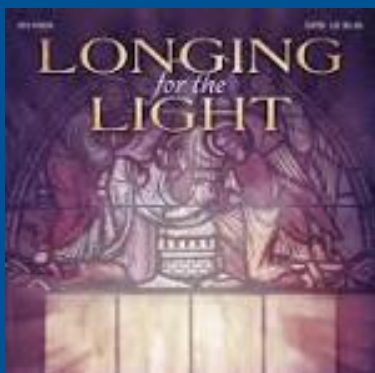


December 2024 Newsletter



# THE MESSENGER

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH - GREENWOOD, SOUTH CAROLINA



On Sunday, December 22, at 3 p.m. at Immanuel, the Chancel Choirs of Immanuel and First Baptist will present an Advent Cantata: *Longing for the Light*, by Pamela Stewart and John Purifoy.

\*A reception will follow the program in the Fellowship Center.

# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2024



John Kinard, Congregational President, began the meeting with prayer. Agenda for the meeting included the election of new ILC Council members and Treasurer, approval of the ILC Budget for 2025, financial report and update on storm damage and insurance. John Kinard provided a financial report along with updates on the hurricane storm damage and insurance repair.

Council members who are rotating off were Kim Leemhuis, Trey Morris, Bret Waters, and John Kinard. John Kinard has agreed to serve an additional term. There will be three new Council members elected plus a Treasurer. Kim Leemhuis presented the slate of candidates for Council and offered them the opportunity to speak for 2 minutes about their qualifications. Those nominated: John Kinard, Leisa Hotchkiss, Danny Kinard and Lianne Smith. The office of Treasurer is currently held by Carl Monson, and he has agreed to serve again.

Additional nominations from the floor were asked for – no additional nominations presented. Voting transpired with Congregational members having the opportunity to participate. Votes were counted and the following were elected to serve: John Kinard, Leisa Hotchkiss, Lianne Smith and Carl Monson – Treasurer.

The proposed Budget was presented by John Kinard with explanations. Copies were distributed to the Congregation. Since the budget was proposed and presented by the Budget Committee the only action needed was a second. Sue Kauffman seconded the submitted proposal. Discussion and questions followed. Danny Kinard motioned to amend the Budget with an increase in Pastor's and Dr. Will's salary from 2 ½% to 4% with a second from Dave Isenhower. Discussion followed. A vote was taken on the amendment and it did not pass.

Additional questions were asked pertaining to different sections of the Budget i.e. Campus Ministry, Elevator Fund). There being no further questions a vote was taken. The proposed Budget for 2025 passed.

Being no further questions- John Kinard adjourned the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kat Finkbeiner  
ILC Council – Non-Voting Sec.

# CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2024

Present: Pastor Chris, John Kinard, Kim Leemhuis, Carl Monson, Steve Presley, Courtney Christensen, Bret Waters, Kat Finkbeiner (Non-Vot. Sec.)

Absent: Mary Elizabeth Bowen, Suellen Holmes, Mary Ann Stroup, Trey Morris

\*The meeting opened with prayer from John Kinard.

Minutes from the October meeting were approved.

The October Treasurer's Report was presented by Carl Monson and approved.

Committee Reports: October: SK 470 Plates FP 260 Families

Soup Kitchen Clients – host a “winter wear” clothing drive for this group and ask Congregation to bring coats, jackets, gloves, etc. Can be distributed in December on one of the Sundays. (Kat will coordinate...) Will be supervised.

New Member Welcome – Courtney, Pictorial Directory in January? Ask Suellen when it is best suited for her schedule. (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in January???)

Immanuel's Children – Children's Christmas in Schools – John Kinard will talk with Mary Ann since ILC is involved with 2 other churches for various activities.

Several groups volunteered during the Hurricane – American Legion Post 20 (Veterans), New Spring Church, Next Level Fitness - Hoot Harrison. Pastor motioned to give a donation of \$250 to Post 20 and New Spring and \$500 to Next Level Fitness. K. Leemhuis seconded. Motion passed.

Future plans are to purchase a portable generator that can be used to keep food from spoiling – frozen. Motion by John Kinard to purchase with second from S. Presley using the insurance received for “food spoilage” and any remaining funds be split between SK and FP. Motion passed.

Christmas Bonuses:

Motion (K. Leemhuis) with 2<sup>nd</sup> C. Monson for the following:

Pastor Chris \$500

Dr. Will \$500

George \$250

Sammy & Kevin (KF will take care of these.)

Discussion followed with a vote – Motion passed.

AV/Sound – Need 2 new microphones. Steve Presley & Bret Waters will pursue this purchase. Meeting was adjourned with prayer (JK)

Respectfully Submitted,

Kat Finkbeiner (Non-Vot. Sec.)

**NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, AT NOON**



### *Storm Damage Update*

Immanuel had some minor damage to the building and major damage to the grounds during Hurricane Helene. Repairs have been completed on the flooring, the gutters, and vinyl siding on the exterior. Sidewalk repair has been completed on one side of the church. The next stage is to cut the two remaining trees next to the building and sidewalk repair in the garden. During the process we will also be adding underground drainage for the downspouts along with a retaining wall in hopes to stop the water entering the church during heavy rains. A portable generator will be purchased with some of the insurance money in hopes of being able to save food in future storms. I would like to thank everyone who has pitched in to help clean, and work to repair our church. Unfortunately, the roof on the new portion of the church will need to be replaced in the very near future. The roof is about 22 years old.

### *Stewardship*

For 2024, we are slightly behind in our budget goal, yet we have not spent more than has been received for 2024. Over the last fifteen months we decided to take funds from the checking account and place them in CD's or money market accounts. During that time, we have earned close to \$14k in interest. As December rolls in please support Immanuel's mission. December has five Sundays. We would ask that all donations be received by the church office no later than **noon on December 31**, so our finance team can begin closing for 2024. Thank you for all you do for Immanuel!

