

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 Klunenberg
 Financial Vice-Secretary.....Sue Johnson
 Congregational Life.....Peggy Larson
 Education.....vacant
 Finance.....Bryan Greenwaldt
 Outreach.....vacant
 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.*

March 2023

From the Desk of Pastor Nate...

Grace and peace to you, dear friends in Christ as our Lenten March unfolds before us.

We've been spending lots of time in the Gospel of Matthew lately. In our collection of Sunday readings ("lectionary" is the fancy church word!), this is the year when Matthew is read from on most Sundays. However, in the month of March, we take a 4-week break from Matthew and focus our attention on four significant readings from the Gospel of John. We will hear the story of Jesus visiting with the woman at the well (John 4), the story of Jesus healing the man born blind (John 9), and the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11). But to get things started, we will hear the story of John being visited at night by Nicodemus, a prominent religious leader (John 3).



In order to understand this encounter between Jesus and Nicodemus, we must first understand John's sharp contrast between "The World" and "Heaven." The world is a realm that is full of brokenness, pain, and only a partial understanding of the ways of God. Heaven is the upper realm full of light, truth, freedom, and abundance. Eternal life is also an important characteristic of the realm of heaven.

Nicodemus comes to Jesus at night, the darkness a sure sign that he comes to Jesus with his feet firmly in "the World." Jesus tells him he must be born from above, which through a Greek pun, Nicodemus misunderstands as a call to be literally born again. After a few more exchanges, Nicodemus is beginning to understand Jesus, but he isn't quite all the way there.

It is then that Jesus tells Nicodemus these words that have become famous all around the world: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16). What a remarkable word. God loves the world?! The realm ruled by darkness, brokenness, pain, and suffering?! God would send His Son into that world?! Yes!!! And not to condemn it (see John 3:17), but to save it. To give all who believe in him eternal life.

If we're not careful, Lent can become a season of self-loathing, a season in which we wallow in the depressing news that we are broken creatures living in a broken world. But I encourage you to marvel at the God of love who enters our broken world and gives his Son to redeem us from the world. Be caught up in this God who comes to us with the gift of his very Son. What a way to spend this season of Lent!!

Humbly in Christ,

Pastor Nate

Pastor Nate

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATES

The council met on February 5, 2023. President Jennifer Brunsberg called the meeting to order.

Congregational Life: *Peggy Larson* – Did not meet. Serve Wednesday night meals, looking for volunteers.

Outreach Evangelism: *Position Vacant* – Did not meet.

Parish Education: *Position Vacant* – Did not meet – Looking into organizing task forces. Starting to think about Vacation Bible School.

Property Management: *Sam Sundby* – Did not meet.

Worship and Music: *Pam Nelson* – Did not meet.

Youth Leadership: *Sara Ross*— Met on 2/1/2023. Family skating event is planned for Sunday, February 19 from 4–7 pm at Pat and Tracy Hagerty's. Helping with Lent services on Wednesday, March 29th. Also serving supper that evening. Planning Palm Sunday breakfast and Easter Egg hunt. Early bird deadline for Luther Crest Bible Camp is due February 14th. Nooma Night scheduled for Sunday, March 5th at the Ross home. Youth led Sunday service will be Sunday, May 7th.

Immanuel Church Women: *Diane Teigland* – Getting together 2 times a month, cutting blocks 1 day a month. Bible study with Circle 1 time a month. Serving rotary every other week.

Lead Pastor: *Pastor Nate Loer*— January/Early February Highlights: Spent the first part of the month getting the annual report put together with Elana. And lately, we've been spending time getting her transitioned into her new role. Wednesdays continue to go well with good participation across the ages. Sunday worship has been better attended in the New Year, too, with a better cross section of ages. The rhythm of preaching 2x each week is demanding, but I enjoy it. I continue to teach a class on Matthew with the early risers group. Join us (in person or online!) Am considering turning that into a podcast for those who aren't early risers. Had a nice "Getting to Know" Immanuel forum on January 23. Randy and Peggy Riedel were received as new members today. Worked with Jennifer Brunsberg to make a new hire for our Administrative Secretary! **Coming Up:** Our next Backpacks packing events are February 9 and March 9. Join us for this exciting community ministry. Lent starts February 22. I'm looking for people willing to share their faith journey (10 minutes of it, at least!) during Lenten Wednesdays. And I know we're looking for dinner hosts, ushers, musicians, and other volunteers, too.

