

# Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church



## May 2022

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## Rev. Tammy K. Barthels - Pastor

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## Kari Britton - Administrative Assistant

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Member of the ELCA Churchwide [elca.org](http://elca.org) &  
the Northern Great Lakes Synod [nglsynod.org](http://nglsynod.org)



Visit us on our Website @  
[Immanuelrhineland.org](http://Immanuelrhineland.org)

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

## Pastor's Message ~ Stand in Faith

### 2 Peter 1:5-9

*"For this very reason, you must make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love. For if these things are yours and are increasing among you, they keep you from being ineffective and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

As I write this article, I have just informed the congregation that I will be retiring. It is a bittersweet reality. I have been your pastor at Immanuel for nearly seven years. We have experienced joys and sorrows together. We have celebrated our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and gone through a worldwide pandemic. I have baptized and confirmed many of your children, married and buried your love ones. I have loved being your pastor, and so much enjoyed doing ministry with you. It is sad to say goodbye, but I look forward to retirement and spending time with Randy and our children and grandchildren.

As I reflect on my time at Immanuel, I would like to highlight some of our endeavors together. (I am sure I have missed some!)

### **Ministries that were active at Immanuel when I arrived:**

Serving at the Food Pantry the Second Saturday of the Month ~ The Annual Bike Ride ~ Car Hop ~ Blood Drive ~ Serving at The Table in December ~ Women's Bible Study ~ Faith Circle ~ Quilting...

### **New Ministries and Events that transpired:**

Walking for Water ~ Monthly NATH Meals ~ Memory Café ~ Equity Challenge Book Studies ~ Nursing Home Worship Services ~ Evening Women's Circle ~ Gig for God ~ Creating a New Mission Statement ~ God's Work Our Hand's Sunday ~ Lutheran Office of Public Policy of WI (LOPPW) Representative at Synod Level ~ World Hunger Chair at Synod Level ~ Executive Synod Council Member ~ Creating Name Tags for Worship, ~ 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ~ A New Cookbook ~ A New Photo Directory ~ Kitchen Project ~ Mortgage Paid Off ~ Installed New Windows ~ New Sound System and Live Stream capabilities....

WE have been busy!! I hope and pray that you continue in the faith that God has given you, using your spiritual gifts to uplift the Kingdom of God.

God is not finished with the work at Immanuel. My guess is God is just beginning!! Do not lose hope! The apostle Paul says it best in his letters to the Romans: *"Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and **hope does not disappoint us**, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."* (Romans 5:1-5)

People of Immanuel, God's love has been poured into your hearts and God will give you what you need as you experience this new transition. My prayers are with you.

Yours in Christ +

*Pastor Tammy*



# Farewell and Godspeed, Pastor Tammy

It is difficult for me to accept that Pastor Tammy is indeed retiring. I know that eventually I will get used to the idea, just as I did to Pastor Norm's departure, but before she goes, I wish to share these thoughts.

When I think of both Immanuel and Pastor Tammy, the word "grace" leaps to mind. Merriam-Webster.com provides many definitions for this word. The first, "a state of sanctification enjoyed through divine assistance," is the basis of our faith in a nutshell. We experience God's love, presence, and redemption through His grace.

The second definition of grace, "a special favor," is a fitting description of Pastor Tammy's answering our ministerial call. When she agreed to take over as our shepherd after a two-year search, it felt like a special favor. She could have chosen another congregation in another area, but instead she moved to Rhinelander, away from husband and family except on weekends. It was another two years until Randy retired and was able to permanently join her here. Although he probably did not regard her decision as a special favor, it certainly was for us.

Another of the definitions of grace is "a disposition to...kindness, courtesy, or clemency." Pastor's service at Immanuel was marked by countless worship services, children's sermons, baptisms, weddings, funerals, home visits, meetings, and private chats behind closed doors. She shared our joys and sorrows, kept our confidences, offered advice, and remembered us in her prayers. In addition, how many of us had our days brightened by one or more of her lovely, thoughtful handwritten notes of support or gratitude? She epitomizes kindness.

