



THE MESSENGER

Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA
726 Fuller Avenue, Big Rapids, MI 49307
Website: www.immanuelbr.com

Facebook: @immanuelbr Instagram: ILCbigrapids
Phone 231/796-8273 Fax 231/796-9599

Sunday Morning Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Live on Facebook

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday – 9:00 am to Noon and 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm - Closed on Friday

Office Staff: Mary Larkin, Administrative Assistant is in the office Tuesday – Thursday 9 am – 4 pm. Shirley Hamelund, Office Assistant is in the office Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9 am – 4 pm. The Church office is closed on Friday.

Office e-mail addresses:

Church: immanuelbigrapids726@gmail.com
Mary Larkin (Administrative Assistant) marylar726@gmail.com
Shirley Hamelund (Office Assistant/Receptionist) shirleyh403@gmail.com

MISSION: To inspire members to grow in loving devotion to Jesus Christ, caring concern for one another, welcoming outreach, and loving service to our neighbors.

VISION STATEMENT: Immanuel Lutheran Church will be known for welcoming hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity.

JULY 2022



Pastoral Schedule for July 2022 (in-person)

July 3, 2022	Pastor Dan Ward
July 10, 2022	Rev. Teresa Foster
July 17, 2022	Pastor Dan Ward
July 24, 2022	Rev. Robert Garrels
July 31, 2022	Lay Leader (Gunder Myran)

(Live stream on Facebook)

Pastoral duties will be referred to Rev. Teresa Foster. Please first call the church office (231) 796-8273. The referral will be passed on to Rev. Foster.



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Big Rapids, Michigan
July 1, 2022

VISION COMMITTEE UPDATE—JUNE 2022

At the last congregational conversation in May, Dave and Gunder mentioned that the Vision Committee had read and discussed *Becoming a Hybrid Church* by Dave Daubert and Richard E.T. Jorgenson, Jr. In the preface, the authors state that “we believe that God is calling us to discover our future as a **hybrid church** that embraces both online and on-the-ground ministry as equally important for our future. If we ignore either of those, we do so at our own peril.” They argue that online ministry after the COVID shutdown needs to be more than an add-on to traditional, on-the-ground ministry and that members who participate in the life of the congregation online need to have as rich and complete an experience as those who attend face-to-face. The key takeaway for us is that it isn’t enough that Immanuel broadcasts its services on Facebook Live and that viewers can passively watch what’s happening; we need to find ways for online attendees to participate actively in our services, Bible studies, committee meetings, and other activities.

There are many reasons why people might choose to engage with us online, including health and mobility concerns, work schedules, geography and transportation issues (have you checked the price of gas recently?), and child and elder care responsibilities. The authors argue that we need to leverage technology as a tool to engage people who would not participate and contribute to the life of the congregation without an online option. If we want to be welcoming and inclusive to everyone in an online age, we need to offer meaningful ways for people to participate remotely. Some preliminary steps we have taken are to ask pastors and worship assistants to greet and acknowledge online attendees during each service and invite online attendees to submit prayer requests in Facebook Live’s chat function. We need to offer online options for other activities. I can help committees and groups that need assistance scheduling meetings with the Immanuel Zoom account for members who can’t attend face-to-face due to travel or other reasons.

The book offers several suggestions to create a more robust and interactive online experience. I’ll be heading up our efforts to integrate our website and social media. I now have editing rights to the website, and by the time you read this message, there will be a feed of our regular Facebook posts and a link to our past Facebook Live videos on the homepage. There will also be links and promotional images for events happening in the church building such as TubaBach concerts. During weekly church services, I will be adding links to the online bulletin and information about upcoming events to the chat feature of Facebook Live. In coming weeks, I will be contacting committees to discuss updating the information on the website about their group’s purpose and activities. Since I’m on the Social Concerns Committee, I’m going to start with that group. Other committees should stay tuned for me to contact them.

Please let me know what you think of website changes and posts on Immanuel’s public Facebook page. I will need everyone’s help to make content accurate and current, so please send me information that should be broadcast through these online platforms. I look forward to enhancing our online presence and making progress towards becoming a hybrid church!

