

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church



April 2022

Page 2—Pastor's Message
Page 3—Thank you Brittany! Care for Creation
Page 4—Message from Bishop Katherine Finegan
Page 5— Sign up for Summer Camp!
Page 6—Message from Bishop Elizabeth Eaton
Page 7—Thank you's, Sympathies
Page 8—Baptism, Pickleball, Blood Drive Thanks
Page 9—NATH Notes
Page 10—Council Minutes
Page 11—Council Minutes cont., Snow Shoveling
Page 12—COVID update, VOLUNTEERS Needed
Page 13—Monthly Book Share
Page 14—Healing Service, RAFF News
Page 15—Equity Challenge
Page 16—This is Stewardship, Word of the Month
Page 17—Lenten Socks & Underwear Challenge
Page 18—Calendar
Page 19—Birthdays, Financial Summary,
Attendance, Anniversaries
Back Cover—Lenten & Holy Week Services

Rev. Tammy K. Barthels - Pastor

Church - 715-362-5910
Emergency-Cell Phone: 715-581-0468
prtammyimmanuelrhinelander@gmail.com
Office Hours Tues.-Thurs. 10-3pm
or by appointment

Kari Britton - Administrative Assistant

immanuelsecretary2015@gmail.com
Office Phone: 715-362-5910
Office Hours Tuesday & Thursday 8—3

Sheree Vanden Heuvel - Financial Secretary

finimmanuel@gmail.com
Cell Phone: 715-360-3176

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"

Pastor's Message ~ Spiritual Energy

1 Samuel 3:9

"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."

This article is an excerpt from David E. Rosage book: Speak, Lord, Your Servant is Listening – a daily guide to scriptural prayer.

David writes:

"Praying with Scripture is a great source of vitality on our daily journey of life. On our pilgrimage to the Father, the road is often rough and rocky. At times the hills seem high and the valleys quite deep. How often we need to be reassured and encouraged! God's Word is a limitless fountain of inspiration, hope, and encouragement as we trek along the road of life.

Here is just one instance of St. Paul telling us how valuable God's Word is during these days of our earthly exile: *"Everything written before our times was written for our instruction that we might derive from the lessons of patience and the words of encouragement in the Scriptures."* (Romans 15:4).

Life is plagued with so much decision-making. It is difficult to ascertain just what God wants of us in certain situations. There is no magic formula for receiving God's guidance, but we can be assured that God will give us direction if we listen to him each day as he speaks to us through his Word.

Again, it is St. Paul who assures us that many of our needs will be met in God's Word. He writes: *"All Scripture is inspired of God and is useful for teaching – for reproof, correction, and training in holiness so that the person of God may be fully competent and equipped for every good work."* (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

A quiet time of listening is essential to our spiritual growth. As we listen, God assures us that he is aware of our every anxiety and worry. He knows full well the problems which perplex us. In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus instructs us: *"Your heavenly Father knows all that you need. Seek first his kingship over you, his way of holiness, and all these things will be given you besides."* (Matthew 6: 32-33) We seek his kingdom as we listen to his Word." (David E. Rosage, Servant Books, Ann Arbor, MI 1970, pg. 18)

Although David's words were written over 50 years ago, I believe they still hold true today.

It is praying with the scriptures daily that will give us strength in this world. God's word embolden in our hearts is what will sustain us, through our joys and through our sorrows. We have been given new life in Christ. As we celebrate Easter this month, let us celebrate that we have been set free from the bonds of death. Christ is risen, and we are forgiven. Let us rejoice and say "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening" as we are encouraged by God's holy Word.

Yours in Christ +

Pastor Tammy



Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

We can not say thank you enough to this young lady, Brittany, who joined us seven years ago as the pianist and organist. And then.... she continued to offer her gifts as Administrative Assistant and Youth Leader. We were blessed to have her in our midst as she helped the youth grow in their relationship with Jesus. She truly used the gifts that God has entrusted her with. And as she leaves her roles at Immanuel we bless her as she begins her new role as a Mother and continues her role as Wife and Baker.

God Bless you, Brittany! And Thank you!!



The Mustard Seed Prayer

O Creator of the Universe, let our leaders take bold action to protect our common home from the Climate Emergency..

Let each one of their actions be guided by love for neighbor, love for creatures, love for all of your creation..

And let me be a mustard seed today. In both small and big actions, let what I do today multiply so our common home is protected for all creatures..

Amen.

Rev. Jonathan Barker, Grace Lutheran, Kenosha WI



The Way We See The World

The way we see the world shapes the way we treat it..

If a mountain is a deity, not a pile of ore..

If a forest is a sacred grove not merely timber..

If other species are biological kin, not resources..

