

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church



October 2022

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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

I met with a mom who was asking about the baptism of her two children. She told me her one child was a “Halloween Baby” because he was born on October 31st. When I heard that date, I was not thinking about ghosts and goblins. Reformation Day came to my mind. Reformation Day is important for us Lutherans since it remembers Martin Luther’s act of protest. On October 31, 1517 Luther nailed his 95 Theses (statements) on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. At the time Luther was 34 years old, a priest in the Roman Catholic Church, a monk belonging to an Augustinian order, he had earned his doctorate years before and was teaching the Bible at the local university.

Since you are all faithful Lutherans and dying to delve into history, I thought I would go through all 95 Theses with commentary. (Just kidding. Although I must share with you a little story: in my former congregation a giant poster is on the wall portraying the 95 Theses. I put a bowl of miniature chocolate bars on a table before the poster. The sign read ‘For every thesis you read, please help yourself to a piece of candy.’ One Confirmation student told me that he was going to read all 95 Theses. A promise of chocolate always works as an incentive.)

Take one of the bags of “trick or treat” candy you bought for Halloween and open it up and treat yourself for every thesis we note. The first thesis is probably the best known: “When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said “repent” he willed the entire life of the believer to be one of repentance.” You might feel that does not sound all that cheerful. Repentance is not restricted to a prayer we say at the beginning of a worship service. Repentance is not a downer, in fact the Bible calls repentance ‘refreshing’. So every day Jesus invites us to help ourselves to refreshments: the refreshment of his grace and goodness, the refreshment of his forgiveness and friendship, the refreshment of his seeking love and healing peace. Refreshment is the work of the Holy Spirit who is at work changing our minds about things. The struggle with sin continues all our lives and we may have our minds made up that we have fallen out of any favor with God. Repentance refreshes our minds with the good news that our only fall is into the loving hands of our Savior who gave his life for us.

There is nothing more refreshing than water: a cold drink on a hot day, or a nice hot bath to soothe sore muscles. Luther taught us to center daily repentance with baptism. Baptism is heady holiness. Just think of what God has done and continues to do with your baptism: death to sin and alive together with Jesus. Baptism means we live under the faithful Lordship of Jesus and in him there is no condemnation and we fear not death any longer. Repentance leads us to Jesus, and with Jesus not even death can separate us from him and his seeking and steadfast love.

Are you ready for another piece of chocolate? In his collection of theses Luther would use the old-fashion term “mortification of the flesh”. If it sounds morbid and it is since it means the death to the power of sin within us. How can this be since by ourselves the power of sin gets us every time. Again think of the refreshment of repentance, the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives for newness of life. With the Holy Spirit working with us, we want Jesus to journey with us, and we ask for help to live by his priorities.

A key priority is love and compassion for the neighbor. To be a faithful Christian is to accept suffering. This is not an unhealthy desire for pain, but the holy calling of knowing the suffering of the neighbor and not walking away from it. (see the parable of the Good Samaritan). Luther was concerned about the fund-raising the church of his day practiced. The church was selling letters of “indulgence” which was like “get out of the confessional free card” or the cancellation of doing any penance. Such sales were indeed practiced with catchy slogans. Luther would scream “Buyer Beware!” with the sale of letters of indulgence. Here is why, Thesis #43 “Christians are to be taught that he who gives to the poor or lends to the needy does a better deed than he who buys an indulgence.” Here’s another piece of chocolate and an important piece of advice from the 95 Theses: church leaders must not spend too much time muddying the waters of baptism and grace by talking about money or buying things. Treasure for the church is not the dollar sign, but the cross. Thesis number 62: “The true treasure of the church is the most holy gospel of the glory and grace of God.”

