

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.*

March 2024

From the Desk of Pastor Nate...

Lenten greetings to you all in the name of the one we strive to follow: our Lord, Jesus Christ. I've spent the last few months giving you some overall thoughts on reading the Gospel of Mark. This month, we dig more deeply into Mark chapter 1. If you've been engaged in worship, you know that we've been spending LOTS of time in Mark chapter 1, so I'll try not to repeat myself too much!



Mark begins his gospel by making two really important claims about Jesus: "The beginning of the good news of Jesus *Christ*, the *Son of God*" (Mark 1:1, emphasis added). We hear these labels for Jesus all the time, so we might not notice their significance. But consider how important they are. This Jesus Mark is about to tell us about is God's anointed (that's what "Christ" means) and is, in fact, the very Son of God.

Mark will then spend his gospel doing two things (at least!): 1) Telling us what it means to be Messiah and Son of God; and 2) Showing us how the others in the story see Jesus' identity revealed and how they react.

What does it mean to be the Son of God and the anointed one? Well, it doesn't mean he will be spared temptation. In Mark 1:9-15, Jesus is driven into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan for 40 days. It also doesn't mean that he will perform his ministry among great and powerful people. In Mark 1:16-20 he calls four fishermen based out of Galilee to be his first disciples. Galilee was far from the center of power in that culture. And fishermen were certainly capable people – but not the most powerful people in that culture either.

Being Messiah/Christ does mean that Jesus has power over demons, illness, and disease. But notice something more. As Jesus heals those marginalized by their sickness, his fame spreads and the crowds grow. And he doesn't use this fame to become powerful. He uses it to serve others. At the end of Mark 1, Jesus heals a leper whose illness had kept him away from others. The man was able to re-join society. But this act of healing has cost Jesus something. Now, he is unable to go into the city. He has effectively "traded places" with the leperous man. It is a foreshadowing of the way he will trade places with us on the cross, taking our sin and giving us his righteousness.

Keep reading Mark's gospel, my friends! And may God strengthen us, as always, to move forward boldly in faith. And follow this one who gives us His whole self in love.

Humbly in Christ,

Pastor Nate

Pastor Nate

The council met on Sunday, February 11, 2024. President Mike Brunsberg called the meeting to order.

Congregational Life: *Peggy Larson*— Met on February 11, 2024 – Discussed the Bingo/Baked Potato event on February 25. Volunteers to make bars and serve soup for Wednesday Lenten meals. Meals were planned for the remaining Wednesday Lenten meals in April. The council members will be providing the meal on March 13th and working the supper. New member Sunday will be on March 10th, 2024. We will provide coffee and snack after the 9:30 service. Planning began for next year.

Outreach Evangelism: *Rick Johnson*—Did not meet – Rick reported that Pastor Nate had been meeting with new members. Council discussed how to improve the reception/greeting of new members and the use of name tags for identification of council. Margie Anderson to see about getting the name tags with assistance from Katie Johnson.

Parish Education: *Vacant*—Did not meet – Wednesday discipleship is going well. There has been good attendance for classes. May 1st will be the last day. Elana to get a group together to discuss topics.

Property Management: *Steph Drange* – Steph has invited anyone interested in discussing Immanuel's property needs, big or small, to visit after worship services on February 25th in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Nate brought up the need for a reliable, prompt source of hot water in the kitchen sink. Council discussed materials needed, cost, and process to achieve this result. Estimated total cost of the project is \$1500. A property budget line item can be used to fund the project according to Pastor Nate. A motion was made by Sue Johnson and Seconded by Jane Bagstad to proceed with the project using a local contractor. Motion carried.

Worship and Music: *Anne Oldakowski*— Met on February 5, 2024 – Still have special music sign ups available. Hymn selection is up to date. Discussed all upcoming services including Lent and Easter.

Youth Leadership: *Katie Johnson*—Met on February 7, 2024 – The ice skating event for February 18th was canceled, Youth Lent take over will be Wednesday February 21st, Baked Potato Bar and Bingo will be on February 25th, Sunday March 3rd the youth will lead worship. Palm Sunday the youth will serve breakfast, Easter Egg filling will be Wednesday, March 27th with the Easter Egg Hunt March 31st following services.

