

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church



February 2025

Page 2,3—Message from Interim Pastor
John Kuziej

Page 3,4—Message from Bishop Finegan

Page 5—Thank you's, Sympathies

Page 6, 7—Council Minutes

Page 7—NATH Wish List

Page 8,9—ACES Reports

Page 9—FLLC Summer Camp Schedule

Page 10—RAFP

Page 11—Equity Challenge

Page 12—This is Stewardship!
FLLC Retreats

Page 13—NATH Notes, NAMI

Page 14—Calendar

Page 15—Birthdays, Financial Summary,
Attendance, Anniversaries

Rev. John Kuziej - Interim Pastor

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Member of the ELCA Churchwide elca.org &
the Northern Great Lakes Synod nglsynod.org



Visit us on our Website @
Immanuelrhinelander.org

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

Message from Interim Pastor John Kuziej

As I was driving down Stevens Street, I saw a radar display that recorded your speed. This was a residential part of town with a speed limit of 25 miles per hour. I wonder how many people obey that limit. I was not, slightly over the speed limit by 5 miles per hour. The radar display commanded me to “slow down” in red lights. I obeyed the command and quickly dropped my speed to 25 miles per hour. Then the radar displayed “Thank You” with green lights. This is an upgrade from older traffic monitors that just posted your speed. Now, we are given a word of gratitude when we obey the law. I think that is the neatest thing. I look forward to driving past that speed monitor making sure I slow down and see the words ‘thank you’. I know what you are thinking, I need to get out more.

There are other lessons here besides driving safely in the city. We need to slow down when we are surpassing limits that may hurt our well-being and faith. I must preach to myself here. I have good intentions about morning devotions. Every year I order a wonderful resource, *“Bread for the Day, Daily Bible Readings and Prayers.”* Each day I have a Scripture text. Two additional readings are suggested. There is a hymn from either *“Evangelical Lutheran Worship”* or *“All Creation Sings”*. Then a prayer is provided. I do have hymnals at home so I can sing the hymn. If I don’t know the tune, I can make one up or just say the words. (When I sing, I have yet caused my dog to howl in protest). What really is fun is to go on You Tube and connect with the music minister at Halifax Lutheran Church. He has a wide repertoire of hymns he sings karaoke style. But I notice I am not slowing down. It all started not long after the new year. I began to skip the additional scripture readings. I did not bother with the hymn. I went from major Bible reading and then the prayer. I have even skipped a couple of days. My faith radar is telling me to “Slow Down”. Read the extra Bible texts, and do not skip the suggested hymn. Some hymns are just fun, and you enjoy ‘rock-n-rolling with them. Other hymns have thoughtful lyrics of excellent theology. When I slow down and take the time, my faith is nurtured and says, ‘Thank you’. You have your own devotional traditions. Be careful and do not rush into your day and speed over them. Your spirit will thank-you. Speaking of your spirit, we have the gift and promise of the Holy Spirit who uses the Word of God to speak to us reminding us that we are not to be ruled by fear but live under the Gospel as ever beloved children of God. Our baptisms have made this clear. Here is something else we all can do daily: when you wash your face in the morning, may the refreshing water remind you of the refreshing grace of baptism: forgiveness of sins, and life together with Jesus Christ.

I think we live in a culture that encourages us to speed through life without respecting God given limits of our humanity. We may fear the opinions of others and become enslaved to the worry of what others are thinking. Some fear God is about ready to give us a poor or even failing grade on how we are living out our faith. So, we try to do more to please God, hoping to be judged a ‘good Christian’. We need to apply the brakes, slow down, and remind ourselves that we are created in the image of God. The psalmist wrote that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. This does not mean we are free from sin. It may seem quaint and archaic to confess we are sinners. But when we slow down and make that honest confession we are redeemed (set free). We admit there is no need to hide our faults. We are assured of the forgiveness of all sins through Jesus Christ. We are honest with ourselves, and honest with God, we need help for each day.