If the planet is our mother, not an opportunity..

Then we will treat each other with greater respect..

This is the challenge, to look at the world from a different perspective.

Prof. David Suzuki, Vancouver, B.C. Canada

Submitted by Bill Mattson



Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

I remember my first time going to Bible camp, where the youth of the church and their friends gather for a week of fun, fellowship, learning, and more.

As often happens at Bible camp, the campers were led through a series of team building exercises, one of which was “The Trust Fall.” I would guess many of you have participated in this exercise and even as you read this, you’re remembering your own experience. Did they catch you? Did you fall to the ground? Did you drop anybody?

For those of you unfamiliar with “The Trust Fall,” I give you the following description. Imagine you are standing on the very edge of a picnic table, with just enough of your toes on one end to keep you standing on the table and your heels hanging off the side. You have been instructed that at the moment when you fall back that you are to cross your arms over your chest to keep from flailing wildly and accidentally whacking someone in the face or taking out a fellow camper’s eye. Your heart begins to race as you watch your fellow campers below the table arrange themselves in two lines. They stand facing each other starting from the edge of that picnic table. Their arms are outstretched in a pattern that alternates elbows and wrists, left and right, from each side of the line.

You look down at them at what seems like a very flimsy zippered net of skinny middle school arms. Sure, there’s the camp counselor, but that person is not particularly positioned to catch you. Your fellow campers are supposed to catch you...with their scrawny pre-pubescent arms they’re supposed to catch you. These fellow middle school campers look up at you, and you can see that they’re not so sure about this either. The full magnitude of this action settles into your gut as you realize what this all means, that you’re supposed to fall backwards from the discomfiting four-foot height of the picnic table into this bony net of weak, angular wrists and elbows, mere ulnas and radiuses, that you’re quite sure will snap and break like dry twigs when your body slams into them.

You have never witnessed a trust fall, and you’re pretty sure that you’re going to get hurt somehow. But the camp counselor assures you that all will be well. You consider stepping off that picnic table, but everyone is looking at you, and you don’t want to be considered a coward. So you steel yourself, cross your arms over your chest, and with grim

resolve, face forward. You hear your counselor say, “Ready?” and you reply with a conviction you don’t feel, “Ready!” Fall away!

And through an act of will you let your body fall backward. But really, more accurately, you let go of what’s keeping you upright, you let go of fear and apprehension, you let go of all the reasons not to let go. You let your body fall....and you trust that scrawny net of bony pre-pubescent arms to catch you even as you brace yourself for a spine jarring impact on your tail bone. For a brief, shining, moment, you are airborne. You are in flight. You are weightless, until you feel those scrawny arms catch you, surprising in their strength, their resolve, to care for you, to keep you safe, and not let you hit the ground.



And you are amazed! Euphoric! The adrenaline of that brief act of courage hits you like a wave of joy. You are so relieved...and surprised! Who knew scrawny pre-pubescent arms could work so well together? To catch even a body in free fall? Who knew?

In Hebrews 11:1 we read, “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” For the past two years, in many ways, we have been in freefall...this untethered descent into the space of the unknown, uncertain of our landing, unsure of the damages and unclear how much we can depend on those we need to depend on.

No, the pandemic is not over. No, we have not yet “landed.” Yet, God gives us instructions through Jesus the Christ as to how we should line up in order to provide safety for ourselves and others. One of us, alone, cannot provide the needed support, but all of us together, with combined strength and resolve, can work well together, no matter how ill equipped we might seem. We have Christ’s own assurance, that even though we cannot see the presence of God, God is with us.

Ultimately, in faith, we trust that God will catch us. In faith, we trust that together, we have what it takes to care for each other and keep each other safe. In faith, we are stronger than we know and braver than we feel. In faith, we have received the promise of God’s abiding presence.

We may not ever feel ready, and yet, in faith, by the grace of God, we are blessed to “fall away” and feel the love of God in the many arms of the community of faith that seek to catch us.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

SIGN UP FOR SUMMER CAMP!

Despite the wintery weather, we're gearing up for summer camp, and things are coming together swimmingly! Camper registrations are at an all-time high for this time of year, and our summer staff team is shaping up fantastically! Our summer theme is "Boundless: God Beyond Measure". We can't wait for the return of some of our favorite programs, and our new options are drumming up a lot of excitement! If you haven't yet registered for camp, you won't want to wait much longer.



Some programs are nearly full or full. Our Early Bird deadline to get the best price expires on Friday, April 1. Five-night campers receive a \$25 discount, and three-night campers receive a \$15 discount. Visit our website to explore the program options that are best for you: <http://fortunelake.org/> Have a question about what program might be right for you? Please call or email Deborah at officemanager@fortunelake.org or 906-214-2267.

