

THE VINE

FEBRUARY 2024, Vol. 3 No. 1



Inside this issue:

A gathering of women

Meet Seth Harris:
new Council President

Civic life and faith

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” *John 15:5*

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Worship

We gather for worship with Holy Communion at **9:30 am** on Sunday mornings both in person and online. You can watch the livestream on our website, through YouTube or on Facebook.

Fellowship

Conversation and treats follow Sunday worship.

Faith Formation (Sept.–May)

Activities and discussion at **10:45 am** for kids ages 3 through grade 8.

WEDNESDAYS (Sept.–May, not including Lent)

Music Rehearsals

- 4:45–5:30 pm: Choristers choir (grades 2-6)
- 5:30–6:10 pm: Middle C's choir (grades 7-12)
- 6:45–7:45 pm: Jubilate Ringers (handbells)
- 7:45–9 pm: Cantorei (adult voices)

Supper

- 6 pm: Free-will offering collected

Confirmation

- 6:45 pm: For youth in grades 7 & 8

OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday, 9 am–4 pm

Phone: (651) 699-5560

Find us online anytime at ilcsp.org

In This Issue:

Features

Recreating Snelling	<u>3</u>
Snelling Ave takes on a new look	
Feeding Minnesota	<u>4</u>
FoodShare March Drive	
Sunday School Wisdom	<u>5</u>
A Teacher celebrates 50 years	
Speaking Together as Church	<u>6</u>
The new ELCA draft Social Statement	
Here's to Strong Women	<u>7</u>
The women of Immanuel connect	
Improvers then and now	<u>8</u>
Meet the men & women who fix things	
A Church that Cares	<u>10</u>
Caring for neighborhood children	
Meet the Vine Editors	<u>12</u>
A team takes on the Vine	
In Every Issue	
Faith Spotlight: Seth Harris	<u>3</u>
Seasons: Holy Week	<u>4</u>
C4 Celebrations	<u>9</u>
Council Recaps	<u>11</u>
Council Members	<u>11</u>
Dates to Know	<u>12</u>

The Vine

February 2024 Volume 3, Number 1

The Vine is published quarterly, plus a special Lutefisk Dinner edition. Its mission is to connect the Immanuel community within and without. If you have an idea for an article, contact editors Heather Cordes, Bonnie Edlund, or Cassandra Quam.



Immanuel Lutheran Church
104 Snelling Ave. S, St. Paul, MN 55105

A community growing in Christ, living in grace and serving in love.

An ELCA congregation in the St. Paul Area Synod

On the Cover: Berit, Darlene and Chillon making cards at the Women's Night In.

Immanuel Staff

Cindy Bullock
Pastor
cbullock@ilcsp.org

Emily King
Children, Youth &
Family Ministry
eking@ilcsp.org

Chris Cherwien
Worship & Music
ccherwien@ilcsp.org

Peter Aldrich
Organist
paldrich@ilcsp.org

Deanna Hesse
Church Administrator
dhesse@ilcsp.org

Living out my faith

Excited for the Year Ahead

By Cassandra Quam

Seth Harris is the new council president. He's an experienced member of ILC committees, and is excited to use the good energy present at Immanuel to look forward.

Describe what you do in your work. What do you find satisfying/fulfilling?

I'm a consultant who works with college and university admissions and financial aid offices. My primary focus is helping them set and manage their merit scholarships and institutional need-based gift aid. I love that my work helps colleges change the lives of more students.

What would you say are the gifts/talents that you bring to your work?

I like to talk and connect with people and also enjoy telling stories with data.

Tell about a time you felt you made a difference for someone.

When my father passed away, a work colleague gave me a book on grief that I really appreciated. Now whenever I hear of a friend or coworker who loses a parent, I pay it forward and send the book to them.

When you must make difficult decisions or unpopular choices, where do you turn for support?

I will start by talking with family, friends, and/or coworkers; talking it out often helps me sort out my thoughts. Then I turn to my faith and prayer to ask for guidance.

Pivoting to your ILC role as council president, what are you looking forward to in the coming year?

I'm excited for the year ahead because Immanuel has such good energy and is in a strong place right now, and that allows us to think ahead to who we want to be in 3-5 years.

What is something you would like the people of Immanuel to know?

I'm originally from Madison, WI, but have lived in the St. Paul area for 14 years.

