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Annual Report—Saturday, January 24, 2015

AGENDA

- I. Establish a Quorum (8): President Kari Richards
- Call Meeting to Order
 - Opening Prayer
 - Appoint parliamentarian: Arne Nelson
 - Approval of Minutes (1/25/14; 9/27/14)

III. Reports:

- President's Report: Kari Richards—Page 2
- Pastor's Report: Dave Steffenson—Page 3-4
- Treasurer's Report: Arne Nelson—Pages 6-7
- Questions?

IV. Action Items:

- Election of Council Members
 - Arne Nelson (2 years)
 - Kari Richards (2 years)
 - Don Holtan (1 year)
- Election of Nominating Committee Members (4 needed): Judy Pearce & Leitha Bothun
- Election of Audit Committee Members (3 needed): Larry Vomhof, Darald Bothun, and Rich Sunde
- Election of Lay voting Member for NALC Convocations: Lee Pearce; Alternate: Julie Steffenson.
- Approval of Constitution & Bylaw revisions
- Approval of 2015 Mission Plan Budget & Goals—page 7

V. Closing Announcements & Thanks

- Financial Secretary for 2015: Deb Vomhof
- Adjournment with Lord's Prayer



[Emmanuel Wish List—page 4](#)
[Minutes from Meetings—page 5](#)
[Audit Committee Report—page 5](#)
[Emmanuel 2015 Budget and Goals—page 7](#)

MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP: Signposts guide our way—Disciples seek to pray daily, worship weekly, grow spiritually, read & study Scripture on a regular basis, serve others, share the good news, and give generously.

The SONG in our HEART: “Oh Come, Oh come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.”

Servants of Emmanuel celebrate the birth of Jesus every day!



NALC

North American Lutheran Church

“Sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are praising, proclaiming, and practicing Emmanuel – GOD WITH US – in daily life!”

Council President's Report: Kari Richards

Dear Friends of Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Rochester,

As president of this fledgling congregation, I see that we have come far since October of 2011 when God opened a window of opportunity in the Rochester area. If not me, who? If not now, when? Thanks to all of you for being part of the process.

A pastor friend of mine shared these words with his congregation: “Impossible? No Way – With God, I’m Possible. Wake up. Listen. Act. What do we do when God calls? What do we do when God asks us to do something difficult? What do we do when God asks us to do something impossible? Wake up. Listen. Act. With God, nothing is impossible. Changing ourselves. Changing the world. To worship God, we are called to Wake up. Listen. Act.” If having another denomination and another congregation in the area will help share God’s Word and prepare disciples for spiritual battle, then the existence of Emmanuel of Rochester is a good thing.

We are a congregation, no matter the size. In The Truth Project, Del Tackett encourages believers to pursue the study of scripture – theology. This matches our encouragement of one of our marks of discipleship – being in the Word. While we are not world-renowned theologians, we are studying and learning, making us theologians! Why do we gather weekly and how does this help us and how does it help share the Gospel? A highlight for me is to be restored and filled and built up in Christ. I pray that our weekly worship opportunity is a blessing to you, so that you will be a blessing to others!

I have great hope for the future. Not one of us knows what tomorrow will bring. Some have goals written down, some have ideas for improvement. I was reminded by something that I recently read that “systems” need to be in place in order for goals to be reached. As a church council, we are working on the systems. I encourage you to share your ideas, preferences, disappointments, and hopes with us as Christ builds His Church through Emmanuel of Rochester. We are to choose our words carefully to be an encouragement, rather than a stumbling block. Peacemaking comes to mind and here are some words from Charles Swindoll, *Insight for Living* – Feb 2, 2014:

“Solomon gives us wise counsel on some of the things peacemakers do:

- They build up. “The wise woman builds her house” (Proverbs 14:1).
- They watch their tongues and heal rather than hurt. “A gentle answer turns away wrath” (Proverbs 15:1). “Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones” (Proverbs 16:24).
- They are slow to anger. “A hot tempered man stirs up strife, but the slow to anger calms a dispute” (Proverbs 15:18). “He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city” (Proverbs 16:32).
- They are humble and trusting. “An arrogant man stirs up strife, but he who trusts in the Lord will prosper” (Proverbs 28:25).

