

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.*

February 2024



From the Desk of Pastor Nate...

How is that New Year's resolution to read the gospel of Mark coming? If you've been part of my Early Risers Class, you've gotten through the first 4 chapters at least. But if you haven't started, don't worry! There is still plenty of time. You can actually sit down and read the entire book in about an hour. Last month, I gave you a couple tips, thanks to Donald Juel's book, "A Master of Surprise." Specifically, I encouraged you to pay attention to 1) How Jesus crosses boundaries and 2) The Parables he tells. This month, I have two more tips for you thanks to Juel's insights.

3. Pay attention to Jesus' authority over demons ... and why that's important. Mark's gospel, says Juel, arranges the stories of demons in order to express two themes. The first theme is "the restoration of an outsider to life within the community" (page 66). While the demon-possessed often were pushed to the fringes of society, Jesus' casting out of such demons is another example of His desire to restore outcasts to the greater population. The other theme of these actions is that in casting out demons, Jesus makes it clear that he has authority over all the forces of evil in this world. Juel uses the language of "binding the strong man," referring to Jesus' ability to subdue Satan. In casting out demons, Jesus is declaring "his role as lord of the house. . . . [H]e initiates that reign by securing control of the house, establishing a sphere of God's rule" (page 72) In short, Mark's emphasis on the demonic declares that Jesus has come to usurp Satan's power on earth. But we are wise to remember that Jesus doesn't exercise this authority merely to conquer a foe. Again and again, Jesus will conquer evil and work to restore those alienated by evil back into community life. Even when the community finds this terrifying.

4. Pay attention to Jesus' talk about suffering and how it reveals Jesus' true identity. Mark

Again and again, Mark wants it to be clear that Jesus' true identity can only be seen in His death. Titles like "Christ" and "Son of God" are written by Mark in the beginning of the gospel, and they appear in the middle, but are spoken by demons or incorrectly conceived (as in Peter's confession of Jesus as the Christ). But only after He has died can it be said that Jesus is the Son of God. In fact, this death makes it so clear that even a Roman soldier see it. Mark's Christology is important for us to observe, because we often want to look at the signs of Jesus' divinity as his works of miraculous proportions. However, Mark wants us to see that the only true sign of Jesus' identity is in the passion. While Mark tells us a lot about Jesus in his stories of healing, Jesus' true identity is only revealed in Mark's passion narrative. And so it is for those who follow Him. Not just the suffering. But the true character of Christian community will be revealed in service, love, and suffering for the sake of faith and the neighbor.

Continued blessings to you in 2024. Once again, stay rooted in God's Word!!

Humbly in Christ,

Pastor Nate

Pastor Nate

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

Congregational Life: *Peggy Larson— Met on January 14, 2024*

Completed menu for remaining Wednesday nights before lent starts. Discussed lent soup meals and will be posting sign ups for soup makers, servers and dessert makers. Planned a bingo event in conjunction with the youth baked potato bar, which will be held the last Sunday of February. Will meet again in March to finalize the menu for the remainder of the program year.

Outreach Evangelism: *Rick Johnson—Did not meet - will meet in Febraury*

Parish Education: *Vacant—Did not meet*

Property Management: *Sam Sundby—Did not meet*

Worship and Music: *Pam Nelson— Met on January 8, 2024*

Lenten Services - 6:30 pm - Services will be at 6:30 pm, with supper being at 5:30 pm. There will be no education classes during Lent. They will resume after Easter. Ash Wednesday - February 14, 2024 - 6:30 pm. The Ash service and Communion will both be at the rail. Choir will sing. Youth Wednesday - February 21, 2024 - 6:30 pm - Youth will help with the service. Palm Sunday - March 24, 2024 - 9:30 am-Communion will be a continuous format. Choir will sing. Maundy Thursday - March 28, 2024 - 2:00 pm and 6:30 pm - Communion will be at the rail at both services. It will be First Communion for the 5th graders at the 6:30 pm service. Coffee will be served following the 2:00 pm service. Good Friday - March 29, 2024 - 6:30 pm - No Communion. Choir will sing. Easter Sunday - March 31, 2024 - 8:30 am and 10:00 am - Communion will be at both services. Choir will sing. There will be an Easter egg hunt following each service. Youth Sunday (Graduate Sunday) - April 28, 2024 - 9:30 am - There is a potential of approximately 19 graduates.

Youth Leadership: *Sara Ross—Met on January 3, 2024*

February 18th - Ice skating event at Pat & Tracy Hagerty's 4-7 pm, weather permitting. February 21st- Youth Lent takeover. Making and serving dinner and leading worship. March 24th Palm Sunday Brunch. Helping Congregational Life Committee with an event in February - baked potato bar fundraiser being planned with this event.

