



2022 Annual Report of the Congregation

 Emmanuel
Evangelical
Lutheran Church

Annual Meeting of the
Congregation

January 29, 2023



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Congregational Meeting Agenda

January 29, 2023 – 11:30 AM
Emmanuel Fellowship Hall

Zoom Access Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3679496334>

Meeting ID: 367 949 6334

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC))

Gathering Confirm Membership and Attendance Jen Casta, Deb Mc Elwee

Call to Order..... Jen Casta

Prayer and Opening Devotions..... Pastor John Heidgerd

Confirmation of Quorum..... Deb Mc Elwee

Review of Minutes from Jan. 30, 2022 and Oct. 16, 2022 Meetings.....Jen Casta, Deb Mc Elwee

Report of the Pastor..... Pastor John Heidgerd

Presentation of 2023 Annual Budget..... Dave Blaich

Approval of Budget

Nominations for 2023-2024 Congregation Council..... Jen Casta

Member Biographical Statements

Nominees from the Floor

Approval of Slate of Candidates

Thanksgiving for Outgoing Congregation Council Members..... Jen Casta

Carole Darragh

Julie Freed

Michele Gilbert

Nomination and Election of Delegates to the 2023 SEPA Synod Assembly.....Jen Casta

Adjournment..... Jen Casta

Closing Prayer and Benediction..... Pastor John Heidgerd

Following the meeting, the church council will meet briefly in the parlor, to elect officers.

Congregational Meeting Minutes-1/30/2022

The meeting was held by using Zoom and in person due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The main purpose of the meeting was to approve the 2022 budget and to elect council members.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Jen Casta.

Pastor John opened the congregational meeting with song and prayer.

The Congregational Meeting Minutes from 2021 and the Special Congregational Meeting Minutes on 6/27/2021 were reviewed. A motion was made by Jen Casta to approve and confirm the minutes and Carole Darragh second the motion. 2021 Minutes for 1/31/2021 and 6/27/2021 were accepted by "10% of the voting members which constitutes a quorum."

Pastor's Report- Pastor reviewed the church's mission statement "Making Christ Known through Worship, Nurture, Service and Outreach." Our church has achieved these missions: The people of Emmanuel have already responded well to the challenges and the direction to which God is leading us. Through our courage to take risk, our little community church has helped so many.

Financial- Annual Report 2022. Finance Committee: Dave Blaich, Chairperson; Cory Gilbert, Treasurer; Shawn Natali, Council Liaison; Julie Freed, Financial Secretary. Dave Blaich reviewed the 2022 Budget and Cory Gilbert reviewed the 2021 Financial Summary. Chris Powis explained the \$125,000 needed for major repairs to outside of the church. A motion to approve 2022 proposed annual budget of \$508,420 made by Roy Becker and seconded by Julie Freed. Approved unanimously.

Council Members- The nominating Committee has submitted the following names for congregational approval to serve on Church Council: Amanda Higgins for a two-year term; Jen Casta and Debbie McElwee for a second two-year term, and Evan Freed for a third two year term. A motion was made by Dave Blaich to approve the 2022 proposed names for Church Council and second by Jane Vogel. The slate of candidates was approved unanimously.

Emmanuel thanked out going council members Chris Harubin and Kathleen Cole for their service. Emmanuel also thanked John Wellington for 30 years on the Property Committee and Mary Anne Morral for her years of service as Chairman of the Altar Guild.

Nomination and Election of Delegates to the April 30, 2022 SEPA Synod Assembly- A motion was made by Carole Darragh and seconded by Chris Powis to approve Liesl Stroup, Jen Casta, and Pastor John as the delegates for the SEPA synod assembly. Approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Bob Cole and seconded by Bill Morral to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously.

The meeting ended at 12:15 PM with prayer and the benediction.

Submitted by

Debbie McElwee

Church Council Secretary

Special Congregational Meeting Minutes – 10/16/2022

Jen Casta opened the meeting with prayer.

Jen then gave a brief introduction about the restoration project to the pillars on the west side of the church and that the congregation must approve the allocation of funds from the church endowment to pay for the project. Church Council passed the use of these funds on October 10, 2022 Council meeting.

Chris Powis explained the background of the contractor doing the work and what this work will entail. The work should be completed in 5 to 6 weeks and the contractor will begin work in November.

Questions and Answers:

- Stain glass windows will be protected by scaffolding
- Doorway to basement, steps and walkway are not part of this project
- A Building Fund Campaign will begin sometime in 2023
- We will be keeping some of the 100 years old brick for other projects
-

A motion was made to amend the budget of 2022 from \$125,000 to an additional \$65,000 bringing the total to \$190,000.

This motion was approved by the congregation.

Prepared by

Debbie McElwee
Church Council Secretary

2022 Report of the Council President



Peace to all!

At the start of the year, we welcomed new Council Member Amanda Higgins, and thanked Kathleen Coll for completing her term. Many thanks to all our 2022 Council members: Chris Powis (Vice President & Property Committee member), Deb McElwee (Secretary), Shawn Natali (Finance), Carol Darragh, Evan Freed, Julie Freed, Michele Gilbert, Amanda Higgins, and Pastor John. Special thanks to Carol, Julie and Michele for 6 years of service, and for serving with Pastor John as the 2022 Nominating Committee. With the anticipated election of 4 new council members, we will continue to lead and serve the congregation with 10 elected Council Members and Pastor John.

This year we took the opportunity to dive into our mission – Making Christ known through service, nurture, outreach, and worship – and to ask ourselves, “what do these parts of our mission mean?” What do they look like?

Through these discussions we affirmed some concepts, such as

- Worship happens in the sanctuary on Sunday, and also when small or large groups are gathered together in God’s name anytime, and in different places.
- Service and Outreach includes serving our neighbors “right here” and our neighbors “out there” – as evidenced by Emeal and Meleny’s house as well as Honduras and Ukraine relief.
- Nurture is needed within our congregation, our community, and our world. When we care for 1 person or a community of people through prayer and actions, we express God’s love.

Reflecting today compared to 1 year ago, we can see how our efforts have moved our missions from in-progress to completion, or to a new phase, all with God’s blessings. One year ago, the parsonage renovations were progressing so that in May 2022, we were able to dedicate the building as Meleny’s House and enable a safe place of residence for women transitioning into new lives. One year ago, we continued the E-meal program with hope that need would subside, however, new challenges drove the need higher, and the people of Emmanuel were able to respond. Through the year, we have developed our Youth Ministry, Sunday’s Kids, and increased presence in the community to make God’s love and word known. Thanks be to God, and thanks to EVERYONE who has supported our varied missions and ministries this year – as we sing and as we know, “the church is the people”.

Our council has collaborated this year with the Property committee to understand the physical state of our building, the extent of repairs and restoration needed, and to explore shorter and longer term options for this important asset. It will be critical for us to continue this relationship, as well as to engage new people resources so that we can evaluate the work, the funding, and any proposals to the congregation.

Our council will continue to look forward at the needs and opportunities of our programs and ministries as we consider how best to manage the building that is a key part of “Souderton’s Community Church”.

I would like to thank Pastor and all council members for prayerfully considering our mission, for raising our voices to discuss our ministries, and for being present with the community and congregation. On behalf of our council, thanks to all of our members and friends who have answered God’s call to contribute time, talents, and treasures to our varied ministries.

I look forward 2023 as we remain open to see and hear God’s word, and as we see and hear the needs of God’s people, reaching out as Jesus taught us. Thank you for supporting our Pastor and Council through our mission together.

Jen Casta, Council President

2022 Report of the Pastor



The Blessings of Abundance

(even when scarcity is evident)

[The disciples said,] “Send the crowds away so they can go to the villages and buy some food.” Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” “We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered. “Bring them here to me,” he said. (Matthew 14: 15b-18)

It is hard to believe that four years have passed since we began “life together” here at Emmanuel. In many ways the time has flown by, even though we have yet to fully emerge from the Covid pandemic – a generational event that never seems to go away, and leaves in its wake a legacy of confusion about who we are as the church of Jesus Christ in a time when scarcity is evident. By scarcity, I’m not just referring to the loss of wealth we’ve experienced or the absence of material things through which we’ve suffered. Yes, all those are real, tangible realities of the time in which we live. But more importantly, I’m concerned about the church’s scarcity of spirit – the loss of our shared vision of the life of abundance promised by God, even when it all looks so impossible.

The verses written above are a short excerpt from the story of the “Feeding of the Five Thousand” miracle as recounted to us through Matthew’s gospel. I broke this out of the larger story because it illustrates the confusion and the conflict the disciples were going through as they saw the problem through the eyes of scarcity, in contrast with Jesus’ vision of abundance. Most of us are familiar with this story – of how Jesus fed over 5,000 people starting out with 5 loaves of bread and two fish. But most of us don’t zero in on this part of the dialog, and what it reveals about our choices as disciples, and how those choices either bring people to see all that Jesus has to offer or send them away because we are afraid there isn’t enough.

As we come to the end of the third year of this pandemic cycle, this dialog between Jesus and the disciples turns a mirror on ourselves as the church and causes us to ask – What have we done that has sent people away from Jesus? Or, what have we done in response to Jesus call to “bring them to me?” I find it very revealing that the disciples in this moment were so driven by fear and scarcity as to think that sending people away from Jesus was the right thing to do. And Jesus immediately corrected them, telling his disciples they don’t need to go away. When the disciples persisted, Jesus responded, “bring them to me”.

The more I think about how the church has responded to the pandemic, I’m saddened to think about all the ways in which the church has acted in fear and scarcity – sending people away from Jesus by closing down buildings, shuttering programs, playing the victim, and seeking salvation in “virtual community”. It breaks my heart to see how much ministry has been forfeit because we think sending people away was the answer to the pandemic instead of the call to trust in the abundance that Jesus promises.