Leah Monger (LeahMonger@ferris.edu)



Resources from our North/West Lower Michigan Synod

1. Sunday sermons by our Synod staff will be available Sunday afternoons on the Synod YouTube.
2. On the same Synod YouTube homepage you can view the seminars on racial justice given by our Synod.

If you have a current email address, could you call the office and notify us for future mailings. You may also email Shirley at shirleyh403@gmail.com.

JULY Readings Schedule

(Readings from New Revised Standard)

July 3rd - 4th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am Worship - Pastor Dan Ward - In person worship & live stream on Facebook.



Readings:

Isaiah 66: 10-14

Psalm 66:1-9

Galatians 6: (1-6), 7-16

Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20

July 10th - 5th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am Worship - Rev. Teresa Foster - In person worship & live stream on Facebook.



Readings:

Deuteronomy 30: 9-14

Psalm 25: 1-10

Colossians 1: 1-14

Luke 10: 25-37

July 17th - 6th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am Worship - Pastor Dan Ward - in person worship & live stream on Facebook.



Readings:

Genesis 18: 1-10a

Psalm 15

Colossians 1: 15-28

Luke 10: 38-42

July 24th - 7th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am Worship - Rev. Robert Garrels - in person worship & live stream on Facebook.



Readings:

Genesis 18: 20-32

Psalm 138

Colossians 2: 6-15, (16-19)

Luke 11: 1-13

July 31st - 8th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am Worship - Lay Leader (Gunder Myran)
In person worship & live stream on Facebook



Readings:

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Psalm 49:1-12

Colossians 3: 1-11

Luke 12: 13-21



INDEPENDENCE
Day

July 4, 2022

YTD thru May 2022

Ministry Fund

Giving - \$61,107

Expenses -\$53,425

Building Fund

Giving - \$54,742

Mortgage Payments- \$50,512

IMMANUEL ACTIVITIES



Ongoing prayers for: Jean Swarthout, Elaine White, Len Crystal, Woody Neumann, Nancy McReynolds

Healing & Health Concerns for:

Roger O'Dell, Judy O'Dell, Phyllis Obermier-Striho, Linda & Barry Borton, Bob Krueger, Lucy Fredrick, Marcy Nelson, Fred Zimmerman, Mel Richardson, Mary Sutherlund, Alyssa Beeler, Bob Garrels, Virginia Schuberger, Jeremy Sarns and Steve Neumann.

Comfort: Alan (Andy) Anderson family
Rev. Jon Fleming family (United)

If you were left off this list, or if a birthday or anniversary is listed wrong, please contact the church office.

- 1 Roger O'Dell
- 9 Bonnie Biers
Leroy Larson
- 12 Diane Ludwick
Gary Richner
- 17 Mary Sutherlund
- 18 Megan Smith
- 22 Julie Vanhala
- 24 Troy Lindsey
Char Whitfield
- 26 Scott Weber
- 29 Vickie Vogel



- 8 Wendell & Chris Weber
- 14 David & Judy Misoni
- 19 Wayne & Anna May Schuberg
- 20 Gordon & Janet Mallett
- 24 Gary & Donna Richner

Meetings in person this month

Staff meeting **Tues. July 5 at 10:30 am**
Anderson family meeting w/Garrels **Wed. June 6 at 1:00 pm**
Alan Anderson Memorial **Sat. July 9 11:00 am w/ luncheon**
Council meeting **Sun. July 10 at 10:30 am**
Bible Study **Mon. July 11 at 1:00 pm**
Staff meeting **Tues. July 12 at 10:30 am**
Shepherd's Hooks & Needles **Tues. July 12 at Noon**
Worship & Music meeting **Tues. July 12 at 2:00 pm**
W/ELCA Board meeting **Sat. July 16 at 10:30 am**
Staff meeting **Tues. July 19 at 10:30 am**
Staff meeting **Tues. July 26 at 10:30 am**
Shepherd's Hooks & Needles **Tues. July 26 at Noon**
Hymn Planning committee **Tues. July 26 at 3:30 pm**

Prayers for our Community churches:

St. Andrew's Episcopal, Augustana Lutheran in Tustin, St. Paul's in Reed City, United Church, St. Peter's Lutheran, First United Methodist Big Rapids, Immanuel Lutheran in Big Rapids (All have had their share of problems with Leadership/Pastors serving the churches these past few years).

