

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church



February 2022

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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 ~ God so Loved the World

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

February is typically the month we think of love. We celebrate St. Valentine's Day on February 14th and often gift others with gifts symbolizing the heart. Valentine's Day, also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine. It originated as a Christian feast day honoring one or two early Christian martyrs named Saint Valentine and, through later folk traditions, has become a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world.

I would not use the words martyrs and love typically in the same sentence, however, the more I thought about it, the more appropriate I thought it was. For we hear in the Gospel of John (3:16-17) *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.* God sent God's son to us so that we would know God's incredible love for us and we would have life through him.

What's the Story of the gospel of John?

An early-church father, Clement of Alexandria, described the Gospel of John as a "spiritual account" of Jesus' life and teaching. Often considered more theological than historical, the portrait of Jesus in the Gospel of John is very different from the other Gospels. John includes stories about Jesus that do not appear in Matthew, Mark, or Luke, among them his first sign at the wedding in Cana (2:1-11); his encounters with Nicodemus (3:1-21); the Samaritan woman (4:1-41); the woman caught in adultery (7:53-8:11); his raising of Lazarus (11:17-44) and his post-resurrection appearances to Thomas (20:24-29) and Mary Magdalene (20:11-18). Also unique to John's Gospel are the various "I am" images of Jesus.

What is the Message?

The central claim of this Gospel is that, in Jesus, the Word that in the beginning was with God, and was God, became human. This claim is firmly established in the prologue (1:1-18), and we can use this lens to read the whole gospel. In Jesus' words and actions, God is revealed to us. For the Gospel of John, Jesus is not the suffering Messiah but the very presence of the divine "I AM"

We, as the reader, is invited into this story to have an encounter with Jesus and to abide in the Word. We receive the same promises as Jesus' first disciples: abundant life and unity with Jesus and God the Father. The Gospel continues to call Jesus' followers to witness to the presence of the Word in the world even after Jesus has returned to the Father. (*History of the Gospel of John from Lutheran Study Bible, NRSV, Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, 2009, pg 1752-53*)

Perhaps this Valentine's Day, this month of February we can focus on this great Love that God has given us through our Lord and share this abundant love with others.

Yours in Christ +

Pastor Tammy



The Parable Of The Two Trees of Eden

The Biblical creation story tells of two special trees (Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, and Tree of Life) growing together in the middle of Eden where the first humans dwell in tranquility. A cataclysm befalls the two innocents when they naively pluck and eat the forbidden fruit of the Tree of Knowledge. This parable has been darkly interpreted as the irredeemable fall of humankind into sin. However, Rachel Held Evans (Wholehearted Faith, 2021) offers a brighter interpretation. Evans believes instead that it's a cautionary tale about the foibles of human nature. It's a parable about how our active imaginations, our instinctive yearning for knowledge and power (Tree of Knowledge) can carry us in naive flights of fantasy from living selflessly grounded in creation's reality to living as an empowered self in an imaginary place unmoored from the Creator's cosmic oneness (Tree of Life). It warns that flashes of naïveté and ego must be tempered so as to stay grounded in the Tree of Life. What was Adam and Eve's cosmology? Did they know that we are borrowed stardust gifted with a powerful intellect and a conscience that require nurturing and seasoning as we mature into the wisdom of the Tree of Life? As headstrong children, the Tree of Life is our home, school, and teacher. It's our every day partnerships with one another and with nature that nurture body and spirit. It's the wellspring of uplifting beauty that can deliver us into soulful awe and tears of gratitude, fleeting portals to the Creator. Perhaps the portal is a loon's prehistoric cry in the darkness, the loving kindness of a stranger, or a moving score of music. Eventually, we can appreciate not only the immediate, but also the undergirding webs of cosmic forces that have no beginning or ending. It's where oneness is a core truth and a guiding wisdom.



Because we humans have an instinctive yearning for control, knowledge, and a fertile imagination, we are prone to delusional escapes from the reality of cosmic oneness. The prideful self, short of wisdom from the Tree of Life, may desecrate creation instead of revering it. To stay rooted in the Tree of Life, Rev. Rita N. Brock (Christian Century September 2021) explains that early Christians worshipped in sanctuaries bathed in symbols of Eden and Christ: the four blue rivers of Eden, verdant canopies, flocks of wildlife, as well as Jesus in diverse manifestations of age, race, and gender. Early liturgical art emphasized the incarnation of the Holy Spirit in all life past and present. Rev. Brock recommends that modern theology employ more inspiring art and rituals that hold us as we lament, nourish us in our moral discernment, and recommit us to this earth as a holy ground for all life. Professor Lana Davis (CC December 2021) teaches that our hungry imaginations are ever susceptible to capture by delusions of superiority and righteousness if not nourished in the Tree of Life. Can this explain more than 30,000 varieties of Christianity? She warns that there are many benign and malicious entities that can hijack and vandalize our vulnerable imaginations. We will become what we behold. Such is the cautionary tale of the two trees of Eden (naïve, prideful independence, or selfless, sacred partnership with creation). Let us pray for the strength to live ever into the wisdoms of the Tree of Life, using our wily intellect to enrich our partnerships with creation, living always in wholeness with creation and Creator.

