

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.....Jennifer Brunsberg
 Vice President.....Mike Brunsberg
 Secretary.....Meagan Ferris
 Treasurer.....Jena Osberg
 Financial Secretary.....Gail Klunenberg
 Financial Vice-Secretary.....Sue Johnson
 Congregational Life.....Peggy Larson
 Education.....vacant
 Finance.....Bryan Greenwaldt
 Outreach.....Rick Johnson
 Property Management.....Sam Sundby
 Worship and Music.....Pam Nelson
 Youth.....Sara Ross

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.*

May 2023

From the Desk of Pastor Nate...

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Hallelujah!! Grace and peace to you, Easter people of God!! Easter is more than one Sunday. It is a 50-day season of celebrating the resurrection of our Lord. And on the 40th day of that season, we celebrate Jesus' ascension. This celebration is May 18 this year.



Luke 24:44-53 tells the story this way:

Then [Jesus] said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Jesus completes his earthly mission in this story. He has died and been raised. And now he ascends to the Father so that the Holy Spirit might come and strengthen us to bring this news to the world. Did you notice the words of Jesus here? He says we are witnesses of his suffering, death, and resurrection. Jesus doesn't say, "I hope you will be my witnesses." He tells us we ARE witnesses.

It was such a joy to host Pastor Pimpinan Sijabat, his wife, Roma, and their twin boys on April 23. He spoke about the importance of understanding ourselves as witnesses. The question isn't whether or not we give witness to Christ. The question is how.

My invitation to you is to make this your daily prayer this Easter season. Whenever you are in a group of people – at the store, in a restaurant, in a meeting, a conversation with others – pray this way: "Lord, Jesus, I know you have called me to witness to the new life found in you. Show me how I might share your love today. Amen."

Humbly in Christ,

Pastor Nate

Pastor Nate

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATES

The council met on April 16, 2023. President Jennifer Brunsberg called the meeting to order.

Congregational Life: *Peggy Larson— Met on April 16, 2023*

The last few Lenten meals were well attended. \$922.50 was given during the Lenten free will offering. This will be divided between Wadena Food Shelf and Lutheran World Relief. Monetary donations are appreciated greatly. Remaining three Wednesday night meals were planned and we will have pizza and ice cream floats on the last Wednesday meal. Plan to hold a Welcome Back Picnic on Thursday, Aug 31, 2023 at Tapley Park. It is the consensus of the committee that we should continue to provide Wednesday night meals next year and add a few congregational events throughout the year. There will be a focus on having other congregational members help serve the meals. It was agreed that committee members would help serve the VBS meals this summer. There was a question on how we could create a line item that many of us use such as plastic cups, styrofoam cups, etc. The thought was that it would be beneficial for all groups to be able to use this account so that basic supplies could be used by anyone and would lessen the need to keep basic supplies separate for each group.

Outreach Evangelism: *Rick Johnson—Met*

Welcoming visitors. Looking at programs that are currently in place, backpack program, giving tree, Browerville Kitchen, etc. Preparing a list of services and activities available for new members. Next meeting on the 25th.

Parish Education: *Vacant—Did not meet.*

Property Management: *Sam Sundby—Did not meet.*

Some roof and boiler issues that have been resolved.

Worship and Music: *Pam Nelson—Met March 27, 2023*

Refurbished Steinway piano service: The Taggart Family is scheduled to do a concert on Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 2:00pm. There will be a free-will offering to support Lutheran Disaster Response for U.S. Tornado Relief. We will advertise as much as possible to ensure good attendance. Flyers are being distributed around the area. Radio and newspapers will also be utilized. Coffee will be served following the concert. Services: Lenten services and Sunday services have had good attendance. Transition from Facebook Live to YouTube Live streaming of the services is going well. The live viewers seem to be the same amount as Facebook was. The quality is much better, and the process is easier.

Youth Leadership: *Sara Ross—Met April 5, 2023*

Led Wednesday Lent Service and served meal on March 29th. Served Palm Sunday breakfast to about 100 people. Easter egg hunt between services on Easter Sunday. Senior Recognition Sunday will be April 30th. Next youth-led Sunday service will be on May 7th. Nerf Wars May 7th 3-5 pm. Nooma Night May 7th 5:30-8 at Loer's

Immanuel Church Women: *Diane Teigland*

The Circle Bible Study met. Quilting continues April & May. Honoring High School Seniors with gifts and brunch. **Lead Pastor:** *Pastor Nate Loer—* **March/April Highlights:** Lent was a rich season at Immanuel. So grateful for all the musicians, kitchen servers, and worship volunteers who made it possible. Holy Week included a communion milestone for 6 students. Elana and I enjoyed team-teaching that class. Good Friday included a great set of anthems from our Sanctuary Choir. We are grateful for Deb Haraldson and Suzanne Moe for their work leading and accompanying our choir - and for all the choir members who are so dedicated to sharing the gift of music with the congregation. Easter services were well attended and festive.

