

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

Congregational Meeting | May 3rd, 2026

PACKET & AGENDA

Establishment of a quorum

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Review of Agenda

Review and Approval of the minutes from the Congregational Meeting on June 1st, 2025

Pastor's Report

Election of Two Members to the ELC Council

Nominations for the Congregation Council (including from the floor)

Explanation of voting procedures

Appointment of ballot counters

Distribution of ballots

Ministry Reports

Worship

Discipleship

Stewardship

Fellowship and Evangelism

Report of the Ballot counters

Treasurer Report

Governance

Other Business

Adjournment

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Annual Congregation Meeting

June 1, 2025

DRAFT MINUTES

This meeting of the congregation was conducted in-person in the Sanctuary at the church.

There being enough members present to constitute a quorum for conducting business, the meeting was called to order at 11:58 PM by Vice-President Bob Jordan, as President Scott Wilson was away.

Opening prayer was offered by Pastor Baker.

Bob Jordan reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

Review of the Minutes from the 2024 Annual Congregation Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Congregation Meeting held on Sunday 9 June 2024 were reviewed. There being no questions or comments from the congregation, Lisa Yothers made a motion that the minutes be accepted as printed in the Annual Report. The motion was seconded by Susan Smith, and passed unanimously by the congregation with no dissenting votes..

Pastor's Report

Pastor Justin reviewed the highlights of his annual report, which in turn captured the highlights of the past year in the life of our congregation, noting several of the changes that have taken place in the lives of our members (including the Baker family), and in our life together. Pastor encourages us, as we look to the future, to see it as our mission to be united in faith and to focus on being faithful to our Lord and being fruitful in him; to strive to be faithful Christians to the end of our lives and to help others to do so too.

Election of Member to the ELC Congregation Council

Bob Jordan explained the voting procedures for the election of 5 Council members and that on the ballot were Steve Cehovin, Scott Gustafson, Danette Hunter, and Ross Nese. He then opened the floor for additional nominees. Angela Held nominated Debbie Weigold, and Debbie agreed to be placed on the ballot. Jim Kusick then moved to close nominations, and Dorothy Datasch seconded the motion. The vote was carried unanimously by the congregation with no dissenting votes.

Lisa Yothers then moved, that there being 5 candidates and 5 open positions, to accept the slate of candidates by voice vote. The motion was seconded by Dorothy Datasch and the vote was carried unanimously by the congregation with no dissenting votes.

By-Laws Changes

Bob Jordan then moved on to the topic of the By-Laws changes being proposed by the Congregation Council, printed copies of which had been provided to all present. He explained that the proposed changes are being put forth as a seconded motion from the Congregation Council, and that the floor was now open for discussion.

Angela Held asked for a brief summary of the changes. Bob explained that the primary changes being proposed are two-fold: The first is to split the Soul Life Ministry Team, which currently includes the Worship and Music Committee and the Christian Education Committee into two separate committees, now named the Worship Committee and the Discipleship Committee respectively. The second major change is to then move the Property Committee under the umbrella of the Life Stewardship Ministry Team, renaming the Life Stewardship Ministry Team the Stewardship Committee. This move was prompted to align our thinking of caring for and maintaining our property as part of our commitment to be good stewards of all that God has given us.

Pastor Justin then added that this move also addresses the fact that often those who give of their time and talents to maintain our property are not amenable to serving on council, and the fact the number of folks within our congregation able to do our property maintenance is shrinking, and moving forward the need will more likely be for the committee and council to coordinate the work of people and firms hired from outside the congregation, rather than do the work ourselves. Pastor also emphasized that under the proposed By-laws, council members will chair their respective committees. Angela indicated that she agreed that often those who help with property issues are folks who are not as interested in the operations of the council.

There being no further discussion Bob Jordan called for a vote on the motion to accept the proposed By-laws changes as presented. The motion was carried unanimously by the congregation with no dissenting votes.

Sexual Misconduct Policy and Child Protection Policy

Bob Jordan then explained that in the course of seeking possible bids for insurance coverage, it was revealed to the Council that Emmanuel did not have active policies addressing Child Protection or Sexual Misconduct. He further explained that the council, working over the course of several months, developed the policies included in the Annual Report, and that these have been adopted by the Congregation Council as Continuing Resolutions. As Continuing Resolutions they will then be reviewed by the Council annually going forward. He then opened the floor for comments and questions.

Lisa Yothers commented that she has read our Child Protection Policy with interest, and noted that on the whole she found it to be a sound policy. She went on to comment that the one item she sees as missing is a requirement for any of the outside groups who use our facilities for youth activities (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc) to submit copies of their adult leaders' state-mandated child abuse

background clearances to us to have on file. MaryAnn Sinwell then commented that, as the person who maintains such records at Emmanuel, we in fact do require this, even though it is not in our Child Protection Policy, and have required this for some years, before the policy even existed. Pastor Justin then further commented that as the council drafted these policies, they were very careful in the language used in an effort to establish the policies and protections that we want to advance, while avoiding inadvertently incurring legal liability by being overly specific in the processes and procedures we will follow. Bob Jordan then reiterated that as the Child Protection Policy is a Continuing Resolution, that the Council may in the future consider altering the language to require that outside group adult leaders' Child Protection Clearances be provided to Emmanuel.

Ministry Reports

Bob Jordan then walked the congregation through the list of Ministry Reports included in the Annual Report, and asked if anyone had any questions or comments for any of the Teams whose reports were included. There were no comments or questions from the congregation.