While these last few paragraphs have been sobering to write (and no doubt to read), I can say without reservation that I am proud that the disciples of Emmanuel have not chosen the option of fear and scarcity - to send the people away from Jesus - and instead have trusted in the Jesus who blesses us with abundance, even when scarcity is all that is evident. When I look back and take stock at all that has happened in the past four years, and in particular, the most recent year, I am thankful that we’ve chosen the path that brings people to Jesus, instead of sending them away.

As you go through this report, I hope you can sense how living into God’s economy of abundance is the way in which Emmanuel has marked herself as a church that is vital, growing in faith, growing in service, in growing in its role to be Souderton’s Community Church. It’s not that we don’t pay attention to what is going on around us, or in some way deny the conditions in which we live. Ignoring reality is not what makes a strong church. It

is in finding ways to be the church, to proclaim the abundance of God to world that sees only scarcity – that is what makes a vibrant community. The Covid-19 pandemic has caused a lot pain and anxiety in our community, but you will see the many ways that Emmanuel has lived into this and always asks “What can we do to bring people to Jesus?”



When we see only scarcity, we are projecting a belief that the world has only so much to give; what one person gains must come out of the hand of someone who loses. The world’s assumption of scarcity stokes our fears that we might not have enough to live on or be required to make drastic changes in our lifestyle in order to cope with less. The attitude of scarcity is a strong force in our world. It affects so many decisions because we make them in fear, in mistrust, in assuming that there is nothing that can be done. Churches that live into the attitude of scarcity spend way too much energy on sending people away, rather than drawing them to Jesus. Most do this without even realizing this.

Scarcity is a powerful force, but it is no match for the people of God when we commit ourselves to live into God’s economy of abundance– adopting an attitude of gratitude – a prevailing perspective that there is always more than we see, and that a good and gracious God always has the capacity to provide all that we need.

The economics of scarcity was on the minds of the disciples gathered that day by the Sea of Galilee when thousands of people were fed with what started out as just two fish and five loaves of bread. The attitude of scarcity present in the minds of the disciples made them want to send people away from Jesus. There was no way to feed thousands with that little food. It is just simply impossible.

Jesus responded back with a challenge to think not of what was lacking, but what was there in the presence of Jesus. In God’s economy there is always enough for everyone to be fed – always enough to share with someone else – always enough to have some left over in case someone missed out – always enough when we believe that God can – and will provide for God’s faithful people. There is always enough to bring people to Jesus.



I know we are all worried right now – especially with housing, energy and food prices soaring well beyond what we could have imagined just last year. And yes, there are real-world pressures on us to conserve and hold back to protect ourselves.

I would never urge you to be reckless, but I do encourage you to hold to your faith – your trust that God is able to do more than we can imagine if we show God just a little faith – the same faith that turned two fishes and five loaves of bread into a banquet for thousands. The same faith that brings people to Jesus and does not send them away.

When a church refuses to embrace scarcity, and instead focusses itself on God’s abundance and how that attitude brings people to Jesus, that is a church that is in mission. Emmanuel is a church in mission. A church in mission to its neighbors, in mission to its community, in mission to the world. And there are lots of ways we are showing this to be true. Yes – Emmanuel is a church in mission, bringing people to Jesus.

We hear a lot these days about the church in the United States and most of it is about a church that is in “re-mission”. And no – this is not just post-pandemic apocalypse. This has been going on for years before the first Covid-19 germ was known. The church had been pulling away from its mission for decades, and the numbers were showing it.

I’m proud to say the people of Emmanuel have not shrunk from its commitment to mission, no matter how much bad news is out there, no matter how much “we-cant-ism” dominates church leadership. Emmanuel is a church in mission – and the results of being serious about mission shows.



Our E-Meal ministry is a mission, drawing people to Jesus through service – a mission to our neighbors in need – and to the community at large. Missions do more than just address address a problem or meet a need. By following the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Emmanuel has led our community to see that there is a problem, opening the hearts of a community to recognize it, to do something about it, and sustain the remedy until such time as the problem goes away.

Meleny’s house is a mission – a mission to people we don’t even know – using an asset that we didn’t want and thought no one else would want. Abundance thinking now draws people to Jesus through compassion. Through our commitment to Meleny’s House, we are shining light on a global menace – human trafficking – and doing something positive to help. We are partnering with another great community organization in their mission - showing that 1+1 = so much more than 2.



Our ministry to Honduras is a mission – drawing people to Jesus at home and abroad, through a spirit of generosity and abundance. It was the Holy Spirit that brought Jessmy Trochez to our door 2 years ago, offering us a chance to be in mission to help relieve the suffering of people on another continent. By offering to help, we opened they eyes of our own community – not just to respond to the need – but to witness to a vibrant culture in our own neighborhoods – one that would otherwise have remained invisible. Our efforts working with Help-to-Help, the Souderton Community, and the Rotary Clubs here and in Santa Barbara have raised over \$40,000 in just two years during a time when an attitude of scarcity would have said to send the people away.

Emmanuel is a church in mission drawing people to Jesus and doing so in more ways than I can write about in a single annual report. So, I will let the rest of the report bear that impression to you. Thanks be to God, the God of abundance, for the opportunities for mission that have been revealed to us, and for the people who serve in all of our mission expressions.

I will close by sharing with you a note Emmanuel received recently from our Synod’s Generosity Team. It is always nice when others notice the great work we are doing at Emmanuel and take time to say so.

Dear Pastor John & Christ Followers at Emmanuel,

In this season of gratitude, I write to thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus in Souderton and beyond. Together with the Holy Spirit and the 143 congregations and ministry sites of SEPA Synod, you are a vital partner in spreading the love of Christ with neighbors near and far. I especially want to thank you for and encourage your faithfulness in Mission Support offerings that strengthen our collective witness in the Greater Philadelphia region and around the world.

The global pandemic has not stopped God's love! SEPA members have persevered in equipping leaders for the 21st century, engaging youth and young adults, addressing homelessness and food insecurity, embracing the LGBTQ community and refugees, ending racism and injustice, rebuilding after disaster, and so much more.

Thanks be to God!

Rev. Julie Bergdahl
SEPA Generosity Team member

PS - Your outreach activities are inspirational! Great Job!



2022 Report – Worship and Music

First, I think it is important to say Thanks Be to God, that we were able to have in-person worship services every Sunday in 2022 after two years Covid-19 precautions that led to the suspension of some indoor, in-person worship. It was good to get back into a rhythm of holding weekly services without much concern about controlling the spread of the pandemic.

It is also a good time to be thankful that we have been able to offer worship services without a regular, permanent Director of Music Ministries for over two years. We express our thanksgiving for the work of Priscilla Landis who handled some of those duties on an interim basis until July 2022 and especially for her work directing choirs and special music during the Lent and Easter seasons. We are also thankful for the work of Richard Spotts who prepared and led our choirs for Christmas Eve worship. In addition to them, we remain grateful to the revolving group of organists and musicians that have led our worship services, and especially for Pastor Emeritus Richard Miller, and Doug Landis who volunteer their time and talents.

We have been trying to hire a permanent, part-time Director of Music Ministries, but have found very few applicants to be interested. We are not alone in this regard as retirements from such positions throughout all churches far outpace available replacements. In December, we came close to hiring a strong candidate who was relocating from North Carolina, until his full-time job offer fell through and the candidate decided not to relocate. We pray that 2023 will bring some renewed interest and a new leader for us to hire. Even though I enjoy the weekly preparation for worship, I miss having a thought partner in planning, and am eager to work with someone who can help re-energize our music ministry.

Thanks to Chris Harubin and some memorial funds, we did have our handbells refurbished in time for use on Christmas Eve. They are still in need of some corrective work and will be sent back out for additional fine tuning, hopefully before they can be used again in the Easter season.

Our wonderful organ continues to serve us well, despite some work arounds implementing in past years. As many of us have experienced, there is an intermittent problem with some of the electronic workings of the organ which cause some “extra notes” to play at times. It is been difficult to ascertain the root cause of this, but the organists and the congregation has adapted to it.

We learned soon after we started live-streaming that it is an essential tool to keep the community connected around worship services. We are, therefore, committed to live-streaming our worship services each week and it is time to make the process of live-streaming more sustainable, stable and efficient. In 2023, we will look to relocate all equipment related to live-streaming to the tech booth, eliminating some of the work arounds that we’ve tolerated since the beginning of the pandemic.



For Lent, 2022 we returned to Wednesday evening worship services, but these were attended by only 9-13 people. For Lent 2023, we are exploring a collaborative model with our sister congregation at Zwingli. Good Friday services were well attended, as was the “Stations of The Cross” self-guided devotions enhanced in 2002 by the addition of a prayer labyrinth, created by Erin Powis.

+ Pastor John +

2022 Report - Emmanuel's E-Meal Ministry



Emmanuel's E-Meal/Bread Drop program began in March 2020, just at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and as the local counties were shutting down for what was thought of as a 2-week period of a stay at home order.

We have "Handed Up" 323,000 meals and counting. The E-Meal/Bread Drop program is closing in on its 3rd year Anniversary.

This year has been an amazing year of blessings and partnerships; we are thankful for all our partners, most especially Garden of Health Food Bank, Quakertown Food Bank, Hatfield Food Pantry, Shepherd's Shelf, and Keystone's Fresh for All. These are just a few of the many organizations and individuals who help us in the fight against hunger insecurity in the Indian Valley.

In 2022 alone we handed up 137,000 meals, or an average of 2,635 meals per week. In the last 6 months, the average has climbed to over 3,000 meals per week. We raised another \$34,000 in 2022. In July 2022 Bread Drop and E-meal combined operations expanding our impact to include addressing the needs of the homeless in our region.