Submitted by Bill Mattson



SNOW SHOVELING

We are looking for volunteers to shovel snow February through April. If you are interested, please call the church office @ 715-362-5910. Thank you for shoveling!

COVID UPDATE

I write to you this morning regarding the latest updates with our COVID numbers. Oneida County Health Department updated them these numbers were not available when I sent the email on Monday. OCHD have been very busy with COVID#'s on the rise and have a difficult time maintaining the website and contacting individuals with positive tests. If you notice we have had **8 deaths** in Oneida County since the data was last updated! It is now recorded that we have **106 deaths**.

I also want to be very transparent on how Immanuel Lutheran sets its COVID protocols. Each month the COVID Advisory Team meets to review data provided by health specialists from around the country, WI Council of Churches, and Synod guidelines. Through much discernment and prayer recommendations are brought to council. The Council then votes on what recommendations are put in place for the congregation. Please remember that the Council members are elected by the congregation to represent the congregation. By majority vote the Council sets the protocols that we have been following for COVID, continued requirement of wearing masks, social distancing and not singing.

The COVID Advisory Team has the most vulnerable always in mind, for as Christians this is what Jesus calls us to do.

Last week the WI Council of Churches recommended that churches go back to virtual services, no in person for 4-6 weeks, due to the rise of COVID (the highest positive cases since COVID began 2 years ago) and with increasing demands on our health care workers.

HOWEVER, again with much prayer and discernment the COVID Advisory team thought this would be detrimental to our congregation, and since we have kept our congregation safe with the above protocols, we will continue to recommend to Council to continue with the protocols in place and NOT to return to virtual worship only.

As your pastor I know the last two years have been VERY difficult, for everyone. But I trust that God will get us through this. I pray that we all love our neighbors and continue to do what is best for the most vulnerable as Christ calls us to do.

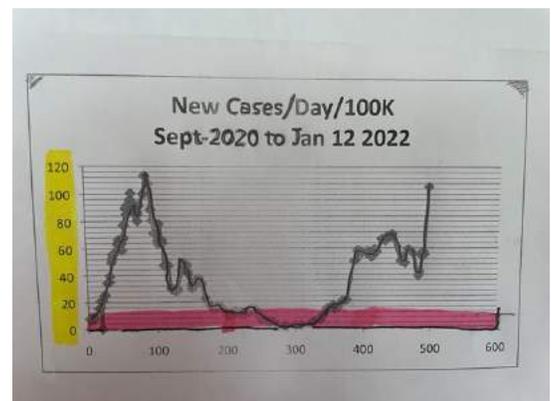
Please continue to pray for one another and the health of the world.

In Christ +

Pastor Tammy

COVID Information - The Oneida County Health Department reports: **6381** confirmed cases, currently **338** in isolation, **11** hospitalized, **106** deaths. ******Level of Community Transmission (CDC) – High, Covid-19 Hospitalization and Hospital Capacity growing.**

Fully vaccinated 60.8%, received one dose 64.8%.
Website to find current COVID information:
<https://infogram.com/ochd-covid-19-data-dashboard-1hzj4odqvr7d6pw?live>



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL/COUNCIL

President—Darlene Machtan

Vice President—Becky Eades

Secretary—JoAnne Barrix

Treasurer—Brian Willoughby

Deb Rinka, Glenn Johnson,
Charlie Strong, Keith Snyder,
Fred McCue, Christy Dellenbach,
Kristine Mladucky,
Mary Wolf, Bill Mattson

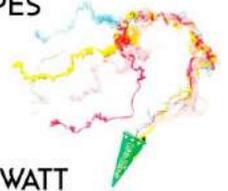
All are invited to attend meetings.
If you have any questions or concerns,
please contact a council member.

