



Advent Services

this December will be centered on the four Solas of the Reformation. Services are held at 4:15 & 6 pm.



Dec. 6th: *Sola Scriptura* will be based on Matthew 1:22-23 and the promise of a son called Immanuel "According to God's Word" promised in Isaiah.



Dec. 13th: *Sola Gratia* will be based on Luke 1:5-25 and the story of Elizabeth's womb opened "Only by God's Grace".

Dec. 20th: *Sola Fide* will be based on Luke 1:26-38 and Mary's statement of faith "May It Be Unto Me as You Have Said."



Dec. 24th (evening): *Solus Christus* will be based on Luke 2:1-20 and the announcement to the Shepherds: "For unto you is born this day a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord!" (Candlelight Service)



Advent Meals will be served by LSF, LWML, and LYF, beginning at 5:00 and hopefully lasting until 5:45 pm each Wednesday of Advent.

Additional December Service info

December 24th (morning): "Service of Nine Lessons and Carols". This is a service without Holy Communion or a traditional sermon. Instead is a sacred reading of the texts that take us through the Christmas story both in

their prophecy and their fulfillment. The very first reading is from Genesis chapter three where the promise of a savior who would "crush" the head of the evil one is given. Of course, the other tradition of the service of nine lessons and carols is the singing of "Once in Royal David's City" by a boy soprano. And we have just the voice for that! Each Christmas text will be surrounded by the traditional carols of Christmas that underscore those very same texts. Do come and enjoy this service.



December 25th: Worship Service at 10:00 am, with the Sacrament of the Altar.

December 31st: Services at 8:15 & 11:00 am, both including Holy Communion. (There will be no services that evening.)

Children's Christmas Service

Children's Service Practices are December 3rd and 10th from 1-3 pm.

The **Children's Christmas Service** will be held on **December 17th at 3:00 pm.** (Musical prelude will be provided by some of our youthful musicians, starting about 2:30 pm.)



Following the service, Treats and Hot Chocolate will be served to all, courtesy of LWML.

Christmas Caroling!

The choir invites you to join in Christmas caroling to homebound members on **Sunday, Dec. 10.** We'll meet at the church at **4:00pm** and carpool to a few north Fargo locations. All ages are welcome. Please contact Katie Rolf, kathryn.rolf@gmail.com, with any questions.



If you enjoy singing Christmas Carols *indoors*, come to the Welcome Hall at **9:15 am on December 17th** with Pam Sommer.

Join in the Fun!



How many times have we listened to or participated in the “if only...” discussions? “If only the sun would shine for our picnic.” “If only the stock market would go up.” “If only I would get this or that gift for Christmas!” And, of course, everyone’s favorite, “If only I had a million dollars.”

We like to go on and on about the opportunities a million dollars would provide. “If only I had a million dollars, I would donate a lot to the church so they could send out a lot of missionaries!” “I would use a million dollars to help those people who are hurting.” “I would pay off all my debts so I could take a lesser-paying job that served people.”

My friends, what wonderful, noble thoughts these are! – noble plans and ideas surrounded by opportunities provided by a million dollars. Yet somehow, we have come to the conclusion that we can be used by our Lord in this world **ONLY** if He first blesses us with an extraordinary ‘chunk of change.’

Here are some “if only” words I have never heard: “If only I would get cancer or another terrible disease.” “If only I would become absolutely destitute.” “If only I would be faced with a few seemingly insurmountable obstacles in my life.” I have never heard anyone say these things. Why not?

That may sound like a stupid question on the surface. After all, who in their right mind would wish for these kinds of disasters to befall them? But, tell me this, my friends...could we not argue the same for the ‘disaster’ of a million dollars suddenly bestowed?

The real answers to all these questions do not lie in the **what** but in the **how**. It is not important what the “if only” is. The important thing is how we respond and use it. Consider the multitude of opportunities to witness of our faith in Jesus if or when we are faced with a wasting or debilitating disease. Think of the difference we could make in the lives of those around us as they watch our reactions to suffering and pain. These are opportunities that – while they are never wished for – can provide amazing openings for the Gospel of Jesus.

