

*"A Christ-centered community where God's Spirit  
transforms our lives as we  
Worship, learn, love, share and serve."*



**AGENDA & ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE CONGREGATION OF  
EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**2020**

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# THE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT IS DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF THOSE MEMBERS WHO ENTERED THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

*<sup>NRS</sup> Hebrews 12:1-2a Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,<sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.*

*Marbury Anderson  
Coral Calderon  
David Cole  
Gretchen Falknor  
Linda Goldberg  
Jack Guddie  
Knutte Hartman  
Myron Johnson*

*Keith Kohlmann  
Nick LovdjiEFF  
Carol Meehan  
Beverly Mjolsness  
Llarrie Nettum  
Eileen Nix  
David Pedersen  
Dwayne Russell*

*Robert Sanner  
Frank Seitzinger  
Maida Sjoberg  
Edwin Swenson  
Evelyn Ulsh  
Lois Wattman*



## A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON

Dear friends in Christ,

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

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

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

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

Building up the body of Christ together,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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

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

# EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## OUR MISSION

A Christ centered community where God's Spirit transforms our lives  
as we worship, learn, love, share and serve.

## CORE VALUES

- **CHRIST CENTERED MINISTRY FOCUS** – Everything we do, in word or deed, reflects our foundational relationship with Jesus Christ, the name above all names. (Matthew 18:20; Colossians 3:17; Philippians 2:9-11, John 14:6)
- **AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE** – The Holy Scripture proclaims God's message to us as both Law and Gospel, revealing judgment and mercy. The Gospel is fully manifested in God's immeasurable love for us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, declaring "the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith." God's grace prepares us in every way, fully equipping us for good works, calling us to love one another as Christ has loved us. (Romans 1:16-17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Ephesians 2:8; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Isaiah 40:8)
- **CALLED TO DISCIPLESHIP** – We are each called to be life-long learners, striving for personal and spiritual growth by hearing and doing God's Word. (Colossians 2:6-7; James 1:22; Mark 8:34-35)
- **TEAM MINISTRY IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE MINISTRY** – Everyone has a gift(s), and when we work together as a Team, our ministry is most effective. (1 Peter 2:9; 1 Peter 4:10; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7)
- **RELATIONAL MINISTRY FOCUS** – Every event within our church is an opportunity to deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ, which becomes a bridge to deepen our relationships with one another. (John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 12:26-27; 1 Corinthians 13:13; 1 John 4:11)
- **LOST PEOPLE MATTER** – We believe that each of us is commissioned to reach out and share with all people the message of New Life in Christ. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Luke 15:1-10; Luke 19:10)

## CHURCHWIDE OBJECTIVES: Priorities compiled by the Visioning Team:

Priority Focus: To cultivate a congregational commitment to invite and welcome all people into participation in the life and ministry of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church community.

Priority Focus: To support the establishment of a congregational presence at our second site in eastern Collier County within the context of that growing community.

Priority Focus: To explore innovative and diverse worship opportunities in order to connect with the lives of more people.

Priority Focus: To broaden current and new ministry programs in order to nurture personal and spiritual growth, and provide care for our church community.

Priority Focus: To strengthen our community identity and presence through our commitment to broad congregational participation in service to our neighbors.

**EMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021  
AGENDA**

1. Call to Order - Council President, *Michael Puchalla*
2. Opening Prayer - *Rev. Rick Bliese*
3. Introduction and Recognition of Council members- *Michael Puchalla*
4. Approval of Minutes from last year's Annual Meeting held on January 22, 2020 **(Page 6)**
5. Senior Pastor Report .....*Rev. Steven Wigdahl (Page 7)*
  - Administrative Reports as printed
    - Executive Director Report.....*Theresa Shaw*
    - Chief Operations Officer Report..... *Vivian Shea*
  - Reports from Ministry Departments as printed
    - Adult Ministry..... *Parish Nurse Carol Hartman, Pastor Rick Bliese, Resident Pastors Lois Sorensen and Karole Langset*
    - Worship & Music Ministry.....*Joyce Finlay, ELCA Deacon for Music and Worship*
    - Youth and Family Ministry.....*Jim Cooper, ELCA Deacon for Youth and Family*
6. Emmanuel Community Church Report..... *Rev. José Lebrón*
7. Emmanuel Park Community Ministry Report.....*Rev. William A. Kittinger Jr. Deacon Dee-Anne Schleutker*
8. Reports from Standing Committees as printed
  - Endowment Fund Committee.....*Rick Boe*
  - Human Resources Committee..... *Tom Palmer*
9. Financial Statements for 2020 ..... *Ann Jones, Treasurer*
10. Action on 2021 Ministry Budgets and Financial Plan ..... *Ann Jones, Treasurer*
11. Approved and amended Constitution.....*Michal Puchalla*
12. Election of Council Member/Bio..... *Michael Puchalla*
13. Adjournment and Closing Prayer.....*Deacon Jim Cooper*

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church**  
**Minutes from Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**January 22, 2020**

Council President, Michael Puchalla, called the annual meeting to order after we established a quorum of 77 members at 5:30 p.m.

Pastor William Kittinger gave the opening devotion.

Introduction and recognition of Council members – the current Council members were introduced and thanked for their dedication and service on the Emmanuel Church Council. Outgoing member – Nelson Gonzalez was not in attendance to receive a certificate in appreciation of his service on Council. He will receive it later.

Approval of Minutes from last year's Annual Meeting held on January 23, 2019 – a motion was made to accept the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

It was mentioned that the 2019 annual report was dedicated in the memory of those members who entered the church triumphant. Our Core Values and Churchwide Objectives are in the annual report along with the 2019 membership and parish records.

The meeting was turned over to Pastor Steve to give his report. He mentioned that we are working on a new website which will go live in a few weeks. We are one church with multiple communities: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Emmanuel Community Church, Emmanuel Park Community, Emmanuel Academies and Emmanuel Communities. Tonight, we will focus on the first three above. Pastor Steve showed slides of all the staff members and slides taken on Worship and Music Ministry, Children, Family and Adult Education, Mission Outreach, Congregational Care and Property and Facilities. Some of the highlights that were shared: our choir now has over 40 members. Our adult education classes on Sundays have over 120 members attend, our bi-lingual service has grown its ministry and moved from Pebblebrooke to a larger space at Mooring Line Drive, Mission Development has begun at the Park. The first service at the Park was held on Nov. 24, 2019 and another one is planned for Feb. 2, 2020. The Stephen Ministry program started in 1975 and there are 13,000 congregations that have this program including Emmanuel. Over 1,000 people from our community agencies and organizations utilize our facility on a weekly basis. Space is provided to over 500 adults who strive to make life changes through Alcoholics Anonymous and other programs designed to help various addictions.

Michael mentioned the additional reports that are in the packet from Administration, Ministry departments, Emmanuel Community Church, Emmanuel Park Community and the standing committees' reports are open for discussion. With no discussion a motion was made to accept each report including Pastor Steve's and they were passed unanimously.

A motion was made to accept the 2019 gifts and pledges. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

Financial Statements for 2019 – Ann Jones, Treasurer

Ann went over the comparative balance sheet and the comparative financial statements. We did not use our line of credit in 2019. We have a strong balance sheet. Reviewing the comparative financial statements: income was \$1,940,889 and the budget was \$2,000,160 however on the expense side the actual expenses for all sites were \$1,952,188 compared to the budget of \$2,000,160. We were short \$11,299. We are asking for a \$2,248,003 budget in 2020 as we are bringing on a new ministry.

Emmanuel Park Community that needs our support. We also have brought on a Music Director and added two more cleaning people to help maintain our campus. The staff received a 1.9% COA and there were two people that received merit increases. A motion was made to accept the financial annual report for 2019. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

A motion was made to approve the proposed 2020 Budget as presented, seconded and passed unanimously.

Election of Council Member: Ruben Teran is joining Council for 3-year term. A motion was made to accept, seconded and passed unanimously.

Pastor Steve was presented with a print done by Dr. He Qi for his 20 years of ministry at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, followed by a cake.