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

Continuing with quilting. Made some end of the year donations.

Lead Pastor: Pastor Nate Loer— December/Early January Highlights: 1. Assembled 41 Personal Care Kits with confirmation students on December 13 2. The Youth did a great job on their Christmas Program December 17 & 20 3. Christmas Eve was beautiful and wonderful. 4. Enjoyed a few days of quiet with my family December 25/26 5. We had a wonderful turnout for our Backpacks food pack January 4 6. Wednesday Discipleship is back underway - hoping to avoid a mid-winter slump in attendance 7. Soup Tuesdays are underway again. We will have 6 gatherings on Tuesdays at noon and collect a free-will offering for the WDC backpacks program. 8. Have been working very hard to get the annual report ready **Looking Ahead:** 1. I have been working with several families in the past months who have joined Immanuel or will be joining Immanuel. We should have a day in February to welcome them after worship 2. Joe Hallermann's funeral will be January 22 3. Lent comes early this year. Ash Wednesday is February 14 4. Our next Backpacks food pack is February 8 at 2:30pm.

Financial Secretary Report: *Gail Klunenber & Sue Johnson* - Total of Sunday and Wednesday general offerings counted and deposited in December 2023 was \$41,004.51.. This did not include direct deposit offerings.

Treasurers Report: *Jena Osberg*

GENERAL FUND	
Total General Contributions: December 2023	\$44, 299
Total Expenses:	\$47, 977
General Fund Register: Balance as of December 31, 2023	\$107, 263
Building Fund:	\$22, 009

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

Other Business

Annual Meeting - Supper being prepared and served by outgoing council members. Nominating Committee Update. Acknowledged Outgoing Council Members.

Motion made by Peggy Larson to adjourn. Sue Johnson seconded.

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

12/3/2023	4290
12/10/2023	6222
12/17/2023	9726
12/24/2023	11103
12/31/2023	4080
Electronic Giving	430
Direct Deposit	8447
TOTAL GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS	44299
EXPENSES	
Benevolences	12232
Programs	2454
Staff including taxes and benefits	23756
Operations	3,063
Building Expenses	6472
TOTAL EXPENSES	47977
Gain/Loss	-3679
General Fund Register Balance as of 12/31/23	107263

FINANCIAL UPDATE



RESTRICTED				
	Balance 12/1/2023	Gifts & Additions	Payments	Balance 12/31/2023
Backpacks for Kids	\$7,147			\$7,147
Bell/Carillon	\$250			\$250
Cooking Matters (Ministerial Association)	\$1,506		412.18	\$1,094
Congregational Life	\$0	2,000.00		\$2,000
Easter Giving Blitz	\$100			\$100
Good Samaritan	\$2,914	500.00		\$3,414
General Reserve Funds	\$10,849			\$10,849
Giving Tree	\$4,369	585.00	3,235.69	\$1,718
Global Mission	\$1,525	60.00		\$1,585
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	200.00	500.00	\$200
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
Thrivent Micro Grant	\$0	2,000.00		\$2,000
VBS	\$377			\$377
Wadena Food Shelf/Food Shelf	\$1,512			\$1,512
Wed. Night Faith Formation Supper	\$118			\$118
Wednesday Offering	\$669			\$669
Worship and Music	\$2,514			\$2,514
YAGM	\$7,116			\$7,116
Restricted Fund Register Balance	\$57,302	5,345.00	4,147.87	\$58,499

BUILDING FUND	
Building Fund Balance 12/1/2023	21199
Deposits & Interest	809
Payments	
Building Fund Register Balance 12/31/2023	22009

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024 Worship at 6:30 pm

Allison Olsson Visit February 4

One of the projects your Endowment



Fund supported in 2023 was FOCUS missionary, Allison Olsson's campus ministry at the University of Northern Iowa. Allison will bring brief greetings to us in worship and offer a short program about her work after worship!

Sign up Today! Lent Worship sign ups and Lent soup making and serving sign ups are located on the bulletin board right next to Pastor Nate's office. Please consider offering your time and talents to enrich our time together during this season of Lent!

LENTEN WEDNESDAYS BEGIN FEBRUARY 21

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024. We will gather for a 6:30 pm service, which will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. The season of Lent calls us to discipline and prayer and will include Wednesday gatherings February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20. Communion Milestone class will be at 5 pm; supper begins at 5:30 pm and evening prayer at 6:30 pm. And after worship, the Sanctuary Choir will rehearse (all are welcome!). Pastor Nate will share brief homilies on texts from Mark's Gospel under the theme: Callings, Healings, and Teachings (Oh My!). It will be a wonderful season of growing in faith. We hope you'll join us!

BINGO & BAKED POTATO BAR
February 25, 2024
Following Worship!