We need grace to help in time of need. God knows our need even before we pray. We need help to live the life God intends. The Bible calls this “newness of life”; life lived with gratitude for salvation as a gift, and the love of God being beyond measure, and the peace of God, meaning the presence of God which surpasses all understanding. There is a lot I do not understand. But may we have the insight to see Jesus, with us and for us, guiding us by his love so we love one another.

I used to think I was too rushed to remember the birthdays of loved ones. I knew the dates but never bothered to send a card. But now I take the time. I send cards with a simple signature of “love, John.” I send gift cards-Subway for the sandwich eaters, Barnes and Noble for the bookworms, Target for the shoppers. And guess what? I get mail! I get cards with words of ‘love’ and ‘thank-you’. Living the newness of life in Christ is more than “stop and smell the roses”. It is to slow down and rejoice we are God’s precious own, loved eternally. This grace is to guide us to be gracious, to show empathy and encouragement for others. There is nothing more heartwarming than to hear a heartfelt “thank you”.

Message from Bishop Katherine Finegan

“So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.”

~Galatians 6:9-10

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

Grace and peace to you in this new year of our Lord 2025. I remember as a senior in high school, we were asked to write an essay describing ourselves ten years in the future. I imagined myself as a single woman working as an English teacher, living in some small town in Wisconsin or Minnesota.



My real life-ten years out of high school-looked very different. By then I had moved away from any aspirations that involved teaching high school English. I was living in East St. Paul and going to seminary while serving as a Youth Director at a church. I was married, with a new baby, and considering where a seminary education might lead.

My high school essay was not meant to be a future plan or an exercise in goal setting. I was not striving to make what I had imagined into a reality. However, considering that my real life unfolded so differently than my imaginings makes me wonder about our imaginings, and even our future goal setting, as a church.

I think it used to be that the church of my youth thought that church was always going to be the way we were experiencing church then. Church councils developed five, ten, even twenty year plans with no imaginings that culture would shift, that worship attendance would decline, that the classroom and fellowship additions to their buildings would not always be full of Sunday school children and adults in Bible study.

We know better now. Our current reality is not something we imagined. Plans and goals are well and good, but I think we have learned that being able to adapt to what is, rather than holding out hope for what was, is a far more realistic approach to the changes we are experiencing.

The emerging model for some of our congregations is Lay-led and Pastor-supported ministry. Effective adaptation would then include:



- Equipping lay people, not only for ministry, but for leadership. This includes education, support, and accountability.
- Encouraging attendance at Lay School. Both the East Central Wisconsin Synod and the Northwest Wisconsin Synod offer in-person and online education opportunities. In addition, Faith+Lead through Luther Seminary and our ecumenical partners. NGLS scholarship funds are available.
- Some adjustment of congregational expectations. In many of our congregations, small teams of people are being trained to bring communion to shut-ins, offer hospital visits, provide crisis care, lead Bible studies, and more. What was considered the sole realm of the pastor is being shared among the priesthood of all believers, that is, people willing to contribute in new ways.



As our three-year theme of Seed Sowers continues, we focus this year on “Apollos watered.” We not only water seeds of faith in people, but we water talent for ministry, nurturing spiritual gifts that give glory to God and further the work of Christ.

And as so often happens when the Spirit gets involved, we find ourselves doing something we never thought we would do, beyond our previous imaginings. From reading the lessons in worship to preaching, from having conversations of faith

to leading Bible Study, from greeting someone at church to holding their hand before surgery, God is at work in you, and through you, the Spirit moves in your congregation, and through your congregation, God is present in your community and the world.

I pray God’s blessings upon your efforts as together we meet the challenges of our time and adapt to being Church for the future.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan



From Northern Light Newsletter
Volume 37, Issue 1 | January-February 2025

Save the Date!

The Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly will be held Thursday-Saturday, **May 15-17, 2025**. Opening worship will take place at Bethel Lutheran Church in Ishpeming, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday sessions will be held at Northern Michigan University in Marquette. Congregations are encouraged to elect their voting members to Synod Assembly at their Annual Meeting.

Donate your old eyeglasses, sunglasses and more!

Immanuel has decided to do an eyeglasses, sunglasses, cellphone, hearing aids and tablets ministry. Please drop off any of these items in the Lion's containers as provided. Thank you for this consideration. Any questions please contact Dianne Syms.



Thank You for Serving

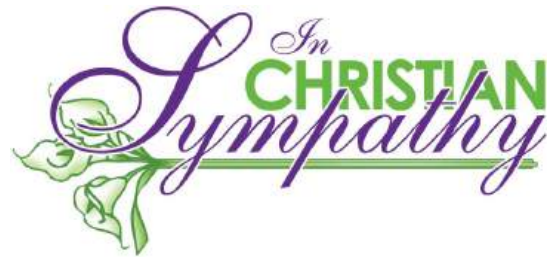
Thank you to our members who mowed our lawn this past summer and for everyone who participated in our fall clean-up. Thank you to Debbi Rinka for decorating inside and out and to Kathy Maule and our Garden & Grounds Committee for beautifying our grounds.

Thank you to Joanne O'Brien for updating our church news bulletin board.

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!)



Ronald J. Palm, age 87, of Homosassa, Florida, died on October 25, 2024 after a long battle with dementia. Ron was a lifelong member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church. His best years were under the guidance of Pastor Norm Petersen. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers or gifts, please donate to the Alzheimer's Association. Cards of condolence may be sent to his wife, Ruth, at: 7005 W. Duncan Lane, Homosassa, FL 34446.



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

OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday &
Thursday
9:00 am-NOON



THE TUESDAY MORNING CREW MEETS EVERY TUESDAY MORNING TO PERFORM ODD JOBS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN OUR CHURCH. PLEASE REACH OUT TO JOHN PLAUTZ IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP! 715-367-3762
jeplautz@hotmail.com

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Meeting Minutes December 11th, 2024

Council Members Present: President – JoAnne Barrix, Vice-President – Glenn Johnson, Secretary – Kristine Mladucky, Mary Wolf, Darlene Machtan, Christy Dellenbach, Linda Kau, Tina Schmitz, Pastor John Kuziej, Charlie Strong & John Plautz

Absent: Bill Anderson and Richard Laddusire

Opening JoAnne Barrix opened the hybrid meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Devotion Christy

Action – Motion/Seconded/Carried... Approved the Council Meeting minutes from November 13th, 2024. Unanimous.

Pastor's Report:

- Starting the first Tuesday in January 2025 will add leading worship at Grace Lodge.

Long-Term Items:

- Worship: Discuss effectiveness and quality (3x/year).
- Seek full participation of members in Disciple-Making, Witnessing, and Caring Ministries (4x/year). Time & Talent has been collated.
- Discuss, manage and protect property (2x/year). See below under Facilities Update.

Short-Term Items:

Old Business:

- Facilities Update:
 - Lights in Band area will be fixed on Tuesday
 - Discovered we do not have a Knox Box (small mounted key safe that holds building keys emergency services to retrieve in emergency situations). John P. will remedy.
 - Contacted the fire department and Jim Plautz agreed to do Safety training. Will set up training early next year after the new council is in place. Will video and require all council and ushers to take part in. This training will then be in place for a once-a-year requirement.
 - Met with the city regarding the Timber Drive sidewalk. They have agreed to help us out with snow removal using their bobcat on Timber Drive.
 - Need snow shovelers for March...filled by the Mladucky's.
- Call Committee Update: November renewed our profile which has been posted for 3 years. We ask to remain hopeful, with patience and trust in our Lord. Please continue prayers.
- 2025 Budget: Similar to last year. **Action – Motion/Seconded/Carried...** Approved 2.6% cost of living increase for staff. Unanimous.
- Annual Congregational Meeting will be January 26th, 2025. PLEASE NOTE: Kari needs reports from committees the 1st week of January.
- New Council Members have been suggested.