The Lord Jesus states a marvelous promise that peacemakers can claim: “they shall be called sons of God” (Matthew 5:9). God’s children. Few things are more godlike than peace. When we promote it, pursue it, model it, we are linked directly with Him.”

One more quote, from NALC Bishop John Brodosky: “Our Congregations cannot become centers for building fallout shelters, but they must instead be centers for equipping people with skills and confidence to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth, beginning with the person next door.”

Together in Christ, may we wake up, listen, and act,

Kari Richards

Pastor's Report: Rev. David Steffenson — "This Little Light of Mine"

"We have this treasure in earthen vessels to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us." The Pearl of Great Price takes up residence in our human flesh. Your body is a Temple of the Holy Spirit. In the Season of Epiphany, we let our lights so shine before others that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven. Jesus proclaims Himself to be the Light of the World—John 8:12. Discipleship is God's call for you and me. Jesus never asked for volunteers. He conscripted followers. "Follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fish for people." The invitation creates the response. The invitation is a command with a promise: Go! Make! Be! I Am with you always—Emmanuel! "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to bear witness about the Light, that all might believe through him. He was not the Light, but came to bear witness about the Light." A witness is one who gives their life for the Gospel!

As I reflect upon the gift of 2014 and the treasure of 2015, I thank God for your living witness. Thanks for letting your light shine to the glory of God. Together, we are servants of Emmanuel. We have much to celebrate. We started keeping track of worship attendance in April. Our average worship attendance in 2014 was 41 people each week. Let's grow this number to 50+ in 2015. Throughout 2014, Servants of Emmanuel embraced the gift of Discipleship. Monthly, in our church newsletters, I wrote reflections on what it means for us to be Christ-followers. With the assistance of the clergy in our congregation, we were able to launch our first Lenten Series in 2014. Discipleship dramas, sermons on the 12 Apostles, and a revised edition of Holden Evening Prayer was enjoyed by many. This year our Lenten focus will be on Baptism. Our Lenten series will be favorite "Water Stories". We had our first official Annual Meeting in 2014. Kari Richards, Lee Pearce, Arne Nelson, and Kalo Lockerby offered themselves and their gifts in the leadership role of Church Council in 2014. MarJean Damerval, Mandy Lambrecht, & Karen Salz are offering their gifts as pianists for our Worship.

In 2014 members continued to make Bible Study a priority in their lives. 10-15 Women enjoyed two studies: "The Discipleship Parables of Jesus," and "Paul's Letter to the Church at Corinth". 8-12 men continue to enjoy a Bible Study Breakfast weekly at Charlie's, focusing on the assigned lectionary texts for worship. Confirmation for our youth was a study of the Chronicles of Narnia—Creation, Fall and Redemption. We launched Saturday School in the fall of 2014, providing Christian education for the youth of our congregation. We thank Julie Steffenson for spearheading this offering. In December, youth learned about the gift of Holy Communion. During Lent 2015, youth will study Baptism in Saturday School. Other highlights in 2014 include: Pastor Fred Morck leading our congregation in an Evangelism Equipping Service featuring the Divine Plan, snowshoeing and cross country skiing at Quarry Hill Nature Center and also at Oxbow Park, the dedication & use of our ReClaim Songbooks, monthly prayer calendars compliments of Lee Pearce, the Truth Project with Oasis Church, a three parish potluck in July with Oasis Church and Iglesia, a congregational picnic hosted by Larry & Deb Vomhof, our second Reformation Sunday Prayer Walk, a viewing of "God's Not Dead" at the Gramercy Coop, and the construction of our own Advent/Christmas Wreath compliments of LeRoy Quam. God is good!