Wednesday Discipleship resumed April 12. Attendance was down for supper and worship. But classes seemed about where they were in February.

Looking Ahead: Visit from Pastor Sijabat April 23. He will preach and serve communion. And he will offer a short presentation about church planting in Indonesia (and what God might be calling us to in Wadena and beyond) after worship. Piano concert April 23 at 2p. This is a rare opportunity to hear world-class musicians. Don't miss it. Invite EVERYONE! VBS is scheduled for the week of July 16-20. We hope to engage lots of kids. I know Elana is looking for help. Let's make it a great week. I need to find some time off this summer. I will be looking to take 4 weeks off in June, July, and August.

Financial Secretary Report: *Gail Klauenberg* - Total of Sunday general offerings counted and Deposited in March 2023: \$20,061.90. This does not include direct deposits.

Treasurers Report: *Jena Osberg* - General Fund Register: Balance as of 03/31/23 \$93,401.00

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

Our Vision and Mission - Other Business: Started process of a Church Directory, getting information from members. More discussion of creating a Welcome Brochure.

FINANCIAL UPDATE



GENERAL FUND	
3/5/2023	3691
3/12/2023	3599
3/19/2023	8255
3/26/2023	3267
Thrivent Choice	164
Electronic Giving	360
Direct Deposit	9687
TOTAL GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS	29023
EXPENSES	
Benevolences	8232
Programs	585
Staff including taxes and benefits	22183
Operations	912
Building Expenses	3109
TOTAL EXPENSES	35022
Gain/Loss	-5999
General Fund Register Balance as of 03/31/2023	93401

RESTRICTED				
	Balance 03/1/2023	Gifts & Additions	Payments	Balance 03/31/2023
Backpacks for Kids	1,021.00			1,021.00
Bell/Carillon	250.00			250.00
Community Dinner	1,595.00			1,595.00
Cooking Matters (Ministerial Association)	506.00			506.00
Good Samaritan	2,949.00			2,949.00
General Reserve Funds	10,849.00			10,849.00
Giving Tree	3,954.00			3,954.00
Global Mission	145.00	60.00		205.00
God's Work Our Hands	100.00			100.00
Infant Care Kits	50.00			50.00
Lenten Supper	(201.00)	593.50	58.28	334.22
Library Fund	125.00			125.00
Luther Crest Scholarships	472.00			472.00
Lutheran World Relief	150.00			150.00
Medical Mission	5,000.00			5,000.00
Ministerial Fund	700.00	100.00		800.00
Organ Fund	537.00			537.00
Parish Nursing	487.00			487.00
Piano Fund	2,155.00	250.00	125.00	2,280.00
Puppet Ministry	396.00			396.00
Scholarship Fund	8,070.00			8,070.00
Soup Tuesday	2,087.00			2,087.00
Sunday School	292.00			292.00
Ukraine	100.00			100.00
VBS	468.00			468.00
Wadena Food Shelf/Food Shelf	682.00			682.00
Wed. Night Faith Formation Supper	(8.00)			(8.00)
Worship and Music	2,514.00			2,514.00
YAGM	6,866.00			6,866.00
Restricted Fund Register Balance	52,311.00	1,003.50	183.28	53,131.22

BUILDING FUND		
Building Fund Balance	3/1/2023	17914
Deposits & Interest		344
Payments		
Building Fund Register Balance	3/31/2023	18258



Thank you to everyone who donated candy for the Easter Egg Hunt. Your generosity is much appreciated by the youth of Immanuel. Thank you as well to everyone that braved the weather to fill the Easter eggs. Thank you to Katie, Anna, Eshetu, Phillip, Simon, Teshe, and Amsale for "hiding" the eggs on Easter morning. It was wonderful to see the Fellowship Room full of eggs and smiling kids!

Immanuel is in the process of updating the church membership directory. Please remember to fill out the contact update form, which can be found on the table by the resource rack. The updated form can be placed in the offering plates or returned to the church office.

