

2025 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.....Margie Anderson
 Vice President..... Matt Greenwaldt
 Secretary.....Kayla Carpenter
 Treasurer.....Bryan Greenwaldt
 Financial Secretary.....Jane Bagstad
 Financial Vice-Secretary.....Gail Klunenberg
 Congregational Life.....Diane Breitling
 Education.....Meagan Ferris
 Finance.....Dean Krogstad
 Outreach.....Vacant
 Property Management..... Steph Drange
 Worship and Music.....Anne Oldakowski
 Youth.....Katie Johnson

(To be elected at Annual Meeting)

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 2025

From the Desk of Pastor Nate...

Grace and peace to you, servants of Christ. As the calendar flips to February, may your hearts and homes be filled with mid-winter joy and peace.

You might recall that I challenged you last month to commit to reading Luke and Acts in 2025. I hope you got started on that. But if you didn't, there is still time to get going! This month, I'll offer a few notes on Luke 3:1-4:13. In these stories we are preparing for Jesus' ministry. Here are some thoughts about a few of the stories.



In Luke 3:1-6, Luke once again names lots of powerful people before telling us that the Word of God comes to this unknown prophet in the wilderness. Also, notice how when John proclaims the arrival of the Lord, he tells those listening that "all flesh shall see the salvation of God" (vs. 6). Even now, at the very ground level of Jesus' ministry, the Christ will bring salvation to all people.

In the verses that follow, we see that John is so charismatic that they wonder if he might be the Messiah. But John clearly points them to one mightier than he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. Shortly after, Jesus shows up, is baptized by John, and a voice declares that this Jesus is God's son. As readers of Luke, we already know this about Jesus. But now those in the story are learning more about his identity, too.

At the end of chapter 3, Luke includes a genealogy of Jesus that traces his lineage through Joseph back through David and Abraham, back to Adam and finally back to God Himself. In this lineage, Luke establishes Jesus' divinity, his Jewish lineage, and his connection to all of humanity.

Finally, pay attention to Luke 4:1-13 the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all tell this story. In this story, Jesus' humanity and divinity are on display here. In the human sense, Jesus is tempted as we are. Temptation is a universal human experience. But also, there is much more going on, too. There is something supernatural about this story too. In many ways, this is an introduction to the cosmic battle between good and evil – which is exactly what Jesus' ministry will be about. Jesus wins this battle. But the devil promises to return at a more opportune time. When will that be? Stay tuned.

We are now ready for Jesus' ministry to begin in earnest. And that's where we will pick up the story next time. In the meantime, stay rooted in God's Word!!

Humbly in Christ,

Pastor Nate

Pastor Nate

GENERAL FUND	
12/1/2024	7937
12/8/2024	2490
12/15/2024	4776
12/22/2024	3308
12/29/2024	17278
Electronic Giving	470
Direct Deposit	8189
TOTAL GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS	44448
EXPENSES	
Benevolences	11050
Programs	2099
Staff including taxes and benefits	24938
Operations	2,855
Building Expenses	8343
TOTAL EXPENSES	49285
Gain/Loss	-4837
General Fund Register Balance as of 12/31/2024	110207

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

FINANCIAL UPDATE



	RESTRICTED			
	Balance 12/1/2024	Gifts & Additions	Payments	Balance 12/31/2024
Backpacks for Kids	\$7,592	\$500		\$8,092
Bell/Carillon	\$250			\$250
Cooking Matters (Ministerial Association)	\$240	\$500		\$740
Congregational Life	\$2,000			\$2,000
Easter Giving Blitz	\$100			\$100
Good Samaritan	\$2,485	\$420		\$2,905
General Reserve Funds	\$10,849			\$10,849
Giving Tree	\$1,453	\$850	\$4,711	-\$2,408
Global Mission	\$1,645	\$530		\$2,175
Library Fund	\$125			\$125
Luther Crest Scholarships	\$472			\$472
Lutheran World Relief	\$519	\$200		\$719
Medical Mission	\$5,000			\$5,000
Organ Fund	\$557			\$557
Parish Nursing	\$487			\$487
Piano Fund	\$288	\$500		\$788
Soup Tuesday	\$620			\$620
Scholarship Fund	\$5,570	\$500		\$6,070
School Kits	\$1,000			\$1,000
Sunday School	\$292	\$500		\$792
Thrivent Micro Grant	\$1,016			\$1,016
Wadena Food Shelf/Food Shelf	\$812			\$812
Wadena Ministerial	\$100	\$100		\$200
Wednesday Night Supper	\$31	\$1,061	\$1,163	-\$71
Worship and Music	\$2,513	\$700	\$607	\$2,606
YAGM	\$7,116			\$7,116
Restricted Fund Register Balance	\$53,132	6,361.08	6,481.26	\$53,012

BUILDING FUND	
Building Fund Balance 12/1/2024	26730
Deposits & Interest	1406
Payments	
Building Fund Register Balance 12/31/2024	28136

The council met on Sunday, January 12, 2025. President Mike Brunsberg called the meeting to order.