Halloween can be a lot of fun. I remember youth group Halloween events with pumpkin carving, costumes, and sweet treats like cupcakes with licorice spiders on top. Halloween jokes about sin with images of witches flying around. Halloween is like whistling past the graveyard with tales of ghosts haunting. Reformation Day reminds us that joking about sin does not deal with it, and that whistling does not dissipate the fear of death. Reformation Day proclaims the mercy and grace of God and the freedom we have from Jesus: with us, beside us, and for us. There is no condemnation with Jesus and his resurrection means we too shall be raised assuring us that death does not have the final say. With Reformation Day we are reminded that with Jesus there is no trick only the truth, the sweet treat found in Ephesians 2:8, “For by grace you have been saved through faith; this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God.” The emphasis on the grace and goodness of God is not a truth only the Lutherans know, goodness no! All churches celebrate the treasure of the gospel, proclaiming salvation as a gift; all churches proclaim the refreshment of repentance so we keep our hearts and minds on Jesus and his call to love our neighbors.

OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday & Thursday
9 AM - NOON



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
OCTOBER 30, 2022

Watch your mail for
stewardship materials the
week of October 17th



*“In the beginning,
God created the heavens and the
earth, the earth was a formless void
and darkness covered the face of the
deep, while a wind from God swept
over the face of the waters.
~ Genesis 1:1*

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

Have you ever ventured down the craft aisle of some do-it-yourself store? I remember being given a make your own sand art, make your own paint by number picture, and cross stitch kits with all the embroidery floss included. Maybe you graduated to the kits that brew your own beer or make your own birdhouse or nail together a raised garden bed.

I ordered a baker’s rack once that required assembly. It was very handy to have step by step instructions paired with pictures and arrows, connecting part a to part b. Sure, I put it together wrong a few times before I got it right, but it now stands correctly assembled.

It was easy to begin these projects because I had a guide, instructions, I knew what the finished product was supposed to look like. Beginning was easy because the end was clear.

We know something about beginnings. We begin new jobs, new school years, move into a new house or apartment, welcome a new child, initiate a new ministry. Even without a kit, we know what it is to “start from scratch” when there are no pieces to put together, no foundation already laid, no past to shape the future, no ready-made mix that only needs eggs to make the cake.

Certainly, God didn’t have much to work with “in the beginning.” God has a knack of how to make something from nothing. Such creative success takes a certain divine skill set. It is a God-only talent.

And yet, God shares God’s own creative genius with us. And that is a good thing. Because we as congregations, we as the church, are at the beginning again. We need the creative spirit that only God can give because there are a host of things that are unclear.

Do we have all the pieces we need? I say yes. I believe God provides the resources, the people, and the way forward for whatever God would have happen in and through your congregation.

Are we starting from scratch? Not really. There is recent and a collective memory of the way things used to be, not only pre-pandemic, but pre-eighties. Whether these expectations, or even hopes, will be a help or a hindrance to new efforts remains to be seen.

Do we have clear instructions? I say no. This is where we need the collective wisdom of the body of Christ listening intently to the Spirit and finding a way forward together. The goal is not to recreate the church of the past but to lean into the future church that is becoming. The Church is being transformed. Our job is to be faithful in this moment of history that will last years. Keeping the witness of Jesus of Nazareth as the lens through which all else is considered, we can’t go far wrong.

Are we clear on what the finished product will be? Maybe a little, but not really. The Church, capital C, is timeless. God will always call people to faith in Christ. The Spirit will always gather believers together. The Bible will always be treasured and provide an inspiring word to proclaim Christ. But what the Church looks like, how it sounds, where it gathers, the liturgy, traditions, music, language, rhythms, might all be reshaped and reformed. The wind of God is sweeping over the face of the Church. We may not be a formless void, but our shape is being re-formed, slowly but surely, and yet certainly faster than anyone is comfortable with.

As Congregations are investing energy into new or resurrected ministry efforts, we are beginning again in a new set of circumstances. It feels both familiar and foreign. It is both exciting and overwhelming, hopeful and anxious.

I pray God’s blessings upon your efforts. You’re not creating something from nothing, but I think it can feel like that.

God is with you, inspiring, energizing, and speaking the Word Christ into any darkness, saying, “Let there be... Church!”

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

Joyful Delegating, Joyful Song

Sometimes you just have to let go, to delegate. I've never been real good at that, but I'm working on it.