Bread Drop Ministries began around the same time as E-Meal, at the outset of the Pandemic. Lou Farrell, a member at Grace Hatfield, began the ministry as an outreach to homeless and feeding programs in Philadelphia, Chester and Montgomery Counties. E-Meal was one of their earliest clients. Since inception they have collected and distributed nearly 300,000 PB&J sandwiches, over 40,000 of those since E-Meal and Bread Drop merged operations in July 2022. We owe a big debt of gratitude to Brian Wilson, an E-Meal volunteer who now coordinates the Bread Drop collection and distribution operation each Tuesday. He stepped in when Lou Farrell had to take a leave from the ministry for health reasons. In addition to PB&J sandwiches, Bread Drop also distributes fruit, snacks and drinks as they become available. As part of the merger of the two ministries, we now have 2 large commercial refrigerators to add to our cooling capacity, as well as a large stainless steel table to improve our work flow.



As I've completed 1 1/2 full years as E-Meal Coordinator, we have seen many changes and new avenues of Food resources that help us in trying to combat food insecurity in the Indian Valley. Thank you to Care and Share Thrift Stores for the generous donation of Christmas stockings again this year for our Christmas giveaway. We are truly blessed by wonderful volunteers who give their time and daycaptains who make our program the success that it has become. We have also had numerous organizations volunteer for in service days, such as Youth Groups, and Business organizations.





2023 has started off with an increase in needs as we move forward, and we are looking for ways to sustain our program in these ever-changing times as we see an increase in food prices as the economic impact of the pandemic is still being felt. In

2022 a new avenue opened up for us to help manage cost and supply of food for E-meal/Bread Drop. We have started to visit the Blessings of Hope Food Bank at least once a month where we hold a membership. By shopping at Blessing of Hope for a low administrative fee of 25 cents a pound, we keep our costs down and have access to a wide variety of items such as dry goods, meat, dairy, fresh produce, and grains. We have an opportunity to increase our trips to Blessings of Hope in 2023 by inviting you to be a part of a sponsorship program; for \$300.00 you can help cover the cost of an average trip to Lancaster.

**Emmanuel E-Meal Sponsorship
Semi-Monthly Blessings of Hope Pick Up**

I/We will sponsor _____ pickups at Blessings of Hope at a cost of \$300 each.

Total Donation \$ _____

Check enclosed. Online Donation

I am dedicating this sponsorship in honor of/ memory of _____

Sponsor: _____

Date: _____

Synod Day of Service – April 2022

Emmanuel’s E-Meal Ministry was chosen as one of the sites for the April 23rd Synod Day of Service. We “handed up” nearly 2,000 meals, on a busy Saturday morning, but the most important number was having 50 volunteers throughout our Southeast PA Synod gathered at Emmanuel to support the E-Meal Ministry in impactful ways. Here's just a little of what was accomplished:

Sorted and stored over 3 TONS of food delivered in 150 boxes from Blessings of Hope.

Packaged 500 snack bags which will be delivered to people experiencing homelessness through Bread Drop ministries.

Shared several boxes of bananas, oranges and rice cakes with our sister ministry FEAST of JUSTICE.

Assembled 100 bags of non-food, personal care items which support or families in need with items they cannot buy with SNAP benefits.

Put together 200 welcome kits for people that come to Emmanuel providing them information about the E-Meal Ministry, Meleny’s House, and other community ministries at Emmanuel.

This was an AMAZING DAY OF SERVICE - using our hands, feet, minds at hearts to worship God and share Christ’s love with our neighbors.

Ann Marie Heidgerd
E-Meal Coordinator



2022 E-Meal Financial Report and Statistics

By The Numbers	2022	Program to Date
# of Meals Served	137,584	317,708
Total Gifts	\$34,296	\$132,833
Cost Per Meal Served		38 cents
Fund Balance		\$11,429
# of Volunteers		240 (appx)
Estimated Hours Donated	7,700	20,400

2023 E-Meal Proposed Budget

		2023 Budget	2022 Actual	2022 Budget
E-Meal Ministry				
	E-Meal Income	40,000	34,296	50,000
	E-Meal Expenses	40,000	47,023	50,000
	Net E-Meal	-	(12,727)	-

2022 Report – Bread Drop Ministry



Bread Drop continues to be a successful ministry that meets its goal of feeding hungry people. We now serve Montgomery, Bucks, Philadelphia and Delaware counties. Additionally, groups in Ridley Park, PA and Cherry Hill, NJ have adopted our model and are bringing food into their areas. It is exciting that the Bread Drop formula has been adapted by Echo Fine Properties in Jupiter, FLA to bring relief following Hurricane Ian. In the weeks after the storm Echo drove over 30,000 PB&Js across Florida feeding thousands before FEMA had the opportunity to organize food aid.

2022 marks the year where Bread Drop came into full partnership with Emmanuel’s E-Meal Ministry, providing a regional component to their work and sharing funding, staff and equipment. In fact, it is unlikely that Bread Drop would have continued without this pairing. In July of 2022 Bread Drop’s director, Lou Farrell, suffered a health crisis that necessitated immediate hospitalization. Without missing a week of deliveries, the E-Meal staff led by Ann Marie Heidgerd continued collections and deliveries. Since then, Brian Wilson has taken charge of daily operations making it possible for the ministry to thrive. It is expected that Lou Farrell will return in some capacity later in 2023.



While we say that Bread Drop is not “in the clothing business,” we have had the opportunity to distribute coats, sneakers, boots, socks, glove and hand-knitted hats. Connections with other social service agencies help us know which groups can get these supplies directly to the people who need them most. Currently, Bread Drop distributes almost 2,000 sandwiches weekly along with snack bags, bottled water and fresh fruit to people who are living outside. These supplies are essential and appreciated by our homeless friends. Bread Drop has distributed 297,095 PBJs since beginning operations in April of 2020.

Lou Farrell
Director of Bread Drop Ministries

2022 Report – Ministry to Honduras

HELP TO HELP



On Saturday, February 12, over 30 people came together at Emmanuel to load our latest shipping container bound for Honduras. This time we were able to receive 18 pallets from our partners at Hands in Service and clear all the relief supplies that had been stored on Emmanuel's stage and second floor classroom. It was a real team effort and included members of the Souderton-Telford rotary as well.

That shipping container remained stuck in the port in Honduras for three months. During this time our partners on the ground Honduras, ADASBA and Club Rotario, Santa Barbara, had to cut through red tape and avoid thousands of dollars of inappropriate costs levied on the shipment.

Finally, on June 6, the container was released and made its way to Santa Barbara where it was unloaded and stored at the Club Rotario headquarters. Thanks be to God that our partners in Honduras were able to break through all the obstacles that were placed in their path.

The increasing difficulties we've had with our shipments have caused us to rethink how we might handle future shipments of relief supplies. One thing that will not change is our commitment to provide ongoing relief to our neighbors in Central America who are experiencing a long path to recovery after the devastating hurricanes that hit in November 2020.



We have to remember that despite the challenges of getting the containers released and opened, the two containers we sent in 2021 and 2022 provided around \$400,000 worth of supplies, for about \$20,000 in funds raised. That's an incredible amount of leverage of our abilities to raise money and work with partners. Obstacles are frustrating to deal with, but the need is so great.

While we may pursue another drive to fill a shipping container in the future, it seemed we needed to pivot in the near-term to continue our commitment to sustaining our mission to Honduras and having impact in more creative ways. We had the blessing of \$4,000 left in our Honduras Ministry Fund to give us a head start on offering help in a different way.

In conversation with the Santa Barbara Rotary Club and they offered some suggestions for projects that can be funded with direct financial support. One of the biggest needs identified for school children in and around Santa Barbara was to repair and replace – desks that were destroyed during the 2020 hurricanes. Many children have to sit on the floors in order to learn. They are in need of 1,000 desks and have asked for \$14,000 in funds to provide them. From this dialog, the Drive for 1000 desks was born. It was an ambitious goal we set to raise another \$10,000 but when you work assuming God's economy of abundance, you don't dwell on all the reasons why you shouldn't forge ahead.





Fall 2022 Fundraiser



The Drive
for
1000
Desks

Central American Food and Cultural Festival

Includes home-made food, folk dancing, local celebrity singer from Santa Barbara, Honduras, and Central American handcrafts (for sale)

Saturday, November 12th: 5PM – 8PM

*An evening to celebrate the diversity of Souderton
and to help build 1,000 desks for students in Honduras*

Tickets - \$56

(Sponsors 4 rebuilt desks for students in need)



Will you help?

**← Turn that
Into this →**



To Purchase Tickets

Online: Click this link or go to <https://donorbox.org/events/366461>

E-Mail: emmanuel@emmanuelchurch.net

Phone: 215-723-7514 (leave voice message)

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

69 West Broad St., Souderton, PA 18964

So forge ahead we did, and we found so many people willing to help. Through the generosity of members of Emmanuel and Help-to-Help, neighbors in the Souderton Community, members of the local Rotary Club, and a sister church in Frankfort, MI, we raised over \$18,000. The highlight of the campaign was the First (annual) Central American Food and Cultural Festival, held on Saturday, November 12 at Emmanuel.

Organized by the members of Help-to-Help, Emmanuel hosted an evening of good food, fellowship and folk music/dancing to cap off the campaign. It was an amazing evening of love, generosity and support to help people in another country deal with a great need. Here's a note of thanksgiving from Honduras Ministry Team Leader, Jessmy Trochez:

Dear friends of Emmanuel
Lutheran Church,

November is a month of giving thanks, when we take the opportunity to thank God in a special way for all the blessings received during the year. Today, I thank God for giving us the opportunity to serve and, above all, to be able to give to all those who need it the most.

I want to say a very special thank you to our church and to our community for having so much kindness in your heart for all the sisters and brothers in Honduras, especially in my home region of Santa Barbara.

Because of your kindness and generosity, we have made it possible for 1,000 children to have a decent place to sit in their classrooms so they can learn and thrive. The "Drive for 1000 Desks raised over \$16,000, exceed our goal by \$2,000!

