

# Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod*

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2014



*OUR MISSION IS TO SHARE THE TIMELESS MESSAGE OF SALVATION IN LOVE AND TO SHOW OUR FAITH IN WORDS AND ACTIONS.*

**Annual Pastor's Report**  
**By Pastor Sullivan**

*O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.*  
(CW 441:1)

2015 will mark our congregation's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The world has changed a lot over the years, but our God's changeless Gospel and grace have not. Throughout the past 149 years the LORD has poured out His Spirit upon our children at Immanuel's baptismal font, offered Jesus' body and blood in Communion at Immanuel's altar, had His Gospel preached from Immanuel's pulpit, and used His dearly loved sons and daughters at Immanuel to admonish, comfort, warn and encourage one another. For these great blessings we thank our loving God. We also pray that the LORD continues to shower His blessings upon us in the New Year – keeping us faithful to His Word and under His gracious care.

Let us briefly review some of the ministry opportunities God granted us this past year and take a peek at a few plans we have for 2015.

**In the area of worship . . .**

- Our 2014 Lenten rotation included pastors from Kohlberg, Maribel, Gibson, Mishicot, and Carlton/Denmark.
  - In 2015 we are planning to have a Lenten rotation with St. Paul's Algoma to help each other out and continue to foster cooperation between our two congregations.
- We watched the Synod's new Evangelism movie in June, entitled: "Come, Follow Me".
  - We are making plans to purchase extra copies of this movie to hand out as gifts during our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- Wayne Kittell started putting the entire services into PowerPoint so people can follow along on the screen during the service.
- In the fall, we started offering a "Children's devotion" during non-communion Sunday worship.

**In the area of Adult Christian Education . . .**

- We offered a Bible Information Class in the spring of 2014 and were blessed with a large attendance of members and non-members alike.
  - *We are planning to offer this same course again in the spring of this year.*
- Our Tuesday Bible Class continues to go through "The Picture Catechism."
- Our 2014 spring Sunday Bible classes were stand-alone studies on one of the liturgical lessons for the week. In the fall we started a study of the book of Exodus, which we will continue through the spring.
- We had a special Friendship Evangelism seminar led by Pastor Ken Kratz in May that was well attended and enjoyed.
  - *Pastor Kratz has agreed to hold another seminar in the coming year.*
- Ladies Aid started to alternate between a topical Bibles study and a review of the Catechism at their meetings.
- The Council and Boards continue to review a portion of the Catechism at every meeting.
- I continued to send out daily devotions via email.
  - *My goal for 2015 is to continue sending out brief meditations, which include both an Old and New Testament Reading and prayer.*
- Poor congregational participation for Bible classes continues to be a concern.
  - *We are planning to start a women's Bible study in 2015.*
  - *I am prayerfully looking for ways to encourage Bible class attendance.*

The LORD blessed our 2014 Vacation Bible School (organized by Jill Belter) with 35 children. We had good attendance at our closing service and picnic. The Evangelism Board worked hard to follow up on those who attended VBS to invite non-members to Sunday School.

After spending a year teaching the AAT Catechism, it became obvious that I should look for another Confirmation curriculum. At the suggestion of a fellow pastor, I started (in September 2014) to use a new curriculum based on the WELS Catechism that uses PowerPoints and pictures to help teach. The course has been very well received. I plan to continue to use this course into the foreseeable future.

The LORD has provided our congregation with excellent opportunities for Christian Education for our children. St. Paul's Lutheran School continues to graciously grant Immanuel members a discount so they can attend. It is an excellent, well run, Christ-centered school. I truly wish more parents would send their children there.

- *I plan on using our anniversary to remind our members how important Christian education was to our forefathers - encouraging parents to use the opportunity God has blessed us in St. Paul's Lutheran Elementary and Manitowoc Lutheran High School.*

I have had the privilege of visiting most shut-ins on a monthly basis, and to offer weekly nursing home devotions. Please remember our shut-ins in your prayers: Wenzel Hrabik, Myrtle Luedtke, Dorothy Salzseider, Lorraine Graff, Roland and Edward Jergenson, Alvina Bargmann, Carol Heiter, Ron Stangel, Ethel Bothe, Joyce Kalchek, Dwayne Purzner, Donald Wessel, and Lavern Koehler.

We had the privilege of welcoming the following people into our fellowship:

- Reuben Stuebs and Scott Fenendael via adult confirmation
- Keith Schmeiling via profession of faith.
- Pastor Ken & Diane Kratz, Robert Drews, Marlene Machut, Nick and Amber Remaker via transfer
- Mason Stauber, Haylie Novak, Andrew Richard via youth confirmation.

We have had the privilege of seeing Paxton Chaudoir, Hadley Miller, and Caleb Blahnik become children of God through the waters of Holy Baptism.

We transferred Nick and Amber Remaker to the care of another congregation in Suamico after they moved.