Congregational Life: *Peggy Larson*— The committee resumed serving Wednesday night meals on January 8th, 2025 with 60 people attending. For the past two years, it has been a pleasure to be the chair of this committee and work with such incredible people. Thank you for your dedication and willingness to make every planned event so successful.

Outreach Evangelism: *Rick Johnson*—*Did not meet.* Backpacks were filled again for the month of January. There was a good turnout of people to help on Jan. 9th. Pastor Nate reported that a grant of \$3,000 had been received from the Elks and a donation of \$1,000 had been received from the Paper family. Thank you to all who support this program.

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

Property Management: *Steph Drange*— Steph, Pastor Nate and Ellen met on Dec.30th to determine the next step for projects. Calls have been made to flooring contractors and plans are being made for summer repairs.

Worship and Music: *Anne Oldakowski*— *Did not meet.* The committee is working on purchasing a 100 in. TV to replace the aging projector. The TV will be much brighter and easier to view from the entire sanctuary.

Youth Leadership: *Katie Johnson*—*Absent* —The committee has met and continues to work on plans for the ice skating event on Feb. 16th.

Immanuel Church Women: *Diane Teigland, Absent* – Over 50 quilts and over 300 health Care kits have been shipped.

Lead Pastor: Pastor Nate Loer— December/Early January Highlights: 1. We had a very meaningful Advent and Christmas here at Immanuel 2. The Youth Christmas Program was Dec. 15/ 18. 3. The funeral services for Tim Wohlert were December 20th. 4. Christmas Eve services were well attended with 237 people at the 1st service and 140 at 5:30 for a total of 377 which is way up from previous years. **Looking Ahead:** 1. Early Risers Class on Luke/Acts continues each Sunday at 8 a.m. 2. Wednesday Discipleship has resumed. Because Lent is so late, we get a nice pile of Wednesdays for our programming before Lenten Wednesdays take over. 3. Soup Tuesdays start January 14th 4th. 4. The Annual Report is nearing completion. 5. The next food pack is February 6th at 2:30.

Financial Secretary Report: Reported by Sue Johnson: The total of Sunday and Wednesday general offerings counted and deposited in December, 2024 was \$42,203.08. This does not include direct deposits.

Treasurers Report: Jena Osberg

GENERAL FUND

Total General Contributions: December 2024	\$44,448.00
Total Expenses:	\$49,285.00
General Fund Register: Balance as of December 31, 2024	\$110,207.00
Building Fund:	\$28,136.00
Restricted Fund Balance (12/31/24)	\$53,012.00

Finance Committee: *Bryan Greenwaldt*— *Absent.* The 2025 budget has been completed.

Other Business: Annual Meeting: Congregational dinner at 5:30 pm; Annual meeting 6:30 pm on Jan. 29, 2025. **Nominating Committee Update:** Almost all Council positions have been filled. Still needed are the Chairperson for the Outreach committee and the Financial Vice Secretary. **Jeremiah 29 Committee Update:** Immanuel Lutheran Church will participate on a steering committee for this project. Jena Osberg has volunteered, however one more person from our congregation needs to be selected. The outgoing members of the council were acknowledged for their work this past year(s) and the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

A motion was made by Margie Anderson and seconded by Peggy Larson to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeanne Olson Secretary

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

ICE SKATING FOR ALL!

FELLOWSHIP • FOOD • FUN
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

ALL AGES WELCOME!

4-7 PM

SKATES AVAILABLE!

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP MINISTRY

Sign up outside the church office to usher, lector, assist with communion, and/or provide special music for Sunday worship services!

Wednesday Discipleship

Weekly spiritual practices are vital to our faith. Young and old, we hope your family will be part of this weekly discipleship!