### *Gifts of Hope*

Over the past years, Immanuel has raised funds for Gifts of Hope. This year there will be a tree in the Welcome Center for Lutheran Disaster Fund for the Carolinas. There will be ornaments on the tree. If you feel so inclined, please take an ornament from the tree and place a check in the offering made to Immanuel Lutheran and designate the funds for Lutheran Disaster Fund for the Carolinas. Thank you!

Sincerely,  
John Kinard

# Building Bright Futures Capital Campaign Matthew 2540

Submitted by Lynn Isenhower



## Update

On October 15, I shared with you our Building Bright Futures campaign. As of November 12, I have learned that we will be breaking ground by the end of November. With an anticipated project completion date of the end of April 2025, this means that our June mission team will be the first team to see the finished classrooms! If you or anyone you know is interested in being part of that team, it's not too late to sign up. Contact Lynn for details.

The total budget for this phase is \$450,000. On October 15, we had raised \$120,000. As of November 12, we have now raised \$298,159.10! Your response has been incredible!! But there are still funds remaining in our \$200,000 matching gift. This matching opportunity also applies to funds also matched by your employer as well as RMDs and stock gifts. Let's not allow a single dollar go unclaimed!!!

As we approach Thanksgiving, even though this holiday isn't celebrated in Guatemala, let's give the kids something to really be thankful for, a first-class environment in which to learn and grow into all God intended them to be.

\*You can mail checks payable to Matthew 2540 to Lynn or donate online by scanning the QR code.



Lynn Isenhower, Matthew 2540 Ambassador  
864-993-6715 [lbisenhower@gmail.com](mailto:lbisenhower@gmail.com)



## Warm Winter Wear

“Warm Winter Wear” is being sponsored with the hopes of our ILC members furnishing our Soup Kitchen clients with warm clothing and winter wear for our approaching cold weather. We will be collecting gently used winter wear – i.e. jackets, coats, sweaters, scarves, caps, gloves, etc. Items should be clean and can be brought to the Welcome Center beginning on Sunday, November 24. Boxes will be provided for these items. Plans are to distribute them in December during one (1) of the weekly Sunday Soup Kitchen’s. We plan to set-up outside during the SK time frame and allow SK clients to choose 1 set of items (i.e. jacket, gloves, hat/cap). We will only host this for one Sunday so there will be no need to keep a list, etc. of who receives what items.



## Immanuel’s Children

We are assisting Greenwood School District 50 with providing Christmas for students and families that need our support this year. We have a Christmas tree in the Welcome Area with gift tags attached. Each tag is numbered and has the student’s gender, age, clothing size, shoe size and a wish list on it. If you choose a tag, please sign your name by the tag number on the sign-up sheet. We are asking that all gifts be brought unwrapped in a bag with the tag attached to the church no later than December 13. The gifts will be delivered to the schools on December 16 and 17. These are the last two full days before the students Christmas break. If you have questions, contact Mary Ann Stroup at 864-377-1421. Thank you so much for your generosity and willingness to help with those less fortunate.



## Christmas Card Bags

\*Christmas Card Bags are set up in the Welcome Center for Immanuel’s homebound and senior members. Also, after Christmas, Ann Coker will collect Christmas Card Fronts for a project at Meals on Wheels.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/3 Julie Hobbs  
 12/6 Bo Bowman  
 12/7 Lila Noonkester  
       Steve Ehney  
 12/21 Benna Johnson  
 12/29 John Kinard



## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12/10 Mark and Lori Cooper  
 12/30 Jerry and Evie Galloway  
 12/30 Chuck and Vickie Howells

Advent Dinners on Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18 at 6 p.m. followed by a short service in the fellowship center.



Christmas Eve Services - Tuesday, December 24, 4 p.m. & 11 p.m.  
 \*Festive Music begins at 10:30 p.m.

Merry Beer and Hymns - Sunday, December 15, at 5:30 p.m. Immanuel will host a Merry Beer & Hymns event in the Fellowship Center. Pizza will be available. Bring your own beverage and a festive snack to share. Please indicate your attendance by emailing David Rosenbaum. (dr\_scarolina@yahoo.com)



## NOVEMBER 2024 ATTENDANCE

\*Sunday (9 a.m. Service)  
 11/3 - 95  
 11/10 - 73  
 11/17 - 78  
 11/24 - 122



## CONTACT INFORMATION

### **Immanuel Lutheran Church**

501 East Creswell Avenue, Greenwood, SC 29646  
864-223-0590, Church Web Site: [www.ilcgreenwood.com](http://www.ilcgreenwood.com)  
[office@ilcgreenwood.com](mailto:office@ilcgreenwood.com)

**Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**\* Closed on Mondays**

**\* Closed 12/24/24 - 1/06/25**

## CHURCH STAFF

**The Rev. Chris Christopher, Pastor**  
[pastorchris.ilcgreenwood@gmail.com](mailto:pastorchris.ilcgreenwood@gmail.com)

**Dr. Will Cleveland, D.M.A., Parish Administrator / Director of Music**  
[will@ilcgreenwood.com](mailto:will@ilcgreenwood.com)

**Kevin Davis, Sammy Hurley, and Sherry Trail, Parish Custodians**

**George Beveridge, Parish Sexton**  
[gblsb@outlook.com](mailto:gblsb@outlook.com)

**John Kinard, Congregational President**  
[jlkinard29@yahoo.com](mailto:jlkinard29@yahoo.com)

## SERVING THE CHURCH IN GREATER CAPACITIES

**The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop, ELCA**  
**The Rev. Ginny Aebischer, Bishop, South Carolina Synod**