A fourth definition of grace is "a pleasing appearance or effect." When I think of Pastor Tammy, I remember her ever-changing beautiful vestments and stoles. I hear and feel her warm greetings by name, handshakes, and hugs. Even after over two years of seeing her masked, it is her smile I picture first. Hers was not a superficial, fleeting pleasing effect; it found its way into and remains in the hearts of so many within and without the walls of our church.

Grace can also be "a short prayer at a meal asking a blessing or giving thanks." So let me conclude with this:

Heavenly Father, thank you for the unforgettable gift of Pastor Tammy's leadership these past seven years of our lives. She is so loved, and she will be so missed. Your peace and blessings to her always. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Darlene Machtan, Immanuel Council President



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT IMMANUEL

### LIVE STREAM SPECIALIST

The Live Stream Specialist position is a part-time position reporting to the Pastor and/or Council President. The primary responsibility of the Live Stream Specialist is to provide for the church's video streaming efforts. The Live Stream Specialist will oversee all aspects of the church's video streaming for the Sunday worship services and occasional special services (Christmas Eve, Lent, etc.). The Live Stream Specialist will demonstrate a passion for enhancing the online worship experience of the congregation.

#### Qualifications:

— Have a working knowledge of computer system hardware and Microsoft Operating Systems, streaming platforms (YouTube), and live streaming software (OBS).

#### Responsibilities Include:

- The primary responsibility of the Live Stream Specialist is to provide the church's video streaming services at least 3 - 4 Sunday worship services a month (plus the occasional extra services such as Christmas Eve, Lent, etc.).
- Communicate clearly with staff
- Understand equipment set up and configurations such as microphones, cameras, soundboard, wires, cables, etc.
- Manage and execute with technical efforts relative to audio and video of live stream production.
- Effectively troubleshoot and resolve any live streaming related issues during services.
- Attendance at scheduled meetings as requested.
- Coordinate/schedule with volunteers when you will be absent.

#### Accountability:

- Must be a team player by working in concert with all ministry staff and leaders of the church.
- Will be supervised in day-to-day operations by the Pastor and/or Council President.
- Will be accountable to the Church Council and shall receive evaluations (including salary recommendation) by this body.
- Will be subject to criminal background checks as required by the church.

Pay: \$35 per service (Sunday morning worship service and any special services required)

**To apply, either stop in at the church office between 10 am and 3 pm Tuesday through Thursday, or email your resume and info to [immanuelchurchwebsite@gmail.com](mailto:immanuelchurchwebsite@gmail.com).**

### ORGANIST/PIANIST

#### The primary function of the Organist / Pianist is to:

- Select and provide organ/piano music for all Sunday morning services and other season services such as Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Ash Wednesday, Lent services, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
- Accompany the adult choir at Sunday morning practice and worship.
- Work cooperatively with the choir director and Pastor to choose hymns.
- Provide organ music for all weddings and funerals held at church, consulting with wedding couples or families if requested.
- Coordinate necessary maintenance of the organ and/or piano and notify council.
- Participate in the Worship and Music Committee.

#### Skills and Qualifications

- Knowledge of the instrument and the ability sufficient to play hymns, liturgy, and easy anthem accompaniments at sight.
- Knowledge to sing and/or play with accurate pitch and rhythm.
- Knowledge of Lutheran Church, matching appropriate music with the themes of the church year.
- Ability to work well with others.

The pay is \$42 per service (Sunday morning worship and any special services that may be held), as well as \$42 during choir practice.

# Celebration of Women

## Theme "Celebration of Women"

*"And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." Luke 1: 45*

### Cost

Duplex housing \$125.00 (Bedding/towels will **NOT** be provided)

Lodge housing \$140.00 (Bedding/ towels provided)

Cost Includes: Meals, workshop materials, and Saturday Cafe.

