

2023 IMMANUEL STAFF AND COUNCIL

Staff

Lead Pastor.....Nate Loer
 Administrative Secretary.....Elana Seibert
 Custodian..... Ellen & Doug Carlstrom
 Bookkeeper..... Jil Fiemeyer
 Choir Director.....Deb Haraldson
 Accompanist.....Suzanne Moe

Council

President.....Robby Grendahl
 Vice President..... Jennifer Brunsberg
 Secretary.....Shaneen Schmidt
 Treasurer Tracy Church
 Financial SecretaryJane Bagstad
 Financial Vice-Secretary.....Gail Klunenberg
 Congregational Life Stephanie Drange
 Education vacant
 Finance.....Kent Schmidt
 OutreachSara Grabe
 Property Management.....Sam Sundby
 Worship and Music.....Pam Nelson
 Youth.....Sara Ross

Immanuel Lutheran Church Office 218-631-2738



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 403 SE 2ND ST
 PO BOX 69
 WADENA, MN 56482

Immanuel Lutheran News

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
 403 2ND ST SE—PO BOX 69
 WADENA, MINNESOTA 56482



*Called and united through the Gospel of
 Jesus Christ, our mission is to proclaim
 and respond to God's presence among us.*

January 2023

From the Desk of Pastor Nate...

New Year greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

This year, my plan is to share some brief reflections on a key Gospel text coming up in the month. Hopefully, these reflections give you pause to think about important movements in the church year and reflect on our Christian faith in general, too.



The Gospel text for Sunday, January 8 is Matthew 3:13-17. John is baptizing in the wilderness, preparing the way of the Lord. And then Jesus shows up. And John immediately realizes that this is the one he has been preparing the others to receive. And so John isn't sure he should baptize Jesus. He thinks it should be the other way around. Jesus says to him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). And John agreed. And when Jesus emerges from the Jordan river, Jesus, "saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased'" (Matthew 3:16b-17).

Several things are significant for us in this text. Let me briefly mention a couple. Notice that as Matthew tells this story, Jesus asks for baptism from John because it will "fulfill righteousness." The theme of fulfillment is huge in the Gospel of Matthew. As we explore Matthew this coming year, pay attention to all the times that Jesus' ministry is spoken of in those terms.

Secondly, the importance of Jesus' baptism is also in the way the Spirit of God rests on him, and the booming voice (presumably of God the Father) declares him to be his Son. This moment marks the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry and right from the beginning, the unity of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is clear. And Jesus' status as the Son of God is made clear, too. Yoking your life to His is pleasing to our Heavenly Father, too.

So as we begin our New Year, let us begin with these core convictions once again. That Jesus, the fulfillment of God's promises, is God's Son, who serves in unity with God the Father, and God the Holy Spirit. May you be rooted in Jesus' identity as the Son of God, and rooted in your own identity as children of God, too.


Humbly in Christ,

Pastor Nate

Pastor Nate

P.S. – Thank you for your continued prayers for my family in these challenging times, especially for our daughter, Amsale. If you haven't heard, she has a lesion on her back that is positive for T-cell Lymphoma, a rare blood cancer. As I write, we haven't yet traveled to the Mayo Clinic for the further tests needed to put a treatment plan together. We will share news with the congregation on Sunday mornings as we learn more.

**ILC
ANNUAL MEETING**


WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 25, 2023

5:30 PM - CONGREGATIONAL SUPPER
6:30 - ANNUAL MEETING

All confirmed members of the congregation are voting members and are encouraged to attend. The backup date for this meeting (in case of bad weather) is February 1.

New Member Interest Forum January 15
We're hosting a forum for anyone interested in learning more about Immanuel on Sunday, January 15 after the 9:30am service in the Friendship Room. This is a forum for anyone interested in learning more about Immanuel's mission and ministry, as well as those desiring to join the congregation at this time. We will receive new members Sunday, February 5. If you can't make the forum, but are still interested in more information, talk to Pastor Nate (nateloer@gmail.com; 218-640-5913)

Immanuel is seeking a creative, energetic, and mission-minded individual to serve as our full-time Youth, Family, Education, and Spiritual Gifts coordinator.

Visit www.wadenaimmanuel.org and click on the "We're Hiring" banner to learn more. Please share this information with anyone you think would be great at engaging people in the life of the church, especially those in the first third of their lives.



**SOUP TUESDAYS
ARE BACK!**



JANUARY 17 AT 12:00PM

**Women's
Ministry**

- Bible Study** - Tuesday, January 3 - 1:30pm
Tuesday, February 7 - 1:30pm
- Block Cutting** - Tuesday, January 3 - 9am
Monday, February 6 - 9am
- Quilting** - January 16 & 17 - 9am
February 20 & 21 - 9am




**Early
Risers Class**

NEW CLASS ON THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Join the early risers crew -- online or in person -- for a class on the Gospel of Matthew. We meet Sundays at 8am, starting January 8. Email Pastor Nate for the zoom link if you want to join online.