Other Congregational Business

Bob Jordan then opened the floor for the congregation to bring forward any additional matters to be considered by the congregation.

Ed Datasch then asked Bob Jordan to explain the changes in our benevolence giving. Bob explained that the congregation council has adopted a measure to increase our benevolence giving from the current 5% of the adopted annual budget to 10% of the budget. This results raising our intended giving level for the current fiscal year from \$12,989 to \$25,986.

Bob Jordan then asked if there was any further business to bring before the congregation. There being no further business, comments, or questions, he then asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Angela Held so moved, and Dorothy Datasch seconded the motion. Bob then called for a vote, and the motion was carried unanimously by the congregation with no dissenting votes.

The meeting was then closed with the Lord's Prayer at 12:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Hiener

Congregation and Council Secretary

Annual Pastoral Letter to the Congregation

June 2025 - April 2026

Administration

In this May 2026 letter—in contrast to my more evaluative 2024 and 2025 annual letters—I chart out a clear direction for this congregation. The realities that I highlighted over the past two years are still present: (1) yes, we remain predominantly an elderly, aging congregation; (2) yes, we will continue to see more funerals take place than any of us would like. But new realities are taking shape, too.

We have added Family Prayer Service, Brookdale Worship, Redstone Worship, and the Easter Vigil—all different, each fruitful in its own right. Our regular Bible Study has consistently brought in visitors, including a non-Christian open to the faith! Our congregation has gotten an incredible amount of visitors over the past six months. Former and lapsed members have returned. Our financial position has grown strong and then stronger still. Our council and committees are invested and carrying out good work. Caroline laid a new foundation for the secretary position, turning into more of an executive assistant role, giving us a strong position from which to move forward.

Direction

What then shall we do? Will we look too longingly at the past, reminiscing of more robust former times? Will we too fearfully look ahead to the future, seeing only the decline at hand? Or will we be open to how God *may* bless this congregation going forward?

Which way then?

The beginnings of the Reformation and Lutheranism were neither an explicit rejection of nor a rebellion against the Roman Catholic Church. Instead, the reformers were enriched in exactly two ways: (1) a robust study and love of Scripture which zeroed in on Christ as the source and destiny of salvation; and (2) a robust study and fellowship with the whole Christian tradition, drawing life from the whole of the apostolic tradition.

It's faithfulness to these two threads which caused this congregation to join the NALC, a denomination which has committed itself to being Christ-centered and traditionally grounded.

We do not want to squander our rich heritage as Christians in the Lutheran tradition. There is the desire here to know the Bible better—the whole Bible—and all that it has to say about our Lord Jesus Christ, from beginning to end! It's this desire—evidenced in Bible Study but also in conversation with members and council—which has led me to draw up the first piece of our direction: to get to know the whole Bible in four years. The reality is that many of us just do not know the Bible beyond those formative Sunday School lessons of David & Goliath or Jonah and the Great Fish.

We are therefore missing out on the riches of Scripture and how the whole Scripture bears witness to the crucified and risen Lord.

The Bible in Four Years

Each month, we'll focus on one single book, or on a few small books, or on half of a longer book. I'll host an introduction on it, so that everyone is prepared for what to expect. We'll—and I do hope the *whole* congregation joins in—have a reading plan so that we can all read through. We'll begin with Genesis, and that will mean about 1 ²/₃ chapters per day, about six minutes of reading per day (or about ten minutes of listening per day).

In Sunday School, we'll zero in on key passages, key chapters, key figures. In Bible Study, we'll tackle the more complex passages, chapters, and figures. By the end of the month, we'll have read the whole book, have a better understanding of it, see how it reveals Christ and therefore also to our lives. There are, of course, more details, and I hope to be able to offer more even beyond the reading plan, and studies in Sunday School & Bible Study.

The most helpful thing is threefold: (1) pray for this ministry to be successful; (2) commit to joining this ministry; and (3) to communicate the ways in which would be helpful for you to participate *to me*.

The question I want you to meditate on is this: *What effect will this have on the congregation in one year? In four years?* We can be sure that this time together in the Scriptures will not have zero effect. *If we do this together, the Scriptures will strengthen us and solidify us in our faith, for God's word is powerful and it is true.*

Communication

Meanwhile, I will re-design the website by the end of the summer.

In just the few changes that have already been made, we have found success: people have found us and visited us, and the people who have found us have a better understanding of who we are and what we believe.

Nevertheless, the website remains too vague for non-members, and not useful enough for members. The website should state clearly who we are, what we believe, and the direction that this congregation is heading. For members, the bulletin, service, and calendar should be easily accessible. Moving to a different format will help.

Because we have a clearer sense of who we are and where we are headed, we have the opportunity to communicate this.

When members and non-members alike visit the website, they will know that this is the kind of congregation who takes the Bible seriously, and who commits herself to *knowing* the Bible.

It's into this—a congregation focused on the Bible—that we'll then invite the community. We'll do this not simply by announcing our service times, but by articulating who we are, what we believe, and how we're faithful to the great Christian tradition. We may get zero interest. But, I suspect that getting into the Scriptures and inviting the whole community into this will prove fruitful in some way.

2026 and Beyond: Three More Goals

In addition to the Bible in Four Years, I have these three goals/directions: (1) forming relationships between this congregation and seminarians, with the ultimate goal of regularly hosting a vicar; (2) holding a regular mission trip, visiting those missionaries we either directly support or that I have had the privilege of meeting; (3) forming a school, by rolling out one age/grade level per year.