Additionally, we want pastors and youth workers to come to camp! Please encourage your rostered leaders to spend time at Fortune Lake, serving in this outdoor ministry setting and connecting with campers and staff in this intentional community. Their families are welcome to join them, and there is no cost to them or the congregation. Please reach out to me to indicate interest and choose a time to come.

Grace & Peace,
Amanda Rasner, Camp Director

P. S. As always, we are grateful for the many congregations who have money available to help youth, families, and Victory campers attend. Please let us know if you additional assistance is needed for a particular camper. We want everyone to be able to come to camp!

EASTER FLOWERS



We will be decorating the church with flowers for the Easter Season. If you would like to participate in this, please fill out the form below and return it to the church by April 3. You can return the form by mail or simply drop it in the offering plate. Please enclose your payment. (Please print legibly)

_____ Lily - \$14.00

Name _____

_____ Tulip - \$16.00

In Memory of _____

_____ Daffodil - \$18.00

In Honor of _____

A TIME FOR A RESET

By Elizabeth A. Eaton



In the first seven chapters of Genesis, we move quickly from the glory of creation to disobedience, expulsion from the garden and fratricide to the wickedness of humankind. We read, “The Lord saw that the wickedness of humankind was great in the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5). God’s beautiful creation, in harmony with itself and its creator, had gone completely off the rails. God had given the creation as a gift—and the gift was rejected. Time for a reset.

“And the Lord was sorry that he had made humankind on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So the Lord said, ‘I will blot out from the earth the human beings I have created—people together with animals and creeping things and birds of the air, for I am sorry I have made them’” (Genesis 6:6-7). Then, in chapter 7, we get the flood.

This is a story of God’s deep and terrible pain. We were created by love for love. And now this terrible betrayal moves God to destroy God’s own precious creation. Another part of this tragedy is that human disobedience and arrogance resulted in the destruction of creation. It is too deep for me to understand the depth of God’s horror when beholding how twisted humankind had become and God’s agony in sending the flood.

Some days—or if I am honest, many days—I want to press the reset button. We are still stuck in this pandemic. The whole world is anxious and angry and grieving. And though the world is living through this together, not all people are affected equally. Some (I among them) have access to vaccines, medical care, a safe home in which to shelter and the privilege of working from home. And this is just one pandemic.

There is the continuing pandemic of racial inequity. When I say the Pledge of Allegiance, I want to believe that we are a people “with liberty and justice for all.” Whether we see the racial inequities laid bare, feel

freedom threatened by mask and vaccine mandates, or see voting rights threatened—all positions voiced by members of this church—it is painfully clear that we aren’t living up to that pledge. There are societal forces that seek to tear us apart and set us against each other. And as I write this, Russia appears to be on the brink of invading Ukraine and plunging Europe into war.

Over and over again humankind has betrayed the hope God has for us. God declared the creation very good. We have fallen short. This must certainly be a time for a reset. I can think about how I would reset. Many others in our church who have been wounded by society, and even the ELCA, would have legitimate cases for what needs to be reset. And I wonder, if all of us simultaneously pressed the reset button, would that cancel all of us out?

And God said to Noah, “I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth (Genesis 9:11). The rainbow, interestingly, is the sign of this covenant with all of creation, a rainbow that only comes after a storm. This is God’s reset.

We are in a storm. In no way would I minimize nor silence the real pain experienced by our people. But I want to hold out the truth and the promise of God’s ultimate reset—the death and resurrection of Jesus. In this act of redemption, God has brought about the reconciliation of all people and of all creation. This reset, though not completely realized, gives us a way to speak and hear truth from one another.

Jesus said, “You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” (John 8:32) †

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 Jackie Waldorf for organizing the Blood Drive!

Thank you to Kevin Kirby for shoveling snow in February and Peggy Johnson for shoveling snow in March.



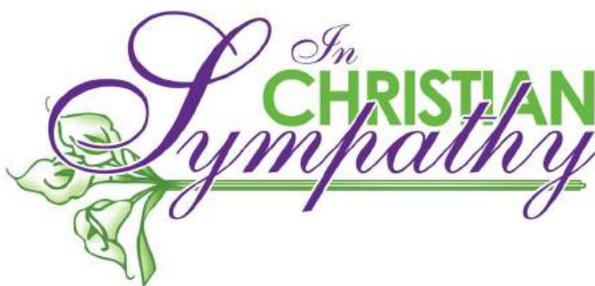
Thank you to JoAnne Barrix for filling in for Kari, our administrative assistant, while Kari was on vacation.

Thank you to Cory Dellenbach for keeping our website current!

Thank you to our Food Pantry and NATH meal volunteers!

