

# Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church



## February 2024

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



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

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

## Message from Interim Pastor John Kuziej

As you look at the February calendar, there are important dates to remember. For example, do you know what is going to happen on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>? That's right football fans, it is Super Bowl Sunday. As of this writing the playoffs are not finished. The final two in the championship are yet to be determined. Super Bowl gets a lot of hype. Commercial interests stir excitement so you will buy food and beverage for the game. You may have friends over to watch this game. On a much larger scale companies spend millions to sponsor this contest. There is even a popular poll about favorite commercials. Why such hype? It must be due to the glory of the game and the road to the championship.

Barely noticed on February 11 is the church festival of the Transfiguration. The text for the day describes Jesus' changed appearance. Three disciples witnessed a heavenly brightness beyond description. Jesus was in conversation with Moses and Elijah. For Peter this was the glory of God he longed for. Peter suggested building three tents: one for Jesus and each of the heavenly visitors. But God had a different idea. The voice from heaven reprised what Jesus heard at his baptism: "This is my beloved Son." But this time important words for disciples to hear: "Listen to him!" Jesus was teaching a different glory: his journey to the cross to give up his life for our salvation. This is no "Super Bowl" glory of triumph and trophy. This is the glory of service for others. Jesus defined following him as denying self and taking up the cross. Just a few days after Super Bowl Sunday is Valentine's Day. This is a day of heart-shaped cards and candy. This is a day to celebrate love, remembering to buy gifts for those close and dear to us. It is a day that is about the heart.

By coincidence February 14<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday. What a contrast with Valentine's Day. You may go out to eat with your sweetheart and receive a red rose. Ash Wednesday invites humble confession of sin, a plea for God's mercy, and then the famous mark: a smudge with ashes on the forehead in the shape of a cross. One may think Valentine's Day is about the heart, while Ash Wednesday is about humility. Actually, Ash Wednesday is about the heart. Just listen to the texts for the day: "Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart....rend your hearts and not your clothing". (Joel 2: 12) The Psalm for the day prays, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." In the gospel reading from Matthew Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and thieves break in and steal: but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

In the gospel reading for Ash Wednesday, Jesus will mention three faith practices that will help our hearts desire heavenly treasures. He mentioned alms or financial gifts for the poor, prayer, and fasting. Jesus warned about the danger of seeking recognition and reward. This leads to hypocrisy or an outward appearance of faithfulness without any repentance or turning to Jesus and listening to him. Jesus said give alms in secret (Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing). And when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to God the Father in secret. And when you fast, do not look miserable as if to attract sympathy. Instead, wash yourselves and show joy so no one will know you are fasting. The promise is, "your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

Lent encourages us to brush up on our faith practices if we have allowed the business of life to put them aside. Many of us use daily devotionals to help us pray. In Lent we may want to find additional resources to encourage prayer. Check out our Synod website ([nglsynod.org](http://nglsynod.org)) and enjoy “Prayfaithfully”, daily devotions written by members of our Synod. One way to combine alms and fasting is to give up a meal or two a week and figure the money saved and donate that amount to the ELCA Hunger Appeal or a local charity. If fasting is not advisable, there is another fasting we all must practice. The prophet Isaiah wrote of a fast that repairs the breach and restores the streets, so they are livable again. We all have been troubled by the division and vicious words too commonly spoken in society. There is need for debate in our country but can we not fast from meanness and seek to be civil and caring toward others.

Bobby Gruenewald is a pastor who runs a popular computer Scripture app that has been downloaded more than 700 million times in the U.S. and around the world. He said, “People are turning to scripture and using it and looking at it in a way that reminds them of God’s faithfulness or hope.” That search for hope is seen in the number one Scripture verse users searched for; the verse is Isaiah 41:10: “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” Engaging in faith practices for Lent allows God to do the “heart work”, renew a right spirit within us by the grace of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit promises to engage our spirits, so faith is fortified for our hope, and for faith to be active in love for others.

I was bringing Holy Communion to one of our members, and this is not just a quick “go-through-the-motions” service. Sometimes there is dialogue. We were commenting on the plethora of bad news in the world. Then this person said, after Adam and Eve disobeyed in the Garden of Eden, God washed his hands of us. In discouragement it may seem God is absent or even “washed his hands”, wanting nothing to do with sorry sinful humanity. But Lent counters discouragement. God knows the burden and brokenness of our hearts. In response, God sent the prophets who call for repentance, to return to the Lord, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. And God came to this troubled world in Jesus. Jesus carried the cross for our salvation. No, God has not washed his hands of us. The scriptures say “a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.” Jesus, his compassion, companionship, and caring is treasure for our hearts.

