, along with Rev. Adam Wutka, who serves as pastor of St. Mark Lutheran Church in Great Bend and as a parttime synod staff relating to the Pastoral Ministry Associate program. The duties of a dean are to help communication with the bishop regarding issues in the Western Kansas Conference, to provide synod representation when distance or other logistics prevent a synod representative from responding to a situation quickly, to help support other pastors in the conference, and to be an advisor to the bishop's office when needed. The Western Kansas Conference roughly begins just west of Salina to the Colorado border.

I was also appointed this year to be on the task force regarding the election of a new bishop for the Central States Synod. (I do not think we have an official name, yet). Bishop Susan Candea has announced that she will not be seeking a second term as bishop. Her current term ends in August 2025. Assistant to the Bishop Dave Whetter is also retiring. To provide some guidance and cultivate interest from qualified candidates both within and beyond the synod, the task force is beginning to meet now to discuss what type of pastoral and leadership skills are needed from the next bishop. One good part of being on this task force is that I cannot be nominated for bishop. Andrea Keese from Zion is also on this task force. Please contact either one of us with thoughts or questions you have regarding the search for the next bishop.

I also continue to serve as a member of the Phillips County Ministerial Alliance. Through the PCMA, I take turns monitoring our aid phone called "The Care Phone." I regularly lead

worship at Phillips County Retirement Center. This year, I did the research and helped the PCMA obtain the proper insurance needed for its operations, including the Food Pantry and commodities program.

MEMBERS OF ENWANUEL LUTHERAN ARE THE CHURCH

Turning now to more of how Emmanuel is the church in our community, I offer these highlights from our ministry this year.

The Stuttgart Memorial Community Park that was dedicated on Easter now has a fence around the street sides to enhance safety. There are more benches and tables. This park is very much used by those in Stuttgart and by some that I recognize from being from Prairie View and the surrounding areas. I also think once and a while it attracts weary travelers who wander in from the highway as a nice stop to have lunch and let the kids stretch. Many thanks to Robin Chester and all those who made this project a success.

Paul Merklein approached the Emmanuel Council and past annual congregational meetings concerning the deterioration of the cemetery headstones. He subsequently led a project to erect a cemetery marker for some of the baby graves that are unrecognizable now, and to repair what baby headstones could be fixed. He also obtained a grant to restore and secure some headstones throughout the cemetery that were loose and dangerous, especially to small children. Many thanks to Paul for leading this effort.

Dedicated volunteers from both Emmanuel and Zion resumed hosting Vacation Bible School this year from May 22nd through May 24th. I apologize for not having exact numbers, but there were at least forty children in attendance, and the goal is to host another VBS this summer. I know I will forget to mention some, but many thanks to Alissa Krafft, Tina Terry, and Alyssa Stites for your leadership.

Two confirmations students from Emmanuel, Jhett Johnson and Blayne Johnson, attended confirmation camp at Tomah Shinga in Junction City, KS, from June 18 through 23, 2023. One confirmation student from Zion, Drayden Simpson, also attended. In 2023, Jhett Johnson affirmed his baptism in Christ. In 2024, we should also have one student affirming their baptism in Christ, Blayne Johnson. We currently have ten students in confirmation from both Zion and Emmanuel. I anticipate having eight students in Fall 2024. The students are extremely dedicated to attending classes. I thank them and their parents and guardians for this.

Sunday School and the 2023 Christmas Program continues to be led and tended by Tina Terry, Alyssa Stites, and many volunteers. I thank them for their continued efforts and support for Christian education in our congregation and parish. I thank all the children and young adults who actively support these programs.

Emmanuel has been generous in its financial support to the ministries of the ELCA though support of the Central States Synod, Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, Oaks

Indian Mission, Camp Tomah Shinga, the Phillips County Ministerial Alliance and Food Pantry, and individuals in our community who experienced personal crises. Thank you to all of you for making this possible.

I am personally grateful for our council leadership and those who serve on other boards and committees of Emmanuel. Thank you to Sue Jackson for serving as council president, Sean Cravens as vice president, Eric Krafft as congregation secretary, Alyssa Stites as financial secretary, and Anthony Kirchhoff as treasurer. Thank you to continuing council members Lindsay Gannon and David Heersink. Thank you to Eric Krafft and Paula Weinman for completing their first terms on council. Thank you to Paul Merklein for completing multiple years as Parish Council President and parish council representative at large from Emmanuel.

Thank you to Janet Conn for being our office administrator, who has taken on some more responsibilities now that Zion has no office administrator and is paying Emmanuel to print worship bulletins.

Thank you to Beverly Miller for coordinating funeral meals. Thank you to all musicians for your dedication in providing music and worship leadership. Thank you to all those who serve on altar guild, as ushers, as lectors, and as acolytes. Thank you to Eric Krafft, Anthony Kirchhoff, and all those who help them with property maintenance. Thank you to Louis Beyerlein and those who helped him keep our cemetery maintained. Thank you to Alissa Krafft for her janitorial duties. And thank you to all those on committees or who served in ways that I have neglected to mention.

And then there is you! When you leave worship on Sunday, never forget that you are part of the vital work of Christ. I know the temptation is to try and diminish your importance in your vocation, your family, and in all the ways you become Christ for others. I know it is tempting to say I am too old, too young, too sick. No matter who, how, or where you are, you ARE the church and the presence of Christ for others. Never forget that.

