

2023 IMMANUEL STAFF AND COUNCIL

Staff

Lead Pastor.....Nate Loer
 Youth & Family
 Spiritual Gifts Coordinator.....Elana Seibert
 Administrative Secretary.....Tracy Church
 Custodian.....Ellen & Doug Carlstrom
 Bookkeeper.....Jil Fiemeyer
 Choir Director.....Deb Haraldson

Council

President.....Jennifer Brunsberg
 Vice President.....Mike Brunsberg
 Secretary.....Meagan Ferris
 Treasurer.....Jena Osberg
 Financial Secretary.....Gail Klueenberg
 Financial Vice-Secretary.....Sue Johnson
 Congregational Life.....Peggy Larson
 Education.....vacant
 Finance.....Bryan Greenwaldt
 Outreach.....Rick Johnson
 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
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 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 2024



From the Desk of Pastor Nate...

If you're looking for a New Year's resolution, might I suggest reading the Gospel of Mark? I'm starting a 10-week class on January 7 that you can join in person or via Zoom at 8am on Sundays through the end of April (with breaks here and there). But you can certainly just read Mark on your own as well. And my plan is to spend time in my newsletter articles each month reflection on Mark as well. By way of introduction, here are a couple things to pay attention to in Mark's gospel (I'll have 2 or three more tips next month!). I am indebted to Donald Juel and his book, "A Master of Surprise" for these reflections.

1. **Pay attention to how Jesus transgresses boundaries.** In Mark's gospel, we get right to the story of Jesus. Within a few verses, we meet John the Baptist and by verse 11, Jesus has already been baptized. And in that story of Jesus' baptism, Juel suggests that while the account of Jesus' baptism "lasts no more than a few seconds. . . much happens in these few verses that is important in understanding the character of Mark's story." (page 33) There is something unique in Mark's use of the word *schizo* (tear or rip) instead of *anoigo* (open) when he describes the opening of the heavens. *Schizo* also shows up at the end of the gospel. When Jesus dies, the curtain of the temple, that which divided the Holy of Holies from the rest of the temple, was torn in two (15:38). In a convincing way, at both the beginning and end of the Gospel, Mark has described God's tearing of the boundary between Himself and humanity. Jesus himself will reflect this transgression in his own ministry. He comes into contact with the outcasts of society and crosses social boundaries that no other people were willing to cross. People possessed by demons, people with disease, and even a woman with a twelve-year flow of blood were touched by this Jesus, who, just like His Father, transgressed boundaries. As we encounter Mark's gospel, pay attention as we hear about a God who is willing to transgress all kinds of boundaries in order to touch the untouchable.

2. **Pay attention to the parables Jesus tells.** The parables in Mark, according to Juel, speak to the surprising nature of Jesus' ministry. If Jesus is here to usher in God's Kingdom, he is doing it in a funny and perhaps careless way. Jesus is criticized by those of power "for his willingness to associate with the unwashed and to transgress the sacred boundaries by which the religious community orders its life. Jesus is dangerous, and Mark makes little effort to disguise the danger." (Page 55) In short, Jesus is just like the sower, practicing seemingly careless agricultural habits by carelessly spreading the seed. Yet, just as the sower surprisingly harvests a bountiful crop, so too will Jesus' ministry be successful. God has a way of surprising us with his amazing growth in areas that seem barren. As you read Mark, look for other parables and what they say about Jesus' surprising ministry.

Blessings to you in 2024. Stay rooted in God's Word!!

Humbly in Christ,

Pastor Nate

Pastor Nate

The council met on Sunday, December 10, 2023. Vice President Mike Brunsberg called the meeting to order.

Congregational Life: *Peggy Larson— Met on November 15, 2023*

The Advent potluck and craft event on December 3rd was well attended and we received positive feedback from those who attended. Another event will be held sometime this winter. We agreed on requesting money from the endowment committee to help with the cost of Wednesday night meals and for future events.

Outreach Evangelism: *Rick Johnson—Did not meet*

Parish Education: *Vacant—Did not meet*

Property Management: *Sam Sundby—Did not meet*

Worship and Music: *Pam Nelson— Did not meet*

The Sanctuary Choir sang at the Thanksgiving Eve service, as well as the December 3rd service. We are continuing with Advent services on Wednesday's and Sunday's. The choir Christmas concert was on December 10th. The Youth Christmas concert will be on December 17th and December 20th. Christmas Eve services will be at 9:30 am, 3:30 pm and 5:30 pm.