## **ASH WEDESDAY/ LENTEN SERVICES / SOUP SUPPERS**

**ASH WEDNESDAY**—February 14th @ 7:00 pm—at Immanuel with First Congregational.

**The Youth are hosting a spaghetti dinner at 6:00 pm. This God’s Love Dinner is a fundraiser for the youth gathering.**

Immanuel will be having soup suppers again before our midweek Lenten services. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, so be sure and sign up to provide your favorite soup, bread, and/or dessert. Join us for soup and fellowship at 6:00 pm. with services to follow at 7:00 pm.

**Midweek Lenten Services**—Wednesday February 21, 28 and March 6, 13, 20.





# Lending a Helping Hand in Orlando

By Jeremiah Bellow

*(Editors Note: Jeremiah is Cory Dellenbach's son)*

"See you on the battlefield!" This was our rallying cry as Katherine and I embarked on an unforgettable winter mission trip to Orlando, Florida in early January. Our journey, undertaken by ourselves and fellow members of Peace Lutheran Campus Center in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, was filled with challenges, triumphs, and heartwarming moments of service.

Our adventure began with a twist as one of our two groups faced unexpected plane delays, arriving in Orlando eight hours later than anticipated. Despite this setback, our spirits remained high, and we were eager to dive into the work that awaited us.

Our main mission was to paint and renovate Shekinah Lutheran Church for the Rev. Dr. Bishop Kenyatta Cobb Sr. and his wife. With Sunday service fast approaching, we had a tight deadline of just three days to transform the church into a welcoming space. Miraculously, we not only met but exceeded our goal, ensuring the church was ready to open its doors for worship on Sunday. Having completed our primary project ahead of schedule, we found ourselves with a few days to spare. Undeterred, we turned our attention to the needs of the local community. We crafted 200 sandwiches to distribute to the homeless in Orlando, a small gesture with a big impact on those in need. Additionally, we lent a helping hand to Pastor Cobb by cleaning and organizing his garage, dedicating an entire day to this worthy endeavor.

While our focus remained on service, we did find moments for leisure and exploration. We became avid fans of the Solar Bears (Orlando ice hockey team), proudly declaring ourselves the biggest Solar Bear fans in the state of Wisconsin. A rest and relaxation day at Disney allowed us to recharge our spirits, fostering camaraderie and creating lasting memories.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who sent prayers and donations, making this mission trip possible. Your support fueled our ability to serve and make a difference in the lives of others. As we reflect on our time in Orlando, we look forward to our next mission trip to New York in March, carrying the spirit of compassion and service with us.



# SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AFTER WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH

REGARDING: PURCHASE OF NEW COPIER—Our council recommended proceeding with purchasing a new machine, please plan on attending.







# FORTUNE LAKE LUTHERAN CAMP

2024  
**SCHEDULE**

WEEK	DATES	CAMP PROGRAM & AGE/GRADE COMPLETED	COST
Week 1	June 9-14	Victory Camp (Adult 18+ with disabilities)	\$625
Week 2	June 16-21	Intergenerational Week (all ages) <b>New!</b> Treehouse Adventures (Grades 7-12)	See website \$475
Week 3	June 23-28	High School Week (Grades 9-12)   LIT Training Week (Grades 10-12)	\$475
Week 4	June 30-July 2	Mighty Ones (Grades 1-2)	\$225
	June 30-July 3	Mini Camp (Grades 2-3)   MashUp (Grades 4-8) LIT #1 Option (*No charge)	\$305 No charge
Week 5	July 7-10	+Mini Camp (Grades 2-3)	\$305
Week 5 <b>+Outdoor Week!</b>	July 7-12	+Villager (Grades 3-4)   +Vagabond (Grades 5-6)   +Venturer (Grades 7-8) Camp ACTS (Grades 3-12)   LIT #2 Option (*No charge)	\$445 \$475
	Week 6	July 14-17	<b>New!</b> Evergreen Camp (Adults 55+)
Week 7	July 21-26	LEGO® Camp (Grades 3-9)   Jr High Night Owl (Grades 6-8) Art Camp (Grades 3-9)   LIT #3 Option (*No charge)	\$445 \$475
	July 22-25	Onsite Day Camp (Grades K-5)	\$130
Week 8	July 28-Aug 2	Intergenerational Week (all ages) Vagabond (Grades 5-6)   LIT #4 Option (*No charge)	See website \$445
	July 30-Aug 2	Intergenerational Half Week (all ages)	See website
Week 9 <b>^Water Week!</b>	August 4-7	^Mini Camp (Grades 2-3)   ^Villager (Grades 3-4) ^Vagabond (Grades 5-6)   ^Venturer (Grades 7-8)	\$305

*Scholarships Available*

\*LIT program requires an application process. Week #1 has a fee; subsequent weeks do not.

More info at [FortuneLake.org](http://FortuneLake.org)

## SNOW SHOVELING

Volunteers are needed to shovel snow this winter. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or contact the office.



## 2024 Offering Envelopes

From our Financial Secretary:

Offering Envelopes are available to be picked up in the Narthex.