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 Pastor Tammy and Friends at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Thank you for your Valentine's Day card. It means so much to be remembered by you! I love mail! Thank you for your kindness. Bucky Reed, Rennes Rehab and Health Room 407



Our deepest condolences for Lois Wallace and family on the death of Lois's mother and Megan's grandmother. Cards of condolence may be sent to: Lois Wallace, 354 Hillside, Rhineland, WI 54501 Megan Helgeson, 3860 Velvet Lake Road, Rhineland, WI, 54501

Our deepest condolences to Mavis Perry, mother of Jim Perry and Karen, his wife, and the Perry family. Cards of condolences may be sent to: Mavis Perry, Grace Lodge, 1000 Day Street, Apt. 101, Rhineland, WI 54501.

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.



Congratulations to Haylin Rae Drossart on her baptism February 6, 2022.
She is the daughter of Shauna and Travis Drossart and granddaughter of Sheree and Devon Vanden Heuvel.



**Trinity's Gym
is available for
Pickleball
11am-1pm M-F**



Jackie,
We are so thankful to you and all of the generous donors at Immanuel Lutheran Church. You should be very proud of working with an organization that supports giving back to our community!

With your help, we were able to register 23 donors during last week's blood drive. On a goal of 18, we were able to collect 16 good units of blood– that's fantastic! There were also 2 first-time donors who attended your blood drive – that's awesome! Your group's donation has the potential of saving up to 48 lives. Way to go! 😊

Sam Meszaros-Donor Recruitment



NATH NOTES

"NATH - Frederick Place is no different than any other non-profit in that we survive because of the wonderful volunteers who support the staff in so many ways. One of our newer support staff volunteers shared these words with us."

Thank you MJ Strong for serving at Frederick Place!!

Thank you to all our community volunteers for sharing the love of Christ through your service!

My name is MJ Strong. I have lived in Pine Lake for the past 6 years. I first learned about Frederick Place at my church in Rhinelander. I was looking for a place to volunteer and immediately knew Frederick Place was where I wanted to volunteer.

I'm in a position to be flexible with my time. Each week I look forward to help out in any way I can. The mission of Frederick Place aligns with my beliefs.

The staff and other volunteers appear to be efficient, kind and very organized. I am proud to be a citizen of our community that supports Frederick Place.

MJ Strong



NATH WISH LIST

1. COFFEE CREAMER
2. SPIRAL NOTEBOOKS
3. FINGER BAND-AIDS
4. KITCHEN GARBAGE CANS
(10 OR 13 GALLON)
5. BROOMS
6. DUST PANS

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

Brewer Fun Bus Cubs vs Brewers

Sunday, May 1st 2022

Family Event - All ages welcome!
(under 16 with supervision)

\$100 per person

Limited to the first 50 reservations
Payment guarantees your seat

Includes: Ticket - Bus Trip - Boxed Lunch provided by Dinky Diner
We will be stopping to eat on the way home (not included in price)

Bus leaves Rhinelander Home Depot at 7:00 AM
Pick up in Antigo at 8:00 AM

Raffles - 50/50 - Prizes on the bus



To reserve your seat visit Frederick Place
or call Katie 715-360-6745



IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Meeting Minutes: February 9, 2022

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

Opening

Darlene Machtan opened the virtual meeting at 6:02 PM.

Devotion by Bill: The Great Unveiling from the Center for Action and Contemplation

Action – Motion/Second/Carried...Approved the minutes from the January 12, 2022 council meeting with one abstention.

Pastor's Report: As submitted – no questions.

Constitution Article C12.04: Council responsibilities – No questions or comments, but it should be reviewed periodically. New members of council will get a copy of the entire constitution.

Long-Term Items: Great Commission Schedule

1. Witness: Sharing the Gospel (3x/year) – We do it daily with all of our continuing ministries. Money from Synod for the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry.
2. Goals: Review and Discuss (Semi-Annual) – 2024 Youth Gathering: Deposit for this years canceled gathering will be returned.
3. Create or modify long-range (annual) plan and set goals (annually): Gig for God on September 11th, 2022, Youth event, to be able to sing again.

Short-Term Items:

Old Business: Update on Afghanistan Refugee Resettlement – There are still 3,000 refugees at Fort McCoy. There are many issues as cultures, language, medical and schooling are all different. To sponsor a family we would need a team of 7 people that would make a 9 month commitment to make weekly contact with the family. There will be another meeting on February 17th with representatives from the city, schools, hospitals and churches for further discussion.