Immanuel Directory Committee:
Jennifer Brunsberg (218-639-1080)
Pam Nelson (218-522-0393)
Shaneen Schmidt (218-631-3019)



**HAPPY
Mother's
DAY**

Women's Ministry

- Bible Study** - Tuesday, May 9 - 1:30 pm
No Bible Study June, July, & August
- Block Cutting** - Monday, May 1 - 9am
Monday, June 5 - 9am
- Quilting** - May 15 & 16 - 9 am
No Quilting June, July, & August

Join us on
Monday, May 15 at
5:30 pm at
Larry's Family Pizza!

Giving Blitz

During the Easter season, the Outreach and Finance Committees invite you to make "second mile" gifts to our Spring Giving Blitz. Moneys will split between seven ministry partners: 1) The Giving Tree; 2) Someplace Safe; 3) Hilltop Regional Kitchen; 4) Wadena Area Food Shelf; 5) Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service; 6) Young Adults in Global Mission; and 7) Wadena Backpacks for Kids. More information about these ministries will be made available during the blitz. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

What's Happening

- May 1**
9 am - ICW: Block Cutting
- May 2**
9 am - Staff Meeting
- May 3**
12 pm - Rotary (catered)
7:30 pm - ILC Youth Council Meeting
- May 4**
1 pm - MAC/NAPS
3 pm - Backpacks Food Pack
7:30 pm - ILC Youth Council Meeting
- May 5**
1 pm - Catholic Charities Frozen Meal Distribution
- May 7**
Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
(Following worship—2024 National Youth Gathering General Interest Meeting in the Fellowship Hall and Personal Care Kit Assembly in the Concourse)
3 - 5 pm - Youth Nerf Wars
5:30 - 8:30 pm - Nooma Night (Loer's)
- May 9**
9 am - Staff Meeting
1:30 pm - ICW Bible Study
- May 10**
12 pm - Rotary (#2 D. Haraldson)
- May 11**
6 pm - Northstar Round Table
- May 14 - Happy Mother's Day**
Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)

- May 15**
9 am - ICW: Church Mice
5 pm - Worship & Music Committee Meeting
5:30 pm - Dinner Club (Larry's Family Pizza)
- May 16**
9 am - Staff Meeting
9 am - ICW: Church Mice
- May 17**
12 pm - Rotary (catered)
6 pm - ILC Council Meeting (Friendship Room)
- May 21**
Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
3 pm - Cub Scouts
- May 22**
7 pm - Book Club (Sharon Boline's home)
- May 23**
9 am - Staff Meeting
11:00 am - Dementia Support Group
(Open to all - Friendship Room)
- May 24**
12 pm - Rotary (#3 N.Overland)
- May 25**
5 pm - Knute Nelson Grief Support
(Open to all - Friendship Room)
- May 28**
Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
- May 29 - Memorial Day**
Church Office Closed
- May 30**
9 am - Staff Meeting
- May 31**
12 pm - Rotary (catered)

Sunday Worship Schedule

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

The congregation of Immanuel has been an important part in the lives of our 2023 graduates! You are welcome to join in the open house celebrations in honor of a number of our graduates.

Phillip Ross Saturday, May 20 1-4 pm White Tail Run Gold Course	Evan Lunde & MJ Lunde Saturday, May 20 4-7 pm The Depot, 100 Aldrich Ave	
Eshetu Loer Saturday, May 27 10 am - 2 pm Immanuel Lutheran Church	Madelyn Gallant Saturday, May 27 11 am - 2 pm 1513 11th St SW, Wadena	Brandon Wheeler Saturday, May 27 1:30 - 4:30 pm 19452 Cty Rd 66, Wadena
Bjorn Brunsberg Saturday, May 27 12 - 3 pm The Depot, 100 Aldrich Ave	Simon Snyder Saturday, June 3 4 - 8 pm 31062 Cty Hwy 73, Deer Creek	

BACKPACKS FOR KIDS

Our FINAL food pack of the school year for the WDC Weekend Backpacks Program is Thursday, May 4 at 3pm in the Elementary cafeteria. Hope to see you there!

Lessons in Chemistry
By Bonnie Garmus

This month's book is a novel about women's lives, careers, and struggle for empowerment in the late 50's and early 60's. It follows the story of Elizabeth Zott, a brilliant chemist who is forced to become a television chef when she finds herself a young single mother. Everyone is welcome to join in this book discussion at Sharon Boline's apartment, 1114 King Avenue SW Apt. #404, on May 22 at 7 pm.