World Concerns Prayers:

Our President and Leaders of the Nation
Racism
Prayer of guidance for our neighborhood churches
People hurting, suffering, homeless
Concern for the Coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading in the US/Foreign Countries and people suffering losses during Covid-19 Pandemic
People in poverty (hunger, homeless)
Military troops in the U.S. and abroad
Wounded Warriors
Victims of Human Trafficking
Victims of natural disasters here & abroad
Victims of shootings, bombs, terrorist groups
Victims of hurricanes, flooding, earthquakes, volcanoes, devastating tornadoes (Kentucky) and wildfires
North Korea, Iran, Syria, Puerto Rico, Islamic community in New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Ukraine
Families of the mass shootings in US



PARISH NURSE

JULY

Continue to enjoy your summer and enjoy the long hours of daylight. Enjoy all the fresh fruits and vegetables and stay safe on the 4th of July.

Our Health News for July:

July is skin care during Sunshine month.

You also need sunscreen in shaded areas.

You will get sunburned faster if you are in the water.

Sun exposure is considered the single greatest risk for developing skin cancer.

The sun's strongest rays occur between 10am and 4pm.

Certain over-the-counter and prescription drugs can elevate your sensitivity to the sun rays...

The sun's rays contain 2 types of ultraviolet lights- Ultraviolet A and Ultraviolet B. UVA causes tanning, aging skin, and wrinkles. UVB causes sunburn. Use water resistant or waterproof sunscreen which protects against both UVA and UVB sun's rays and has an SPF of at least 15; apply every 2 hours after swimming or sweating to prevent sunburn.

Every time a person gets a skin tan or burn, DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) builds up in the deeper skin layers. If one has 5 or more burns in a life time, the chance of getting skin cancer doubles. Wear sunglasses, a brimmed hat, protective clothes, and use sunscreen SPF of at least 15.

If you have children, keep them in the shade on sunny days. Infants under 6 months should not be exposed to the sun. Seek emergency care if a child of any age has a sunburn with fever, blistering, severe pain or listlessness.

Risk factors for overexposure to damaging UV rays: 0-2 low, 3-5 moderate, 6-8 high, 8-10 very high, 11 extremely high. Hope you are having a wonderful summer while protecting your skin!

Blood Pressure Checks will be as needed.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in Hope." ... Romans 15:13

*Love In Christ,
Phyllis Lindsey, Parish Nurse*

Free to a good home! Must be able to transport to new location.

This oak, upright Kohler & Campbell piano needs a new home. It has an unstable leg but is otherwise in good shape. Call 231-796-8273 to schedule an appointment to see it and express interest. The dimensions are 22.5" deep x 43" tall x 58.5" long.



Update from Our Brothers Keeper Shelter is open year round, 24 hours a day. It does provide a place for individuals and families to work with staff to find housing, employment and referrals to other organizations that may be able to meet the needs of the guests. We currently have space for 15 men, 15 women and 3 special rooms for guests with children. From October 1, 2021 to June 15, 2022, we have served 203 adults and 44 children for a total of 247. We rely of many sources of funding including grants from the Salvation Army ESP program, Fremont Foundation, Mecosta and Osceola Community Foundations, and the many community donors who find it in their hearts to help others in need. This funding allows us to employ a trained staff as well as provide a secure facility.

Should you or your members come in contact with individuals in need of emergency housing, please feel free to refer them to OBK. A phone call to 231-629-8160 will let you know if there is a bed available and if we are full, we can refer the individual to another source or place them on our waiting list.

We ask that you pray for those who face homelessness that they may find a place of solace and rest so that they can move forward with their lives in a safe, secure environment.

President's Ponderings

Greetings in Christ. My hope is that this message finds you in good health and spirits. I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight a few things that are on my mind and some developments. As usual, feel free to ask me questions. First off, some news of note.

At the June Council meeting, the following action items were approved.

Creation of a communication manager position.

This position will be responsible for communication both internal and external relating to our ministries. This includes any publicity, website maintenance, social media posts and the like.