Each of these will require planning, prayer, and congregational buy-in.

(1) Hosting a Vicar

Becoming a vicarage/pastoral internship site may strengthen this congregation. (1) It's in my skillset to mentor fellow pastors, and I'd enjoy it in an official capacity. (2) In addition to mentoring/overseeing, I'd be able to share ministry with a vicar. (3) The vicar would bring gifts unique only to them. (4) These gifts would uniquely benefit the congregation. (5) Our congregation also has special gifts to share with a vicar.

We don't need to rush to get a vicar. Over the next few years, I'll—along with council and interested members—try to form connections and relationships with seminarians, strengthening our connection to the seminary, with the goal of bringing on a vicar.

There are only a few seminarians currently, and there are already many long established vicar church sites. But there are many who study at seminaries other than our Ambridge seminary, and they will be in need of a congregation. We will head this direction until it proves fruitful or fruitless.

What can be done now? Pray for the fruitfulness of this endeavor. Join me in an upcoming month to visit the seminarians and the faculty.

(2) Regular Mission Trip

During the 2025 August NALC Convocation, I met many missionaries, and two visited our congregation (Dure Negassa and the Thorstads). Several others invited my family and our congregation to visit them, including in Kenya and Albania.

All I have to say is this: Why not? Why not take one or all of them, over the course of many years, up on their offer?

There is already at least one person interested in this congregation, and I suspect over the course of planning for a year and a half, we will have enough to take a small group.

What can be done now? Pray that one mission trip takes place in the next two years. Pray for our missionaries and their families. Pray that our congregation takes even more of an interest in mission.

(3) Forming a School

My goal for the school is lofty: a school that explicitly seeks to educate Christian-ly, not merely Christian adjacent. My plan for the school is much more measured: one age/grade-level per year.

The school is a partial answer to the question: How can we use our space in a way that furthers our mission? The school is also a partial answer to the question: Where and how are we going to get families? Church schools often do *not* result in new members, but they sometimes do—yet I suspect that by becoming the congregation that is interested in forming and beginning a school, we will draw some families in.

What can be done now? (1) prayer; (2) feedback; and (3) buy-in. More than anything, I need the congregation's prayer and support—a crystal clear, "yes," or, a crystal clear, "no."

What has already been done? Together with Caroline, we researched, gathered data, and reached out to all NALC congregations with schools, as well as all schools in our area. Together, these give us a picture of what is currently on offer throughout the NALC and throughout Murrysville.

What still needs to be done? Quite a bit. Clarity of vision, curricula, execution plan, building needs, and all the rest. If the congregation has the stomach for becoming the kind of congregation who has a school, then I expect the answers to these will come.

NALC News

We continue to host annually the Chrism Mass for the mission region. We hosted the Mission Region Convocation this past October. Pittsburgh hosted the whole denomination for the Convocation in August. We quarterly host mission region meetings here.

Pastoral Letters

I mailed out pastoral letters to absent and lapsed members, with several who returned, and some who remain disconnected.

Statistics

Baptisms (12/21/2025): Four

Funerals: Seven (three non-member)

Confirmations (2025): One

Members: No new members

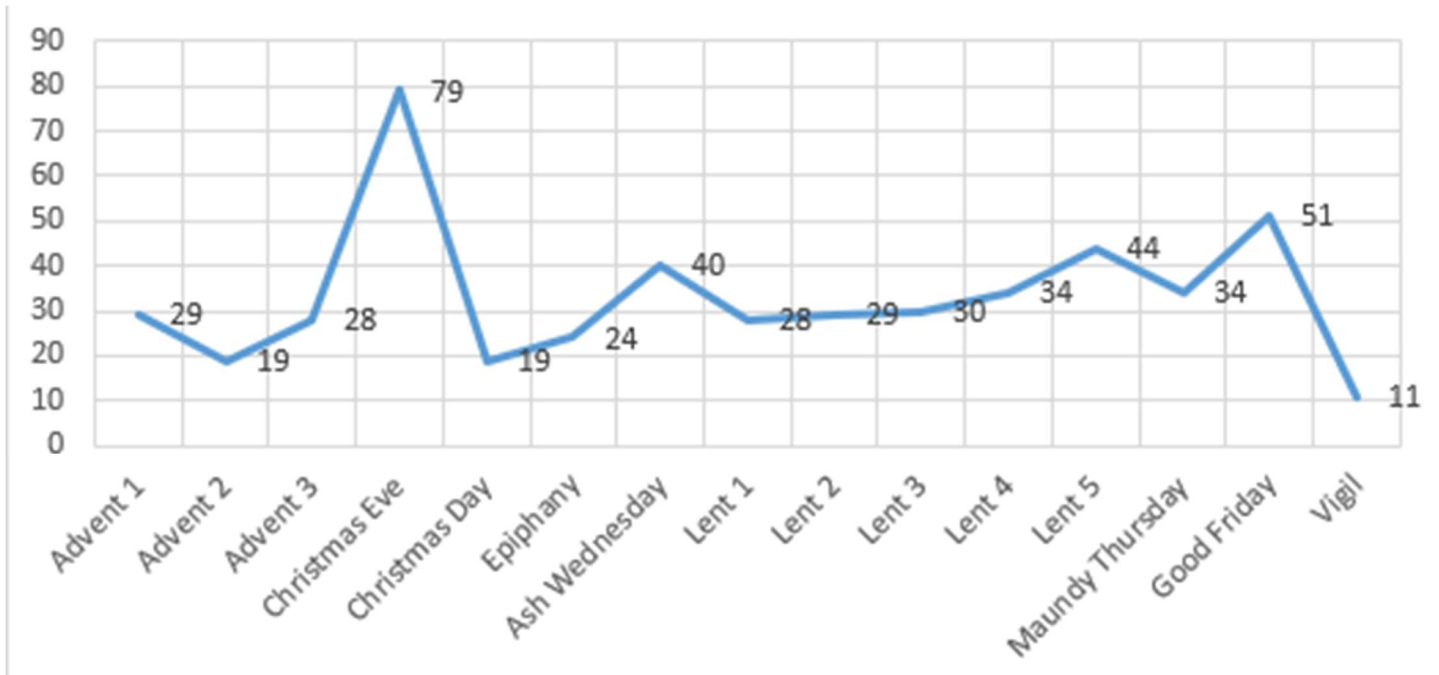
Visits: Including Communion and Hospital: increased from averaging 3.5 households (2025) to 5.5 households per month (2026).