GOALS AND CHALLENGES IN BEING THE CHURCH

As a congregation, we also need to reflect on goals completed and those that still need to be addressed.

We have successfully updated our constitution and will be voting on changes during this 2024 Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024. This was not an easy task because it had been so long since the last update was done. Updated constitutions were emailed to all members for whom I have addresses, and as was a summary of the changes. Hard copies were provided to those who requested them and can still be. There will be a few printed constitutions at the annual meeting.

We have implemented new church membership software called "Breeze." Breeze is a cloud-based program, so it can be accessed from any computer. Access is also customized so that volunteers can only access those parts for which they are responsible. There is also the possibility of giving every member a log-in credential so that he or she can update their own personal and family information when needed. Breeze also prints custom reports, allows instant printing of picture directories, makes it easier to take attendance, and has donation tracking that can be imported directly into QuickBooks if we wish. So, as we continue to update and gather information, please be patient with us. Also, thank you to our membership task force consisting of Candy Krafft, Phyllis Merklein, and Janice Geidd for compiling information. Thank you again to Candy Krafft for entering much of the information to which I was not aware or had access.

And to digress just a bit, I feel I need to address why we are investing time and energy in this membership project. The mission of the church and the individual Christian continues whether a person is a "member" of a congregation or not. All are welcome at God's table no matter if a name is contained on a membership roll. But to work and minister legally in the secular world, certain legal procedures must be followed according to our constitution. Our constitution has read for many years that confirmed members who have not received Holy Communion during this year and the year prior AND do not have a contribution of record, either monetarily with as little as once cent or in donation of a minimal amount of time and talent, are no longer voting members until they take actions to be active again. To legally comply with our constitution and to make our meetings legal, we MUST keep records of who receives Holy Communion and some way to establish minimal contributions. For some reason, Emmanuel stopped recording this information long before I came, and our annual meeting voting rosters have been best guesses during this time. But as we move forward, not to monitor how people fulfill their Christian calling, but to keep us legal for the State of Kansas and the ELCA, we have to begin tracking again. And we will talk about ways we will do this going forward at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

Praying for others in our community and in the wider church throughout the world is always an area for growth, but I think we are indeed growing in this area.

Our Lutheran heritage always calls us by the power of the Holy Spirit to rely on God's grace as revealed to us in our savior Jesus Christ. But to do this, we need to be more intentional in both individual and community Bible study. This was a goal from last year and we have fallen short. Bible studies are still sparsely attended, and I have not received much help or suggestions for new times, places, or areas of study. So, I remind us that our Zoom Bible Study has returned at 4:00 pm on Sundays. This study is currently focused on the book of Acts. On the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, we have a Bible study at Zion at 7 pm. The focus of this study is currently on Mark. We also have the Daily Lectio Facebook page, which I apologize for not

keeping current. My goal is to revitalize this page and encourage more people to participate. I am also open to suggestions as to how we can be more faithful stewards of scripture.

We will continue to encourage confirmation students to attend camp at Tomah Shinga. So far, we have been able to pay for every student who has gone to camp. This year's confirmation camp is June 2nd through June 7th, 2024.

There are currently five youths and four adults registered to attend the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, from July 16th through July 20th, 2024. Thank you to all who have supported our efforts and continue to pray and support us as we prepare for this event.


We need to evaluate ways that we can help the parish across congregational lines. For instance, Emmanuel's collaboration with Zion to bring back vacation bible school was a huge step forward. Our continued shared ministry with confirmation is another. We need to expand this cooperation into our adult ministries, too. Emmanuel has no active WELCA group. Zion does but they only have a few dedicated volunteers. It only makes sense that the two congregations work together in this ministry, and in other ministries such as funeral committees. The best way to secure the future of both congregations is to help with what each other is already doing.

I would like Zion, Emmanuel, the Ministerial Alliance, along with county and local officials to discuss ways to minister to the unemployed and working poor in our community. Access to showers, laundry, and heat when it becomes bitterly cold are real issues our neighbors face. During this recent fridged weather, I know the heat sources of many could not keep up. I would like to brainstorm ways that we could open heating shelters, possibly at Zion, during these weather conditions, as well as addressing personal hygiene and laundry needs in a similar way that we address food needs through the Phillips County Food Pantry.

THANKS BE TO GOD THAT WE ARE THE CHURCH

I want to thank Emmanuel and all its members and friends for the privilege of continuing as your pastor. 2023 was my twentieth year of ordained ministry, almost nine of which have been with Disciples of the Plains Lutheran Ministry. I feel we still have a great deal of ministry to do together. May we always point to Christ as the Holy Spirit sends us to serve for the sake of our communities and world.