Get to know Seth

Who is in your family/ household: my lovely wife Kate and my three boys Ryan (10), Sean (8), and Liam (6)

How long you've been at Immanuel: I have been at Immanuel for over 10 years

Ways you're involved or have been involved at ILC: I'm a former member of Worship and Music committee, former at-large member of the church council, as-needed percussionist, and Choir Dad for the Choristers.



A New Snelling Avenue

By Bonnie Edlund

There is a saying that Minnesota has two seasons: winter and road construction! This summer Immanuel will have a front row seat for the reconstruction of Snelling Avenue between St. Clair and Grand Avenues.

Beginning in July and through August, MnDOT's resurfacing of Snelling will also include rebuilding of sidewalks, new crossings to meet ADA standards, and new traffic signals at St. Clair and Grand Avenues.

Many of the boulevard trees between St. Clair and Grand will have to be removed due to their poor condition or the fact that the impact of the construction on the tree's root systems would hasten their demise. The boulevards will be reseeded following construction this year, and new trees will be planted in 2025. The intersection of Grand and Snelling will also be reconstructed. No start date for that project has yet been announced.

The construction project will cause some inconveniences such as lane closures, temporarily unusable sidewalks, and torn up boulevards. However, the "new Snelling Avenue" will blend nicely with a construction project of our own. Namely, Immanuel's south and west landscape renewal project. (See page 9 for an update.) Hopefully by the end of summer the church's "front door" to the neighborhood will be safer, more user friendly and more welcoming. Sounds like something worth waiting for!

Seasons of the church year:

Holy Week

Palm
Sunday



Hosannah! is our cry on Palm Sunday. We see Jesus enter Jerusalem and wonder if we can follow him in the way of love, all the way to the cross.

Worship begins at 9:30 am

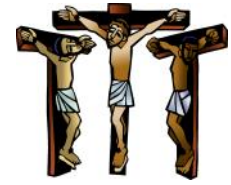
Maundy
Thursday



What does it look like to love one another? Jesus shows his disciples by serving them. We gather for a meal and service of Holy Communion

Worship begins at 6:00 pm

Good
Friday



On the day our Lord was crucified, we gather to hear the story as the room grows darker and we remember the cost of love.

Worship begins at 7:00 pm

Holy
Saturday



We spend the day in quiet reflection. Then as the sun sets, we gather to tell the stories of God's miracles and hear the first strains of Easter Alleluias!

Worship begins at 6:00 pm

Easter
Sunday



Christ is Risen! We gather to worship and celebrate with hymns, choirs, instruments and Holy Communion.

Worship begins at 8:30 and 10:30 am

For more information about Holy Week and Easter, go to ilcsp.org/holyweek2024

MN FoodShare March Campaign

By Cassandra Quam

As part of the MN FoodShare March Campaign, Immanuel collects money and non-perishables for Keystone Community Services. As Keystone Program Director Julia McCarthy told [MPR News](#) in November, their two St. Paul food shelf locations serve about 40,000 people per year. She sees a need for greater visibility of the problem of food insecurity - many people may not realize that their neighbors are in need of support to afford groceries. Rising costs over the past few years have simply made food more difficult to adequately access.

In God's kingdom we know there is



enough for everyone. Yet, Minnesotans made a record-breaking 7.5 million visits to food shelves in 2023. This is up 36.4% from the previous record of 5.5 million visits in 2022, and up 102% from 3.7

million visits in 2021. Annual visits to food shelves are now more than double the rates of pre-pandemic visits. Minnesota's charitable food system (food shelves and food banks, meal programs, etc.) continues to run at capacity. Increased food prices, growing inflation rates, and slowing wage growth have put a significant financial strain on Minnesotans, making it increasingly difficult to maintain food security throughout the year. Though the state has taken measures to decrease hunger in 2024—including an additional \$5 million in funding for Minnesota's seven food banks and implementation of the Free School Meals bill—

Continued on page 5

Passing on the faith

You Are Loved

Caroline Thompson has taught the lessons of love since 1974

“When my youngest daughter started Sunday School in kindergarten, I thought, ‘If I’m going to insist that my kids go to Sunday School, then I’ve got to go too.’” Thus began Caroline Thompson’s 50 year career as a Sunday School teacher. Yes, you read that right – 50 years as a Sunday School teacher at Immanuel.