Pastor Rick gave a closing prayer.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Vivian Shea

Dated: 01/23/2020

## SENIOR PASTOR'S ANNUAL 2020 REPORT

Rev. Steven Wigdahl, Senior Pastor



On Christmas Eve of 2020 I preached about the gifts that God grants from “Heaven’s Christmas Tree”, a phrase borrowed from a renowned preacher in 1913, yes, 1913. His name was Charles Albert Tindley. Dovetailed in my comments is a simple vision for the continuing future of this congregation. May God’s precious gifts of **faith, hope, and love** flourish among us as we move into 2021.

My annual report simply continues pointing us in that direction, i.e., to live out the essence of God’s spiritual gifts in our congregation and community.

**FAITH** – The Reformation era of the Lutheran Church found roots in Luther’s focus on “faith alone.” Yes, we are “*saved by grace through faith,*” not our actions per se. Yet having said this, it is imperative to contemplate “faith alive.” A living faith that always extends beyond us into the communities in which we live. This is our call. This is our faith tied within our daily vocations! Furthermore, we stand alongside the bold proclamation in the book of Hebrews: *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.* In the last few years each day has revealed signs of “faith alive” evidenced in the wide variety of initiatives throughout our ministries here at Emmanuel.

**HOPE** – from the book of Romans, as was said about Father Abraham: *No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.* This is a profound hope planted within the CORE of Emmanuel Lutheran. Believing that God will accomplish God’s purpose, we the baptized are set free to serve in Christ’s name, and we can continue to dream! People perish without vision. Together, with God’s help, our vision will remain vibrant and challenging.

**LOVE** – It is called the greatest God-given gift of all! We are woven into the love of Christ, and without love we can do nothing. We can speak of faith, and long for hope, but without love nothing comes to be. 1 Corinthians 13 professes: *Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.* Simply put, the gift of love to each other has helped us through the challenges of 2020, and love will see us through in the coming year!

Years ago, the former Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Rev. Mark Hansen, spoke about our ministry development in Naples. He said we as a congregation *have a strong vision, and we are in search of partners!* Yes, we want our congregation to be constantly finding ways to connect, grow, and serve in our community. We are seeing many signs of this, as evidenced in the increasing use of our downtown facility and the amazing connections developing at **Emmanuel Park and Emmanuel Communities** to the northeast.

Bishop Hansen spoke about how Emmanuel was rooted in “**Evangelical Missional Imagination**”, in anticipation of what the Spirit might do! We must not lose this but continue celebrating how the “horizons of our imaginations might be equally broad.”

Sometimes you just need to step back and “see” what God is doing in a place like Emmanuel. We are actually becoming an international hub where ministry is generated with people coming together from a wide variety of geography and cultures, as witnessed in **Emmanuel Community Church**...and furthermore demonstrated in our students at **Emmanuel Academies** who are preparing to become new pastors for the future of the church!

We are the **GROWING FACES OF EMMANUEL**, brought together in Christ. We have the joy of pouring ourselves out as we worship, learn, love, share, and serve for the sake of the kingdom of God in our midst.

My heartfelt thanks for the abundance of gifts you pour out through your time, talent, and treasure to set a strong foundation for 2021 and beyond! I am deeply honored and grateful to serve alongside Emmanuel’s vibrant staff.

I look forward to seeing an increase in the **GROWING FACES OF EMMANUEL** in 2021!

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Theresa Shaw, Executive Director



Dear Family and Friends,

Our Lord directs us in his word to “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” [1 Thess. 5:16-18]

It is so exciting to know that our church is still on the job, that ministry is still happening, and that God’s people are still being served. We did not simply survive the year, but we thrived under new circumstances, embraced new creativity, became resourceful and had faith.

For the past 10 months, we have adapted our work to meet the faith formation and connections of our congregation and friends in many ways. We have all longed to be face to face; however, we have adjusted to on-line worship and currently the addition of social distancing services.

Technology has strengthened our media outreach through our website, email, Facebook posts, social media and the use of other media outlets. Blessed with technology upgrades, we enhanced our live stream worship service in the Sanctuary and connected with members and friends through the capabilities of live streaming services held in the Family Life Center.

Throughout the annual report, you will find highlights of other accomplishments during 2020. However, as listed below, operations and committee work continued:

- Facilities were maintained and upgrades completed to restrooms to meet COVID-19 guidelines for the reopening of in-person worship in November.
- A year-round Stewardship Program was developed and supported by a committee of members committed to the financial obligations of our church.
- Through our Serving Others Committee, we continued to support the crucial needs of our community, taking casseroles to St. Matthew’s House and volunteering to distribute food.
- Endowment and Human Resource committees reviewed and updated policies and procedures to align with the current needs and constitution.
- Policies and procedures were developed for the financial operations of the church.
- Grants were submitted under the CARES Act which provided financial assistance to our church.
- The church database was given a fresh look to update and determine better ways to keep accurate information.

Again, this year, we will strive to keep operations in line with our ministries, provide clarity, and expand our ability to reach more people. In addition, we will continue to provide multiple creative opportunities for our congregation to reflect Christ-centered lives through worship, Bible study, devotions, events and educational programs.

I am always inspired by the generosity and passion in supporting the many programs and ministries. “Together We Can Do This!” was our year-end campaign and because of your support, we successfully met our goal.

As we look ahead to a new year, we are humbled and excited about what the Spirit will continue to do through the church.

We are deeply appreciative of our members, associates, friends, visitors, funders, supporters, volunteer and community members who help in doing God’s work.

I hope this report will inspire you and persuade you to contribute through your time, talents and your treasure.

Emmanuel continues to expand its mission and we look forward to being in touch and involving you further in God’s work.

Blessings,

Theresa Shaw  
Executive Director



## CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Vivian Shea

This past year has been very challenging in many ways. Since March, most staff worked from their homes most of the time and attended meetings through zoom. We are continuing to do this. It has not been all gloom and doom as several enhancements have been done including an upgrade to our technology which enabled us to continue holding Sunday services through live stream and Bible studies and Grief group, just to name a few.

My primary function is to drive the operational effectiveness of Mooring Line Drive. In this position, I coordinate the overall finance and facility operations so that the campus functions efficiently, as a lot of behind the scenes work gets done during the week that is not seen on Sundays.

Having said this, I oversee all financial functions of the church along with Deborah Vacca, our Bookkeeper. We both work closely with the Finance and Stewardship committees along with Theresa to provide dedicated oversight to the monthly financial health of the congregation. We work diligently to create a budget that the congregation can sustain.

Alex Tovar manages our facility maintenance operations. It is our top priority to keep our staff and members safe. Having said that we added a better air filter system along with hand sanitizer stations, touchless faucets and toilets as a result of the COVID -19 pandemic. We also installed a new fire alarm panel in the sanctuary (which was damaged by Hurricane Irma) and the Welcome Center at Oil Well Road (formerly the parsonage) now has a new roof.

In closing, I want to thank all our volunteers who assist to make everything run smoothly. Our church depends on your efforts with so many things and what you do is important to expand the reach of every ministry at work at Emmanuel.



## ADULT EDUCATION 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Rev. Richard Bliese

I will limit this report to the adult educational activities at Emmanuel that started to produce some fruit in 2019 but have now become established ministries in 2020, despite the pandemic. The following Adult Education programs were carried out last year and strongly sponsored and/or supported by Emmanuel Academies. [I will not mention the Family Retreat last February since it will be included in Jim Cooper's report. In addition, Emmanuel Academies sponsored Emmanuel members and EA students to participate in two national online conferences sponsored by Made-to-Flourish Network and the Acton Institute (MI). I will also not mention my supervision of EA students. That work will be included in Howard Isaacson EA report].

### - Faith, Vocation, and Economics Series - 2020 In-Season Series

This series ran on Sundays and Mondays throughout the months of February and March. Speakers were brought in from around the country to lift up the topic of "Faith, Vocation and Economics." Eight speakers were hosted. Three sessions took place on Sundays before and after all worship services. Average attendance was around 100 on Sundays for all the sessions combined. Monday lectures saw a range from 35 - 60 per week. Fortunately, these sessions were completed on the week of "shut down" for COVID-19. All sessions and lectures have been recorded and placed in the EA digital library.

### - Dinners for 6 or 8 - January through April, 2020

This initiative targeted again in 2020 more fellowship goals than education goals. Nevertheless, it was an important initiative in creating more and deeper relationships between Emmanuel members across our three communities. 15 groups were created with around 110 people participating in gatherings from January through April. This initiative became particularly important once the quarantine started in March. Fellowship was still possible.