Forms to register for the retreat will be available:

- ❖ On the following website:  
<https://www.nglsynod.org/welca/>
- ❖ In May's Reflections Newsletter (if don't receive the Reflections, one copy will be sent to each congregation)

## Women's Fall Retreat Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

Crystal Falls, MI

September 16-18, 2022

### *Renew*

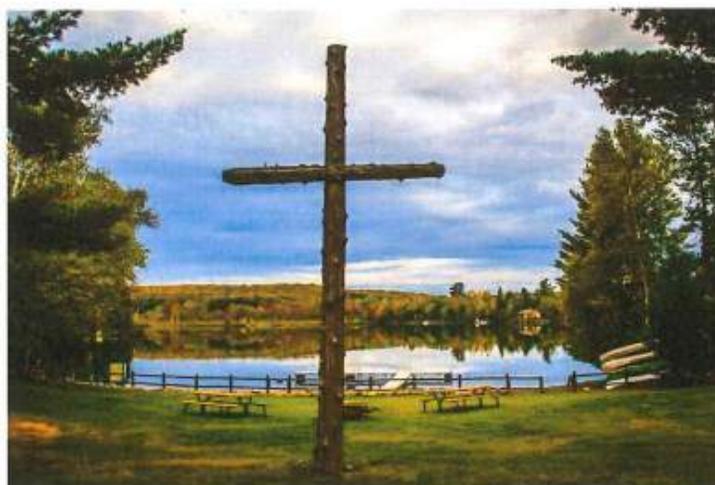
*Be renewed at the retreat with opportunities to have fun, connect with other women and a chance to disconnect from everyday life.*

### *Reflect*

*Reflect on your faith with bible studies, nature walks, and spirit-filled worship services.*

### *Rejoice*

*Rejoice with song, laughter and merriment of all kinds!*



## PRESIDING BISHOP

# THE WAY BACK TO OUR CENTER

By Elizabeth A. Eaton



587 B.C.E. was not a good year. The siege of Jerusalem ended with the destruction of the city, its walls and Solomon's temple. Many died of starvation during the siege. The Babylonians, at the direction of King Nebuchadnezzar II, brutally removed the population of Jerusalem to exile in Babylon.

For three generations Judah lived in exile. Babylon was powerful. Babylon was wealthy. And Babylon was cruel. We hear in Psalm 137:1-3: "By the rivers of Babylon—there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion. On the willows there we hung up our harps. For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying, 'Sing us one of the songs of Zion!'"

With the temple and Jerusalem destroyed, the identity of the people of God was shaken. Who were they now? Where was the Lord now? This was more than a political, military or economic crisis. This was an existential crisis.

The prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel took this head on. This exile wasn't about the faithlessness of the Lord. Quite the contrary, it was a demonstration of the Lord's unwavering faithfulness, compassion and fierce love. The people and leadership of Judah had trusted in their own agency quite apart from depending on the Lord, as humankind too often does to terrible consequences.

So there in Babylon, the people carved out a life for themselves while remaining faithful and resisting assimilation. The Torah, the living word of the Lord, held them together. The prophets, through chastisement and comfort, gave hope. And, I imagine, they often thought of home—the beauty of Jerusalem and the majesty of the temple.

My cousins and I spent a good part of our childhood with my maternal grandparents. They were both immigrants from Transylvania and, with much hard work, built a life, raised a family and founded our family's beer distributorship. Our grandparents' house seemed palatial. The living room ceiling was

two stories high, and each year there was the most amazing Christmas tree. Often, I go over every corner of that house in my memory, and I long for it. It was a shock when I drove past that house a few years ago and saw how small it was.

Back to Babylon. A new power arose in the region. Cyrus, king of Persia, defeated Babylon and decreed that the people of Judah should return home and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Nehemiah gives the account. In 52 days, withstanding violent plots by enemies, the walls were rebuilt. And then the people gathered to hear the Torah.

I was surprised to hear that they wept. Why? Some say that when hearing the Torah they were grieved by their disobedience. I think it is much more than that. Not everyone came back to Jerusalem. The city of their memory was destroyed. It wasn't grand anymore. They were utterly spent from repairing the walls. There was exhaustion, relief, grief and hope. Their long years in exile imagining the return to Jerusalem were not met with reality.

We have been in this pandemic for two years. We have been longing for the "Before Times" that in our imagination seem as magical as my grandparents' house. The return to a post-pandemic world, like the return of circulation, is initially painful. We will need to rebuild those structures necessary for a healthy society—compassion, respect, sacrifice for the greater good, the celebration of diversity, justice.

And we will need the word of the Lord—the Word that calls us back to our center, which is the steadfast love of God, law and gospel, judgment and promise.