**What's
Happening**


January

- January 1**
Worship Service (see below)
- January 2**
Church Office Closed
- January 3**
9 am - Staff Meeting
9 am - ICW: Block Cutting
1:30 pm - ICW: Bible Study
- January 4**
12pm - Rotary (#2 D. Haraldson)
Wednesday Evening Activities (see below)
8 pm - Youth Council Meeting
- January 5**
10 am - Church Undecorating
1 pm - MAC/NAPS
- January 6**
1pm - Catholic Charities Frozen Meal Distribution
- January 8**
Worship Service (see below)
8am - Early Risers Class
- January 9**
5:30 pm - Boy Scouts
- January 10**
9 am - Staff Meeting
- January 11**
12 pm - Rotary (catered)
Wednesday Evening Activities
8 pm - ILC Council Meeting

- January 12**
6 pm - Northstar Round Table
- January 15**
Worship Service (see below)
8am - Early Risers Class
3 pm - Cub Scouts
- January 16**
9 am - ICW: Church Mice
- January 17**
9 am - ICW: Church Mice
9 am - Staff Meeting
12 pm - Soup Tuesday
5:30 pm - Dinner Club (TBD)
- January 18**
12 pm - Rotary (#3 N. Overland)
Wednesday Evening Activities (see below)
- January 22**
Worship Service (see below)
8am - Early Risers Class
- January 23**
7 pm - Book Club (Sharon Boline's home)
- January 24**
9 am - Staff Meeting
12 pm - Soup Tuesday
- January 25**
12 pm - Rotary (catered)
Wednesday Evening Activities
- January 26**
5 pm - Knute Nelson Grief Support (open to all)
- January 29**
Worship Service (see below)
8am - Early Risers Class
- January 31**
9 am - Staff Meeting
10:30 am - Knute Nelson Grief Support (closed group)
12 pm - Soup Tuesday

<u>Sunday Worship</u>	<u>Wednesday Evening</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:30 - Coffee Fellowship • 9:30 - In person & streaming worship on Facebook • 9:30 - Radio Broadcast 920AM or 101.7FM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:00 pm - Youth Choir • 5:15 pm - Dinner • 6:00 pm - Praise Worship • 6:45 pm - Wednesday Education (PrK-3rd; 4th-6th; 7th-9th) • 7:00 pm - Sanctuary Choir

BACKPACKS FOR KIDS



Our next food pack day for the WDC Weekend Backpacks Program is Thursday, January 5 at 3pm in the Elementary cafeteria. Join us as we work together to assemble 400 bags of weekend food for local kids in need.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATES

The council met on December 14, 2022. President Robby Grendahl called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Devotions were given by Pam Nelson.

Nominating Committee: *Kent Schmidt* – Still openings on Education Chair, Vice-president, and two nominating committee members.

Congregational Life: *Stephanie Drange*—Meet every Wednesday in kitchen. Treats this Sunday for pre-service. Wednesday night meal, then break until 1/4/23. Lent meals being planned.

Outreach Evangelism: *Sara Grabe* – Did not meet. Gauging interest of youth in YGA mission work.

Parish Education: *vacant* – Did not meet.

Property Management: *Sam Sundby* – Did Not Meet. Boiler project – completed. Sanctuary lights – some are burnt out, need a lift to replace.

Worship and Music: *Pam Nelson* – Met on 11-15-2022. **Wednesday evening:** Acolyting is going well. They are enthusiastic. High schoolers are hard to get to attend Wednesdays as many of them have jobs. Weekly gathering for them is tough. We will visit with the youth. **Sunday mornings:** Liturgies are well received. What should be included during seasonal components is something to think about. **Budget:** Requested budget for 2023 will be given to the Finance Committee. “Emergency” leadership plan is moving forward. Screens in the Sanctuary: Various options for the future will be explored. Slides currently displayed: Discussion was had for smoothing the content flow and increasing accuracy.

Youth Leadership: *Sara Ross*— Met on 12/7/22. Ratified two new members Isabelle Lehmkuhl and Anna Fiemeyer. Thank you to everyone that helped with the Thank You Thanksgiving dinner, it was a great night of fellowship. Youth led service Sunday, January 8th. Nooma night Sunday, January 8th at the Ross home from 5:30-8:00, all 9th-12 graders welcome. Skating event for all youth and families Sunday, February 19th from 4-7 p.m. at Tracy and Pat Hegerty's.