## **The Sunday Forums - 2020**

The five-week series “Discover Emmanuel” in 2019 transformed itself in 2019 and 2020 into the regular Sunday morning class called “The Sunday Forum.” The Sunday class was averaging around 110 people per week until the end of March when Pandemic restrictions were put in place. The class was immediately put online and now averages 120 “views” per week both in-season and out-of-season. This “view count” translates into at least 170 people per week who participate in the Sunday Forum, a significant increase in engagement over last year. The online dimension of this class will certainly need to be maintained even after regular in-person education returns to Emmanuel.

### **- The Bonus Sundays plus Other Educational Offerings**

The number of Emmanuel participants in Bible Study in 2019 suggested that Emmanuel members were hungry for more adult education. So we designed an educational program for 2020 that included more Bible Study.

These offerings were expanded after April with its COVID restrictions. The following programs were initiated:

- The Bonus Bible Study (60 “views” per week)
- ZOOM at Noon with Pastor Rick (8 to 20 participants per week)
- Work Matters with Pastor Will (40 “views” per week)
- God in the Grind with Pastor Will (only published 2 sessions)
- Worship Matters with Karole Langset (5 to 12 participants per week)
- Happy Hour with the Doctor and the Master Sommelier (15 to 32 participants per week)

Other earlier Bonus Bible Studies were:

- **January, 2020:** “Studying the Longest Gospel in the New Testament: The Gospel of Matthew” - Rick Bliese
- **February, 2020:** “Women in Scripture: The Prophets” - Karole Langset
- **March, 2020:** “Communion with Creation: Exploring the Biblical Roots of the Vocation of Environmentalism, including the eco-theology of our Creation Stories and Church Sacraments.” - Lois Sorensen

These programs have all been well received. Numbers varied for each event. Nevertheless, feedback from participants has been favorable. Further programs will be initiated next year.

### **- Stay tuned for more in 2021 . . .**

In summary, we are discovering how hungry Emmanuel members are for more education and fellowship opportunities. Online opportunities have provided a marvelous tool for addressing this need. We will continue to explore various options to make classes engaging and more accessible to all our Emmanuel communities both in-season and all year round, and both online and in-person (later this year). Christian education is one of the foundational keys for spiritual growth. As a result, we will continue to commit ourselves to promote education wherever we can especially using the topic of “Faith, Vocation and Economics” as the umbrella for how we approach Christian discipleship.



## ADULT MINISTRY 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Reverend Dr. Rick Bliese, Carol Hartman, RN  
Parish Nurse, Resident Pastor Lois Sorensen,  
Resident Pastor Karole Langset

**STEPHEN MINISTRY:** Currently, there are 40 trained Stephen Ministers – 22 actively serving. Classes are taught by Parish Nurse, Carol Hartman. She trains the Stephen Ministers and matches them with a Care Receiver. The Stephen Ministry Leadership Board is chaired by Clayton Blomseth. Anyone interested in having or becoming a Stephen Minister is invited to contact Carol or Clayton through the church office at 261-0894. Since March contact by Stephen Ministers with Care Receivers has continued through phone calls. Stephen Ministers have continued to meet via Zoom for continuing education. It is unclear at this point when a new class can be offered.

**PARISH NURSE MINISTRY:** Carol Hartman is one of six Parish Nurses in the Collier County network. She is available to our parishioners to meet and talk with them to help them better understand their diagnoses, medications and procedures which are used by physicians for healing and treating various illnesses. Carol counsels people by phone or in person. She is active with the Avow Hospice Spiritual Advisory Board. She writes a monthly Parish Nurse newsletter on topics concerning health and wellness. COVID 19 Impact - Carol has continued her ministry activities through phone calls and emails, working closely with the two Resident Pastors to maintain contact with parishioners who have pastoral ministry concerns. She also continues to arrange calls and contact by the clergy with parishioners who have personal issues or needs.

**GRIEF GROUP:** Carol Hartman, along with Resident Pastor Karole Langset, lead this twice monthly group for anyone grieving a loss of any kind. Sessions include sharing time, a prayer and a devotion. Since March, this group has met via Zoom sessions, and continues to support 6 or more parishioners.

**FLOWER MINISTRY:** Flowers from the Sunday Worship Service are arranged by a special group of people and are delivered to 3 or 4 homes or assisted living facilities each week by volunteers from our congregation. We do not have flowers on the altar during Lent, so no flowers will be delivered during that period. Anyone interested in helping with this ministry can contact the church at 239-261-0894. Due to COVID-19 the Flower Ministry was suspended in April.

**HOMEBOUND MINISTRY:** We keep a list of those in our parish who are homebound so they can have regular calls by our pastoral care staff. Please call the church office (239-261-0894) if you wish to have someone listed as a homebound member who might benefit from a phone call or contact. We have had to suspend our visits at this time due to COVID-19.

**NURSING HOME/MUSIC MINISTRY:** 30 to 40 assisted living residents comprise the groups that are being visited. A group of volunteers brings music and messages of inspiration to 4 of our assisted living homes in the area. A leader facilitates the meeting with a word of hope, and a pianist and assistant lead the singing of favorite hymns. *(The Nursing Home/Music Ministry was forced to curtail activities in the spring due to pandemic restrictions.)*

**CHRISTCARE SMALL GROUP MINISTRY:** We currently have 11 small groups. The groups gather in homes to become like family to one another while they grow in their faith and serve others. If you would like to be a member of a small group, please call the church office at 239-261-0894. Most groups were suspended due to COVID-19, but a few met via Zoom.

**DEPENDENCY MINISTRY:** Approximately 350 people attend dependency meetings here in any given week. This ministry continues to be a vital part of pastoral care at Emmanuel. Each week there are 6-8 AA meetings, 2 SA meetings plus 1 OA and 1 GA meeting. These meetings are led by their members. Call the office at 239-261-0894 if you would like further information. These meetings have continued to the extent possible, using mask and social distancing guidelines.

**SERVING OTHERS MINISTRY:** There are 17 members currently on this team. Followers of Christ are to “Share God’s Love through Action”. The Serving Others team have partnered with 6 faith-based providers of needs and services for the needy in our area and in the world. In 2020 we contributed financially, but at a reduced level due to the challenges of COVID-19, to agencies and individuals.

**MEMORIAL GARDEN MINISTRY:** This ministry serves those who choose to have their loved ones cremated and interred in one of the niches in our beautiful memorial garden. Open to all members and friends, this ministry counsels on all aspects of end-of-life issues. The ministry is led by the pastors, resident pastors and Carol Hartman, RN. Contact Carol at the church office at 239-261-0894 for more information or answers to your questions about the garden and the availability of niches. Since the Spring, visits to the garden take place with masks and social distancing. Interments are arranged individually with a pastor, and so have continued during the pandemic. Purchases of niches continue to be available.

**SENIOR FOOD PROGRAM:** Beginning in January 2021 we will be distributing food to Seniors in the area. We have volunteers to help with the once a month distribution to low income senior citizens who have signed up to receive the food packages donated by Harry Chapin Food Bank.



## MUSIC, WORSHIP AND MINISTRIES 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Joyce Finlay, ELCA Deacon for Music and Worship

What can we say about 2020, except that it has been a year like no other...I never envisioned that we would be living through a once in a lifetime pandemic, but suddenly there we were.

Ken Wistrom, our wonderful director, was leading the Emmanuel Choir and they were doing a magnificent job, when everything abruptly came to a halt. The time for lockdown prohibited anyone from getting together, let alone singing in a group setting. The Choir has not been physically together since its last rehearsal on Wednesday, March 11, 2020.

We hope that sometime in 2021 the Emmanuel Choir will be able to reconvene. Stay tuned!

**Sunday worship** continued throughout the pandemic, thanks to technology. Livestreaming was the norm for nearly 8 months. People were invited to attend services IN-PERSON beginning November 1, 2020. In order to ensure all safety precautions, registration was/is required on a weekly basis. Physical distancing is practiced, with face masks required.