The journey began with having her own children. “Having a child of my own changed my view of the world. I knew I couldn’t provide a moral framework for my children all on my own. I needed help. I needed the help of my church and my faith to raise my child well. Back then I didn’t know what I didn’t know. But the church helped me.”

Caroline emphasizes that as a teacher she has always been part of a team and needed the different skills others brought. The women she worked with for many years in the preschool class (Mary Gwen Thompson and Kathy Robey) had different skills that she didn’t possess. “I’m good at organizing. I do the Scope and Sequence.” Others on her team were better at comforting a child who was crying or helping the one who didn’t want to be there.

A longtime elementary school teacher, Caroline loves when the message clicks for a child. At Sunday School, she relishes the moment someone understands that they can share and show they care about others. She keeps reminding them, “You are loved, you can share. You are



Caroline (left) helps lead the 3,4,&5 year old class in 2007

loved, pass it on.”

Over the years she’s seen many changes in Sunday School. She reflected that more kids are in worship on Sundays. “We don’t need to do a worship service as opening for Sunday School anymore. We don’t need to take an offering. The kids are getting to do that in the worship service with their parents.” Then she mused, “They are still learning the rhythm and familiarity of worship. Even if the words change or the music is different, there is a rhythm to worship, a sameness to the prayers, a comfort that ‘this happens’ and then ‘that happens’.

When asked what she wanted children to learn, she quickly replied, “You are loved.” For many years the children sang “Jesus Loves Me” every Sunday, even learning it in American Sign Language. But she also added, “Church is a safe place to be whoever you want to be right now.”

Immanuel is grateful to Caroline Thompson for teaching so many of our children that they are loved and they can pass it on.



Minnesota FoodShare

Continued from page 4

massive leaps in food shelf attendance over the last five years suggest emergency food assistance providers will continue to be a critical resource to communities across the state.

Immanuel Campaign organizers are requesting financial and food

donations through March 31. There is a featured item each week for food donations:

- **Week of March 3: Peanut butter**
- **Week of March 10: Toilet paper**
- **Week of March 17: Macaroni & cheese**
- **Week of March 24: Diapers**

If you would like to give online, go [HERE](#)

The ILC Foundation has also committed \$2,000 in matching funds to the campaign.



Civic Life and Faith

We Are Called to Strive for Justice and Peace

By Heather Cordes

A recent message from ELCA Advocacy popped up on my Facebook feed. It was requesting feedback on the ELCA's drafted social statement on Civic Life and Faith. This caught my attention and caused me to pause. What are these social statements? What role do they play in my faith? What does the ELCA have to say about a "Civic Life" as a Lutheran? Will Immanuel provide feedback?

I wanted to learn more. So, I asked Pastor Cindy and a member of Immanuel's Social Action Team, to help me out. Here's what I learned.

The social statements (along with their siblings, social messages and social resolutions) are ways that the ELCA speaks out on social concerns. Social statements are created by a team of theologians, pastors, deacons and lay people. They are usually two or more years in the making. A team seeks input from the wider church, creates a draft, and puts it out for comments. After that, a final draft is created which is sent to the ELCA Church-wide Assembly, with representatives of all 65 synods across the country for a final vote.

The social statements are helpful when someone is looking for guidance on current issues or perhaps dealing with a difficult situation. When Pastor Cindy is counseling people, she has a good resource to reference and share. In summation, the social statements are a way for the whole church to learn about and speak together on an issue, as opposed to an authority telling us what to do and say.

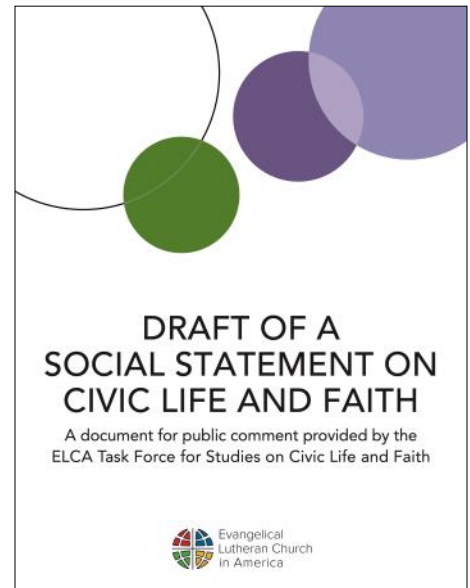
In February, the drafted Civic Life and Faith statement was communicated,

with a request for feedback by September 30. The ELCA offers a study-series curriculum around Civic Life and Faith, which includes discussion questions, such as: How is discipleship lived out in a democracy? How do we address controversial civic issues? What are Lutheran views on civic life? What does faith have to do with civic life? Very interesting topics for sure!