We said our tearful goodbyes to Lorna Habeck, Ken Siegmund, Robert Drews, Gertrude Heuer, Milton Fager and Leon Dax who now are enjoying Christ's presence in heaven. We look forward to the day they will rise from the dead and we can enjoy God's presence with them in the paradise our Savior is even now preparing for us. Keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Finally, I would like to say "Thank You" to everyone who works so hard for our congregation. Due to space, I cannot list you all in this report, but I do remember your service and thank God for it. May He continue to encourage you and bless all our efforts as we work together as members of one body to encourage one another with the Gospel, and share Christ's light with our community.

In Christian love,

Pastor Michael Sullivan

**IMMANUEL'S STATISTICS FOR 2014**

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b><u>Members &amp; Ministrations</u></b>		
Total Membership	433	436
Communicant Members	357	361
Children	74	73
Baptized Adults (not confirmed)	2	2
Celebrations of Holy Baptism	5	3
Rite of Confirmation (Children & Adult)	8	5
Christian Marriages	0	1
Christian Funerals	4	6
Received by Profession of Faith	6	1
Transfer from sister Congregation	1	6
Transfer to sister Congregation	0	2
Released to other Christian Churches	0	0
Removed from Membership	0	0
<b><u>Christian Education</u></b>		
Sunday School	43 students	44 students
	7 teachers	6 teachers
Vacation Bible School	43	35
Confirmation Class	7	8
St Paul's, Algoma	4	3
Manitowoc Lutheran HS	0	0
Synod Worker Training	0	0
Bible Class – Tues. & Sunday	18 average	18 average
<b><u>Worship Service Attendance</u></b>		
Sunday 9:00am	Avg. Attendance 131	127
Monday Evening	Avg. Attendance 21	20
Ash Wednesday	Aft – 58; Eve – 75	133
Wednesday Lenten Aft.	Avg. Attendance 32	38
Wednesday Lenten Eve.	Avg. Attendance 52 **	56** (SS Sang 1 time)**
Confirmation	166	133
Maundy Thursday	80	56
Good Friday	Aft – 147; Eve - 20	167
Easter Sunrise	181	193
Easter Festival	116	134
Ascension	64	27
Thanksgiving Day	138	79
Children's Christmas Service	330	312
Christmas Eve	76	75
Christmas Day	89	71
New Year's Eve	47	41

## **Membership Changes**

### *Receive into Membership through Transfer from a Sister Congregation (WELS)*

- Pastor Ken & Diane Kratz
- Nick & Amber Remaker & Family
- Robert Drews
- Marlene Machut

### *Receive into Membership through Affirmation of Faith*

- Keith Schmeiling

### *Transfer from Membership to a Sister Congregation (WELS)*

- Nick & Amber Remaker & Family

### *Release from Membership to a Non-WELS Congregation*

- None

### *Released from Membership*

- None

## **Rite of Confirmation – May 4, 2014**

- Andrew Richard
- Haylie Novak
- Mason Stauber

## **Adult Confirmations**

- Reuben Stuebs
- Scott Fenendael

## **Holy Baptisms**

	<i><u>Birth Date</u></i>	<i><u>Parents</u></i>	<i><u>Baptismal Date</u></i>
• Paxton Chaudoir	December 7, 2013	David & Kristen Chaudoir	February 23, 2014
• Hadley Miller	June 25, 2014	Shawn & Sue Miller	August 10, 2014
• Caleb Blahnik	June 26, 2014	Jeremy & Megan Blahnik	September 14, 2014

## **Christian Marriages**

- Matt Binney & Amber Vanness

## **Losses to Eternal Life**

	<i><u>Date of Death</u></i>
• Lorna Habeck	April 20, 2014
• Ken Siegmund	May 4, 2014
• Gertrude Heuer	September 3, 2014
• Robert Drews	October 2, 2014
• Milton Fager	October 26, 2014
• Leon Dax	November 4, 2014

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Overall we have had another good year; thanks be to the Lord for his blessings! I look forward to 2015 with renewed hope we will be able to touch more people with the Gospel message. We have several 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events scheduled that I hope all will attend. Please mark your calendars and invite friends and neighbors. Let's share our joy with others!

Organ repair work is scheduled to be completed in early 2015 and should not affect our ability to use the organ. We have successfully collected enough money to get this project moving. Thanks to all who have contributed so far.

If you've attended any of our special services you may have noted 'What We Believe' statements on the back of the service folders. This is another passive outreach tool aimed at those searching for the truth, and also serves as a reminder to us regarding who we are. As you know we sent invitations to the community to come hear the Word preached and to share in our joy at Christmas. I hope we can continue to find more ways to bring people to the Gospel. If you have thoughts on how we can better spread the Gospel or bring people to hear the Gospel please share it with your elected officers or the Pastor. I would like us to focus on this area this coming year, and we have our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events to provide added opportunities.