Your Friend in Christ,



Rev. Robert Lee Bennight

(Pastor Lee)

EMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stuttgart, KS

Parochial Report 2023

(updated 01/16/2024)

	<u>BAPTIZED</u>	<u>CONFIRMED</u>
Membership as of 01/01/2023	237	176
Accessions:		
<i>Baptisms:</i>	2	
• 03/26/2023 – Tate David Schumaker		
• 08/27/2023 – Emile Jo Gaede		
<i>By Affirmation of Baptism / Confirmation:</i>	-	1
• 04/23/2023 – Jhett Brock Johnson		
Discharges:		
<i>By Death:</i>	<3>	<3>
• 04/10/2023 – William Shick		
• 06/22/2023 – Alan Whitney		
• 08/07/2023 – Verna Huiting		
• Other deaths not on current roster:		
○ 02/19/2023 – Wyann Kaiser		
○ 04/29/2023 – Dennis Ehm		
Statistical Adjustment:	<15>	<13>
Membership as of 12/31/2023	221	161
Inactive Confirmed Members:		<57>
TOTAL ELIGIBLE VOTING MEMBERS:		104
Constitution Defined Quorum is 10% of voting members:		11

WEDDINGS: 07/15/2023 – Austin Littlefield & Mattison Dusin

FIRST COMMUNION: None

MEMBERSHIP TREND

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Baptized	239	236	234	234	237	237	239	239	236	237	221
Confirmed	195	189	187	183	184	185	182	180	177	176	161

SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE TREND

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020*</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Total Sunday Attendance	ND	3538	ND	ND	ND	3018	1674	2435	2479	2389
Average per Sunday	68	70	68	65	62	60	49	50	51	47
% of Baptized Worshiping	29%	30%	29%	27%	26%	25%	21%	21%	22%	21%

*Due to Covid-19, Emmanuel only worshiped in-person for 35 weeks in 2020. These numbers do not include the number of people who participated via streaming.

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

Over the past year we have continued to experience changes in the world around us. Even as our church finds ways to adapt to this changing world, we find hope in the unchanging and always present promise of God's love through Jesus Christ. We change and adapt not to conform to the world but because we believe that the gift of God's Son is for the world, and that our congregations and worshiping communities are places to gather and be sent into the world, where we will tell the story of God's love in word and deed.

The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the churchwide organization provide ways for the church to move beyond the boundaries of structures and geography and to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, our cities, our country and beyond. We engage in this ministry knowing that our church walks by faith, trusting in God's promise in the gospel, and that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word. In John 15:5, Jesus reminds us, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." We are connected by the promise that we do all through Christ and can do nothing apart from him.

God gives the Holy Spirit, who uses gospel proclamation — in preaching and sacraments, in forgiveness and in healing conversations — to create and sustain this faith. Just as we rely on God to sustain our faith, we rely on each other to sustain the ministries that offer God's love to the world. Through your generosity to each expression of this church — your congregation, your synod and your

churchwide organization — you add to our collective voice proclaiming God's love for all.

I am grateful for your generosity over this last year. My gratitude spreads far beyond your generous financial gifts. You've shared your gifts of time through countless hours of volunteering, serving and accompanying. You've shared the gifts of your voices as we've tried to discover and learn how God is calling us to be the church now and into the future. And, finally, dear church, you have shared the gift of the realness of God's love with the world around you. Be well, dear church, and stand steadfast in the promise of God's love and grace as you take that promise with you into the world.

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

“ I am the vine; you are the
branches. Those who abide in me
and I in them bear much
fruit, because apart from me you
can do nothing. ”
—John 15:5

Emmanuel Lutheran Council Report for 2023

In the Bible study that Pastors Lee and Kathy are guiding, they used the book Reclaiming the C Word: Daring to be Church Again by Kelly Fryer. We have recently been using chapters from that book for our devotions at our monthly council meetings. In chapter 2, the author attempted to define the church. She ended with this definition: "The church is the people of God, who are being transformed by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed." Are we living up to this definition? How have we proclaimed the gospel in word and deed?

Many of the duties of the council involve the physical necessities of keeping the building and parsonage in working order, serving in worship services, and conducting the "business" side of the church. Examples of these duties include

- Repairing, maintaining, and making improvements at cemetery

 - (Wrote and received grant)

- Updating church roll (Breeze software) and records

- Organizing, distributing, and analyzing a congregational vitality survey

- Completing the fence around the playground

- Being a vital part of the Disciples of the Plains Parish

- Completing additions and corrections to our constitution

- Planning and participating in weekly worship services

- Making necessary repairs of parsonage and church buildings

- Paying personnel and bills and maintaining financial records

To all of the council members and committee members and congregation members who serve the church in any way doing these and many other duties, we thank you.

A quote from chapter 3 in the "Reclaiming the C Word" book is this: "Every single thing that we do as church "in here" should be for the sake of equipping and setting people free to be church "out there." What does that look like to us? Examples might include

- Helping families in need with financial support

- Providing meals for families mourning the loss of a loved one

- Corresponding with or visiting families in need of consolation

- Recording Advent Seasonings

- Performing a wonderful children's play on Christmas Eve

- Donating to missions with extra assistance to Phillips County Food Pantry

- Conducting worship in the Park with the Methodist congregation

- Teaching Sunday school

- Saying yes when asked to serve

Inviting others to worship with us
Living a life that reflects the love of Jesus

Are we perfect? No, of course not. Can we strive to do better? Yes, we can.
Thank you to all of you who strive to "be the church" wherever you are.

Special thanks go to the following people for extra efforts:

The cemetery committee (Paul Merklein and Candy Krafft) for the records, the improvements, and to Paul and Pastor Lee for writing and submitting the grant to cover the repair costs.

Paul Merklein - for serving on the Parish Council for six years.

Altar Care teams — for all you do to serve in worship every week

Trustees - Eric, Anthony, Dave, and Sean - for the regular maintenance and repairs you do whenever needed

Council members Eric, Anthony, and Alyssa, for the record keeping and financial duties you perform

Alissa Krafft - for doing the janitorial services for us and keeping the church clean and looking beautiful

Janet Conn - for your weekly secretarial duties

Pastor Lee and Pastor Kathy — for all you do —leading meaningful worship, organization, record-keeping, teaching confirmation classes, making the constitution updates, visiting the shut-ins, elderly, and ill, continually preaching the Word and shepherding all of us, and for your positive presence in our lives and our community.