The Social Action Team will be hosting discussions centered on this draft social statement. Christine Danielson, a member of the Social Action Team shared, "One of the responsibilities of the Social Action Team at Immanuel, as set forth in our charter, is to provide programs and discussions about relevant social justice issues to help members make faith-informed decisions about their actions. I'm looking forward to having conversations about this new social statement because it directly addresses the relationship of church and state from the ELCA Lutheran perspective. We often hear messages that the two should not be mixed, yet we are called to do justice. In our Affirmation of Baptism we agree that we will 'serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to **strive for justice and peace** in all the earth'.

We are a publically engaged church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work. We do God's work in the world, the work of restoring and reconciling communities. We pursue justice and seek peace no matter how long the journey or wide the chasm. Because we are grounded in God's love and forgiveness, we are well equipped to live and serve here and now, in the world, with all its complexities, tensions and ambiguities.

-- from the ELCA website



Take action:

- Participate in upcoming discussions on Civic Life and Faith, guided by Immanuel's Social Action Team. Those participating will be able to give feedback that will shape the final document. (Watch News and Notes for dates this spring or summer)
- Join the Social Action Team by contacting one of the members, who includes Christine Danielson, Kelley Wells, Lynnette Zika, Kathy Robey, and Peg Wangenstein
- Check out elca.org and familiarize yourself with the other social statements available. There is a wide range of topics; genetics, human sexuality, death penalty, education, and peace.

A Night to Reconnect

By Heather Cordes

"Here's to strong women. May we know them, be them and raise them" - Unknown

Approximately forty women of Immanuel gathered on Friday, Feb 9 for an energetic evening of socializing. It's been some time since the women gathered for formal fellowship – the energy was evident, and the soundtrack to the evening was laughter.

Co-leaders Sue Klevan and Rhonda Tjaden invited the women to Fellowship Hall for a soup supper where the women were treated to a savory black bean soup and chicken wild rice soup. Simply delicious.



After eating, a brief update on the Women's group was provided. Rhonda shared, "All women are part of the Women's group – no membership or dues are required. We haven't had an active board for many years – currently we only have a treasurer. We held several events and retreats in the last decade, but we lost some momentum when the pandemic hit in 2020."

Rhonda continued, "We had a successful sale of baked goods in 2022 and 2023 (sold during Lutefisk dinner), and we had a significant balance prior to that, so we now have a large amount of money in the reserves. This money could be doing some good in our community or the broader world." The group collectively agreed.

There is no shortage of worthy causes to support – over 20 ideas were contributed by the group. In the end, the women decided to ask for volunteers to research the ideas and come back with a proposal.

The women shifted to the East Lounge for a mixer to learn more about each other. Rhonda introduced the game and they were off, mixing it up every 5 minutes to learn something new about someone else.

The last stop for the evening was hot apple cider, dessert



and card-making led by Christine Danielson. Christine put together small packets of coordinated cardstock, paper and embellishments. Each person picked a packet and began assembling all-occasion cards. Attendees walked out with a homemade card to brighten someone's day.

As the evening came to a close, several women reflected on the event, JoAnne Hogenson mused, "I enjoyed the camaraderie and relationships I saw being built tonight. It was a chance to meet new people and reconnect with those I haven't seen for awhile. I'm always so impressed by the generosity of the women of this congregation, both generous with their time and many talents." Phyllis Bentley added, "It's opportunities like this that allow us to get to know and support each other. Sunday church doesn't always allow for that deeper level of relationship-building."

As International Women's Day (March 8) approaches, we are reminded that nothing is more inspirational than a community of strong women with a purpose. Let's celebrate the inspiring women of Immanuel both past and present. To learn about the work women have done through the years, open up your Immanuel History book to page 134.



Meet the Improvers

By Bonnie Edhlund

Then...



The original Improvers: L-R; Randy Tjornhom, Curt Hogensen, George Koerner, Fred Bethke, Dave Hogle, Lew Dohman, Al (Pete) Peterson.
(not pictured: John Skalbeck)

For most in the Immanuel community, the Improvers or “Imps,” as they are sometimes called, need no introduction. They can be seen at church every Thursday, roaming about the church building and grounds completing various repair and maintenance tasks.