If you don't have envelopes and would like some, please contact Sheree Vanden Heuvel

@ [finimmanuel@gmail.com](mailto:finimmanuel@gmail.com)

## Thank You for Serving

Thank you to all who sponsor our altar flowers each week, especially Darlene Machtan, who regularly sponsors empty weeks. Please sign up on the flower chart in the Narthex to sponsor flowers in 2024. The price remains at \$14.00.

Thank you to Cory Dellenbach for all of his “behind the scenes” offering of his gifts and talents to Immanuel—from updating the website to loading music for our worship services—your dedication is 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!)*



## WARM FOR WINTER!

Now is the time to clean out your closets and bring your boots, mittens, hats, jackets, or other warm for winter items and place in the Warm for Winter box in the narthex to be distributed at the First Congregational United Church of Christ.



## Pastoral Visits

Immanuel Lutheran Church has welcomed Pastor John Kuziej as our Administrative Interim Pastor. He is happy to schedule visits with home-bound individuals and is also available for hospital visits. Please feel free to contact him if you have these needs. He has office hours at Immanuel on Tuesdays from 10:00 am until noon and is also available by appointment.

## Newsletter Available Electronically

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

## Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Minutes

December 13, 2023

Hybrid Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

Attendees: JoAnne Barrix, Mary Wolf, Kristine Mladucky, Tina Schmitz, John Plautz, Glenn Johnson, Richard Laddusire, Christy Dellenbach, Linda Kau, Darlene Machtan, Charlie Strong and Pastor John Kuziej.

Absent: Brian Willoughby

Devotions: Mary Wolf "Miracle of Christmas."

**Motion/2<sup>nd</sup>/Carried** unanimous approval of meeting minutes from November 8th as printed.

Pastor/Ministry Report:

- Pastor John will do both Christmas Eve services (9:00 am & 4:30 pm), and normally he would also do the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. **Motion/2<sup>nd</sup>/Carried** unanimous approval for Pastor John to have off the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- JoAnne will lead the service on December 31<sup>st</sup> with "Lessons & Carols" theme.
- While in the office on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, was contacted by Greg from AA concerning using the kitchen to serve food for an open meeting on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. **Motion/2<sup>nd</sup>/Carried** unanimous approval for AA to use kitchen on 1/20/24.
- Rev. James Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop, will officiate the January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 service.
- Will be conducting the following community services at 10 am. 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at Milestone Senior Living Center (1/9/24),
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at Friendly Village Nursing and Rehab (currently there is a schedule conflict for January, hope to correct and meet on 1/16/24). Will update schedule when confirmed.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at Rennes Health & Rehab Center (1/23/24).

Long Term Items:

- Worship: Discuss effectiveness and quality (3X/Year): Children's program was excellent! Pulpit supply has been good.
- Seek full participation of members in Disciple-making, Witnessing, and caring ministries (Quarterly). Good participation and new members are jumping right in. Need to contact visitors.
- Discuss, manage and protect property (semi-annually): John Plautz – Property and facilities update:
  - Zone Valve failed in the counting/music room. Cannot repair until spring. Currently wedged open the sacristy/preparation room to control heat.
  - Heat tape installed by Kevin Kirby & John Mladucky.
  - The #20 circuit breaker tripped. Has been reset, currently working, will keep an eye on it.
  - John Plautz and Gene Frane will start preparing the 5-year plan.
  - There is a painting project, Kristine Mladucky has volunteered to do the work. Gene has purchased the paint.
  - Plan to fix the drywall this spring 2024.
  - 2 parapets need to be fixed and the stone needs to be cleaned. Both jobs will need a lift, the plan is to rent when the weather permits.



### Short Term Items:

1. Call committee update: Have a candidate who is currently in an active position. Will keep the congregation informed when we can share more information.
2. Facilities update: See Long-term Items above.
3. Fall Stewardship Emphasis: 26 Time & Talent returns. Approximately the following amounts dedicated:
  - a. \$74,000 General Fund
  - b. \$18,000 Benevolence
  - c. \$11,000 BuildingBrian not concerned with amounts, considers it a good return, and our congregation has a history of meeting the needs as required.
4. Council Positions: Our constitution does not state a break between terms. When filling in for someone else's term, they need to serve until the end of their term, and could run for 2 more terms. Determined we need to revisit the constitution. There was a need for one more candidate for next year, and we have a volunteer, Bill Anderson. Darlene will complete Fred's position for 1 more year. Mary, Tina, and Glen will re-up for another 2-year term.
5. 2024 Budget: The final numbers will be available for the next meeting in January 2024. We know that gas, electricity, and water will increase. Not a lot of changes, around \$190,000. Continue to operate on faith.
6. Staff Evaluations/Raises: Currently working on. Stewardship recommends an 8% increase. **Motion/2<sup>nd</sup>/Carried unanimous approval** for an 8% increase for staff.
7. Benevolence Giving: \$18,000 was pledged for benevolence. Stewardship recommends we stay with a \$19,000 commitment in the budget. Currently short this year. The good news is that two members have stepped up and will cover the shortage of \$1,000.00 to meet our commitment to the synod.
8. Annual Meeting: January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Need committee reports the first week of January.