Wish List

January

Frederick Place Most Needed Items

1. WHITE OUT TAPE
2. # 10 SELF SEALING ENVELOPES
3. SIDEWALK SALT
4. POST-IT NOTES
5. ALARM CLOCKS
6. LED LIGHT BULBS 40 OR 60 WATT
7. KITCHEN GARBAGE CANS 10 OR 13 GALLON
8. NIGHTTIME COLD/COUGH LIQUID OR GEL CAP
9. MR. CLEAN ALL PURPOSE LIQUID CLEANER



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



Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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.



WE ARE OPEN AGAIN!!!! OUR HOURS ARE MONDAY TO FRIDAY 11 AM TO 3 PM.

DUE TO CURRENT CONCERNS WITH ONEIDA COUNTY COVID CASES, MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR EVERYONE WHO ENTERS REGARDLESS OF VACCINE STATUS.

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

WHAT MASKS DO WE ALL WEAR?

By Elizabeth A. Eaton



Getting ready to leave the house—for work or errands—takes a couple extra steps during a pandemic. Do I know how crowded my destination will be? Did I remember to take a mask? Of all the annoying things about this pandemic, I find remembering to take and to wear a mask is one of the most irksome. Masks aren't comfortable, they make it more difficult to understand conversations, and they are a daily reminder that we are not out of the woods yet.

Let me be clear—masks are an effective way to stop the spread of this terrible virus, and I will wear one for as long as it takes. I urge all of us to do the same. This isn't about personal choice, but it is a physical manifestation that in baptism “we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another” (Romans 12:5). Wearing a mask is as much for our protection as it is for protecting others. I will continue to mask up.

I always thought it was silly that bandits and robbers are depicted wearing only a mask from just below the eyes down. How could that possibly be a disguise? One's eyes, hair and ears are all visible. You can hear the voice. You can figure out a person's stature. What's the point?

It turns out that sighted people get an enormous number of nonverbal cues from someone's face. Infants can read faces even before their eyesight is fully developed. An amazing amount of communication is possible even when interacting with someone who speaks a different language.

I don't think I'm unique in this, but I mentally fill in what a person looks like behind the mask. I make determinations about a person's age and disposition, not to mention physical characteristics. When I do see someone's unmasked face, it turns out that I am always wrong. This could be as benign as not imagining a person had a moustache to more significant assumptions about the person's character.

I mask people even when they aren't wearing an actual mask. This person is white, or this person is

young, or this person is Black, or this person is Asian/Pacific Islander, or this person is Arab/Middle Eastern, or this person is Latinx, or this person is old, or this person is a farmer, or this person is urban, or this person is Lutheran. You can fill out the list. I ascribe characteristics to all of these people without really seeing them.

And then, I wonder about the masks I wear. Wife, daughter, mother, sister. Pastor, friend, the PRESIDING BISHOP (yikes!). When interactions are fraught, the staff have identified what they call my “Queen Face.”

What masks do we all wear? Some are appropriate—we don't have to emote all over everyone all the time. It's good to have boundaries—some are needed for safety. But none of these is who we truly are, and all of these take energy.

As we have been returning to in-person worship and once again celebrating communion, I've witnessed a beautiful phenomenon. When people come forward to receive the host, they momentarily remove their masks. One by one, in the face of our Lord's body, they reveal themselves and are revealed. Their faces appear. No mask. No covering. No defense. No need for defense. For that instant they no longer carry the burden of wearing the mask of their demographic, heritage or ethnicity. They are no longer called upon to be stoic.

At that moment they realize on earth what we shall know in heaven—God sees us. God loves us. In God we find our true selves. We find rest.

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known (1 Corinthians 13:12). †

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 Devon Vanden Heuvel and Randy Barthels for shoveling in January.

Thank you to John Plautz and Gene Frane who continue to maintain the building.

Thank you to the Dellenbach family, Jackie Waldorf, Mary Wolf and Mary Peterson for serving at The Table in December.

Thank you to Matthew Johnson, Gene Frane and Jackie Waldorf for faithfully serving on council. Your leadership has been greatly appreciated!

Thank you to all who un-decorated the church after Christmas.

Thank you to Matthew Johnson for pulpit supplying for Pastor Tammy in December, and Mariah and Payton McCue who assisted.

Thank you to Darlene Machtan for continually working with the Food Pantry ministry and all who volunteered for this ministry in the month of October.

Thank you to everyone who continues to make meals for NATH.

Thank you to all who continue to volunteer to assist with worship. Those who usher, read, record music, altar guild, communion assistant, open/close, live stream, etc.