My pastoral acts in 2014 included:

- 3 Baptisms: Stella Sue Bunnke-NcManimon (Rushford Lutheran, Rushford, MN) - February 23; Micah Allan Cafferty (Grace Lutheran, River Forest, IL) - May 18; and Scarlett Nicole Serr (Emmanuel Lutheran, Rochester, MN) on September 6.
- 2 Weddings: Jamison and Gina DeWald (Little Falls, MN) - June 14; and Todd & Elizabeth Parker (Santa Rosa, CA) - November 1.
- 1 Funeral: Lorraine Aarsvold (South Zumbro Lutheran, Kasson, MN) - April 25.
- Guest Preaching at 8 congregations: Rushford Lutheran, Rushford, MN (Feb. 23, May 25, June 29, July 6, August 31, and November 9); South Zumbro Lutheran, Kasson, MN (March 30, April 27, and August 17); Gift of Grace, Holmen, WI (June 22 and Dec. 28); Old East and Old West Paint Creek Lutheran Churches, Waukon, IA (July 13); Oasis Baptist Church, Rochester, MN (July 20); Emmanuel Lutheran, Grafton, IA (Aug. 24); and First Lutheran, St. Ansgar, IA (Nov. 23).

In 2015, I am looking forward to our continued growth as a congregation. I'm looking forward to the approval of our updated constitution and bylaws. I hope that we can add liturgical colors to our worship space with the use of seasonal paraments and banners. Deb Vomhof has volunteered to help us produce a church picture directory. Our dear friends at Emmanuel of Grafton will be favoring us with an Easter Cantata on April 18. Emmanuel will have its first Mother-Daughter Brunch on Saturday, May 2. Deb & Larry Vomhof will be hosting another congregational picnic at their house this summer. At the end of January, I will have the joy of participating in a mission trip to Brookport-Unionville, IL with Larry Vomhof and other members of the South East MN Area Christians Work Group. In 2015, I look forward to sharing a Bible Study with members on the Book of Revelation, implementing a Parents Night Out (investing in marriage), inviting Dr. Jim Nestingen to lead a Seminar on the Sacraments, an Emmanuel Float—local community parades, celebrating St. Nicholas Day (pictures with Santa), & attendance at NALC National Convocation in Dallas (August 13-14).

Disciples replicate & multiply themselves. In 2015, I invite each of our members to double themselves. Identify someone in need of a church home, someone looking for a discipleship walk with Jesus, someone for whom Emmanuel Lutheran would be a good ministry fit. Pray for them. Invite them to join you in worship or Bible Study or a ministry event. We've got 50 signed Covenants for 2015. Wouldn't it be exciting if each one of us multiplies ourselves in 2015? We could easily have 100 signed covenants by this time next year. One final goal for 2015: How about making it "Christmas with Emmanuel" in 2015. It's looking like Oasis Church will be having Christmas Eve Worship at 6 p.m. in 2015. That means our worship may be at 4 p.m. Wouldn't it be fun to pack the worship space in celebration of our Lord's birth? Imagine what could happen if each of us invites all of our relatives and friends to join us for candlelight worship at Emmanuel Lutheran. Wow!

Finally, I give thanks to God for the many ministry opportunities that we have participated in, individually and as a congregation. Thanks for dressing in witness wear and letting your lights shine to the praise of Jesus: e.g. Helping Bill & Faith out as they struggled with housing and employment, bell ringing in support of the Salvation Army, food distribution at Supermarket Saturday (Channel One), filling shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse—Operation Christmas Child, prayers and financial support for Rev. Jim and Diane Wagner as they serve the International Church of Vilnius, Lithuania, gifting of Thrivent Choice Dollars to Emmanuel Lutheran, and our joyful support of the NALC, its Seminary, and two of its Mission Districts (Minkota and Iowa).

God is good and we are having fun. This must be the abundant life that Jesus promised His church.

Letting my light shine as a servant of Emmanuel, Pastor Dave

2015 Membership Covenants Received: 50

Possible Emmanuel Wish List

- 20 additional ReClaim Hymnals (\$22 each).
- New Laptop Computer, Baptismal Stand, Hymnal Cart, Seasonal Paraments, Communion ware, Altar Candles, Candlelighter, witness wear and marketing tools.
- Future Dream: Gift of 15 acres of land for Church Site.
- Other?
- Thank You to the many congregations & individuals who are patrons & benefactors of Emmanuel. Your prayers, financial support and partnership in the Gospel is much appreciated.