New Business:

- Benevolence Giving for 2025 will continue to be budgeted as \$19,000 (more than 10%) and is projected to come in above for 2024.

Comments/Discussion/Committee Actions:

- Interior painting needed. Contact John P. if interested in helping out!

Open/Close/Devotions

January – Linda (O/C/D)
 February – Kristine (O/C/D)
 March – Glen (O/C/D)

NATH Meals

December – Christmas Day – Not needed
 January – Council:
 Mary, Lasagna
 Tina, Dessert
 Kristine, Salad
 Linda, Bread
 Charlie, Milk
 February – Confirmation & Youth?
 March - OPEN

Closing Prayer: Ps 143:8

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Kristine Mladucky, Council Secretary



The poster features a central illustration of a diverse group of people holding hearts, with the text 'NATH FREDERICK PLACE WISH LIST' arched over them. Below the illustration is a list of items needed for a homeless shelter, including postage stamps, cab cards, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, copy paper, dishwasher detergent, AAA batteries, kitchen size trash liners, toilet bowl cleaner, all purpose cleaner, disposable gloves, ziplock bags, paper towels, and toilet tissue. A call to action box provides information on how to donate online. The poster also includes a QR code, a 'DONATE HERE' logo, and contact information for Nath North Woods.

Homeless Shelter Needs

- Postage Stamps
- Cab Cards
- Laundry Detergent
- Dryer Sheets
- Copy Paper
- Dishwasher Detergent
- AAA Batteries
- Kitchen Size Trash Liners
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- All Purpose Cleaner
- Disposable Gloves
- Ziplock Bags - All Sizes
- Paper Towel
- Toilet Tissue

Did You Know?
 Order Online &
 Have Shipped
 Straight to
 Frederick Place!
 204 W. Frederick
 Place
 Rhinelander, Wis
 54501

Thank you

 **DONATE HERE**  www.nathnorthwoods.com
nathnorthwoods@gmail.com
 715-369-9777

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 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 or more weeks. After the 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.

For the 4th quarter of 2024 ACES and SA funds were used for many different needs. The need for rental assistance just seems to be getting more in demand. Unfortunately it also seems there is not enough affordable housing in Rhinelander so it has become difficult for our clients. Disconnects stopped in November until April 2025 so this need did decrease this quarter. Homelessness just seems more and more prevalent and there aren't any motels that will work with Salvation Army in Rhinelander so this has been a sad burden. Unfortunately other clients have ruined the privilege for others.

This quarter ACES money was able to help with car repair and diapers and wipes and a water bill. One client also had a recovery stay at Koinonia so ACES helped him get in the facility. Nativity vouchers were given out for help with furniture and clothing and any other needs the client might have. Goodwill cards were also given out especially for families with many children. This is such a nice gift from Goodwill each year. This year we were able to give out 71 gift cards.

This quarter ACES was blessed with a special donation from Ruby's Pantry along with a reimbursement from Salvation Army as the fiscal funding transition took place. This ministry continues to be so important to this community.

We did receive 136 calls this quarter and 454 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 this ministry please contact either Mary Meek or me.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Dianne Syms, ACES Treasurer

