

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church



July 2025

Page 2,3—Message from Interim Pastor

John Kuziej

Page 4— Congratulations Graduate

Page 5—Thank you's

Page 6, 7—Council Minutes

Page 8—Day Camp—Faith Lutheran Church

Page 9—Day Camp Registration form

Page 10—RAFP

Page 11—Equity Challenge

Page 12—This is Stewardship!

Page 13—NATH Notes, NAMI

Page 14—Calendar

Page 15—Birthdays, Financial Summary,
Anniversaries

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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

In the course of a day, things people say to me prompt ideas for sermons or newsletter articles. Once a month I visit a dear saint in her assisted living facility. At mealtimes she always prays a table grace to herself. She does not pray aloud so not to disturb the three others at the table. She simply bows her head in silent prayer. But even this simple way of prayer attracted attention. A lady at the table was curious and wanted to know why she bowed her head before she began eating. She responded that she was giving thanks to God for the meal. She felt she was considered odd for doing so. Later she told me she has a regular habit of daily prayer. Not only does she pray at meals, but she also prays at the beginning of the day and before she goes to bed. She told me about explaining her prayer routine to her agnostic grandson. She prays to thank God for the gift of each day. Gratitude guides her prayers.

Instead of each day being a blur of business, prayers of gratitude to God clarifies our vision. In the psalms we hear, "Give thanks to the Lord for his mercy endures forever." Mercy reminds us that God is for us and not against us. God's love is greater than whatever is against us, enabling us to live each day with faith in God's guidance. On Pentecost Sunday we heard a scripture text that said we are not to be enslaved to fear. This is not an impossible demand to be never afraid. We can be afraid of what Martin Luther called sin, death and the power of the devil (evil). If we are enslaved to fear, we feel powerless. The Holy Spirit is ever at work beside us to make clear to our spirits that we are the precious children of God. The Holy Spirit brings to mind the love of Jesus and his words that teach us faith, hope, and love. Let us ever be thankful to Jesus: thank you Jesus for overcoming the power of sin with forgiveness. Thank you, Jesus for defeating the power of death with the gift of eternal life. Thank you, Jesus, for giving us the Kingdom, the promise of a new creation where evil is gone for good.

The other day at the café, the waitress came round to refill my coffee cup. Usually this is done without words, but not this time. She told me, "I have resolved to avoid negative people." We can sympathize. It can be depressing to listen to people who complain and find fault with the world. I think, however, we must not judge too quickly or harshly. People who say negative things are not by themselves negative in the eyes of God. God, who knows the heart understands the fear and trouble that may cause complaints and blame. We cannot solve the problems of others, but we can help them work through them with an attitude of empathy. The gospel reading for Pentecost Sunday was a promise from Jesus. Jesus said, "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you." If we are bothered by negative people, we can pray for them. And we can ask

Jesus to teach us and help us not to criticize but instead seek to encourage, console, and build up one another. Right after Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit for the life and mission of the church, he said, “Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”

Negative people need peace. Let us pray that we can be instruments of God’s peace. In the first letter of Peter, the apostle is teaching us not to avoid difficult people, but to witness God’s grace and mercy. The apostle said, “do not be intimidated or fear what they fear”. We do not want to be drawn into fear and start complaining ourselves just how terrible everything is. But instead, the apostle Peter wrote, “Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting of the hope that is in you yet do so with gentleness and reverence.” May the hope we share of the unbreakable love of Jesus help lift people from fear to faith.

David French is a columnist for the New York Times. In a recent column he wrote: “America has always been a country with lots of Christian citizens, but it has not always behaved like a Christian country....an old error is new. Too many Christians are transforming Christianity into a vertical faith, one that focuses on your personal relationship with God at the expense of the horizontal relationship you have with your neighbors.” Our faith is cross shaped. God sent his Son, Jesus, to reveal love for the world. This love shown by Jesus and his mission not to condemn the world, but to save it. We trust Jesus and are thankful for his gift of salvation by grace. We are drawn to the cross to be saved, thankful for a relationship with Jesus who never abandons us. The Savior also calls us to love one another. This is what Jesus taught when he washed the disciples’ feet. He told them and us, that we are to wash one another’s feet. This is the call for humble service: speak the encouraging word, let us be a church of empathy understanding God’s love and mercy for all people. Let us continue to feed the hungry, welcome the refugee, minister to the sick, clothe the naked, and see others as brothers and sisters for whom Jesus died on the cross to save. Let us pray to be a people of gratitude for God’s gift of life. Let us be thankful to Jesus who has raised us up to be a people of empathy. Be thankful for the Holy Spirit, who is ever at work teaching the church the words of Jesus. The main word is love; as Jesus said, people will know you are my disciples by your love for one another.

