

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

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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.*

May 2024

From the Desk of Pastor Nate...

Continued Easter greetings to you in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ. This month our 50-day celebration of Easter will culminate with Pentecost on Sunday, May 19 and give way to our long season of green paraments as we once again mark our time in “Sundays after Pentecost.”

And we also continue our steady journey through Mark’s gospel in these monthly newsletter installments. This month, we turn our focus to Mark 4:1-34 and hear Jesus teach his followers using parables. Let me share a bit about these parables to aid you in your reading and study:

In Mark 4:1-9, Jesus begins this chapter with a doozy of a parable. He tells about a sower who scattered seed all over the place. Is this a story of a reckless farmer? Or does the story reflect on the reality of farming in the middle-east? Not exactly the richest of soils! And yet, despite the challenges, notice in the parable that an abundant harvest comes nonetheless. So it is with God’s love and mercy: it yields fruit in surprising places.

In 4:13-20, Jesus explains the parable of the sower to his followers. And I think his words resonate with us. We know that struggles, distractions, and the evil one all conspire to snuff out faith before it even has a chance to begin. And even though that’s frustrating, we carry forward in sharing the gospel with the whole world.

In 4:21-25, Jesus shifts to a new parable about how lamps belong on lampstands. This is our task as the church, as people of faith. Keep proclaiming! And then he says this curious line: “The measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given to you” (v. 24). The true value of the gospel can only be found by giving it away!

Finally, in 4:26-34, Jesus tells two parables about the mystery of growing seeds. Again we see the certainty of an abundant harvest from next-to invisible beginnings. It is also interesting how these parables toggle between a call to action and a work of promise that there will be fruit even without human involvement.

Keep reading Mark’s gospel, my friends! And feel the urgency for faith to be more than a private matter in your life. Feel the urgency to share that good news with your neighbors near and far. Because the more you share Jesus, the more you receive Him.

Humbly in Christ,

Pastor Nate

Pastor Nate

P.S. – We are hosting a graduation open house for our son, Teshome, on Saturday, May 25 from 11a-1pm in Immanuel’s Fellowship Hall. We invite all of you to join us!!



GENERAL FUND	
3/3/2024	5746
3/10/2024	2015
3/17/2024	15241
3/24/2024	4704
3/31/2024	10965
Electronic Giving	420
Direct Deposit	8289
TOTAL GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS	47380
EXPENSES	
Benevolences	11490
Programs	1114
Staff including taxes and benefits	24461
Operations	1,596
Building Expenses	1430
TOTAL EXPENSES	40092
Gain/Loss	7288
General Fund Register Balance as of 03/31/2024	115328

FINANCIAL UPDATE



RESTRICTED				
	Balance 3/1/2024	Gifts & Additions	Payments	Balance 3/31/2024
Backpacks for Kids	\$7,689	\$845		\$8,334
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	\$3,414		\$600	\$2,814
General Reserve Funds	\$10,849			\$10,849
Giving Tree	\$1,718			\$1,718
Global Mission	\$1,615			\$1,615
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	\$400	\$100	\$400	\$100
Organ Fund	\$537			\$537
Parish Nursing	\$487			\$487
Piano Fund	\$538			\$538
Soup Tuesday	\$741			\$741
Scholarship Fund	\$8,070			\$8,070
School Kits	\$15			\$15
Sunday School	\$292			\$292
Thrivent Micro Grant	\$1,750			\$1,750
VBS	\$377			\$377
Wadena Food Shelf/Food Shelf	\$1,562	\$50		\$1,612
Wed. Night Faith Formation Supper	-\$95	\$147	\$38	\$14
Wednesday Offering	\$669			\$669
Worship and Music	\$2,514			\$2,514
YAGM	\$7,116			\$7,116
Restricted Fund Register Balance	\$59,599	942.00	1,037.92	\$59,503

BUILDING FUND		
Building Fund Balance	3/1/2024	22788
Deposits & Interest		535
Payments		
Building Fund Register Balance	3/31/2024	23323

The council met on Sunday, April 14, 2024. President Mike Brunsberg called the meeting to order.

Congregational Life: *Peggy Larson– Met on April 13, 2024* – On May 1st, Wednesday, we will have the end of the year picnic/potluck. Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and root beer floats will be provided. If anyone wants to bring a dish to serve, please bring it by 4:50pm. We encourage all members to attend this meal and enjoy fellowship with one another. Also discussed were meals for VBS and other topics to consider over the summer. Thank you to everyone who helped make Wednesday night meals and this year’s events so wonderful. It is appreciated.