New Business:

1. AA request for internet password: Password is needed to allow virtual meeting participants. **Action – Motion/Second...**To deny use of the password. 4 votes for, 7 votes against, and 1 abstention. **Motion failed. Action – Motion/Second/Carried...**To allow only the leader or co-leader of the group the password and review in 6 months. Two against.
2. **Sign up for committees:** Darlene – Stewardship and Outreach, Bill – Stewardship, JoAnne Stewardship and Worship and Music, Kristine – Worship and Music, Glenn – Stewardship, Charlie – Worship and Music, Mary – Outreach, Becky – Youth and Education, Fred – Property, Christy – Worship and Music and Youth and Education, Keith – Youth and Education, Deb not present.
Sign up for open/ close: JoAnne – January, Darlene – February, Glenn – March, Kristine – April, Christy – May, Charlie – November, Bill – December.
Sign up for Devotions: Mary – January, Bill – February, Kristine – March, Becky – April.
3. Check signing and credit card authorization: **Action – Motion/Second/Carried...**Approve President, Vice-President and Treasurer will sign checks.
4. Easter Schedule: **Action – Motion/Second/Carried...**Approve 8 and 10:30 services with a 50 person limit by sign-up. The 10:30 service will be live-streamed and a third service will be added if needed.

5. Pastor's housing forms: In order to permit Rev. Tammy Barthels to benefit from the provisions of Section 107 and 108 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, the council specifies that the total compensation paid to her includes a housing allowance. Rev. Tammy Barthels estimates that she will spend \$25,200 a year for housing expenses. Since such approval by the council would permit her to deduct that amount from her taxable income and has no further effect upon our congregation or budget, it was resolved that the total compensation paid to Rev. Tammy Barthels includes a housing allowance of \$25,200. The Stewardship Committee advised the Congregation Council that under the tax laws an ordained, licensed, or commissioned individual is not subject to Federal Income Tax with respect to housing/furnishings allowance. When the individual owns a home the amount of the allowance will be an amount equal to the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances such as a garage, plus cost of utilities. The Council, after considering the statement of Rev. Tammy Barthels setting forth estimates of the amount expected to be spent on renting or otherwise providing for a home during a given year. In light of the Federal Income Tax code and of the established salary level, the council's motion duly made and seconded, adopted the following resolution: Resolved that Rev. Tammy Barthels receive a salary of \$33,820 for the year 2022, and a housing allowance of \$25,200 for this year and years after until changed by the request of the individual. The housing allowance is designated in the official records.
Action – Motion/Second/Carried...Approved housing allowance and salary per the Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church budget of 2022.
6. Covid Team Update: Bill reviewed information on infections and deaths in our area. **Action – Motion/Second/Carried...**Approved recommendation of Covid Team to allow gathering in the gathering area with masks and social distancing and no refreshments, and allowing singing with masks of the sending hymn of worship services. Darlene will announce at Sunday worship service and information will be in the newsletter. Also, ushers may hand out bulletins.
7. Live-stream Paid position: Referred to Stewardship for recommendation.
8. Voting members for Synod Assembly: Need a male and female for May 14th 9:00 to 3:00 Synod Assembly. Darlene and Bill volunteered.
9. Nominations from Immanuel for Synod Big Bear and Bread Basket Awards: **Action – Motion/Second/Carried...**Approve nominations of NATH meal providers and Darlene for Food Pantry leader. Becky will fill out the paperwork.

Comments and Committee Actions:

A question about Pastor Tammy's retreats using vacation time. Pastor will take retreat and renewal time prior to Lent. Salary is from Continuing Education line item in budget. The Ecumenical Clergy Center for Spiritual Renewal program recommends 1 day/month for spiritual renewal. Referred to Stewardship Committee for recommendation.

Next Scheduled meeting will be immediately following Lenten Worship on March 9th.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Closing Prayer by Bill: Help us to love.

Respectfully Submitted,
 JoAnne Barrix, Council Secretary



SNOW SHOVELING?

Hopefully it won't snow in April, but if it does we need a volunteer to remove snow from the sidewalks, entrances. Interested? Please contact the office at 715-362-5910.

Immanuel COVID Advisory Team Recommendations to Council

The advisory team met on March 3 to discuss the state of the pandemic in Oneida County. Incidence of disease continues to drop and nearly all residents have either been exposed to COVID or have had vaccinations that confer protection against the most severe consequences of COVID. And, finally we re-evaluated our COVID safety protocols, our best practices.

1. We recommend that social distancing be continued, both in the sanctuary and in the gathering room.
2. We recommend that masking now be optional, both at worship and while conducting business and other gatherings in the Church.
3. We recommend that hymnals may be returned to the pews.
4. We recommend that singing be permitted for only the final or descending hymn. We do not yet recommend that there be live music from the band or the choir.
5. We recommend that that a maximum of 75 congregants be permitted to attend any single Lenten worship service.
6. We will meet again in April to further consider updating the COVID best practices.