I was so happy about last year's Gig for God ecumenical outdoor September concert. Although we had a few hitches, all in all it was a great event that I wanted to repeat. But with Pastor Tammy's retirement and my resultant expanded leadership role at Immanuel, I knew I didn't have the time or energy for Gig for God 2. So, out of necessity, I reached out to others, knowing I would have to let go of my need for control. I would have to trust their talents and wisdom, knowing their vision would not be the same as my own, but also recognizing that different does not mean worse, and might actually mean better.

Mary Grieco, Mary Bloch, and Mary Dahl, all members of Nativity of Our Lord Church, stepped up and took over the event. They have done a fantastic job adapting it to their schedule and venue. Gig for God has morphed into Joyful Song Ecumenical Music Fest. It will be held indoors at Nativity, rather than at the Riverwalk Band Shell. It will take place October 10, rather than September 11. It will be 3 rather than 4 hours, and it will benefit Boys and Girls Clubs of the Northwoods, Tri County Lily's House Domestic Violence Shelter, and National Alliance on Mental Illness, rather than the Food Pantry and Immanuel Youth. A chili and corn bread supper will follow, rather than concessions sales throughout. There will be 15, count 'em, 15 different performances, each having about 8 minutes each, rather than the 20-minute sets that we had last year.

Well now, those are some major changes, wouldn't you say? And you know how I feel about that? I feel just fine. In fact, I love the way the Three Marys have improved on my original idea. I love that they took a good idea that would have withered without someone else's leadership and made it grow. And I love, love, love that I was able for once in my life to ask for help from others and then had the grace to let them do it their way. I am feeling relaxed and happy as this great afternoon approaches, knowing it will be very successful in its new incarnation. I urge you to join us for a wonderful afternoon of music and fellowship from 2 -5 on Sunday October 9. Stay for chili and cornbread after. My deepest gratitude to all who are making Joyful Sound Ecumenical Music Fest possible.

Darlene Machtan, Immanuel Council President



The poster is orange with black and white text. At the top, it says "Joyful Song Ecumenical Music Fest" in a mix of cursive and serif fonts. Below that, it gives the date and time: "Sunday, October 9, 2022 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.". The location is "Nativity of Our Lord Church 125 E. King Street", flanked by two crosses with musical notes above them. It mentions a "Chili and corn bread supper to follow" and that "Free will offerings will be accepted at event & supper to benefit the following non-profit organizations:". At the bottom, there are logos for Boys & Girls Clubs of the Northwoods, Tri-County Council Lily's House Domestic Violence Shelter, NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), and Northern Lakes.

Joyful Song
Ecumenical Music Fest
Sunday, October 9, 2022
2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Nativity of Our Lord Church
125 E. King Street

Chili and corn bread supper to follow

Free will offerings will be accepted at event & supper to benefit the following non-profit organizations:

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE NORTHWOODS
Tri-County Council Lily's House Domestic Violence Shelter
NAMI | NORTHERN LAKES
National Alliance on Mental Illness

WE ARE WOVEN TOGETHER

By Elizabeth A. Eaton



He was a young man. In his early 20s. He had cancer. His mother and stepfather cared for him to the point of weariness. The family was unchurched, but a friend was a member of our parish and asked if I could visit them. That's how I came to walk with them in the last months.

There were hospitalizations and finally palliative care. The young man endured with stoic courage. His mother and stepfather never waived in their care. Friends supported the family by bringing meals and sometimes just sitting in silence with them. At last, the call I knew was coming came. The young man had died.

I drove to the farmhouse past the cemetery where he would be buried. When I arrived the stepfather opened the door and motioned me to the living room. The young man had died in his mother's arms. He had stopped shaving some weeks before, so his beard had grown in. Mother cradling the body of her dead son. It was a modern-day *pietà*.

In my time with the family, I found out that the stepfather was not baptized. I'll call him Jim. We had many talks sitting at the wooden kitchen table—some profound, some less so.

And Jim had questions: not so much why this had happened to his stepson, but where was God? Where was hope? He knew his wife and son had been baptized. Jim wanted to know what that meant, what difference it made.