Outreach Evangelism: *Rick Johnson– Met on March 11, 2024* – Last year’s business was reviewed and a card for visitors was discussed.

Parish Education: *Vacant–Did not meet*

Property Management: *Steph Drange – Did not meet*

Worship and Music: *Anne Oldakowski– Did not meet/ will meet April 14, 2024* – Graduate Sunday will be on April 28th with cake and coffee at 8:30 and a Senior led service at 9:30.Wednesday Discipleship will continue through May 1st., continuing with Sunday services at 9:30 with coffee and conversation at 8:30.

Youth Leadership: *Katie Johnson–Met on April 3, 2024* – A Senior led service will be April 28, 2024 with a light breakfast at 8:30. USHERS: Simon Kreklau, Sam Hegarty, Preston Miller, Nolan Elbert. LECTOR: Ryann Schmidt. COMMUNION SERVERS: Teshe Loer, Peyton Church, Jaxson Brown. SPECIAL MUSIC: Kelanie Oldakowski. The date for Nerf Wars is undecided, VBS will be Aug 11–15, 2024. (Planning committee members are still needed.) Also need ideas for future activities. Next meeting is on May 1, 2024 at 7:30 pm.

Immanuel Church Women: *Diane Teigland–* Eleven ICW women will attend the WELCA N. W. Synod Conference 6 Spring Gathering on 4/18 in Staples.

Lead Pastor: *Pastor Nate Loer*—March and early April highlights: We had a great Lent. The work of the musicians, kitchen workers and other volunteers is appreciated. 2. I especially loved "The Three Days" of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. 3. Presided at memorial services of Tom Johnson(3/14/24), Nancy Nordquist (3/21/24) and Hank Greenwaldt (4/5/24). I am grateful for the serving groups who hosted Tom and Nancy’s families here at Immanuel.4. We had our final backpacks program on April 4th. I am thankful for all of the volunteers who came each month. 5. The Baptism of Archer Allen Henle was 4/14/24. I love presiding at baptisms!• **Coming Up:** 1. I have begun working with several couples preparing for marriage this summer and fall. I haven’t had the chance to do this in a while and am really looking forward to walking alongside these couples. 2. Wednesday Discipleship is back in session through May 1, 2024. Audrey and I are working together to put about 40 baby care kits together with our 4–9th graders on April 24th. 3. Graduate Sunday is April 28th, I am grateful to the women for organizing the reception. 4. Synod Assembly is May 17–18. 5. Looking forward to hosting Teshe’s grad party here May 25th from 11–2pm. The whole congregation is invited to celebrate with us.

Financial Secretary Report: *Sue Johnson & Jane Bagstad* – Total of Sunday and Wednesday general offerings counted and deposited in March 2024 \$39,499.96 . This does not include other electronic deposit offerings.

Treasurers Report: *Jena Osberg*

GENERAL FUND

Total General Contributions: March 2024

Total Expenses:

General Fund Register: Balance as of March 31, 2024

Building Fund:

\$47,380.00

\$40,092.00

\$115,328.00

\$23,323.00

Finance Committee: *Bryan Greenwaldt – Did not meet.* Jil Fiemeyer (bookkeeper) sent the 1st quarter Budget vs Actual to review. It was reviewed by the finance committee chairperson. The 1ST quarter figures are right on track with the 2024 budget.

Other Business – Work is continuing on gathering/taking pictures for the new church directory and identifying people who could be hosts for worship and hospitality. Synod Assembly May 17–18, 2024.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Motion made by Peggy Larson to adjourn. Margie Anderson seconded.

IMMANUEL WELCOMES BIBLICAL SCHOLAR!

Sunday, May 19, Immanuel will welcome the Reverend Dr. George E. Martin who is the author of *Paul Found in Letters*. Pastor Martin served as a Lutheran pastor in Nisswa just prior to his retirement which then allowed him the time to complete his book. The book is filled with many insights into the actual story of Paul the Apostle. Focusing on the seven authentic letters of Paul in the New Testament, Pastor Martin has unearthed many surprising things about this Pharisee who clearly was one of the earliest followers of Messiah Jesus. His written letters are the oldest documents in the New Testament. It was in those letters that so much can be discovered about the early days of the Christian movement. Pastor Martin will be preaching at our 9:30 am service and then leading a forum following the service. We hope you'll join us....and invite some friends!!



