

## 2024 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.....Mike Brunsberg  
 Vice President.....Margie Anderson  
 Secretary.....Jeanne Olson  
 Treasurer.....Jena Osberg  
 Financial Secretary.....Sue Johnson  
 Financial Vice-Secretary.....Jane Bagstad  
 Congregational Life.....Peggy Larson  
 Education.....vacant  
 Finance.....Bryan Greenwaldt  
 Outreach.....Rick Johnson  
 Property Management.....Steph Drange  
 Worship and Music.....Anne Oldakowski  
 Youth.....Katie Johnson

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.*

September 2024

### From the Desk of Pastor Nate...

As the seasons change from late summer to early autumn, grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus. Hard to believe the calendar is already flipping to September. May it be a time of getting back to many of the things we love around here at Immanuel, including Wednesday education, fellowship, and worship, and some of our favorite service projects, too.



I am also excited to keep digging into the Gospel of Mark. This month's set of readings are from Mark 8:27-10:52 and are all about Jesus preparing his disciples for his suffering and death. Let me focus on just a few key sections.

In 8:27-30, Jesus confirms his identity as the Messiah, but he orders them to tell no one about him. Why? Because they do not yet fully understand what being the Messiah means. He will NOT deliver them from their enemies with sword and earthly might – but with something else.

In 8:31-33, Jesus predicts his death for the first time in Mark. And already, the disciples cannot believe their ears. Peter insists that it will not be so. But Jesus rebukes him – even calls him Satan – and insists that to stand in his way to the cross is to oppose the very ways of God.

In 8:34-9:1, Jesus turns his focus to his disciples and prepares them for their own suffering as well. He tells them that following him means they will pick up their crosses, too. The same followers who went into the world with his authority to heal and cast out demons will also suffer with Jesus, too.

In chapter 9:2-13, Jesus and his inner core of disciples ascend a mountain and Jesus is transfigured before them. He turns dazzling white, Moses and Elijah appear before them, and a voice booms out from heaven declaring that this Jesus is God's Son. It's an obvious revelation of who Jesus is, and yet, it doesn't change his mission to die on the cross. Soon they descend the mountain and within a few more verses, Jesus predicts his death a second time (Mark 9:30-32).

Even as Jesus teaches them about humility and suffering, the disciples can't quite get past their idea that Jesus will soon be assuming earthly power. And so they ask him for their share of that power several times in this section of Mark. Nevertheless, Jesus keeps pointing them toward his own suffering and calling them to humility. In Mark 10:43-45, he tells them that greatness in God's kingdom isn't measured by earthly power. It is measured by humility and a willingness to serve. Challenging teachings. But truthful.

Keep reading Mark's gospel, my friends! And keep seeking greatness by following Christ's example of love and humility.

Humbly in Christ,

Pastor Nate

Pastor Nate

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATES

The council met on Wednesday, August 14, 2024. President Mike Brunsberg called the meeting to order.  
**Endowment Committee:** Pastor Nate reported that \$1350 of Endowment funds was used to purchase battery chargers for hurricane relief kits. 110 battery chargers were ordered and shipped down to New Orleans. A motion was made by Marie Anderson and seconded to approve the money used to buy battery chargers for the hurricane relief kits from the Endowment Fund.

**Congregational Life:** *Peggy Larson– Met Tuesday, August 13, 2024.* We served VBS meals and served on average 40 meals per night. A congregational fall kick off meal will be served on September 4 and door prizes will be given away. The Wednesday night meal menu is set and will be posted. We will be offering To Go meals for youth who are unable to attend the meal but are attending education time. A sign up sheet will be posted asking for desserts for Wednesday meals. In addition to our Wednesday meals, Meagan Ferris is putting together a game/art cart for youth and adults to use before and after they eat.

**Outreach Evangelism:** *Rick Johnson–* A committee will meet on September 8 to review the cards received with any questions. Another committee meeting will be held on September 10 to react to any questions received on the cards.