Minutes - Emmanuel Lutheran Church Annual Meeting – Saturday, January 25, 2014

Quorum was established (8 required as per our Constitution); 25 plus members were in attendance. President Kari Richards called the meeting to order. Arne Nelson was appointed parliamentarian and Debbie Vomhof agreed to take minutes for the meeting. Mike Lockerby provided the opening prayer. Reports were given by Pastor Dave Steffenson and Treasurer Arne Nelson. Questions were entertained. No questions or comments. Elections took place. Ballot was presented. No nominations from the floor. Motion made by Matt Wagner and seconded by Debbie Vomhof that a unanimous ballot be cast. Motion carried. Arne Nelson and Kari Richards were elected to a one-year council positions, and Lee Pearce and Kalo Lockerby were elected to a two-year council positions. The “Child Safety Policy”—for Liability Insurance purposes, was discussed. Clarification was given as to why this document is needed. Julie Steffenson made the motion to approve the child safety policy; seconded by Larry Vomhof. Motion carried. 2014 Mission Plan Budget and Goals were presented. Discussion followed. Matt Wagner stated that he knew his folks would rather have all the monies go to the International Church of Vilnius, Lithuania, instead of them getting half of it for reimbursed expenses. Matt made a motion that all of the \$1,000 go to the International Church of Vilnius, Lithuania; seconded by Pastor Dave. Motion carried. Discussion regarding local benevolences took place. Julie Steffenson made motion to have a goal of supporting no more than 3 local organizations; seconded by Don Holtan. Motion approved. Additional information on possible ministry partners will be presented to the congregation with input to be received. Church Logo, Brochure and Mission Statement were discussed. After discussion – Janet Sunde made the motion to approve the Church Logo, Brochures and Mission Statement as stated; seconded by Darald Bothun. Motion carried. Closing Thanks was given, followed by the Lord’s Prayer & Adjournment—Respectfully submitted by Debbie Vomhof - 1/27/2014

Minutes - Special Congregational Meeting – Saturday, September 27, 2014

Minutes taken by President, Kari Richards. Emmanuel Council President, Kari Richards, called the meeting to order at 7:25 pm. A quorum was established (8 voting members required; 17 present). The item on the floor from our earlier council meeting was: "As per NALC requirement, Constitutional changes require ratification by NALC member congregations. The change is a simple one: 'A Convocation of the NALC shall be held annually in August'-- Section 7.01 of the NALC Constitution." Motion to strike the words "in August." Pastor Dave explained the item. There were no questions or discussion. The voting members of Emmanuel voted by paper ballot. The motion to ratify this change passed unanimously. Kari Richards made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Arne Nelson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Audit Committee Report: Audit took place on Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Rich Sunde and Darald Bothun served as members of this year’s Audit Committee. Pastor Steffenson participated as an observer. Treasurer Arne Nelson gave a detailed report of procedures that he has been following regarding the care of Emmanuel Lutheran’s church finances. 174 checks were written in 2014. Emmanuel’s banking is at Think Bank located at the corner of 41st Street NW and West River Parkway NW, Rochester. The 2014 financial records of Emmanuel Lutheran were reviewed and found to be in excellent order. A report will also be presented to the church council.

2014 Financial Report—Arne Nelson

- Thrivent Choice Dollars received in 2014: \$4,187.00 (\$1,496.00 in 2013)
- Pastor's Discretionary Fund: Current Balance: \$867.00
- NALC Seminary (Christmas Eve offering 2014): \$1,067.00 (\$4,593.00 in 2013)
- Supporting Congregations and Individual Benefactors/Patrons: 1 congregation in SD (Immanuel Lutheran, Whitewood), 2 congregations in MN (Rushford Lutheran, Rushford; South Zumbro Lutheran, Kasson), 1 congregation in WI (Gift of Grace Lutheran, Holmen), and 8 congregations in Iowa (Old East Paint Creek, Waterville; Old West Paint Creek, Waukon; Emmanuel Lutheran, Grafton; St. Matthew Lutheran, Readlyn; Bethany Lutheran, Laurens; Waterloo Ridge Lutheran, Dorchester; Peace Lutheran, Northwood) and St. John Lutheran Church, Boyden, Iowa; plus six individual patrons.
- Lease continuing with Oasis for 2015: \$6600.00 per year (\$550.00 per month)