We will weep with exhaustion, relief, grief and hope. And there, drawn by God who is our center, we will find each other again. †

A monthly message from the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Her email address is [bishop@elca.org](mailto:bishop@elca.org).

## *Thank You for Serving*

Thank you to Josh and Isaiah Willoughby for shoveling snow.

Thank you to John Plautz and Gene Frane who continue to keep up on the maintenance of the church.

Thank you to ALL who volunteered during Holy Week worship services.

Thank you to Dianne Syms who continues to be our ACES volunteer.

Thank you to JoAnne Barrix and Kristine Mladucky who took charge, sang and played piano when our sound board was not working!

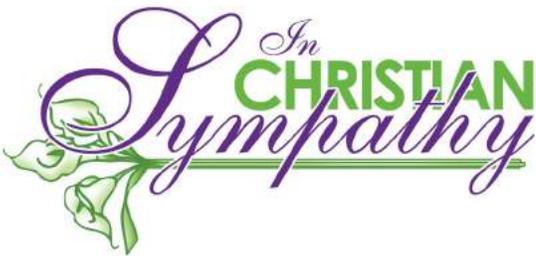
Thank you to Cory Dellenbach who posted job positions on Indeed and Facebook and who continually helps with IT problems!

Thank you to JoAnne Barrix for being altar guild and bread maker from December through May.

***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!)***

Thank you for the underwear that was donated to Frederick Place. Underwear is usually the first item that is needed when someone comes to Frederick Place. This donation will help many individuals. Thanks again!  
Frederick Place Staff

I would like to thank all of the Immanuel Church family for their cards, prayers and concerns, starting with the death of my brother in December, during my health issues, spinal back surgery January 31, 2022 and my rehab at Friendly Village and now since 2/23/2022 my recovery rehab at home. Thank you for all the cards, prayers and concerns. Praise to our Lord and Savior that the surgery was successful and I have had no back and leg pain since the surgery was done!  
Friends in Christ always, Jean Milz



Our deepest condolences for Rose Dohrmann on the death of her daughter Tracy Lynn Howard.

## **Pastoral care**

Pastor is willing to visit you in your home, wearing a mask and social distancing. If you would like to have her give you a home visit, please call the office to schedule a time.





**Thanks...  
you made my day!**

To our Immanuel Church Family!  
Thank you so much for all the cards  
and gifts! I really appreciate all of your  
support and love! We are really excited  
to become parents and start this new  
chapter in our lives! Thank you!  
Brittany





**Christ is Risen!  
Christ is Risen indeed!**



**A crowd gathers  
to celebrate  
Easter Vigil.**





Thank you to our April Food Pantry crew for sharing the love of Christ through serving!  
 If you are interested in volunteering please contact Darlene Machtan.  
 Immanuel volunteers the 2nd Saturday of each month from 10:30 am—1:00 pm.

More Volunteer Opportunities – all positions are 2-3 hours in the a.m.

- Warehouse
  - 2 days per week, able to lift and drive electric forklift
- Mobile Pantry Stocking
  - 2 – 3 times per month, fill boxes with pantry items
- Soup Prep
  - 3-4 times per month, primarily Mondays or Thursdays
- Community Garden Helper
- Fill in
  - Produce cleaning
  - Filling on-line orders
  - Home deliveries
  - Grocery pick-up (must have pick up truck)

To complete an application visit the Pantry M-F 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. or complete an online application at [www.rhinelanderareafoodpantry.org](http://www.rhinelanderareafoodpantry.org).

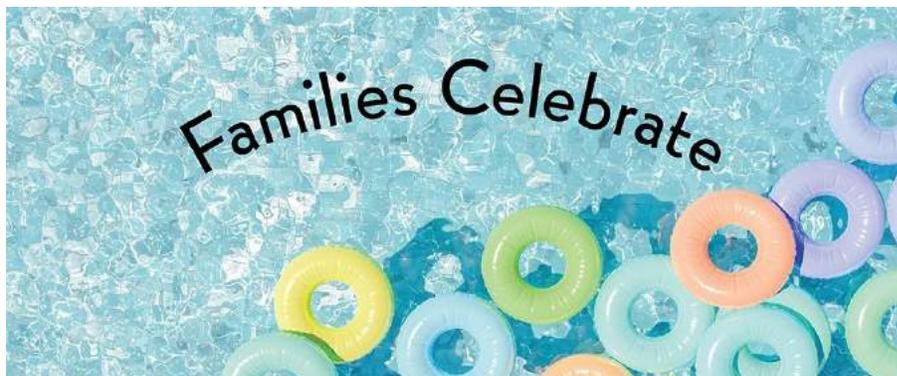
Thank you for your support!