**Parish Education:** *Vacant–Did not meet*

**Property Management:** *Steph Drange – Did not meet*

**Worship and Music:** *Anne Oldakowski– Next meeting will be August 26, 2024–* The new accompanist, Matthew Greenwaldt is working out well; he plays the 3rd Sunday of the month. Committee is looking to order replacement books for "Now the Feast," and looking at options for a more stable Sanctuary screen. Also to be discussed: organ volume. Wednesday services start September 4, Rally Sunday is September 8th.

**Youth Leadership:** *Katie Johnson–Did not meet*

**Immanuel Church Women:** *Diane Teigland–* The ICW has been cutting blocks and serving for funerals throughout the summer. Diane will purchase coffee and please let her know when it is needed.

**Lead Pastor:** *Pastor Nate Loer—*June, July & early August highlights: 1. Summer worship has been going well. It would always be nice to see more people, but we understand that summer comes just once a year. 2. VBS was August 4–8 and was great. 30 kids and 20 adults took part. And the congregational life team served supper each night. I got to share opening and closing music every day which was fun. 3. We sent 3 youth and 2 adults to New Orleans for the ELCA Gathering July 15–21. Over 16,000 participants attended. Gathering will be in Minneapolis in the summer of 2027. 4. Elana reports we sent eight kids to Bible camp this summer. Next year, we're going to offer 100% scholarships to every kid who wants to go to camp. 5. Recent funerals/Burials: Lorraine Kuyava (June 15); Nancy Nordquist (June 21), Adele Leeseberg (July 24), Char Schloeder (July 27), Arlene Krell (August 9), Robert Grendahl (August 10). It is always an honor to walk alongside families as they lay their loved ones to rest. 6. Weddings: Was part of Tyler Wheeler and Anne Domanus' wedding July 13 in Cambridge. Have two more couples I'm working with who will be married in September. 7. Vacation: Enjoyed time away from the office July 6–12 and July 29–August 4. Thank you to our hosts and to Jill for providing pulpit supply. **Coming Up:** 1. I plan to be out of the office Monday August 26–Sunday September 1. 2. We are ramping up for fall– and there is a lot to do.

**Financial Secretary Report:** *Given by Jane Bagstad –* The total of Sunday general offerings counted and deposited in July was \$16,299. This does not include direct deposits.

**Treasurers Report:** *Jena Osberg*

**GENERAL FUND**

Total General Contributions: July 2024	\$25,158.00
Total Expenses:	\$27,016.00
<b>General Fund Register: Balance as of July 31, 2024</b>	<b>\$107,345.00</b>
<b>Building Fund:</b>	<b>\$24,553.00</b>
<b>Restricted Fund Balance:</b>	<b>\$59,301.00</b>

**Finance Committee:** *Bryan Greenwaldt – "Email" meeting August 2, 2024 –* I sent out the "Budget v.s. Actual" numbers for the first half of 2024 for the committee to review. All line items are right on track with the budget. We will be scheduling a meeting in September to start discussing Stewardship.

**Other Business –** The council discussed the Jeremiah 29 community project. There is a Community Project Committee with an expense of \$450 a year. The council was supportive of this project and a motion was made by Peggy Larson and seconded by Sue Johnson to fund up to \$450 a year for up to three years to be shared with the community project committee. Motion passed. The council discussed the continuing project of obtaining more Immanuel family pictures for the church directory. It was decided that on September 15 and 22 a schedule of 5–10 minute slots would be available one and one half hours before and one and one half hours after church services for those families who wish to have their pictures in the directory. These dates will be for a professional photographer. October 1st will be the last date to text pictures to Pastor Nate. More candid pictures will be taken on August 18th and the 25th at Immanuel for those families who wish to participate in this manner.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Motion made by Mike Brunsberg to adjourn. Peggy Larson seconded. Motion carried.