Thank you to all who attended the Palm Sunday Breakfast; your continued support is much appreciated. Thank you to all the youth and adults that volunteered their time to help setup, prepare, serve, and clean up. Thank you to Bryan Greenwaldt and Russ Davis Wholesale for supplying the fruit. The help and support made the breakfast a success. It was a great morning for food and fellowship!

Women's Discipleship

Block Cutting - Monday, May 6 @ 9:00 am
Monday, June 3 @ 9:00 am

Bible Study - Tuesday, May 14 @ 1:30 pm
(April Gather Study)

****NO BIBLE STUDY JUNE, JULY, AUGUST****

Quilting - May 20 & 21 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
****NO QUILTING JUNE, JULY, AUGUST****

SUNDAY WORSHIP MINISTRY

Sign up outside the church office to usher, lector, assist with communion, and/or



Thank You Thank You Thank You

Thank you to everyone who donated candy and prizes for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you as well to everyone that helped fill the Easter eggs. Thank you to the youth who helped the Easter bunny find its way to the Fellowship Hall on Easter Sunday!



Dinner Club will meet
Monday, May 20 @ 5:30 pm
Larry's Family Pizza

OPAL'S LIBRARY



✓ CHECK IT OUT
DEVOTIONAL MATERIALS, A
VARIETY OF BIBLES (ADULT
AND CHILDREN), REFERENCE
BOOKS, CHILDREN'S BOOKS,
AND FICTION



Summer Office Hours Begin Friday, May 24

Monday	8:30am - 3:30pm
Tuesday	8:30am - 3:30pm
Wednesday	8:30am - 3:30pm
Thursday	8:30am - 3:30pm
Friday	8:30am - 12pm

What's Happening

May 1

12 pm - Rotary (#2 G. Klunenberg)
5 pm - May Day Potluck Picnic
6 pm - Worship
6:45-7:30 pm - Wednesday Education
7:30 pm - ILC Youth Council Meeting

May 3

12 pm - Catholic Charities Frozen Meal Distribution

May 4

9am-5pm - Use of Facility

May 5

Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)

May 6

9 am - ICW Block Cutting

May 7

9 am - Staff Meeting
4:30 pm - Endowment Committee Meeting

May 8

9am-3pm - Friendship Room in Use
12 pm - Rotary (Catered)

May 9

1 pm - MAC/NAPS
6 pm - Northstar Round Table

May 12 - Mother's Day

Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
10:45 am - ILC Council Meeting

May 14

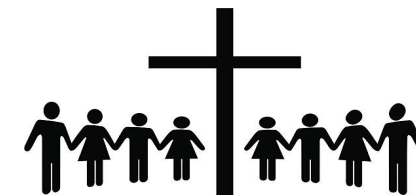
9 am - Staff Meeting
1:30 pm - ICW Bible Study
(April "Gather")

Sunday Worship Schedule

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

Summer Office Hours

M - 8:30-3:30
T - 8:30-3:30
W - 8:30-3:30
TH - 8:30-3:30
F - 8:30-12:00



The church office will be closed on Monday, May 27th in recognition of Memorial Day.



Backpacks for Kids

Thanks for all the GREAT help this year sharing food with local kids in need. We look forward to resuming this ministry in September!

May 15

12 pm - Rotary (#2 D. Haraldson)

May 19

Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
(Following Worship - Reverend Dr. George E. Martin Presentation)

May 20

9 am - ICW Church Mice
5:30 pm - Dinner Club @ Larry's Family Pizza
6 pm - PEO - Fellowship Hall

May 21

9 am - ICW Church Mice
9 am - Staff Meeting

May 22

12 pm - Rotary (Catered)

May 23

10:30-12pm - Knute Nelson Grief Support Group
(Friendship Room - all are welcome!)

May 24

8:30am-12pm - Summer Office Hours Begin
7pm - WDC High School Commencement

May 25

11 am -1 pm - Teshome Loer Graduation Open House
(Fellowship Hall)

May 26

Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)

May 27 - Memorial Day

Office Closed
7 pm - Book Club @ Sharon Boline's

May 28

9 am - Staff Meeting
11 am - Dementia Support Group
(Friendship Room - all are welcome!)

May 29

12 pm - Rotary (#3 N.Overland)

BOOKCLUB

Monday, May 27th
7pm @ Sharon Boline's
1114 King Ave SW, Apt 404

Our May book will be decided soon!
We meet every 4th Monday of the month (Sept - May).
Anyone interested is welcome to attend!

