

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.*

December 2024

From the Desk of Pastor Nate...

Grace and peace to you, beloved of God, as December dawns.

As our calendar flips, we enter the season of Advent. And in this season our paraments turn to blue – the color of hope – and we long for Christ to return. We mark time, not just until we celebrate Christmas, but until Christ returns in glory to make everything well with us and the whole creation.



How peculiar, then, that this month's installment of Mark is from Easter morning! And yet, this is precisely what we long for in Advent, at Christmas, and all year: a God who is mightier than death itself. So let's roll up our sleeves and dive into these final verses of the gospel: Mark 16:1-8.

When the women come to the tomb, they see that the stone to the tomb is already rolled away. And inside, they meet a man in white who gives witness to the truth the Jesus of Nazareth has been raised. This same man in white immediately dispatches them to be witnesses. They are to tell Jesus' disciples that he is risen and goes ahead of them to Galilee. It's almost like they are to proclaim that Jesus is on the move and they better go and try to keep up with them.

Mark's Easter story is strange in a couple ways. First, the risen Jesus doesn't appear at all in Mark's gospel. At least if you stop reading at verse 8. And I really believe this is where Mark originally ended. You can read vv. 9-20 yourself and see how different the writing style is. So my recommendation is that if you want to hear stories of the risen Jesus, read Matthew, Luke, and John. They have many amazing stories of the risen Jesus showing up among his disciples. So, how are we to experience the risen Lord Jesus if we don't see him? That would have been the question Mark's readers had. And the answer Mark seems to say is this: you will experience Jesus in telling others about him.

Of course, this is hard to do. It's easier to be afraid and say nothing. And this brings us to the second surprising thing about Mark's telling of these events. At the end of verse 8, Mark tells us that the women said nothing to anyone for they were afraid. And yet, some way, somehow, the risen Christ is proclaimed – and having heard this Word, we follow Him in faith.

Grace and peace to you, dear servants of the risen Christ. As you celebrate Christmas and child born for us, rejoice that the tomb could not hold him. And as you share the good news of this Jesus, incarnate, crucified, and risen, may you experience him anew. Merry Christmas!

Humbly in Christ,

Pastor Nate

Pastor Nate

The church office will be closed the following days:

Tuesday, December 24

Wednesday, December 25

Wednesday, January 1



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATES

The council met on Sunday, November 17, 2024. Vice President Margie Anderson called the meeting to order.

Endowment: Pastor Nate reported that the Endowment committee had met on September 23, 2024 and had made allocations to the following: Backpacks-\$2000, Lutheran World Relief Fund -\$1000, Meals on Wheels-\$500. A motion was made by Margie Anderson and seconded by Jena Osberg to approve these allocations. Motion Carried.

Congregational Life: *Peggy Larson*- 130 meals were served at the Halloween meal in conjunction with Trunk or Treat. The December Wednesday night menu is set. On Sunday Dec. 15, after worship, we will be hosting a Christmas potluck and craft event. The Congregational Life Committee will provide the main meal item. A TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS CARING BINGO CARD will be available to pick up on November 20th. Families, groups of friends, or individuals can work together to complete the card. The tasks encourage us to "Be the Church out of the Church." Cards need to be returned before the potluck on Dec. 15th for a chance to win one of three festive gift baskets. We will also be decorating Christmas ornaments. Those attending can make two ornaments, one to keep and one to give away.

Outreach Evangelism: *Rick Johnson*- Did not meet. Hosts continue to be available after church service to receive any cards from those attending the service. Any requests or concerns are forwarded. This process will be reviewed in the future by the committee.

Parish Education: Vacant-Did not meet

Property Management: Steph Drange- Absent- Steph had met with contractors on Oct.13th at the church. Projects and to-do lists throughout the property were discussed, categorized and prioritized. In general, maintenance items were in three areas: exterior, sanitary and kitchen. Some items scheduled for repairs and updates were throughout all areas. Steph will meet with church staff next. Contractors with specific services are also providing information in order to make the best updates work for Immanuel.

Worship and Music: *Anne Oldakowski*- Met on Nov. 11th. The committee is always looking for people to share their musical talents. The committee discussed the upcoming services on Thanksgiving Eve, Kids Christmas program Dec. 15th, and the choir Christmas program on Dec. 22. The next meeting will be on Dec. 8th.