Council on March 9th, **Motion/Second/Carried** these recommendations.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

COUNTERS – Needing volunteers to count offering after worship on Sunday's, rotation, every 5 weeks. As people retire, and/or are out of town we are in need of "backup" counters, if you are willing, please call the office at 715-362-5910. Training will be provided.

NATH MEALS – "Many hands make light work". A wonderful suggestion was brought to us. IF each committee/group would take a month to provide a meal, then it would be lightening the burden on just a few. We have 12 committees/groups, so each would only need to volunteer once per year. If committee chairs could speak to their groups and pick a month, then **contact Sue Larsen at 715-362-2544**, she will let you know what food is needed. IF you do not belong to a committee, but would still like to help with NATH Meals, also call Sue and she will connect you with a group that needs assistance.

COMMITTEES –

Council
Stewardship
Outreach
Youth and Education
Music & Worship/Band/Choir
Mutual Ministry
COVID Advisory Team
Property Committee
Quilting
WELCA/Faith Circle
Women's Bible Study
Prayer Chain
Women's Circle



MONTHLY BOOK SHARE

Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way and Presence

-Diana Butler Bass

Quick View

The author shares her life story and experiences to guide the reader on a journey to discover the many facets of Jesus. We are encouraged to move past narrow and static doctrinal statements about Jesus, and instead seek a Jesus of experience, change, and accompaniment. If we can understand Jesus in all his manifestations, we can renew our faith and hope through a journey alongside others, with Jesus as our guide.

What the author says (book excerpt)

“We know Jesus through our experience. There is no other way to become acquainted with one who lives so long ago and who lives in ways we can barely understand through church, scripture, and good works and in the faces of our neighbors...Memoir theology is the making of theology-understanding the nature of God-through the text of our own lives and taking seriously how we have encountered Jesus.”

What others say

“Combining childhood and mature theological musings, personal story and Christian history, Gospel texts and present-day context, Bass invites all feeling caged by doctrine, silenced by tradition, or afraid of doubt to find not just freedom, voice, and the glory of mystery, but also to find Jesus on their own terms and in their own lives.” -Amy Jill-Levine, professor, lecturer and author

What I learned

The church has, for too long, provided a set of firm “rules” for how to be a Christian. Right belief and behavior, ancient creeds, and long-standing doctrine can be useful, but often lead to exclusion and a shallow religious experience. If we step outside of artificial boundaries and stay open to questions and possibilities, we can see the many roles of Jesus revealed through scripture and his teachings. A deeper spiritual existence is then discovered.

Submitted by Matthew Johnson

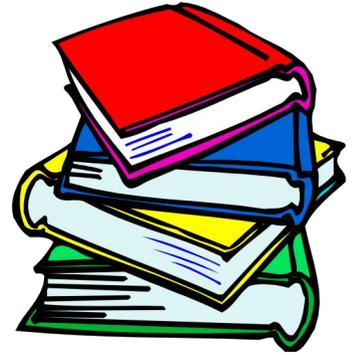
From Beneath the Tarp, by Susan Perry

From Beneath the Tarp is a true story of one woman’s journey through the realities of domestic violence. Although an innocent childhood supplanted a healthy self-esteem, the betrayal of a traumatic marriage launched her into a world she never knew existed. The cycle of violence is detailed in this story of courage and renewal. May God receive the glory for this woman’s transformation, healing and redemption. In the end, this is a story about hope, and hope never disappoints.

This book will not stop domestic violence, but we know it will raise awareness and respect for those who experience it. We know there is suffering out there, we know there is someone who doesn’t understand the ‘red flags’ and the hurtful words spoke to break her spirit. There are many who have gone before you and shared the pain deep in your soul. Sue’s words are here to reflect her story and to give you strength where there may be none. Our fervent hope and prayer is that her worlds will resonate with you, and with those who need them most, and that by telling her story, others may go on to live and tell their stories as well.

~ This book is available for check out in Immanuel’s library.

Submitted by Pastor Tammy



HOPE & HEALING SERVICE AT TRINITY

On Ash Wednesday we hear, “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” There is a simplicity in that sort of remembering. It makes Lent a time to light candles, sit in the dark, and pray together for wholeness of mind, body, spirit and community.

Pastor Kari of Trinity Lutheran Church is offering the final of three Healing Services with Holy Communion and the option of anointing of oil on Sunday, April 3 @ 6pm. This service will be a Service of Hope and Healing for all who have been impacted by grief. The loss of a loved one, the loss of a relationship, the onset of disease, or a sudden life change can all bring a need for healing. This service is for all who grieve.



FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Thank you to our March 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 and it always is a great time as Kristine proves below as she models her grocery bag hula skirt!