It all started in 2001 when Associate Pastor Dana Nissen brought up the idea. He had formed a similar group at his previous church and thought it would be worth starting such a group here. He was right.

By 2002 there were twenty Improvers eagerly taking on numerous jobs. Many of these jobs required the skills of a plumber, electrician, or carpenter. By completing them as a group, the Improvers save the church the costly expense of hiring an outside contractor.

The work continues today. Like any house, our church is

in constant need of repairs, cleaning, and “fix-it” type tasks. This is what keeps the Improvers busy. They gather Thursday mornings for coffee, treats, and conversation. Then they get to work. Often the work waiting for them comes from requests from Immanuel staff and members.

Things are not always routine. Most recently the Improvers were challenged to remove the obsolete 250-pound organ motor from the attic. A wood sled was built. With the motor strapped to the sled, it was dragged to the top of the attic stairs and then, using a series of rope pullies, slowly lowered down the stairs to a waiting flatbed cart. Then it was out to the alley to a waiting metal recycler. (It should be noted that no Improvers were injured while completing this assignment!)

Who can be an Improver? Anyone with an interest in keeping our church clean, welcoming, and running smoothly.

...And Now



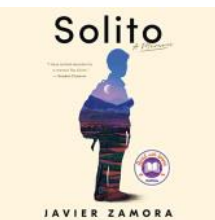
The improvers in 2023: Doug Sherman, Lew Dohman, John Skalbek, Don Kyser, Curt Hogansen, Doug Wangensteen, Russ Edlund, Paul Horstmann & Sue Mitchell (Not pictured: Roger Forman & Chillon Leach)

New in the Library By Phyllis Bentley

Solito; A Memoir by Javier Zamora

Named one of the Best Books of the Year, this is an unforgettable memoir in which a young poet tells the inspiring story of his migration from El Salvador to the United States at the age of nine. It is a gripping tale of bravery, perseverance, and seeking one's family.

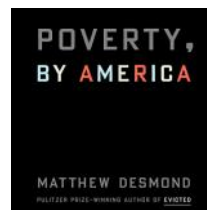
Traveling alone except for a group of strangers and a “coyote” hired to lead them to safety, Javier's trip is supposed to last two weeks. However, those two weeks expand into a harrowing two months before he miraculously re-unites with his parents on the other side of the U.S. border.



Poverty, By America by Matthew Desmond

“The United States, the richest country on earth, has more poverty than any other advanced democracy... Poverty in America persists because the rest of us benefit from it. Drawing on history, research, and original reporting, Desmond shows how affluent Americans knowingly and unknowingly keep poor people poor.”

The author gives us new ways to think about poverty as a morally urgent problem and imagine solutions beyond a welfare-state.



Competence
Using your gifts in ways that honor God

Caring
Helping others directly

Choices
Making choices that reflect your faith

Change
Working to make the world a better place

Celebrate
what our community is doing!



College students on the move:

- **Lily Mitzel** was one of two featured soloist on tour with the St. Olaf Band's 2024 Winter Tour. Lily plays oboe and will graduate from St. Olaf this spring.
- **Ava Hansen** is studying abroad this semester in Austria. (Her grandfather mailed her a Valentine's package that got misdelivered to Australia!)
- **Rocky Robey** recently returned from Belize, where he worked with other Hamline students healing the coral reef.
- **Bowman, Raymond, Holden, Steven** and the rest of the Macalester baseball team are heading to Tucson for a Spring Break Tournament. (Their first home game is March 31!)

Landscape Update

For over a year now, the Landscape Renewal task force has been working toward a more open, welcoming and usable space around the church. They have invited community input from churchgoers and the local neighbors, chosen Calyx Design Group as the architect, and gone through several phases of creating a master plan. (a video of the master plan presentation can be found [HERE](#).)

The project is now in the stage where the master plan becomes detailed plans (construction documents). The detailed plans will be sent out for bids later this spring. But the task force is still busy! They are periodically reviewing the documents as they are created. If all goes to plan, construction will begin early this summer.

The contractor will be directed to keep the front door and an ADA accessible walkway available, except for very short periods when concrete is being poured or there is a safety concern. Those interruptions will be scheduled in advance.