# Augsburg Fortress Resource

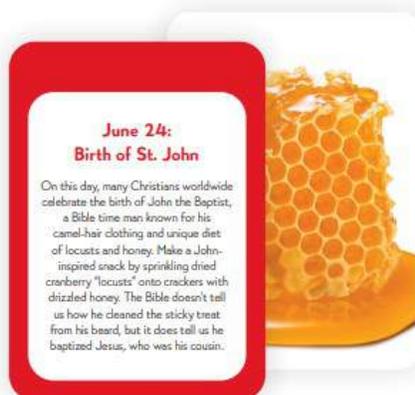
Augsburg Fortress is the publishing house of the ELCA and has some fun family-oriented resources for summertime activities.

## Families Celebrate Summer

is a colorful deck of 56 cards full of faith-based activities, rituals, reflections, and other ideas for families to try at home and on the go. Perfect for families with kids ages 3-12.



Check out the [Families Celebrate Summer Sample](#) and the Augsburg website [www.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.augsburgfortress.org) for a variety of helpful resources.



# IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Meeting Minutes: March 9, 2022

Council Members Present: President: Darlene Machtan, Vice-President: Becky Eades, Secretary: JoAnne Barrix, Treasurer: Brian Willoughby, Glenn Johnson, Mary Wolf, Fred McCue, Bill Mattson, Keith Snyder, Charlie Strong, Kristine Mladucky, Christy Dellenbach, Deb Rinka, Pastor Tammy Barthels.

## Opening

Darlene Machtan opened the meeting at 5:33 PM.

**Devotion** by Kristine: Living Sacrifice – Romans 9

**Action – Motion/Second/Carried...** Approved the minutes from the February 9, 2022 council meeting with one abstention.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Tammy read us her letter of resignation as she will be retiring. Her last Sunday of worship is May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and official last day is May 31, 2022. There will be an exit interview on April 27<sup>th</sup>. She asks for prayers. **Action – Motion/Second/Carried...** Approved accepting of Pastor's resignation with Pastor's abstention. A letter is going out to the congregation.

**Long-Term Items:** Great Commission Schedule – In the interests of time constraints we will not discuss.

## Short-Term Items:

Old Business:

1. Update on password to Alanon: We have a signed agreement on file outlining the requirements.
2. Update on refugee resettlement: At this point, Rhinelander is not a sanctuary city so we cannot have refugees.

New Business:

1. Items found in boiler room: Paintings are from the 1930-1950 era. The bell is not from our church. The number board and memory board are ours. Perhaps we can find a way to display. We will invite viewing of the paintings for further discussion of what to do with them.
2. Covid team recommendations: **Action – Motion/Second/Carried...** Accept recommendations immediately, unanimous. Kari will make a new sign for masking.
3. Stewardship recommendation for live-stream/IT position: Impact on the budget would be about \$1600 per year. We will post at \$35/service. We do have some volunteers so the position would require only 3-4 Sundays/month and special services. There is a need for live-stream. **Action – Motion/Second/Carried...** Accept and post the position immediately – unanimous.
4. Stewardship recommendation for Pianist/Organist position: Impact on the budget at this point would be a reduction. We will post at \$42/service. **Action- Motion/Second/Carried...** Accept and post the position immediately – unanimous.
5. Exit interview and sendoff for Brittany - We will plan on flowers for Brittany and a “Baby Basket”. Quilters will make a baby quilt. Her last service is March 27<sup>th</sup>. Darlene will collect for the gifts and she and Sarah Willoughby will assemble the basket. An exit interview will be scheduled with members of the executive committee.
6. Use of church for Hodag Waterski board meeting: **Action – Motion/Second/Carried...** Approval of use of the church for the meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. One abstention
7. Copyright \$53.25 for remainder of the year for live-stream subscription: **Action – Motion/Second/Carried...** Approval of ordering the 9 month subscription for live-stream to be paid from the Worship and Music budget – unanimous.