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

Lead Pastor: *Pastor Nate Loer*— **January/Early February Highlights:** Soup Tuesdays have gone very well. Immanuel Staff chili will be on February 13th. Free will offerings collected at these luncheon gatherings have been given to the WDC Back for Kids Program. Joe Hallerman's funeral was on January 22; Janette Hanson's February 1st: I'm always so grateful for our congregation's support of people in grief. The Annual Meeting went well on January 31st. Thank you to our new council members for saying "yes" to the call to serve. We had to shift our Backpacks food pack to a different day, Friday, February 2nd. There were 20 people there to fill bags! **Looking Ahead:** New Member Coffee will be March 10 during/after worship. We will be recognizing 8 families that have joined or are in the process of joining in the past year. It would be great to have lots of council members there to greet them and get to know them. Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on February 14th. I burned palms with my confirmation students on February 7th which I will use for the imposition of ashes that evening. Lenten Wednesdays begin February 21. I encourage all of you to make engagement with the disciplines of Lent a priority. Our regular Wednesday Discipleship schedule takes a pause until April 3rd. Our next Backpacks food pack is March 4, 7th at 2:30 pm.

Financial Secretary Report: *Sue Johnson & Jane Bagstad* – Total of Sunday and Wednesday general offerings counted and deposited in January 2024 was \$38,482.70. This did not include direct deposit offerings.

Treasurers Report: *Jena Osberg*

GENERAL FUND

Total General Contributions: January 2024	\$46,692.00
Total Expenses:	\$34,085.00
General Fund Register: Balance as of January 31, 2024	\$108,121.00
Building Fund:	\$22,368.00

Finance Committee: *Bryan Greenwaldt* – Absent

Other Business – Pastor Nate handed out a Visioning Summary and led a discussion on the following: Making connections/ Relationship Building. (A new directory of Immanuel's membership has been started) Sharing Gifts, Wednesday Worship and Discipleship, Community Involvement, Becoming an Inviting Congregation, Sunday Morning, and Online Engagement. Questions for future conversations were posed including Handicapped Parking spaces/signs within the church parking lot. The Immanuel church constitution and Bylaws were handed out to the council members.

Motion made by Jena Osberg to adjourn. Rick Johnson seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am with the Lord's Prayer.

FINANCIAL UPDATE



GENERAL FUND	
1/7/2024	28054
1/14/2024	3158
1/21/2024	3112
1/28/2024	3034
Electronic Giving	470
Direct Deposit	8864
TOTAL GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS	46692
EXPENSES	
Benevolences	540
Programs	1696
Staff including taxes and benefits	24156
Operations	972
Building Expenses	6721
TOTAL EXPENSES	34085
Gain/Loss	12607
General Fund Register Balance as of 01/31/2024	108121

	RESTRICTED			
	Balance 1/1/2024	Gifts & Additions	Payments	Balance 1/31/2024
Backpacks for Kids	\$7,147	400		\$7,547
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			\$3,414
General Reserve Funds	\$10,849			\$10,849
Giving Tree	\$1,718			\$1,718
Global Mission	\$1,585	30.00		\$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	\$200	100.00		\$300
Organ Fund	\$537			\$537
Parish Nursing	\$487			\$487
Piano Fund	\$538			\$538
Soup Tuesday	\$0	558.75		\$559
Scholarship Fund	\$8,070			\$8,070
School Kits	\$15			\$15
Sunday School	\$292			\$292
Thrivent Micro Grant	\$2,000			\$2,000
VBS	\$377			\$377
Wadena Food Shelf/Food Shelf	\$1,512			\$1,512
Wed. Night Faith Formation Supper	\$118		371.63	-\$254
Wednesday Offering	\$669			\$669
Worship and Music	\$2,514			\$2,514
YAGM	\$7,116			\$7,116
Restricted Fund Register Balance	\$68,488	1,088.75	371.63	\$59,216

BUILDING FUND	
Building Fund Balance 1/1/2024	22009
Deposits & Interest	360
Payments	
Building Fund Register Balance 1/31/2024	22368

LENTEN WEDNESDAYS CONTINUE THROUGH MARCH 20TH

The season of Lent calls us to discipline and prayer with Wednesday gatherings continuing 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: Teachings, Healings, and Callings (Oh My!). It will be a wonderful season of growing in faith. We



Dinner Club will meet Tuesday, March 19 @ 5:30 pm Iron Corral

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!

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!

What's Happening

- March 1
12 pm - Catholic Charities Frozen Meal Distribution
- March 3
Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
(Youth Led Service)
- March 4
9 am - ICW Block Cutting
- March 5
9 am - Staff Meeting
- March 6
12 pm - Rotary (#3 N. Overland)
Lent Worship Schedule (see below)
7:30 pm - ILC Youth Council Meeting
- March 7
1 pm - MAC/NAPS
2:30 pm - Food Pack - WDC Elementary
- March 10 - Daylight Savings Time
Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
Following Worship - New Member Recognition
(Fellowship Hall)
4:30 pm - ILC Council Meeting
- March 12
9 am - Staff Meeting
1:30 pm - ICW Bible Study
(February "Gather")
- March 13
12 pm - Rotary (Catered)
Lent Worship Schedule (see below)
- March 14
6 pm - Northstar Round Table
- March 16
7 am - Cub Scouts - Use of Facility