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

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 Mary Peterson for making Cardamom Bread at Christmastime and donating the proceeds to WELCA. Mary, you are a blessing and much appreciated!
May God continue to bless you with all good things, Dianne Syms, WELCA Treasurer

The residents of Heritage House wish to give thanks to the members of Immanuel Lutheran Church for all the wonderful gifts they received this holiday season. They have been enjoying them all.
We hope that you all have a Happy New Year. Beth Meyer, Administrator and Staff Heritage House

The staff gratefully thanks Council and the Congregation for the Christmas appreciation gift of Chamber Bucks.

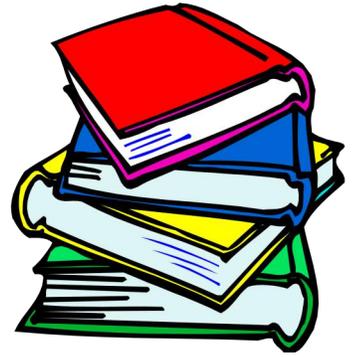
Pastoral care

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.

New! Monthly Book Share

The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem

- Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan



Quick View:

This book offers a detailed telling of the final week of Jesus, from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, using the gospels (primarily the Gospel of Mark). The timeline is supplemented with historical and contextual information to reveal a remarkable account of this week and offers many new spiritual insights.

What the authors say (book excerpt, regarding the Last Supper):

“It is, once again, about *participation* in Christ and not *substitution* by Christ. And we, like they, are invited to travel with Jesus through execution to resurrection. The Last Supper is about bread for the world, God’s justice against human injustice, a New Passover from bondage to liberation, and participation in the path that leads through death to new life.”

What others say:

“The authors dig into the Gospel of Mark’s day-by-day account of the week leading up to Easter, and they excavate profound insights into the political and spiritual dynamics of Jesus’s true passion-his message of the kingdom of God. Readers across the spectrum will be challenged, educated, stretched, and perhaps disturbed (in a constructive way) by this important, fascinating, and well-written book.” -Brian McLaren, author, speaker, theologian

What I learned:

The telling of the final week is filled with symbolism and confrontation on behalf of Jesus against the powerful Roman empire. Our modern celebration of Holy Week only scratches the surface of the spiritual meanings to be mined from the gospel narratives. My eyes were opened to the passion of Jesus-the Kingdom of God-and how that passion led to His crucifixion and resurrection.

Submitted by Matthew Johnson





FORTUNE LAKE SUMMER CAMP 2022






We need camp more than ever! In the past two years, we learned the importance of nurturing communities, human interaction, time spent in God's creation, and faith in an ever-present God, especially in difficult times. All of these things are experienced daily through outdoor ministry at Fortune Lake.

For Summer 2022, in addition to classic programs, you'll notice the return of some specialty programs and great new opportunities. We have learned a lot, and we will continue to prioritize health and safety while providing the camp experiences our young people, and adults, need.

We've missed you, **Victory Campers**, and we can't wait to welcome you back! Active adults with developmental disabilities are invited to join us for this week at camp.

Art Camp and Nightowls, favorite youth programs, are back by popular demand!

Our traveling ministry teams will be touring the region once again bringing vacation Bible school to life in your communities with **Congregational Day Camps**. Contact us soon, spots are filling quickly!

We've merged **Women & Kids Week, Family Camp, and Grandparent Camp** into an inclusive five-night program called **Intergenerational Camp** for individual adults and families of all kinds. Past participants will find elements they know and love, offered in June or July.

Youth can join us for a week of all the fun of camp plus creating, building challenges, and all things **LEGO®!**

Our unique **Musical Theatre Camp** is for anyone, youth or adult, who is interested in playing an active role—on stage or behind the scenes—in our original musical *One Wonderful Day* at the historic Crystal Theatre. We've been waiting to bring you this experience since 2020, and it's going to be better than we even imagined!

We're closing out the summer with a **three-night opportunity for our standard youth programs**. If your family's summer schedule is especially full, this may be the perfect option for you.

There's truly something for everyone! Make plans to join us at camp in Summer 2022!

**FORTUNE LAKE
LUTHERAN CAMP**

138 Fortune Lake Camp Rd, Crystal Falls, MI 49920
fortunelake.org | 906-214-CAMP (2267)



FortuneLakeLutheranCamp



fortunelake



The Giving Tree keeps on giving!

Thank you to everyone, especially Jackie Waldorf, who made this valuable ministry possible again this past December!