If you have questions, speak to any member of the team: Harvey Jaegar, chair; Mike Flatford, Sue Klevan, Greta Mundt, Ron Struss, Mike Tjaden, and Kelley Wells

ILC youth on the stage this winter:

Mae Iaria ran lighting and props for Seussical: The Musical, at Global Arts Plus

Tarq Johnson is on the lighting crew for Frozen Jr. at SPA (March 8-10)

Natalie Eyre was in the cast for one-act plays at Roseville Area Middle School.

School sports and more:

Boys basketball: **Wes Norquist**, Highland Park

Nordic skiing: **Audrey King**, Central; **Lily Sheldon**, Highland Park

Hockey: **Theo Sheldon**, Highland Park

Alpine skiing: **Tarq Johnson**, SPA; **Steian Johnson**, St Paul Alpine Ski Team

Dance team: **Bergen and Caelyn Hippen**, Highland Park

Math team: **Audrey King**, Central (in the State Tournament, March 11.)

Send your celebrations

We love reading about what our community is doing. Tell us about: school and work recognitions, new jobs, retirements, performances, sports and other activities. Share artwork or favorite photograph. Give a shoutout to someone who you saw doing good. Email it all to Pastor Cindy at cbullock@ilcsp.org!

Happening at Immanuel

A Church that Cares

By Emily King

On a recent Monday afternoon, Loren Danielson was watching a movie with a group of kids. Dave Klevan was dishing out snacks. Sue Klevan and Jan Johnshoy were supervising as kids assembled Lego animals and colored at tables. A group of Macalester students were making glitter slime with eager kids. It was busy, noisy and utterly delightful.



Student Spot has provided 6 days of scheduled no-school care to roughly 50 total children in grades preK-7. A core group of volunteers from Immanuel have partnered with Bonner Scholars from Macalester to watch over and love on these kids while their parents are at work. It's a ministry filled with grace, mess, patience and a lot of laughter.

“This was the best day of my whole

life,” one preschooler told us. High praise that will bring tears to your eyes.

We are again watching and waiting for contract resolution between the St. Paul Public Schools and the St. Paul Federation of Educators. The teachers union has announced its intent to strike on March 11, and Student Spot will be ready to welcome our regulars and new friends to Immanuel. What may be a family's crisis will be met with support and “how can we provide your child with the best experience at Student Spot?” There will be tears — maybe of relief, or missing mama, or hearing you just gave a small human the best day of her life.

Families are reminded or reassured that The Church can be trusted and that The Church cares about them. Kids see God's love poured out onto them

As a ministry, Student Spot is unusual. There's no Bible story, no prayer, no camp songs. Yet, the Holy Spirit moves in it — putting the right volunteer in place to calm a sad child, for example. Families are reminded or reassured that The Church can be trusted and that The Church cares about them. Kids see God's love poured out onto them, even in their hardest moments, by relative strangers.



Will you join us? A multi-day strike requires great volunteer power. We will need help supervising and playing with the kids, and we'll also need behind-the-scenes work like picking up food and supplies, setting up and cleaning up spaces, and helping at the check-in/out table.



Student spot is scheduled for March 8 and March 29. If there is a St Paul Teachers' strike, we will expand as needed for up to two weeks. Do you want to be part of this ministry? You can sign up for a whole day or a few hours. Working during the day? You can help with several support tasks. Go to ilcsp.org/studentspot to sign up.

Church Council

Council Recaps

December:

There was significant conversation around the year end financials and upcoming budget.

Our financial picture was largely positive as the year came to a close. While we are largely staying in line with income and expenses, our offering revenue is a little behind the forecasted schedule for the end of the year. Programming has increased and continues to increase post-Covid but, as we all see, expenses are also increasing.

The council also approved supporting a pastoral intern for 2024-25. He will begin work in June.

The TouchPoint team reported on their work to transport financial data from the current system.

The Nominating Committee and Jeff Schmidt reported that they have candidates to serve as Council Vice President (Shawna Boll), Treasurer (Jeff Engelking) and an At-Large Member (Gay Bartholic)

January:

The Finance Committee was hard at work finalizing the budget for the

coming year. We ended 2023 with a positive balance, which is fantastic news considering the budget presented at the 2023 annual meeting projected ending the year at a deficit. Looking at 2024, we are forecasting the year ending with a deficit again. Stewardship sent out an email asking for additional congregational support, and the congregation responded well. The Finance Team will present the completed budget to the congregation on January 21.