Your boards have made progress in various areas, but need your continued support. I mentioned last year we needed to do a better job supporting the hard working individuals who have volunteered to work for the congregation, carrying out our ministries and working to maintain our own property. Attendance at the Voters' Meetings has not significantly improved, with attendance usually being around fifteen to twenty voters. I believe this is entirely unsatisfactory and remains a concern of mine. It was one of my goals for 2014 to improve attendance but I did not achieve much success. I feel that we as a congregation need to get more involved with our stated ministries. It can be as simple as taking only about two hours or so per quarter to attend a Voters' Meeting (Please do not underestimate the importance of simply listening to your boards and offering your input.), or volunteering some time in support of your Anniversary Committee, or volunteering to help a board or committee execute one of their goals, which you can't do if you don't know what they are. Finally, my goal in the upcoming year will be that we better communicate, discuss and hopefully celebrate the success of our 2015 congregational goals.

Your brother in Christ,

Glenn M. Brunner

## **BOARD OF ELDERS**

Your Elders Board is guided by encouragement from St. Paul, "I appeal to you spiritual leaders, I who also am a spiritual leader. I saw Christ suffer, and I share in the glory that is to be revealed. Be shepherds of God's flock that is with you, watching over it, not because you must but willingly, as God would have you do it; not greedily but eagerly; not lording it over the people entrusted to you but being examples to the flock. I Peter 5: 1-3. (AAT)

Our basic objectives are: supporting the spiritual welfare of our Pastor and the congregational members, managing several ministries of the church, and supervising our worship activities. The Board is assisted by several individuals and committees; Church Secretary, Audio/Visual Committee, Called Worker Care Committee, church ushers and greeters, church music personnel, Altar Guild and Planned Giving Committee.

There was also the planning group for our 150th Anniversary events that will happen in 2015. A big thank you to all these, and more, that help to keep everything going and running well.

Our financial spending for 2014, was within our budget of \$11,800, so with a one time line item, for anticipated 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary expenses of \$3000, we will plan on \$14,000 for 2015 budget.

As Elders our duties focus on three areas: Ministry, Worship, and Membership. A review of 2014 follows.

**Ministry** - In March, several members attended the Seminars for Christian Service at Fox Valley Lutheran HS in Appleton. This is always a wonderful blessing to attend these training sessions, to be encouraged and learn skills that can help our congregation. This event is open to any members, so watch for it in spring.

Our Pastor continues to provide a daily email devotion to a group from church. The church website also has the weekly service recording and links to other devotional sources including the WELS. There are always DVD's available for sharing the latest worship services in back of church. The quarterly newsletter provides us all with information and news from church, and the Forward In Christ magazine has news and Christian encouragement from our Synod.

**Worship** - We have continued to use more technology to support our worship services, the recording for sharing on the church's website, and DVD's. This has also provided opportunities to view information from WELS monthly video, MLHS, and St. Paul's Algoma. This August we again enjoyed an Outdoor Service, where the Vacation Bible School participants were able to share their singing talents. The Alms Box offering program continues to provide awareness and financial support to some lesser known opportunities to share our stewardship.

**Membership** - The Elders Board continues to use the pew registers to provide some record of member attendance at services and communion, and to help identify our visitors and guests. It has been recommended that members complete their address in the registers; this action will present an example to visitors so we can better contact them.

We continue to have many ways that we can share our church services, news, and information about our church. Sunday bulletins, the quarterly newsletter, DVDs and Cable TV recording of our services, the WELS website, the Forward in Christ magazine, The Meditations booklet, the church study library, and our very own church website- news, services, church calendar, and historical records.

In 2015, the Elders Board will continue to:

- insure our worship activities are focused on God's Word and are received by our members.

This will help to focus our efforts in:

- care for members, and encouraging absent ones
- promoting our stewardship understanding
- providing ways in which all members can participate or provide service to our congregation.

With the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2015, we should be able to use these events as an encouragement for these goals, and provide ways in which members can participate and provide service to our congregation.

## **BOARD ON EVANGELISM**

In 2014 we took a different approach and really focused on what evangelism means. It means to spread the Christian gospel by public preaching or being a personal witness. Spreading the gospel has many opportunities that come and go in many fashions. As technology advances it becomes more vital to use to get results. We continue to support funding for the Immanuel Lutheran webpage which continues to be viewed by numerous people worldwide.

We continued taking advantage of the radio broadcasts that were put together by Door County Daily News. For the weeks prior to Easter and Christmas, little sixty second sermonettes were played by local area churches preaching on the meaning of Easter and Christmas.

In May we hosted our very own Evangelism Seminar that had roughly 20 individuals attend. Coffee, milk, doughnuts, and subs were provided for snacks and lunch. Pastor Kratz was very generous in leading the seminar because of his previous experience and he did a wonderful job. We all have it in us to spread the gospel, but feel unqualified or inexperienced to handle that road in our life. This seminar helps to resolve those feelings or even to answer questions we had with personal experiences expressing our faith.