WORD OF THE MONTH ~ February

Definition of *heart*

The emotional or moral nature as distinguished from the intellectual nature: such as

a: generous disposition: COMPASSION, a leader with *heart*

b: LOVE, AFFECTION, won her *heart*

c: courage or enthusiasm especially when maintained during a difficult situation

The Hebrew word for "heart" (*lev* or *levav*) refers not only to impulse and intuition but also to reason and will. The Hebrew vision of the heart, then, is holistic, and wholeheartedness, in the Hebrew context, wasn't just or even primarily about one's feeling. As Amy-Jill Levine writes in *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*, the heart "represents the center of thought and conviction.

(Wholehearted Faith – Rachel Held Evans, with Jeff Chu, Harper One, 2021, p 57)



ACES is Rhinelander's Association of Churches for Emergency Support. It is the gathering of Rhinelander Churches to show the love of Christ in tangible ways to those in need.

The purpose of the Association of Churches for Emergency Support (ACES) is to coordinate emergency aid, utilize a pool of funds, draw a connection between the Rhinelander areas churches and public service agencies, and to divide the administrative tasks that come with providing such aid. In essence, our goal is to see emergency aid delivered to people, who are in need, in the most efficient, effective and Christ-like manner.

Several churches participate in ACES, both through volunteer hours and finances. Any church wishing to join in participation can inquire with the Executive Committee and will be allowed to do so after the committees approval. Membership dues are individually based on the resources of the participating church.

Churches are responsible to recruit, retain and release competent volunteers to represent ACES and all of its members. That volunteer will handle all calls, issue vouchers, and document interactions of the requests coming into Rhinelander's ACES. Each shift is for two weeks. After the two week period, both the outgoing and incoming church volunteers must meet to verify all paperwork and voucher inventory as well as deliver the phone and current client needs. Training sessions are offered and mandatory for all volunteers. All volunteers will have clear expectations, procedures, and resources to accomplish their integral role.

As 2021 has come to an end unfortunately we are still experiencing the Pandemic. ACES is planning on having a board meeting on February 3, 2022 to figure out how ACES will proceed as the Pandemic just does not want to go away. The past year ACES along with Salvation Army was able to help clients as this Pandemic indeed took a toll on many. ACES is very blessed with receiving not only the regular donations from the churches but also other organizations in Rhinelander donate quite generously. Without these donations ACES would not be able to do this wonderful ministry.

With the vaccine now available we are feeling blessed that there will be a new normal in our future. Praying the booster and more vaccines will end this soon. The Wisconsin program WERA (Wisconsin Energy and Rental Program) was very helpful to many clients. Currently evictions are still happening. Starting in November WPS does not do disconnects. Throughout the year the call volume maintained steady but not out of control. It does seem like there are many jobs available so praying that is helping. ACES is still not meeting clients face to face until we have our meeting in February and will go from there. I am still taking the calls from the ACES phone and Amanda Jahn from Salvation Army is taking care of clients as I relay the information from the calls from the clients.

ACES helps with many items that need a check for timing reasons, such as car repair, furniture, water heaters, air conditioners, towing service, etc. and sometimes rent and WPS.

We did receive 117 calls this quarter and 368 calls for the year. Between ACES and Salvation Army we are doing our best to help these clients. May God continue to keep all safe and well.

If you would like to help with this organization or want more information please contact, Pastor Tammy, or Mary Meek or Dianne Syms. Thank you again for your continued support.

Dianne Syms, ACES Treasurer



NATH - Frederick Place

11th Anniversary Benefit

Saturday February 5th, 2022

Doors open @ 5:00 PM

Gold Package \$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* 8 dinner tickets* Reserved table* 16 chances in "Sponsor Raffle"* Full page recognition in program	Individual Tickets = \$50 Stop by Frederick Place Order online at nathnorthwoods.com See a board/committee member to purchase tickets Tickets on Sale now Prime Rib & Chicken Buffet Raffles and more
Red Package \$300	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* 4 dinner tickets* Reserved seats* 8 chances in "Sponsor Raffle"* Half page recognition in program	
Beverage Package \$200	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* 2 dinner tickets* Reserved seats* 100 promotional business cards* Listed in program	
Event Package \$100	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Listed in program	

EVENT CANCELLED
PLEASE CONSIDER SENDING
A DONATION INSTEAD!!
(Check online to see if a virtual option is available.)

RAFP

Rhineland Area Food Pantry



Hearts were full but shelves were empty by the time Immanuel volunteers finished their 10:30-1 second Saturday monthly volunteering at the Rhineland Area Food Pantry January 8.

The need for food assistance in the Northwoods remains high, and all donations of time, non-perishable foods, and cash are much appreciated.



IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Meeting Minutes: December 8, 2021

Council Members Present: President: Matt Johnson, Vice-President: Becky Eades, Secretary: JoAnne Barrix, Glenn Johnson, Mary Wolf, Gene Frane, Darlene Machtan, Charlie Strong, Jackie Waldorf, Deb Rinka, Bill Mattson, Pastor Tammy Barthels.

Opening

President Matt opened the virtual meeting at 6:03 PM.

Devotion by Darlene: Caring for the least of these

Action – Motion/Second/Carried...Approved the minutes from the November 10, 2021 council meeting.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Tammy highlighted the Thanksgiving Eve service, writing Pray Faithfully prayers, attending a workshop on anger issues and communication regarding participation in Jail Ministry. Calvary Baptist, UCC and First Methodist are participating. Some concerns regarding privacy and confidentiality have surfaced. A possibility would be to use a live stream from an ELCA church in a different locality. Other discussion included not showing communion participants and using a graphic on the screen. Charlie will contact Cory about this.

Long-Term Items: (Great Commission Schedule and Constitution article C12.04)

Worship: Discuss effectiveness and quality (3xyear): With live-stream we can even attend on snow days. Also, Bill mentioned that our worship is enhanced by surrounding our space with music and art that show creation. The display of the Bible by Jeremy Sacket is an example.

Seek full participation of members in Disciple-Making, Witnessing and Caring Ministries (quarterly):

Food Pantry is strong and slots for ushers, readers etc. are being filled. Perhaps we need to reach out more aggressively for more participation. Susan Anderson will be writing articles for the newsletter on racial equity.

Discuss, manage and protect property (2xyear): We have snow shovelers through January. Building Fund is doing well. We thank Gene for his care of our church property.

Short-Term Items:

Old Business:

New Business:

Council nominations: Christy Dellenbach and Fred McCue are willing to be nominated. A third person is also willing but has a conflict on the 2nd Wednesday of the month meeting time. It was decided to reach out to more people and talk about a possible change to the meeting date next month. Discussion included changes in the constitution. Do we need 12 members on council? It does represent more of the congregation. We will have elections on January 9th and install new council members at the council meeting and also during worship the following Sunday. We will do Zoom and in person meeting for the vote. This information will be in the newsletter.

Annual Reports from the committees are due on January 7th, 2022.

The Annual meeting will be on January 30, 2022. We will have the meeting be a hybrid of Zoom and in-person in the sanctuary. Charlie has agreed to set up a TV and microphones. We will have a continuing resolution to the constitution for a hybrid meeting again due to Covid.

Covid Team update: Bill reviewed cases per day chart. We must keep all mitigation measures in place to continue being able to have in-person worship. When the Covid Team met, it was decided to recommend humming Silent Night for Christmas Eve worship. A second recommendation was to allow quiet singing for the last hymn at Sunday morning worship starting in January. The number one concern of our members is missing singing. With Covid cases increasing in our area it was decided to leave our policies as they are until the January meeting.

Committee Actions and other noteworthy items:

Stewardship Committee is working on the budget line by line. So far the changes are budget neutral. Our financial condition is looking good at this point and we may reach the \$19,000 commitment for benevolence. The Committee also recommended sending \$500.00 from our Endowment Fund to the Synod Endowment Fund. We received a request from Synod and we discussed our views as a part of the larger church. We also reviewed the requirements of our Endowment Fund. **Action – Motion/Second/Carried with 1 opposed...** Give \$500.00 to the Synod Endowment Fund from our Endowment Fund.

Outreach Committee: Thrivent members don't necessarily know how to apply for action cards and choice dollars. We were reminded that each member gets two \$250 action cards per year for their ministry of choice. Pastor will reach out to Mike Cornelius for more information. Cory could also make a handbook with screen shots to help people apply. Each member must apply on their own. It is illegal to have someone else apply for you.

Gene, Jackie and Matt were thanked for their service as they will be leaving Council. Matt agreed to preside over the January council meeting and the Annual Meeting if needed.

Next meeting will be on January 12, 2022 at 6:00 PM. Mary volunteered for devotions. Darlene and JoAnne will open and close in January.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM after closing prayer.

Closing Prayer: Darlene led us in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
JoAnne Barrix, Council Secretary

RHINELANDER COMMUNITY CLOSET

Sponsored by Headwaters, Inc.

The Rhinelander Community Closet reopened in December and is located in the lower level of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Deanna Barlow, the Service Coordinator for Headwaters, shared that they would be expanding the type of items offered. Not only will the closet offer career type clothing for men and women, but they will also have winter clothing available for adults and children.