# FINANCIAL UPDATE



GENERAL FUND	
7/7/2024	8084
7/14/2024	2274
7/21/2024	2601
7/28/2024	3240
Electronic Giving	470
Direct Deposit	8489
<b>TOTAL GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>25158</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Benevolences	440
Programs	784
Staff including taxes and benefits	24083
Operations	600
Building Expenses	1109
TOTAL EXPENSES	27016
<b>Gain/Loss</b>	<b>-1858</b>
<b>General Fund Register Balance as of 07/31/2024</b>	<b>107345</b>

	RESTRICTED			
	Balance 7/1/2024	Gifts & Additions	Payments	Balance 7/31/2024
Backpacks for Kids	\$8,334	\$2,000		\$10,334
Bell/Carillon	\$250			\$250
Cooking Matters (Ministerial Association)	\$1,094			\$1,094
Congregational Life	\$2,000			\$2,000
Easter Giving Blitz	\$100			\$100
Good Samaritan	\$2,814		\$500	\$2,314
General Reserve Funds	\$10,849			\$10,849
Giving Tree	\$1,718			\$1,718
Global Mission	\$1,615	\$30		\$1,645
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	\$300	\$200	\$500	\$0
Organ Fund	\$537			\$537
Parish Nursing	\$487			\$487
Piano Fund	\$413			\$413
Soup Tuesday	\$620			\$620
Scholarship Fund	\$570	\$5,000		\$5,570
School Kits	\$15			\$15
Sunday School	\$292			\$292
Thrivent Micro Grant	\$1,500		\$234	\$1,266
VBS	\$377			\$377
Wadena Food Shelf/Food Shelf	\$1,612	\$2,000		\$3,612
Wednesday Offering	\$281			\$281
Worship and Music	\$2,514			\$2,514
YAGM	\$7,116			\$7,116
<b>Restricted Fund Register Balance</b>	<b>\$51,305</b>	<b>9,230.00</b>	<b>1,233.82</b>	<b>\$59,301</b>

BUILDING FUND	
<b>Building Fund Balance 7/1/2024</b>	24553
Deposits & Interest	405
Payments	
<b>Building Fund Register Balance 7/31/2024</b>	<b>24958</b>



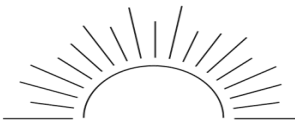
### We Need Your Pictures for the Church Directory!

After a LOT of work from our directory team (Thank you Pam Nelson, Jennifer Brunsberg, and Shaneen Schmidt!), we have made LOTS of updates to our church roster. Now it's time to get current pictures of everyone so we can print and distribute church directories! Yay!! There are several ways we can get a picture of you and your family:

- 1) If you haven't already, show up with your family on our final **candid picture day on Wednesday, September 11**. This is also a great time to make sure we have all your contact info 100% correct.
- 2) **Submit a recent photo** of you and your family. You can email pictures to: [church@wadenaimmanuel.org](mailto:church@wadenaimmanuel.org)
- 3) **Have a professional picture taken September 15 or 22**. Sierra Rach will be taking pictures in our Friendship Room before or after worship (8-9:15 am, 10:35-11:45 am). There is no obligation to purchase, but you would have the option to order pictures if you'd like. Sign up for a 5-minute slot by stopping by or calling the church office.
- 4) If you or a member of your household is homebound, **we can come to your home to take a picture** if you don't have another family member who could do this for you. Again, contact the church office if you would like us to come and take your picture at home.

Our goal is to have picture directories available by November 1!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
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**BEGINNING**  
**SEPTEMBER 4**  
 Wednesdays at Immanuel  
 Supper- 5:15-6  
 Worship-6  
 Education-6:45-7:30  
 Sanctuary Choir-7  
 WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
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Due to a LOT happening Sundays in September, look for an **EARLY RISERS** class from Pastor Nate in October!