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.



EQUITY CHALLENGE - WHO ARE THESE WOMEN?

Submitted by Susan Anderson

Since February was Black History Month and March is Women's history month, here is a list of women who made a difference in shaping their lives, those around them, and the history of our country. Match the name on the left with the description on the right.

Madame CJ Walker	her face is on a quarter
Sacagawea	youth inaugural poet
Mary McCloud Bethune	documented millionaire
Maya Angelou	human GPS and Google translator app
Amanda Gorman	woman Black Cabinet member

Madame CJ Walker, born free in 1867, made her way from picking cotton in Louisiana to founding a hair care and skin products empire employing as many as 20,000 trained beauty culturists. She was the first Black woman millionaire, a philanthropist, and hired the first certified black architect to build her \$250,000 home in New York City. Her contribution to the self esteem of Black women is immeasurable. She died in 1917.

Maya Angelou (1928-2014) was an American author, actress, screenwriter, dancer, poet and civil rights activist. Her 1969 memoir, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, the first of 36 books, made history as the first nonfiction bestseller by an African American woman. She was the first Black woman cable car driver in San Francisco! She said, "If you don't like something, change it; if you can't change it, change your attitude." In January 2022, the first quarters featuring her face began circulating.

Mary McCloud Bethune (1875-1955), able to pick 250 lbs of cotton a day at age 9, she had a driving interest in learning, attended a mission school, won a scholarship, started a school for "Negro girls" in Daytona, Florida, founded the National Council of Negro Women in 1935, was president of Bethune-Cookman College, and a member of the informal shadow Black Cabinet of President Franklin Roosevelt.

Amanda Gorman (1998-) overcame a speech impediment to read her poem, "The Hill We Climb", at the inauguration on January 20, 2020. She wore a caged bird ring, coat, and gloves, gifts from Oprah, and became the first poet on the cover of Vogue.

Sacagawea, the only Indian, teenager, woman, and mother, on the Lewis and Clark (and Sacagawea?) Expedition, served as a guide and as interpreter to the Hidatsa and Shoshone Indians, carrying her newborn son on her back. The Expedition arrived at the latter's village with only canoes, low on supplies, and requiring horses to cross the mountains. She enabled procuring both, essential to the Expedition's success.

We, too, are extraordinary women, men, children, because Jesus tells us WE are ALL the salt of the earth, the light of the world, God's beloved ones.

Did you know?....

On February 21st, Darlene received Brittany Landphier's resignation as Immanuel's church pianist/organist and youth leader. When I read the email to Council members to meet to receive and approve the resignation, I cried. Brittany came to us 7 years ago when our previous pianist gave notice on Wednesday before Easter, that Easter would be her last service. Brittany stepped up and stepped in. She eventually stepped in to the administrative assistant and then youth leader positions. She took organ lessons and youth classes. She grew and blossomed. She always was there when something was needed. As a congregation, we came to love this generous young woman.



On March 8th, during the Council meeting, Pastor Tammy tearfully read us her resignation/retirement letter. Again, I cried. Pastor Tammy has also been with us 7 years. Her first 2 years were basically spent here without her husband, Randy. She has suffered personal loss with her mother and sister having passed away. She has faithfully led us during the stressful years of COVID. She has been there for all of our griefs and losses. She has delivered hard messages of global tensions, racial disparities, destruction of our earth and miscarried justice. As a congregation, we have come to love her.

Hard as it is for those that love Pastor Tammy and Brittany, they are both stewarding their time. Brittany has landed a full time position as a baker using her talents and skills that are her passion. She has been trying to “do it all”, but now is also expecting a baby boy in June. Pastor Tammy has been discerning her call to ministry for some months and will be spending time in retirement refreshing mind, body and spirit and spending time with Randy and family. As sad as we are for ourselves, we are grateful and happy for the time that they have devoted to us.

I remember talking to a pastor friend and lamenting that there is never enough time. He quietly said, “There is always time for what's important”. I try to remember this wise stewardship advice. I hope that you will, too.

....This is Stewardship!

By JoAnne Barrix

Sympathetic Joy—Word of Month for April

Sympathetic Joy – the happiness we feel at someone else’s success or good fortune. Sympathetic Joy invites us to celebrate for others. Sympathetic Joy is rooted in inner development. When we build the foundations of our own happiness, our own cup is full, and we more easily share it with others.

~ Real Love, The Art of Mindful Connection – Sharon Salzberg





2022 Lenten Socks and Underwear Challenge



WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE?

The NGLS Youth Ministry Team is looking to challenge a minimum of **40 congregations** to collect at least **40 pairs of socks and underwear** this Lenten season.

WHY SOCKS AND UNDERWEAR?