**Comments and Committee Actions:** None

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 6:21 PM.

**Closing Prayer:** by Pastor Tammy: A reading from Job, God will not abandon us.

Respectfully Submitted,  
JoAnne Barrix, Council Secretary

# IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Special Council Meeting Minutes: March 2, 2022

Council Members Present: President: Darlene Machtan, Vice-President: Becky Eades, Secretary: JoAnne Barrix, Glenn Johnson, Fred McCue, Bill Mattson, Keith Snyder, Charlie Strong, Kristine Mladucky, Christy Dellenbach, Deb Rinka, Brian Willoughby, Pastor Tammy Barthels.  
Guest: Cory Dellenbach

## Opening

Darlene Machtan opened the hybrid meeting at 8 PM.

Prayer by Pastor Tammy

## New Business Items:

**Action – Motion/Second/Carried...**Accept Brittany Landphier's resignation as pianist and youth leader. Unanimous.

Posting of position vacancies: There was agreement of posting these positions separately. The Youth and Education Committee will meet to discuss the position description for the youth position on March 24<sup>th</sup>. There are only three youth meetings through May so there is no rush to fill the position. It was suggested that Stewardship Committee meet and make recommendations regarding the Pianist/Organist Position and also the IT Position. Stewardship will discuss needs and compensation.

**Action – Motion/Second/Carried...**Adjournment at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
JoAnne Barrix, Council Secretary

## Newsletter Available Electronically

If you would rather read the newsletter electronically, you can access a copy on our website @ [immanuelrhinelander.org/newsletter](http://immanuelrhinelander.org/newsletter)

## THANK YOU FOR GIVING!

A total of \$326.00 was collected for the Lutheran Disaster Response Eastern Europe Crisis.

Thank you to all for this consideration.  
May God bless you and help this region.

Sincerely,  
Dianne Syms



## NATH WISH LIST

1. **COFFEE CREAMER**
2. **SWIFFER WET PADS**
3. **KITCHEN GARBAGE CANS—10 OR 13 GALLON**
4. **BROOMS**
5. **MOP AND BUCKET WITH RINGER**
6. **MOPS**
7. **BRUSHES AND LARGE COMBS**

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

Trinity Lutheran Church's

# DAY CAMP

WITH FORTUNE LAKE LUTHERAN CAMP STAFF

JULY  
18-21,  
2022

9 am - 4 pm

**\$40 per child**  
(scholarships available)

Daily bussed  
trips to CAVOC

**SPACE IS LIMITED.**  
Please Register online  
at [ComeToTrinity.com](http://ComeToTrinity.com)  
by June 10.



Children going into  
grades 1-5  
are invited to a Bible Camp  
experience sponsored by  
**Trinity 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



**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH DAY CAMP**  
**CAMPER REGISTRATION/MEDICAL RELEASE FORM**

**July 18-21, 2022**

235 N. Stevens St.—Rhineland, WI 54501—715.362.4258

[www.ComeToTrinity.com](http://www.ComeToTrinity.com)

Please return this form to Trinity along with a check payable to: TRINITY  
for \$40 per child by June 10.

Camper Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Camper: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Camper: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Camper Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Going Into: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

The above named camper may be released daily to the following person(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

Medical Insurance Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Does the camper take any daily medications? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Name of Drug, Time of Administration & Dosage:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Does camper have any medical conditions (*i.e. diabetes, asthma, allergies to wasp/bee stings, foods etc.*)

that the church should be aware of? No \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ —If yes, please explain

\_\_\_\_\_

I/We hereby grant permission for this camper to participate in all Day Camp activities including off-site events. We retain the responsibility for any and all bodily injury, loss, or damage of personal property. I/We authorize the church to consent to emergency medical or surgical treatment and to routine, nonsurgical medical care for this camper while attending Trinity's Day Camp program.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## EQUITY CHALLENGE

***No problem is so big that it can't be solved with alcohol or sugar, some kind of cake, pie, or cookies.***

In my childhood, this was part of my family's philosophy. It is part of my history that required seeing and changing for me to have a healthier life. The journey wasn't easy. When we seek health care, we give our personal and ancestral history to make a treatment plan for our future.