Financial Secretary Report: *Gail Klunenber & Sue Johnson* – Total of Sunday general offerings counted and deposited in January 2023: \$41,974.74 . This does not include direct deposit offerings.

Treasurers Report: *Jena Osberg* – General Fund Register: Balance as of 01/31/23 \$93,277.00

Finance Committee: *Bryan Greenwaldt*— Did not meet.

Our Vision and Mission – Other Business: Church Secretary hired - *Tracy Church!* Visioning Summary discussed

The meeting adjourned at 7pm with the Lord's Prayer. .

FINANCIAL UPDATE



GENERAL FUND	
1/1/2023	7527
1/8/2023	22663
1/15/2023	1160
1/22/2023	3670
1/29/2023	6570
Electronic Giving	545
Direct Deposit	8612
TOTAL GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS	50747
EXPENSES	
Benevolences	418
Programs	867
Staff including taxes and benefits	19960
Operations	769
Building Expenses	984
TOTAL EXPENSES	22997
Gain/Loss	27750
General Fund Register Balance as of 01/31/2023	93277

RESTRICTED				
	Balance 01/1/2023	Gifts & Additions	Payments	Balance 01/31/2023
Backpacks for Kids	\$1,021			1,021
Bell/Carillon	\$250			250
Community Dinner	\$1,595			1,595
Cooking Matters (Ministerial Association)	\$506			506
Good Samaritan	\$2,949			2,949
General Reserve Funds	\$10,849			10,849
Giving Tree	\$3,954			3,954
Global Mission	\$95			95
God's Work Our Hands	\$100			100
Infant Care Kits	\$50			50
Lenten Supper	(\$201)			-201
Library Fund	\$125			125
Luther Crest Scholarships	\$472			472
Lutheran World Relief	\$150			150
Medical Mission	\$5,000			5,000
Ministerial Fund	\$700			700
Organ Fund	\$537			537
Parish Nursing	\$487			487
Piano Fund	\$1,105			1,105
Puppet Ministry	\$396			396
Scholarship Fund	\$8,070			8,070
Soup Tuesday	\$904	319		1,223
Sunday School	\$292			292
Ukraine	\$100			100
VBS	\$528			528
Wadena Food Shelf/Food Shelf	\$682			682
Wed. Night Faith Formation Supper	\$2			2
Worship and Music	\$2,514			2,514
YAGM	8868			6,866
Restricted Fund Register Balance	\$50,098	319	0	50,417

BUILDING FUND	
Building Fund Balance	17096
Deposits & Interest	319
Payments	
Building Fund Register Balance 1/31/2023	17415

Communion Milestone Class



Any family interested in participating in our communion milestone class for their children 5th grade and older is welcome to join us during the season of Lent. We will meet Wednesday evenings March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 from 5-5:45pm downstairs in the choir room. Students will be recognized during the Maundy Thursday service, April 6 at 6:30pm. Talk to Pastor Nate or Elana to get signed up.

A Note About Lenten Wednesdays

The season of Lent calls us to discipline and prayer and will include Wednesday gatherings March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29. Communion Milestone class is at 5pm; Youth choir and supper begin at 5:30pm and evening prayer at 6:30. And after worship, the Sanctuary Choir will rehearse, with an invitation to all! We have 5 wonderful members of the congregation who will be sharing aspects of their faith story. And there will be children's time and 2-minute homilies on scripture reading as well. It will be a wonderful season of growing in faith. We hope you'll join us!

