

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church



June 2024

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Rev. John Kuziej - Interim Pastor

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Member of the ELCA Churchwide elca.org &
the Northern Great Lakes Synod nglsynod.org



Visit us on our Website @
Immanuelrhinelander.org

"Inspired by God's grace to love and serve all"

Message from Interim Pastor John Kuziej

We need protection. Jesus understood and in the 17th chapter of the Gospel of John we hear Jesus at prayer. Originally Jesus prayed for his disciples, that small band Jesus prepared for continuing his work once he ascended into heaven. But later Jesus made it clear that he was praying for the church for all time. We hear Jesus pray, “Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they be one, as we are one.” Jesus does not want his church to retreat into comfort and complacency. Jesus sends his church into the world to continue his work of proclaiming God’s love for the world, and God’s will that people find life, eternal life, by faith in Jesus.

The church will face opposition in the world; Jesus even warned that the world will hate the followers of Jesus, because the church does not belong to the world. In the gospel of John, ‘world’ does not mean ‘earth’. It means opposition to the will of God. Jesus also prayed heavenly protection from the ‘evil one’. In the gospel of John, the Evil One, Satan, is one who deceives, lies, and wills to destroy faith in God.

In the gospels we read of Jesus’ first disciples arguing among themselves as to who is the greatest. The brothers James and John even sent their mother to lobby Jesus for seats of honor, glory, and power. Jesus told them they are behaving just like the power-hungry in the world. Instead, they are to remember who they are following, Jesus! Jesus said that he came not to be served and step over others for greatness. Jesus came to serve, even to giving up his life for our salvation.

Those first disciples sounded so crass claiming greatness over others; the church today would not be so clueless. But the church can be tempted to seek worldly praise by looking at other churches as competition. Churches can be prideful thinking ‘look how much more faithful and correct we are with our theology than other churches.’ The church is not in competition with the other churches in town. Turn to the cross and remember Jesus has won the victory, Jesus is our salvation. Listen to Jesus who prays that his followers be one. This is a prayer for unity. There are different denominations, but in Jesus there is unity as we respect one another and seek opportunities to work together furthering the good news of Jesus.

People may say the church must avoid politics like the plague. Certainly, in a contentious and crazy election year, the church is not to be an appendage to any political party. But the church, with its ministry of following Jesus, must be faithful to goals which enhance life and protect creation, encourage compassion, and demand justice or fairness for people who have been shoved aside by ideologies of inequality and discrimination.

Many times, I have heard members of congregations worry about numbers, meaning low attendance, or concern about finances. Instead, may the church be on guard against being numb to the suffering in the world. Many recall Jesus’ parable of the last judgment. Those who do the will of Jesus are those who have the heart of Jesus: “I was hungry, and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was naked, and you clothed me, I was in prison, and you visited me, I was sick, and you took care of me.” For when you minister to the least of these, knowing the urgency of need, you do so for Jesus and will experience his joy in serving.

Jesus' intercession on behalf of us, his beloved church, is necessary because of who is in the church. Sinners. Over the years the church has supported terrible institutions like slavery. Today the church can forgo the cross and pursue policies that deny for others the expansive welcome of the love of God. It can be easy to complain about the world and ignore our hypocrisy and lack of humility. We understand how important Jesus' prayer for our protection is: as Luther would say from the world, the devil, and our own sinful selves. Jesus prayed that we be protected by the name of God. The name means the full character of God. God is our refuge because God is love, and God loves the world, just ask Jesus!

May we understand our faith is rooted and protected by the faithfulness of God: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. By his great mercy we have been given a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and to an inheritance...kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." (1 Peter 1: 3-5).

We can look at what is going on in the world and either shake with fear or stand confident on the promise of Jesus' prayer for the protection of the church. The apostle Paul knew all sorts of opposition to his ministry of sharing the gospel. But instead of tendering his resignation, Paul wrote for himself and the church today: "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus"--Jesus who is praying for us!

LAWN MOWING
PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX
TO HELP WITH MOWING OUR
LAWN THIS SUMMER. Thank you!



Help Wanted -Now Hiring!!

Does spending time with youth in the church sound exciting? Or do you enjoy refreshing your memory on bible stories you heard as a kid or learning new stories? Crafting, games, conversation and fun... Faith Explorers is where it is at.

After many years our current FE teachers are nearing "retirement" and are in need of teachers to close out this "school" year (ending May 12) and for the fall when classes resume.

On the job training is offered, scheduling is flexible accommodating to your personal preference.

Please contact Sarah Willoughby or Becky Eades for more details.





Serving Others!