Our church and our country have a history, too—one that determined who was included and who was left out—women, men without property, slaves. Our nation church body was late in calling for the abolition of slavery and the inclusion of Blacks as part of the human family. Our church excluded the first dark skinned seminary graduate from serving as a pastor.

In 2015 the African Descent Lutheran Association, a group of active participants in the church, called upon the ELCA 2016 Churchwide Assembly to examine its past dishonoring people of color and how that impacts us now individually, as congregations, and as a national church. In response, the ELCA now offers an opportunity for self examination, confession, and reflection about our future through NOW IS THE TIME: A Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent. The materials are five lessons on what the church has done or not done to heal ourselves, our brothers and sisters, and the church, examining racism and pointing to a healthy future. They are available at [elca.org/Resources/Racial-Justice](http://elca.org/Resources/Racial-Justice).

Especially during the season of Lent, self examination, confession, and reflection are essential practices of our faith. At the beginning of worship, we continue that saying, "...we confess we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves...". It is not comfortable to see flaws in ourselves, our church, or our country. The lessons offered are challenging, revealing, and hopeful. For the next several articles, I will share some of the materials and my experience in the hope that we can and build a unified church and country.

Submitted by Susan Anderson

### **"Curiosity" Word of the Month – May**

cu·ri·os·i·ty

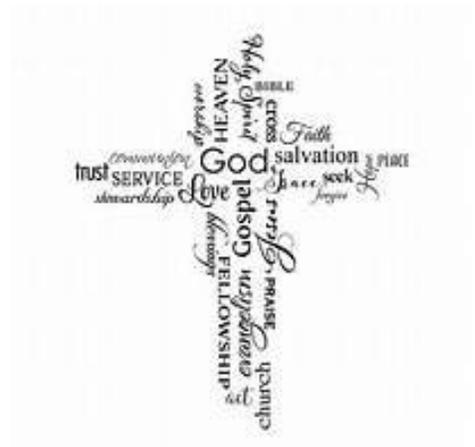
/ˌkyoʊrēˈæsədə/

noun

1.a strong desire to know or learn something

Curiosity is a willingness to learn anew, to be changed shaken out of our comfort zones. A state of wonder opens us to new ways of seeing, and delivers us space for discovery and inquisitiveness.

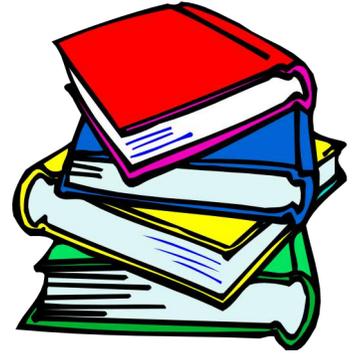
~ Kristi Nelson – Wake Up Grateful



# Monthly Book Share

## How the Bible Actually Works\*

\*In Which I Explain How an Ancient, Ambiguous, and Diverse Book Leads Us to Wisdom Rather Than Answers-and Why That's Great News  
-Peter Enns



### Quick View

Get ready to rethink how you understand the Bible! Peter Enns shows us that wisdom is the real goal of the bible authors. Rather than an encyclopedia of clear rules and answers, the Bible invites us to prod and wrestle with scripture, just as the authors did in their own time and place. Doing this, we continually refine how we follow God in our own time. Ultimately this leads to a more relevant and powerful relationship to our sacred texts.

### What the author says (book excerpt)

“The Bible, it seems to me, was never intended to work as a step-by-step instruction manual. Rather, it presents us with an invitation to explore. Or better, the Bible, simply by being its ancient, ambiguous, and diverse self, blocks us from the simple path of seeking from it clear answers and rather herds us toward a more subtle, interesting, and above all sacred quest. That quest is summed up in one beautiful, deep, too often neglected, but absolutely central and liberating biblical idea that shapes everything I have to say in this book: *wisdom.*”

### What others say

“A rare combination: sophisticated and accessible, serious and witty, provocative and precise. It’s also an honest book, giving voice to sincere questions and doubts. An important contribution.” -Peter Wehner, author

### What I learned

Our scripture was formed and written by many different authors spanning long-ago centuries (we are as close in time to the year 5000 as we are to the time of King David!). This leads to diversity and ambiguity, which are not flaws to be reconciled. The challenges of interacting with scripture are inherent and purposeful. Our faithful responsibility, therefore, is to walk a path of wisdom as we seek to engage with scripture and work out for ourselves what faith in God looks like for us, as a community, here and now.