The annual meeting is January 28, 2024. The meeting will take place in person after the service. Those leaving the Council (Jeff Schmidt, John Toso, Mark Thompson) were thanked for their service.

February:

Harvey Jaeger spoke about the landscape renewal project. They are currently in the design phase and will be ready for bidding this spring. He pointed out that within the capital campaign, we have already paid off the mortgage, gifted Planting Hope campaign, replaced carpeting and done some roof repairs. After \$230,000 is spent on landscape, there will be around \$107,000 left for future repairs.

There was discussion of a Sexual Har-

assment Policy (required by seminary internship program to be in place before an intern begins serving). The personnel Committee has reviewed it, as has an employment lawyer. The Child Protection Policy will be revisited after Easter.

The possible St Paul Teacher's strike will require expanding Student Spot. The council discussed what that would mean for Immanuel, and agreed to support the expansion.

Financials:

The general fund balance at the February meeting was \$117,000. This healthy balance is the result of several annual gifts that were given in January. The Capital Campaign fund is at \$195,000.

Official Minutes:

The official minutes of each Council meeting can be obtained at the church office. If you have any questions or comments please contact Seth Harris, President, or any Council member. The Council meets monthly, usually on the third Tuesday. Meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

Martha Hansen, Council secretary

If you have questions, contact Seth Harris, Council President, or any Council member. The Council meets monthly, usually at 7 pm on the third Tuesday. Check the [church calendar](#) for up-to-date schedules.

Have a question, idea or concern? Contact a Council member or team lead

Seth Harris, Council President

Rhonda Tjaden, Past President

Shawna Boll, Vice President

Martha Hansen, Secretary

Jeff Engelking, Treasurer

Jackie Hippen, Assistant Treasurer

Ross Robey, Financial Secretary

Kari Sheldon, Assistant Financial Secretary

Gay Bartholic, Member at Large

Jennifer Erickson, Member at Large

Karen Osen, Member at Large

Team Leads

Jackie Hippen, Finance

Deb Ahlquist, Worship & Music

Brian Bullock, Media Ministry

Penny Norquist, Stewardship

Mary Gwen Thompson, Children, Youth & Family

Open, Property

David Hansen, Membership

Christine Danielson, Social Action

New Faces and More

Meet the New Vine Editors

The Vine has a new editorial board! An eager team of three has been recruited to brainstorm, collect, write, and edit articles for each edition of the Vine (with support from many others). This team hopes to bring you stories that pique your interest, enrich your faith, or help you learn more about your fellow churchgoers.

Heather Cordes works as a change management advisor for Wells Fargo. She has two newly adult children, Cooper and Maxwell, and lives in Mac-Groveland with her dog Rosy. Heather enjoys knitting, gardening and traveling.

Bonnie Edhlund is a retired receptionist who worked at St. Paul Academy. She lives in Mac-Groveland with her husband Russ. Bonnie's hobbies include jigsaw puzzles, ancestry, and spending time with her family, including her three adult children, Jean, Eric, and Beverly, and her four grandchildren.

Cassandra Quam is the assistant to the superintendent of Richfield Public Schools. She, her husband Nate, and



Meet Bonnie, Cassandra and Heather, the new Vine team

their young daughter Renee live in Hamline-Midway. Cassandra plays violin in the St. Paul JCC Symphony Orchestra, and occasionally in church.

We look forward to serving the Immanuel community as the editorial board for the Vine! If you have an idea for a future article, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.



TouchPoint Tips—Sign In

Immanuel's new church management system remembers your payment method for giving, registering and purchasing.

- 1) Click "Sign in"
- 2) Enter your cell phone number
- 3) You will receive a secure 6-digit code via TXT.
- 4) Enter the 6-digit code
- 5) Bingo! Any payment method(s) you've previously used will be available.

Use this method anywhere you see "Sign in"

Important Dates to Know

- March 8 & 29: Student Spot
- March 10: Youth Silent Auction
- March 24: Palm Sunday—Holy Week begins
- March 31: Easter
- April 7: Immanuel Art Show begins
- April 28: Confirmation Sunday
- May 5: Chorister's Musical
- May 19: Pentecost; *Holy Spirit Mass* sung by Immanuel & Pilgrim choirs
- July 16–20: Youth attend ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans
- Aug. 5: Music and Arts Camp begins