Proclaiming the gospel in word and deed is the essence of our calling to "be the church." May we continue to strive to do so.

In humble appreciation,
Sue Jackson, Council President 2023

8:30 PM
01/02/20
Cash Basis

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
January through December 2019

	ACTUAL Jan-Dec 23	2023 Budget
Expense		
Building & Grounds		
Church Improvements	2,289.60	767.00
Grounds Upkeep	2,954.00	3,700.00
Plumbing work	0	
Miscellaneous Building & Ground - Other	4127.62	1,000.00
Cemetary	2,034.00	
Total Building & Grounds	<u>11,405.22</u>	<u>5,467.00</u>
Insurance		
Property	16,176.50	15,500.00
Worker's Comp.	239.50	240.00
Total Insurance	<u>16,416.00</u>	<u>15,740.00</u>
Utilities		
Electricity Church	1,703.29	1,700.00
Internet	918.12	1,000.00
Phone Church	724.44	800.00
Propane Church	4,999.84	4,000.00
Rural Water	273.96	275.00
Solid Waste	273.00	275.00
Street Lights	162.50	150.00
Total Utilities	<u>9,055.15</u>	<u>8,200.00</u>
Janitorial & Kitchen		
Janitorial Supplies	519.55	400.00
Kitchen Supplies	342.90	200.00
Church Clean-up	0.00	0.00
Misc. Meal - Other	216.20	200.00
Total Janitorial & Kitchen	<u>1,078.65</u>	<u>800.00</u>
Education		
Adult Education	89.92	125.00
Sunday School	97.00	100.00
Youth	1,901.63	4,000.00
Scholarships	0.00	0.00
Total Education	<u>2,088.55</u>	<u>4,225.00</u>

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

January through December 2019

	ACTUAL Jan-Dec 23	2023 Budget
Non-Budgeted		
Cemetery Sign	0.00	
Community Building Water	-326.04	270.00
Donation	3,440.00	
Funeral bulletin	375.00	
Funeral meal	505.98	400.00
Mission Festival	0.00	
Parsonage Utilities		
Electric	3.76	
Propane	-198.29	
Water	-110.29	
Total Parsonage Utilities	-304.82	0.00
Total Non-Budgeted	3,690.12	670.00
Office Expenses		
Computer		
Software	1,324.91	1,200.00
Website	241.70	300.00
Total Computer	1,566.61	1,500.00
Copier Maintenance	1,543.74	1,500.00
Checks	49.15	
Paper	790.58	750.00
Postage	504.00	500.00
Safe Deposit Box	8.00	10.00
Office Expenses - Other	49.17	50.00
Total Office Expenses	4,511.25	4,310.00
Other Giving		
Camp Tomah Shinga	487.72	500.00
Central States Synod Monthly	7,799.21	5,500.00
Food Bank	990.00	1,000.00
Lutheran World Relief Gifts	975.44	1,000.00
Navajo Evangelical	975.44	1,000.00
Oaks Indian Center	975.44	1,000.00
Phillips Co Ministeral Alliance	975.44	500.00
The Mosaic Foundation	975.44	1,000.00
Total Other Giving	14,154.13	11,500.00

8:30 PM
01/02/20
Cash Basis

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
January through December 2019

	ACTUAL Jan-Dec 23	2023 Budget
Salaries & Compensation		
Secretary/Admin Assist Salary	4,900.00	4,000.00
Janitor Salary	2,565.00	2,000.00
FICA/Medicare to IRS Total	1,135.81	500.00
Social Security Withholding - Employee	-462.83	
Medicare Witholding - Employee	-108.27	
Organist mileage	527.36	500.00
Organist digital	1,046.25	900.00
Organist	1,680.00	2,000.00
Total Salaries & Compensation	<u>11,283.32</u>	<u>9,900.00</u>
Synod & Denomination		
Area 2 Ministries Dues	0.00	0.00
Assembly & Conference	20.00	750.00
Bishop Convention		
Parish	49,224.64	46,348.44
Secretary of State Annual Fee	40.00	40.00
Total Synod & Denomination	<u>49,284.64</u>	<u>47,138.44</u>
Worship		
1st Communion	55.00	100.00
Advent		225.00
Lent	59.29	100.00
Altar Care		
Banners	0.00	
Baptism Supplies	100.72	100.00
Bibles & Confirmation Materials	236.90	350.00
Candles	214.00	75.00
Chimes & Choir	0.00	0.00
Communion Wafers/Cups	269.88	300.00
Communion Wine	126.70	100.00
Flowers	70.00	100.00
Christ in Our Home Devotionals	249.00	250.00
Living Lutheran	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Worship		
Christmas Candy	1,165.50	1,000.00
Worship Resources	94.50	200.00
Miscellaneous Worship - Other	95.04	0.00
Total Worship	<u>2,736.53</u>	<u>2,900.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>125,703.56</u>	<u>110,850.44</u>