Here is a summary of our special Wednesday night offerings during the year:

- **Wednesday Evening Lenten Services:** Our Lenten services were livestreamed, and led by Resident Pastor Lois Sorensen. Each week Resident Pastor Lois explored different types of prayer, and the congregation was able to experience all of them online.
- **Wednesday Evening Advent Services:** There were four Wednesdays of Advent this season, and they were all accessible through Livestream. Week 1 was Holden Evening Prayer (revised a bit because of the pandemic, but all the beautiful music was there). For Week 2 the congregation had an opportunity to watch Holden Evening Prayer again via Livestream. On week 3, we held our second *Blue Christmas* service, which was written and organized by Resident Pastor Karole Langset. Week 4 was a choice: Attendees could view any or all of the previous services online.

### **WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:**

- Our worship participants team has been on hiatus this year because of Covid. Hopefully the various roles of taking part in the services will return when all has been deemed safe to do so.
- A shout-out to the Altar Guild. It is well organized by Diedre Milligan. Diedre has continued her dedicated and hard work throughout the pandemic, and for that, Diedre, we are so grateful!

During this time of staying physically distanced, it is our hope that people were still blessed by these services.

We have hope for getting back to "normal" (whatever that means!) in 2021. **SOLI DEO GLORIA!**



## YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES & ALIVE SERVICE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Jim Cooper, ELCA Deacon for Children, Youth, Family and the Contemporary Service

As the psalmist declares, “God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble (Psalm 46:1). This year has been full of inconceivable change, disruption, financial hardship, illness, and death. Yet despite this unforeseen pandemic, God has been our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble. We have stood by faith in God’s abundant grace and give thanks for what he has accomplished through us at Emmanuel this year.

Given the pandemic and shutdowns in March, my role as Deacon took on many new responsibilities. These new responsibilities led to new innovations and successful new ministries here at Emmanuel. The major highlights are as follows:



**Emmanuel's New Website:** Theresa and I were the project leaders for Emmanuel’s new website. We started working on the new website design in the spring of 2019. This turned out to be perfect timing because we were able to launch Emmanuel’s new website on January 1, 2020. As a result, we were ready when the pandemic struck, and we were ready to use the website to innovatively shoulder all the ministry we would do for the year. Praise the Lord, that’s God’s good timing!

**Annual Family Retreat:** Again, great timing for the annual family retreat weekend. It took place the last weekend in February, just two weeks before the shutdowns. It seems so long ago since we were all together, eating, singing, laughing, playing, and learning. There were 126 of us from our three communities, Emmanuel Mooring Line, Emmanuel Community Church and Emmanuel Park Church. Unfortunately, we will be postponing our next retreat to February 2022.



**AV Department:** In April, I took on the responsibility of overseeing the implementation of the camera upgrades to the sanctuary and the Family Life Center. We built a new AV control center in the choir loft in the sanctuary, including four new cameras which have greatly enhanced our live stream capability and quality of worship. We also added live stream capability to the Family Life Center and are presently live streaming three worship services every Sunday, a traditional, contemporary, and Latino service. Also, for this new endeavor, we needed to recruit, hire and train staff to run the new equipment on a weekly basis. There is so much to learn, but by far the result of all of this has been a growing online audience, with both our members here and up north, and a whole new group of people.



**Church Reopening:** In early September I took on the responsibility of overseeing the Sunday morning reopening of the church to in-person worship. This project involved the Church Council, Pastors, Deacons, and staff. Six teams were put together to focus on the major areas of the reopening. By the grace of God and a lot of hard work and the help of volunteers, we had a very successful reopening of the church to in-person worship services. Because of the hard work by everyone on the teams, we are ready to expand and or adapt as we move into the new year.



**Alive Contemporary Worship.** In-person worship ended March 15. During this time, Jamie Searles, our contemporary music leader, faithfully participated in the online worship service every Sunday doing a musical number. In addition, Jamie put together a musical devotion that went out every week on our website. On November 1, the Alive service began 25% in person worship. We have been averaging 35 people a Sunday in-person and roughly 120 people tuning into the Alive service online.

**Faith Formation:** The biggest faith formation celebration this year was our confirmation class. Despite the pandemic, the class was able to meet using zoom technology. Everything culminated together for a confirmation ceremony that took place on December 6. Six wonderful students were confirmed. Although we had to wear masks and in-person attendance was kept to only 25%, it was a day of great celebration. The highlight was hearing each confirmand share a portion of their faith statement which was a tremendous blessing to all of us.



**Service:** Through the Souper-Bowl of Caring in February, our youth were able to raise \$2,456 to be divided between St. Matthew's House, Grace Place and Harry Chapin Food Bank. Our young people did a great job and are always looking for ways they can help our community. The pandemic made things especially hard this year.

**Youth Scholarship Program:** In May, we were able to award 4 graduating high school students and 1 college student with a total of \$6,000 towards their continuing higher education. Thanks to the growing strength of our Youth Scholarship Foundation, we have now dispersed \$54,700. This now is 56 scholarships over the past 12 years.



**As we look to the New Year:** Despite what comes our way in 2021, we are going to boldly grasp our faith. We are going to make plans and lean on the Holy Spirit for wisdom. We are going to pray extra hard and we are going to trust God for continued dynamic, innovative ministry here at Emmanuel and especially for our children, youth, and families.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Report written by Jim Cooper



Despite the pandemic Emmanuel's Children's Ministry continued to find creative ways to minister to our children and families. Here are some highlights from 2020:

**Nieves Lebron-** our part-time Children's Ministry Specialist joined our staff in August 2019. Wonderful plans were put in place for her to grow the children's educational programs for Emmanuel Community Church and Emmanuel Mooring Line. We implemented a new Sunday morning faith formation program that was working well and growing. We had a very successful family retreat in February and things were really starting to take off. All of that came to an end in March when the pandemic hit. By April, we realized what we were up against and began to make new plans to interact with families and children via text messaging, Zoom video, Facebook, YouTube, and other forms of social media.



**Family Retreat-** In February we had our off-site family weekend retreat near Tampa, Florida, at Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center. We designed a special program for the children, including arts and crafts, music, shark tooth hunting, canoeing, rock-climbing, and zip-lining. More than 50 children attended.



In addition to the weekly online education opportunities, Deacon Jim and Nieves, together with Pastor Rick, put together a Sunday forum that had a focus on Christian education in our new pandemic world. During this Sunday forum we explored activities that could be done in the home and together as a family. There were powerful testimonies and practical website tools that families could easily access.

**Children in Worship –** Nieves put together weekly Bible lessons for families and tied those lessons to Sunday's worship service. During the shutdown, she would always have a special children's moment at every worship service online. When November came around and we could start in-person worship, she continued to have special children's sermons each Sunday. This ministry is something the children and the parents really look forward to every week.



**Christmas Pageant -** On Sunday, December 20 we had a Christmas pageant. Even though we were restricted to only 25% in person worship, our children stepped up and did a wonderful job. They proclaimed the good news, the birth of Jesus. Both in English and Spanish; shepherds, kings, angels, Mary, and Joseph singing and proclaiming the good news, "Emmanuel God with us".

We look forward to all that God will continue to do in 2021!



## EMMANUEL COMMUNITY CHURCH 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Pastor José Lebrón and Frine Donadelli, Admin. Assistant



*19 For I am about to do something new.  
See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?  
I will make a pathway through the wilderness.  
I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.*

*Isaiah 43:19*



That is how I feel right now. My heart is filled with hope. I hope that COVID-19 will be left out in the past. I am thrilled to see the new things God is already showing to us. I am seeing the new ways that already existed, available to all of us like the technology to be used to spread the good news of salvation. But I could not see it before, because I was afraid of it. Now COVID is forcing us to see it. It is my hope that all of you that read this annual report can see what I see. I can see: a new emerging church growing wide and deep, stronger, and more mature than ever.