We are happy to report that Leah Monger has taken on this role, so watch for a unified approach to communications and an update on the website. (www.immanuelbr.com). See her message in this edition of the newsletter.

Approval to replace the entrance door. The current hardware in the door is no longer available, so the property committee is recommending the replacement of the door. The funds for this will come from the Marliss Myran Memorial Fund.

Approval to seek an estimate on the re-lamping of the church to LED bulbs. Most of the lighting in the church is older fluorescent technology which uses more energy and are less cost effective than current LED technology. With the new technology, it is not a simple as just replacing the bulb, so we need an estimate on the cost for this. Funds to pay for the estimate also from the MMM fund.

Other property things that will happen soon are a replacement for the mower shed and some other estimates for some mechanical items. Once these are approved, we will keep you posted.

Secondly, I'd like to take the time to provide some information about our arrangement with Tuba Bach and a secondary arrangement for use of our space. First off Tuba Bach.

As you are aware, Tuba Bach is using Immanuel as their new home for their concerts. Not only does this mean the traditional 6-concert session in the fall, but additional concerts throughout the year. This has increased attendance in our facility, and we are glad to provide this space so world-class music can be provided in our community. 1st Peter 4:9 says, "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling." As part of the community, we should do this without grumbling. We do get some benefits from this collaboration including the baby grand piano used for worship and the camera trial we have done. Additionally, our hope is to improve on the camera equipment and work out an arrangement where the cameras can

be more permanently mounted. Stay tuned!

Our newest building partner is SLA Read. This is a tutoring service that was most recently housed at Brookside Elementary. They needed the space for the school, so through a series of events, they will be using the conference room during the week for the tutoring services. Psalm 127: 3 states "Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him", so to keep the program running, we will be helping local children with learning needs. Please be aware that the conference room will be available for us to use in the evenings as they are usually done by 4pm daily. And they are paying some rent!

Finally, I would like to offer up some thanks. Doing so can be an issue as you sometimes miss someone, but I'll take that risk. First off, a **huge** thank you to Darrell Corrie for his faithful job of running the sound. He has done this for so long, we are on the second sound board. Second is Lee Wolken who has the unenviable task of finding supply pastors for us. There are not many to pick from and he's doing a great job. Next up is Troy Lindsay who steps in for me on occasion to stream the service. Last week when we met to go over the program, he helped me discover some nuances to the software that I hope to incorporate into the stream. I will repeat my request that if you want to learn sound or streaming, let me know. We even have a more comfortable chair in the balcony thanks to Phyllis Cousineau!

In Peace!
Dave

Herrick Fund Scholarship Applications

Attention, returning college students: If you have completed one year of college successfully, you are eligible to apply for a grant from the Herrick Fund for Higher Education. Established in 1989 to honor the memory of the Late Myrtle A. Herrick. The grant is administered under the direction of Church Council. Using interest from the endowment fund, the amount distributed varies depending upon the number of applicants and amount of interest available.

The grant is available to any student, including non-traditional students, pursuing an established curricula of his/her choice. The beneficiaries of this Fund "shall be selected without regard to race, age, location of, or type of higher learning institution." ***Last call week by July 8th for Herrick Fund applications due in the church office.*** Paperwork is available from Mary Larkin—contact Carol Wilson-Jungck (231-670-3220) if you would like additional information.

People are asking, “what is going on in the church and why aren’t we being told about it?”

As everyone is aware, the financial situation at Immanuel is stretched almost to capacity. In an effort to provide additional revenue, space is being provided for Tuba Bach and also for SLD-Read, a small, locally owned non-profit that provides tutoring for students. We have learned several lessons about being “landlords” during the process of becoming one, and have decided to implement a Building Use Team that will write policies/procedures, etc. for this process. Vickie Vogel, Cheryl Switzer, Phyllis Cousineau and Carol Wilson will begin the project, with input from Leah Monger and others as needed.

As you walk around the building, you are in the confines of a nearly twenty year old structure that is beginning to show its age. There are floors that have deteriorated, the front doors need to be replaced, ceilings that are stained, and within the next few years a roof to be replaced. A team of members are trying to address these structural issues, while adding to the usefulness of every room. Monies for the projects will come from the Marliss Myran Memorial Fund and not from the budget.