With the help of God, WE DID IT!

Nothing fills me more with joy than being able to see two communities with different customs and

traditions united in the love of Christ – and making everything possible. What more can I ask of God than to see our church open its heart and renew its faith every day – living out that faith in kindness, love and compassion toward others.

I just want to thank God and thank all of you for letting me be part of this wonderful family - The Emmanuel Lutheran Church Family.

Thank you very much God bless you,

Jessmy Trochez





Santa Barbara – “Yo Te Quiero Limpia. (I want/love you clean)

Normally, you would not want to have your logo on a vehicle associated with picking up trash, but in this case we have to consider it an honor. In areas of Santa Barbara, Honduras, municipal trash collection occurred once per month, and sometimes not even that often. This created really unsafe conditions, especially around local schools where trash would pile up and fester.

With some of the additional money raised for Honduran relief, and with raffle organized by Help-to-Help, our friends in Santa Barbara acquired a small trailer to give local citizens a chance to round up the trash more regularly and bring it to a landfill. Putting the Help-to-Help and Emmanuel logos on the trailer is their way of saying Gracias! And Gracias a Dios!

This is just the beginning of a longer-term program empowering citizens, especially young people, to take responsibility for health and sanitation in their local communities. In addition to the truck, funds raised for Honduran relief from various sources have provided tools, trash receptacles, gloves and other supplies to help keep Santa Barbara clean.

Quinceanera Celebrated at Emmanuel

Our efforts supporting our friends in Honduras include a little bit of celebratory fun.

On Sunday, November 20, a quinceanera party was held in Emmanuel’s Room A. It is likely that it was the first time such a celebration was held in our building. A quinceanera is a traditional Latin American birthday party for a young woman when she turns 15. It is a traditional “coming of age” celebration not unlike a sweet 16 party.

The guest of honor was Christina Sagastume (to Pastor John’s left), Jessmy’s cousin and the daughter of Bayron and Gleny Sagastume, who flew here from Honduras to participate in the Food and Cultural Festival and our worship service the next day. Christina would have had her quinceanera in Honduras, but because of the travel plans, it was an honor that we were able to celebrate with her here in Souderton.



Emmanuel Lutheran Church							
Honduras Funds Anaysis							
FY2022							
		Total	Shipping Container	Yo Te Quiero Limpia	Drive for 1000 Desks	Pop Up Fundraiser for Nursing Home	Carry Forward
	Balance FWD - 2021	4,876	1,524	1,510			1,842
Receipts							
	General Donations	4,993	1,731		1,012		2,250
	Souderton Telford Rotary	4,000	3,000		1,000		
	Trinity, Frankfort MI	7,808		1,000	6,808		
	Help-to-Help Raffle	1,975		1,550		425	
	Central American Banquet	6,048			6,048		
	Total Receipts	24,824	4,731	2,550	14,868	425	2,250
Expenses					14,000		
	Container Cost	3,880	3,880				
	Pallets	1,200	1,200				
	Express Mail	175	175				
	Storage Cost	1,000	1,000				
	Program Cost	4,485		4,060		425	
	Banquet Support Costs	868			868		
	Desk Project Costs	14,000			14,000		
	Total Expenses	25,608	6,255	4,060	14,868	425	-
	Net	4,092	-	-	-		4,092

2022 Report – Meleny’s House



Places of refuge have been a part of our Jewish/Christian heritage for thousands of years. Going back to the Exodus, entire cities were named places of refuge – communities where one could seek justice, especially in cases where someone had been wrongly accused and in danger of vengeance.

These places of refuge throughout Israel were to be well marked - well maintained – and open to all people, even if they weren’t part of the faith – even if they were strangers to the land.

Over the centuries, the concept of the place of refuge has been reshaped by our lived experiences. In modern times, our churches have begun orphanages, nursing homes, hospitals, rehab centers, schools, housing programs, food ministries and more – all related to the tradition to provide

places of refuge for people who need help and support. The varied Lutheran Social Service agencies are all connected to this ancient command to provide places of refuge to those in need.

I’m proud and thankful that Emmanuel and our partners at Worthwhile Wear are dedicating a new place of refuge – a new place where people can find respite, justice, love and hope. When the world has taken so much from them, they will find refuges at Meleny’s House.

Meleny’s House is named and dedicated in honor of Meleny Miller, the late wife of our Pastor Emeritus, Richard Miller, who lived in the home for 22 years, 20 of which as a near-quadruplegic. Despite her disability, her spirit rose above it and she participated in Emmanuel’s ministry even as she received care from the people of Emmanuel for two decades.

The property that was once called the parsonage because it was a place of refuge for many former Pastors at Emmanuel, at their families, will continue to be a place of refuge for years to come.

God has blessed us with a fully modernized residence now divided into three beautiful apartments – eventually a home for six women completing a journey from slavery and abuse to independence and new life. Our partners at Worthwhile Wear have done amazing work to get Meleny’s House converted in such a short time to become that place of refuge that only a year ago was really a dream.



Meleny Miller

(1940-2008)

lived in this home from 1977 to 1999
when her husband, Richard, was pastor of Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

Following spinal cord surgery in 1978, Meleny was confined
to a wheelchair for the remainder of her life.

Despite her almost total physical dependency,
Meleny remained an active and contributing part of life around her,
refusing to allow her disability to hinder her continued contributions to life.

In tribute to Meleny Miller’s faith and spirit,
and so this home will be a place of refuge and respite for years to come,
Emmanuel Lutheran Church dedicates this home in her name.

Meleny’s House – Dedicated May 22, 2022

Meleny’s House was home to one woman from Worthwhile Wear’s program in 2022. Tiffany moved in on the evening following the dedication ceremony and – thanks be to God! – was graduated from the program in December 2022. She is living independently and has been reunified with her son.

A second woman will be moving in during January 2023. We expect to increase the number of residents to six as 2023 unfolds.

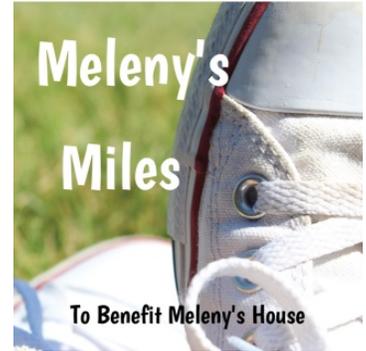
+ Pastor John +

Emmanuel Named “Citizen of the Year” By Worthwhile Wear



At its annual "Worthwhile Evening" banquet, Emmanuel Lutheran Church was recognized as Worthwhile Wear's "Citizen of the Year" for its partnership in the opening of Meleny's House, Emmanuel's vacant former parsonage, now converted into a home for survivors of human trafficking. Pastor John accepted the award from Worthwhile Wear's Executive Director, Dan Emr as part of a gala event raising awareness and funds for the fight to stop human trafficking and to help survivors understand their worth as beloved children of God. What a wonderful organization to work with as a partners in mission.

Another way Emmanuel showed its generosity in support of Meleny's house was through our participation in “Meleny's Miles”, a program to turn our getting active into funds to help with the expenses of supporting Worthwhile Wear's ministry to survivors of human trafficking. Friends and members of Emmanuel walked, ran, swam, etc and logged 8,224 miles resulting in over \$12,500 raised. Thanks be to God!



2022 Report – Care Ministry

A core mission of any Christian congregation is to provide care for those of us who are less able to participate in the active life of the community. One of the ways this is done is through visitation ministry. Emmanuel commissioned a group of laypersons in 2022 to expand our ability to reach out to homebound members bringing the love of Christ, and the presence of Christ, through eucharistic ministry.



Each of these eucharistic ministers or caregivers maintains a list of 3-5 people with which they visit and engage at least once per month. Thanks be to God for the gifts of Ginger Holy, Jane Reagan, Jane Vogel, Marlene Natali and Christine Harubin for their commitment to make sure we stay connected with these beloved children of God.

2022 Report on Membership and Attendance



2022 Membership Transactions

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Baptized Membership					
Opening Total	284	234	236	233	236
Members Received					
Child Baptism	2	6	6	4	6
Adult Baptism		1		1	
Affirmation	11			7	5
Transfer		3			
Other	1				1
Members Removed					
Death	5	8	9	4	6
Transfer					
Other	59			5	
Closing Total	234	236	233	236	242
Confirmed Membership					
Opening Total	200	192	199	190	189
Members Received					
Adult Baptism		1		1	
Affirmation	11			7	5
Confirmation		11			
Transfer		3			
Other					
Members Removed					
Death	5	8	9	4	6
Transfer					
Other	14			5	
Closing Total	192	199	190	189	188
Current Database Stats					
# of People			366	461	495
# of Member Households			123	123	121

Received by Child Baptism

Hayes Bernardo
 Brooklyn Higgins
 Dominic Higinis
 Acnelys Toro Paz
 Derek Toro Paz
 Riley Vogel

Received by Affirmation of Baptism

Ryan Bevan
 Ginger Hoyt
 Earl Reber
 Linda Reber
 Troy Slemmer

Received through Reinstatement of Membership

Janet Davidson-Oltman

Removed by Death

Jacqueline Bond
 Dominick De Salvo
 Janet Freed
 Rita Fritz
 Richard Landis
 Harry Thompson

ELCA Reported Attendance	Live Attendance	Total Attendance
Defined as # of people in worship + (Online Views >1 minute * 2)	109 (+6)	140 (-12)

Other Metrics	At Dec. 31, 2022	At Dec. 31, 2021
Facebook Page Followers	1,019	884
Average Weekly Page Views	132	110
E-Mail Database Subscribers	684	548

2022 Report of the Property Committee

the Property committee has focused their time and energy into understanding the physical state of the building, the extent of repairs and restoration needed, and to explore shorter and longer term options for the building use. Through the past year, the committee has engaged with numerous craftsman and service providers to fully understand the scope of work that needs to be addressed and what knowledge and skillsets are required to plan, manage and execute the repairs.