-José Lebrón

### Highlights of 2020:

- **Worship** - We began the year by celebrating our service at 11:30 am at the Family Life Center. Due to the pandemic, in March we moved our service to the sanctuary to adapt to the changes and to be able to broadcast the service live through Livestream. The congregation adapted to this new format of service and appreciated the work of Emmanuel's team. The online service was only in Spanish to shorten its duration. The average attendance of the online services was approximately 50 devices. Taking the step towards online services has allowed us not only to continue to offer this service to the community in Naples, but also to reach families around the world in Bolivia, Venezuela, Honduras, among other countries in Latin America and Europe. On November 1, we started our in-person and online worship service at the Family Life Center. Again, the congregation received the changes in a positive way following the safety measures implemented. Our most recent achievement is that now our service is also available through Facebook Live, which allows us to have a greater interaction with the community and have greater outreach potential.
- **Pastoral Care** - Since the beginning of the pandemic and the closing of the building, following the direction of Pastor Rick Bliese and the need to stay connected, we began a video series of daily devotionals in Spanish through Facebook Live (closed group), Monday through Friday at 7:00 am. José Lebrón started the devotionals on March 21<sup>st</sup> with one to two daily viewers. After two weeks, he had 25 to 30 viewers on each video. These devotionals have been a blessing to Pastor José and to the community, since they have been available to people around the world, members, and non-members of Emmanuel. These videos are being stored so they can be used in the future. Pastor José plans to continue sharing the daily devotionals during 2021.
- **Baptism and First Communion** - ECC celebrated 6 baptisms during the year 2020 (3 children, 1 youth and 2 adults). Three of these baptisms were the first immersion baptisms celebrated at the Welcome Center on Oil Well Rd. The last of them was shared on Facebook Live so that the community could participate. Also, at the beginning of the year, 11 children had their First Communion, after taking their classes with the Resident Pastor Lois Sorensen and the Children's Coordinator Nieves Lebrón.
- **Adult Bible Study** - During the year, we have held 3 fellowship and educational opportunities each week. On Mondays and Tuesdays, we offered Bible studies that had an average attendance of 10 people each. On Thursdays, we continued our leadership classes, using the material offered by the ELCA. These leadership classes were presented by Zetty Rivera, member of ECC and Emmanuel's council, with an average attendance of 6 people. These three activities were conducted through the Zoom app for most of the year. Although many members of our congregation had some difficulty adjusting, with the help of the staff they were able to join in and participate.
- **Other activities** - This year has led us to unleash our creativity to be able to maintain contact and continue to serve the community. The ECC team carried out 2 activities that are worth highlighting. One of them was held days before Palm Sunday, when the ECC team personally brought palms to the homes of more than 50 ECC members. They joyfully received the palms and created beautiful crosses to decorate their doors. Another of these activities occurred on Mother's Day. Due to the scarcity of masks and high prices, we decided to give the mothers of ECC reusable masks as a gift. These masks were handmade

by Frine Donadelli and another member of the congregation and were distributed in each of their homes by Nieves and José Lebrón. Both activities made a great impact on the minds and hearts of the ECC members.

- **Children's Ministry** - Despite the challenge of not meeting in person, the children continued meeting with our Children's Ministry coordinator, Nieves Lebrón, every Sunday after our worship service at 12:30pm. Additionally, during the week, Nieves kept connected with their parents providing some materials to work during the week. Having these meetings with parents and their children strengthened their relationship and roots in Christ. Pictures of the children's crafts were shared during our worship service, which brought a smile to our members faces.

- **Accomplished Goals** – By January of 2020 we finally completed the transition of moving out of Pebblebrooke and moving into MLD Campus. This transition impacted positively our ECC budget since we saved about \$75,000 between lease, internet, energy, and water bills. The negative impact was that we lost the after-school program; a successful program that not only served the community where we were but created a wonderful bond between volunteers from Emmanuel and our ECC family.

We started the year participating in two of the events offered by Emmanuel, the trip to Rock the Universe and the family retreat. Our participation was very positive with a total of 22 at Rock the Universe and 66 at the family retreat. These activities allowed us to come together and grow as one Emmanuel Lutheran Church and multiple communities. Both events were organized in conjunction with Jim Cooper.

- **Goals for 2021/2022**

- Increase our worship attendance to 200

- Start a 2<sup>nd</sup> Worship Service in English. Using our worship band and offering a great opportunity of participation to the M.Div. students of EA. I am proposing to do in English only.

- Implement Emmanuel's stewardship plan to increase annual income to \$50,000. Through establishing clear and defined goals for our members. And creating a friendly and safe electronic way of giving so even people from overseas should be able to give.



## THE EMMANUEL PARK COMMUNITY (EPC) 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Rev. William A. Kittinger Jr. and Deacon Dee-Anne Schleutker



2020 has been the first full year of ministry at Emmanuel Community Park. Plans were to open with regular weekly worship on Easter Sunday, April 12. Those plans were thwarted by the SARS COVID-19 virus as most churches around the nation shut down. Pastor Will and Deacon Dee regrouped and executed a new plan that called for a new “old” way of worshipping: the drive-in experience.

Emmanuel Community Park launched weekly worship Pentecost Sunday, May 31 with 100 people in attendance. In the 32 services that followed (26 Sundays plus additional worship services), we canceled worship only twice due to severe weather. We have no building. We worship outside, setting up a stage every week thanks to a half-dozen or so volunteers. People worship in the comfort and safety of their cars or they sit outside in chairs and benches. They listen either through our portable sound system or through our radio transistor.

Pastor Will paid \$50 for the radio transistor. With that \$50, 2,066 people have attended worship at the Park since we began on Pentecost. In the six months of regular worship, we have averaged nearly 69 people per service. \$55,414 have been collected in weekly offerings.

Sunday Worship has thrived as a result of our “reverse model” of doing church. That is, people engage with us first at the Park through some other means that eventually leads them to partnering with us on Sunday morning. Those means include (but are not limited to!):

- Service Wednesdays that include a mobile food distribution in partnership with Meals of Hope where we feed on average between 400 – 450 families using over two dozen volunteers from both Emmanuel and the neighborhood-at-large
- The multi-purpose Goodyear sports field where intermural teams practice soccer and football drills till the sun goes down
- The new playground that was constructed in July which brings young families to the Park all day, every day
- The 3-acre lake with the “Hunger Walking Trail” around it, formed by the cars that wait every Wednesday for Meals of Hope, that people now use as a path for exercise
- The Food Rock Food Truck. Based on Matthew 16, serving excellent Haitian, Colombian, and American inspired cuisine 6 days a week and doing a whole lot of evangelizing. The owners J.D. and Jennifer Damas and their 5 children have joined the Emmanuel Park Community.
- Ash Wednesday Drive-Thru Ashing, Blessing of the Animals, Live Nativity at the Collier County Fairgrounds, and much more

By engaging through these other means, we have developed relationships that have resulted in *growing the faces of Emmanuel*. This past month (December) we welcomed 15 new partners into the Emmanuel family and on January 10, 2021, 10 of those (8 children and 2 adults) people will be baptized by Pastor Will at the Park. God is up to something at Emmanuel Community Park.

### A Look Ahead to 2021

What’s in store for Emmanuel Community Park in 2021? Only God knows! However, here are some goals we’re working on, as well as the plans we’re formulating to achieve those goals:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 2021 Goals   | (By the end of the year we want to...) |
| 1. Average 140 people in worship on Sunday   |  |
| 2. Collect \$100,000 in offerings from worship   |  |
| 3. Have a working Spiritual Formation program at the Park for children and adults  |  |
| 4. Bring our Service Wednesdays to their full complement by adding other volunteer opportunities at the Park to increase participation from both Emmanuel and the neighborhood |  |
| 5. Summer camps and afterschool programs for children and teenagers  |  |
| 6. Partner with Emmanuel Communities, Inc. (ECI) in working with neighborhood organizations to bring more community services to the Park                                       |  |
| 7. Have a weekly working farmer’s market led by the community  |  |