Thank you to the Willoughby and Kress families for raking Gloria Moore's yard in April. Gloria said, *"They did a fantastic job!"*



Additional thanks to Becky & Tommy Eades and Josh & Zoey Kral for raking Dee Montgomery's yard in May. *"They were great!"* Dee remarked.

More thanks to Sarah & Josh Willoughby and Josh's friend for raking Sue Larsen's yard. Sue said, *"They made short work of it and did an excellent job!"*

Thank You for Serving

The youth and chaperones want to extend a great big thank you to all that have been helping support our trip to the youth gathering. Fundraising is a lot of hard work but our generous members have helped us get closer and closer with every cinnamon roll, pretzel and donation!
THANK YOU!



Thank you to all the members of Immanuel who continue to use their gifts and talents to further the kingdom of God. (Especially those who work behind the scenes!)

Our deepest condolences to Debbi Rinka and her family, on the loss of Debbi's mother, Irene Letsch, who passed away on April 19. Cards of condolence may be mailed to Debbi at 4388 Rosalie Lane, Rhinelander.



Our deepest condolences to the family of Gina Lambele, who passed away on May 16. Cards of condolence may be mailed to her mother, Jan Lambele, 78 Edgewater Homes, Rhinelander.

Pastoral Visits

Immanuel Lutheran Church has welcomed Pastor John Kuziej as our Administrative Interim Pastor. He is happy to schedule visits with home-bound individuals and is also available for hospital visits. Please feel free to contact him if you have these needs. He has office hours at Immanuel on Tuesdays from 10:00 am until noon and is also available by appointment.

Newsletter Available Electronically

If you would rather read the newsletter electronically, you can access a copy on our website @ immanuelrhinelander.org/newsletter

OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday &
Thursday
9:00 am-NOON



THE TUESDAY MORNING CREW MEETS EVERY TUESDAY MORNING TO PERFORM ODD JOBS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN OUR CHURCH. PLEASE REACH OUT TO JOHN PLAUTZ IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP! 715-367-3762
jeplautz@hotmail.com

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Meeting Minutes--- April 10, 2024

Council Members Present: President – JoAnne Barrix, Vice-President – Glenn Johnson, Secretary – Kristine Mladucky, Mary Wolf, Darlene Machtan, Christy Dellenbach, Tina Schmitz, Linda Kau, Charlie Strong, Bill Anderson, John Plautz and Pastor John Kuziej

Opening

JoAnne Barrix opened the hybrid meeting at 6:01 pm.

Devotion by Darlene “Franciscan Prayer”

Action – Motion/Second/Carried...Approved the minutes from the March 14, 2024 meeting. Unanimous.

Pastor’s Report:

1. We have coverage for Sundays and continue to look for other assistance.
2. Synod Assembly looking to celebrate the 50 th year of ELCA World Hunger (website <https://www.elca.org/wh50>) Asking congregations to think of creative ways to fundraise money. After discussion, decided to have a “Noisy Offering” with youth ushers asking for change in metal containers every Sunday until assembly. How LOUD can we make our offering? Pastor John will take proceeds to the Assembly.
3. Baptism this Sunday, April 14th and June 9th.

Long-Term Items:

1. Workshop: discuss effectiveness and quality: (3X/year).
 - a. Nursing/Senior Living services going great with membership participation. All are welcome.
 - b. Easter went well.
2. Administer and oversee financial affairs and budget: (quarterly). Brian researching ways to collect interest on part of our general fund (using \$60,000 of \$104,000).
3. Procure and insure proper insurance: (annually). Currently well covered.

Short-Term Items:

Old Business:

1. Facilities Update:
 - a. Our contractor for the roof is still slated for sometime in July or August. John is in contact and will keep us updated on any changes.
 - b. Gene and John worked on the 5-year plan. The next step is working with Brian on the budget. When completed will present to Stewardship & Council to prioritize.
 - c. Painting continues.
 - d. Depending on nature, hope to shut down the boiler soon.
2. Call committee Update: No new updates. Continue prayers!
3. Love Rhinelander: no updates at this time. Will keep you posted.
4. Synod Assembly Hybrid meeting is Saturday, May 18th at Ascension Lutheran in Minocqua. Must register by April 12th. JoAnne volunteered, but we need one more delegate, preferably a male.

5. Faith Explorers needs our help to educate our wonderful children and grow their faith. There are multiple ways to volunteer and scheduling is flexible. Training and working with your personal preferences provided. Please contact Becky Eades or Sarah Willoughby for more details.