Average Online Attendance

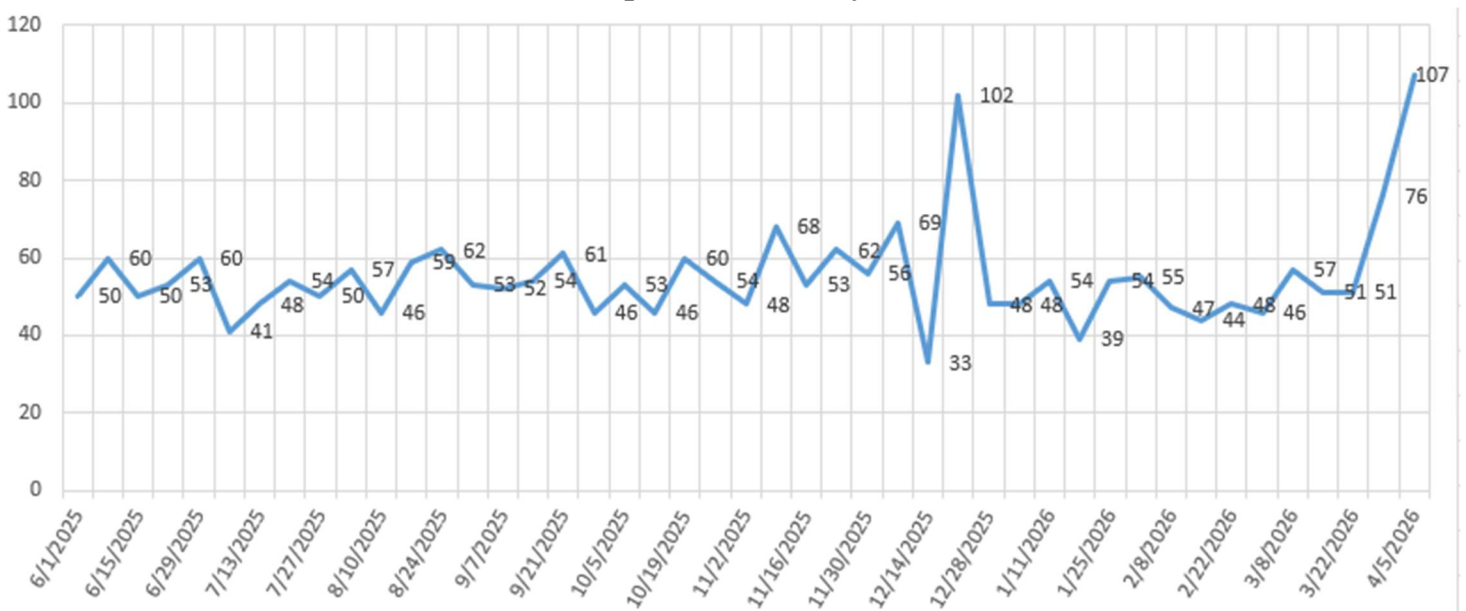
- Sunday Attendance: 12.1 people.
- Special Service Attendance: 3.13 people.

In Person Attendance – see the charts below:

June 2025 - April 2026 Special Services (Wednesdays & The Three Days)



June 2025 - April 2026 Sunday Services



Worship Annual Report

This committee has continued to work closely with our Pastor, Justin Baker, to provide ongoing meaningful worship for the congregational members. The committee members were Pastor Justin Baker, Homer Adams (choir/music director), Donna Berardinelli, Lou Hiener, Scott Wilson, (council president), Debbie Weigold (committee chair and council member), Holly Pelusi (council vice president), and Sally Siedling.

Our audio/ visual team continues to provide our video and audio broadcast system using the Zoom app and we are also currently showing the video live from the sanctuary. Beginning in January 2025 the recorded sermon and service was also available on YouTube.

(<https://www.youtube.com/@elcnaicworship6550>)

The committee again sponsored a church wide offering for the NALC disaster relief effort. Debbie Weigold and Susan Smith were co-chairs. Through the congregation's generous donations and a grant from Thrivent, we were able to provide needed supplies to the NALC Disaster Response, specifically health kits and flood buckets for the "stuff the truck" events during Lent and again in October.

The committee sponsored honoring the women of our congregation by giving each one a flower to commemorate Mother's day and honoring the men of the congregation with a special treat to celebrate Father's day.