### New Business:

1. Synod Youth Committee:
  - Cory & Johanna Dellenbach working with the synod on a new safety policy. Our congregation does have a policy, and will update and adjust.
  - Christy Dellenbach attended the "Darkness to Light" educational session at Fortune Lake, led by Pastor Kari Olson Vadis (Trinity Lutheran, Rhinelander). This session focused on child sexual abuse prevention education.
2. Praise in the Pines request: Looking for a volunteer to join in the planning and organizational needs of the event on Saturday, August 17, 2024 in Eagle River, WI. They have a website for more information: <https://praiseinthepines.org>
3. Open & Close/Devotions:
  - December: Glen O&C (Mary Devotions)
  - January: Kristine (O&C/D)
  - February: Linda (O&C/D)
  - March: Tina (O&C/D)
4. Comments/Discussion/Committee actions:
  - Outreach: Decorations, Blood Drive, Giving Tree, The Table – December 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - Bake Sale proceeds: \$2,400.00

**Motion/2<sup>nd</sup>/Carried** unanimous Adjournment at 7:19 pm

Closing Prayer: Mary

Respectfully Submitted  
Kristine G. Mladucky

#### NATH meals:

December – Mary, Sue and Darlene  
P. Menu Chili  
January 24<sup>th</sup> – Council  
February – Worship & Music  
March -



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

Dear reader

As you have likely read in the March issue of *Living Lutheran*, the magazine will cease its print publication with the November/December 2023 issue. This does not mean, however, that we will stop telling stories of this church when the print magazine ends. Throughout the past several years, LivingLutheran.org has been the magazine's online platform, and we are excited about the ways in which we can enhance how you are able to experience the stories and lives of Lutherans throughout the ELCA as we transition to a fully online approach. You will start to see us employing these ways throughout the year, with videos, audio stories and more. This transition will also include a more robust social media presence and more opportunities for user-generated content with the potential for greater engagement from you, our most loyal readers.

The ELCA and its predecessor church bodies have been printing periodicals since 1831, when *The Lutheran Observer* began. Spreading the gospel and sharing the stories of our church have always been at the foundation of who we are as Christians and Lutherans. As many of you probably know, the cost of printing a magazine—including paper, ink and postage prices—has steadily increased, especially during the pandemic, making it difficult to financially support a print edition. Being good stewards of the generous support given to the church is of the utmost importance to our team. While we will no longer print a magazine each month, the sharing and spreading of the good news continues every day.

By focusing on creating more online content and new channels for distribution, we will have more flexibility and options for how we tell the stories of this church. Storytelling will still be at the core of this work. We understand there are a lot of questions regarding your subscription, how the ELCA will reach readers who don't rely on the internet for information and how we will assist those who use *Living Lutheran* for church resources and group discussions. We are still working out answers to those questions and will provide them as soon as possible.

We are excited about what is ahead for the ministry of *Living Lutheran* and the future possibilities of reaching even more people about the great work people are doing in God's name.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



# OUR REAL AND *TRUEST* HOPE

By Elizabeth A. Eaton

There is a curse of unknown provenance that says, “May you live in interesting times.”

In November we celebrate Thanksgiving Day, counting our blessings and giving thanks for the bounty of the land. It’s a time for families to gather and renew the bonds between generations. It’s a holiday open to all people of faith and of none. Except for Native Americans, who observe the fourth Thursday in November as a National Day of Mourning. The arrival of European settlers and the story of hospitality at Plymouth didn’t result in peaceful coexistence but was another event in the long history of death, broken treaties and the systematic attempt to erase Native culture and religion.

Advent and Christmas come in December. It’s a time of hope and expectation. My stepmother-in-law once created a Christmas card featuring a photo of all the grandchildren over the caption “Christmas is for Children.” Yet this Christmas there will be hundreds of Israeli and Palestinian children already killed, and more in harm’s way. Armenian children, Sudanese children, Ukrainian children, children in our own communities and schools are caught in the violence and death that we grown-ups are unable to end.

We live in interesting times. Complex, fraught, deadly. Everything comes at us too fast and is too intense. At the same time, we go about doing all the unremarkable tasks of daily life. We go to work. Clean house and shovel the walk. We go to the grocery. We check emails. We pay bills. We keep on going. These seemingly quotidian things actually hold us together as we try to make sense of everything that is going on around us.

In her 1969 hit “Is That All There Is,” Peggy Lee presents a nihilistic view of life. Home, relationships, life—there’s nothing more to see. Move on. When she was a little girl, she watched her house burn down and reflected, “Is that all there is?” When she fell in love and that love was everything and the relationship ended, she reflected, “Is that all there is?” When she comes to the end of her life she reflects, “Is that all there is?”