After careful consideration, the property committee choose to partner with Joseph Dugan, Inc. given their expertise in masonry restoration, breadth experience locally and with similiar projects. We are currently working with Joseph Dugan, Inc. to plan initial phase of work.

This initial phase of the restoration will be limited to the west side of the church facing Melanie's house and is scheduled to begin in March. While this is a later start than initially expected, it allows more time for materials to be manufactured and gathered and reduces the threat of an extended deep freeze period. Once the effort commences, the property Committee will work closely with the contractor to gather lessons learned and incorporate them into our planning for wave 2 that will address the north and east sides.

The committee welcomes your input and feedback as we continuously aim to make the property a safe, beautiful and functional space for our congregation and community to use and enjoy.

Chris Powis

2022 Sunday's Kids Report



Sunday's Kids started off with Rally Day at the end of September, with a great group of children ages 3 years to 9 years old. We have a great group of 15 children broken out into 2 age groups 3-5 years old and 5-9 years old.

We have had a great time learning about the Bible through crafts, games, and fun videos. The children are excited to come and learn and play with old and new friends.

We are blessed with a great group of teachers Carol Darragh, Cheryl Starke, Michelle Bevans, with assistance from Macey Coll and Kiera Driesel who help with the older students. We are also blessed with great assistants in the preschool age Karen Slemmer, Jessmy Trochez and Erin Powis. The time and dedication of these ladies is shown each week as they prepare the Lessons for the children.

We continue to share our videos online with our puppet friends Esmeralda and Wolfie and all their puppet friends. This has been a great year so far and look forward to more fun and learning how much Jesus Loves us in 2023.



Thank you to the teachers, and the Christian Education team of Evan Freed and Taylor Zettlemoyer who continue to help plan and make the program a fun and great experience for all.

Thank you to the parents for your continued support of our Sunday's Kids program.

Blessings,

Ann Marie Heidgerd
Sunday's Kids Coordinator



2022 First Communion Report



We celebrated First Communion on June 12, 2022, with a great group of 13 Children ranging in age from 4 years old to 14 years old. The children had instruction by Ann Marie for the younger children ages 4-8 and Amanda Higgins and Pastor John instructed the older children age 10-14 years old.

The children learned the meaning behind the Bread and the Wine and how Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with his disciples and how we carry that on into today with Holy Communion. We used A Place for You, My Holy Communion Book by Daniel Erlander.

It is a “Welcome Book” a story of Jesus who invites you to his special meal. It is an interactive book, for children to use with parents and grandparents to learn about the meal of Holy Communion.

The older youth made the Communion Bread for the service on June 12. It was a wonderful celebration of Holy Communion.



Children who received first Holy Communion:

Kaia Frankenfield
Dominic Higgins
Ryder Higgins
Eden Laird
Wyatt Laird
Stella Moyer
Wesley Moyer

Mackenzie Powis
Piper Powis
Mason Slemmer
Samuel Slemmer
Acnelys Toro-Paz
Derek Toro-Paz

Blessings,
Ann Marie Heidgerd
Sunday’s Kids Coordinator

2022 Youth Ministry Report

Over the past year Emmanuel has launched a new youth ministry for our older kids (middle and high school youth.)

Youth group meets the first Friday of each month for about two hours. We started out small but our numbers have grown over the past few months. So far, we have done numerous gatherings at the church, mini golf at Freddy Hill, a movie at The Broad Theater and a corn maze at R&J Farm Market.



I'd say that the favorite so far was probably the corn maze. The kids (and myself) got very competitive to see who could finish the maze in the quickest time and after we had some cider and delicious apple cider donuts around a bonfire followed by a hayride that took us through parts of Franconia, it was a great time for all who attended.

In addition to our outings we have also transformed one of the old Sunday School rooms into a youth room that is home to a pool table, ping pong, foosball table, and air hockey.

Our youth participated in a Father's Day youth-led worship service and then participated in a Summer Youth Camp along with some other churches where they did various service activities and ended with a day at Dorney Park.

I look forward to continuing to work with our kids in the coming year. While there will be many more fun events, I'd also like to work in a little more service work in the community. It's been different for me working with an older population as I'm used to the small humans but I think we're getting our footing and this year will be even better than the last!



I'd also like to thank all of the adults that have helped out along the way including Pastor John, Dave Blaich, and Donald Snyder. Without their assistance none of this would have been possible!

Amanda Higgins



2022 Administration Report



The past year was one of great change. I retired from a full-time job and started working here at Emmanuel as the Parish Administrator on a part-time basis. It is wonderful to have more time to do the things that I enjoy.

Thank you to Pastor John, Ann Marie, and Dave Blaich for all of your help as I've learned the procedures of the church office and responsibilities of the Parish Administrator. Also, thank you to the many members who made me feel welcome. It is certainly a pleasure working in the office.

The duties required when working in the church office vary according to the needs of the church but listed below are examples of what is completed on a weekly or an as needed basis:

- Update and maintain church records and membership files.
- Prepare acknowledgement letters for special donations.
- Maintain church's master calendar coordinating space use between church and outside organization.
- Set up a filing system for church materials.
- Answer phone and provide information about the church. Return messages and provides members with information as needed.
- Call members to schedule visits from Pastor John.
- Submit payroll for employees.
- Maintain office supplies, including ordering and purchasing materials.
- Process invoices, including preparing voucher forms, checks and mailings, maintain records of expenses and accounts payable.
- Maintain church mailing list of members and Church Registry.
- Print weekly worship and special event bulletins, E Meal prayer cards and other needed materials.
- Mail weekly bulletins to homebound members.
- Maintain and update the events calendar in print, on bulletin boards, and the website.
- Update bulletin boards.
- Coordinate organists for weekly worship services.
- Keep track of weekly Bread Drop Ministry sandwich donations.
- Coordinate monthly worship assistants and host family volunteers.
- Wawa donation documentation
- Responsible for performing other duties as needed by the pastor and other staff and church council members.

Submitted by Pat Shoemaker

2022 Prayer Shawl Ministry Report

The prayer shawl ministry continues to create prayer shawls and baptismal blankets for members of the congregation as well as anyone else who needs the comfort that the shawls provide. We are a small group but diligent, meeting on the first Sunday of each month at 1:00 in the church parlor. Each year the ministry gives out approximately 52 shawls to those who are facing illness, stress, grief or any other difficult event in their lives. We warmly invite all those who are interested in learning to knit to come and join us.

Lord bless the work of my hands and the prayers of my heart.

Submitted by Marlene Natali

2022 Healing and Intercessory Prayer Ministry Report

This past year we were able to add two new people to the ministry team. The ministry now consists of Jen Casta, Cory Gilbert, Dave Blaich, and Marlene Natali.

The healing service is normally scheduled on the fourth Sunday of each month. During the regular church service, anyone wishing private prayer is encouraged to go to the back of the sanctuary during communion where a kneeler is set and one of the team will offer private and personal prayers. At the time of prayer, you can either stand up or kneel. During prayer you can have your hands held, have the ministry team member place their hands on your shoulders, or upon your head – whichever is comfortable for you. Anointing oil is available. The laying on of hands is an ancient church practice and can be found in numerous scriptural passages in both the Old and New Testament. If you have questions concerning either having prayers said for you or you wish to join the ministry, please feel free to contact Marlene Natali.

Our Intercessory Prayer Ministry was reactivated in 2022 after a long absence due to Covid restrictions. A small file box is located in the prayer chapel on the second floor. The file box contains the names of all congregational members as well as organizations in our community such as the police, fire and ambulance departments. We encourage anyone who enjoys praying for others to visit the chapel.

Submitted by Marlene Natali

2022 Women's Book Ministry Report

In 2022, our group read the following books.

The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict
If I Had Your Face by Frances Cha
Nature of Fragile Things by Susan Meissner
Searching for Sylvie Lee by Jean Kwok
The Last Garden in England by Julie Kelly
The Lost Apothecary by Sarah Penner
The Soulmate Equation by Christine Lauren
West With Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge
Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus
Same Kind of Different as Me by Denver Moore, Lynn Vincent & Ron Hall

The Ladies book club covered a lot of territory in 2022, from New York City to Korea, Ireland and San Francisco, England, and more in-between. . We discussed issues ranging from sharecropping, plastic surgery, a race across the country with 2 giraffes and computer dating. We traveled through time frames from the 1890's through the dust bowl, the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, World War II, the depression and up to present day. Some of us even took a "field trip" to see a movie of one of the books we discussed recently. We finished up the year with our December book exchange.

Our book club meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 7PM. All are welcome to join us for lively discussions and lots of laughter.

Come join us!

Julie Freed

2022 Adult Discussion Forum Report



The Adult Discussion Forum started October 2, 2022 meeting the 1st and 3rd Sunday each month from 9-9:45 AM in the Parlor. We presently are studying from a 10 part Bible Study Guide on "Meeting the Spirit." We are gathering to study the Scriptures and learn and grow in our faith through discussions with other members.

Debbie McElwee

2022 Altar Guild Ministry Report

I would like to start off by recognizing three members of the Altar Guild who have served in leadership positions over many years. First, I would like to thank Mary Ann Moral who has served as chair since 2005; Mary Ann has done a wonderful job in leading the group over the past 17 years. Thank you for your service and dedication! I would also like to recognize Pat Harpel who served as secretary since 2008 and Elaine Cash who served as treasurer. Mary Ann and Pat will continue to serve on the Altar Guild. In January of 2022, Stephanie Moyer took over as chair and Christine Harubin as secretary. The treasurer position was not replaced as the Altar Guild funds were added to the Church's current fund. In addition, we welcomed back Terry Drissel and added two new members, Allison Laird and Erin Powis. Fran Hunsicker, Carol Ann Vogel and Elaine Cash have all retired; a big THANK YOU for your years of service.