We sponsored 3 outdoor services this year in June, July, and August using our pavilion and some pop-ups for shade. The committee members helped set up the sound system for the keyboard and the contemporary group helped lead the music. Procedures were established for the set up for worship with a potluck brunch following the service.

Donna Berardinelli continues to handle altar guild schedules and is our valuable resource for all things relating to the set up for the services at the altar and church decorations. A new Christ candle was purchased and is made of wax to show the passing of the year as it gets smaller.

Homer Adams, our music and choir director, participated by playing oboe and directing a woodwind trio to add to Sunday's worship once a month again this year. Homer schedules guest musicians and organizes the services for them to accompany the music at church. He practiced and directed our Bell choir for their performances throughout the year.

The contemporary group, "In Tune with the Spirit," has been singing on the 3rd Sunday of each month under Homer and Debbie Weigold's direction. The chancel choir sings on the 1st Sunday of the month under Homer's direction when choir members are available.

Emmanuel began offering a Worship service at Brookdale Senior Living where Debbie's husband resides on the 3rd Friday of each month beginning November 21, 2025. Pastor and Debbie Weigold have organized the service with many congregational members attending and helping to facilitate and engage the residents.

Pastor Justin led Advent services and Wednesday Lenten Services as well as regular Sunday services. He taught Sunday school classes and has brought the youth classes together with the adult classes. Pastor taught Bible Study on Monday afternoons and evenings from February through March and also in May through November. The 14 stations of the cross posters were set up around the church for participants to come and pray and experience Jesus's path to the cross.

The committee was able to continue to support meaningful worship for our congregation under the guidance of Pastor Justin this year. A spread sheet has been prepared to record all of the procedures for each event that we have scheduled in the church year. This will help us to continue supporting the Pastor and the worship experience for the congregation consistently as we move forward. Thanks be to God for the many blessings we have received through worship and fellowship together at Emmanuel!

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Weigold

Discipleship Annual Report

Discipleship Highlights from June 2025 – May 2026

- Sunday School classes were offered for all ages:
 - o Stories of Faith classes were held for our young students which pairs a story of the Bible with a related activity such as a game, project, or song.
 - o Catechetical instruction was completed for one student, who was confirmed in the faith on November 30.
 - o Our central class discussed a variety of topics including: a discussion of evangelism; a study of Philemon; a docuseries based on the book *Live Not by Lies*, which in turn is based upon Solzhenitsyn's essay warning against totalitarianism; Heresies of the Gospel; and reviewing of the what our NALC denomination believes. The Sunday School class was treated to meet and speak with several missionaries (the Thorstads & Dure Negassa) who have been supported by our congregation.
 - o The last Sunday of each month serves as a Fellowship Sunday whose events included brunches after the outdoor worship services in the summer; a discussion of The Reformation; and a Bible trivia game, viewing of *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and decorating nativity cut-out cookies.
- Bible Study attendance remains consistent with deep dives into The Book of Acts (continuing through the beginning of Chapter 8 (just after the stoning of Stephen)) and the Book of Daniel which is nearing completion and was written as more of a self-study. The Bible study session is offered on Mondays both in the afternoon and evening, each covering the same lesson. For each session Pastor Justin provides helpful notations regarding the previous lesson.
- The Christianity On 'Series' has expanded to now include 'Print', 'Tap', 'Film', and 'Film'. Some of these have included current topical discussions and fellowship at Helltown Brewery; the 1700 year history of The Nicene Creed; the Bonhoeffer movie; an Oktoberfest celebration; two sessions on "The Church and Artificial Intelligence"
- Several different sets of books and other materials have been purchased for the younger members of the congregation to improve their understanding of stories or seasons of the Church.
- A program to encourage the reading of the entire Bible is being developed and will be rolled out in the Fall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chair, Scott Gustafson

Stewardship Annual Report

What does this committee steward? This committee stewards our members, our property, and our finances. Our members give of themselves - their time, talents and possessions. Our property is our sanctuary, buildings, grounds, and equipment. Our finances include monetary and physical gifts, accounts management, expenditures, and benevolence.

Our Members:

- Pastor Justin Baker
- Danielle Jaszcar
- Bob Jordan
- Carol McDowell
- Holly Pelusi
- Mary Ann Sinwell
- Scott Wilson

Property Projects:

- Church trim and steeple painted.
- Replaced bad wood and roof on pavilion.
- Carpets cleaned throughout the church.
- Tile floors stripped and waxed.
- Increased weekly cleaning service from four hours to eight hours.
- Drip edge installed on front of roof.
- Gutters cleaned and gutter guard's installed on entire roof.
- Sanctuary lighting in process of being scheduled to be relamped.
- New electric contract signed for 48 months.
- Annual Spring Cleanup Saturday May 16.

Technology:

- MaryAnn with her volunteers Scott, Bob and Dan installed WiFi throughout the building and offices.

Finance:

- Prepared our budget for the current fiscal year 11/1/25 - 10/31/26 and presented to the congregation for approval. Our budget was increased 3.87 % to \$283,789. Thanks to the continuing support of our congregation.
- A \$60,000 CD matured on 4/9/26 and Dan and Karla will meet with Dollar Bank to renew.
- A \$100,000 CD matures on 7/9/26 and Dan and Karla will meet with Dollar Bank to renew.

- Our audit team is meeting on a regular basis.
- Our audit team members are Angela Held, Carol McDowell and Ron Smith.
- Pastoral Discretionary Funds Guidelines were developed and approved.

