2023 IMMANUEL STAFF AND COUNCIL

Staff

Lead Pastor	Nate Loer
Administrative Secret	aryElana 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 Secretary	Jane Bagstad
Financial Vice-Secretary	Gail Kluenenberg
Congregational Life	Stephanie Drange
Education	vacant
Finance	Kent Schmidt
Outreach	Sara Grabe
Property Management	Sam Sundby
Worship and Music	Pam Nelson
Youth	Sara Ross

Immanuel Lutheran Church Office 218-631-2738



WADENA, MN 56482 403 SE 2ND ST MARAULE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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.

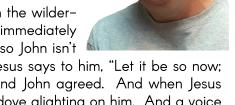
January 2023

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 "fulfil righteousness." The theme of fulfilment 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.

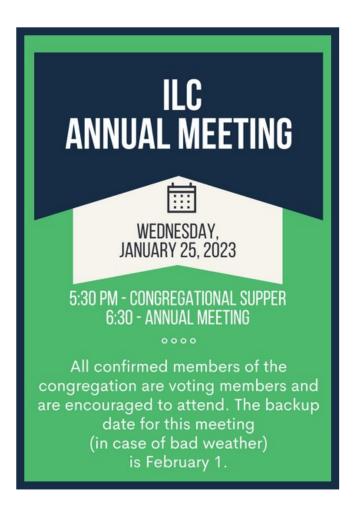
So as we begin our New Year, let us begin with these core convictions once again. That Jesus, the fulfilment of God's promises, is God's Son, who serves in unity with God the Father, and God the Holy Spirit. May you be rooted in Jesus' identity as the Son of God, and rooted in your own identity as children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



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@amail.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 <u>www.wadenaimmanuel.org</u> 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.



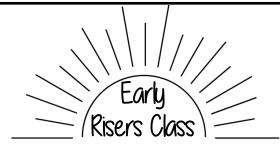
Women's Ministry

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





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.





<u>January</u>

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

lanuary 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)

Ianuary 29

Worship Service (see below)

8am – Early Risers Class

January 31

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9 am - Staff Meeting

10:30 am - Knute Nelson Grief Support (closed group)

12 pm - Soup Tuesday

Sunday Worship

- 8:30 Coffee Fellowship
- 9:30 In person & streaming worship on Facebook
- 9:30 Radio Broadcast 920AM or 101.7FM

Wednesday Evening

- 5:00 pm Youth Choir
- 5:15 pm Dinner
- 6:00 pm Praise Worship
- 6:45 pm Wednesday Education $(PrK-3^{rd}: 4^{th}-6^{th}: 7^{th}-9^{th})$
- 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. <u>Sunday mornings:</u> Liturgies are well received. What should be included during seasonal components is something to think about. <u>Budget:</u> 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 arief. 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 gagin 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 Kluenenberg— 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.

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	38603		
Deposits & Interest		179		
Payments		0		
Building Fund Register Balance 11/30/2022		38782		