These “interesting” times can push us into the same frame of mind. Juxtaposed with the relentless pressure to be merry, to sing “Joy to the World,” to proclaim and to hear proclaimed that the year of the Lord’s favor is at hand, we look at the world, at life and the death around us and might say, “What’s the point?”

Immanuel Kant, an 18th-century German philosopher, argued that the goal of humanity is to achieve perfect happiness and virtue. He believed that an afterlife must be assumed to exist in order for this to be possible, and that God must be presumed to exist to provide for this. In short, we will never get this done in our time or in our human struggles no matter how noble. But God, the Lord of infinite possibility, holds out a life and future of promise. We say no and put a dead stop to the limits of life in this world. God says yes and draws us beyond our imposed limits into God’s limitless realm of love and justice.

How has God made this known? How do we receive this? God does not shy away from our rebellion and the devastation that follows in its wake. God is not untouched by the murder of innocents throughout all the ages. Rachel weeping for her children. The massacre of the Innocents. The Shoa. Gun violence in Chicago and in communities and schools across the United States. Lord have mercy.

But here’s the thing—into this world that God so loves, into our rebellion that brings about unspeakable cruelty, into our casual unthinking actions that hurt others, God has chosen to be incarnate in Jesus. This is the incredible promise of Christmas and realized at Easter. This is not a god far off. This is God with us, a God who would die rather than lose a single one of us. A God who would go to hell and back to bring us back into God’s loving embrace.

This is our real and truest hope. †

A message from the ELCA presiding bishop. Her email address is [bishop@elca.org](mailto:bishop@elca.org).



Income/Expense Comparison by Category  
1/1/2023 thru 12/31/2023

Category

2023

**INCOME**

ACES INCOME

TOTAL ACES INCOME: Church Donation

ACES INCOME: Miscellaneous

TOTAL ACES INCOME

**TOTAL INCOME**

	10/1/2023	12/31/2023	7/1/2023	9/30/2023	4/1/2023	6/30/2023	1/1/2023	3/31/2023	12/31/2023	OTHER VOUCHERS	Cost of
	12/31/2023	9/30/2023	7/1/2023	9/30/2023	4/1/2023	6/30/2023	1/1/2023	3/31/2023	12/31/2023	1st Qrt.	Vouchers
	\$260.30	\$2,007.15	\$2,007.15	\$2,007.15	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,250.00	\$2,250.00	\$7,517.45	Nativity	4
	\$1,650.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$626.00	\$626.00	\$1,378.44	\$1,378.44	\$3,654.44	Goodwill	2
	\$1,910.30	\$2,007.15	\$2,007.15	\$2,007.15	\$3,626.00	\$3,626.00	\$3,628.44	\$3,628.44	\$11,171.89	Sal. Army	19
	<b>\$1,910.30</b>	<b>\$2,007.15</b>	<b>\$2,007.15</b>	<b>\$2,007.15</b>	<b>\$3,626.00</b>	<b>\$3,626.00</b>	<b>\$3,628.44</b>	<b>\$3,628.44</b>	<b>\$11,171.89</b>		

2nd Quarter 2023

**EXPENSES**

ACES EXPENSES

ACES EXPENSES: Cell phone

ACES EXPENSES: Office Supplies, P O Box, 501 C application

ACES EXPENSES: Appreciation Dinner

ACES EXPENSES: Annual Meeting

**TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES**

ACES EXPENSES: Client Check Requests

ACES EXPENSES: Client Check Request: Rent Payment

ACES EXPENSES: Client Check Request: Uhaul rental

ACES EXPENSES: Client Check Request: Trinity Christmas client

ACES EXPENSES: Client Check Request: Vehicle service repair/ins.