Benevolence:

- Our benevolence team is meeting on a regular basis.
- Our benevolence team members are Carol McDowell, Bob Jordan and Scott Wilson. A special thanks to Arlene Woodward for her service.
- The benevolence budget is \$28,378.96 plus a \$4,000 surplus carried over from last fiscal year.
- At the March 25 meeting the team made additional recommendations to the 2026 plan that will be discussed at our April Stewardship and Council meetings. With a vote to approve by Council.

Thanks:

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank Pastor Justin Baker, our Executive Committee, our Council, our Committees and our members of Emmanuel Lutheran Church for all they do throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ross Nese

Fellowship and Evangelism Annual Report

June 2025 – April 2026

The goal of Fellowship & Evangelism is to gather with Christians for the strengthening of our friendship and our faith, and to make the name of Jesus known in our communities.

Danette Hunter is the Council Rep. Members of the committee include: Pastor Justin, Linda Casper, Kathy Potter, Julie Schamber, Dana Visnic-Ford, and Lisa Yothers.

Highlights from this year include:

- Coordinated food for the three summer outdoor worship services.
- Purchased two tents for use at the summer outdoor worship services to provide shade.
- Coordinated and hosted Oktoberfeast. Additionally:
 - o Designated September as an opportunity to raise mission support for: (1) the Omars and their ministry among Muslims in the Atlanta region; (2) the Thorstads in their work in Laos & Thailand; and (3) for Dure Negassa and the Rev. Gemachu in their ministry in Kenya among the Oromos.
 - o A total—across mission support raised and designated benevolences from stewardship—of **\$12,536.50** was given among the Omars, Dure Negassa and Rev. Gemachu, and the Thorstads.
 - o Prayers for these Missionaries have continued throughout the year.
- Purchased the Grief Share program, which is a Christian program for those who have experienced the loss of a family member or friend. Pastor Justin will lead this and it is expected to start in April in the evening.
- Continued Dinners for 8 program for all interested members.
- Purchased three Thanksgiving dinners which were delivered to those in need.
- Hosted Christmas party as a luncheon this year at the Lamplighter.
- Held Game day at the church mid-week.
- Supported Christianity on Tap/Film/Topic/Print, via brainstorming with other committees.
- Set-up and provided sign-up sheets for various activities such as: Shrove Tuesday, Easter breakfast, Lenten Lite-meals, etc.

- Requested invite cards for Lent for sharing with friends.
- Coordinated food, water, and greeters for Chrism Mass.
- Working on a detailed organizational procedure document with directions for event planning for the various events that we host at the church.
- Planning Movie Matinee after church on Sunday for the spring.

Thank you to all who have helped in any way!

Respectfully submitted,

Danette Hunter (Council Rep.)

Treasurer Report

10/31/25	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	
Offering/Interest	14,706.61	31,816.90	24,481.68	23,756.75	32,777.28	16,737.24	19,363.89	16,604.05	14,998.51	34,258.47	24,289.41	14,412.77	288,203.56
Expenses	19,467.47	16,999.00	19,860.26	19,544.53	19,936.06	18,579.88	26,350.99	23,555.09	20,440.84	17,611.88	19,737.09	33,589.33	255,672.22
Excess (Deficit)	(4,760.86)	14,817.90	4,621.42	4,212.22	12,841.22	(1,842.64)	(6,987.10)	(6,951.04)	(5,442.33)	16,646.79	4,552.32	(19,176.56)	
YTD		10,057.04	14,678.46	18,890.68	31,731.90	29,889.26	22,902.16	15,951.12	10,508.79	27,155.58	31,707.90	12,531.34	12,531.34
10/31/26	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	
Offering/Interest	20,862.90	91,708.30	12,365.96	27,461.19	28,447.93								180,846.28
Expenses	34,483.74	20,044.26	20,226.71	19,859.61	17,698.60								112,312.92
Excess (Deficit)	(13,620.84)	71,664.04	(7,860.75)	7,601.58	10,749.33								
YTD		58,043.20	50,182.45	57,794.03	68,533.36	68,533.36	68,533.36	68,533.36	68,533.36	68,533.36	68,533.36	68,533.36	68,533.36

Music Report

The Festive Bells rehearse each Tuesday morning on a weekly basis. They play special music the last Sunday each month when members are available. Joining the Bells we occasionally have special guest musicians, including violin, flute, and trumpet.

In Tune With the Spirit, under the direction of Debbie Weigold, playing and singing the third Sunday of each month. I play the piano each time In Tune With the Spirit sings/plays. They work with the Pastor to provide contemporary style music that matches the day's themes for the offertory and communion. In Tune With the Spirit also leads the music when we have an outdoor worship service during the summer.

The Woodwind Trio/Quartet plays the second Sunday of each month. They provide special music for the Prelude and Offertory. Our Woodwinds include Violin, Flute, Clarinet, Oboe/English Horn and Oboe D'Amore.

The musicians are young players from the local high school and college students. Our church is giving them the opportunity to share their music talents and worship with the congregation.

I meet with the Pastor once a month to coordinate the Music that will be sung and played each week. We meet to discuss special soloists, Festive Bells, and woodwind music for the Sunday morning services and special services during the year.

I also provide special music for the Advent, Lenten, Palm Sunday, and Easter services. Our Palm Sunday service the Festive Bells joined with a Trumpet soloist played as the congregation processed singing All Glory Laud and Honor. Also this year the Brass Trio played on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

We continue to meet with Allen Organ to make sure the organ is kept in repair, which is very important for the singing and music each Sunday.