**Fall Kick-Off**  
 Wednesday, September 4  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**  
 Bring your friends!  
 Congregational Life will be supplying hamburgers and hotdogs.  
 Prize drawings every 10 minutes!  
 Bring a side to share if you'd like!  
 Meal will be served from 4:30-6:00

### GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS-SEPTEMBER 15

Join us for a service project to assemble kits for Lutheran World Relief on September 15 after worship. If you would like to donate items for this project, we need: 70-sheet notebooks; boxes of 16-24 crayons, pencil sharpeners, 30 cm rulers, blunt scissors, unsharpened pencils, black or blue ballpoint pens, 2-1/2" erasers. Financial gifts are also welcome. Checks can be written to Immanuel with "LWR School Kits" in the memo line.

### Women's Discipleship

Block Cutting - Monday, September 9 @ 9:00 am  
 Monday, October 7 @ 9:00 am

Bible Study - Tuesday, September 10 @ 1:30 pm  
 (July Gather Study)  
 Tuesday, October 8 @ 1:30 pm  
 (August Gather Study)

Quilting - September 16 & 17 @ 9:00-2:00 pm  
 October 21 & 22 @ 9:00-2:00 pm



Dinner Club will meet Tuesday, September 17 @ 5:30 pm Four Seas Chinese Buffet

## What's Happening

- September 1  
 Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
- September 2—Labor Day  
**OFFICE CLOSED**
- September 3  
 9 am - Staff Meeting
- September 4  
 12 pm - Rotary (#3 N.Overland)  
 4:30-6 pm - Fall Kick-Off Meal  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!!** (note special start time)  
 Wednesday Discipleship Schedule (See below)  
 7:30 pm - ILC Youth Council Meeting
- September 5  
 1 pm - MAC/NAPS  
 2:30 pm - Backpack Food Pack (elementary)
- September 8  
 Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)  
 11 am - ILC Council Meeting
- September 9  
 9 am - ICW Block Cutting  
 12 pm - Foster Grandparent Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- September 10  
 9 am - Staff Meeting  
 1:30 pm - ICW Bible Study (July Gather Study)
- September 11  
 Wednesday Discipleship Schedule (See below)  
 (Backpack Blessing During Worship)
- September 12  
 6 pm - Northstar Round Table Meeting
- September 15  
 Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)  
 (Backpack Blessing During Worship)

### Sunday Worship Schedule

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



### Wednesday Discipleship Schedule

- 5:15-6:00 pm - Supper
- 6:00 pm - Worship
- 6:45-7:30 pm - Education/Confirmation

- September 16  
 9 am - ICW Church Mice  
 6:30 pm - PEO Meeting
- September 17  
 9 am - ICW Church Mice  
 9 am - Staff Meeting  
 5:30 pm - Dinner Club @ Four Seas Buffet
- September 18  
 12 pm - Rotary (Catered)  
 Wednesday Discipleship Schedule (See below)
- September 19  
 10:30 am - Catholic Charities Frozen Meal Distribution  
 1 pm - Dementia Support Event
- September 21  
 1 pm - Facility in Use
- September 22  
 Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
- September 23  
 2 pm - Book Club (Friendship Room)
- September 24  
 9 am - Staff Meeting  
 11 am - Dementia Support Group (Friendship Room—All are welcome!)
- September 25  
 12 pm - Rotary (#1 G.Kluenenberg)  
 Wednesday Discipleship Schedule (See below)
- September 26  
 10:30 am - Knute Nelson Grief Support Group (Friendship Room—All are welcome!)
- September 28  
 9 am - Use of Facility - Wedding
- September 29  
 Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)

### Backpacks for Kids

OUR FIRST FOOD PACK OF THE SCHOOL YEAR IS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 @ 2:30 PM IN THE ELEMENTARY CAFETERIA. COME AND HELP US PACK 350 BAGS OF WEEKEND FOOD FOR LOCAL STUDENTS IN NEED!



### BOOK CLUB



Book Club will start up again Monday, September 23 @ 2:00 pm in the Friendship Room! Anyone is welcome to attend! The group will meet on the 4th Monday of each month (Sept-May).

The church office will be **CLOSED** Monday, Sept. 2 - Labor Day