Income/Expense Comparison by Category

1/1/2024 thru 12/31/2024

Category

Category	10/1/2024	7/1/2024	4/1/2024	1/1/2024	YTD THRU	2024		Cost of
	12/31/2024	9/30/2024	6/30/2024	3/31/2024	12/31/2024	OTHER VOUCHERS	Vouchers	
INCOME								
ACES INCOME								
TOTAL ACES INCOME: Church Donation	\$0.00	\$2,080.50	\$4,000.00	\$1,250.00	\$7,330.50	Goodwill	0	\$0.00
ACES INCOME: Miscellaneous including SA reimbursement	\$3,800.00	\$17.44	\$764.71	\$178.00	\$4,760.15	Sal. Army	19	\$5,677.00
TOTAL ACES INCOME	\$3,800.00	\$2,097.94	\$4,764.71	\$1,428.00	\$12,090.65			
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,800.00	\$2,097.94	\$4,764.71	\$1,428.00	\$12,090.65			
EXPENSES								
ACES EXPENSES								
ACES EXPENSES: Cell phone	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$300.00	Sal. Army	35	\$9,228.15
ACES EXPENSES: Office Supplies, P O Box, 501 C application	\$43.80	\$0.00	\$272.80	\$0.00	\$316.60			
ACES EXPENSES: 990 N Filing, 501C annual report fee	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$75.00	3rd Quarter 2024		
ACES EXPENSES: Annual Meeting	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$69.72	\$0.00	\$69.72	Nativity	7	\$350.00
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	\$118.80	\$100.00	\$417.52	\$125.00	\$761.32	Goodwill	40	\$1,000.00
ACES EXPENSES: Client Check Requests						Sal. Army	21	\$6,031.00
ACES EXPENSES: Client Check Request: Rent Payment	\$0.00	\$6,100.00	\$300.00	\$850.00	\$7,250.00			
ACES EXPENSES: Client Check Requests: insulation for a truck	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$28.46	\$28.46	4th quarter 2024		
ACES EXPENSES: Client Check Requests: water bill/utility	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$500.00			
ACES EXPENSES: Client Check Requests: NATH Taxi Donations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Nativity	5	\$250.00
ACES EXPENSES: Client Check Requests: Special Approval SA gas	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	Goodwill	17	\$425.00
ACES EXPENSES: Client Check Requests: Vehicle service repair/ins.	\$895.56	\$193.95	\$500.00	\$160.00	\$1,749.51	Sal. Army	44	\$15,831.56
ACES EXPENSES: Client Check Requests: pharmacy	\$0.00	\$97.89	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$117.89			
ACES EXPENSES: Client Check Requests: special fee Koinonia recovery	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00			
ACES EXPENSES: Client Check Requests: Diapers/Wipes	\$186.49	\$268.33	\$76.74	\$61.63	\$593.19			
ACES EXPENSES: Client Check Requests: Propane	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$307.95	\$307.95			
ACES EXPENSES: Client Check Requests: frontier phone/internet	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$360.13	\$360.13			
ACES EXPENSES: Client Check Requests: Water Heater/Well pump	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$943.39	\$0.00	\$1,543.39			
ACES EXPENSES: Client Check Requests: furniture/refrigerator	\$0.00	\$167.30	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$267.30			
TOTAL ACES EXPENSES: CLIENT Check Requests	\$1,432.05	\$7,627.47	\$2,040.13	\$2,868.17	\$13,967.82			
ACES EXPENSES: VOUCHERS								
ACES EXPENSES: VOUCHERS: Taxi rides for NATH	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Nativity	21	\$1,050.00
ACES EXPENSES: VOUCHERS: Gas Vouchers	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	Goodwill	71	\$1,775.00
ACES EXPENSES: VOUCHERS: McDonalds Gift Cards	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Sal. Army	119	\$36,767.71
ACES EXPENSES: VOUCHERS: Aldi's gift cards	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00		211	\$39,592.71
ACES EXPENSES: VOUCHERS: Bus transportation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
TOTAL ACES EXPENSES: Vouchers	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00			
TOTAL ACES EXPENSES	\$1,550.85	\$8,127.47	\$2,457.65	\$2,993.17	\$15,129.14			
1st quarter								
calls		86						
clients helped		86						
2nd quarter								
calls		120						
clients helped		120						
3rd quarter								
calls				112				
clients helped				112				
4th quarter								
calls				136		ytd	454	
clients helped				136		helped	454	