ACES EXPENSES: Client Check Request: pharmacy

ACES EXPENSES: Client Check Request: Diapers/Wipes

ACES EXPENSES: Client Check Request: Propane

ACES EXPENSES: Client Check Request: Window/snowplowing

ACES EXPENSES: Client Check Request: Water Heater/Well pump

ACES EXPENSES: Client Check Request: furniture

TOTAL ACES EXPENSES: CLIENT Check Requests

**ACES EXPENSES: VOUCHERS**

ACES EXPENSES: VOUCHERS: Taxi rides for MATH

ACES EXPENSES: VOUCHERS: Gas Vouchers

ACES EXPENSES: VOUCHERS: McDonalds Gift Cards

ACES EXPENSES: VOUCHERS: Aldi's gift cards

ACES EXPENSES: VOUCHERS: Bus transportation

TOTAL ACES EXPENSES: Vouchers

TOTAL ACES EXPENSES

	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$200.00	Nativity	8
	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$497.36	\$497.36	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$562.36	Goodwill	18
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Sal. Army	26
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	3rd Quarter 2023	
	<b>\$75.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$497.36</b>	<b>\$497.36</b>	<b>\$90.00</b>	<b>\$90.00</b>	<b>\$762.36</b>	Nativity	9
	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$700.00	Sal. Army	32
	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	Goodwill	18
	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$1,100.00	Sal. Army	26
	\$712.28	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$362.88	\$362.88	\$1,275.16	4th quarter 2023	
	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	Nativity	0
	\$0.00	\$128.87	\$128.87	\$128.87	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$52.94	\$52.94	\$181.81	Goodwill	32
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$316.50	\$316.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$316.50	Nativity	1
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$760.00	\$760.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$760.00	Goodwill	0
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	Sal. Army	13
	\$200.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$500.00	Sal. Army	13
	<b>\$1,212.28</b>	<b>\$1,608.87</b>	<b>\$1,608.87</b>	<b>\$1,608.87</b>	<b>\$1,596.50</b>	<b>\$1,596.50</b>	<b>\$765.82</b>	<b>\$765.82</b>	<b>\$5,183.47</b>		14

YTD 2023

	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Nativity	22
	\$375.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$375.00	Goodwill	20
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Sal. Army	90
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	Sal. Army	132
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
	<b>\$375.00</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$775.00</b>		
	<b>\$1,662.28</b>	<b>\$1,708.87</b>	<b>\$1,708.87</b>	<b>\$1,708.87</b>	<b>\$2,493.86</b>	<b>\$2,493.86</b>	<b>\$855.82</b>	<b>\$855.82</b>	<b>\$6,720.83</b>		

3rd quarter

calls 111

clients helped 111

4th quarter 118

calls 118

clients helped 118

clients helped 443

clients helped 443

**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 participating currently are, Calvary Baptist, Immanuel, Trinity, UCC, Nativity, Grace Foursquare, United Methodist and our newest church partner Saint Augustine.

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 of January 2023 ACES is now able to have the volunteers back and proceed with this wonderful ministry. Aces has purchased a smart phone for handling calls from clients. A new procedure has been written to handle clients per phone. It is so much easier to communicate with the clients and handle the calls. There will no longer be face to face contact. This new procedure is now being used.

This quarter the amount of WPS help has gone way down as starting in November the disconnects have stopped until April 2024. The need for rent has very much increased as there were more evictions given out. This ministry is so needed and so glad we can provide the needed help ACES does everything possible to not have a client go homeless.

This quarter ACES was able to help with a diapers, car repair, and furniture. Nativity vouchers were given out for help with furniture and clothing and any other need the client might have. Goodwill cards were depleted and will start again at the beginning of next year.. Salvation Army monies were used for rent so ACES money can be used for other various emergency needs.

This quarter ACES was blessed with special donations of \$1650.00. This community indeed does God's work.

We did receive 118 calls this quarter and 443 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 are interested in helping with this ministry please contact Dianne Syms or Mary Meek.

Thank you again for your continued support.  
Dianne Syms, ACES Treasurer

# Helping To Build A Hunger-Free Community



**RAFP**  
627 Coon Street  
Rhineland, WI

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.

Anyone interested in a “Daily Bread God Squad—Arresting Hunger One Tummy At A Time”, please email Darlene Machtan at [dmachtan@gmail.com](mailto:dmachtan@gmail.com). or text 715-384-5186. Include your name and size. The order will be placed February 15. Cost is covered by the Outreach budget, but donations are appreciated.

Darlene

If you would like to contribute food items, the most immediate needs are: Peanut Butter (regular & low sugar), Low sugar & sugar free jelly or jam, Pancake Mix & Syrup (regular & sugar free), Cooking Oil, Cereal, Oatmeal, Juice (regular & low sugar), Tomato Soup, Chicken Noodle Soup, Canned Meat, Shelf Stable Milk or Dry Milk, Ketchup, Mustard



## RAFP Spring Challenge

March 2024 through April 2024

Each Spring the Rhineland Area Food Pantry challenges local residents to contribute to the Annual RAFP Spring Challenge. All monetary donations and pledges will be matched at the 1% level by a generous donor. That means your donation gets an increase! To help during the RAFP Spring Challenge, monetary donations can be made through our website, mailed directly to the RAFP or to the Rhineland Area Food Pantry c/o BMO Harris Bank, 7 N. Brown Street, Rhineland, WI 54501. Donations of non-perishable food items can also be dropped off at the RAFP at 627 Coon Street from 9am to 12pm Monday through Friday.