Currently they are working on building inventory for household goods and toys; availability is completely dependent on donations though. The closet is free to anyone—there is no proof of income required— they simply ask that you only take what you need and do not take for resale.

Donations can be dropped off in the lower level of the church on Thursdays from 9am-12pm—or can be dropped off at Headwaters, Inc. located at 1441 E. Timber Dr., Rhinelander—Monday to Thursday between 10am and 3pm. The Rhinelander Community Closet is open every Thursday

Did you know?....

“Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2

Immanuel Lutheran Church is beginning a new year. We are welcoming new members to our church council. We are starting to work with a new budget. We have had our annual meeting. We are still in the midst of a pandemic and long for the way things used to be. We have returned to the sanctuary for worship, but still do not sing. We are masking and social distancing. Our church restrictions are not the same as others. Why?



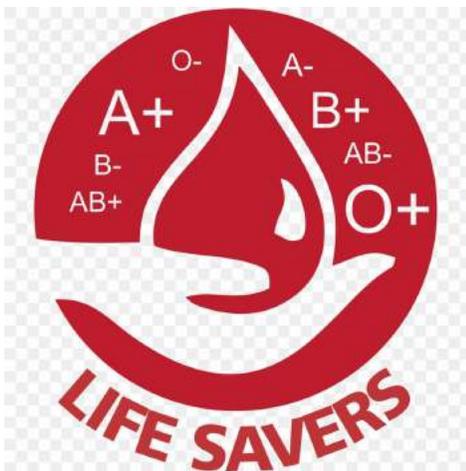
Very early in this pandemic our pastor quickly organized a group of members with health care backgrounds to meet as a team every month. We evaluate the data provided by Oneida County Health Department and recommendations of the Northern Great Lakes Synod and the Wisconsin Council of Churches. We also discuss our own experiences. We know what is happening in the local hospital and nursing homes as a result of the pandemic. We discuss what restrictions other churches in the area are following. We then make recommendations to the church council always keeping in mind those that are most vulnerable to severe illness and death.

Each month the council hears and evaluates the Covid team recommendations and decides how to proceed with a safe worship experience. We have found ourselves in a situation that changes on a daily basis. It is a situation over which we have no control. We make decisions that we do not like, but must be made nonetheless. Everyone involved in this process is sad and tired. The members of Immanuel are sad and tired.

But...our Pastor Tammy is always leading and reminding us that we are not alone. God is with us. God is walking beside us on this sad and tiring journey. She reminds us that God promises to see us through. This will happen in God's time, not ours. In the mean time, be patient. Listen and be gentle. *Carry each other's burdens.*

....This is Stewardship!

By JoAnne Barrix



RESERVE THE DATE!

MARCH 8TH

2PM-6PM

BLOOD DRIVE

For more information contact
Jackie Waldorf @715-482-0513

EQUITY CHALLENGE

CAN LAUGHTER HELP US BE LESS DEFENSIVE ABOUT WHITE PRIVILEGE?

Focusing on white privilege and racism can seem irrelevant as there are so few People of Color in the Northwoods. There can be a sense of saturation about hearing "...about the next Black Boy being killed" as a friend said wearily. The Black population of Wisconsin is 375,000. People of Color make up 41 million of 330 million US population. So what does it matter for us?

If we drive through a Black neighborhood feeling the need to lock car doors because we are afraid, our unfamiliarity with Blacks affects us. If we see 2 or 3 Blacks across the street and become tense, we are affected. If police disproportionately stop, arrest, convict, and jail People of Color, we are affected by paying for incarceration. If we ignore the closing of voting sites in Black neighborhoods, rules limiting early voting, restricting voting registrations times and places because of concern of being outvoted, we are affected. If we think that social programs advantage Blacks and we lose even though far more Whites benefit, we are affected. Whatever for what we think or feel...

In Psalm 139: 1-4, our faith says, "O Lord, you have searched me and known me...you discern my thoughts from far away...Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely...". God knows us better than we know ourselves, yet still wraps us in love, acceptance, and grace. We can relax, feel confident, look at ourselves, honestly, and without fear. We can laugh and poke fun at ourselves and our culture. Remember Norman Cousins's book, *Laughter is the Best Medicine?* Humor can help us heal; can make us whole.