7:49 PM
01/10/24
Cash Basis

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2023

	Dec 31, 23
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Cemetery Fund Savings 51-497-6	16,308.83
General Checking 8800-0	13,647.79
General Fund Savings 51-515-2	117,092.37
Good Samaritan Fund 008-8176	-728.89
Memorial Fund Savings 51-532-8	90,087.59
Organ Fund Savings 51-537-2	15,486.64
Total Checking/Savings	251,894.33
Other Current Assets	
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS	
7036 - Mission Investment CD	12,504.83
7054 - Cemetery Fund CD	17,747.04
7182-General Fund CD	12,773.94
7277-General Fund CD	3,089.31
7645 - Cemetery Fund CD	12,500.00
993703 - Gen. Cert. of Deposit	5,000.00
Total CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS	63,615.12
Total Other Current Assets	63,615.12
Total Current Assets	315,509.45
TOTAL ASSETS	315,509.45
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	158,942.17
Retained Earnings	160,945.88
Net Income	-4,378.60
Total Equity	315,509.45
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	315,509.45

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
Custom Summary Report
 January through December 2023

	Jan - Dec 23
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
General Fund Offering	
Sundays	
Easter Sunday	1,439.00
Sunday Plates	92,224.33
Total Sundays	93,663.33
Total General Fund Offering	93,663.33
Non-Budgeted Income	
Cemetery Lots	225.00
Cemetery upkeep	500.00
Christmas Day offering	287.00
Christmas Eve offering	550.00
Grants	
Merklein Foundation	15,379.48
Total Grants	15,379.48
Interest	
Interest For CD 7036 Mission In	111.79
Interest for CD 7054	354.94
Interest For CD 7182	126.13
Interest For CD 7277	36.76
Interest for CD 7645	150.82
Interest for CD 993703	100.00
Interest for Cemetary Savings	22.80
Interest for General Savings	186.29
Interest for Memorial Savings	130.28
Interest for Organ Fund	23.20
Total Interest	1,243.01
Lent Offering	600.00
Memorial	8,801.00
Mission Festival	525.00
Thanksgiving Eve Offering	190.00
Total Non-Budgeted Income	28,300.49
Total Income	121,963.82
Gross Profit	121,963.82
Expense	
Building & Grounds	
Janitorial Supplies	519.55
Kitchen Supplies	
Misc. Meal	
Hanging of the Greens	88.70
Misc. Meal - Other	127.50
Total Misc. Meal	216.20
Kitchen Supplies - Other	342.90
Total Kitchen Supplies	559.10
Miscellaneous Building & Ground	
Church Improvements	2,289.60
Grounds Upkeep	2,954.00
Heating & Air Cond.	498.10

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
Custom Summary Report
 January through December 2023

	Jan - Dec 23
Parsonage	2,129.57
Miscellaneous Building & Ground - Other	1,499.95
Total Miscellaneous Building & Ground	9,371.22
Utilities	
Electricity Church	1,703.29
Internet	918.12
Phone Church	724.44
Propane Church	4,999.84
Rural Water	273.96
Solid Waste	273.00
Street Lights	162.50
Total Utilities	9,055.15
Total Building & Grounds	19,505.02
Education	
Youth	1,901.63
Total Education	1,901.63
Insure	
Property	16,176.50
Worker's Comp.	239.50
Total Insure	16,416.00
Non-Budgeted	
Cemetery	2,034.00
Community Building Water	-326.04
Donation	3,440.00
Funeral meal	505.98
Lenten Giving	800.00
Mission Festival	525.00
Parsonage Utilities	
Electric	3.76
Propane	-198.29
Water	-110.29
Total Parsonage Utilities	-304.82
Scholarships	0.00
Sunday School	97.00
Thanksgiving Eve	190.00
Total Non-Budgeted	6,961.12
Office Expenses	
Computer	
Software	1,324.91
Total Computer	1,324.91
Copier	1,543.74
Equipment	44.99
Misc Office Consumables	
Checks	49.15
Misc Office Consumables - Other	4.18
Total Misc Office Consumables	53.33
Paper	790.58
Postage	504.00
Safety Deposit Box	8.00
Website fees	241.70
Total Office Expenses	4,511.25

7:55 PM
01/10/24
Cash Basis

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
Custom Summary Report
January through December 2023

	Jan - Dec 23
Organist replacement digital	1,046.25
Other Giving	
Camp Tomah Shinga	487.72
Central States Synod Monthly Gift	7,799.21
Lutheran World Relief Gifts	45.00
Mosaic in Axtel	975.44
Navajo Evangelical	975.44
Oaks Indian Center	975.44
Phillips Co Ministeral Alliance	975.44
	13,209.13
Total Other Giving	13,209.13
Purchase for American	0.00
Purchase for Disciples of the P	0.00
Purchase for St. John	0.00
Purchase for Zion	0.00
Salaries & Comp.	
Continuing ed.	113.86
FICA	1,135.81
Janitor Salary	2,565.00
Medicare withholding	-108.27
Organist Salary	
Organist Substitutue	
Organist milege	527.36
	527.36
Total Organist Substitutue	527.36
Organist Salary - Other	1,680.00
	2,207.36
Total Organist Salary	2,207.36
Secertary/Admin. Assist. Salary	4,900.00
Social Security withholding	-462.83
	10,350.93
Total Salaries & Comp.	10,350.93
Synod & Denomination	
Assembly & Conference	0.00
Parish	49,224.64
	49,224.64
Secretary of State Annual Fee	40.00
Synod & Denomination - Other	20.00
	49,284.64
Total Synod & Denomination	49,284.64
Worship	
1st Communion	55.00
Adult Bible Study	89.92
Baptism Supplies	100.72
Bibles & Confirmation Materials	236.90
Bulletins	
Funeral	375.00
	375.00
Total Bulletins	375.00
Candles	214.00
Christ In Home	249.00
Communion	
Communion Wafers/Cups	269.88
Communion Wine	126.70
	396.58
Total Communion	396.58
Flowers	70.00
Lent	59.29