By the use of the post office, we sent out postcards for Easter and Christmas to members and non-members alike. Some 100 cards were made for Easter while another 3000 were mailed out to the entire 54216 zip code at Christmas. Yes, the entire church year is just as important, but what better ways to preach the good news of Christ resurrection and His birth. Without Him, our lives are condemned, but by grace, we have been saved.

Personal Visits were something new for us this year. After the conclusion of Vacation Bible School, a list was put together of non-members that attended. After a shocking discovery of how many actually attended we could not let a friendly follow-up pass us by. Certain members of the board went out into the city and county handing out personal invites to have their children attend our Sunday School. Although about 75% of the non-members had already belonged to another church, it still shows what a wonderful program that we put on for the youth of this community that we have their attention for spreading the Gospel.

In Conclusion, our sinful nature may try to take hold of our ministries and our own personal goals. We may wonder if what we are doing is really reaching people with the gospel. Are we failing in our efforts? Are we wasting time and resources? For those answers we must look to Christ in what he has done for us. Did he fail? Did he waste his time? One passage that is great to reflect on, 1 Corinthians 9:22,23 (NIV) "To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings."

Evangelism Goals for 2015 are as follows:

God has entrusted Immanuel with a ministry to our neighbors: to share with them the most precious and life strengthening message of Jesus Christ. Our goals are practical- meant to enhance our congregation's ministry to the community and build upon our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

1. The Evangelism Board will improve our response to worship guests.
  - a. We will develop and improve on a system so that more guests can fill out pew friendship register in church. Simply put- we can't offer to serve a family if we don't know where they are or where they live.
  - b. We will develop a system and be equipped to visit each first time guest within 48 hours of worship.
  - c. We will develop an on-going list of prospect

2. The Evangelism board will conduct or assist in at least three major efforts to invite our community to Immanuel's various gospel ministries.
  - a. Encourage and provide materials so our members can invite people personally to a ministry.
  - b. Offer a seminar to help members be more aware of opportunities to share their faith and invite others to a ministry
3. The Evangelism board will seek to increase community awareness of our gospel ministry for all ages.
  - a. Investigate possible invitational signage in the Family Life Center and place rotating signage for various ministries.
  - b. Coordinate at least two city wide invitational mailings to ministries we would like to highlight.
  - c. Encourage or help coordinate newspaper articles relating to both our anniversary and present ministries to our community

Respectfully Submitted by the Board of Evangelism: Jacob Hlinak, Pastor Ken Kratz, Lou Richard, and David Hlinak

### **BOARD OF CHURCH PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE**

Board Members: Steve Ihlenfeldt, Gary Hardtke, Fred Steffen, Jeff Christian, Jason Karnopp, Greg Hlinak

Helpers: Bob Cox, Paul Nimmer, Jerry & Nancy Kolmorgen, Larry Ihlenfeldt, Jean Klemish, Glenn Teske.

Your property board had experienced a challenging year as we had not met our goals! Our specific projects that had been planned were delayed due to a lack of funds. Those projects included three rest room upgrades, stained glass window repair, tree removal, and interior church lighting upgrade with the "focus on energy" program. The reason for the lack of funds was due in part to the winter cold temperatures that caused the cost of heating the building to double in price over the previous year. There were frozen water pipes in the FLC restrooms. The city had ordered to run water continuously to avoid freezing pipes. Snow removal was almost a daily chore. And, there was also a costly sewer line replacement at the parsonage.

An emergency fix was needed when the sewer kept backing up in the basement of the parsonage. Plumbers were called several times to route the sewer pipe and later to give way to digging up the line and replacing it with new. The water pipe was also replaced since the trench was already dug to open the ground. This was a costly unplanned fix to which contributed to lack of funds for our projects.

With the 150th anniversary being planned for next year, the idea of upgrading the organ came about. The property board was assigned to investigate. Eleven professional organ companies based in the State of Wisconsin were contacted. Those companies were invited to come and take a look at our organ to offer recommendations and price quotes. Of all those organ facilities, only four companies had showed some interest.

A gentleman by the name of Jack Breedis of J.H.McGaw Company of Green Bay seemed to be the best value for our situation. Jack was then contracted to complete the work as needed. This organ fix was confirmed by the church council and then reaffirmed at the voters meeting this past fall.

We're into the month of May and the furnace is still working hard keeping the building warm.

The property board holds its first outdoor meeting in the month of June. Jackets are the proper dress for this meeting and all projects are still on hold.

At our July meeting, we began to plan our projects for next year. Those projects intended will be the church roof inspection, seal coat the parking lot, continue with the stained glass window repair, and the Fellowship Hall stage upgrade. It was asked about the projects we had planned for this year. Well, we will attempt to accomplish what we can with the funds available. With all the projects from last year and into this year plan to be completed. Are those improvement projects realistic?

Later this year the property board received the “OK” to begin projects as the funding situation has improved. However, the plumber and carpenter have a busy schedule and with the deer hunting season approaching as well as the holidays. Likely, any work will have to wait to begin until after the first of the year.