I answered that God was with Jim's stepson in his pain. I explained that baptism was the gift of life that brought forgiveness, that baptism made us part of the body of Christ, the church, and that baptism made those who had been strangers from God and each other part of the same family. I told him that baptism was an unbreakable relationship between God and God's people because God loves us and doesn't want to lose a single one of us, that not even death can separate us from God's love.

Jim asked to be baptized. He came to the realization that, as it has been said, water really is

thicker than blood. Baptism doesn't guarantee a life without struggle or hardship, but it makes us part of the one who suffered, died and was buried—and who, through that suffering and death, defeated death. So, at that wooden kitchen table with a stainless steel mixing bowl filled with water, Jim was baptized into Christ.

“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his” (Romans 6:3-5).

We have been through a difficult season in our country and our church. I'm not sure if we will ever completely understand the effects of the pandemic's stress on all of us. The pandemic laid bare racial inequities and disparities in access to medical care, housing, employment and law enforcement. Civic discourse has become coarse and mean. Life is seen as a zero-sum game—if your side gets something then mine loses out.

This is also played out in the church. Of course there is room for debate and disagreement, there is room to call out one part of the church when it has hurt another. There is even room for justified anger. But there is no room to dissolve the bond of baptism. It isn't even possible. In Christ we are individually members one of another. Sometimes we might feel like we are stuck with each other. This is the great mystery and beauty of the wounded body of Christ—we are woven together. Praise the One who makes us one. †

A monthly message from the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Her email address is bishop@elca.org.

Thank You for Serving

Thank you to The Band for sharing your gifts and talents with us in September.

Thank you to Cory Dellenbach for all you do behind the scenes—you are appreciated!

Thank you to everyone who participated in God's Work, Our Hands Sunday and every day!

Thank you to our Tuesday morning crew for all you do!

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!)



Heartfelt thanks.....

A heartfelt thank you to everyone for all the expressions of sympathy after the passing of my sister, June Wiedemann. I appreciated the calls and cards from my church family. It helped to know that so many cared about me and my family. Joanne O'Brien

With deepest thanks.....

Thank you for your prayers of concern for me and prayers of healing for my children, Tim and Gina, who are both battling cancer. Your thoughts of care and concern have been very comforting. With deepest appreciation, Jan Lambele

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

Thank you from Retired Pastor Tammy Barthels

Thank you, thank you, thank you, for the wonderful retirement gift of a week of retreat at Spent Dandelion Retreat Center in Two Harbors, Minnesota. It was such a nurturing and thoughtful gift. I met daily with Dr. Rev. Anna Madsen a systematic theologian, author, pastor, and creator of OMG: Center for Theological Conversation. She was like a breath of fresh air that helped restore and refresh my spirit. I once again am filled with excitement, and enthusiasm. Here are a few things from her recent book "*Joyful Defiance: Death Does Not Win the Day*" that I would like to share with you.



First, we have permission to lament, we must lament. Lamenting is essential to our well being. "If we are people of the gospel, of the euangelion (the good news), then Easter informs every element of who we are, regardless of the liturgical season in which we sit. In fact, it seems that Lent, the season in which we intentionally linger in the emotions and expressions of grief, mourning, guilt, and remorse, is perhaps the perfect time to be reminded of the essential news, the life-giving news that despair need not, will not, win. Hope, in other words, is present, even when it seems that it is exactly the absent thing."

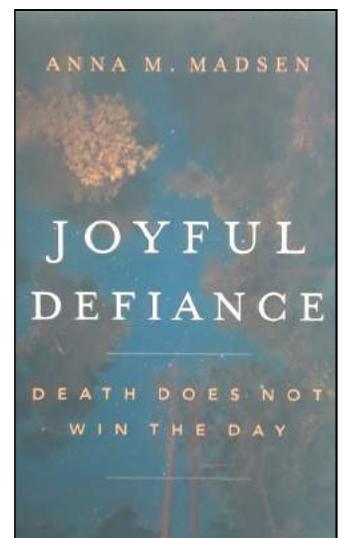
Second, "There is no doubt that things are not as they should be. And there is no doubt that they are not as God thinks they should be: we have a long scriptural tradition that tells us that God's vision for the world is very much what the world is not. But the resurrection gives us a revelation not just of what God's vision is but of our invitation to be part of it, an invitation that we all too often refuse because we are afraid, we are afraid of the implications of our loyalty, of the implications of our betrayal, of the implications of our grief, the implications of our disorientated sense of what is real and what is not, of the implications of faithful living that could - and if we do it right almost certainly will - lead to our death in one form or another. That is, the resurrection informs us that God's vision for us, God's agenda for us, God's invitation to us is life and that anything that stands in the way of it no longer is ultimate. Life is more powerful than death..."