Some of the items that we worked on in 2022 included:

- Updating our instruction manual, a special thanks to Becky Hartman for helping to put this together
- Reorganizing the supplies in the sacristy to create more efficient process each Sunday
- Creating signs for the wine/grape communion trays to eliminate confusion
- Worked with the Caregivers team to reuse the consecrated wine for at home communion kits

In 2023 our next project will be updating the floral arrangements for the altar vases. Finally, I would like recognize and thank all the members of the 2022 Altar Guild team.

Kathy Becker	Gerry Blaich
Sharon Cassel	Terry Drissel
Susan Cassel	Liesl Strup
Becky Hartman	Pat Harpel
Allison Laird	Nancy Wellington
Pat Frankenfield	Kathleen Coll
Debbie McElwee	Christine Harubin
Erin Powis	Fran Hunsicker
Mary Ann Morral	Elaine Cash

If anyone has interest in joining the Altar Guild please reach out to Stephanie Moyer.

Stephanie Moyer
Altar Guild Chair

2022 Community Event Ministry Report

Easter Eggstravaganza – April 9, 2022



This year Carol Darragh and I were asked to head up the Easter Eggstravaganza event.

As I have come to expect with many of Emmanuel's events, this one in particular exceeded my expectations right off the bat. We believe there were approximately 200 people in attendance. We even had people lining up outside before we opened the doors.

The egg dying station was a big hit with the kids. We did regular egg dying with the kits and we also had egg dying using rice and food coloring. It was great to see the kids using different methods and having a wonderful time. A big THANK YOU to Alderfer Eggs for donating the eggs which were hardboiled by volunteers and used on the event day.

A few activities that have become a tradition at most of our events are the pinata and the balloon artist. Jessmy Trochez hit it out of the park again with the pinatas, and the balloon artist, Keith, did a splendid job as usual.



We also had a visit from the Easter Bunny who took pictures with all the kids! Thanks to my father-in-law, David Natali, for being a good sport about it.

Thank you to all who volunteered and donated for the event! We hope this year is even bigger!

~ Shawn Natali & Carol Darragh



Trunk or Treat – October 29, 2022



Last year for our Trunk or Treat event we had about 400 people attend, and if you can believe it, we surpassed that number this year. We believe about 500 people attended the 3-hour event!

We have gotten pretty good at utilizing all kinds of platforms (word of mouth, Facebook, Instagram, and even during the 3rd Friday) to talk up our Trunk or Treat event over the last 2 years.

Jessmy Trochez handled the piñatas and as usual they

were a huge hit! We had a balloon artist attend again and she was wonderful! Pastor John did a great job with the Halloween parade around the church. Those additional activities set us apart from other Trunk or Treat events, and they also give our volunteers a little break!

Once again Along the Way and their slime table was a HUGE hit with the kids! Our craft tables and toss the bean bag game are a wonderful alternative to candy. Most of the crafts were gone by the end of the day! We received about 200 pumpkins that were so generously donated by Wiesel Farms in Quakertown and were all gone at the end of the day!

To all those who volunteered their time to hand out candy, dress up themselves and their cars, and those who were “behind the scenes” to volunteer to set up and take down. I cannot thank you all enough for all your time and hard work!

I am very excited for this year’s event!

~ Shawn Natali



Getting Ready for Christmas Festival – December 11, 2022

Emmanuel’s “Christmas is Coming” festival was held on December 12, 2022. Much work and plans went into preparing for the festival. Eight craft church members thought of a Christmas craft and gathered the supplies. They were ready to lead visitors and church members in making a craft to celebrate Christmas. There were eight crafts to choose from: Christmas tree pine cones, beaded candy canes, red and white name key chains, advent scene stickers, Christmas slime, sparkly angels, and paper straw wreaths. Thank you to those who volunteered to lead a craft and also to those who volunteered to be craft assistants or work the refreshment table.

One hundred fresh wreaths were ordered for visitors to decorate. Decorators were offered sparkly leaves, colorful Christmas ornaments, pine cones, bells, and numerous colorful bows to decorate their wreaths.

The festival also included a balloon artist and Christmas music. Of course, the highlight was Santa Claus, played by Dave Blaich. Thank you to the volunteers who provided homemade, delicious Christmas cookies for the festival!

This was the second year for our Christmas Festival and while last year’s was attended by many, this year’s festival had lower attendance. Next year we hope to revise the festival or do something completely new to reach out to our community and help them to experience the joy of preparing for Christmas!

Carole Darragh



2022 Angel Tree Ministry Report



This was the third year Emmanuel supported the Salvation Army Angel tree.

On November 10, 2022, a tree was set up in the Gathering Space. The tree was covered with 103 angels bearing names of children living in foster care. Three weeks later, gifts were wrapped and packed for each of the children.

From cutting out angels, putting up the tree, gift donations, wrapping the gifts, to sorting and packing boxes, “Thank you” to everyone of Emmanuel’s “angels” who gave their time and gifts to help make the holidays brighter for 103 children from ages 4 months to 16 years.



Have a Great Day,

Cindy Crouthamel

This is a photo of the Schultz Family, Souderton residents with Foster Children who attended the annual Christmas party and received some of the Angel Tree gifts.



2022 Finance Ministry Report

The Finance Committee focused on streamlining our accounting making it more efficient. Quickbooks is the system we use to enter all transactions. The categories were updated to reflect current designations.

Our Parish Assistant, Pat Shoemaker has been trained on all aspects of Quickbooks and handles all entries. Our banking is now integrated with Quickbooks showing up to date transactions as they occur and balances in our accounts. The credit card account has recently been integrated in Quickbooks to make this part of our finances more efficient and up to date.

The Counting Teams instructions were updated making counting of receipts more efficient.

The current members of Finance are, Dave Blaich, Cory Gilbert, Shawn Natali and Pastor Heidgerd.

Bill Morral handles the Endowment Account for Emmanuel.

David Blaich
Finance Committee Chair

2022 Financial Secretary Report

2022 ELC Giving by Fund Category

Fund	Total Giving
Current	145,790
E-Meal Food Relief Ministry	34,296
Rent - MCIU Head Start	34,250
Honduras Ministry	24,713
Building Fund	18,715
Benevolence	9,110
Meleny's House	7,494
Souderton Park Fundraiser	6,000
Rent Univest Parking Lot	6,000
Maintenance	5,772
Rent Bushi Karate	5,000
Rent YMCA	3,450
Parish Assistance Fund	2,094
E-Meal (IN KIND DONATIONS)	2,053
Ukraine Relief	1,615
Easter, Maundy Thurs., Good Friday	1,460
Christmas	1,266
Flowers	945
Memorials -- Current Fnd	550
Lutheran Community At Telford	465
Rent - Souderton AA Group	450
Rent General	275
Bulletins	245
Thanksgiving Offering	235
Worship Fund	175
Vanco Fees	160
Lutheran Charities (ELCA World Hur	155
Initial Offering	125
Ash Wednesday	115
Youth Ministries	11
Grand Total	312,983

Julie Freed
Financial Secretary

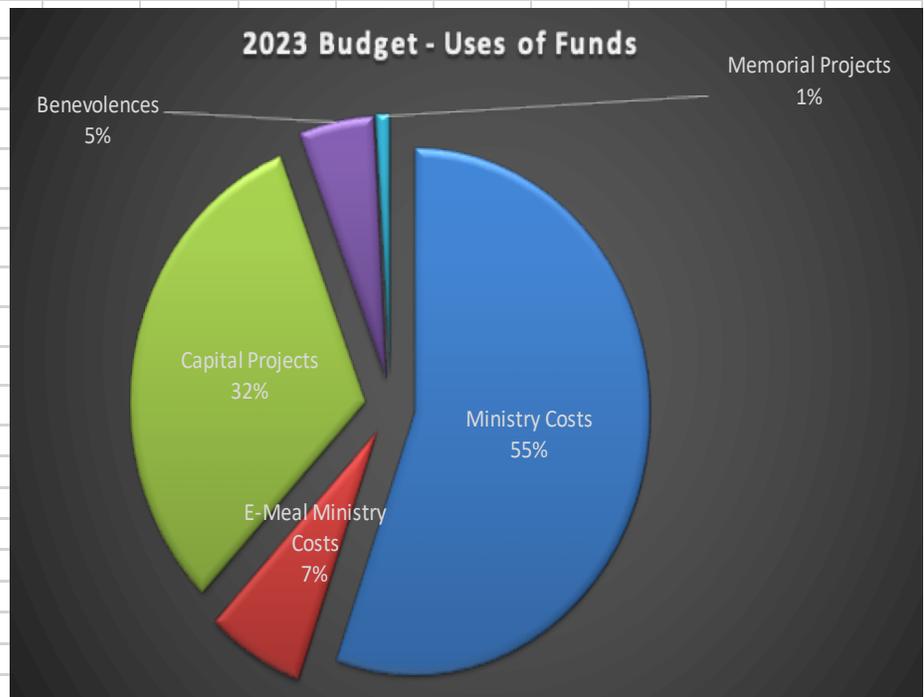
**Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
2022 Balance Sheet**

	As of Dec 31, 2022	As of Dec 31, 2021 (PY)	Change
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Bank Accounts			
1001 Current Checking Account	3,891	68,634	(64,743)
1004 Checking - Building Fund	62,264	45,629	16,635
1050 Endowment Account	1,581,018	1,948,615	(367,597)
Total Bank Accounts	1,647,173	2,062,878	(415,705)
TOTAL ASSETS	1,647,173	2,062,878	(415,705)
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Total 2010 Payroll Liabilities	2,402	2,241	161
2301 Misc Accruals	-	9,990	(9,990)
Total Liabilities	2,402	12,231	(9,829)
Net Assets	1,644,771	2,050,647	(405,876)
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	1,647,173	2,062,878	(415,705)