Immanuel Church Women: *Diane Teigland* – Kits and quilts were shipped last week. Carol Aldeen will submit numbers. Not quilting in December.

Lead Pastor: *Pastor Nate Loer*— **November Early December Highlights:** Backpacks program just had its 3rd packing day. Great turnout! We continue to distribute over 100 bags each week. We have a wonderful team of volunteers who help make it happen. Helped with the Thank You Thanksgiving Dinner. Great dinner. Especially thankful to Sara Ross and her family for being so organized. Took three 6th graders and Phil Ross as a “WHEATY” (Peer mentor) to the middle school youth gathering November 18-19. We had a great time! We hope to get more kids to go next year. Pam Nelson did a great job sharing on Thanksgiving Eve. Very nice service. Getting Through the Holidays was done in cooperation with Knute Nelson Hospice on November 17. Very meaningful to be with those experiencing loss around the holidays. Presided over funeral services for LeRoy Hoffman (November 21), Roland Larson (November 23), Marlin Olson, Sr. (November 29), and Janice Stahl (December 2). It's always an honor to provide words of comfort and hope to families in grief. Continue to offer a weekly 8am class on Sundays. In person and online. A class on Matthew begins January 8.

Looking Ahead: Youth Christmas Program December 18 at 9:30am and December 21 at 6pm. Come support our young people and hear the Christmas story! Christmas Eve services are 3:30 and 5:30pm. December 25 and January 1 services are 9:30am. Many of you have heard about Amsale's health. We travel to the Mayo Clinic again on December 29 for more tests and to meet with specialists. We appreciate all of your prayers and support.

Financial Secretary Report: *Jane Bagstad & Gail Klunenberg*— Total of Sunday general offerings counted and deposited in November 2022: \$20,837.50. This does not include direct deposit offerings.

Treasurers Report: *Tracy Church* - General Fund Register: General Fund Register: Balance as of 11/30/22 \$62,842.00

Finance Committee: *Kent Schmidt*— Met on 12/6/22. Discussed budget proposed. Motion to accept by Shaneen Schmidt and second by Sara Grabe. Will submit to annual meeting.

New Business: New Staff: Key Next Steps Received positive feedback for youth and family coordinator position. Want our pastor happy. Reviewed and solidified job description for youth and family coordinator. Post immediately, look at online options. Will share on our newsletter, word of mouth, Facebook, etc. Establish interview team (Jennifer Brunsberg, Pastor Nate Loer, Sarah Ross). Motion by Robby Grendahl, second by Sara Grabe. Motion carried. Annual report reminder: Chairpersons need to submit annual report of respective committee to church secretary. The meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

FINANCIAL UPDATE



GENERAL FUND	
11/6/2022	5220
11/13/2022	2076
11/20/2022	3614
11/27/2022	2793
Electronic Giving	560
Direct Deposit	9387
TOTAL GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS	23650
EXPENSES	
Benevolences	3123
Programs	1997
Staff including taxes and benefits	16461
Operations	733
Building Expenses	1105
TOTAL EXPENSES	23419
Gain/Loss	231
General Fund Register Balance as of 11/30/2022	62842

RESTRICTED				
	Balance 11/1/2022	Gifts & Additions	Payments	Balance 11/30/2022
Backpacks for Kids	\$1,021			1,021
Bell/Carillon	\$250			250
Community Dinner	\$1,595			1,595
Cooking Matters (Ministerial Association)	\$875		369	506
Good Samaritan	\$2,599		100	2,499
General Reserve Funds	\$10,849			10,849
Giving Tree	\$6,055	200	294	5,961
Global Mission	\$65			65
God's Work Our Hands	\$100			100
Infant Care Kits	\$50			50
Lenten Supper	\$4			4
Library Fund	\$125			125
Luther Crest Scholarships	\$472			472
Lutheran World Relief	\$150			150
Medical Mission	\$5,000			5,000
Ministerial Fund	\$500	100		600
Organ Fund	\$537			537
Parish Nursing	\$487			487
Piano Fund	\$3,355	500		3,855
Puppet Ministry	\$396			396
Scholarship Fund	\$8,070			8,070
Soup Tuesday	\$904			904
Sunday School	\$292			292
Ukraine	\$100			100
VBS	\$1,175			1,175
Wadena Food Shelf/Food Shelf	\$90	567		657
Wed. Night Faith Formation Supper	\$328		30	298
Worship and Music	\$2,514			2,514
YAGM	6866			6,866
Restricted Fund Register Balance	\$54,824	1,367	793	55,398

BUILDING FUND	
Building Fund Balance	11/1/2022
Deposits & Interest	179
Payments	0
Building Fund Register Balance	11/30/2022
	38782