Third, Anna goes on to speak about joy and where we find our joy and it is in the Lord. She refers to many scripture verses that reminds us of this: Philippians 2:1-11 "make my joy complete; be of the same mind, having the same love... Galatians 5:22- 23 "by contrast, the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control..." 1 Thessalonians 1: 6-7 "and you became imitations of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all believers..." and last but not least Luke 15:7-10 (Joy is in Repentance) "just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous persons who need no repentance." Christians understanding of Joy seems to involve participation in something beyond ourselves. "In each case, the joy is experienced by individuals but bound up in its connection and celebration with a broader community by way of relief, of peace, and of community." (quoting Marianne Meye Thompson, - Reflections on Joy in the Bible.) "God's continued investment and involvement in creation... Delight, hope, and life appear where before they were not. Joy is bound up with gratitude, with an awareness of what could be versus what is, with defiance of what should not be while trusting that redemption and reconciliation are in the offing.... God does not have an iron plan for the world but rather a vision, an agenda for the world, and it is that of life, Shalom and joy."

And Fourth, Anna writes: "I'm less concerned about putting Christ back in Christmas than I am about putting Christ back in Christian. Christians believe that Jesus - the one who healed, welcome, fed the hungry, hung out with the outcasts, called out the wealthy elites and hypocrites, and stepped across egregious boundaries - is the Christ. What he did is what we who claim his name are called to do too. It's a piece too often overlooked, especially in recent days, which is why all year long, and not just in the days surrounding the holidays, I'm of the mind that it's time to put the Christ back in Christian." (Ah... I think this is a sermon waiting to be written!!!!)

Well, this thank you is getting way too long, 😊 as it has turned onto a mini sermon. I could quote Anna forever!! I truly just wanted to thank you for a wonderful retreat to restore and refresh my spirit and the opportunity to meet Dr. Rev. Anna Madsen, it was well appreciated. I miss you! Love Pastor Tammy ❤️

P/S if you are interested in Anna's new book: "*Joyful Defiance - Death Does Not Win the Day*" it can be purchased on Amazon and it is a wonderful read. Copyright 2022 Fortress Press, Minneapolis MN





**THE COMMUNITY
BLOOD CENTER**

connecting lives | sharing life

BRAD

Proud dad. Loves baseball,
music and really good coffee.

Received blood, platelets
and bone marrow.
Relied on donors like you.

Donate blood today!

**IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
BLOOD DRIVE**

21 W Timber Drive, Rhineland, WI 54501

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

To schedule your donation, please contact
Jackie Waldorf at (715) 482-0513.
We kindly request you register in advance.
Thank you!



Beth Bloom and Darlene Machtan sang at the Karen Kitze Celebration of Life/Scholarship Benefit.



Allie and Matthew Johnson, and Scout, did a one-mile country road clean up. (Scout mostly ate acorns).





For "God's work. Our hands." Sunday JoAnne Barrix gathered with people that were involved in our nursing home worship services. Prior to COVID this group would go for lunch after each service.

Michelle Thompson and Mary Wolf participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's.



IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Meeting Minutes: August 10, 2022

Council Members Present: President: Darlene Machtan, Vice-President: Becky Eades, Secretary: JoAnne Barrix, Tina Schmitz, Glenn Johnson, Mary Wolf, Kristine Mladucky, Deb Rinka, Christy Dellenbach, Fred McCue and Pastor John Kuziej

Opening

Darlene Machtan opened the in person meeting at 6:00 PM.