New Business:

1. Child protection Policy: Currently we do have a policy, but not as in depth as the Northern Great Lakes Synod. One of the differences is background checks and the cost. The Youth and Education Committee has asked the Council to review the synod policy and adopt (**website** <https://nglsynod.org/?s=Child+protection+policy>). Council has agreed to review, and make a decision at the next Council Committee meeting May 8th.
2. Fortune Lake Annual Meeting is April 28th . Cory Dellenbach had agreed to attend and be our delegate.
3. We received a letter from the Synod regarding a Temple talk from a Mission Interpreter. JoAnne had agreed to check into this so we can set up a Sunday.

Comments and Committee Actions:

1. STEWARDSHIP: Some of the endowment fund was used for the roof repair, but there is money left that would like to be used for expanding our ministries. Please work with your committees to see how we can grow by using this available funding.

Open/Close/Devotions

April – Darlene (John will cover April 21st) O/C/D

May – Christy O/C/D

June – John O/C and Kristine Devotions

NATH Meals

April – Worship & Music

May – Quilters

June – WELCA

July – Band & Choir

Closing Prayer: Darlene “Slow me down Lord”

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Mladucky, Council Secretary

Donate your old eyeglasses, sunglasses and more!

“I was listening to a news report about a great need in poor countries. People need glasses, and the story was about the reading glasses that you can buy cheaply in the drug store. The story told about a woman from Bangladesh who raised cattle. She was enabled to increase her income when she got a pair of reading glasses. She was able to plant crops for the market. She could see what she was doing when she weeded her garden plots. She was able to see the seeds and keep them straight. And the improved vision helped her with record keeping.”

Immanuel has decided to do an eyeglasses, sunglasses, cellphone, hearing aids and tablets ministry. Please drop off any of these items in the Lion's containers as provided.

Thank you for this consideration.

Any questions please contact Dianne Syms.



EQUITY CHALLENGE

NORTHWEST TERRITORY

*“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and cleanses us from all unrighteousness.”
1 John 1:8-10*

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” Matthew 5:8

“...putting away all falsehood, let us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another.” Ephesians 4:25

This month's challenge continues the focus on our relationships with Indian Nations and how we came to live on the land we call home. The Treaty of Paris of 1783 that ended the Revolutionary War required the British to disavow any claims to the current states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin — the Northwest Territory. Here are the treaties that ceded land where the Ojibwe [Anglicized to “Chippewa”] lived in Wisconsin:

Treaty of Saint Peters, 1837: parts of Wisconsin with retentions of hunting, fishing, and gathering rights on the ceded land.

Treaty of La Pointe, 1842: Upper Peninsula of Michigan and parts of Wisconsin with the Ojibwe retaining hunting rights “at the pleasure of the President of the United States.”

Second Treaty of La Pointe, 1854: ceded part of Wisconsin.

Each treaty took more land from our Indigenous sisters and brothers in exchange for annual annuities, often paid late or not at all. I wonder what Wisconsin would look like today if we, as a nation, had honored each of those agreements? Would the 31,000 members of tribes retain most of the land and would 4-1/2 million whites, including me, be concentrated in reservations?

Some churches have chosen to recognize our dishonesty in respecting treaties by choosing to adopt “land acknowledgements”. These statements name the Indian Nations who preserved the lands where we live and commit us to restoring relationships we severed, and to preserving the land for our great-great-great-great grandchildren as they did. Following this path, we can move toward restoring our relationships with the land, our Native Neighbors, and our God.

Submitted by Susan Anderson

Trinity Lutheran Church's

DAY CAMP

WITH LUTHERDALE CAMP STAFF

**JULY
15-18,
2024**

9 am - 4 pm

\$45 per child
(scholarships available)

Daily bussed
trips to CAVOC

SPACE IS LIMITED.
Please Register online
at ComeToTrinity.com
by June 15.



Children going into
grades K-6
are invited to a Bible Camp
experience sponsored by
Trinity Lutheran Church
with
Faith Lutheran Church.

Encounter the
LOVE of Jesus
through group games,
music, arts and crafts,
Bible party, hiking, and
community service.

For more
information contact
Pastor Kari: 715.437.0770



Faith Lutheran Church
Est. 1987



Helping To Build A Hunger-Free Community



Thank you to our May Food Pantry crew for sharing the love of Christ through serving! Volunteering is a great way to show the love of Christ to those in our community. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Darlene Machtan. Immanuel volunteers the 2nd Saturday of each month from 8:45 am—11:30 am.



Did You Know?...

I just finished participating in a workshop sponsored by the Synod in this week leading up to Synod Assembly on May 18th. The workshop was entitled Sowing Seeds Through Story. They first pointed out that Jesus used storytelling all throughout His ministry. We as Lutherans are united by the early stories of the church. And, as we tell stories of the early years of our own congregations, future members of Immanuel will tell the stories of what we are doing today.