- Dinner at 4:30-5:45 pm in the Fellowship Hall
 - February 5 ~ Chicken Drumsticks/Mashed Potatoes/Gravy
 - February 12 ~ Tator Tot Hotdish/Hamburger Goulash
 - February 19 ~ Mac n Cheese/Hot Dogs
 - February 26 ~ Chicken Alfredo
- Worship at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary
- Education at 6:45-7:30 pm
- Sanctuary Choir rehearses at 7:00pm

What's Happening

- February 2
 - 8-8:45 am - Early Risers
 - Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
- February 3
 - 12-6 pm - Blood Drive
- February 4
 - 9-12 pm - Blood Drive
 - 9 am - Staff Meeting
- February 5
 - 12 pm - Rotary (#3 N Overland)
 - Wednesday Discipleship Schedule (see below)
 - 7:30 pm - ILC Youth Council Meeting
- February 6
 - 1 pm - MAC/NAPS
 - 2:30 pm - Backpack Food Pack
- February 9
 - 8-8:45 am - Early Risers
 - Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
- February 10
 - 9 am - ICW Block Cutting
- February 11
 - 9 am - Staff Meeting
 - 12-1 pm - Soup Tuesday
 - 1:30 pm - ICW Bible Study (January Gather)
- February 12
 - 12 pm - Rotary (catered)
 - Wednesday Discipleship Schedule (see below)
- February 13
 - 6 pm - Northstar Round Table

- February 16
 - 8-8:45 am - Early Risers
 - Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
 - 10:45 am - ILC Council Meeting
- February 17 - President's Day
OFFICE CLOSED
 - 9 am - ICW Quilting
- February 18
 - 9 am - ICW Quilting
 - 9 am - Staff Meeting
 - 12-1 pm - Soup Tuesday
 - 5:30 pm - Dinner Club @ Larry's Family Pizza
- February 19
 - 12 pm - Rotary (#1 G Klueenberg)
 - Wednesday Discipleship Schedule (see below)
- February 20
 - 10:30 am - Catholic Charities Frozen Meal Distribution
- February 23
 - 8-8:45 am - Early Risers
 - Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
- February 24
 - 2 pm - Book Club (Friendship Room)
- February 25
 - 9 am - Staff Meeting
 - 11 am - Dementia Care Giver Support Group (Friendship Room - all are welcome!)
 - 12-1 pm - Soup Tuesday
- February 26
 - 12 pm - Rotary (catered)
 - Wednesday Discipleship Schedule (see below)

IMMANUEL DINNER CLUB

Dinner Club will meet
Tuesday, February 18th
@ Larry's Family Pizza ~ 5:30 pm

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
presents

SOUP TUESDAY

A free-will offering will be collected to support the Wednesday Night Meal Fund.
February 11, 18, 25 & March 4

There is a Camp For Everyone!

- Overnight Camps for all ages
- Day Camps
- Family Camps
- Pre-School Day Camp
- Camp with Grandparents
- Family Fishing Weekend
- Extreme Camp for Thrillseekers

Don't Forget!

Register by the early bird deadline and Immanuel will cover 100% of the cost of camp!!

Early Bird Dates

Pathways: March 21
Luther Crest: February 13

Ash Wednesday is March 5
Lenten Wednesdays begin March 12

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5. Wednesday evening soup suppers and evening prayer begin March 12. Watch for more details in your March newsletter.

There will also be sign-ups posted by Pastor Nate's office soon for making soup & desserts and helping with worship!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

BLOCK CUTTING - MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10 @ 9:00 AM
MONDAY, MARCH 3 @ 9:00 AM

BIBLE STUDY - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11 @ 1:30 PM
TUESDAY, MARCH 11 @ 1:30 PM

QUILTING - FEBRUARY 17 & 18 @ 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
MARCH 17 & 18 @ 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Communion Milestone Class

We will send a letter out soon, but all students 5th grade and older who have not received instruction in Holy Communion are welcome to join us on Wednesday in Lent for instruction. Students and at least one parent/guardian can join us downstairs in the choir room March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9 from 5-5:45 pm. We will recognize students during the Maundy Thursday Service, April 17 at 6:30 pm. Talk to Pastor Nate or Elana Seibert with questions.

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

Backpacks for Kids

OUR NEXT FOOD PACK IS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6 @ 2:30 PM IN THE ELEMENTARY CAFETERIA. COME AND HELP US PACK 300+ BAGS OF WEEKEND FOOD FOR LOCAL STUDENTS IN NEED!

ILC Book Club - Monday, February 24 @ 2:00 pm in the Friendship Room

"The Seven Generations and the Seven Grandfather Teachings"

By: James Vukelich Kaagegaaban