FORTUNE LAKE LUTHERAN CAMP

WEEK	DATES	CAMP PROGRAM & ACE/GRADE COMPLETED	COST
Week 1	June 8-13	Victory Camp (Adult 18+ with disabilities)	\$645
Week 2	June 15-20	Intergenerational Week (all ages) Treehouse Adventures (Grades 7-12)	See website \$490
Week 3	June 22-27	High School Week (Grades 9-12) LIT Training Week (Grades 10-12)	\$490
Week 4	June 29-July 2	All Staff Reunion 3-night Event (with Special 1-day Event June 29!)	See website
Week 5	July 6-11	Villager (Grades 3-4) Vagabond (Grades 5-6) Venturer (Grades 7-8) LIT #1 Option (*No charge)	\$460
	July 13-15	Mighty Ones (Grades 1-2)	\$230
Week 6	July 13-16	Mini Camp (Grades 2-3) MashUp (Grades 4-8)	\$320
	July 13-18	Villager (Grades 3-4) Vagabond (Grades 5-6) LIT #2 Option (*No charge)	\$460
	July 20-25	LEGO® Camp (Grades 3-9) Jr High Night Owl (Grades 6-8) Art Camp (Grades 3-9) Dungeons & Dragons Camp (Grades 6-9)	\$460 \$490
Week 7	July 21-24	LIT #3 Option (*No charge) Onsite Day Camp (Grades K-5)	\$135
	July 27-Aug 1	Intergenerational Week (all ages) Vagabond (Grades 5-6) LIT #4 Option (*No charge)	See website \$460
Week 8	July 28-31	Onsite Day Camp (Grades K-5)	\$135
	July 29-Aug 1	Intergenerational Half Week (all ages)	See website
Week 9	August 4-7	Evergreen Camp (ages 55+)	See website

Scholarships Available

Everybody is welcome at camp regardless of ability to pay!

More info at FortuneLake.org

Registration for Summer Camp 2025 at Fortune Lake is now open!

This year's theme: "God's Word Comes Near" is based on Romans 10:8. With our traditional Youth Camps, Victory camp, Intergenerational Camps, and the return of Evergreen Camp for adults age 55+, there's something for everyone!

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

Helping To Build A Hunger-Free Community



RAFP

627 Coon Street
Rhineland, WI

Thank you to our January Food Pantry crew for sharing the love of Christ through serving! Volunteering is a great way to show the love of Christ to those in our community. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Darlene Machtan. Immanuel volunteers the 2nd Saturday of each month from 8:45 am—11:30 am.



5200 pounds of food served!

EQUITY CHALLENGE

BRIDGING THE GAP

When the framers of the Constitution worked to form "a more perfect union," Northern states were far more populous than Southern ones. As only white, male landowners had voting rights, the authors devised a "compromise". In determining the population, slaves would be used to address the population imbalance by counting each slave as 3/5 of a person. While many did not believe slavery and oppression were acceptable, the compromise allowed the states to form the United States. It also cemented an inferior status into the fabric of our nation.

After other compromises failed to look at the morality of slavery, the nation erupted in a Civil War. The Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendments abolished slavery and specified that all those born here were citizens whose privileges and right to life, liberty, and property could not be abridged without due process and the equal protection of the law. After a period of Black participation in governing, there followed the Jim Crow era, a time of lynchings and intimidation against Black Americans. Southern Blacks then moved to northern states where they faced segregation and discrimination in work, housing, travel, property ownership, travel, election to office, churches, and all facets of life.

While slavery itself is not an issue now, yet how we, as Black and White Americans, relate to each other continues to create uneasiness. Although there have been strides in creating harmonious relationships, the polarization of our culture is clear. Can we continue on this path and survive as a nation?

God spoke to the issue of separation in becoming incarnate in Jesus, sending him to reconcile us to God, each other, and ourselves. Through Jesus, God said "...when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go; first be reconciled to brother and sister, and then come and offer your gift." Matthew 5:23-24. He did not label differences bad; he assumed that, being human, there would be a variety of views, divisions, and conflict.