## How we will achieve our 2021 goals

1. – Simultaneous Spanish language translation of worship utilizing another radio transmitter
  - Expanding to two worship services
  - Offering a hybrid model for worship upon construction of the pavilion by ECI that includes sitting outside under the pavilion and also in-car
  - Adding 2 volunteer musicians to our worship services
  - Continuing to improve on our reverse model of doing church to get people connected to Sunday worship better and faster
2. - Tying into Emmanuel Mooring Line's continued stewardship campaign *The Growing Faces of Emmanuel* with regular Sunday baptisms and "New to the Park" meetings
  - Supplementing Emmanuel MLD's stewardship campaign with our own, "100 in '21." That is, to push the idea every week of collecting \$100,000 in worship offerings for the year 2021. This will launch with our Baptism Sunday on January 10, and proceed the following six weeks of Epiphany with sermons that teach on stewardship, giving, and the unique ministry of the Park
3. – Roll out our "Sidewalk Sunday School" in Q1 of 2021. A reverse Sunday School that's open to all children of the community ages 6-12. Will utilize a rotation model and spread the children across the Park. Will include activities, songs, games, trivia, and more!
  - Baptism class with Deacon Dee. During the sermon, Deacon Dee takes the children to teach them about the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Recently baptized adults will work with Pastor Will one-on-one utilizing technology and park meetups
  - Continuing to plug people into the educational programs offered online by Pastor Rick and Emmanuel Mooring Line Dr.
  - Prayer Walks with Deacon Dee and Centering Prayer with Pastor Will. Two classes for adults that will be featured in-person at the Park
4. Combining "Park Workdays" with Meals of Hope on Wednesday to form "Service Wednesday." People will be able to signup online to volunteer in a variety of roles including assisting in food distribution, gardening in the community garden, rebuilding the "potting shack" into the Sunrise Chapel, litter pickup, planting plants and trees, assisting with the afterschool program, and so much more
5. - Partnering with the Florida-Bahamas Synod to bring a week of Bible Camp to the Park for 50 children this summer
  - Partnering with Avow Kids, The Mustard Seed Ranch, and Endless Brain to bring a week of camp for children with developmental disabilities this summer
  - Partnering with the Collier County Sheriff's Office to help facilitate an afterschool program for middle and high schoolers living in Golden Gate Estates. CCSO is taking the lead on this program, and we're coming alongside in support.
6. - Working with ECI and neighborhood organizations to bring medical services to the Park
  - Working with ECI and neighborhood organizations to construct two beach volleyball courts at the Park
  - Working with ECI and neighborhood businesses to bring more food trucks to the Park
7. – Working with congregation, ECI, and local businesses to bring a proper farmer's market weekly to the Park upon construction of the pavilion. We are already pursuing active businesses to partner with and to infuse with Emmanuel Mooring Line's micro-lending program

As you can read, we have some bold plans for the faith community at Emmanuel Park. **We center all of these plans in prayer as our 2021 theme for the Park is Luke 11:1 "Lord, teach us to pray..."** Prayer will encompass what we hope to achieve as a congregation of Emmanuel as prayer is a necessity in discipleship of the Way of Jesus; to make sure that we are indeed doing God's work with our hands. Please continue to pray for this congregation as it continues to be guided by God's Spirit which is transforming all of us and our community. Thanks be to God!



## RESIDENT PASTOR PROGRAM – 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Karole Langset, Resident Pastor and Lois Sorensen, Resident Pastor



Emmanuel is committed to raising up leaders for the church, and our residency program does just that. Residency is a required step in the candidacy process for prospective pastors in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It involves providing the pastoral candidate with opportunities to develop a pastoral identity by serving a congregation alongside ordained pastors, other church staff, and active volunteers. At Emmanuel, Pastor Frank Lee mentors the resident pastors and coordinates with their seminaries. In 2019, Emmanuel's first Resident Pastors -- Will Kittinger and Ian McMichael -- completed their two-year residency, graduated seminary, and were ordained. Our current Resident Pastors -- Karole Langset and Lois Sorensen -- are completing their second year of residency in 2021. They will both receive their Master of Divinity degrees in the Spring. In Fall of 2020, both were approved for ordination, so they are awaiting "first call" (an offer to serve a congregation as their pastor). They are currently "under the care" of their home synods (Karole, Southeast Michigan; Lois, Florida-Bahamas). In this call process, they are coordinating with their bishops.

Neither resident pastor ever envisioned serving during a pandemic; and yet, they have risen to the challenge so that crucial ministry can continue for the members and friends of Emmanuel. Pastor Karole and Pastor Lois have leveraged technology to start social, educational, and support groups on Zoom (such as a virtual coffee hour and moving grief group online) and serve as "mission control" for special Zoom activities (such as the pre-reopening "Let's Get Together" event and recent New Member Orientation). They have also been providing "tech support" to individuals to help them navigate Zoom meetings, Vimeo livestreaming, and other digital communication methods. Both participate in "Take Out Tuesday" (weekly video devotions). Pastor Karole provides a personal faith reflection and Pastor Lois offers a children's message.

Both resident pastors adapt and modify worship and communication practices in response to current conditions as a part of the pandemic response team. Pastor Karole started a "Worship Matters" group on Zoom where she gathers feedback for the pastoral team about how our congregation is experiencing worship today. Pastor Lois gathered reopening guidelines from the synod and other sources, worked with Deacon Joyce Finlay to synthesize these guidelines into protocols for in-person worship, and trains/supports the usher team in implementation. Pastor Karole works with Jennifer Ziegelmaier, production coordinator, and Adriana Buitrago, to coordinate Emmanuel's "Weekly Update" (our weekly updated schedule and links.) Pastor Lois is curating an active presence for Emmanuel's primary Facebook page publicizing Emmanuel news and events.

Emmanuel provides both resident pastors with preaching, pastoral care, and leadership opportunities. Not only do they preach for our multiple communities, but they also provide pulpit supply for other congregations in the Caloosa Conference and beyond. When most congregations were closed to in-person worshipers, Pastor Karole and Pastor Lois provided video pulpit supply. Both residents feel called to pastoral care and miss being able to regularly provide in-person visits, and nursing home worship services. During the pandemic, they are providing some pastoral care through Zoom groups (such as virtual prayer circle, and moving Stephen Ministry meetings online), and are making phone calls and sending messages to stay in contact with the congregation. Both resident pastors have been learning about congregational systems and finances from experts within the congregation. Pastor Karole is particularly passionate about Christian education and so has been working closely with Rev. Dr. Rick Bliese. She edits, produces, and publishes videos for The Sunday Forum, Bonus Bible Study series, and weekly Lectionary Bible Study. Pastor Lois is particularly passionate about mercy and justice outreach efforts, and so has been supporting Pastor Will and Deacon Dee at Emmanuel Community Park. She is there almost every Wednesday for the Meals of Hope mobile food pantry, and has also been involved with environmental and lay leadership projects.

P.S. From Pastor Karole and Pastor Lois: We want to use this report to express our gratitude and love for the members of our internship committees and other active "faces" of Emmanuel Lutheran Church. We also give thanks for the lives of those who participated in our growth here who joined the Church Triumphant during 2020.

## EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Richard Boe, Committee Chairman

Purpose: The Endowment Fund is created to receive grants and bequests of monies and or properties, on behalf of the church. The purpose of the fund is to provide support for the mission of Emmanuel Lutheran church beyond its normal operating budget.

The Committee: The committee educates and informs the congregation about the Endowment Fund, means of giving to the fund, and acknowledges all contributions to the fund. The committee manages the investments in the fund and oversees distribution of grants in support of the church mission.

2020 Committee Members: Pastor Steve Wigdahl, Richard Boe (Chairman), George Wardeberg, Gary Elsesser, Frank Palulis, Vivian Shea, Jerry Wolfe, and Jerry Kimble. Steve Esala serves on the committee as the Church Council Liaison. The committee is thankful for the support and assistance of the Church Staff, Church Council and the Church Congregation.

Endowment Fund Accounts: The Endowment Fund consists of three accounts, Missionary, Annuity and Endowment. The Endowment Account is further split into three funds, Perpetuity, Scholarship and Emmanuel Local Outreach. The committee retains the services of HBKS Wealth Advisors to invest and oversee the Endowment Portfolio. This year, through the first eleven months of 2020, even with periods of high volatility during the pandemic, the three Endowment Accounts realized an average increase of 8.43%.

Endowment Fund Distributions: Again this year, Missionaries Harry and Bernice Burke received financial support from the Missionary Account, and all Annuity Obligations were funded from the Annuity Account. Five scholarships were awarded to Emmanuel Youth Vanessa Ruiz, Isabella Sanchez, Bryce Hammert, Bailey Kimble and Alex Lyberg. We feel that all five have the ability to make a difference in our society, and it is a good feeling to know that Emmanuel had something to do with making that happen.

