

## 2023 IMMANUEL STAFF AND COUNCIL

### Staff

Lead Pastor.....Nate Loer  
 Youth & Family  
 Spiritual Gifts Coordinator.....Elana Seibert  
 Custodian..... Ellen & Doug Carlstrom  
 Bookkeeper..... Jil Fiemeyer  
 Choir Director.....Deb Haraldson  
 Accompanist.....Suzanne Moe

### Council

President..... Jennifer Brunsberg  
 Vice President..... Mike Brunsberg  
 Secretary..... Meagan Ferris  
 Treasurer..... Jena Osberg  
 Financial Secretary.....Gail Klauenberg  
 Financial Vice-Secretary..... Sue Johnson  
 Congregational Life .....Peggy Larson  
 Education..... vacant  
 Finance.....Bryan Greenwaldt  
 Outreach..... vacant  
 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.*

February 2023

### From the Desk of Pastor Nate...

Nearly February greetings to you, dear friends in Christ.

It seems like I was just wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And now, in this month of February, our spiritual lives will turn to the season of Lent. But before Lent begins, we celebrate a special Sunday called “Transfiguration Sunday.” We will observe this day on February 19.



The Gospel text for Transfiguration Sunday is Matthew 17:1-9. In this reading, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a mountain. And Jesus’ appearance changes to a dazzling white and Moses and Elijah appear there with him. And just as it did on the day of His baptism, God’s voice booms out, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” (vs. 5). It is an extraordinary moment in the story. One in which we might expect Jesus to be taken up into heaven. But it is not time for the end of Jesus earthly life just yet. He has more work to do. So down the mountain they go. And as they go down from the mountain, Jesus tells this inner core of his disciples that they should keep this moment a secret “until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead” (vs. 9). This is the second time in as many chapters that Jesus has plainly told his followers about his upcoming death.

Here we see again the purpose of Jesus’ life. Though He is clearly the Son of God, his mission is not to be served, but to give his life as a ransom for all. He must suffer and die ... and be raised from death.

So as this Lenten season begins, let us commit ourselves to learning from this Jesus as he teaches his way to the cross. Let us recommit ourselves to following him. Let us engage in the disciplines of Lent – fasting, prayer, the reading of scripture, and worship – that we might be drawn more closely to this Christ who suffers and dies for the sin of the WHOLE WORLD. Let us pray that as we are drawn more deeply into his love for us that we might be strengthened to share that love with our neighbors near and far.

Humbly in Christ,

Pastor Nate

Pastor Nate

P.S. – A quick update on Amsale’s health. Since I last wrote, we’ve traveled to the Mayo clinic on December 29 and learned that Amsale’s cancer is contained to the skin – just as we had prayed – praise be to God!! She began treatment with topical steroids immediately and we have recently received a light therapy box, and she has begun a special therapy that we hope will eradicate these lesions. Thank you for your continued prayers.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATES

The council met on January 11, 2023. President Robby Grendahl called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm. Devotions were given by Jane Bagstad.

**Congregational Life:** *Stephanie Drange*—Did not meet. Serve Wednesday night meals, looking for volunteers.  
**Outreach Evangelism:** *Sara Grabe* –Met on 12/28/22. Committee met with visiting Pastor Paul Sijabat and his family. Indonesian pastor studying at Luther seminary.

**Parish Education:** *vacant* – Did not meet.

**Property Management:** *Sam Sundby* – Did Not Meet.

**Worship and Music:** *Pam Nelson* – Met on 1/9/23 Items Discussed– Wednesday evenings: There will be Communion this Wednesday evening, January 11th, since services were cancelled on January 4th. Sunday mornings: Youth Sunday (January 8th) went very well. Services for Winter and Spring: Ash Wednesday – February 22, 2023 Service at 6:30 pm. Lenten Services: Services will be at 6:30 pm. Palm Sunday – April 2, 2023. Maundy Thursday – April 6, 2023. Services will be at 2:00 pm and 6:30 pm. Coffee will be served after the 2:00 service. Good Friday – April 7, 2023 Service at 6:30 pm. Easter Sunday – April 9, 2023 Services will be at 8:30 am and 10:00 am. Steinway update The Steinway returned to Immanuel on Sunday, December 18, 2022. We are beginning to make plans for a special service for this milestone. We are hoping for April. “Emergency” leadership Plan is continuing to move forward. More testing will be done. Screens in the Sanctuary We are continuing to explore future options for the screens in the Sanctuary. Transition from Facebook Live to YouTube for Live Stream: We are making plans to transition from Facebook Live to the YouTube platform March 1, 2023.

**Youth Leadership:** *Sara Ross*— Met on 1/8/23. Youth Sunday and NOOMA went well on 1/8/23. 2/19/23 Family skating at Pat and Tracy Hegarty’s home 4pm–7pm. NOOMA 2/5/23.