As the forgiven children of God, washed and cleansed in the blood of Jesus, we don’t thank and praise God for our sufferings; but, we do thank and praise God in the midst of our suffering. We know that even though He may not bring us around pain and suffering, Jesus has promised that He will always bring us safely through it!

The Theology of the Cross tells us that, in our suffering, we see the cross of Christ. In suffering (ours and others), the reality of what Jesus accomplished on the cross becomes clear. And, as we take up our cross and follow Him, we become holy witnesses to the reality of who Jesus is, and what He has done for us and for our salvation.

On the other hand, the Theology of Glory says it takes a million dollars to make a difference for God, and if you have enough faith it will happen. If you just believe hard enough, God will give it to you! The Theology of the Cross tells us that it takes Jesus to make the difference because without Him we can do nothing! And we have Jesus, don’t we? We will always have Jesus!

By the power of His Word, God prepares our hearts and lives for the coming of Jesus, who has made an eternal difference for us. That’s what the season of Advent is all about. During this time of repentance and reflection, we rejoice in the coming of Jesus as He comes to each one of us...on that first Christmas, now – through Word and Sacrament – and on the Last Day – when He will return to take us home to live with Him forever. There is no “if only” with Jesus, just a blessed reality. And for that, we rejoice!

*Rejoicing with you as we wait for Jesus,
Pastor Steve Schulz*

Giving Tree of Hope:

Thank you to all who have taken a tag off the tree to shop for a child or adult in need. You will make a difference to someone this year! Please remember to wrap your gift, attach the tag to the gift, and return it to Immanuel no later than noon on December 17.



The Immanuel Image is edited by Parish Administrative Assistant, Louise M. Tegtmeier. Parish Workers Circle of Immanuel LWML assembles the newsletter, usually on the last Thursday of each month. Distribution to members and friends is sent monthly by US Postal Service. Subscription changes: Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1258 Broadway, Fargo, ND 58102-2637; 701-293-7979; Immanuel.fargo@gmail.com. Website: www.immanuel.fargo.com

Alms Ministry: Thank you to all who have made donations to Immanuel's Alms Ministry. The funds are used for Immanuel's members who have needs, for gift cards to be given to needy who walk in, and for donations to organizations who assist the needy. Your donations make a difference for many people! The envelopes in the pews may be used for this ministry.

Emergency Food Pantry: Thank you to all who worked at the Food Pantry this year. They continue to have an urgent need for donations in order to meet the needs of the hungry in our community. Donations may be placed in the bin in the Welcome Hall or taken to the Food Pantry directly: 1101 4th Ave N, Fargo.

Board for Human Care



Emergency Food Pantry Requests Your Help

The Emergency Food Pantry is asking for donations of food and cash to provide food for those in need. The number of clients continues to increase and as the winter approaches this will continue. The number of families served averages about 80 per day and over 3 tons of food are required daily. Special needs at this time includes canned fruits and vegetables, cereals, tuna and other canned goods. Donations of cash will be used to purchase food needs.

Please consider the Emergency Food Pantry during this holiday season as you make your charitable donations.

Children's Choir

Do your kids, Pre-K through 5th grade, like to sing? We are conducting a survey through SurveyMonkey to see what interest there is in starting a children's choir at Immanuel. If you have kids in this age range, you will receive an email about the survey during the first week of December. Please fill it out at your earliest convenience. Questions? Contact Katie Rolf, kathryn.rolf@gmail.com.