Emmanuel Profit & Loss (Jan-Dec 2014)

INCOME	
401 Weekly Offering	\$60,865.55
405 Partners (Indiv./Congr.)	\$27,090.80
406 Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$4,187.00
409 NALC Seminary Offering	\$1,067.00
410 Designated/Memorials	\$1,700.00
411 Hymnal Funds	\$658.11
413 Gifts—Candle Holder	\$150.00
415 Designated Offering	\$487.00
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>\$96,205.46</u>
EXPENSE	
416 Pastor's Discretionary	-\$157.00
501 Advertising & Promotion	\$1,912.25
502 Payroll Expenses	\$69,220.00
504 Mileage	\$3,934.04
505 Education Books	\$474.00
506 Bank Fees	\$4.70
507 Retirement	\$500.00
508 Continuing Education	\$387.21
509 Conference Expense	\$1,003.58
510 Worship/Office/Ed. Supplies	\$4,315.01
520 Rent (lease)	\$6,600.00
530 Insurance	\$377.77
542 Mission - Vilnius	\$1,000.00
550 NALC Church at Large	\$3,000.00
551 NALC Synod	\$74.00
552 NALC Seminary Fund	\$867.00
553 Salvation Army	\$500.00
554 Mission - Supermarket Saturday	\$500.00
555 Miscellaneous Expense	\$50.00
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>\$94,562.56</u>
Net Ordinary Income	\$1,642.90
<u>Net Income</u>	<u>\$1,642.90</u>

Emmanuel Balance Sheet—12/31/14

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
101 Think Bank Checking	\$45,740.77
Total Checking/Savings	\$45,740.77
Total Current Assets	\$45,740.77
Fixed Assets	
105 Stock Holdings	\$13,953.56
110 Furniture/Equip.	\$455.17
Total Fixed Assets	\$14,408.73
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$60,149.50
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Balance from prior yrs.	\$58,506.60
Net Income	\$1,642.90
Total Equity	\$60,149.50
<u>TOTAL LIABILITY & EQUITY:</u>	<u>\$60,149.50</u>

2015 Mission Plan Budget

INCOME

Weekly Offering	\$67,000
Partners (Congregations & Individuals)	\$18,500
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$3,750
Cash Reserves	<u>\$17,785</u>
TOTAL INCOME:	\$107,035

EXPENSE

Missions - NALC at large	\$3,000
- NALS	\$2,000
- Global (Church of Vilnius, Lithuania)	\$1,000
- Local	\$1,500
Rent (Oasis Lease)	\$7,000
Insurance (Property/Liability)	\$500
Women's Event	\$300
Advertisement/Marketing	\$1,500
Supplies (worship, office, education)	\$3,000
Conferences (NALC Convocation & Mission District)	\$2,000
Synod Fees (Minkota & Iowa Mission Districts)	\$475
Pastor's Continuing Education	\$750
Pastor's Mileage/Professional Exp. (Rushford Lutheran)	\$5,000
Pastor's Retirement	\$3,500
Pastor—Salary	\$30,004
Pastor—Housing	\$18,000
Pastor—Medical (\$1,208 monthly)	\$14,496
Pastor—HSA	\$6,500
Pulpit Supply & Mileage	\$1,110
Church Musician	<u>\$5,400</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE:	\$107,035

Possible Goals and Mile Markers for 2015:

1. Grow Average Worship Attendance from 41 to at least 50 worshipers per week. Big Goal: 75
2. Discipleship: Each One Make/Reach One (multiplying ourselves). Grow Membership (Increase signed Discipleship Covenants from 50 to 75. Big Goal: 100
3. Salvation Army Bell Ringing double hours of service from 8 to 16. Big Goal: 25 hours
4. Christmas with Emmanuel: Invite families and friends to spend Christmas Eve worshipping at Emmanuel—December 24, 2015, with a goal of 100 worshipers. Big Goal: 200 worshipers.
5. Emmanuel financially self-supporting by September 2016.
6. Inventory of our Church property for insurance purposes.
7. Other?