Devotion by JoAnne: The Song of the Seed by Macrina Wiederkehr

Action – Motion/Second/Carried...Approved the minutes from the July 13, 2022 council meeting with 2 abstentions.

Pastor's Report: Pastor John has been doing home bound visits and hospital visits. Pulpit supply has been scheduled. The 1st Sunday will be Pastor John, 2nd Sunday: Matt Johnson, 3rd Sunday: Pastor Grant Van Lishout, 4th and 5th Sundays will be Karen Carter. No one is available for September 4th, so Pastor John will prepare a sermon and JoAnne will lead the worship service.

Long-Term Items:

Worship: discuss effectiveness and quality (3xyear) – Comments that we are liking the variety of Pastors. It is also great to have the band back.

Goals: review and discuss (semi-annually) – Keep our ministries going in a pastoral vacancy. Food pantry and NATH are going well and we are doing well financially.

Engage in ministry partnerships (annually) - NATH and Food Pantry are partnerships also the Ecumenical Song Fest will be Oct. 8th at Nativity. Immanuel will be represented. Offerings will go to Girls and Boys Club, NAMI and ACES.

Short-Term Items:

Livestreaming volunteer efforts: Going OK. Cory is scheduling

Memory Cafe: Financing is again available. We will need someone to head up the program or we can just make the space available. Deb will contact JoAnne O Brian and also get the contact person from Darlene.

God's Work Our Hands Sunday: September 11th – We will encourage individuals to have a project and take photos. We will post pictures from previous God's Work Sundays and then post the new pictures and possibly put in the newsletter. We could also use the Synod video running on a loop by the bulletin board.

Confirmation youth are planning to rake lawns. That will also be Rally Sunday. Wear your T-shirts.

Call Committee Progress: JoAnne reported on the meeting with Pastor Jim Duehring. We will be working on the Ministry Site Profile and meeting again on August 16th. We are possibly going to participate in the Faithful Innovations Workshops at Fortune Lake. **Action – Motion/Second/Carried...**Approved authorization of \$50 fee for the workshops.

NATH meals: Worship and Music Committee is covering August 24th. Prayer Chain is September, Youth and Education is October. JoAnne will talk to the Covid Team about covering November. Council is signed up for December.

Open/Close schedule: September: Mary, October: Fred, November: Charlie, December: Mary.

Devotion schedule: September: Kristine, October: Deb, November: Keith, December: Becky

Comments and Committee Actions:

Faith explorers will start on September 18th after church. Will reach out to families to get feedback. Rally Sunday will be September 11th with a possible cook out and a dish to pass. Confirmation will start on October 5th and meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. There are 3 possibly 4 students.

JoAnne will get a recommendation from the covid team regarding resuming “normal” activities.

There is a problem with bats in the church. Fred and Glenn will talk and possibly check with Gene Frane or John Plautz.

Adjournment: Action – Motion/Second/Carried... Meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM following the closing prayer.

Closing Prayer: read by JoAnne – Evening prayer from a prayer book by Pastor Bud Roufs

Respectfully Submitted,
JoAnne Barrix, Council Secretary

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

ELCA REQUIRED CALL COMMITTEE STEPS

08/07/2022 Meeting with Pastor Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop. Directives given for Call Committee.

08/16/2022 Chose Chairperson Cory Dellenbach and began Ministry Site Profile, resume' from Immanuel.

08/23/2022 Continued discussion and completion of Ministry Site Profile.

08/30/2022 Rescheduled meeting due to member conflicts.

09/12/2022 Continued preparing Ministry Site Profile for the ELCA database.

09/14/2022 Finished preparing Ministry Site Profile.

09/14/2022 Presented Ministry Site Profile to Council for approval.

- Future dates will be given as process continues.
- When Ministry Site Profile is approved by Council it will be sent to the Synod Bishop.
- When Ministry Site Profile is approved by the Bishop the profile will be listed on the ELCA website.
- Pray for interest by a Pastor!