Olive Tree Society: Olive Tree Society Members are Emmanuel members that have provided gifts, bequests, or commitments of Legacy Gifts, now or in the future to ensure future growth of Emmanuel Ministries. The Committee would like to ask you to consider being a member of the Olive Tree Society.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Boe, Chairman

## HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

The Human Resources Committee members are Ann Berlam, Jack Dick, Bill Rosevear, and Frank Lester – at this time, there is an opening for one additional member from the congregation. Emmanuel staff members on the Committee are Vivian Shea and Theresa Shaw, and the Church Council is represented by Nancy Dick, as liaison.

The purpose and responsibilities of the Committee are: to assist the Church Council, Senior Pastor, Executive Director and Chief Operations Officer with matters relating to all staff positions; to recognize the importance of a staff that is qualified, trained, properly compensated, and retained; and, to provide guidance on new staff position requirements including the job description, salary and benefits.

The Committee met January, March, and December this year. Its primary focus was to update Emmanuel Lutheran Church's Human Resources Policies and Procedures (the Personnel Handbook) to reflect the current organizational chart, the Executive Director position, and to be completely consistent with the Church's constitution. The Church Council approved all changes this summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Lester  
Chairperson

**EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**

	Missionary Account	Annuity Account	Endowment Account		Total
			Perpetuity Fund	Scholarship Fund	
<b>12/31/19 Balance</b>	127,662.30	75,027.95	1,286,808.72	99,804.48	1,403,052.19
<b>2020 Contributions</b>	0.00	-	-	3,000.00	3,000.00
<b>2020 Fund transfers</b>	0.00	-	-	-	-
<b>2020 Expenses</b>	other fees	(8,650.00)	(550.00)	(9,000.00)	(15,550.00)
		(1,306.08)	(10,000.26)	-	(10,000.26)
		(17,406.08)	(10,550.26)	(6,000.00)	(25,550.26)
<b>2020 Change in FMV of assets</b>	17,205.67	(4,446.33)	120,797.27	5,979.59	127,761.77
<b>2020 Investment Income &amp; Gains(Losses)</b>	257.33	10,255.04	7,791.61	604.31	8,495.46
<b>12/31/20 Ending Balance</b>	127,719.22	71,651.76	1,404,847.34	97,388.38	1,516,759.16

**Endowment Fund Total as of December 31, 2020** **1,716,130.14**

All funds are currently invested and managed by HBKS Wealth Advisors

Missionary Account Expenses include \$16,100 sent to Harry and Bernice Burke for missionary work support, and \$1306 in Portfolio Service fees to HBKS Wealth Advisors

Annuity Account Expenses include \$8,650 in quarterly payments to the annuitant families, and \$535 in manages the Charitable Gift Annuities on our behalf, and \$535 in Portfolio Services Fees to HBKS Wealth Advisors

Perpetuity and Scholarship Fund Expenses include the following:

- 10,000.26 Portfolio service fee to HBK Sorce
- 550.00 CTAC service fees
- 9,000.00 ECC support
- 6,000.00 Scholar ships

25,550.26

An additional \$25,000 of grant funding was approved in December 2020 for the benefit of Emmanuel Academies and the church and will be reflected on 2021 reporting as the funds are paid from the above accounts

## **2020 MEMBERSHIP AND PARISH RECORDS**

Members received by Baptism: 6

Members received by Transfer/Affirmation of Faith: 15

Total Members Received: 21

Members removed by Death: 22

Members removed by Transfer/Request: 4

Total members removed: 26

Total Members: 829

Total Associate Members: 186

Total Church Family Membership 2020: 1015

2020 Average Sunday Attendance: 576

Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
Comparative Financial Statements: Statement of Activities

	For the Year Ended 12/31/2020			2021		
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Proposed Budget	vs 2020 Budget	vs 2020 Actual
<b>Incoming</b>						
Member Giving	\$ 1,954,821	\$ 1,790,637	\$ (164,184)	\$ 1,821,081	(133,740)	30,444
ECC	35,122	12,112	\$ (23,010)	36,000	878	23,888
EPC Giving		56,730	\$ 56,730	87,200	87,200	30,470
Loose Plate	160,560	106,949	\$ (53,611)	104,000	(56,560)	(2,949)
Other	97,500	264,523	\$ 167,023	65,000	(32,500)	(199,523)
Current Funding in Place	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,248,003</b>	<b>2,230,951</b>	<b>(17,052)</b>	<b>2,113,281</b>	<b>(134,722)</b>	<b>(117,670)</b>
<b>Operating</b>						
Administration	827,237	786,151	(41,086)	798,095	(29,142)	11,944
Property	374,089	568,678	194,589	377,730	3,641	(190,948)
Debt Reduction/Interest	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>1,201,326</b>	<b>1,354,829</b>	<b>153,503</b>	<b>1,175,825</b>	<b>(25,501)</b>	<b>(179,004)</b>
<b>Ministry</b>						
Children/Youth/Family	234,954	172,650	(62,304)	196,400	(38,554)	23,750
Adult	34,081	27,473	(6,608)	31,685	(2,396)	4,212
Outreach Ministries	123,658	105,547	(18,111)	110,368	(13,290)	4,821
Worship & Music	152,686	133,791	(18,895)	133,270	(19,416)	(521)
<b>Total Ministry Expenses</b>	<b>545,379</b>	<b>439,461</b>	<b>(105,918)</b>	<b>471,723</b>	<b>(73,656)</b>	<b>32,262</b>
<b>Total MLD</b>	<b>1,746,705</b>	<b>1,794,290</b>	<b>47,585</b>	<b>1,647,548</b>	<b>(99,157)</b>	<b>(146,742)</b>
<b>ECC</b>						
ECC Administration	199,308	195,761	(3,547)	195,017	(4,291)	(744)
ECC Ministries	33,710	17,941	(15,769)	22,200	(11,510)	4,259
<b>Total ECC</b>	<b>233,018</b>	<b>213,702</b>	<b>(19,316)</b>	<b>217,217</b>	<b>(15,801)</b>	<b>3,515</b>
<b>EPC Administration</b>	<b>228,080</b>	<b>204,746</b>	<b>(23,334)</b>	<b>208,516</b>	<b>(19,564)</b>	<b>3,770</b>
<b>EPC Ministries</b>	<b>40,200</b>	<b>14,646</b>	<b>(25,554)</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>(200)</b>	<b>25,354</b>
<b>Total EPC</b>	<b>268,280</b>	<b>219,392</b>	<b>(48,888)</b>	<b>248,516</b>	<b>(19,764)</b>	<b>29,124</b>
<b>Total All Sites</b>	<b>\$ 2,248,003</b>	<b>\$ 2,227,384</b>	<b>\$ (20,619)</b>	<b>\$ 2,113,281</b>	<b>\$ (134,722)</b>	<b>\$ (114,103)</b>
Operating Results	-	3,567				
<b>Non Operating Transactions</b>						
Income for Other Funds		62,100				
Expenses for Other Funds		(288,713)				
Impact from Other Funds		(226,613)				
<b>Net Income</b>		<b>(223,046)</b>				

Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
Comparative Balance Sheet

	12/31/2020	12/31/2019
Current Assets		
Cash	341,801	327,243
Designated Funds	1,523,594	1,574,588
Total Current Assets	1,865,395	1,901,832
Accounts Receivable		
Fixed Assets		
Land, Buildings & Personal Property	9,138,871	9,113,871
Other Assets		
Memorial Gardens & Plots	46,980	46,980
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>\$ 11,051,246</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 11,062,683</u></b>
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	3,644	9,687
Due to Other Funds	17,582	13,231
Benevolent Offerings	48,398	81,480
Prepays & Other	100,592	91,610
Reserve Funds	281,150	43,750
Total Liabilities	451,366	239,757
Total Member Equity	10,599,880	10,822,926
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b><u>\$ 11,051,246</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 11,062,683</u></b>

## ANN E. BERLAM

Ann Berlam began her professional career in Washington, DC, as a legislative aide to a North Carolina member of the US House of Representatives where she specialized in education issues. After several years in the congressional office, she was asked to open the first state congressional liaison office in Washington, DC for the NC Department of Public Instruction where she represented the Department before the Congress and federal agencies in all matters pertaining to the North Carolina K-12 public school system. Moving to Raleigh, NC, Ann served as the chief liaison between the NC State Board of Education and the NC General Assembly advocating for public education issues. Before retiring, she was ranked #40 of The 50 Most Influential Lobbyists as determined by the University of North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research from over 900 registered lobbyists in the State.