7:55 PM
01/10/24
Cash Basis

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
Custom Summary Report
January through December 2023

	<u>Jan - Dec 23</u>
Miscellaneous Worship	
Christmas Candy	1,165.50
Worship Resources	94.50
Miscellaneous Worship - Other	50.04
Total Miscellaneous Worship	<u>1,310.04</u>
Total Worship	<u>3,156.45</u>
Total Expense	<u>126,342.42</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-4,378.60</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-4,378.60</u></u>

8:14 PM
01/10/24
Accrual Basis

**Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
General Fund Savings
As of December 31, 2023**

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Split	Amount	Balance
General Fund Savings 51-515-2							132,306.08
Deposit	03/14/202		Account Transfer	Deposit	General Check...	-4,000.00	128,306.08
Check	05/31/202		General Checking		-SPLIT-	-3,000.00	125,306.08
Deposit	06/30/202		Farmers State Bank	Deposit	Interest for Ge...	96.24	125,402.32
Check	07/21/202	p	Account Transfer		General Check...	-4,000.00	121,402.32
Deposit	09/01/202		Account Transfer	Deposit	General Check...	-3,000.00	118,402.32
Check	09/22/202		Account Transfer		Good Samarita...	-1,000.00	117,402.32
Check	09/22/202		Farmers State Bank	2 \$200 gift car...	Donation	-400.00	117,002.32
Deposit	12/31/202		Farmers State Bank	Deposit	Interest for Ge...	90.05	117,092.37
Total General Fund Savings 51-515-2						<u>-15,213.71</u>	<u>117,092.37</u>
TOTAL						<u>-15,213.71</u>	<u>117,092.37</u>

8:16 PM
01/10/24
Accrual Basis

**Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
Cemetery Fund Savings
As of December 31, 2023**

Type	Date	Name	Memo	Split	Amount	Balance	
Cemetery Fund Savings 51-497-6						12,505.27	
Check	02/28/2023	Memorial Savings tr...	memorials ...	Memorial Fund...	2,550.00	15,055.27	
Deposit	03/15/2023	Farmers State Bank	Deposit	Interest for CD ...	24.79	15,080.06	
Deposit	04/17/2023	William Schick	purchased ...	Cemetery Lots	75.00	15,155.06	
Deposit	06/07/2023	Sandi Preuss	4 plots	Cemetery Lots	100.00	15,255.06	
Deposit	06/20/2023	Rick Kellerman	Deposit	Cemetery upke...	500.00	15,755.06	
Deposit	06/29/2023	Farmers State Bank	Deposit	Interest for CD ...	176.98	15,932.04	
Deposit	06/30/2023	Farmers State Bank	Deposit	Interest for Ce...	10.66	15,942.70	
Deposit	07/17/2023	Glenn & Paula Wein...	Deposit	Cemetery Lots	50.00	15,992.70	
Deposit	09/15/2023	Farmers State Bank	Deposit	Interest for CD ...	126.03	16,118.73	
Deposit	12/29/2023	Farmers State Bank	Deposit	Interest for CD ...	177.96	16,296.69	
Deposit	12/31/2023	Farmers State Bank	Deposit	Interest for Ce...	12.14	16,308.83	
Total Cemetery Fund Savings 51-497-6						<u>3,803.56</u>	<u>16,308.83</u>
TOTAL						<u>3,803.56</u>	<u>16,308.83</u>

8:17 PM

01/10/24

Accrual Basis

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church Memorial Fund Savings

Type	Date	Name	Memo	Split	Amount	Balance
Memorial Fund Savings 51-532-8						83,921.31
Check	01/12/2023	Farmers State Bank	candles	General Check...	-215.00	83,706.31
Check	02/28/2023	Memorial Savings tr...	memorials ...	Cemetery Fun...	-2,550.00	81,156.31
Deposit	04/24/2023	William Schick Mem...	Deposit	Memorial	5,161.00	86,317.31
Deposit	05/08/2023	William Schick Mem...	Deposit	Memorial	25.00	86,342.31
Deposit	05/15/2023	William Schick Mem...	Deposit	Memorial	30.00	86,372.31
Deposit	05/30/2023	William Schick Mem...	Deposit	Memorial	40.00	86,412.31
Deposit	05/31/2023	William Schick Mem...	Deposit	Memorial	2,000.00	88,412.31
Deposit	06/07/2023	William Schick Mem...	Deposit	Memorial	50.00	88,462.31
Deposit	06/30/2023	Farmers State Bank	Deposit	Interest for Me...	62.70	88,525.01
Deposit	09/19/2023	Verna Huiting Mem...	Deposit	Memorial	1,495.00	90,020.01
Deposit	12/31/2023	Farmers State Bank	Deposit	Interest for Me...	67.58	90,087.59
Total Memorial Fund Savings 51-532-8					6,166.28	90,087.59
TOTAL					6,166.28	90,087.59

8:18 PM

01/10/24

Accrual Basis

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church Organ Fund Savings As of December 31, 2023