## EQUITY CHALLENGE

*“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.” 1 Cor. 6:19-20.*

There is a bonding among people who have shared, common, traumatic experiences to their bodies. For children of alcoholics, there is the chaos, dishonesty, and physical and or emotional abuse of an out of control parent. For Indigenous People, there is forced migration from their land, the deprivation of means of survival, the eradication of language and religion in Indian Boarding Schools. For Black Americans, the cruelty of slavery, followed by cross burnings, terrorism, economic deprivation after the “Civil War”, legal and governmental exclusions from the opportunities given White Americans. Yet in all traumatized groups there are people of extraordinary talent and achievement, a cause for celebration, wonderment, gratitude, and honor. Since it is Black History Month, here are some of those people:

Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950), 4th of 7 children, a sharecropper and miner, became an education superintendent in the Philippines before receiving degrees from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. from Harvard. In 1926, he promoted the second week in February as Black History Week because that week included the birthdates of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The week became a month in 1976 by proclamation of Gerald Ford. Woodson said, “Even then schools for Negroes become places where they must be convinced of their inferiority.” <https://www.biography.com/scholars-educators/carter-g-woodson>

The formation of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) occurred in 1909 on the 100th anniversary of Lincoln’s birth following White violence against Blacks in Springfield, IL, Lincoln's birthplace. A mob of 5,000 killed two prominent Black leaders and caused the equivalent of over 51 million in today’s dollars to black business and property. The NAACP works for equity in the economy, education, the justice system, and the law. You can join at <https://naacp.org>.

Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993), grandson of an escaped slave, attended segregated public schools in Baltimore, graduated from Howard University Law School, became a lawyer for the NAACP, arguing and winning many cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, including *Brown v. The Board of Education of Topeka* that found state sanctioned support of segregated schools “inherently unequal” and therefore a violation of the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment. He became the first Black Justice of the Court. He said, “Democracy cannot flourish among fear. Liberty cannot bloom amid hate. Justice cannot take root among rage.”

Shirley Chisholm (1924-2005), first Black woman elected to the U.S. House in 1968, the first Black woman to seek a major party’s nomination for president, and author of her autobiography, *Unbossed and Unbound*. She fought for racial and gender equality, the plight of the poor, and the end of the Vietnam war. She said, “Be as bold as the first man or woman to eat an oyster.”

As God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are the only perfect parents, we have all received messages of “not good enough.” What ones resound in the privacy of your mind and heart? In his letter to Corinthians, Paul reminds that our bodies (heart, soul, and mind) are precious in God’s sight, that we need to see ourselves the way God does and treat ourselves and others accordingly. Groups traumatized by our culture atop parental flaws astound us by offering their gifts, talent, and achievements for the benefit of all of us. Thanks be to God!

Submitted by Susan Anderson

## Did you know?...

*“ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God with your body.”  
1 Corinthians 6: 19-20*

I have been heard to say: “Stewardship is everything.” Often this time of year we have made resolutions. Many of us resolve to get or improve our health. Well, taking care of our bodies and our health is stewardship. How can you serve if you don't take care of yourself?

I receive a lot of information from AARP. When we are young, strong and flexible, the last thing we care to think of is our health. However, as you get older, you realize how important your body is. Also, it is proven that taking care of your body improves the health of your brain. Exercise can ward off the onset of dementia. And you are never too young to start taking care of yourself.

We all know what to do. And we don't need to go crazy and change our lifestyles in ways that we can never sustain. We need to eat well, exercise, get enough sleep and challenge our brains. Strength, balance and flexibility are the keys to better aging. A person's joints tend to stiffen with age. Stretching daily can get those joints more flexible. Doing weight bearing exercises like yoga and pilates strengthens muscles as well as bones. This can ward off osteoporosis. Both stretching and weight bearing exercise improve balance. This can prevent falls. Getting enough rest is necessary to rebuild our muscles and rejuvenate our brains. Learn a new skill to challenge your mind. (I am trying to relearn how to play piano.)

There is a lot available on line to help get going on our “temples of the Holy Spirit.” Therefore, glorify God with your body. Take care of yourself!

### ...This is Stewardship!

By JoAnne Barrix

## Conference-Wide Youth Events

All events are free and open to 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders, youth leaders, and pastors. Pre-registration is encouraged by contacting the event leaders below to help ensure enough supplies. If you would like to lead a youth event in your Conference, please email Stefanie Ehle ([youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org))

### Sunday, February 4 – Menominee Valley Conference

All 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth looking to escape the winter doldrums are invited to join other Menominee Valley Conference youth at the Phoenix Theater Escape Rooms in Marinette on Sunday, February 4 at 2:30 p.m. After successful escapes, we will head over to Our Savior's Lutheran in Marinette for a dinner of walking tacos and games. Please RSVP to [youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org).

**Location:** Phoenix Theater Escape Rooms – 2727 Cahill Rd. Marinette, WI

**Time:** 2:30 p.m. CT

**Contact:** Stefanie Ehle, ([youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org))

### Sunday, February 11 – Superior Central Conference

Youth between 6<sup>th</sup>-12 grades are invited to a Super Bowl Party at Immanuel Lutheran in Negaunee. Join us from 6:00 p.m. until the game is over for food, fun, football, and fellowship! Please RSVP to [stacymc6@gmail.com](mailto:stacymc6@gmail.com).