Handbell Refurbishment

Dear Members of Immanuel, Immanuel's handbells were purchased 22 years ago and have served us well! Handbells typically need to be refurbished after 10 years, so our bells are overdue for this service. A refurbishment involves an inspection of the inner parts of the bell, which are made of rubber, plastic, and metal, and a replacement of some or all of these parts. Our handbells will be shipped off for refurbishment on Dec. 7. After they are inspected we will know if they

need a partial or total replacement of the inner parts. In addition, the casting (the bronze bell) will be polished, so the bells will return to us looking like new. The price range for refurbishment is \$2,000-3,900, which includes a 5% discount for servicing our bells during the slow part of the year. The handbell ensemble will host a Lent dinner in the spring to raise money. If you would like to make a donation before then, please use a pew envelope, write "handbells" on the outside, and place it in the offering plate.

In Christ,

*Louise Tegtmeier, Handbell Director
Katie Rolf, Director of Parish Music*



Our Unit Meeting was held on Saturday, Nov. 18 at 9:30 am in the Celebration Center with 18 in attendance. Following our business meeting, we wrote in and addressed Christmas cards to be sent to our Immanuel college students and active military members, enclosing a gift card in each. Much good fellowship was enjoyed as we worked. Our plans for a 'fitness mini-retreat' were put on hold until our February meeting, so you have another chance to join us for that!

New LWML Booklets for 2018 are out, so check with your Circle Chairs to receive yours.

Quarterly magazine sign-up for 2018 is on the desk/table in the Welcome Hall. If you wish to receive a subscription, please sign and pay before Christmas!

Dates to mark:

Wed., Dec. 13 – LWML serves the Advent meal – Circle Chairs will be in contact with you. Jobs are the same as last time.

Sunday, Dec. 17 – LWML serves cake and cookies (4 doz. cupcakes or servings of cake/Circle, and 2 doz. cookies/Circle), hot chocolate and coffee after the 3pm Children's Christmas Service. This is in place of the "Jesus' Birthday Party" we used to do.

Thurs., Jan. 4, 2018 - Pie Day at Rosewood – we serve. 12 pies are needed, plus servers. The time has been moved up this year, so servers need to be at Rosewood by 12:30pm, serving at 1:30pm.

Watch for the sign-up sheet coming out by Dec. 10.

Mite offerings are down locally and nationally. Please prayerfully consider increasing your giving to meet the goals for grants.

Thank you to all who have helped out with our many projects, joyfully stepping out in service.

Christmas blessings to all as we celebrate the birth of our Savior!

In Christ's Service,

Patty Walla, LWML President

Just in time for Advent:



Paper copies of the Lutheran Hour Ministries publication, "Love Came Down" are located on the green table in the Welcome Hall – free of charge. Or, you may prefer to visit the

webpage to download the document:

<https://www.lhm.org/advent>

The Board of Education is again providing a selection of educational/inspirational materials, which are for sale in the Welcome Hall. What great Christmas gifts they could make for that special someone on your list!

Red River Lutheran School Association

Grace Lutheran School

Monthly newsletter – December

This Year's Theme: The Fruits of the Spirit
(Gal. 5:22-23)

Ronald McDonald House: All this month and through January we are donating our chapel offerings to the RMD house as they minister to families with children in the hospital. Most of the funds help families try to live as normally as they can in the middle of illness in their children. The RMD house hosts families that need a place to stay, sleep, eat and watch tv while they wait on the medical staffs to help heal their sick children. God's blessings to you as you find ways to help us share what God has given to us.

PE Teacher still needed by Jan. 5th: We continue to look for a Physical Education teacher for PK through 8th grade. Also included is the opportunity to be our Athletic director and coach for at least two sports. Requirements for this position are to have a valid North Dakota teachers' license or Sub license, a first aid certification and a background check. At the present time this is a part time position and we have an immediate need. Please contact Mr. John Hagge at school or 615-479-1438.

Marketing Director needed for GLS: Grace is looking for a part time marketing director for approximately 15 hours a week to help promote GLS in the F/M area. To apply please call or email Mr. Hagge for an application. (jhagge@gracels.com)

Christmas Musical Dec. 14-15, 2017: "Meet Me at the Manger" is about a group of kids who are performing a manger scene in Herod's Department store on Christmas Eve. Unfortunately, Herod informs them that there is "no room for them in the store". The kids decide to take their performance

down the street to the Lighthouse Mission. Along the way they meet some interesting characters and help Herod discover the true meaning of Christmas. Please plan on attending this wonderful musical performed by our 1st through 8th graders. Pre-K classes will perform before the Dec 14th performance; Kindergarten will perform before the Dec 15th performance.