In Matthew 19:16-26, Jesus tells the rich young ruler to sell all that he has and give it to the poor. Like him, we have a choice to follow the way of Jesus to understand each other, reconcile differences, and come together to respectfully begin the process of reconciliation with our neighbors, our selves, and the God whom we serve and who serves us. Or we can walk away in sadness like the rich young man, ignoring what separates us. If there are those reading this who are willing to gather together to forge the future together, contact Susan Anderson at 715-401-9705 or at woodrow1640@gmail.com.

May the peace of the Lord always be with you.

Submitted by Susan Anderson

Did You Know?...

February marks my last month as Immanuel's Council President. The last two years have been very busy for our congregation. First, my entire time as President, has been without the leadership of a full-time called Pastor. I thank Pastor John for his guidance and leadership in our time of transition. He has made sure that we have an accomplished worship leader for every service and I especially am thankful that he leads our services at the assisted living facilities. In the new year, he will have services almost every Tuesday morning. His messages, be they for young or old, are always inspiring.

I would also like to thank our congregation for generously stepping up with giving. We had a terrible leak in our roof that damaged the gathering room ceiling. Repair of the roof was accomplished last fall. We were able to pay for a nearly \$70,000 repair from funds that we already had. We also had to purchase a new copier (about \$5,000) and had better, safer LED lighting (about \$5,000) installed on the exterior of our building. We will be repairing the gathering room ceiling soon. We ended the year in the black even after having so many expenses.

When I started my term as President, we were just coming out of the COVID pandemic. I am thankful for all of you that have been able to come back to church for in-person worship. I hope many of you agree that there is something holy about being together in this space. Oh, don't get me wrong. There is still plenty of room in the pews on Sunday mornings and we always have blank spaces on our sign-up sheets for ushers, greeters, readers and so forth, but I have faith that we can return to pre-COVID worship numbers.

Finally, a special thanks to our Council and Committees. Immanuel has not missed a beat when it comes to our many ministries. Our children and youth are still being educated. Our neighbors are still being fed. Our quilting and Warm for Winter ministries are keeping people warm. Our building is being taken care of and our fellowship times are enjoyed. God always provides. (And I am sure our very special person for our new Pastor will also be provided.) Blessings to you all.

....This is Stewardship!

By JoAnne Barrix



Sacred Waters Youth Retreat

All current 3-6 graders and their parents/adult leaders are invited to camp for our Sacred Waters Youth Retreat. This one-night retreat includes camp favorites like songs and games, campfire, worship, Bible Studies, and more! Our theme, Sacred Waters, centers around Holy Baptism. Our hope is that all participants, regardless of prior knowledge, come away with a better understanding of this radical promise.

In The Body Jr/Sr High Retreat

This retreat is open to all current 7-12 graders and their parents/adult leaders and will take place at Fortune Lake April 11-12. Rachel Kurtz will lead Bible Studies for the youth as well as provide an adult training session on Saturday morning. Our theme, In The Body, will speak to being present in our own bodies as well as how we show up within the Body of Christ. The weekend will conclude with a concert open to the public on April 12th. We hope to see you there!





NATH - Frederick Place

Northwoods Alliance for Temporary Housing

"I was a stranger and you invited me in..." – Matthew 25:35 NIV

NATH is committed to ending and preventing homelessness. This corporation exists to provide safe housing and basic needs to families and individuals who are experiencing homelessness.

NATH MEALS

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

Please consider signing your group up to provide a meal in 2025!

To volunteer, please sign-up on the sheet in the narthex or you can call Sue Larsen at 715-362-2544.

Thank you for your cooperation in this ministry!

NAMI Northern Lakes

NAMI Northern Lakes is a group of Northwoods volunteers that provides support, education and advocacy in Forest, Vilas and Oneida Counties, on behalf of individuals and families affected by mental illness. All NAMI programs are free. Donations are welcome.