The athletic committee had conducted a clean-up day before the basketball season practice begins. A great turn out of volunteers contributed to a successful day of cleaning the Family Life Center as well as portions of the school and church. On another day, the bleachers in the gym received maintenance to fix some problems. All cost of bleacher repairs were covered by the athletic committee.

Two of the water bubblers in the FLC lobby were replaced with one new up dated model. The old units became rusted and corroded to a point they would not shut off, therefore, wasting water. The new bubbler has a brilliant polished appearance and has a special port to fill drinking water bottles.

The contract with Advance Disposal company has become too costly. It was estimated that garbage/waste could be placed at curb side and recyclables could be picked up during the once a week city pick up. The maintenance staff is willing to put the proper procedure into effect to get the material at curb side once per week. Volunteers have come forward to take our waste to the dump if needed. Changing our waste handling will save us \$2,400.00 annually.

Our goals for the year 2015:

\*Not necessarily in this order, and considering funds available.

- Conduct property board meetings.
- Keep our facilities in good repair.
- Keep heating costs down.
- Repairs to rest rooms.
- Preplace church lights – focus on energy program.
- Fellowship Hall stage flooring/improvement.
- Organ upgrade for the 150th anniversary.
- Stained glass window repair – altar.
- Parking lot seal coating.
- Church roof inspection and repair.
- Replacement of church ceiling fans.
- Tree removal.
- Review the planned giving table.

The challenges of the property board are huge. With all these specific goals in mind, along with the 150th anniversary celebration, it should be an interesting year coming up.

Your property board asks for patience and strength. The law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

## **BOARD OF YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Board Members: Chairman Brian Dax, David Chaudoir and John Tess (term expiring January 2015)

2014 Goals/Mission: Expand and nurture Christian Education (Sunday School, VBS, Elementary & High School). Encourage participation of young people in our ministries and services.

The following is a summary of the 2014 activities of each area of responsibility of the Youth Christian Education Board:

**YPS** – David Chaudoir and Amber Binney have taken on the responsibility of organizing the young people of our congregation. It has been a challenge as there are numerous extra-curricular activities that consume the spare time of teenagers. After a sparsely attended organizational meeting in September, David and Amber decided to poll the students through surveys and discussions to determine what day/night and time would work best to have meetings. Another organizational meeting is planned for January. Please encourage the young people of our congregation to get involved.

**Sunday School** – Sunday School teachers are Laura Sullivan, Jill Belter, Rachel Christian, Jan Goetsch, Michelle Dax and Jack Novak. Singing instructor is Lacy Siegmund. Sunday School began the first Sunday after Labor Day and the Pre-K class was rather large. An additional teacher was added to help teach Bible Lessons. A major focus of the teachers and students is, of course, the Christmas Eve Children's Service. All of their hard work culminated in a fantastic Service of Song and Story Telling. To help celebrate the season, the YCE Board also put up and decorated the Christmas trees in the front of Church. After a discussion with the Church Council, it was decided to look into purchasing artificial trees for future use. This will take place in 2015. Lastly, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher will be retiring after this school year and if anyone is interested in teaching Sunday School, please contact Michelle Dax or any member of the Youth Christian Education Board. This is a great opportunity to spend an hour a week re-learning Bible Stories and participating in Hymns of Praise.

**Confirmation Class** – There will be four new confirmands joining our congregation in May of 2015. Pastor is using a new curriculum based on the blue Catechism. It uses visual tools to help tie Bible verses to the lessons. Also, we will be inviting the 6<sup>th</sup> graders to attend several classes at the end of the year so they become familiar with the class and to know what will be expected of them the following year.

**St. Paul's, Algoma** – After filling the teaching vacancies at the beginning of the school year, their focus has now shifted to attracting new students and increasing the enrollment numbers. Short video clips are being developed to show at local Churches to promote the school.

**VBS** – Vacation Bible School was held in August and was very successful. Some changes being discussed for next year include using more advertising to grow the program and possibly opening up the program to older students who have expressed an interest in attending VBS.

**Little Lambs** – Little Lambs started back up in September and continues to meet several times a month in different locations such as classrooms, Family Life Center and local parks. A Facebook page has also been set up.

**Budget** – In October, the 2015 YCE Budget was finalized and sent to the Church Council for their approval. There will be no change in the overall projected budget number for the YCE Board for 2015.

### **Duties for 2015**

- Determine 2015 goals/missions. This will not deviate much from the 2014 mission and goals but may be a little more specific with our objectives and priorities. These will be finalized at our January meeting.
- Fill the vacancy in our Sunday School Teaching Crew.
- Attempt to get YPS going strong and reinvigorate the teenagers in our Church.
- Concentrate on growing VBS, both in numbers and in faith.

