

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.....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
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 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.*

January 2025

From the Desk of Pastor Nate...



Happy New Year! As we say farewell to 2024 and greet the dawning of 2025, I pray God's blessing on you and your family – blessings that ripple God's love and provision out to your neighbors near and far.

Last year, I challenged you to read the gospel of Mark. This year, I'm going to double my challenge and encourage you to read both Luke AND Acts. That may sound like a huge undertaking, but you have 12 months to do it!! And I'll provide some commentary to guide us along the way each month, too.

In January, get off to a good start in this journey by reading Luke 1:1-2:52. Here are a few things to pay attention to in these verses.

First, notice how Luke uses the names and dates of powerful people to let us know how to place this moment in history. And also notice, that when God acts, he doesn't act among those powerful people, but to unknown, powerless people. The word comes to Zechariah ... and to a woman in Nazareth named Mary! The uplifting of the powerless and the humbling of the powerful is another thing to notice in these chapters as well. We will certainly see that theme continue in the rest of the book, too.

Second, notice how Luke is very careful to tell stories that identify the faithfulness of Jesus' family to Jewish customs and rituals. And at the same time, this Jesus will bring good news to all nations and peoples.

Third, notice how the infancy stories of both John and Jesus already make it clear that these boys are special. John is to drink no wine – and the angels predicts that he will be full of the Holy Spirit and the power of Elijah. Jesus' birth is heralded by angels and when presented in the temple at 8-days old, Simeon and Anna give prophecies about him. And at age 12, he is already visiting in the temple with the elders and impressing them with his questions and knowledge.

Finally, pause and appreciate that so much of these early chapters of Luke is unique to Luke. The annunciation of John the Baptist's birth as told by the angel to his father, Zechariah. The trip to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus in a stable. The story of Jesus presented in the temple at 8-days old. The story of the boy Jesus lost in Jerusalem. Even the shepherds being told of the birth by the host of angels in their fields is only told in Luke's gospel.

Savor these stories, my friends. And next month, we'll explore another section of Luke. Until then, blessings on your early days of 2025. Stay rooted in God's Word!!

Humbly in Christ,

Pastor Nate

Pastor Nate

GENERAL FUND	
11/3/2024	18637
11/10/2024	6720
11/17/2024	1859
11/24/2024	17211
Electronic Giving	520
Direct Deposit	7989
TOTAL GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS	52936
EXPENSES	
Benevolences	440
Programs	1532
Staff including taxes and benefits	23589
Operations	1,186
Building Expenses	1099
TOTAL EXPENSES	27845
Gain/Loss	25091
General Fund Register Balance as of 11/30/2024	113659

FINANCIAL UPDATE



RESTRICTED				
	Balance 11/1/2024	Gifts & Additions	Payments	Balance 11/30/2024
Backpacks for Kids	\$7,592			\$7,592
Bell/Carillon	\$250			\$250
Chandra Paul Martian Minnesota	\$0	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0
Cooking Matters (Ministerial Association)	\$240			\$240
Congregational Life	\$2,000			\$2,000
Easter Giving Blitz	\$100			\$100
Good Samaritan	\$1,880	\$605		\$2,485
General Reserve Funds	\$10,849			\$10,849
Giving Tree	\$1,718	\$95	\$360	\$1,453
Global Mission	\$1,645			\$1,645
Library Fund	\$125			\$125
Luther Crest Scholarships	\$472			\$472
Lutheran World Relief	\$469	\$50		\$519
Medical Mission	\$5,000			\$5,000
Organ Fund	\$537	\$20		\$557
Parish Nursing	\$487			\$487
Piano Fund	\$288			\$288
Soup Tuesday	\$620			\$620
Scholarship Fund	\$5,570			\$5,570
School Kits	\$1,000			\$1,000
Sunday School	\$292			\$292
Thrivent Micro Grant	\$1,016			\$1,016
Wadena Food Shelf/Food Shelf	\$812			\$812
Wadena Ministerial	\$0	\$100		\$100
Wednesday Night Supper	\$97		\$66	\$31
Worship and Music	\$2,514	\$200		\$2,714
YAGM	\$7,116			\$7,116
Restricted Fund Register Balance	\$52,689	2,270.00	1,626.12	\$53,333

BUILDING FUND	
Building Fund Balance 11/1/2024	26299
Deposits & Interest	431
Payments	
Building Fund Register Balance 11/30/2024	26730

The council met on Sunday, December 15, 2024. President Mike Brunsberg called the meeting to order.