**Immanuel Church Women:** *Diane Teigland* – No report.

**Lead Pastor:** *Pastor Nate Loer*— **December/Early January Highlights:** Backpacks program just had its 4<sup>th</sup> packing day. Great turnout! Filled over 500 bags as we continue to distribute over 100 bags each week. We have a wonderful team of volunteers who help make it happen. Struggled with some Wednesday weather, but the youth did an awesome job with their program. I enjoyed singing with the choir for their program December 11. Christmas season was enjoyable. Beautiful services on Christmas Eve. December 25/January 1 are hard days for Sunday services, but they turned out well. Grateful for those dedicated servants who help make it happen. Took a couple days to see my folks December 26/27 and then traveled to Rochester with Amsale December 28–30. Pet scans and blood work were encouraging. Her treatments have begun, and we hope they will prove effective. A special light therapy device has been ordered and will arrive soon. We are grateful for the prayers. I have started a new class on the book of Matthew with the early risers group. Join us (in person or online!) Youth Sunday in the morning and NOOMA night in the evening of January 8. What a great day with excellent participation from our youth. This is a success we can build on!! Year–end reports have been a big focus in recent days. Worked with Jennifer Brunsberg and Sara Ross to interview a candidate for our Youth, Family, Education, and Spiritual Gifts Coordinator Position. Will be bringing a recommendation to hire. **Looking Ahead:** Looking forward to resuming Wednesday programming – but we continue to need to expand our volunteer base “Getting to Know” Immanuel forum this Sunday after worship. Council members are invited to introduce yourselves and imagine what future forums might look like. Annual meeting is January 25. Looking WAY ahead. Lent starts February 22. I’m looking for people willing to share their faith journey (10 minutes of it, at least!) during Lenten Wednesdays. And I know we’re looking for dinner hosts, ushers, musicians, and other volunteers, too.

**Financial Secretary Report:** *Jane Bagstad & Gail Klunenberg*— Total of Sunday general offerings counted and deposited in December 2022: \$44,698.43 . This does not include direct deposit offerings.

**Treasurers Report:** *Tracy Church* – General Fund Register: General Fund Register: Balance as of 12/31/22 \$65,058.00

**Finance Committee:** *Kent Schmidt*— Did not meet.

**New Business:** Emergency Preparedness: Update batteries and pads on AED. Update response plan. Annual Meeting January 25, 2023 at 6:30pm. Outgoing members to plan and prep supper. Nominating Committee Update. Acknowledge Outgoing Council Members. Youth Family Education and Spiritual Gifts Coordinator. Motion was made to ratify the hiring of Elana Seibert by Sara Grabe. Seconded by Jane Bagstad. Motion passed. Administrative Secretary position opening. Motion was made Shaneen Schmidt to give Pastor Nate Loer latitude to negotiate salary and hours within budget. Seconded by Jane Bagstad. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:pm with the Lord’s Prayer. .

# FINANCIAL UPDATE



GENERAL FUND	
12/4/2022	6935
12/11/2022	1860
12/18/2022	7341
12/25/2022	12694
Electronic Giving	445
Direct Deposit	8737
<b>TOTAL GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>38012</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Benevolences	7168
Programs	1549
Staff including taxes and benefits	18046
Operations	2,615
Building Expenses	28335
TOTAL EXPENSES	57714
<b>Gain/Loss</b>	<b>-19702</b>
<b>General Fund Register Balance as of 12/31/2022</b>	<b>65058</b>

RESTRICTED				
	Balance 12/1/2022	Gifts & Additions	Payments	Balance 12/31/2022
Backpacks for Kids	\$1,021			1,021
Bell/Carillon	\$250			250
Community Dinner	\$1,595			1,595
Cooking Matters (Ministerial Association)	\$506			506
Good Samaritan	\$2,499	700	250	2,949
General Reserve Funds	\$10,849			10,849
Giving Tree	\$5,961	1,040	2,752	4,249
Global Mission	\$65	30		95
God's Work Our Hands	\$100			100
Infant Care Kits	\$50			50
Lenten Supper	(\$201)			-201
Library Fund	\$125			125
Luther Crest Scholarships	\$472			472
Lutheran World Relief	\$150			150
Medical Mission	\$5,000			5,000
Ministerial Fund	\$600	100		700
Organ Fund	\$537			537
Parish Nursing	\$487			487
Piano Fund	\$3,855	12,250	15,000	1,105
Puppet Ministry	\$396			396
Scholarship Fund	\$8,070			8,070
Soup Tuesday	\$904			904
Sunday School	\$292			292
Ukraine	\$100			100
VBS	\$528			528
Wadena Food Shelf/Food Shelf	\$657	25		682
Wed. Night Faith Formation Supper	(\$146)	510	362	2
Worship and Music	\$2,514			2,514
YAGM	6866			6,866
<b>Restricted Fund Register Balance</b>	<b>\$54,102</b>	<b>14,655</b>	<b>18,364</b>	<b>50,393</b>

BUILDING FUND	
<b>Building Fund Balance 12/1/2022</b>	38807
Deposits & Interest	789
Payments	22575
<b>Building Fund Register Balance 12/31/2022</b>	<b>17021</b>

# Communion Milestone Class



Any family interested in participating in our communion milestone class for their children grades 5 and older is welcome to join us during the season of Lent. We will meet on Wednesday evenings in March from 5:00-5:45pm. Talk to Pastor Nate or Elana to get signed up.