**Location:** Immanuel Lutheran Church (520 US Highway 41 E, Negaunee, MI)

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Eastern

**Contact:** Stacy McEachern, [stacymc6@gmail.com](mailto:stacymc6@gmail.com)

**Be sure to connect with NGLS Youth Ministry online to receive the latest updates!**



# 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 WISH LIST

Postage Stamps – Standard First-Class Letter

Laundry Detergent

Dryer Sheets

Dishwasher Detergent

13 Gallon Garbage Bags

30 Gallon Garbage Bags

Toilet Bowl Cleaner

All Purpose Cleaner

Window Cleaner

Comet

Bleach

Wash Cloths

Swiffer Wet Pads

Disposable Gloves-All Sizes

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

## NATH MEALS

Our ministry groups have been providing the monthly NATH (Northwoods Alliance for Temporary Housing) meals and this has been working well.

Please consider signing your group up to provide a meal in 2024!

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

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 7:00 pm. at First Methodist Church, Rhinelander. Northern Lakes Center located in Trinity Lutheran Church, Rhinelander.

**OUR HOURS ARE MONDAY TO FRIDAY 11:00 am TO 3:00 pm.**

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





# February 2024

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
				10:30 am—Noon <b>MEMORY CAFÉ</b>	8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group  7:00 pm AA	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:00 am <b>Worship Communion</b>  Followed by <b>Congregational Meeting regarding copier purchase</b>  Worship Leader: Rev. John Kuziej  10:00 am Faith Explorers	7:00 pm AA & Al-Anon	<b>OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON</b>  <b>PASTOR JOHN OFFICE HOURS 10:00 am—NOON</b>  8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group	1:00 pm—3:00 pm Quilting	<b>OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON</b>	8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group  7:00 pm AA	8:45 am—11:30 am Food Pantry
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:00 am <b>Worship</b>  Worship Leader: Matthew Johnson  10:00 am Faith Explorers	7:00 pm AA & Al-Anon  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"><b>Newsletter Articles Due!!!</b></div>	<b>OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON</b>  <b>PASTOR JOHN Milestone Nursing Home Service</b>  8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group  5:00 pm Stewardship	10:00 am <b>WELCA Bible Study (2nd Wednesday of the month)</b>  1:00 pm—3:00 pm Quilting  5:00 pm Council  6:00 pm Spaghetti Dinner Youth Fundraiser  7:00 pm <b>ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP with First Congregational AT Immanuel</b>	<b>OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON</b>	8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group  7:00 pm AA	<b>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</b>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:00 am <b>Worship Communion</b>  Worship Leader: Rev. Paul Heykes  10:00 am Faith Explorers	7:00 pm AA & Al-Anon	<b>OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON</b>  <b>PASTOR JOHN Friendly Village Nursing Home Service</b>  8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group	1:00 pm—3:00 pm Quilting  4:30 pm Meal @ Frederick Place  6pm Soup Supper 7pm <b>LENTEN SERVICE</b>	<b>OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON</b>	8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group  7:00 pm AA	
25	26	27	28	29		
9:00 am <b>Worship</b>  Worship Leader: Rev. John Kuziej  10:00 am Faith Explorers	7:00 pm AA & Al-Anon	<b>OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON</b>  <b>PASTOR JOHN Rennes Nursing Home Service</b>  8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group	1:00 pm—3:00 pm Quilting  6pm Soup Supper 7pm <b>LENTEN SERVICE</b>			

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

December 2023

### GENERAL FUND:

Beginning Balance	\$85,465.71
Offerings	\$19,314.05
\$1,557.60 moved to building fund	
Expenses	(\$ 9,212.57)
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$95,567.19</b>

### BENEVOLENCE:

December Offering	\$ 2,627.79
2023 Pledge	\$19,000.00
YTD Remittance	\$19,248.35

### BUILDING FUND:

Beginning Balance	\$31,332.84
Offerings	\$ 1,557.60
Expenses	\$ 0.00
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$32,890.44</b>

**INCOME exceeded the  
EXPENSES by \$10,101.48.**

### December Attendance:

		In-person	Online	Total
12/03		48	46	94
12/10		56	95	151
12/17		50	54	104
12/24		40	30	70
Christmas Eve				
12/24	4:30 pm	95	149	244
12/31		27	53	80

Our average worship attendance for the  
month of December was 100.



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

<b>2/3</b>	Bill & Sheri Mattson
<b>2/24</b>	Bill & Kathy Maule
<b>2/25</b>	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

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**Join us for  
in-person worship  
Sundays at 9:00 am  
All are Welcome!**

**Or join online**

- 1) Through YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYfWH9caWNuzOxf9T9JgecQ> (or search Immanuel Rhineland) on YouTube.
- 2) Through our website: [www.immanuelrhineland.org/worship](http://www.immanuelrhineland.org/worship) (you'll also find the bulletin and lessons here).
- 3) Through our phone app. Just click on the "worship" button at the bottom of the screen.

The live stream will begin at about 8:55.