Dress rehearsal at 1:30 pm on Thursday, Dec 14th is also open to the public.

Volunteers needed: Volunteers are needed to assist students in completing their work, helping teachers with tasks, supervising morning care and possibly helping with recesses. We could also use someone to help out in the kitchen when our regular cook is sick or taking time off. Background check is needed. Please call and volunteer!

Every Wed. is: "Welcome Wednesday"!

Each week we have an open house for prospective students. Share this information with everyone so that they can see what a day is like at Grace Lutheran School. Chapel is held at 8:45 am, led by church leaders from the RRLSA.

Facebook: [facebook.com/gracelutheranschoolfargo](https://www.facebook.com/gracelutheranschoolfargo)

Website: www.gracelutheranschool.org

Blog:

<http://gracelutheranschoolfargo.blogspot.com/>

Twitter: @glsfargo

Instagram: [gracelutheranfargo](https://www.instagram.com/gracelutheranfargo)

From Cari Weidner, GLS

Librarian: We're gearing up for our first-ever library fundraiser, to purchase GLS library materials or supplies, on Sat., Dec. 9th!

Two great things about this fundraiser:

1) Funds raised will be coming from Barnes & Noble! Anyone who shops at Barnes & Noble on that Saturday can support our fundraiser by simply saying, "I'm with the bookfair" and presenting a voucher at the point of sale. Barnes & Noble will give a percentage back to GLS for each sale that day.

We are given the opportunity to share about Grace Lutheran School in the FM community!

Please consider how you can support us for this event. Can't attend our bookfair at Barnes & Noble?

Visit **BN.COM/bookfairs** to support us online from 12/9/17-12/14/17 by entering Bookfair ID **12068177** at checkout.



Library Hi-Lights

Last month's review was an autobiography. Several friends said that brought them to the library...and they read all the ten Boom books. I could relate: when I first became

librarian those books are what I read first. This month's review is also an autobiography (just as riveting as the others) – Hansi, The Girl Who Left the Swastika by Maria Anne Hirschmann.

"Don't ever forget Jesus". This tearful admonition of her foster mother followed the teenage orphan girl as she began her trip to Prague. Maria (Hansi) was the envy of all in her little Czechoslovakian village because she had won a scholarship to the Nazi school in the capital and would be able to serve the Führer. Thus, Maria began a long journey in 1940 which led her into the darkness of blind devotion to Hitler and the atheism of the Nazi system. Brainwashed, Maria's god became Adolph Hitler, and when Germany fell, her world shattered too. After spending several horrible months in a communist labor camp, Hansi walked out one day, expecting a bullet to end her life. The shot was never fired. After several weeks of walking in the rain and sleeping under trees or bridges, existing on herbs & mushrooms, she ended up in 'no man's land'. After an incredible escape from a Russian death trap, she stood on freedom's ground in West Germany. Though she did not know Him through those times, God kept His hand on her life.

Finding Jesus Christ as her Savior and Lord in West Germany, from there, she and her family came to the United States in 1955. She experienced extreme culture shock; but slowly learned to love America and its freedom, which she at first could not understand. She became a citizen of what she declares today the "greatest nation in the world" and she is proud to be "an American by choice".

Hansi taught for several years in American schools, and drew recognition for her work with high school dropouts and troubled teenagers. In response to requests, she began to tell about her experiences. She soon recognized the call of God upon her life, which has resulted in her traveling to many countries, and all over the US, telling what Christ has done in her life and of her deep appreciation for America.

Today she is the author of several books; her bestseller is her autobiography. This book sold more than 400,000 copies in the English language and has been translated into many other languages, including Russian and Polish translations. She's written several Bible studies along with her late ministry partner, Betty Pershing.