SAVE THE DATE! Outdoor Worship and Picnic
Sunday, August 17th at 10am (*please note the time*)
Hodag Park Shelter #3 (*near the boat landing*)
Potluck—Meat and Buns provided



**Congratulations to
Rhineland High School
graduate Sam Strong, son of
Charlie and Mary Strong.**



Sam has been accepted to the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point for the fall semester. He plans on pursuing a degree in Business and Finance.

Please keep him in your prayers as he begins this next journey in his life.

**BEGINNER'S SCRAPBOOKING
CLASS**

Have you wanted to learn about scrapbooking? Mary Meek has offered to oversee a beginner's scrapbooking class. The class is free. There will be a minimal charge to cover the cost of materials.

The class will be held in the quilting room on Saturday, July 26th from 2pm—5pm.

Interested? Space is limited, please call today to reserve your spot.

For more information, please contact Mary Meek at 847-767-7648.



**Donate your old eyeglasses,
sunglasses and more!**

Immanuel has 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.

Thank You for Serving

A big thank you to all who help with our nursing home services on Tuesday mornings: Pastor John Kuziej, JoAnne Barrix, Kristine Mladucky, Beth Ann Walton, Karen Franke, Phyllis Krueger and Pastor Norm Peterson. Thank you for sharing the Good News with our nursing home residents.



Thank you to everyone who helped with the Pentecost Brunch; whether it was setting up, cleaning up, or bringing food to share!! Your help was greatly appreciated!

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!)

Dear Immanuel Congregation,

Thank you for your generous donation for the ACES program. With your help we are able to help others. You are appreciated.

ACES BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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 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 for May 14, 2025

Present: Tina Schmitz, Devon Vanden Heuvel, Richard Laddusire, Pastor John Kuziej, JoAnne Barrix, Kristine Mladucky, Mary Wolf, Christy Dellenbach, John Plautz, Bill Anderson, Terry Strong, Cory Dellenbach, and Linda Kau.

Absent: Glenn Johnson

Call to Order 6:00pm

Devotion: Bill

Action: **Motion/2nd/Carried...** Approve Meeting Minutes from April 9, 2025. Unanimous

Pastors Report: Pastor will be gone May 25 and July 27. Others will be contacted to preach those days. There is a baptism coming up but no date has been set. Pastor's home phone is listed on the church message system and he has been getting calls that should be going to the ACES on call coordinator when people need financial assistance. The message system will be changed to direct those calls to the ACES coordinator.

Long Term:

1. Make disciples: Teach and Baptize (3 times per year) regular outreach to members and visitors and community activities will continue.
2. Staff evaluate, support, and maintain relationships (semi-annually) Staff relationships are good and nothing is needed at this time.
3. Review membership roster (annually) discussed the membership roster with people who may have moved but still want to be on the roster and those that haven't transferred to another church. No action will be taken at this time to change the roster until a new pastor is hired.

Old Business:

1. Audio/Visual Equipment Project Update: we don't have a quote yet, but Stewardship committee approved the purchase a new mic and possibly repair the old mic with a total cost of about \$350.
2. Fire Department and emergency egress plan: A video is being developed with an evacuation plan and will be reviewed at a later date.
3. Call Committee Update: Corey presented an updated church profile. Items in the profile were reviewed by the council and discussed and updated to reflect the activities of the church, living conditions of the area, and the makeup of the congregation and what we expect of a new pastor. Profile was approved and will be sent to synod.
4. Committee updates:
 - a. The church constitution committee has reviewed the constitution regarding the updates, changes, and clarifications that are needed. The church does not need to be incorporated since it falls into the religious society category. A definition of inactive members was established. Clarification of our endowment fund operation was made. The term of our church treasurer was clarified as a non-elected position so it does

not have a time limit on appointment. A congregational meeting to approve the changes is needed and will be posted soon.