In her volunteer activities, while in Raleigh, Ann was elected to the Board of Directors for the N.C. State Employees Credit Union, the second largest credit union in the US. As a resident of Collier County, Ann became involved in the nonprofit community as a result of her participation in the Greater Naples Leadership program. Ann was elected to the GNL Board of Directors as Secretary and later became President of GNL. While serving on the GNL Board, Ann was invited to join the Edison Community College Foundation Board of Directors. As the Foundation Board Chair, Ann was a key player in a cooperative effort that brought together representatives from Edison Community College and the University of Florida College of Dentistry with trustees from the Naples Children and Education Foundation (Winter Wine Festival) to secure private funds that were matched with state dollars to construct two new buildings on the Collier Campus housing a pediatric dentistry program serving low-income children in Collier County along with a first class early childhood learning center.

Florida Governor Charles Crist appointed Ann to the Edison State College Board of Trustees. She chaired the Board of Trustees during the time that the President of the College was asked to leave his position. During that same time, she served as Chair of the Presidential Search Committee that recommended to the Trustees a new President for the College.

In addition, Ann has been involved in other community organizations. She was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Community Foundation of Collier County serving on the Executive Committee and chairing the Governance Committee and chairing the Grants Committee. She served as on the GNL Governance Committee, the Parke Wright Leadership Award Committee and on the planning committees for both the 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> year celebrations for GNL. She also was a member of the Governance Committee of the Fun Time Early Childhood Academy. Ann was recognized in 2008 by the Naples Chapter of the American Association of University Women as a "Woman of Achievement." She was one of the recipients of the 2013 Women of Initiative who recognized by the Community Foundation for outstanding philanthropic achievement. GNL awarded her the Parke Wright Distinguished Leadership Award in 2014. Currently, she serves on the Executive Committee of the Naples Discussion Group where she is the committee's first woman member.

Ann received an M.Ed. in Educational Administration from Duke University and a B.A. in psychology from Rollins College. She is married to Bob Berlam and shares his wonderful children and five grandchildren with him.



## DENNIS REUSTLE

My wife Carla and I retired fulltime to Naples in 2013 after my career as a Senior VP at QVC. We've been members of Emmanuel for the past 8 years. I was proud to serve as interim Executive Director of the church after Hurricane Irma as well as on church council and several committees beforehand. I look forward to being part of the leadership at this wonderful church and to the Lord's work to help support our community. Originally from the Philadelphia area, we have been blessed to live in London for 6 years with our two kids, Alex and Taylor. My hobbies include golf, traveling, cruising, wine tasting and cooking.



## KAITLYN ZIEGELMAIER

Kaitlyn Ziegelmaier is a young woman who is still on her journey of understanding her place in local, national and global communities. Although still navigating this purpose, she understands that she is called to ministry and community development. She believes that this opportunity to serve on the Church Council will help in leadership opportunities and bring her closer to her church family. It is through this council that Kaitlyn will be able to use her experience with young people and community organizations in a local church setting.

In the last four years Kaitlyn has been able to see different parts of the United States and the World through church-based organizations. In her quest to growing her understanding of America's thumbprint, she has worked with YouthWorks, a national mission organization that aims to bring communities and youth groups together in appreciation and understanding. Kaitlyn has been able to see the vast resources and communities that are struggling, celebrating and growing across America. While working for YouthWorks she has been a Ministry, Children's, and Sports Coordinator for communities in New York City, Cairo and Chicago, IL. All three communities enabled Kaitlyn to learn about the systems and populations that are working together to build community one day at a time. This coming summer Kaitlyn will be leading a site as a Site Director where she will oversee overall programming and leadership development.

Recently, Kaitlyn was sent to Senegal through the Young Adults in Global Mission program provided by the ELCA. Her responsibilities in Senegal were primarily to absorb and learn about the culture, community and people where she was living in Yeumebul. While working abroad she was involved in the women's outreach, technology and sports program, the library and the school. Kaitlyn was able to volunteer because of the supporting community of Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Senegal was a formative experience and one she aims to draw from in the future.

In her local community, Kaitlyn works as a coach for the Barron High School Volleyball program. In her time there she has actively encouraged athletes to reach their goals academically and athletically. While here her teams have reached a State Final Appearance and Final Four Appearances. She also spends her time coaching for a local club USA South, where she works with the 17's age group.

Kaitlyn has been a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church her entire life. Her family has been supportive in all her efforts and she would not be where she is without them. She looks forward to working with the community of Emmanuel.

# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

## Litany

- L. O God of all power and love ...
- C. ... we give thanks for your unfailing presence.**
- L. O God of all power and love, we give thanks ...
- C. ... for the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.**
- L. O God of all power and love ...
- C. ... we ask you to send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.**
- L. O God of all power and love, we ask you ...
- C. ... to revive us to live as Christ's body in the world.**
- L. O God of all power and love, we ask to be ...
- C. ... a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.**
- L. O God of all power and love, we ask you to be with us ...
- C. ... wherever and however we gather. Unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## Build Us Up, Lord

1 Build us up, Lord, build us up; set in  
2 Build us up, Lord, build us up; let our

us a strong foun - da - tion. Lead us to do your  
lives re - flect your glo - ry. Cast a - way all our

ho - ly will; form and shape your new cre - a - tion.  
doubts and fears; help us tell the world your sto - ry.

Build us up, Lord, build us up; as we  
Build us up, Lord, build us up; help us

guide and teach each oth - er, help us to share your love with the  
bear good fruit for you, Lord, give us vi - sion and keep us

world: ev - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth - er.  
sure. Grant us faith that's stead - fast and true.

*Refrain*

Grow - ing in Christ, we plant seeds for the king - dom; we fol - low in  
faith what's be - gun! Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of your  
word to spread the news of your Son!

Text: Mark Glaeser, b. 1956, and Donna Hanna, b. 1952

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In the early verses of Ephesians 4, the apostle Paul writes to the Christians in Ephesus, a city on the Aegean Sea at the mouth of a river and at the intersection of three trading routes. The letter was written about ten years after the church had started. During the early years of this congregation, Jews and Gentiles from several ethnicities and nationalities had come together to form “one body.” Paul was aware that they had done well and commended them for their faith and love.

The word “one” appears more than seven times in the first four verses. This reflects the importance Paul gave to being called into the “unity of Christ.” He wanted to note that, although many of the church members came from far off, there is “one Lord, one faith, one baptism.” This oneness reflects God’s gift of reconciliation in Christ.

A second emphasis from Paul was that, as believers, they were to “bear with one another in love.” This would require humility, gentleness and patience as each of them practiced their faith. It would require tolerance to “maintain unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

A third emphasis was that each person had been given gifts by God and that these gifts were given to increase the whole. Because the Ephesian church was a young congregation and its members were just beginning in their faith journey, their understandings were often tossed to and fro. But as they grew in faith, each person contributed to building up the body of Christ.

The fourth and final emphasis was that by “speaking the truth in love,” each person must grow into Christ. This means taking time to learn about one another and their gifts. Knowing these gifts, we can do God’s work both within and beyond the faith community. When there are decisions to make or relationships to reconcile, we know to begin with prayer and reflection, always desiring to speak the truth in love — not for our own benefit but for God’s glory, that we might become more complete.

As our members and friends gather today, whether face-to-face or online, we are reminded of our calling into “unity in Christ.” We come from many places and work in many contexts, and yet we recognize “one Lord, one faith, one baptism.”

Whether new to a worshipping community or further along the journey, we realize that humility, gentleness and patience are required both in the good times and especially in times of uncertainty and struggle. God wants us to be more complete through our work. Christ provides the way. The Holy Spirit is with us for guidance and courage. Each of us has been given the gifts to be complete, and through our faithfulness we will grow stronger and work together as one body.

**Let us pray: Lord, let the words of the apostle Paul dwell in us deeply. May we embrace the reconciling power of oneness with Christ. May this oneness guide our congregation as we live into the new realities of these times. As we meet new partners in ministry, may we take time to get to know them with patience, humility and love. Help us to see how sharing our gifts will make your work easier and more fulfilling while bringing all of us closer to Christ. May the blessings you give each day strengthen us to a living, daring confidence in your grace. Amen.**