## A Note About Lent

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023. We will gather for a 6:30pm 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 March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29. Supper begins at 5:30 and evening prayer at 6:30.

We are hoping to recruit members of the congregation to share a story of faith with the congregation on these evenings. Talk to Pastor Nate if you are willing to share.



## Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023

Worship at 6:30 pm



## Women's Ministry

**Bible Study** - Tuesday, February 14 - 1:30pm  
Tuesday, March 14 - 1:30pm  
(Note date change - one week later than usual)

**Block Cutting** - Monday, February 14 - 9am  
Monday, March 6 - 9am

**Quilting** - February 20 & 21 - 9am  
March 20 & 21 - 9am





Dinner Club will be meeting on **Tuesday, February 21 at 5:30 pm.** Join other Immanuelites for an evening of great food and fellowship! Keep an eye on the bulletin for a location!

## What's Happening

### February 1

12pm - Rotary (#1 G. Klueenberg)  
Wednesday Evening Activities (see below)  
7:30 pm - Youth Council Meeting

### February 3

1pm - Catholic Charities Frozen Meal Distribution

### February 5

Worship Service (see below)  
8am - Early Risers Class

### February 7

9 am - Staff Meeting  
10:30 am - Knute Nelson Grief support  
(closed group- Friendship Room)  
12 pm - Soup Tuesday

### February 8

12 pm - Rotary (catered)  
Wednesday Evening Activities  
8 pm - ILC Council Meeting

### February 9

1 pm - MAC/NAPS  
6 pm - Northstar Round Table

### February 12

Worship Service (see below)  
8am - Early Risers Class

### February 13

5:30 pm - Boy Scouts

### February 14

9 am - Staff Meeting

### February 14

9 am - ICW: Block Cutting  
10:30 am - Knute Nelson Grief support  
(closed group- Friendship Room)  
12 pm - Soup Tuesday  
1:30 pm - ICW: Bible Study

### February 15

12 pm - Rotary (#2 D. Haraldson)  
Wednesday Evening Activities (see below)

### February 19

Worship Service (see below)  
8am - Early Risers Class  
3 pm - Cub Scouts

### February 20

9 am - ICW: Church Mice

### February 21

9 am - ICW: Church Mice  
9 am - Staff Meeting  
12 pm - Soup Tuesday  
5:30 pm - Dinner Club (TBD)

### February 22 - Ash Wednesday

12 pm - Rotary (catered)  
6:30 pm - Worship

### February 23

5 pm - Knute Nelson Grief Support (open to all)

### February 26

Worship Service (see below)

### February 27

7 pm - Book Club (Sharon Boline's home)

### February 28

9 am - Staff Meeting  
10:30 am - Knute Nelson Grief Support (closed group)

### Sunday Worship

- 8:30 - Coffee Fellowship
- 9:30 - In person & streaming worship on Facebook
- 9:30 - Radio Broadcast 920AM or 101.7FM

### Wednesday Evening

- 5:00 pm - Youth Choir
- 5:15 pm - Dinner
- 6:00 pm - Praise Worship
- 6:45 pm - Wednesday Education (PrK-3<sup>rd</sup>; 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>; 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>)
- 7:00 pm - Sanctuary Choir

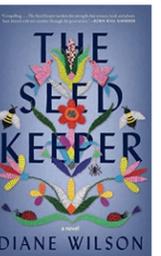
### BACKPACKS FOR KIDS



Our next food pack day for the WDC Weekend Backpacks Program is Thursday, February 9 at 3pm in the Elementary cafeteria. Join us as we work together to assemble 400 bags of weekend food for local kids in need.

### THE SEED KEEPER By Diane Wilson

A novel based on family life. Read of an indigenous girl placed with a white family in our Social System when she could have lived with her own family. Also, learn of the struggles of her adult life. Read of the importance of saving seeds for the next planting season and the "Seed Keeper." Our Book Club always meets at Sharon Boline's apartment - 1114 King Avenue SW, #404. We meet at 7 p.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday. On February 27 we will be discussing The Seed Keeper, why not join us? You are welcome!



**WEDNESDAY NIGHT KITCHEN HELP NEEDED!**  
Volunteers are needed to serve the February Wednesday night meals and help with the clean up. Families are welcome to help. No experience is necessary! Please consider signing up for one shift on the bulletin board, or by contacting Peggy Larson or the church office.

Thank you in advance for helping with this important ministry!