Respectfully submitted,

Homer Adams, Organist

Governance

The council has adopted three continuing resolutions for the coming year: the sexual misconduct and child protection policies, which were also resolutions last year, and a new resolution about the guidelines for use of the pastor's discretionary funds. The full text of all these resolutions can be found on the website.

Nursery Report

2025-2026

We keep a list of volunteers at the Ushers Cabinet. If anyone comes in with nursery needs, the ushers will ask someone from the list below to help.

The following members are listed as volunteers to serve on nursery, as needed.

Donna Berardinelli

Holly Pelusi

Julie Schamber (when she isn't singing in the choir)

Debbie Weigold

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Berardinelli

Chairperson

Altar Guild

2025-2026

The duties of the Altar Guild are to:

Prepare the Chancel and Nave before and after services. Prepare for communion and clean communion ware. Decorate the Chancel and Nave for Christmas, Easter and special events and services. Care for the Altar linens, paraments, brass etc.

The following members served on Altar Guild 2025-2026:

Donna Berardinelli, Karla and Kathy Gustafson, Danette & Dan Hunter, Kathy Potter, Mary Ann Sinwell & Bob Jordon, and Jeanne Yargar, and Carol McDowell. Also Steve Cehovin for helping out.

We purchased a Flagon for wine, a new baptismal candle and also several linens. Our few outdoor services this summer went well.

Special thanks to:

Each Altar Guild member for his/her service in caring for The Lord's house. Karen Kuczek for helping arrange the Christmas and Easter. Flowers around the Altar.

This is the third year decorating the church for four weeks. Instead of doing it all in one day. It worked out well. There were enough of the congregation that helped each week and in no time the decorations were up.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Berardinelli, Chairperson

Loaves and Fishes Report

2026

Blackburn Center started nearly 49 years ago. It is a Safe Haven for victims of violence such as domestic, sexual assault and other forms of crime. We at Emmanuel, for Thanksgiving 2025 donated:

3 -10 lb. bags of fresh potatoes	2 sets of sheets
3- 3 lb. bags of apples	shower liner & curtain rings
4-cans of can goods	2 night gown & 2 house coats
12 cans of soup	1 long john
3 boxes of slim Jims	1 pajama
1 box of fruit snacks	2 pillows
2 alarm clocks	food chopper
7 towel sets	trash can
2 hand towels	1 \$50 target G.C
2 dish towels	4 \$25 target G.C.
1 can opener	1 \$25 Shop-n-Save G.C.
Small fry pan & turner	1 \$100 Wal Mart G.C.
1 surge protector	7 extension cords

Blackburn is extremely grateful for our ongoing generosity.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna & Vince Berardinelli,

Co-Chairs

Reports from Outside Groups:

Start the Week:

Overall we have been very active in helping others stay sober. We have regular meetings every Monday evening at 6:30pm.

We read the AA "Big Book" Alcoholics Anonymous and comment on the content of the individual reading we did for that evening.

The first Monday of the month we hold a "Speaker Meeting" which is where an alcoholic comes to the meeting and tells what their journey to Sobriety was like and what their life is like now.

We have an attraction rather than promotion policy, meaning that we do not go out into the community and do outreach. We rely on the success and reputation of AA to attract new people to the meeting. This comes from the governing document of AA called "The 12 Traditions" if the Church is interested in this please feel free to search it on the internet and/or ask me any questions you have! Our meeting is an "Open Meeting" this means that anyone is welcome at our meeting. One does not have to be sober for a period of time, have a desire to stop drinking, etc... this allows loved ones to attend in support as well as others with an interest in AA to come and learn about us. Open Meetings are the most common AA meeting type.

Thank you,

David Ellwood

Steps and Stories:

Steps and Stories is a literature-based AA meeting. We meet Weds evenings and study the 12 steps which are spiritual principles that allow us to achieve sobriety with God's grace and mercy.

Weekly attendance averages about 12-20 people. We will be celebrating our 2nd anniversary on 4/15/26 with cake, fellowship and a speaker. We are grateful for the support of the church in allowing us to use this space for the health and wellbeing of anyone who desires to stop drinking.

Warm Regards,

Deana Neavin

Al-Anon:

The Murrysville Al-Anon Family Group is a support group comprised of relatives and friends of alcoholics who gather to share their experience, strength, and hope in order to solve their common problems. We meet at your facility every Thursday evening from 7:30 to 8:30 PM throughout the year. Our average attendance is between 10 to 15 adults each week, and we welcome newcomers at least once or twice per month, offering them free Al-Anon literature. We host an annual anniversary celebration in October, offering light refreshments and guest speakers. Last year's event had approximately 40 attendees.

Al-Anon has proven to be a safe place, the right place to be for anyone affected by alcoholism and addiction. We are self-supporting, relying only on individual contributions, and we are not affiliated with any other organization, but we do cooperate with Alcoholics Anonymous. We have helped many individuals throughout this community and the world.

Our group's email is murrysvilleafg@gmail.com.

Thank you for allowing us to use this church to gather and we appreciate your hospitality.