## LADIES AID

Purpose:

*\*To foster Christian fellowship among our members.*

*\*To perform works of charity in the congregation by caring for the sick, poor and those in distress.*

*\*To be of service to the church, but especially to build the Kingdom of God in our midst.*

<u>Officers</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
President	Ruth Siegmund	Ruth Siegmund
Vice-President	Carol Nemecek	Carol Nemecek
Secretary	Ann Brunner	Ann Brunner
Treasurer	Mari Fager	Shirley Prodell

Thank you to Mari Fager for serving as our Treasurer. We welcome Shirley Prodell as our 2015 Treasurer.

**Membership** 39 total: 22 Members, 17 Honorary Members (over 75)

**Meetings** Second Thursday of every month, Bible study or topic suggested by group.  
Afternoons: 1:30 PM in January, February, March, May, September & November  
Evenings: 7:00 PM in April, June, August & October.  
Picnic: Noon, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
Christmas Party: Noon, Dec 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**Funerals** As a service to church members, we serve a meal for funerals.

### **2014 Highlights**

Ladies Aid supported the following activities:

- \*Manitowoc Lutheran HS Sunday Showcase
- \*Church Picnic, August
- \*American Legion (Kewaunee County) Youth Government Day lunch, May
- \*Fruit cups, Red Cross Blood Drives (two during summer, Family Life Center)
- \*Christian Service Seminars, March Fox Valley Lutheran HS
- \*Voter's Meetings, Coffee & Donuts
- \*Fireside Trips: Fiddler on the Roof & Christmas Program
- \*Kitchen operation and maintenance
- \*Christmas boxes for shut-in members
- \*Greeting Card sales
- \*Bookmarks for Hymnals
- \*Lent, served pies on a Wednesday
- \*Lutheran Ladies League (LLL) Rally
- \*Lutheran Women Missionary Society (LWMS)
- \*Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMM)
- \*Provides Meditations for congregation (ordered quarterly)

### **Donations for 2014**

Immanuel Time & Talent – Scrip Donation	St Paul Lutheran School, Algoma
Manitowoc Lutheran HS	Three Tables, Fellowship Hall
Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS)	Organ Fund
Kewaunee Food Pantry at Holy Rosary	Calvary Academy Ministry
Wisconsin Lutheran Institutional Ministry	

**LAKESHORE OWLS CLUB**  
(Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors)

OWLS represents an "ORGANIZATION for WELS LUTHERAN SENIORS". OWLS' objective is for life enrichment of WELS members 55 and older. The overall goal is to give the older members a continuing sense of purpose and involvement in church-centered work and to provide for their growth, development, service and happiness in a God pleasing manner. New members 55 years of age and older are always welcome.

Several of our members attended the National OWLS convention held in Wisconsin Dells. The National OWLS convention for 2015 will be held in October at LaCrosse, WI.

Activities supported by OWLS are European Civilian Chaplaincy, WELS Prison Ministries, WELS Kingdom Workers. Besides supporting these activities, locally we also supported the Church Organ Fund, 150th Anniversary of Immanuel, Annual Church Picnic and served after a Lenten Service. We also had the privilege of providing a meal for the Circuit Pastor's meeting held at Immanuel.

Lakeshore OWLS meets the first Tuesday of each month. Occasionally members meet at the Kewaunee Senior Center for lunch at 11:30am. Following lunch we meet at Immanuel Fellowship Hall for devotions followed by our meeting and an activity. Our December activity included a pot luck Christmas party.

President	Ruth Siegmund
Vice-President	Carol Krueger
Secretary-Treasurer	Carol Stuebs

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN ATHLETIC COMMITTEE**

Purpose: To help maintain and assist in the operational and financial needs of the Family Life Center (FLC).

The ILAC worked on numerous projects during the year to contribute to the financial funding of the FLC. We assisted ILSSA with their annual pizza sale; we run a concession stand for grade school basketball games held in the FLC; we run a Volley Tots (youth volleyball) program along with the Kewaunee Area Junior Volleyball Association; and we held our Time 'n Talent/Silent Auction in November. This year was the first year we held our Time 'n Talent/Silent Auction in the fellowship at Immanuel with a meal put on by the Athletic Club. We served approximately 125 people and raised our largest amount in years with a total of \$8,160.

We look to make improvements in the FLC when needed and assist with cleaning. Paul Nimmer handles all the scheduling for the FLC. Paul & Greg Hlinak also help out with cleaning and upkeep.

We continue to ask the congregation to support the FLC through your prayers, volunteer work, and your financial donations. If you have any questions or would like to join our committee, please feel free to contact any one of the committee members.

Members include: Greta Bloniarz, Rachel Christian, Brian Dax, Tonya Fenendael, Kathy Gerdmann, Jerry & Nancy Kolmorgen, Shirley Prodell, Lou Richard, Richard Stuebs, Annette Teske, and Kathy Vanness.

Submitted by Greta Bloniarz

## AUDIO/VISUAL COMMITTEE

For 2014, we wish to thank all of the people who made donations and contributions to the A/V Fund this past year.

The A/V Committee was happy to provided audio/video support for the Outdoor Worship Service, Advent by Candlelight, Children's Christmas Service and background complement music for the choir.