- b. The Stewardship committee indicated that a loose offering for June, July and August be directed to ACES. The synod meeting is the May 16 weekend and the Mladucky's will attend as our representatives and will present our collection of \$950 for the world hunger offering.
- c. Facilities update: The parking lot was cleaned. The boilers will be left on for another week or so since cold weather is expected but will be shut off soon.
- d. Garden group: the 5 year plan authorized the replacement of landscaping timbers. Other landscaping is desired and additional plants and soil are needed. A cost proposal will be made to the Stewardship committee. Some soil and plants have been purchased and this will be coordinated with facilities committee.
- e. More large print bulletins will be printed for the service.

New Business

- 1. Offering envelopes. There are a number of offering envelopes at the back of the church that have never been picked up. Some members may be giving on line or by mail and are still encouraged to pick up the envelopes since it is expensive to mail them.
- 2. Pictures of church council members: new pictures are needed for the bulletin board by the entrance.
- 3. Summer picnic: construction in Pioneer Park and Hodag park has complicated picnic decisions. Outreach committee will follow up on dates for the picnic.

Open/Close and meeting Devotions:

June - Christy
July – JoAnne

NATH Meals:
May: Mary Peterson
June: Quilters
July: Tuesday night Bible Study.

Closing prayer: Bill

Adjourned 7:22pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard Laddusire, Secretary

"GOD'S WORD COMES NEAR."

Romans 10:8

DAY CAMP

**July 7-10,
9am-3pm**



Children going into grades 1-6
are invited to a Bible Camp experience
sponsored by

Faith Lutheran Church.

Featuring Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp
Staff leading fun, music
& learning about Jesus!
All congregations & friends are welcome.

For more
information contact
Pastor Catie: 715.546.2770

DAY CAMP IS
FREE!

(donations appreciated)

TO REGISTER



Faith Lutheran Church

715-546-2770
www.faithlutheran-threelakes.org





DAY CAMP 2025 REGISTRATION/Release FORM

HOME CHURCH: _____
City/Phone: _____

Camper Name: _____ D.o.B: _____ GRADE completed: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
PARENT/GUARDIAN _____ / _____
Home Phone: _____ Emergency Phone: _____
The above named camper may be released daily to the following persons: _____

Does the child take any daily medications? ____ No ____ Yes; if yes, complete below:
Name of Drug / Time of Administration / Dosage (use back-side if space needed): _____

Does the child have any medical conditions (i.e. allergies, asthma, diabetic) that the church or FLLC staff should be aware of?

No Yes; if yes, please explain (use back-side if needed): _____

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

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

I grant permission for Faith Lutheran Church and FLLC to use photos, videos, or other likeness of the above camper for publicity in print or digital form, including the use of social media such as, but not limited to, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Faith Lutheran Church and FLLC will not include any identifying information about your camper.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Helping To Build A Hunger-Free Community



RAFP

627 Coon Street
Rhinelander, WI

Thank you to our June 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.



EQUITY CHALLENGE

And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my beloved Son; Listen to Him. Love one another as I have loved you." Luke 9:35. "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34.

Attending worship, reading the Bible, and praying are some ways we listen to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, learning how to love one another. We also learn through the stories authors write to expand our views, to be entertained, and to bring us together as companions in our pilgrimage as Christians. Here are some summer reading recommendations to help us grow in faith.

"How Not to Get Shot" by D. L. Hughley

In a satirical, funny review of white advice on encounters with police, Hughley lays bare the realities faced by our non-white brothers and sisters. The book is an easy read and may leave you laughing and crying.

"Horse" by Geraldine Brooks

This "can't put it down" novel weaves together the stories of a racehorse, Lexington; his enslaved groom, Jarret; and a young painter of horses, Thomas J. Scott, across different time periods. The novel also follows the lives of Jess, a Smithsonian scientist, and Theo, an art history student, in modern-day Washington, D.C., as they investigate the horse's legacy. Ultimately, the story explores the complexities of slavery, racism, and the lasting impact of history on individuals and society. Based on true events.

"James" by Percival Everett

Teetering between unspeakable terror and knockout comedy, this story reimagines the Adventures of Huckleberry Finn told from the enslaved Jim's point of view. Reading Huck Finn first helps understand the book.

"Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI" by David Grann

The discovery of oil on the Osage Reservation led to tribal members becoming the richest people in the country through their head rights that divided the profits to individual tribal members. The book tells the story of tribal member, Molly Burkhardt, and the mysterious murders of her family members from whom she inherited headrights. Circumstances bring in the U. S. Bureau of Investigation when she becomes deathly ill. In 2023, Martin Scorsese made the book a movie that received 10 Oscar nominations.

All these books are available at the Rhinelander District Library in various formats.

Submitted by Susan Anderson

Did You Know?...

How many of you have checked out our live-stream services, or looked up our recorded services on our website? We have some members that can't make it to worship in person and they very much appreciate being able to see and hear the hymns, the readings and the sermon. Also, for anyone that is on vacation or out of town, it is easy to "tune in". Our livestream worship is a very important ministry of Immanuel.

We are thankful that Cory Dellenbach has set this up for us and maintains our system. However, Cory cannot be at the laptop every Sunday. We do have a handful of people that run the live-stream, but we definitely need more. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex that has live-stream as well as reader, usher, communion assistant, etc. For anyone interested in helping with this, there are step-by-step instructions with screen shots, to make it easy to learn. Also, we are happy to watch over those that wish to try it out. (We have had problems, lately, with the sound, but we think that we have that problem worked out.)

Again, this is such an important ministry, bringing worship to those that cannot get to our building on Sunday morning. We very much welcome anyone that could help us out even one Sunday a month.

...This is Stewardship!

By JoAnne Barrix

P.S. We have designated our loose offerings during the summer for support of ACES. Thank you for your generosity.

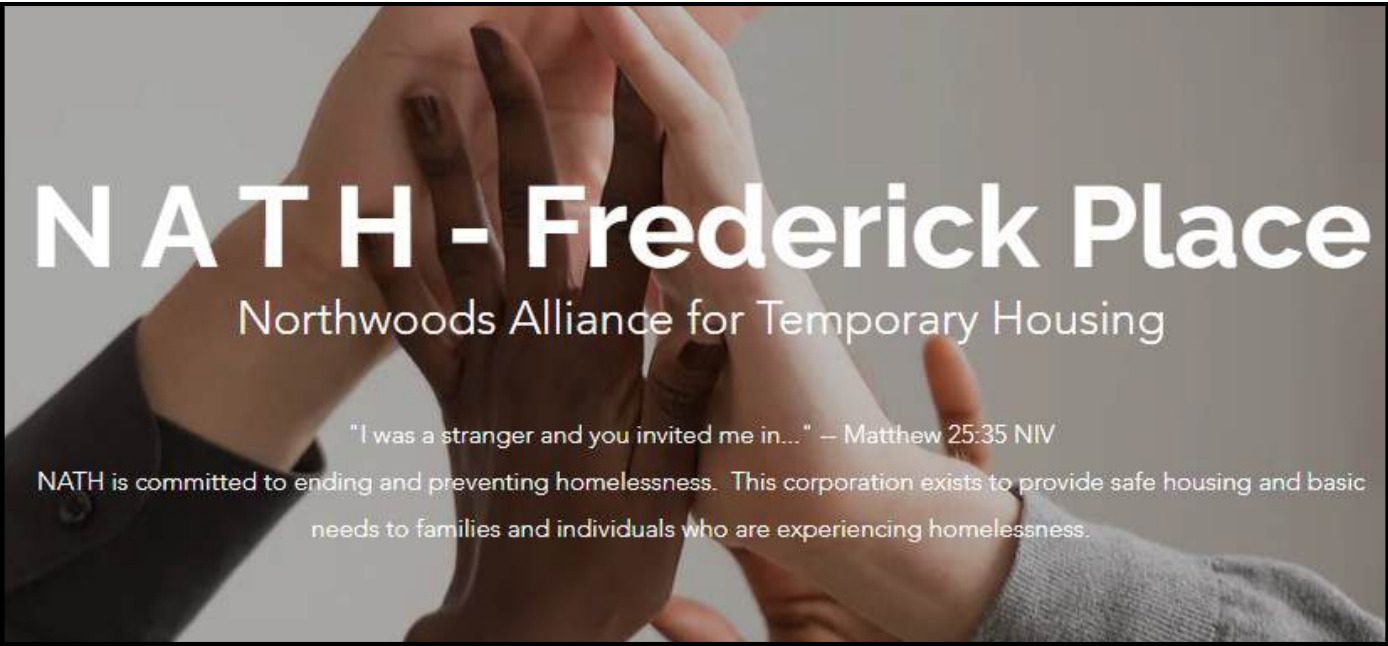
*Thank you
for your
generosity!*

**2025 Synod Assembly
Offering totals -**

Equipping the Saints Endowment: \$2,308.25
Synod Ministry Fund: \$2,057.15
Lutheran Social Services: \$1,867.00
World Hunger: \$26,612.67