Type	Date	Name	Memo	Split	Amount	Balance
Organ Fund Savings 51-537-2						15,463.44
Deposit	06/30/2023	Farmers State Bank	Deposit	Interest for Org...	11.50	15,474.94
Deposit	12/31/2023	Farmers State Bank	Deposit	Interest for Org...	11.70	15,486.64
Total Organ Fund Savings 51-537-2					23.20	15,486.64
TOTAL					23.20	15,486.64

8:12 PM

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
7054-Cemetery Fund CD
As of December 31, 2023

01/10/24

Accrual Basis

Type	Date	Name	Memo	Split	Amount	Balance
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS						
7054 - Cemetery Fund CD						17,747.04
Total 7054 - Cemetery Fund CD						17,747.04
Total CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS						17,747.04
TOTAL						17,747.04

8:19 PM

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
7182-General Fund CD
As of December 31, 2023

01/10/24

Accrual Basis

Type	Date	Name	Memo	Split	Amount	Balance
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS						
7182-General Fund CD						12,647.81
Deposit	06/15/2023	Farmers State Bank	Deposit	Interest For CD...	126.13	12,647.81
Total 7182-General Fund CD						12,773.94
Total CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS						12,773.94
TOTAL						12,773.94

1:00 PM

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
7645-Cemetery Fund CD
As of December 31, 2023

01/13/24

Accrual Basis

Type	Date	Name	Memo	Split	Amount	Balance
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS						
7645 - Cemetery Fund CD						12,500.00
Total 7645 - Cemetery Fund CD						12,500.00
Total CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS						12,500.00
TOTAL						12,500.00

8:44 PM
 01/10/24
 Accrual Basis

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
993703 Gen. Cert. of Deposit
 As of December 31, 2023

Type	Date	Name	Memo	Split	Amount	Balance
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS						
993703 - Gen. Cert. of Deposit						5,000.00
Total 993703 - Gen. Cert. of Deposit						5,000.00
Total CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS						5,000.00
TOTAL						5,000.00

8:11 PM
 01/10/24
 Accrual Basis

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
7036-Mission Investment CD
 As of December 31, 2023

Type	Date	Name	Memo	Split	Amount	Balance
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS						12,393.04
7036 - Mission Investment CD						12,393.04
Deposit	04/23/2023	Farmers State Bank	Deposit	Interest For CD 7...	55.62	12,448.66
Deposit	10/23/2023	Farmers State Bank	Deposit	Interest For CD 7...	56.17	12,504.83
Total 7036 - Mission Investment CD						111.79
Total CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS						111.79
TOTAL						111.79

12:53 PM
 01/13/24
 Accrual Basis

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
7277-General Fund CD
 As of December 31, 2023

Type	Date	Name	Memo	Split	Amount	Balance
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS						3,052.55
7277-General Fund CD						3,052.55
Deposit	06/24/2023	Farmers State Bank	Deposit	Interest For CD...	6.09	3,058.64
Deposit	12/24/2023	Farmers State Bank	Deposit	Interest For CD...	30.67	3,089.31
Total 7277-General Fund CD						36.76
Total CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS						36.76
TOTAL						36.76

Disciples of the Plains Parish Council

This time of year often brings an opportunity to not only look ahead at a new year but to also bring about reflections of this past year.

The parish council has regularly sent our minutes to every congregation after each meeting. We provide these minutes so that everyone has the opportunity to know what decisions the council has made. We continue to work on refining how our parish works and how to best provide for our congregations. That has always been our driving force.

I have had the privilege of serving as council president the past four years. During that time, we have faced many challenges and I truly believe that we are stronger and more capable of moving into the future because of them.

Disciples of the Plains Lutheran Ministry can be a strong and viable cooperation in ministry to our area and to each other as we go into 2024 and beyond. If we continue to trust God and work to do His will in our lives, this parish will thrive. I have seen many people who wish for that to happen. Please get involved and be a part of our future.

Best wishes for a wonderful new year in Christ!

Paul Merklein

Disciples of the Plains

Treasurer's Report

2023

Beginning Balance \$ 9,947.52

Income

American	\$ 46,224.64
Emmanuel	\$ 46,224.64
St. John	\$ 55,983.04
Zion	\$ 36,911.20
Other Income	\$ 3,100.00

Total **\$ 188,443.52**

Expenses

Pastor Lee Salary	\$ 43,140.24
Pastor Kathy Salary	\$ 37,454.40
FICA	\$ 8,550.96
Pension	\$ 15,793.44
Pretax Pension	\$ 5,339.28
Health Insurance	\$ 44,649.96
FSA (Flexible Spending Acct.)	\$ 6,099.84
Life Insurance	\$ 456.72
Other Medical (Vision)	\$ 198.72
Mileage	\$ 10,257.68
Phone	\$ 960.00
Insurance	\$ 1,657.00
Utilities	\$ 3,791.99
Continuing Ed	\$ 2,262.24
General Op.	\$ 3,425.03
Missions	\$ -
Synod Assembly	\$ 130.00
Bishop Convocation	\$ 835.80
Pulpit Supply	\$ 2,350.00
Youth Events	\$ 525.00

Total **\$ 187,878.30**

Ending Balance

\$ 10,512.74

Note: Other income of \$3,100 consists of a \$100 donation for the leftover meat from mission festival, and a \$3,000 contribution from Emmanuel Lutheran Church. This is from a grant Emmanuel received, and they chose to share a part of it with the parish. Thank you to the Emmanuel congregation for this donation!