- March 17
Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
(Last Early Risers Class)
Following Worship - Tess Jones Presentation
(Fellowship Hall)
3 pm - Cub Scouts
- March 18
9 am - ICW Church Mice
- March 19
9 am - ICW Church Mice
9 am - Staff Meeting
5:30 pm - Dinner Club @ Iron Corral
- March 20
12 pm - Rotary (#1 G. Klunenbergl)
Lent Worship Schedule (see below)
- March 24—Palm Sunday
8 am - Palm Sunday Youth Breakfast
9:30 am - Palm Sunday Worship Service
- March 25
7 pm - Book Club @ Sharon Boline's
- March 26
9 am - Staff Meeting
11 am - Dementia Support Group
(Friendship Room - all are welcome!)
- March 27
12 pm - Rotary (Catered)
5:30 pm - Filling Easter Eggs (Fellowship Hall)
Pizza will be provided!!
- March 28 - Maundy Thursday
2 pm - Maundy Thursday Service
6:30 pm - Maundy Thursday Service (Youtube Live)
(Holy Communion Milestone & Stripping of the Altar)
- March 29 - Good Friday
6:30 pm - Good Friday Service (YouTube Live)
- March 31 - Easter Sunday
8:30 - Easter Worship Service (YouTube Live)
10:00 - Easter Worship Service
(Easter Egg hunt to follow both services)
- April 1 - Easter Monday - OFFICE CLOSED

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Join us Sunday, March 24 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.

EASTER EGG HUNT
KIDS 6TH GRADE AND UNDER JOIN US ON EASTER SUNDAY AFTER BOTH SERVICES FOR AN EASTER EGG HUNT IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL!
MARCH 31, 2024

Women's Discipleship
Block Cutting - Monday, March 4 @ 9:00 am
Monday, April 1, 2024 @ 9:00 am
Bible Study - Tuesday, March 12 @ 1:30 pm
(February "Gather" Study)
Tuesday, April 9 @ 1:30 pm
(March "Gather" Study)
Quilting - March 18 & 19 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
April 15 & 16 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Easter Flower Sign up
located by the office
Lilies ~ \$18.00
Mums ~ \$21.95
Begonias ~ \$21.95
Order Deadline is March 18th

Spring Forward
March 10, 2024 • Set your clock ahead!

Holy Week Schedule

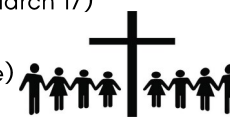
- March 24
Palm Sunday
8-9:30 am Palm Sunday Breakfast (Served by Immanuel Youth)
9:30 am Worship Service (Youtube LIVE)
- March 28
Maundy Thursday
2:00 pm Worship Service
6:30 pm Worship Service (YouTube LIVE)
(Holy Communion & Stripping of the Altar)
- March 29
Good Friday
6:30 pm Worship Service (YouTube LIVE)
- March 31
Easter Sunday
8:30 am Worship Service (YouTube LIVE)
10:00 am Worship Service (Special music by the Sanctuary Choir and Easter egg hunt following both services for children through 6th grade.)

Sunday Worship Schedule

- 8:00 - Early Risers Class (ends March 17)
- 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!!)



NEW MEMBER SUNDAY IS MARCH 10

In the past year or so, we've added quite a few families to the congregation and feel it's time to do a public acknowledgement of our newest members. We will take a bit of time to acknowledge new members on Sunday, March 10 during 9:30 am worship. And everyone is invited to stay for a time of coffee and refreshments after worship in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in joining Immanuel, reach out to Pastor Nate (218-640-5913).

Tess Jones Presentation March 17

Tess Jones, daughter of the congregation, is traveling to Toulouse, France this summer to deepen her faith, receive training with the Cru Organization (Formerly Campus Crusades for Christ), and share her service, love, and faith with college students and individuals in surrounding cities. She is looking for prayers and financial support. She will share brief greetings in worship and make a short presentation in the Fellowship Hall after worship. Please join us to learn more.

Backpacks for Kids

Our next food pack for the WDC Weekend Backpack Program is Thursday, March 7 @ 2:30 pm in the Elementary cafeteria. Join us as we work together to assemble 350+ bags of weekend food for local kids in need!

BOOKCLUB

Monday, March 25th
7pm @ Sharon Boline's
1114 King Ave SW, Opt 404
We will be discussing "Emma" by Jane Austen. We meet every 4th Monday of the month (Sept - May). Anyone interested is welcome to attend!!