Submitted by Kathy Maule,
Call Committee Member

SNOW SHOVELING

**WE ARE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS TO SHOVEL SNOW THIS WINTER.
PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE OR SIGN UP ON THE SHEET IN THE NARTHEX.**

Helping To Build A Hunger-Free Community



RAFP

627 Coon Street
Rhinelanders, WI



SEPTEMBER FOOD PANTRY INDOOR AND OUTDOOR CREWS

Thank you to our September 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 8:45am—11:30am.



EQUITY CHALLENGE

NOW IS THE TIME FOR RACIAL JUSTICE, RECONCILIATION, AND REPARATIONS

The last section of the participant materials in the ELCA study guide for the “Explanation of the Declaration of the ELCA to Peoples of African Descent” speaks to the issues of racial justice, reconciliation, and reparations. I’m thinking that I hear some sighs of relief!

On these issues, I can easily support racial justice and reconciliation as Jesus ministered to the lost, the least, the broken, the marginalized, the outcasts, the hurting ones, etc. Reparations raise resistance in me, and perhaps a bit of jealousy. and a sense of being left out of getting something others are getting. Even though my head knows that enslavers were compensated by the federal government for the loss of the Black Bodies they claimed to “own”, and though I know that freed slaves never received the promised 40 acres of land and a mule to begin supporting themselves (without money to buy seeds or tools), I still resist, having a sense of being excluded from benefit others might receive.

But...wait a minute. I wasn’t left out or excluded. My ancestors received land in northwestern Ohio FOR FREE because their Connecticut land had been burned by the British in the Revolutionary War. My grandparents loaned my parents the down payment for their first house, giving me the privilege of attending the best schools in town where teachers assumed that I could succeed academically. My grandparents' connections in the community helped provide me with a scholarship for college. The banker we went to for our first car loan suggested 90 day renewable notes with a lower interest rate than the normal car loan. Some years later I learned that the same banker charged the Black church sexton double digit interest rates for a home improvement loan while our mortgage rate was mid single digits! In looking for that house, we were never shown places in or near the “Black” section of town, only the White/right side of the railroad tracks, helping us make a good investment. All of these things are benefits given to my ancestors by the government and me by the community because of my White skin. All these benefits have been denied those who are Black.

Reparations have been paid in the past, by our government to Japanese Americans interned during WWII , by Germany to survivors of the Holocaust, and by South Africa after the end of Apartheid. Perhaps then, I need to quell my anxiety about paying the descendants of Black people who labored long days for 246 years, from 1619 to 1865, without being paid a dime. Perhaps, especially since I claim to be a follower of Jesus, I need to be more open minded about reparations. Jesus talks a lot about sharing with those with less—remember the rich man refusing to give Lazarus even a cup of water? Remember the Good Samaritan who supported the robbed and injured man until he healed? Haven’t Black Americans been robbed and injured by slavery and discriminatory practices in employment, lending, and housing? Since enslavers were paid millions of dollars by today’s standards, isn’t it fair to compensate, also in today’s dollars, descendants of those not paid wages for 246 years or given the tools to survive once “freed”?

This is a tough topic for me, and perhaps you, too. My stomach tightens at the thought of reparations. But a bit of anxiety is nothing when considering the abuses of slavery and the anxieties of “Living While Black” today. The study guide is at <https://elca.org/Resources/Racial-Justice> along with many other resources for consideration and prayer. *Submitted by Susan Anderson*

COVID Protocols Removed

After two and a half years, the COVID Team has recommended that Immanuel return to pre-COVID protocols. The Council then approved a motion to follow the recommendation. Therefore we can resume band, choir, coffee hour, passing the collection plate, ushering out from the front and singing the liturgy. Individuals may still mask if they desire and should also be respectful of personal space when passing the peace. As always, we advise that people stay home if they are ill. We will of course continue with our live streaming of the worship services.

NATH WISH LIST

1. Quart and gallon size Ziplock bags
2. Benadryl 25 mg (generic is diphenhydramine HCL 25mg)
3. Dryer sheets
4. Bathroom cleaner
5. Laundry Detergent (HE)
6. Men's and Women's deodorant
7. 30 gallon trash bags
8. Cling wrap
9. Eggs
10. Butter

Household items are given to residents when they leave Frederick Place so they have to be replaced often.