The leaders of the workshop asked some great questions that can easily lead to each one of us telling our personal stories of ministry.

When you think about your congregation, what brings you joy?

How do you believe your congregation is making a difference?

From your perspective, in what positive ways has **your** ministry made a difference?

What inspires **you** to lead in your ministries?

I ask you to take some time and think about these questions. We each have special gifts and abilities. We each have a special place in furthering the mission of Christ. There is a reason that we each are here at Immanuel at this specific time. Sow seeds through your story.

....This is Stewardship!

By JoAnne Barrix

March Attendance:

	In-person/Online/Total		
03/03	40	25	65
03/10	38	44	82
03/17	41	34	75
03/24 Palm Sunday	45	52	97
03/31 8:00 Easter	52	23	75
10:30 Easter	61	23	84

Midweek Lenten

02/21	15	6	31
02/28	20	13	33
03/06	18	9	27
03/13	17	2	19
03/20	18	5	23

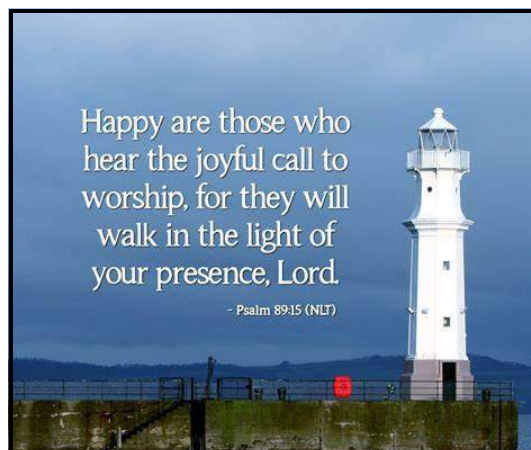
Maundy Thursday	19	10	29
Good Friday	17	14	31

Our average worship attendance for the month of March was 96.

April Attendance:

	In-person/Online/Total		
04/07	28	46	74
04/14	51	30	81
04/21	41	12	53
04/28	36	42	78

Our average worship attendance for the month of April was 72.



Homeless Shelter Wish List

- ❖ POSTAGE STAMPS - STANDARD LETTER
- ❖ LAUNDRY DETERGENT
- ❖ DRYER SHEETS
- ❖ DISHWASHER DETERGENT
- ❖ 13/KITCHEN SIZE TRASH LINERS (GARBAGE BAGS)
- ❖ 30 GALLON TRASH LINERS
- ❖ 30 GALLON YARD WASTE (CLEAR) TRASH LINERS
- ❖ TOILET BOWL CLEANER
- ❖ ALL PURPOSE CLEANER
- ❖ SWIFFER WET PADS
- ❖ DISPOSABLE GLOVES
- ❖ ZIPLOCK BAGS - ALL SIZES
- ❖ HAND SANITIZER
- ❖ PAPER TOWEL
- ❖ COPY PAPER
- ❖ LARGE MANILLA ENVELOPES

Did you know? Order online!

Please have delivered to 204 W. Frederick Street, Rhinelander, WI 54501



Providing Safe
Housing & Basic
Needs ♥ Promoting
Self-Sufficiency &
Independent Living





NATH - Frederick Place

Northwoods Alliance for Temporary Housing

"I was a stranger and you invited me in..." — Matthew 25:35 NIV

NATH is committed to ending and preventing homelessness. This corporation exists to provide safe housing and basic needs to families and individuals who are experiencing homelessness.

NATH MEALS

Our ministry groups have been providing the monthly NATH (Northwoods Alliance for Temporary Housing) meals and this has been working well.

Please consider signing your group up to provide a meal in 2024!

To volunteer, please sign-up on the sheet in the narthex or you can call Sue Larsen at 715-362-2544.

Thank you for your cooperation in this ministry!

NAMI Northern Lakes

NAMI Northern Lakes is a group of Northwoods volunteers that provides support, education and advocacy in Forest, Vilas and Oneida Counties, on behalf of individuals and families affected by mental illness. All NAMI programs are free. Donations are welcome.

Don't suffer in silence. We can help each other, with compassion and knowledge.

24/7 Free Crisis Counselors

Text "HOPELINE" to 741741

A Kind Voice

1-800-876-2399

10 am to 11 pm every day.

Iris Place

1-920-815-3217

24/7

Mental Health Crisis Line

988

Warm Line

1-414-777-4729

7 pm to 11 pm Wed.-Mon.