So here are some lyrics by Tom Lehrer, a Harvard math professor turned comedian from 1965 about National Brotherhood Week, celebrated from the 1930s-80s. "During National Brotherhood Week various special events are arranged to drive home the message of brotherhood – this year, for example, on the first day of the week, Malcolm X was killed, which gives you an idea of how effective the whole thing is. I'm sure we all agree that we ought to love one another, and I know there are people in the world who do not love their fellow human beings, and I hate people like that! Here's a song about National Brotherhood Week.

"Oh, the white folks hate the black folks,
And the black folks hate the white folks,
To hate all but the right folks
Is an old established rule.
But during National Brotherhood week
Lena Horne and Sheriff Clark are
Dancing cheek to cheek.
It's fun to eulogize the people you despise
As long as you don't let them in your school.
Oh, the poor folks hate the rich folks,
And the rich folks hate the poor folks,
All of my folks hate all of your folks,

It's as American as apple pie.
But during National Brotherhood Week
It's National Everyone-Smile-At-One-
Another-hood-Week.
Be nice to people who are inferior to you.
It's only for a week so have no fear,
Be grateful it doesn't last all year!"

[https://genius.com/albums/Tom-lehrer/
That-Was-The-Year-That-Was](https://genius.com/albums/Tom-lehrer/That-Was-The-Year-That-Was).
To hear the ragtime music, go to
<https://www.youtube> & search the title.

Submitted by Susan Anderson

February 2022

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
			1pm Quilting 6pm Confirmation	6pm COVID Advisory Team	Pastor Tammy leading Art and Prayer Retreat at St. Anthony's	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:00 Worship Communion	7pm AA & Alanon	6pm Stewardship	1pm Quilting 5:30pm Edge Youth Group 6pm Council		Pastor's Sabbath <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Newsletter Articles Due!!!</div>	10:30-1:00 Food Pantry
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:00 Worship	7pm AA & Alanon	10am "Mocha on the Mount" Book Study	1pm Quilting 6pm Confirmation		Pastor's Sabbath	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:00 Worship Communion	7pm AA & Alanon		4:30 Meal @ Frederick Place			
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;">Pastor Tammy on retreat. Please contact Rev. Devon Barrix for pastoral assistance on his cell @ 715-490-6153 or at home @ 715-277-4983.</div>						
27	28					
9:00 Worship	7pm AA & Alanon					
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;">Pastor Tammy at NGLS Theological Conference. Please contact Rev. Devon Barrix for pastoral needs. Cell 715-490-6153 Home 715-277-4983</div>						

All Nursing home worship services are cancelled this month!

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

December 2021

GENERAL FUND:

Beginning Balance	\$16,391.29
Offerings	\$19,559.09
Expenses	(\$14,601.69)
Ending Balance	\$21,348.69

BENEVOLENCE:

December Offering	\$ 1,157.00
2021 Pledge	\$19,000.00
YTD Remittance	\$18,941.02

BUILDING FUND:

Beginning Balance	\$28,505.29
Offerings	\$ 1,792.57
Expenses	(\$ 0.00)
Ending Balance	\$30,297.86

Expenses exceeded the
income by \$4,957.40.



December Attendance:

	In-person	Online	Total	Total
12/05	12 (snowstorm)	100		112
12/12	54	87		141
12/19	35	86		121
Christmas Eve		48		146
3:00 pm	40			
4:30 pm	46			
6:00 pm	12			
12/26	18	77		95

Our average worship attendance for the month of December was 123.



2/1	Joshua Kral	2/13	Jacob Schulz
2/1	Shauna Drossart	2/14	Tina Schmitz
2/5	Brian Willoughby	2/16	Bernie Dart
2/6	Harper Drossart	2/16	Ronald Johnson
2/8	Darlene Piasecki	2/18	Matthew Furyk
2/10	Lily Fortier	2/19	Marlin White
2/10	Will Fortier	2/20	Terri Johnson
2/12	Ronald Palm	2/23	Tom Montgomery
2/12	Jacob Wilmot	2/28	Tucker Kral
		2/28	Anita Snyder

2/3	Bill & Sheri Mattson
2/7	Bryan & Jessica Meyer
2/24	Bill & Kathy Maule
2/25	Andy and Tara Kress

May Your Day Be Special!

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

IMMANUEL'S MESSENGER

21 West Timber Drive
Rhineland, WI 54501

Electronic Service Requested

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

**Join us for
in-person worship
Sundays at 9 a.m.
All are Welcome!**

Or join online

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

2) Through our website: www.immanuelrhineland.org/worship (you'll also find the bulletin and lessons here).

3) Through our phone app. Just click on the "worship" button at the bottom of the screen.

The live stream will begin at about 8:55.