Submitted by Matthew Johnson

## 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](mailto:northernlakescenter@gmail.com)  
if you are in need of anything.



# May 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
9:00 Worship Communion  <b>Confirmation</b>				6pm COVID Advisory Committee	Pastor's Sabbath	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:00 Worship Communion  <b>First Communion Mother's Day</b>	7pm AA & Alanon	6pm Stewardship	1pm Quilting  6pm Council		Pastor's Sabbath  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Newsletter Articles Due!!!</div>	10:30-1:00 Food Pantry 8:30—2:30 Synod Assembly
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00 Worship Communion  <i>We bid farewell and Godspeed to Pastor Tammy on her last Sunday with us.</i>	7pm AA & Alanon	10am "Mocha on the Mount" Book Study	1pm Quilting			
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;"><b>ON CALL FOR PASTORAL EMERGENCIES MAY 16-25 REV. RICH LIKENESS (Ascension Minocqua) 815-713-3431</b></div>						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00 Worship	7pm AA & Alanon	6pm Women's Circle	1pm Quilting 4:30 Meal @ Frederick Place	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;"><b>ON CALL FOR PASTORAL EMERGENCIES MAY 26-31 MOTHER MEREDYTH ALBRIGHT (St. Augustine, Rhinelander) 262-309-3880</b></div>		
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;"><b>ON CALL FOR PASTORAL EMERGENCIES MAY 16-25 REV. RICH LIKENESS (Ascension Minocqua) 815-713-3431</b></div>						
29	30	31				
9:00 Worship	7pm AA & Alanon					
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;"><b>ON CALL FOR PASTORAL EMERGENCIES MAY 26-31 MOTHER MEREDYTH ALBRIGHT (St. Augustine, Rhinelander) 262-309-3880</b></div>						

All Nursing home worship services are cancelled this month!

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

March 2022

### GENERAL FUND:

Beginning Balance	\$18,133.67
Offerings	\$21,959.95
Expenses	(\$18,255.62)
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$21,838.00</b>

### BENEVOLENCE:

March Offering	\$ 4,904.40
2022 Pledge	\$19,000.00
YTD Remittance	\$ 7,054.40

### BUILDING FUND:

Beginning Balance	\$33,662.51
Offerings	\$ 2,345.49
Expenses	\$ 0.00
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$36,008.00</b>

**INCOME exceeded the EXPENSES by \$3,704.33.**

### March Attendance:

	In-person	Online	Total
03/02 Ash Wed.	40	50	90
03/06	13 (snow)	75	88
03/09 Noon	5		
7pm	21	23	49
03/13	30	63	93
03/16 Noon	15		
7pm	15	33	63
03/20	40	81	121
03/23 Noon	7 (snowstorm)		
7pm	12	23	42
03/27	49	138	187
03/30 Noon	2 (snowstorm)		
7pm	5	42	49

Our average worship attendance for the month of March was 122.



5/2	Joshua Willoughby	5/22	Callie Kress
5/5	Zachary Wilmot	5/23	Scott Kirby
5/7	Cal Ewert	5/23	Madison Gregory
5/8	Patricia Westphal	5/25	Randy Barthels
5/8	Ella Mae D'Aprix	5/25	Bruce Gary
5/13	Pastor Tammy	5/25	Michelle Gerdes
5/13	Barb Hopkins	5/26	Catherine Bessey
5/14	Glenn Johnson	5/26	Tyler Morrison
5/14	Jonathan Keckeisen	5/27	Brittany Landphier
5/16	Kris White	5/31	Dawn Jacobson
5/20	Allie Johnson	5/31	David Kroll
5/21	Dan Jolin		



5/5	Butch & Mary Gregory
5/11	Kevin & Brenda O'Rourke
5/15	Sheree & Devon Vanden Heuvel
5/15	Jason & Charlet Bierman
5/21	Mike & Darlene Piasecki

*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

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**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](http://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.