Youth Leadership: *Sara Ross—Met on December 6, 2023*

Sunday, December 17th and Wednesday, December 20th will be the Youth Christmas Programs. The Giving Tree wrapping will be December 18th from 4:30 to 7 pm. February 21st will be the Youth Lent Takeover (making and serving dinner and leading worship). The youth will help with the Congregational Life Bingo event in February. Youth hosted event/baked potato bar being planned for sometime in March. In the planning process of an ice skating event in February. Still recruiting members.

Endowment Committee

Received farmland in ND that will immediately be sold and the funds will be placed into the endowment fund. Peggy Larson motions to accept resolution. Rick Johnson seconded. Motion carried. Endowment wishes to grant funds in these areas: \$2000 ILC for Thrivent grant matches, \$2000 to Congregational Life, \$500 to Allison Olsson (Focus Ministry) Peggy Larson motions to accept all requests. Pam Nelson seconded. Motion carried.

Immanuel Church Women: *Diane Teigland- Did not meet.*

Lead Pastor: *Pastor Nate Loer— November/Early December Highlights:* 1. Helped Knute Nelson with "Getting Through the Holidays" on November 20. Not great attendance, but it was an important event for the people who attended. 2. I enjoyed speaking on Thanksgiving Eve, but attendance was very poor. 3. Have been working with the finance team to get the 2024 budget ready. 4. On December 7 we had another food pack for the Weekend Backpacks program. We've had great turnout for all our packing events this year. 5. Today was choir Sunday. We are so fortunate to have a great music ministry program here at Immanuel thanks to great musicians and great leadership. 6. Presided at the funeral for Steve Klueenberg on December 6. **Looking Ahead:** 1. Putting LWR personal care kits together with confirmation students December 13. 2. Youth Christmas program December 17 & 20. 3. Christmas Eve services (December 24) 9:30a, 3:30p, 5:30p. 4. Our next food pack is January 4 at 2:30

Financial Secretary Report: *Gail Klueenberg & Sue Johnson* - Total of Sunday and Wednesday general offerings counted and deposited in November 2023 was \$23,689.17. This did not include direct deposit offerings.

Treasurers Report: *Jena Osberg*

GENERAL FUND

Total General Contributions: November 2023	\$32,966
Total Expenses:	\$42,261
General Fund Register: Balance as of November 30, 2023	\$108,918
Building Fund:	\$21,194

Finance Committee: *Bryan Greenwaldt— Met on December 3, 2023*

Went over a preliminary draft of the budget. On 12/5 the finance committee met and has a proposed '24 budget to bring before council. Council votes to approve the 2024 budgets. Rick Johnson motions to approve. Sue Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

FINANCIAL UPDATE



GENERAL FUND	
11/5/2023	8665
11/12/2023	8153
11/19/2023	3099
11/26/2023	2232
Electronic Giving	1410
Direct Deposit	9407
TOTAL GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS	32966
EXPENSES	
Benevolences	16140
Programs	1306
Staff including taxes and benefits	22416
Operations	904
Building Expenses	1494
TOTAL EXPENSES	42261
Gain/Loss	-9294
General Fund Register Balance as of 11/30/23	108918

RESTRICTED				
	Balance 11/1/2023	Gifts & Additions	Payments	Balance 11/30/2023
Backpacks for Kids	\$7,147			\$7,147
Bell/Carillon	\$250			\$250
Cooking Matters (Ministerial Association)	\$1,506			\$1,506
Easter Giving Blitz	\$0	100.00		\$100
Good Samaritan	\$1,949	965.00		\$2,914
General Reserve Funds	\$10,849			\$10,849
Giving Tree	\$4,204	445.00	280.00	\$4,369
Global Mission	\$1,495	30.00		\$1,525
Infant Care Kits	\$50			\$50
Library Fund	\$125			\$125
Luther Crest Scholarships	\$472			\$472
Lutheran World Relief	\$250			\$250
Medical Mission	\$5,000			\$5,000
Ministerial Fund	\$500			\$500
Organ Fund	\$537			\$537
Parish Nursing	\$487			\$487
Piano Fund	\$538			\$538
Scholarship Fund	\$8,070			\$8,070
School Kits	\$15			\$15
Sunday School	\$292			\$292
VBS	\$377			\$377
Wadena Food Shelf/Food Shelf	\$2,000			\$2,000
Wed. Night Faith Formation Supper	\$684		566.15	\$118
Wednesday Offering	\$669			\$669
Worship and Music	\$2,514			\$2,514
YAGM	\$7,116			\$7,116
Restricted Fund Register Balance	\$57,096	1,540.00	846.15	\$57,790

BUILDING FUND	
Building Fund Balance 11/1/2023	20810
Deposits & Interest	384
Payments	
Building Fund Register Balance 11/30/2023	21194

Wednesday Evenings at Immanuel Resume January 3!