The start is moving the books, etc. on the back wall of the conference room out to allow full use of the room by our renter. For now, many of the books have been put into the shelves in the pastor’s office, but ultimately the central office space may be reconfigured to accommodate what has been recommended to save, including our historical materials/hutch area and a reference library. Pastor Garrels assisted in this effort.

Soon the narthex will be reconfigured. The mailboxes will be shifted into the Fellowship Hall for more privacy and a clearer path to the counter. Carpet will cover some of the area from the now-counter area to the coat closets. The ceiling will be painted, as well as the walls, and some new furniture will be added. Bids are being gathered and this information will be provided to the council for discussion.

Additionally, Lee Wolken has agreed to contact the health department to assess what changes are required to the kitchen area in order to serve the public.

As we determine the best way forward, we intend to keep the congregation “in the loop.” If you would like to donate time/energy/ideas to this effort to keep Immanuel afloat, please do not hesitate to step up! We welcome your input and assistance. ~Carol WJ

Carol Wilson Jungck



Picnic Time! We will have a church picnic on **August 28 at 1:00 PM** in Gunder Myran’s back yard at 8032 West Royal Rd, Canadian Lakes. After the picnic, there will be pontoon boat rides on the main lake at Canadian lakes. Please bring a dish to pass and your beverage choice. Table service will be provided. To ensure we have enough tables and chairs, please sign up on the counter in the narthex on the number of people attending and what you plan to bring. Invite your friends and neighbors also.

Church Council Meeting Minutes June 12, 2022

Present: Dave Scott, Steve Neumann, Nedra Neumann, Judy O’Dell, Melanie Richardson, Phyllis Cousineau, Roger Barr and Carol Wilson-Jungck

Absent: Tammy Lindsey and Megan Smith
The May Minutes were approved.

Phyllis Lindsey submitted a written report. Phyllis pointed out that was not receiving mileage check. Dave reported that it had been corrected.

President Dave Scott reported that we now use two cameras for Sunday Service. He also reported on the phone call results, and we discussed the phone call survey. He also indicated that he and Lee Wolken will get together to propose revisions to the Constitution. Dave also discussed the effect Pastor Brown’s suicide on congregational members. We will look into such things as grief counselling, or group therapy to support those needing help.

Committee Reports:

Worship & Music: The Sunday bulletins will be printed only in large font.

We will be spending the following from The Marliss Myron fund:

Communications Person; \$ 9000.00 Approx. per year.

New Front doors; @ \$ 9000.00 Approx. Amount approved.

Shed repair/replacement: Approx. \$ 2000.00. Awaiting further info.

New Lighting: Carol moved to provide \$ 1000.00 to start this project. Motion approved.

\$ 7000.00 will be added to the roofing fund.

Carol will develop a plan for revising the Narthex.

Steve will get info on cost of upgrading the kitchen.

To ensure better security, the Church doors will always be locked. A doorbell has been placed on the front door. For those wishing entry.

A midsize piano is being donated to the church. Steve moved acceptance. Motion approved.

Next meeting July 11, 2022, Roger Barr

Puzzle!

Search for and circle all the bold words from Psalm 18:2, which reminds us where we find our strength.

The **LORD** is **MY ROCK**, my **FORTRESS** and my **DELIVERER**; my **GOD** is my rock, in whom I **TAKE REFUGE**. **HE** is my **SHIELD** and the **HORN** of my **SALVATION**, my **STRONGHOLD**.

S	T	R	O	N	G	H	O	L	D	T	S
O	L	O	B	K	I	E	Y	E	J	S	A
R	E	F	U	G	E	I	Y	N	T	V	L
R	O	G	H	A	R	L	Q	R	A	Y	V
S	X	C	T	T	I	M	T	K	K	M	A
H	O	R	N	C	E	Y	R	A	E	D	T
I	G	F	V	L	O	L	K	E	N	S	I
E	N	F	O	R	T	R	E	S	S	G	O
L	T	U	R	G	Q	A	C	K	J	Q	N
D	C	D	E	L	I	V	E	R	E	R	E
K	Y	U	X	O	C	N	O	O	Y	Q	S
X	H	X	A	R	K	L	R	C	N	H	Y
G	O	D	T	D	K	A	D	K	U	D	X

GOD ROCKS!