January saw the purchase of an Allen & Heath GL2400 24 channel soundboard which serves as the backbone of the church's sound system. Two microphone outlets were added to each end of the Chancel step which not only reduce the setup time for showing the WELS Connection and other videos during worship but also reduces the hazard of tripping over cables by members of the congregation.

In the fall, the AV Committee began experimenting with putting the complete worship liturgy on the projector screen when videos are shown. Feedback has been very constructive and helpful. Some of the comments were, "I like it, I was able to follow along with the service while holding my child." "I have chronic neck pain, being able to view the liturgy on the screen reduced the pain in my neck." "Could you put the congregation responses higher on the screen; I was sitting behind a tall person and had problems seeing the words." All these comments are useful in not only improving the quality of the slides, but also in the future when installing a permanent screen in choosing the size and placement.

The AV Committee currently makes 8 DVDs of each worship service, 1 copy goes to the Library for the local cable channel broadcast on Wednesday at 7 pm and Fridays at 5 pm. Four copies are placed in the Narthex for members and non-members to take for viewing at home or to give to persons who are not able to make it to church and as outreach material. Three copies are distributed to shut-ins. If you are, or know of, a shut-in who would like a copy of the worship service each week, please let us know so we can include you in the distribution. Video of the sermons and full services are also available on the internet.

**Video Taping Informed Consent:** The A/V Committee wishes to inform all persons the worship service is videotaped; sometimes members of the congregation are included in the video. Persons not wishing their image to appear on the video for any reason, including but not limited to, Witness Protection Program, hiding from abusive spouse, etc., should sit toward the rear of the nave or contact a member of the A/V Committee or an usher to make arrangements for viewing the service live in the Fellowship Hall. You do not need to give the reason for not wanting your image captured on video. Note: the communion distribution part of a service is removed from all video that is distributed.

Wayne L. Kittell  
Chairman A/V Committee

## WEBMASTER'S REPORT ON IMMANUEL'S WEBSITE

2014 has been another good year for our website. We should thank the Lord for providing this technology that enables us to spread the word of our Savior around the world as well as here at home.

Year	Visitors	Visiting	Pages Viewed
2014	3,435	5,668	12,508
2013	1,425	5,504	14,731
2012	1,296	3,471	11,751
2011	1,128	4,291	19,794
2010	3,292	5,298	38,747
2009	2,889	4,650	21,373
2008	1,998	3,022	15,216
2007*	230	363	4,598

Note: Web site was started in late August of 2007

Note: In 2011 we switched websites providers and also the way the website stats are tracked.

While we had visitors from 42 countries, the top 6 countries were:

1. United States with 5,100 visits
2. Brazil with 201 visits: Past years, 2013 29 visits, 2012 34 visits, 2011 139 visits.
3. Russia with 36 visits
4. India with 29 visits
5. Canada with 28 visits
6. Italy with 28 visits

Other counties of worthy mention: Germany 23, Philippines 22, United Kingdom 21 and Australia 11.

The Worship Video page were the full service video for PC's are housed had 95 people visiting 172 times with visitors from Canada, Spain and Singapore.

Our mobile website had 82 users visiting 173 times viewing 860 pages.

Videos of the sermons are available on the home webpage, mobile website and through Vimeo. Podcasts of the Sermons are available on the church website, Podbean.com and iTunes. Videos of the complete church service can be found on the church and mobile website.

After seeing the numbers from Brazil, I got to thinking about the individual from Brazil that use to download our videos and do some editing and repost the Hymns on YouTube and sometimes the complete service. I see our Good Friday Service from 2011 has 1,003 views on YouTube. It is 1 hour, thirteen minutes and 44 seconds. Our April 3, 2011 Worship Service that he posted on YouTube, 58 minutes long, had 2,053 views.

Wayne L. Kittell  
Webmaster

# Financial Report

**January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014**

*Submitted by Julie Siegmund, Financial Secretary*

**Below you will find a summary of monies that have been deposited into Immanuel's bank account for the time period listed above.**

<u>Operating Budget:</u>		<u>2014 Budget</u>	
Adult Envelopes	\$179,897.35		
Misc. General Fund	\$2,539.50		
Loose Offerings	\$3,511.29		
Mission Offerings*	\$8,379.00	\$13,200	
Student Aid Account*	\$3,910.00	\$6,000	
MLHS*	\$427.00	\$10,000	
St Paul's, Algoma*	\$20.00	\$4,000	
ALMS*	\$3,097.70	\$1,500	
Debt Reduction	\$2,050.00		
Family Life Center	\$28,611.90		
Audio/Visual Account	\$700.00		
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$2,980.00		
Capital Improvements	\$1,320.00		
Organ Fund	\$15,775.00		
<b>Total Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$253,218.74</b>	<b>\$245,000</b>	<b>103.3%</b>
 <u>Interest Income:</u>	 \$3.24		
<u>Non-Reportable Income:</u>	\$2,992.34		