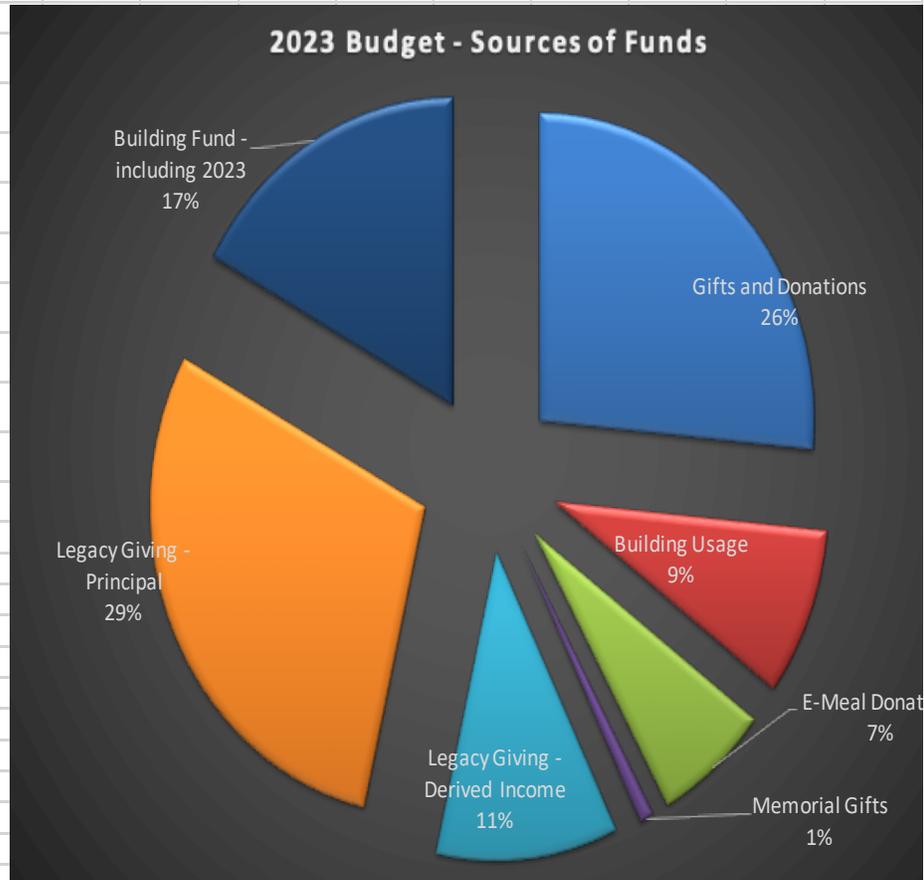
2023 Budget and 2022 Financial Report - Total Sources and Uses of Funds

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
2023 Annual Report - Budget Summary

Uses of Funds - Expenses	
Ministry Costs	329,604
E-Meal Ministry Costs	40,000
Capital Projects	190,000
Benevolences	30,000
Memorial Projects	5,000
Total Uses of Funds	594,604



Sources of Funds - Income	
Gifts and Donations	157,500
Building Usage	52,000
E-Meal Donations	40,000
Memorial Gifts	5,000
Legacy Giving - Derived Income	64,000
Legacy Giving - Principal	175,131
Building Fund - including 2023	100,973
Total Sources of Funds	594,604



2023 Budget and 2022 Financial Report - Current Fund Summary

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH	2022 BUDGET	2022 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET
2023 BUDGET / 2022 ACTUAL			
SUMMARY			
INCOME			
OFFERINGS	154,500	154,002	157,500
RENTALS	53,450	48,275	52,000
OTHER	5,000	0	0
TOTAL INCOME	212,950	202,277	209,500
EXPENSES			
COMPENSATION	138,300	133,937	147,870
BENEFITS	49,020	47,500	51,634
TOTAL COMPENSATION	187,320	181,437	199,504
FACILITIES	80,200	82,417	91,500
ADMINISTRATION	21,100	20,060	19,650
WORSHIP AND MUSIC	4,300	4,302	4,450
OTHER	9,500	9,094	9,500
CONTINGENCY	5,000	0	5,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	307,420	297,310	329,604
NET INCOME	(94,470)	(95,033)	(120,104)
ENDOWMENT INCOME	78,000		64,000
ENDOWMENT OTHER	16,470	60,000	56,104
CURRENT FUND DEFICIT FUNDING	94,470	60,000	120,104
FUNDING FROM OTHER CASH SOURCES	0	35,033	0

2023 Budget and 2022 Financial Report - Receipts

	2022 BUDGET	2022 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET
CURRENT FUND			
INCOME RECEIPTS			
CURRENT	147,500	145,034	150,000
SEASONAL	3,000	3,201	3,500
MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS	4,000	5,767	4,000
OTHER			
TOTAL CONGREGATIONAL GIVING	154,500	154,002	157,500
OTHER RECEIPTS			
RENTALS/FACILITY USE	53,450	48,275	52,000
MISCELLANEOUS OTHER RECEIPTS	5,000		
NET E MEAL			
TOTAL RECEIPTS	212,950	202,277	209,500

2023 Budget and 2022 Financial Report – Staff Costs

	2022 BUDGET	2022 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET
PASTOR'S SALARY AND BENEFITS			
BASE SALARY	34,000	33,871	34,000
HOUSING ALLOWANCE	32,000	32,000	32,000
PENSION	7,080	7,105	7,105
LIFE AND HEALTH BENEFITS	29,740	30,931	31,556
CONTINUING EDUCATION	1,000		1,000
SOCIAL SECURITY TAXES	4,800	4,973	4,973
TRAVEL-AUTO ALLOWANCE	1,000		1,000
TOTAL PASTOR SALARY AND BENEFITS	109,620	108,880	111,634
STAFF SALARIES AND BENEFITS			
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	15,500	6,450	15,000
SECRETARIAL STAFF	13,200	16,240	21,424
FACILITIES MANAGER	39,600	40,258	40,778
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	1,000	768	768
SOCIAL SECURITY TAXES	5,400	4,491	6,000
SUPPLY PASTORS	500	300	500
E MEAL COORDINATOR			
SALARY BONUS	1,500	1,500	2,500
SUPPLY MUSIC	1,000	2,550	900
TOTAL STAFF SALARIES AND BENEFITS	77,700	72,557	87,870
TOTAL PERSONNEL COSTS	187,320	181,437	199,504

2023 Budget and 2022 Financial Report – Facilities/Admin

	2022 BUDGET	2022 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET
COST OF FACILITY			
UTILITIES	31,000	36,394	45,000
PROPERTY, CASUALTY AND LIABILITY INSURANCE	19,200	21,441	21,500
PROPERTY REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE	30,000	24,582	25,000
TOTAL FACILITY EXPENSES	80,200	82,417	91,500
ADMINISTRATIVE			
PAYROLL SERVICE	1,600	1,677	2,000
OFFICE SUPPLIES AND STATIONERY	4,000	4,172	4,500
RENT-COPIER/DUPLICATOR	10,000	10,571	10,000
ENVELOPES	500	749	
MISC	1,800	1,886	1,900
COMPUTER SUPPORT	2,000	358	500
WORKERS COMPENSATION INSURANCE	1,200	647	750
OTHER ADMINISTRATION			
TOTAL	21,100	20,060	19,650

2023 Budget and 2022 Financial Report – Ministry Costs

	2022 BUDGET	2022 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET
MINISTRIES			
WORSHIP			
ALTAR SUPPLIES	1,000	803	1,000
MUSIC-CHOIR AND HANDBELLS	500	150	250
ORGAN/PIANO MAINTENANCE	1,500	2,045	2,000
MUSIC LICENSES	800	1,143	1,000
MISC	500	161	200
TOTAL	4,300	4,302	4,450
YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY			
CONFIRMATION			
YOUTH ACTIVITIES		950	1,000
FAMILY MINISTRY	1,500	694	500
SUNDAY SCHOOL	1,500	431	500
TOTAL	3,000	2,075	2,000
PARISH GROWTH			
CONGREGATIONAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE/ADVE	4,000	5,809	5,000
CONGREGATIONAL LUNCHES		331	200
SYNOD CONVENTION	1,000	644	1,000
CHURCH COUNCIL RETREAT	500	235	300
OTHER MINISTRIES	1,000		1,000
TOTAL	6,500	7,019	7,500
TOTAL MINISTRIES	13,800	9,094	9,500
MISC UNBUDGETED	5,000		5,000
TOTAL CURRENT FUND	307,420	297,310	329,604

2023 Budget and 2022 Financial Report – Other Funds

	2022 BUDGET	2022 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET
MEMORIAL FUND			
MEMORIAL FUND RECEIPTS			
DONATIONS		725	
TRANSFER FROM ENDOWMENT		13,102	
TOTAL MEMORIAL FUND RECEIPTS	5,000	13,827	5,000
MEMORIAL FUND EXPENSES			
HANDBELL REFURBISHMENT (MUSIC FUND)		6,000	
BANNERS (KEMMERER FUND)		997	
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS (DE TURK FUND)		11	
TOTAL MEMORIAL FUND EXPENSES	5,000	7,008	5,000
RECEIPTS OVER(UNDER) EXPENSES	-	6,819	-
BENEVOLENCE FUND			
BENEVOLENCE FUND RECEIPTS			
APPORTIONMENT		9,095	
DISASTER RELIEF		24,722	
LUTHERAN COMMUNITY AT TELFORD		465	
LUTHERAN CHARITIES		155	
MELANY'S HOUSE		7,494	
PARK RENOVATIONS		6,000	
UKRAINE		1,615	
PARRISH ASSISTANCE		2,119	
TOTAL BENEVOLENCE RECEIPTS	21,000	51,665	30,000
BENEVOLENCE FUND EXPENSES			
APPORTIONMENT		9,095	
DISASTER RELIEF		25,607	
TELFORD HOME		465	
LUTHERAN CHARITIES		155	
MELANY'S HOUSE		6,730	
PARK RENOVATIONS		6,000	
UKRAINE		1,513	
PARISH ASSISTANCE		2,167	
TOTAL BENEVOLENCE FUND	21,000	51,732	30,000
RECEIPTS OVER(UNDER) EXPENSES	-	(67)	-
BUILDING FUND			
BUILDING FUND RECEIPTS			
	20,000	18,684	20,000
LONG TERM RENOVATIONS	125,000		190,000
RECEIPTS OVER(UNDER) EXPENSES	(105,000)	18,684	(170,000)