NOOMA NIGHT
SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2023
 5:30 - 8 PM
 VIDEO - DISCUSSION - GAMES - FOOD
 ROSS FAMILY HOME - 1024 6th St SW

Women's Ministry

- Bible Study** - Tuesday, March 14 - 1:30pm
 Tuesday, April 11 - 1:30pm
- Block Cutting** - Monday, March 6 - 9am
 Monday, April 3 - 9am
- Quilting** - March 20 & 21 - 9am
 April 17 & 18—9 am



What's Happening

- March 1**
 12pm - Rotary (#3 N. Overland)
 Wednesday Lent Schedule (see below)
 7:30 pm - Youth Council Meeting
- March 3**
 1pm - Catholic Charities Frozen Meal Distribution
- March 5**
 Sunday Worship (see below)
 5:00 pm - NOOMA Night (Ross Home)
- March 7**
 9 am - Staff Meeting
 10:30 am - Knute Nelson Grief Support (closed group- Friendship Room)
- March 8**
 12 pm - Rotary (catered)
 Wednesday Lent Schedule (see below)
- March 9**
 1 pm - MAC/NAPS
 6 pm - Northstar Round Table
- March 12 - Daylight Savings Time - Spring Ahead**
 Sunday Worship (see below)
 4:30 pm - ILC Council Meeting
- March 13**
 5:30 pm - Boy Scouts
- March 14**
 9 am - Staff Meeting
 10:30 am - Knute Nelson Grief Support (closed group- Friendship Room)
 1:30 pm - ICW: Bible Study

- March 15**
 12 pm - Rotary (#1 G. Klueenberg)
 Wednesday Lent Schedule (see below)
- March 19**
 Sunday Worship (see below)
 3 pm - Cub Scouts
- March 20**
 9 am - ICW: Church Mice
 5:30 pm - Dinner Club (Larry's Family Pizza)
- March 21**
 9 am - ICW: Church Mice
 9 am - Staff Meeting
 10:30 am - Knute Nelson Grief Support (closed group- Friendship Room)
- March 22**
 12 pm - Rotary (catered)
 Wednesday Lent Schedule (see below)
- March 23**
 5 pm - Knute Nelson Grief Support (open to all - Friendship Room)
- March 26**
 Sunday Worship (see below)
- March 27**
 7 pm - Book Club (Sharon Boline's home)
- March 28**
 9 am - Staff Meeting
- March 29**
 12 pm - Rotary (#2 D. Haraldson)
 Wednesday Lent Schedule (see below)

Sunday Worship

- 8:00 - Early Risers Class
- 8:30 - Coffee Fellowship
- 9:30 - In person & live-stream worship on YouTube
- 9:30 - Radio Broadcast 920AM or 101.7FM

Wednesday Lent Schedule

- 5:00 pm - Communion Milestone Class
- 5:30 pm - Youth Choir
- 5:30 pm - Congregational Dinner
- 6:30 pm - Holden Evening Prayer Service
- 7:15 pm - Sanctuary Choir Practice

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Join us
 Sunday, April 2
 before worship for
 breakfast served by the
 youth of Immanuel!

Breakfast will be
 served from
 8-9:30am

A free will offering will
 be collected.

WANTED Easter Candy Donations

Please consider donating a bag
 of candy or small prizes
 (tattoos, stickers, stamps) for
 our Easter Morning Egg Hunt.



Candy and prizes
 can be dropped
 off in the
 church office.
 Thank you for
 your support!



Easter Flower Sign up

WILL BE LOCATED BY THE
 OFFICE

- EASTER LILIES ~ \$17.00
- MUMS ~ \$21.95
- BEGONIAS ~ \$21.95
- DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MARCH 31

Thank You

I would like to thank Pastor Nate, my
 family, and my church family and friends
 for their cards, prayers, and calls to help
 me through my health issues one day at a
 time.
 ~ Shirley Hamre ~

BACKPACKS FOR KIDS



Our next food pack day for the
 WDC Weekend Backpacks
 Program is Thursday, March 9
 at 3pm in the Elementary
 cafeteria. Join us as we work
 together to assemble 400 bags
 of weekend food for local kids
 in need.

THE SEED KEEPER By Diane Wilson

A novel based on family life. Read of an
 indigenous girl placed with a white family in
 our Social System when she could have
 lived with her own family. Also, learn of the
 struggles of her adult life. Read of the
 importance of saving seeds for the next
 planting season and the "Seed Keeper." Our
 Book Club always meets at Sharon Boline's
 apartment - 1114 King Avenue SW, #404.
 We meet at 7 p.m. on the 4th Monday. On March 27 we
 will be discussing The Seed Keeper, why not join us?
 You are welcome!