NATH MEALS

Our ministry groups have been providing the monthly NATH meals. Thank you for your cooperation in this ministry!

We need a group to provide January's meal. Is your group interested? Please sign-up in the narthex or call Sue Larsen at 715-362-2544.

NAMI Northern Lakes

Providing support, education and advocacy for people living with mental illness and their families in Forest, Oneida, and Vilas Counties.

Monthly meetings: open to anyone; 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

at First Methodist Church, Rhinelander. Northern Lakes Center located in Trinity Lutheran Church, Rhinelander. **OUR HOURS ARE MONDAY TO FRIDAY 11 AM TO 3 PM.**

Please call Linda at [715-420-1700](tel:715-420-1700) or e-mail at northernlakescenter@gmail.com if you are in need of anything.



October 2022

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 Worship Communion Worship Leader: Rev. John Kuziej	7pm AA & AI -Anon	OFFICE HOURS 9AM—NOON PASTOR JOHN OFFICE HOURS 10AM—NOON	1-3pm Quilting 6-7pm Confirmation Class	OFFICE HOURS 9AM—NOON		8:45—11:30am Food Pantry
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:00 Worship Worship Leader: Matthew Johnson JOYFUL SONG ECUMENICAL MUSIC FEST AT NATIVITY	7pm AA & AI -Anon	5pm Stewardship OFFICE HOURS 9AM—NOON PASTOR JOHN OFFICE HOURS 10AM—NOON	1-3pm Quilting 6pm Council	OFFICE HOURS 9AM—NOON		Newsletter Articles Due!!!
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:00 Worship Communion Worship Leader: Rev. Grant Van Lishout	7pm AA & AI -Anon	OFFICE HOURS 9AM—NOON PASTOR JOHN OFFICE HOURS 10AM—NOON	10am WELCA Bible Study Mocha on the Mount—All Are Welcome! 1-3pm Quilting 6-7pm Confirmation Class	OFFICE HOURS 9AM—NOON		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:00 Worship Worship Leader: Karen Carter	7pm AA & AI -Anon	OFFICE HOURS 9AM—NOON PASTOR JOHN OFFICE HOURS 10AM—NOON	1-3pm Quilting 4:30 Meal @ Frederick Place	OFFICE HOURS 9AM—NOON		
30	31					
9:00 Worship STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY Worship Leader: Karen Carter	7pm AA & AI -Anon	All Nursing home worship services are cancelled this month!				

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

August 2022

GENERAL FUND:

Beginning Balance	\$22,793.65
Offerings	\$ 9,523.60
Expenses	(\$ 6,056.84)
Ending Balance	\$26,260.41

BENEVOLENCE:

August Offering	\$ 903.00
2022 Pledge	\$19,000.00
YTD Remittance	\$12,617.90

BUILDING FUND:

Beginning Balance	\$38,764.93
Offerings	\$ 887.89
Expenses	(\$ 42.19)
Ending Balance	\$39,610.63

INCOME exceeded the
EXPENSES by \$3,466.76.



10/1	Kristina Jacobson	10/16	Gayle Wilmot
10/2	Mary Meek	10/20	Natalie Dellenbach
10/3	Mary Schoeneck	10/21	Leonard Bauman
10/4	Shaylee Kohnhorst	10/22	Karen Franke
10/4	Dee Montgomery	10/22	Kevin O'Rourke
10/4	Adrian Patrone	10/24	William Mattson
10/5	Nathan Kohnhorst	10/26	Joanne Dart
10/8	Andrew Furyk	10/29	Jean Milz
10/16	Priscilla Johnson		

August Attendance:

	In-person	Online	Total
08/07	50	65	115
08/14	18	94	112
08/21	30	63	93
08/28	32	56	88

Our average worship attendance for the month of August was 102.



10/7	Robbie Potter & Michael Cornelius
10/12	Anita & Danny Snyder
10/19	Julianne & Tom Duffy
10/22	Pastor Tammy & Randy Barthels
10/22	Brittany & Jesse Landphier

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 a.m.
All are Welcome!**

Or join online

- 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.