This challenge is inspired by The Drawer, a nonprofit located in Minneapolis, MN, that collects new socks and underwear to distribute to people in need. Socks are the #1 requested clothing item in homeless shelters. The #2 requested item is underwear. 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering attendees were encouraged to collect socks and underwear for The Drawer and bring them to this summer's Gathering. With the recent cancellation of the 2022 Gathering, we recognize that there is still a need and want to help fill the void.

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

- **Join** the "NGLS Youth Information/Events" Facebook Page and the "NGLS Youth" Instagram Page.
- **Commit** to collecting at least 40 pairs of new socks and underwear throughout Lent.
- **Share** this information with everyone in your congregation, especially youth!
- **Use** your social media accounts to create awareness and excitement about our goal.
- **Collect** socks and underwear.
- **Distribute** the socks and underwear to shelters and schools in your community OR send them with local youth to the Tri-Synodical Gathering taking place this summer, where they will be delivered to The Drawer and distributed to people in need.
- **Post** your success on social media.

Please contact Stefanie Ehle, NGLS Youth Ministries Coordinator, at youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org or David Nelson, Youth Ministry Team Chair, at dannelso@mtu.edu with questions and be sure to follow the Synod Youth [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages for updates.



April 2022

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
					Pastor's Sabbath	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00 Worship Communion	7pm AA & Alanon	5:30 pm—6:30 pm First Communion Class	Noon Lenten Service 1pm Quilting 7pm LENTEN SERVICE Council Meeting		Pastor's Sabbath	10:30-1:00 Food Pantry
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00 PALM SUNDAY Worship	7pm AA & Alanon	6pm Stewardship <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Newsletter Articles Due!!!</div>	1pm Quilting 6pm Youth Group 6pm Council	7pm MAUNDY THURSDAY Worship Service	7pm GOOD FRIDAY Worship Service	7pm EASTER VIGIL SATURDAY Service
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:00 EASTER Worship Communion 10:30 EASTER Worship Communion	7pm AA & Alanon	10am "Mocha on the Mount" Book Study 5:30 pm—6:30 pm First Communion Class	1pm Quilting 6pm - 7:30pm Confirmation		Pastor's Sabbath	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00 Worship	7pm AA & Alanon		4:30 Meal @ Frederick Place		Pastor's Sabbath	

All Nursing home worship services are cancelled this month!

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

February 2022

GENERAL FUND:

Beginning Balance	\$20,670.04
Offerings	\$11,795.69
Expenses	(\$14,332.06)
Ending Balance	\$18,133.67

BENEVOLENCE:

February Offering	\$ 1,120.00
2021 Pledge	\$19,000.00
YTD Remittance	\$ 2,150.00

BUILDING FUND:

Beginning Balance	\$32,855.27
Offerings	\$ 1,038.89
Expenses	(\$ 231.65)
Ending Balance	\$33,662.51

Expenses exceeded the
income by \$2,536.37.

February Attendance:

	In-person	Online Total	Total
02/06	43	47 <small>(camera issue)</small>	90
02/13	39	76	115
02/20	44	53	97
02/27	30	73	103

Our average worship attendance for the month of February was 101.



4/1	Duane Snyder	4/16	Sandra Kolbe
4/4	Allison Fortier	4/16	Brenda O'Rourke
4/6	Jake Morrison	4/17	Richard Fortier
4/7	Butch Gregory	4/18	Kathy Maule
4/8	Karen Bergsbaken	4/21	Broden Kohnhorst
4/8	Lexi Morrison	4/22	Havi Snyder
4/8	Jean Wood	4/23	Julianne Duffy
4/9	Joyce Palm	4/26	Brock Snyder
4/13	Edna Snyder	4/28	Jessica Meyer
4/14	Scott Borski	4/29	Lawrence Levijoki
4/14	Scott Eades		
4/15	Kevin Kirby		

4/7	JoAnne & Rev. Devon Barrix
4/9	Scott & Rebecca Eades
4/14	Jonathan & Savannah Keckeisen
4/20	James & Jean Wood

May Your Day Be Special!

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

LENTEN MIDWEEK & HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Wednesday, April 6th - Noon Prayer Service In-person

7:00 pm In-person and Live-stream

Palm Sunday, April 10th - 9:00 am In-Person and Live-stream

Maundy Thursday, April 14th, 7:00 pm In-Person and Live-stream

Good Friday, April 15th, 7:00 pm In-Person and Live-stream

Easter Vigil Saturday, April 16th 7:00 pm In-Person only

EASTER - Sunday, April 17th

8:00 am - In person only

Please call the office to sign up.

10:30 am - In-Person and Live-stream

Please call the office to sign up.