Endowment Committee: Pastor Nate reported that additional gifts were made to ICW Quilting (\$1,000), Empty Stocking (\$2,000), and People's Church (\$1,000). A motion was made by Bryan Greenwaldt and seconded by Rick Johnson to ratify these payments. A total of \$15,000 has been made from these funds this year.

Congregational Life: *Peggy Larson*—The Christmas potluck and craft event held on December 15 were a success. It was an awesome year!

Outreach Evangelism: *Rick Johnson*—*Did not meet.* Backpacks are being filled and the Giving Tree program is going well. Gift wrapping will be held as planned.

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

Property Management: *Steph Drange*—*Absent.* Steph has continued to work with contractors to complete projects.

Worship and Music: *Anne Oldakowski*—*Met on Dec. 8th.* The committee looked at various mock-ups for TV displays in the sanctuary to replace the projector/screen combo that is currently being used. Considerations were sizing, locations, mounting, wiring, and any possible obstacles.

Youth Leadership: *Katie Johnson*—*Absent Met on Dec. 4th.* The Christmas Event to occur on Dec. 15th will be hosted by the Congregation Life Committee. Youth leaders will attend Wednesday night evening meals to play games with the younger kids. The Christmas program will be directed by Amsale, Isabelle, Anna, and Chloe. In the future plans are being discussed for a youth lock-up (ages and length oflock-up), Nerf war for kindergarten and up, and possibly a preschool, kindergarten and parent craft and movie day. We also hope to contact the Hegarty's to have an ice skating event at their home.

Immanuel Church Women: *Diane Teigland*, *Absent* The women's groups have served lunch for several funerals. 54 quilts and over 300 health Care kits were shipped.

Lead Pastor: Pastor Nate Loer— November/Early December Highlights: 1. Much of my focus lately has been in helping people navigate grief. 2. We hosted our own "Getting through the Holidays" event here on November 21. We had a nice-sized group and it seemed like a positive and helpful evening for those who participated. Jil assisted with a grief-related presentation. Elana organized a memorial ornament project. 3. We have a wonderful congregation that serves families in times of grief. We have had several funerals in recent weeks: Elinor Wiskow on November 24, Judy Loeffen on December 2, and Karen Erkenbrack on December 6th. 4. We packed 350 bags of food for the backpacks program on December 5th. **Looking Ahead:** 1. Youth Christmas program Dec. 15th and 18th. 2. Sanctuary Choir program on Sunday December 22. 3. Christmas Eve services Dec. 24 at 3:30 pm and 5:30 pm 4. Our next food pack is January 4 at 2:30 p.m.

Financial Secretary Report: *Reported by Sue Johnson*—The total of Sunday and Wednesday general offerings counted and deposited in November was \$46,696.75. This does not include direct deposits.

Treasurers Report: *Jena Osberg*

GENERAL FUND

Total General Contributions: November, 2024	\$52,936.00
Total Expenses:	\$27,845.00
General Fund Register: (11/30/24)	\$113,659.00
Building Fund Register Balance (11/30/24)	\$26,730.00
Restricted Fund Balance (11/30/24)	\$53,333.00

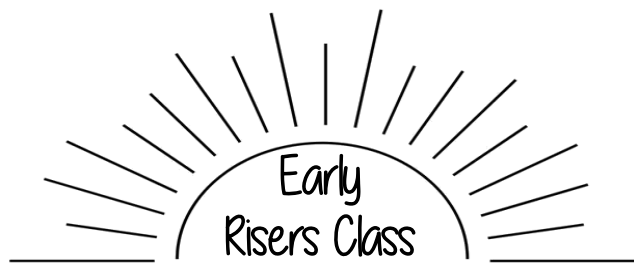
Finance Committee: *Bryan Greenwaldt*—The committee welcomed new committee member Sara Graba. We went over the proposed budget for 2025. Bryan submitted the 2025 budget to the council for review. A motion was made by Margie Anderson and seconded by Sue Johnson to present the 2025 budget to the congregation at the Annual meeting in January. Motion passed.