Disciples of the Plains 2024 Proposed Budget

	Pastor Lee	Pastor Kathy	Total
Pastor Salary	\$ 50,054.00	\$ 45,416.00	\$ 95,470.00
FICA	\$ 4,581.06	\$ 4,199.11	\$ 8,780.17
Pension	\$ 8,523.12	\$ 7,740.00	\$ 16,263.12
Health	\$ 19,999.28	\$ 21,620.92	\$ 41,620.20
Continuing Ed	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 3,200.00
Phone	\$ 480.00	\$ 480.00	\$ 960.00
Utilities			\$ 4,800.00
Mileage			\$ 8,000.00
Synod Assembly			\$ 1,000.00
Bishop Convocation			\$ 1,000.00
Pulpit Supply			\$ 2,000.00
Insurance			\$ 1,800.00
Youth Events			\$ 400.00
Gen. Operations			\$ 3,000.00
Total			\$ 188,293.49
1/2 of total			\$ 94,146.75

	American	Emmanuel	St. John	Zion	Total
Avg. attendance	51	47	68	28	194
% of total attend.	26.29%	24.23%	35.05%	14.43%	

	American	Emmanuel	St. John	Zion
Monthly Pmt	\$ 4,023.99	\$ 3,862.37	\$ 4,711.26	\$ 3,093.51

To figure monthly payment: Half of the total budget is shared equally, and the other half is figured based on the percentage of total attendance.

Emmanuel Lutheran Worship and Music Committee Report for 2023

The Worship and Music committee's duties continued as in previous years, meeting on the third Tuesday of each month. They selected hymns, assigned greeters and lectors, and helped Pastor Lee plan services. Hymns are chosen from a list recommended by the Sundays and Seasons program, but hymn suggestions from the congregation are also welcome.

Special music is always appreciated. Please encourage our church family to share their talents.

Thanks to Jane Kirchhoff who schedules greeters and Kathy Merklein who schedules lectors. Also many thanks to all of you who serve as lectors, greeters, and worship assistants.

Sue Jackson schedules organists/keyboardists for the worship services. This year the Substitute Organist System has been used when a musician is not available. It is downloaded on the church's iPad and played over the sound system in the sanctuary. Our first preference remains having a live musician (Vesta Jo Still, Cynthia Clonch, Gloria DeWitt, Tammy Girard, Patsy Maddy are asked each month), but this "SOS" is a quality backup plan. Phyllis Merklein is also a high-quality backup plan. One Sunday she was asked and agreed to play about ten minutes before the service began. By the time we had music located for her, she was playing a beautiful prelude on the organ — no music needed! Thank you, Phyllis!

Members of the committee are Jane Kirchhoff, Kathy Merklein, Phyllis Merklein, Sue Jackson, and Pastor Lee Bennight.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Jackson, chair

Sunday School Annual Report

Alyssa Stites

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Sunday School had a great 2023! Many lessons, activities, and the Christmas Eve Program took place this last year; and we would like to take some time to thank the people who made it possible.

We are appreciative of Robin Chester! She always makes sure there are cookies available for the kids' snack on Sunday's, and they are a delicious treat!

Also, Alan and Connie Hanke and Robin Chester provided pop, pizza, and cookies for the Christmas Eve Program rehearsal. Thank you for always being willing to provide this meal for the kids! It is a great tradition!

Lastly, thank you to all the parents and volunteers who helped to make the Christmas Eve Program a success! We had 27 kids involved in the program this year.

LUTHER LEAGUE CHECKING ACCOUNT #190784

Beginning Balance January 1, 2023	<u>\$408.28</u>
Ending Balance December 31, 2023	<u>\$408.28</u>

LUTHER LEAGUE SAVINGS ACCOUNT #404811

Beginning Balance January 1, 2023		<u>\$4,320.80</u>
Deposits:		
Christmas Candy Sales	\$274.00	
AmazonSmile.com	21.59	
Thrivent Choice Dollars	537.00	
Interest	<u>7.10</u>	
Total Deposits		<u>\$839.69</u>
Withdrawals:		
Transfers to General Fund		
Checking for Scholarships		<u>\$1,000.00</u>
Ending Balance December 31, 2023		<u>\$4,160.49</u>

Just a little reminder, you are encouraged to continue designating Emmanuel as recipient in the AmazonSmile.com and Thrivent Choice Dollars programs. Your support has not gone unnoticed and is greatly appreciated.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

Financial: Balance on hand as of December 31, 2023 is \$3,100.66. (No activity to report.)

Cemetery Renovations

The first half of 2023 was spent getting Smith Monuments of Stockton out to put up the monument to honor the childrens graves that have been lost over the years. That was completed before Memorial Day. It took until August before they had time to give us an estimate for repairs to the "old section" of the cemetery. It took several hours to check all of the headstones. The following is what they found.

Reseal 95 monuments \$9500.00

Relevel and Reseal 16 monuments \$3200.00

Mileage and Supplies \$1380.00

This information was then included in a grant application to the Phillips County Community Foundation on October 1st. It was decided to apply for \$12,700 of the total and for Emmanuel to pay for \$1380 of the project. Plus we will provide labor to help with some of the bigger stone repair.

Toward the end of October we found out that the grant had been accepted. We have until Oct. 1, 2024 to complete this project. Smith monuments have been contacted and understand the time restraints on this project.

Paul