Youth Leadership: *Katie Johnson*-absent

Immanuel Church Women: *Diane Teigland*. Absent

Lead Pastor: *Pastor Nate Loer*-October/Early November Highlights 1. Confirmation Sunday was on October 27. So wonderful to celebrate with those families and the entire church family at this significant time for these young people. 2. All-Saints Sunday was November 3. So important to remember the saints who have gone before us and to celebrate the newly baptized as well. 3. Packed 300 bags of food for the backpacks program on November 7. 4. Appreciated the visit from Pastor Birgitte Simpson from Peoples Church November 10 to say thanks for our\$1000 endowment gift. 5. The youth did a great job on November 10 with their Thank-you Thanksgiving dinner. 6. Our stewardship campaign is underway. We had several great temple talks, including Karen Leverington s on 11/17/24.

LOOKING AHEAD: 1. Grief Event on November 21 4:30 to 6:00. You are encouraged to attend even if your loss wasn't in the last year. 2. Stewardship Sunday is November 24. We are hoping for a generous response.

Financial Secretary Report: *Given by Sue Johnson* - The total of Sunday and Wednesday general offerings counted and deposited in October was \$13,705.55 This does not include direct deposits.

Treasurers Report: *Jena Osberg* -

<i>Total General Contributions: October, 2024</i>	<i>\$21,389.00</i>
<i>Total Expenses:</i>	<i>\$45,598.00</i>
<i>General Fund Register (10/31/24)</i>	<i>\$88,645.00</i>
<i>Building Fund (10/31/24)</i>	<i>\$26,299.00</i>
<i>Restricted Fund Balance (10/31/24)</i>	<i>\$52,689.00</i>

Finance Committee: *Bryan Greenwaldt*- The Stewardship program will be finishing up this month. Next meeting for the committee will be on Dec. 9 at 6:00 to complete the church budget for 2025 which will be submitted later.

Other Business - The Council reviewed a sample of the new church directory with addresses for the church members in the back and gave feedback. The directory should be available next Sunday. A nominating committee for next year's council members will need to meet shortly. A motion was made by Peggy Larson, seconded by Sue Johnson to appoint Bryan Greenwaldt and Jeanne Olson to the committee. Motion carried. On Dec. 8 those members that have been working with potential TV screens for the sanctuary will look at possible options using a "mock up" procedure.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. A motion was made by Peggy Larson and seconded by Bryan Greenwaldt to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeanne Olson Secretary

FINANCIAL UPDATE



GENERAL FUND	
10/6/2024	4699
10/13/2024	3225
10/20/2024	1710
10/27/2024	3071
Electronic Giving	495
Direct Deposit	8189
TOTAL GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS	21389
EXPENSES	
Benevolences*	11430
Programs	2041
Staff including taxes and benefits*	30058
Operations	655
Building Expenses	1414
TOTAL EXPENSES	45598
Gain/Loss	-24208
General Fund Register Balance as of 10/31/2024	88645

* Includes budgeted payments to LutherCrest, Lutheran Social Services and NW MN Synod

* the way the payments played out, two month of benefits (Portico) are included in this month.

	RESTRICTED			
	Balance 10/1/2024	Gifts & Additions	Payments	Balance 10/31/2024
Backpacks for Kids	\$7,592			\$7,592
Bell/Carillon	\$250			\$250
Cooking Matters (Ministerial Association)	\$621		\$381	\$240
Congregational Life	\$2,000			\$2,000
Easter Giving Blitz	\$100			\$100
Good Samaritan	\$1,880			\$1,880
General Reserve Funds	\$10,849			\$10,849
Giving Tree	\$1,718			\$1,718
Global Mission	\$1,645			\$1,645
Library Fund	\$125			\$125
Luther Crest Scholarships	\$472			\$472
Lutheran World Relief	\$585		\$116	\$469
Medical Mission	\$5,000			\$5,000
Organ Fund	\$537			\$537
Parish Nursing	\$487			\$487
Piano Fund	\$413		\$125	\$288
Soup Tuesday	\$620			\$620
Scholarship Fund	\$5,570			\$5,570
School Kits	\$0	\$1,000		\$1,000
Sunday School	\$292			\$292
Thrivent Micro Grant	\$1,266		\$250	\$1,016
Wadena Food Shelf/Food Shelf	\$3,812		\$3,000	\$812
Wednesday Night Supper	\$156		\$59	\$97
Worship and Music	\$2,514			\$2,514
YAGM	\$7,116			\$7,116
Restricted Fund Register Balance	\$55,620	1,000.00	3,931.18	\$52,689