The logo for 'Seed Sowers' is a circular emblem. It depicts two hands, one above and one below, cupping a small green seedling with two leaves growing out of a mound of brown soil. The words 'SEED SOWERS' are written in bold green capital letters across the middle of the hands. A circular border around the hands contains the text 'I PLANTED, APOLLOS WATERED, BUT GOD GAVE THE GROWTH.' at the top and '1 Corinthians 3:6' at the bottom. The entire graphic is set against a light background with faint green leaf patterns in the corners.



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 2025!

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

July 2025

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
		OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON 10:00 am PASTOR JOHN Grace Lodge Nursing Home Service		OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON 10:30am Memory Café	8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group 7:00 pm AA	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:00 am Worship Communion 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 5pm Stewardship Meeting	NO Council meeting in July	OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON Newsletter Articles Due!!!	8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group 7:00 pm AA	8:45 am— 11:30 am Food Pantry
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:00 am Worship Worship Leader: Matthew Johnson	7:00 pm AA & Al-Anon	OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON 10:00 am PASTOR JOHN Friendly Village Nursing Home Service 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study & Dinner Call Sheree for location 715-360-3176		OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON	8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group 7:00 pm AA	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:00 am Worship Communion Worship Leader: Rev. John Kuziej	7:00 pm AA & Al-Anon	10:00 am PASTOR JOHN Rennes Nursing Home Service	4:30 pm Meal @ Frederick Place	OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON	8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group 7:00 pm AA	2-5pm Beginners Scrapbooking class Quilting Room Contact Mary Meek if you are interested in attending 847-767-7648
27	28	29	30	31		
9:00 am Worship Worship Leader: Matthew Johnson	7:00 pm AA & Al-Anon	OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON		OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON		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

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

May 2025

GENERAL FUND:

Beginning Balance	\$93,242.90
Offerings	\$10,219.46
\$922.60 moved to Building Fund	
Expenses	(\$19,774.47)
Ending Balance	\$83,687.89

BENEVOLENCE:

May Offering	\$ 1,150.79
2025 Pledge	\$19,000.00
YTD Remittance	\$11,574.06

BUILDING FUND:

Beginning Balance	\$22,138.01
Offerings	\$ 922.60
Expenses	\$ 375.00
Ending Balance	\$22,685.61

The EXPENSES exceeded the
INCOME by \$7,980.92 this
month.

CD=\$60,000.00
(Now at \$62,185.63)



7/10	John & Kathy Plautz
7/20	Josh & Roberta Kunzman
7/26	Kevin & Sue Kirby
7/27	Rich & Shelley Fortier



*May Your Day Be
Special!*

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

7/1	Jesse Landphier	7/16	William D'Aprix
7/3	Tara Kress	7/16	Heidi Hansen
7/3	Alexander Scholtes	7/17	Gerald Anderson
7/3	Sam Strong	7/20	Savannah Keckeisen
7/4	Walker Helgeson	7/20	Daniel Stroede
7/4	Robert Wallace	7/21	Casen Kohnhorst
7/7	Pam Snyder	7/25	Eric Schoeneck
7/9	Rev. Norm Peterson	7/25	Ethan Snyder
7/9	Richard Laddusire	7/25	Isaiah Willoughby
7/9	Dale Schlieve	7/26	Michael Cornelius
7/12	Kristin Higgins	7/26	LuAnn Robins
7/13	Gavin Denis	7/27	Haven Willoughby
7/13	Sheri Mattson	7/28	Karen Stroede
7/13	Landon Woods	7/29	Barbara Frane
7/15	Beth Ann Walton	7/30	Thomas Cheslock

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 a.m.