Solstice Warm Line

1-608-244-5077

24/7



National Alliance on Mental Illness

June 2024

Immanuel Lutheran Church 715-362-5910
21 W Timber Drive, Rhinelander

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:00 am Worship/ Communion Worship Leader: Rev. John Kuziej	7:00 pm AA & Al-Anon	OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON PASTOR JOHN OFFICE HOURS 10:00 am—NOON 8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group 5:00 pm Stewardship	1:00 pm— 3:00 pm Quilting 6:00 pm Council	OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON 7:00 pm AA	8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group 7:00 pm AA	8:45 am— 11:30 am Food Pantry
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:00 am Worship Worship Leader: Rev. John Kuziej	7:00 pm AA & Al-Anon	OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON 10:00 am PASTOR JOHN Milestone Nursing Home Service 8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group	1:00 pm— 3:00 pm Quilting 10:00 am WELCA Bible Study (2nd Wednesday of the month)	OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON <div>Newsletter Articles Due!!!</div>	8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group 7:00 pm AA	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:00 am Worship/ Communion Worship Leader: Rev. John Kuziej	7:00 pm AA & Al-Anon	OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON PASTOR JOHN OFFICE HOURS 10:00 am—NOON 8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study Call Sheree for location 715-360-3176	1:00 pm— 3:00 pm Quilting	OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON	8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group 7:00 pm AA	THE TUESDAY MORNING CREW MEETS EVERY TUESDAY TO DO ODD JOBS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN OUR CHURCH. PLEASE REACH OUT TO JOHN PLAUTZ IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP! 715-367-3762 jeplautz@hotmail.com
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:00 am Worship Worship Leader: Rev. John Kuziej	7:00 pm AA & Al- Anon	OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON 10:00 am PASTOR JOHN Rennes Nursing Home Service 8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group	1:00 pm— 3:00 pm Quilting 4:30 pm Meal @ Frederick Place	OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON	8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group 7:00 pm AA	
30						
9:00 am Worship Worship Leader: Rev. John Kuziej						MARK YOUR CALENDARS! OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND CHURCH PICNIC SUNDAY, AUGUST 4TH

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

April 2024

GENERAL FUND:

Beginning Balance	\$104,809.14
Offerings	\$ 7,158.84
\$827.60 is moved to Building Fund	
Expenses	(\$ 7,473.34)
Ending Balance	\$104,494.64

BENEVOLENCE:

April Offering	\$ 944.79
2024 Pledge	\$19,000.00
YTD Remittance	\$ 6,962.47

BUILDING FUND:

Beginning Balance	\$39,770.36
Offerings	\$ 827.60
Expenses	\$ (480.00)
Ending Balance	\$40,117.96

The EXPENSES exceeded the
INCOME by \$314.50 this month.



6/4	Bill & Ella Mae D'Aprix
6/5	Jake & Heather Morrison
6/8	Dale & Jolene Schlieve
6/10	Thomas & Cindy Kuehn
6/11	Nathan & Gabrielle Kohnhorst
6/12	Lawrence & Anna Levijoki
6/14	Norm & Mary Peterson
6/28	Matt & Allie Johnson
6/28	Scott & Jessica Scholtes
6/30	Paul & Debra Rinka



6/1	Katie Stolzman	6/15	Charlet Bierman
6/3	Shelley Fortier	6/15	Keith Mayo
6/7	Keith Snyder	6/17	Rollene Schroeder
6/8	JR Bartelt	6/18	Holly Gregory
6/11	Rebecca Eades	6/18	Tianna Schulz
6/11	Bryan Meyer	6/19	Douglas Zwickey
6/11	Debra Rinka	6/21	Nick Scholtes
6/11	Max Scholtes	6/23	Ivan Landphier
6/12	Susan Anderson	6/27	Danny Snyder
6/12	Mark Jacobson	6/30	Matt Johnson

*May Your Day Be
Special!*

*If you were omitted
or listed in error,
please contact the
church office
at
715-362-5910.
Thank you!*

IMMANUEL'S MESSENGER

21 West Timber Drive
Rhineland, WI 54501

Electronic Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Rhineland, WI
PERMIT NO. 194

Join us for in-person worship Sundays at 9:00 am or join online. All Are Welcome!

1) Through YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYfWH9caWNuzOxf9T9JgecQ>
(or search Immanuel Rhineland) on YouTube.

2) Through our website:

www.immanuelrhineland.org/worship
(you'll also find the bulletin and lessons here).

3) Through our phone app.

Just click on the "worship" button at the bottom of the screen.

The live stream will begin at about 8:55 am.