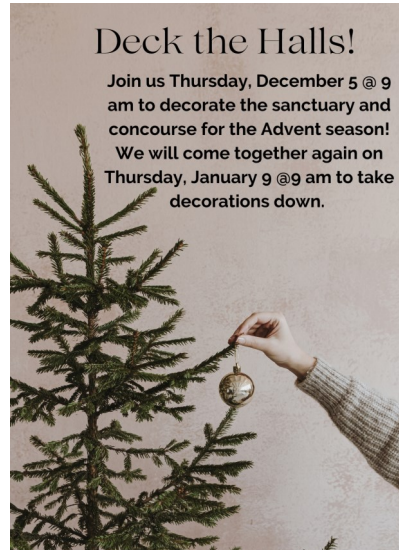
BUILDING FUND	
Building Fund Balance 10/1/2024	25794
Deposits & Interest	506
Payments	
Building Fund Register Balance 10/31/2024	26299

Wednesday Discipleship SCHEDULE

December 15 - Christmas Program 9:30am
 December 18 - Christmas Program 6:00pm
 December 25 - No Class
 January 1 - No Class
 January 8 - Wednesday Evening Activities Resume



Pastor Nate is leading a 16-session class on the books of Luke and Acts. Our next session will be December 8. And then will resume January 5 after a brief Christmas break. Class meets 8:00-8:45am in the Friendship Room or via Zoom. Email Pastor Nate for the Zoom link (nateloer@gmail.com).



Dinner Club will meet Tuesday, December 17 @ 5:30 pm - 4 Seas Buffet

We invite members & friends to give a poinsettia plant to help decorate the chancel. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office to indicate whether the plant is in honor or in memory of a loved one. The cost is \$18 per plant. The deadline is Monday, December 16. Poinsettia plants may be picked up after the 5:30 worship service on December 24.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

BLOCK CUTTING - MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 @ 9:00 AM
 MONDAY, JANUARY 6 @ 9:00 AM

BIBLE STUDY - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10 @ 1:30 PM
 TUESDAY, JANUARY 14 @ 1:30 PM

QUILTING - NO DECEMBER QUILTING
 JANUARY 20 & 21 @ 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Sanctuary Choir Christmas Program Sunday, December 22 during worship!

Please consider taking a tag from the **ILC GIVING TREE** and sharing with those in need. **Gifts need to be returned by Thursday, December 12.** Gift Wrapping will be Monday, December 16 from 4:30-7:00 pm (pizza will be served) Tuesday, December 17 from 8:30-12:00pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

TUESDAY DECEMBER 24 3:30 PM & 5:30 PM

What's Happening

- December 1 Sunday Worship Schedule (See below)
- December 2 2 pm - Funeral Service for Judy Loeffen
- December 3 9 am - Staff Meeting
- December 4 Wednesday Discipleship Schedule (See below) (note supper time change) 7:30 pm - ILC Youth Council Meeting
- December 5 9 am - Decorating the church 1 pm - MAC/NAPS 2:30 pm - Backpack Food Pack (elementary)
- December 8 Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
- December 9 9 am - ICW Block Cutting 12-3:30 pm - Fellowship Hall in Use
- December 10 9 am - Staff Meeting 1:30 pm - ICW Bible Study
- December 11 12 pm - Rotary (#3 N.Overland) Wednesday Discipleship Schedule (See below)
- December 12 6 pm - Northstar Round Table Meeting
- December 15 Sunday Worship Schedule (see below) Youth Christmas Program During Worship 10:45 am - "Be the Church" Advent Event/Potluck All congregants invited!! - Fellowship Hall 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 Discipleship Schedule

- 4:30-5:45 pm - Supper (note time change)
- 6:00 pm - Worship
- 6:45-7:30 pm - Education/Confirmation
- 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Practice

- December 16 NO QUILTING 4:30 pm - Giving Tree Gift Wrapping
- December 17 NO QUILTING 8:30 am - Giving Tree Gift Wrapping 5:30 pm - Dinner Club - 4 Seas Buffet
- December 18 12 pm - Rotary (Catered) Wednesday Discipleship Schedule (See below) 6 pm - Youth Christmas Program During Worship
- December 19 10:30 am - Catholic Charities Frozen Meal Distribution
- December 22 Sunday Worship Schedule (see below) Sanctuary Choir Christmas Program During Worship
- December 24 - Christmas Eve OFFICE CLOSED 3:30 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:30 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Communion Served @ 5:30 Service
- December 25 - Christmas Day OFFICE CLOSED
- December 29 Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
- December 31 - New Years Eve 9 am - Staff Meeting
- January 1 - New Years Day OFFICE CLOSED

Backpacks for Kids

OUR NEXT FOOD PACK IS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5 @ 2:30PM IN THE ELEMENTARY CAFETERIA. COME AND HELP US PACK 300+ BAGS OF WEEKEND FOOD FOR LOCAL STUDENTS IN NEED!

ILC Book Club

We will not meet in December! Happy Holidays!