In gratitude,

Barbara Cochran

Champion Cheerleading: no report submitted

Boy Scout Troop 208:

2025-26 Troop 208 has been active in council scouting programs, participating in Cub Scout youth activities to build the BSA program, and servicing the community. Here are some of the major highlights. 3 new scouts earned Eagle Rank in 2025, and we have 2 possible in 2026. We have 21 active scouts in the program, with 4 new scouts possibly joining Pack 213 in Export. The scouts continue to advance in their ranks and explore their merit badges as we prepare for the Court of Honor Spring celebration and ceremony April 30th.

Here are a few of the highlights for the troop. Check out the pictures on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/Troop208Export>

Camping/Outings:

- 2026 March Camp Sky meadows
- 2026 Feb Winter Campout, St. Mary's PA *cancelled due to excessive snow
- 2026 Feb Scout Sunday
- 2026 Jan Camp Tenacharison Winter Klondike Derby
- 2025 Oct Fall Council camp – Haunted Ridge
- 2025 Sept Wilderness Survival Weekend, Scout Knob,
- 2025 July Summer Camp, Camp Conestoga (1 week)
- 2025 Canoeing James River, VA.

Service Projects

- Eagle rank projects completed
 - Gavin Bohinc – Fire station sign replacement, White Valley FD.
- Eagle projects proposed for 2026
 - Bus stop covered station in Export – Alex Deible
 - Flag retirement box and service AmVets in Export – William George

Westmoreland County Food Bank: Scouting for Food

- 2026: Next weekend April 18th

Additional Local Service

- Trick & Treat on Murrysville Trails - 2025
- Walmart 'Angel Gift Giving Tree' Holiday Season - 2025
- White Valley park opening 2025, 2026 scheduled.
- Murrysville Scout Knob clean up, maintenance, and new trails blazed.
- Annual Flag retirement ceremony, ELC and local AmVet, scheduled May 21st.

Cub Scout Program Service

- Participated in the Pack 207/213 Pinewood Derby 2025
- Participate in the local grade school orientation days and camp outs.
- The goal is to build the youth participation in the community to create more interest in the program early, as well as the parents.

Upcoming Outings

- 2026 May, Bushy Run Camporee
- 2026 June Hiking Smoky Mountain National Park
- Annual Summer camp (2026) Camp Conestoga
- Family trip, potentially Washington DC, tour or return to the NJ Battleship.

In closing thank you for your hospitality, accommodations, and we greatly appreciate you granting the use of the church for our Court of Honor Ceremonies.

Thank you and God Bless,

Charlotte Bohinc, Troop Committee Chairperson

Tom Malley, Troop Scout Master

Girl Scout Troop 22123 (Celeste Burroughs): no report submitted

Girl Scout Troop 50327 (Diana Billman): no report submitted

Girl Scout Troop 19013:

Troop 19013 started in August 2019 and consists of 20 girls from Franklin Regional. Our troop completed our bridging to Cadets in Fall 2024. Our girls are currently exploring the silver award. If you have any needs at the church or ideas, please share with us as potential options. Our mission is to grow confidence, character and courage for our girls through making the world a better place. We have earned the following badges: Robotics, Archery, Meals on Wheels donation/collection, Canning/Applesauce Making, Glass Blowing and Girl Scout Way. The girls budgeted to use cookie money for their trip to camp in July 2026. Thank you again for supporting us through this journey!

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Furry (Troop 19013 Leader)

Troop 16380 Annual Report (Cadette Level)

Welcome to the exciting and memorable annual report of Troop 16380! This past year has been filled with meaningful experiences, leadership growth, and strong community engagement. We are proud to share a glimpse of our journey.

Troop Overview

Girl Members: 18

Family Meetings & Events

- Hosted a memorable “Mom & Me” overnight trip to Erie, including visits to Waldameer Park and Presque Isle Park (Summer 2025)
- Organized a World Thinking Day Family Event on February 7, 2026, where our troop proudly represented Belgium

Community Engagement

- Participated in a field trip to Carnegie Mellon University, where scouts connected with college students and explored academic departments
- Contributed to Meals on Wheels by donating items for emergency bags
- Enjoyed an outdoor experience at Gearhard Farms with a campfire and hayride

Badges and Awards

We are incredibly proud of our scouts’ achievements:

- Silver Award Recipients (February 2026): Minnoli and Surra
- Designed and led two 3-day summer sessions at the Murrysville Community Library
- Taught math and reading to children ages 5–10
- Impacted 20+ students through their program
- Badges Earned:
 - Eating for You Badge
 - Babysitting Badge
 - Outdoor Explorer Badge

Girl Scout Traditions

- Participated in World Thinking Day 2024 (April 6, 2024)
- Earned the Girl Scout Way Badge, strengthening knowledge of traditions and values

- Celebrated Camp S'mores with our Service Unit (Summer 2025)

Council & Service Unit Activities

- Participated in Friendsgiving
- Donated to Meals on Wheels
- Spread holiday cheer through caroling at Redstone

Programs and Adventures

- Actively participated in MagNut and Cookie Programs
- Attended Service Unit events including ropes course, tent building, and campfire activities
- Enjoyed a holiday hike in downtown Pittsburgh
- Celebrated together with a fun bowling party

Future Plans

Looking ahead, our troop is excited to:

- Begin working toward Silver Awards in the coming year
- Embark on a highly anticipated NYC Trip in Summer 2026
- Continue building leadership, friendships, and community impact through new adventures

Troop 16380 is incredibly proud of all we have accomplished this year. We look forward to another year filled with growth, service, friendship, and unforgettable experiences.

Warm regards,

Avani Bhatt (Troop 16380 Leader)