2022 Council Members

Dave Scott, President	(231) 250-5067
Tammy Lindsey, Vice Pres.	(231) 519-1212
Roger Barr, Secretary	(231) 972-8276
Nedra Neumann, Treasurer	(231) 796-0956
Judy O'Dell	(231) 823-2845
Melanie Richardson	(231) 357-0863
Megan Smith	(231) 287-7022
Carol Wilson-Jungck	(231) 670-3220
Phyllis Cousineau	(231) 796-9574
Steve Neumann	(231) 796-0956

Committee Council Liaisons

Roger Barr - Property committee

Megan Smith – Social Concerns committee

Carol Wilson-Jungck – Celebrate Immanuel (CIF), Healing Garden, Worship & Music

Dave Scott – Finance Committee, Property committee

Steve Neumann - Worship & Music committee

Tammy Lindsey - Stewardship committee

Mel Richardson - Worship & Music committee

Phyllis Cousineau - Healing garden

Judy O'Dell - Church Life committee, W/ELCA

Committees and Organizations

Celebrate Immanuel (CIF)

Bob Krueger, Chairperson (231) 796-2012

Christian Education

Church Life

Carol Zimmerman, Chairperson (231) 796-2152

Kitchen Coordinator

Irene Schuberg, Funeral lunch (231) 796-7814

Finance

Nedra Neumann, Chairperson (231) 796-0956

Nedra Neumann, Treasurer (231) 796-0956

Roger Barr – Gifts/Memorials (231) 972-8276

Nominating Team (2021)

Phyllis Lindsey (231) 795-6400

Shirley Hamelund (231) 796-7763

Steve Neumann (231) 796-0956

Property

Tim Vogel, chairperson (231) 796-3860

Healing Garden Min.

Carol Wilson-Jungck, co-chair (231) 670-3220

Heritage team:

Carol Zimmerman (231) 796-2152

Office Staff

Mary Larkin, Administrative Asst. (Tues.-Thurs.)

Shirley Hamelund, Office Asst. (Mon, Tues, Thurs.)

Phyllis Lindsey, Parish Nurse (schedule varies)

Intentional Faith Development

Social Concerns (Risk-Taking Mission and Service)

Roger Barr, Chairperson (231)972-8276

Lee Wolken –Habitat/Humanity (231)972-7756

Stewardship (Extravagant Generosity)

Lee Wolken, Chairperson (231) 972-7756

Bob Krueger (231) 796-2012

David Scott (231) 250-5067

Vision (and Ministry Leadership Network)

Gunder Myran, Chairperson (231) 972-7405

Lee Wolken (231) 972-7756

Nedra Neumann – Small Groups (231) 796-0956

Welcoming Hospitality

Welcoming

Phyllis Lindsey – Prayer circle (231) 796-6400

Dee Neumann-Prayer Circle (231) 796-8385

Webmaster- Mary Larkin (231) 796-8273

Women of the ELCA

Dee Neumann, co-chair (231) 796-8385

Shirley Hamelund co-chair (231) 796-7763

Worship and Music (Passionate Worship)

David Scott, A/V team (231) 796-4618

Dee Neumann, Altar Guild (231) 796-8385

Carol Zimmerman, Altar Guild (231) 796-2152

Millie Gillies, Choir (231) 796-2460

Readers (Volunteer)

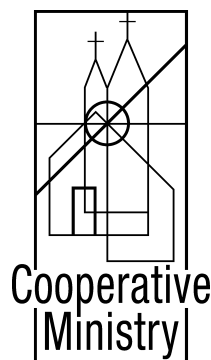
Ron Decker – Ushers (231) 796-2706

Bill Ballard – Ushers (231) 972-4413

Phyllis Lindsey, Worship Asst.
and Intinction Asst. (231) 796-6400

Dee Neumann, Weddings (231) 796-8385

Shirley Hamelund, Weddings (231) 796-7763





726 Fuller Ave.
Big Rapids, MI 49307
Address Change Requested

2022