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church 2022 Fund Balance Report

	Dec 2021`	Income	Expenses	Net Change	Dec 2022
Benevolence Funds					
Honduras Relief	4,876	24,824	25,608	(784)	4,092
Lutheran Charities		155	155	-	-
Lutheran Community at Telford		465	465	-	-
Meleny's House		7,494	6,730	764	764
Missionary Support	6,236			-	6,236
Parish Assistance Fund	8,360	2,119	2,166	(47)	8,313
Synod Apportionment		9,095	9,095	-	-
Park Renovations		6,000	6,000	-	-
Ukraine Relief		1,615	1,615	-	-
Other Benevolence	4,857			-	4,857
Total Benevolence Funds	24,329	51,767	51,834	(67)	24,262
Building Fund					
	62,290	18,128		18,128	80,418
Current Funds					
Kemmerer Memorial - Banners	1,430		325	(325)	1,105
De Turk Memorial - Christmas Decos	330		11	(11)	319
Freed Memorial - Worship Tech	1,535			-	1,535
Worship and Music Fund	940	5,440	6,000	(560)	380
Youth Ministry Fund	-	2,761		2,761	2,761
Undesignated Memorials	405	5,536		5,536	5,941
Other (Undesignated Current)	(13,383)	244,465	295,479	(51,014)	(64,397)
Total Current Funds	(8,743)	258,202	301,815	(43,613)	(52,356)
E-Meal Funds					
	24,156	34,296	47,023	(12,727)	11,429
Endowment Funds					
Memorial Funds	13,012		13,012	(13,012)	-
Other Endowment Funds	1,935,603	(307,597)	46,988	(354,585)	1,581,018
Total Endowment Funds	1,948,615	(307,597)	60,000	(367,597)	1,581,018
Total All Funds					
	2,050,647	54,796	460,672	(405,876)	1,644,771

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church 2022 Endowment Fund Report

BALANCE - JANUARY 1, 2022				\$ 1,948,615
INCOME				
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS		\$ 41,103		
REALIZED GAINS		\$ 104,841		
TOTAL INCOME				\$ 145,944
DISBURSEMENTS				
EMMANNUEL CURRENT FUND		\$ 60,000		
ADMINISTRATIVE FEES AND TAXES		\$ 2,155		
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS				\$ 62,155
UNREALIZED INVESMENT LOSS				\$ (451,386)
BALANCE - DECEMBER 31, 2022				<u>\$ 1,581,018</u>
NET INCOME (LOSS)				\$ (307,597)
NET RETURN				-15.8%

2022 Report of the Audit Committee

A review of the church's financial statements and bank statements was completed in 2022 for the records completed in 2021. No discrepancies were found, and the records are in balance and in good order.

Respectfully submitted,

Liesl Stroup
Audit Committee

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Nominating Committee Report – 2023/2024

The nominating committee's primary function is to forward church members' names to the Council for approval to serve for the following two years. The congregation has the final vote on nominees at the yearly congregational meeting. This year's committee members were Carole Darragh, Michelle Gilbert, and Julie Freed. All three committee members have completed six years on council.

The nominating committee looks for new members who will bring varied talents and experiences to our discussions and decision making. Members are encouraged to express their ideas in leading church in worship, nurture, and outreach missions. Council terms are two years and a member can serve up to three consecutive terms for a total of six years.

Emmanuel has grown extensively in its missions in the community and it is an exciting time to be on council. Furthermore, council members will be discussing important decisions about the upkeep and refurbishing of our historical church building.

The committee has submitted the following names for congregational approval to serve on Church council: Ginger Hoyt, Alison Laird, Liesl Stroup, and Hayden Snyder for two year terms. In addition, we are nominating Chris Powis and Shawn Natali to continue on council, each for a second two-year term.

Photos and brief bios of each nominee are included below.

Submitted,

Carole Darragh



Ginger Hoyt

I was born in a small town in Arkansas and lived there with my parents and four brothers till I left for college. My mother ensured I was in church, (Northside Church of Christ) every Sunday without fail. I was baptized there when I was 16. I graduated from Texas Woman's University with a degree in Theatre and minor in English in 1971. I married that same year. My husband entered the army the following year and I followed him to Ft. Bennington, Ga. where our first daughter was born. For the next 20 years we moved to 7 duty stations which included 2, 3-year tours in Germany.

Our second daughter was born in Frankfurt, Germany in 1975. My husband was Lutheran and I found that it suited my beliefs. We worshiped in Lutheran churches in the states and in a military chapel in Germany. We were active in the church wherever we lived and our daughters were confirmed there. The church was a grounding place for us as we moved from place to place. While living in Maryland, my husband and I divorced after 24 years of marriage. I lived in Annapolis alone until I met Dan Hoyt at a dance. We will celebrate our 27th anniversary in March. Dan is from Pennsylvania so we settled in Bedminster until we bought our home in Telford. We moved to Souderton in 2006. Over the years, I have volunteered as a suicide hotline worker, Outreach worker for young mothers, Girl Scout leader, community theater performer, sang in church choir, directed the production of Living Last Supper for church, etc. Most recently, I volunteered as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for children in foster care. I have worked as a speech teacher, substitute teacher, Recreation Services Director and Family Advocacy director for the military. Social Worker for Child Welfare in Maryland, and Waiver Services Coordinator and Financial Director for the Department of Mental Health/Developmental Programs in Bucks County. I retired in 2014.



Alison Laird

Alison Laird has been a lifelong member of Emmanuel! During her youth, she sang in the church choir until she graduated high school, played handbells, and was a member of the church youth group, where she attended various youth conferences.

Alison is a retail pharmacist for Giant Food Stores. She has worked for Giant since 2003. In her spare time, Alison enjoys to hike, do yoga, bake and decorate cookies, cupcakes, and cakes, binge a good TV show, and do arts and crafts with her two kids.

Alison continues to attend Emmanuel and does so with her husband, Owen, and her two young children, Eden and Wyatt. As a council member, Alison hopes to expand the activities available to the younger youth of the church. In doing this, Alison hopes to allow them to create many of the same happy memories that Alison has of her childhood at Emmanuel.

Shawn Natali

My name is Shawn Natali. I have been an active member of Emmanuel since 2019. I am a native of the area, growing up in Harleysville, and I graduated from Souderton Area high school. I studied at Lansdale School of Business and have an Associate's Degree in Paralegal Studies. I am a legal assistant at a law firm in Lansdale. In September 2022, my husband, Josh, our children, Caitlyn and Caleb, and I moved to Telford. One of the reasons we moved to Telford, is to be closer to family, school, and the church. As some of you may know, I am in charge of the Trunk-or-Treat event, which has become a wonderfully attended event by many families in the community, and I look forward to it every year! I am honored to serve, and continue to serve, on Emmanuel's council.





Christopher Powis

Chris has been a lifelong member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church and is grateful for the opportunity to serve God, community and this congregation in a leadership capacity. Chris is flanked with support from his wife and best friend, Erin, and their two wonderful daughters Piper and Mackenzie. On the weekends, Chris enjoys an active lifestyle and can be found on the soccer field coaching the intramural league, in his backyard mowing straight lines, and in the wood shop

honing his DIY skillset.

Hayden Snyder

Hayden was born and raised in Souderton and has been a member of Emmanuel his entire life. As a child he was in the choir, served as an acolyte, and was a member of the youth group. He currently lives in Harleysville with his family and has recently received his MBA from Shippensburg University. Hayden hopes to help continue the good works Emmanuel is doing in the community and use his skills in whichever way he can assist the church in its mission.



Liesl Stroup



My name is Liesl Stroup. Yes, just like the Liesl in Sound of Music! I have always attended Lutheran churches going to St. Peter's in North Wales, where I grew up and here at Emmanuel. I've been here about 22 years now. My kids are all grown up and are 25 and 21. I spend most of my working hours at a local credit union. In my spare time you will likely find me at a Philadelphia Union soccer match or at a baseball game or in a bookstore. My husband, Bart and I like to try different restaurants in the area so let me know of any recommendations. I truly value the friendships that I have with a group of high school friends, and we routinely get together for dinner. These are some long-term friendships!



Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Making Christ Known
Through Worship, Nurture, Service, and Outreach



Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

69 West Broad Street
Souderton, Pennsylvania 18964
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E-mail: emmanuel@emmanuellutheranchurch.net
Web: www.elcsouderton.org

Staff

Rev. John Heidgerd, Pastor
Rev. Richard Miller, Pastor Emeritus
Michael Shoemaker, Facilities Manager
Ms. Marlene Natali, Parish Deacon
Patricia Shoemaker, Parish Administrator
Ann Marie Heidgerd, E-Meal Ministry Coordinator

2022 Church Council

Jennifer Casta, President	Christopher Powis, Vice Pres.	Deborah Mc Elwee, Secretary
Cory Gilbert Treasurer	Carole Darragh	Evan Freed
Julie Freed	Michele Gilbert	Amanda Higgins
Shawn Natali		

You Are Invited

Serve With Us



Worship With Us



Grow With Us



Come!

Be part of Souderton's
Community Church

**The
E-MEAL
Ministry**



Home
of

Provided With Love. For Those In Need.



Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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