DINNER 5:15-6:00
WORSHIP 6:00-6:30
EDUCATION 6:45-7:30

ILC Annual Meeting

All confirmed members of the congregation are voting members and are encouraged to attend. The back-up date for this meeting (in case of bad weather) is Wednesday, February 7th.

Wednesday
January 31, 2024

5:30 PM - Congregational Dinner
6:30 PM - Annual Meeting

Dinner Club will meet
Monday, January 15th
@ El Mariachi - 5:30 pm.

Women's Ministry

Bible Study - Tuesday, January 9 @ 1:30 pm
(November "Gather" Study)
Tuesday, February 13 @ 1:30 pm
(January "Gather" Study)

Block Cutting - Monday, January 8 @ 9:00 am
Monday, February 12 @ 9:00 am

Quilting - January 15 & 16 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
February 19 & 20 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

SUNDAY WORSHIP MINISTRY

Sign up outside the church office to usher, lector, assist with communion, and/or provide special music for Sunday worship services!



Early Risers Class

Join us for an in-depth study of the Gospel of Mark, beginning Sunday, January 7th @ 8:00 am. Join us in person (Friendship Room) or via zoom. Email Pastor Nate for the Zoom link (nateloer@gmail.com).

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM IMMANUEL

Soup Tuesdays

January 9, 16, 23, 30
February 6, 13

With serving beginning @ NOON

Join the Immanuel staff for a hot bowl (or two) of soup and conversation! Come when you can and leave when you must. A free-will offering will go to support the WDC Weekend Food Program.

What's Happening

- January 1 - New Year's Day
OFFICE CLOSED
- January 2
9 am - Staff Meeting
- January 3
12 pm - Rotary (Catered)
Wednesday Discipleship Schedule (see below)
7:30 pm - ILC Youth Council Meeting
- January 4
1 pm - MAC/NAPS
2:30 pm - Backpack Food Pack
- January 5
1 pm - Catholic Charities Frozen Meal Distribution
- January 7
Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
- January 8
9 am - ICW Block Cutting
- January 9
9 am - Staff Meeting
10:30 - Knute Nelson Grief Support Group
(Friendship Room - 8 week Session - must be registered)
- January 10
1:30 pm - ICW Bible Study
- January 10
12 pm - Rotary (Group #2 D.Haraldson)
Wednesday Discipleship Schedule (see below)
- January 11
6 pm - Northstar Round Table
- January 14
Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
4:30 pm - ILC Council Meeting

Sunday Worship Schedule

- 8:30 - Coffee Fellowship
- 9:30 - Worship (LIVE on YouTube)
- 9:30 - Radio Broadcast 920 AM or 101.7 FM



Wednesday Worship Schedule

- 5:15 pm - Congregational Dinner
- 6:00 pm - Praise Worship (Sanctuary)
- 6:45 pm - Wednesday Education
- 7:00 pm - Sanctuary Choir
(All are welcome to join the choir!!)

- January 15 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
OFFICE CLOSED
9 am - ICW Church Mice
5:30 pm - Dinner Club @ El Mariachis
- January 16
9 am - ICW Church Mice
9 am - Staff Meeting
10:30 - Knute Nelson Grief Support Group
(Friendship Room - 8 week Session - must be registered)
- January 17
12 pm - Rotary (Catered)
Wednesday Discipleship Schedule (see below)
- January 21
Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
- January 22
7 pm - Book Club @ Sharon Boline's
- January 23
9 am - Staff Meeting
10:30 - Knute Nelson Grief Support Group
(Fellowship Hall - 8 week Session - must be registered)
- 11 am - Dementia Support Group
(Friendship Room - all are welcome!)
- January 24
12 pm - Rotary (Group #3 N.Overland)
Wednesday Discipleship Schedule (see below)
- January 28
Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
- January 30
9 am - Staff Meeting
10:30 - Knute Nelson Grief Support Group
(Friendship Room - 8 week Session - must be registered)
- January 31
12 pm - Rotary (Catered)
No Wednesday Discipleship
5:30 pm - Congregational Dinner
6:30 pm - ILC Annual Meeting

Backpacks for Kids

Next food pack will be
Thursday, January 4 @ 2:30 pm in the elementary cafeteria.
Volunteers are much appreciated
as we will be packing 400 bags for our community youth!

BOOK CLUB

MONDAY, January 22nd
7 PM @ SHARON BOLINE'S
1114 KING AVE SW, APT 404

WE WILL READ "ONCE I WAS YOU"
A MEMOIR BY MARIA HINOJOSA.

EVERYONE INTERESTED IS WELCOME TO ATTEND!!
** EVERY 4TH MONDAY OF THE MONTH (SEPT - MAY) **