Don't suffer in silence. We can help each other, with compassion and knowledge.

24/7 Free Crisis Counselors

Text "HOPELINE" to 741741

A Kind Voice

1-800-876-2399

10 am to 11 pm every day.

Iris Place

1-920-815-3217

24/7

Mental Health Crisis Line

988

Warm Line

1-414-777-4729

7 pm to 11 pm Wed.-Mon.

Solstice Warm Line

1-608-244-5077

24/7



National Alliance on Mental Illness

February 2025

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:00 am Worship Communion Worship Leader: Rev. John Kuziej Faith Explorers	7:00 pm AA & Al-Anon	OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON 10:00 am PASTOR JOHN Grace Lodge Nursing Home Service	1:00 pm— 3:00 pm Quilting 6:00 pm Confirmation	OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON 10:30 Memory Café	8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group 7:00 pm AA	8:45 am— 11:30 am Food Pantry
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:00 am Worship Worship Leader: Nancy Heykes Faith Explorers	7:00 pm AA & Al-Anon	OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON 10:00 am PASTOR JOHN Milestone Nursing Home Service 5pm Stewardship Meeting	1:00 pm— 3:00 pm Quilting 10:00 am WELCA Bible Study (2nd Wednesday of the month) 6pm Council Meeting	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Newsletter Articles Due!!! </div>	8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group 7:00 pm AA	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:00 am Worship Communion Worship Leader: Rev. Paul Heykes Faith Explorers	7:00 pm AA & Al-Anon	OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON 10:00 am PASTOR JOHN Friendly Village Nursing Home Service 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study & Dinner Call Sheree for location 715-360-3176	1:00 pm— 3:00 pm Quilting 6:00 pm Confirmation	OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON	8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group 7:00 pm AA	
23	24	25	26	27	28	
9:00 am Worship Worship Leader: Rev. John Kuziej Faith Explorers	7:00 pm AA & Al-Anon	OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON 10:00 am PASTOR JOHN Rennes Nursing Home Service	1:00 pm— 3:00 pm Quilting 4:30 pm Meal @ Frederick Place	OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON	8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group 7:00 pm AA	THE TUESDAY MORNING CREW MEETS EVERY TUESDAY TO DO ODD JOBS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN OUR CHURCH. PLEASE REACH OUT TO JOHN PLAUTZ IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP! 715-367-3762 jeplautz@hotmail.com

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

December 2024

GENERAL FUND:

Beginning Balance	\$65,191.81
Offerings	\$15,953.55
\$1,290.60 is moved to Building Fund	
Expenses	(\$ 8,762.12)
Ending Balance	\$72,383.24

BENEVOLENCE:

December Offering	\$ 1,566.29
2024 Pledge	\$19,000.00
YTD Remittance	\$18,690.79

BUILDING FUND:

Beginning Balance	\$20,021.26
Offerings	\$ 1,290.60
Expenses	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$21,311.86

The INCOME exceeded the
EXPENSES by \$7,191.43
this month.

CD=\$60,000.00

October 2024 Attendance:

	In-person	Online	Total
10/06	35	49	84
10/13	33	43	76
10/20	40	31	71
10/27	60	36	96

Our average worship attendance for the
month of October was 82.

November 2024 Attendance:

	In-person	Online	Total
11/03	46	28	74
11/10	48	43	91
11/17	40	40	80
11/24	21	35	56

Our average worship attendance for the
month of November was 75.



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	Jacob Wilmot	2/28	Tucker Kral
2/12	Crystal Barnard	2/28	Anita Snyder

2/3	Bill & Sheri Mattson
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 9:00 am or join online. All Are Welcome!

1) Through YouTube:

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

2) Through our website:

www.immanuelrhineland.org/worship
(you'll also find the bulletin and lessons here).

3) Through our phone app.

Just click on the "worship" button at the bottom of the screen.

The live stream will begin at about 8:55 a.m.