## ALMS by Month:

December 2013 - \$50.00	July – \$250.40
January - \$119.29	**Ukraine Lutheran Church
**Commission on Lutheran Schools	August – \$238.74
February – \$151.52	**East Fork School
**Multi Language Publications	Sept. – \$290.85
March – \$900.00	**WI Lutheran Institutional Ministries
**MLHS	October – 212.86
April – \$136.67	**WI Lutheran Child & Family Services
**Christian Giving	November – 266.37
May – \$237.90	**Christian Aid & Relief
**Military Services	December – 203.10
June – \$140.00	**WELS Ministerial Education Endowment Fund
**Campus Ministry	

\*Manitowoc Lutheran was sent \$10,000

\*WELS Missions was sent \$13,200

\*St Paul's was sent \$4,000

\*\$7,570 was added to the Debt Retirement Fund. Member Loans of \$12,500 outstanding to date

\*The Family Life Center loan was reduced by \$26,240.75. Current loan balance of \$74,542.76

The budget for Missions, Student Aid, ALMS, MLHS and St Paul's were set assuming that offerings are made to Immanuel with the intent that they go indirectly to these respective funds in addition to offerings that are designated to these funds outright.

- Current Membership is **435**. Communicant Membership is **360**.
  - **309** Offering Envelopes are assigned.
  - **84** Members are listed as Non Contributors.
  - **72.8%** or 225 are Contributing Members.
- Of the 225 that gave the avg. weekly contribution is \$18.31; avg. monthly is \$79.35; and avg. annual is \$952.26.

## Contribution Analysis for 2014.

*See the chart below*

For example, 84 envelopes gave a combined zero contributions; 42 envelopes gave a combined \$1,063.00; and 2 envelopes gave a total of \$23,430.75. The last 3 columns indicate what the contributions per envelope were on a weekly, monthly and yearly basis.

Count		Cumul. Count	Pct	Cumul. Pct	Total	Weekly Range	Monthly Range	Yearly Range
84	84	27%	27%	0.00	No Contributions	No Contributions	No Contributions	
42	126	14%	41%	1,063.00	0.01 - 1.00	0.01 - 4.33	0.01 - 52.00	
41	167	13%	54%	4,128.00	1.01 - 3.00	4.34 - 13.00	52.01 - 156.00	
11	178	4%	58%	2,277.00	3.01 - 5.00	13.01 - 21.67	156.01 - 260.00	
40	218	13%	71%	15,466.00	5.01 - 10.00	21.68 - 43.33	260.01 - 520.00	
17	235	6%	76%	11,035.00	10.01 - 15.00	43.34 - 65.00	520.01 - 780.00	
18	253	6%	82%	16,570.00	15.01 - 20.00	65.01 - 86.67	780.01 - 1040.00	
12	265	4%	86%	14,349.00	20.01 - 25.00	86.68 - 108.33	1040.01 - 1300.00	
5	270	2%	87%	6,947.32	25.01 - 30.00	108.34 - 130.00	1300.01 - 1560.00	
6	276	2%	89%	10,194.00	30.01 - 35.00	130.01 - 151.67	1560.01 - 1820.00	
2	278	1%	90%	3,920.00	35.01 - 40.00	151.68 - 173.33	1820.01 - 2080.00	
6	284	2%	92%	13,075.00	40.01 - 45.00	173.34 - 195.00	2080.01 - 2340.00	
2	286	1%	93%	4,910.00	45.01 - 50.00	195.01 - 216.67	2340.01 - 2600.00	
6	292	2%	94%	16,608.00	50.01 - 60.00	216.68 - 260.00	2600.01 - 3120.00	
4	296	1%	96%	13,023.00	60.01 - 70.00	260.01 - 303.33	3120.01 - 3640.00	
2	298	1%	96%	8,000.00	70.01 - 80.00	303.34 - 346.67	3640.01 - 4160.00	
1	299	0%	97%	4,667.03	80.01 - 90.00	346.68 - 390.00	4160.01 - 4680.00	
4	303	1%	98%	19,550.00	90.01 - 100.00	390.01 - 433.33	4680.01 - 5200.00	
4	307	1%	99%	25,045.00	100.01 - 200.00	433.34 - 866.67	5200.01 - 10400.00	
2	309	1%	100%	23,430.75	200.01 - 300.00	866.68 - 1300.00	10400.01 - 15600.00	
0	309		100%	0.00	300.01 - 400.00	1300.01 - 1733.33	15600.01 - 20800.00	
0	309		100%	0.00	400.01 - 500.00	1733.34 - 2166.67	20800.01 - 26000.00	
0	309		100%	0.00	Over 500.00	Over 2166.67	Over 26000.00	

27% of our assigned envelopes have Zero offerings; 14% give less than \$52/year; and 13% give between \$52 and \$156/year. In summary 54% of our assigned envelopes or basically half of the congregation give less than \$156/year or \$3/week.