A freewill offering will be collected to raise funds for Camp Scholarships & other future youth events.
Hosted By: Congregational Life & The Youth of Immanuel

WELCOME TO YOUTH COUNCIL

Noah, Samuel, and Ben

Immanuel Youth LENT TAKE OVER
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024

SIGN UP TO HELP WITH SUPPER AND LEAD WORSHIP!

ALL AGES! No Experience Necessary!

Immanuel youth will be playing bells in worship Sunday, February 4!

Contact Flana or Deagu Larson with questions.

What's Happening

- February 1
2:30 pm - Backpack Food Pack
- February 2
12 pm - Catholic Charities Frozen Meal Distribution
- February 4
Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
(Allison Olsson Vivist after worship)
- February 5
12 pm - Blood Drive
5 pm - Worship & Music Committee Meeting
- February 6
9 am - Staff Meeting
10:30 - Knute Nelson Grief Support Group (Friendship Room - 8 week Session - must be registered)
12 pm Blood Drive
- February 7
12 pm - Rotary (#1 G.Kluenberg)
Wednesday Discipleship Schedule
7:30 pm - ILC Youth Council Meeting
- February 8
1 pm - MAC/NAPS
6 pm - Northstar Round Table
- February 11
Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
4:30 pm - ILC Council Meeting
- February 13
9 am - Staff Meeting
10:30 - Knute Nelson Grief Support Group (Friendship Room - 8 week Session - must be registered)
1:30 pm - ICW Bible Study

- February 14
12 pm - Rotary (Catered)
6:30 pm - Ash Wednesday Service (Holy Communion)
- February 18
Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
NO EARLY RISERS CLASS
3 pm - Cub Scouts
4 pm - Skating at Hegarty's
- February 19 - Presidents' Day
OFFICE CLOSED
9 am - ICW Church Mice
5:30 pm - Dinner Club @ El Mariachis
- February 20
9 am - ICW Church Mice
9 am - Staff Meeting
10:30 - Knute Nelson Grief Support Group (Friendship Room - 8 week Session - must be registered)
- February 21
12 pm - Rotary (Catered)
Lent Worship Schedule (see below)
(Youth Lent Take-Over)
- February 25
Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
- February 26
7 pm - Book Club @ Sharon Boline's
- February 27
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!)
- February 28
12 pm - Rotary (#2 D. Haraldson)
Lent Worship Schedule (see below)

Soup Tuesdays
Immanuel Staff Chili February 13 (will not meet February 6)

NO WEDNESDAY DISCIPLESHIP BEGINNING FEBRUARY 14. WILL RESUME ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 3.

Women's Ministry

Bible Study ~ Tuesday, February 13 @ 1:30 pm (January "Gather" Study)
Tuesday, March 12 @ 1:30 pm (February "Gather" Study)

Block Cutting ~ Monday, February 12 @ 9:00 am
Monday, March 4 @ 9:00 am

Quilting ~ February 19 & 20 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
March 18 & 19 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Sunday Worship Schedule

- 8:00 - Early Risers Class
- 8:30 - Coffee Fellowship
- 9:30 - Worship (LIVE on YouTube)
- 9:30 - Radio Broadcast 920 AM or 101.7 FM

Lent Worship Schedule

- 5:00 pm - Communion Milestone Class
- 5:30 pm - Soup Supper
- 6:30 pm - Evening Prayer Service
- After Worship - Sanctuary Choir Practice (All are welcome to join the choir!!)

Communion Milestone Class

We've sent letters out, but in case you missed it, all students 5th grade and older who haven't received instruction in Holy Communion are welcome to join us on Wednesdays in Lent for instruction. Students and at least one parent/guardian can join us downstairs in the choir room February 21, 28 & March 6, 13, and 20 from 5-5:45 pm We will recognize students during the Maundy Thursday service, March 28 @ 6:30 pm. Talk to Pastor Nate or Elana Seibert.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

ICE SKATING FOR ALL!
FELLOWSHIP • FOOD • FUN

ALL AGES WELCOME!
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

SKATES AVAILABLE!

JOIN US AT THE HOME OF PAT AND TRACY HEGARTY
44330 215TH AVE STAPLES, MN

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18
4-7 PM

Backpacks for Kids

Next food pack will be Thursday, February 1 @ 2:30 pm in the elementary cafeteria. Volunteers are much appreciated as we will be packing 300+ bags for our community youth!

BOOK CLUB

MONDAY, February 26th
7 PM @ SHARON BOLINE'S
1114 KING AVE SW, APT 404

WE WILL BE READING "EMMA" BY JANE AUSTIN.

EVERYONE INTERESTED IS WELCOME TO ATTEND!!

** EVERY 4TH MONDAY OF THE MONTH (SEPT - MAY) **