Our Vision and Mission—Other Business

Following the discussion with Pastor Moen and Bishop Tesch, the council discussed possible projects for the Wadena community which included helping those who are homeless with personal care items, places to do laundry, improving substandard housing plus child care opportunities for anyone.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. A motion was made by Byan Greenwaldt and seconded by Jena Osberg to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanne Olson Secretary



Our study of Luke/Acts continues Sunday mornings 8-8:45 am. Classes in January are the 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th. Participants can join in person (Friendship Room) or via Zoom. Email Pastor Nate for the Zoom link (nateloer@gmail.com).

Soup Tuesdays

January 14, 21, 28
February 4, 11, 18, 25
March 4

With serving beginning @ NOON

Join the Immanuel staff for a hot bowl (or two) of soup and conversation! Come when you can and leave when you must. A free-will offering will go to support the Wednesday Night Meal Fund.

The Congregational Life Committee wants to thank everyone who participated in the "Be the Church Out of the Church" holiday event. 70 pounds of food was collected for the Wadena Food Shelf and several large boxes of items were donated to Someplace Safe. Your generosity was very much appreciated! Our potluck and ornament event was a wonderful time of fellowship! Please join us on January 8, 2025 when we return to Wednesday night meal service. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

BLOCK CUTTING - MONDAY, JANUARY 6 @ 9:00 AM
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10 @ 9:00 AM

BIBLE STUDY - TUESDAY, JANUARY 14 @ 1:30 PM
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11 @ 1:30 PM

QUILTING - JANUARY 20 & 21 @ 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
FEBRUARY 17 & 18 @ 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM


SUNDAY WORSHIP MINISTRY

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





Dinner Club will meet
Tuesday, January 21
@ Burger King - 5:30 pm



All confirmed members of the congregation are voting members and are encouraged to attend. The back-up date for this meeting (in case of bad weather) is Sunday, February 2 @ 10:45 am.

Wednesday
January 29, 2025

5:30 PM - Congregational Dinner
6:30 PM - Annual Meeting

Members and Friends of Immanuel: Thank you for all the incredible support you've shown the youth of Immanuel this past year. Your kindness and support do not go unnoticed, and we feel so grateful to be part of such a wonderful faith community!

Wednesday Discipleship Resumes

January 8

Meal - 4:30-5:45
Worship - 6:00
Education - 6:45-7:30

What's Happening

January 1 - New Year's Day

OFFICE CLOSED

January 5

8-8:45 am - Early Risers Class
Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)

January 6

9 am - ICW Block Cutting
12-3:30 pm - Fellowship Hall in Use

January 7

9 am - Staff Meeting

January 8

12 pm - Rotary (Group #1 G Klueenberg)
Wednesday Discipleship Schedule (see below)
7:30 pm - ILC Youth Council Meeting

January 9

1 pm - MAC/NAPS
2:30 pm - Backpack Food Pack
6 pm - Northstar Round Table Meeting

January 12

8-8:45 am - Early Risers Class
Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
10:45 am - ILC Council Meeting
2:00 pm - Julia Whynott's Student Piano Recital
4:30 pm - Julia Whynott's Student Piano Recital

January 14

9 am - Staff Meeting
1:30 pm - ICW Bible Study - "November" Gather Study

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

January 15

12 pm - Rotary (Catered)
Wednesday Discipleship Schedule (see below)

January 16

10:30 am - Catholic Charities Frozen Meal Distribution

January 19

8-8:45 am - Early Risers Class
Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)

January 20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
OFFICE CLOSED

9 am - ICW Quilting

January 21

9 am - ICW Quilting
9 am - Staff Meeting
5:30 pm - Dinner Club @ Burger King

January 22

12 pm - Rotary (Group #2 D Haraldson)
Wednesday Discipleship Schedule (see below)

January 26

8-8:45 am - Early Risers Class
Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)

January 27

2 pm - Book Club (Friendship Room)

January 28

9 am - Staff Meeting

January 29

12 pm - Rotary (Catered)
No Wednesday Discipleship
5:30 pm - Congregational Dinner
6:30 pm - ILC Annual Meeting

Backpacks for Kids

OUR NEXT FOOD PACK IS THURSDAY, JANUARY 9 @ 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

"The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane"

Monday, January 27

by Lisa Lee

2:00 pm - Friendship Room