Ardis Danielson, Librarian

"Main Street Living North" Program

Christmas Update & Support Appeal

We **CELEBRATE** our first year of Sunday forenoon broadcasting the Good News of Jesus Christ through our MSLN TV ministry program! During this time, nearly all of our LCMS pastors within the broadcast area of our ND & MN North Districts have led a 30-minute worship service which has aired at 10:00 am on the FOX TV and cable stations in the eastern half of ND and the western half of northern Minnesota!



As this update is being written in mid-November, we currently have funds to cover broadcasting fees only through the first Sunday in December – and therefore any special CHRISTmas gifts received would be greatly appreciated and needed! It is our hope and prayer that viewership and donations will continue to increase during our upcoming second year of broadcasting; however the next several months will be crucial for the financial support of our relatively new LCMS TV ministry!

Please also continue to help spread the word to your extended family and friends! In addition to viewing the TV program at 10:00 am each Sunday morning (on the FOX TV and/or cable station in their area), please let them know that they can watch all of the archived programs at any time on line at www.mainstreetlivingnorth.com.

To add your much-needed financial support, checks may be sent to "Main Street Living North", 821-5th Ave. S., Fargo, ND 58103, or donate by Credit Card or your PayPal account at: www.mainstreetlivingnorth.com. Thank you and God's blessing in Christ! *Ken Koehler*

Family Serving Group – Dec 2017

Co-Chairmen: Derek & Shara Diers (701-306-0412) and Ed & Karen Woyen (218-512-0818)

Derek & Shara Diers	Scott & Aynsley Gunnerson
Ryan & Andrea Engebretson	Brant & Jamie Jacobson
Greg & Joanne Kaeding	Tom & Bonnie Kuehn
Chris & Lisa Olson	Donn & Marsha Rau
Millie Rebsom	Jeremy & Katie Rolf
Jeff & Nancy Sornsin	Tiffany Wiedeman
Edward & Karen Woyen	Peter & Laura Woyen



- 4Dec – Rod & Kris Lym (35th)
- 10Dec – Tom & Loraine Martindale (67th)
- 18Dec – Bill & Donna Piper (46th)
- 20Dec – Ted & Linda Gangelhoff (48th)
- 21Dec – Donovan & Hidie Larson (21st)
- 23Dec – Richard & Norma Frohberg (55th)

26Dec – Edward & Karen Woyen (24th)
 27Dec – Bob & Donna Roach (65th)
 31Dec – Jeff & Kathy Bumgarner (29th)
 1Dec – Dick Demro (90), Bob Geske (91), Paul Ill,

Giving Matters:



Promise Cards for 2018 may be returned to the box in the Sign-Up Center any time

before January 2, 2018. Pledge additions or changes after that time should be done in the office.

The **Board of Stewardship** thanks many of you for already collecting your new giving envelopes from tables in the Welcome Hall.

You are probably getting a *new number* assigned to you; however, the computer still connects your information from every year you are a member. Please remember to **WAIT** until 2018 to use the new envelopes.



There are also envelopes for **special offerings** in the pew racks.

VANCO contributors may adjust their giving anytime by following these steps:

1. Go to immanuel.fargo.360unite.com/news and click on Donate.



memorials & gifts	
From (date)	Honor/MEMORY
Ed & Leona Leapaldt (10-29)	Ellie Radtke's 98 th Birthday
Bruce & Kay Leverson (11-6)	FLORENCE BROWNLEE'S SISTER & PAUL FREDRICKSON

Keri Stevens, Patty Wolter

2Dec – Gretchen Kirklewski, Patrick Maassel

4Dec – ReNae Schaefer

5Dec – Wayne Redmann, Ali

Ressler, Clara Sauvageau

6Dec – Todd Mairs, Matt Walla

7Dec – Beth Mairs, Jonathan Schulz

8Dec – Michael Leach, (Gary Reinke is 86)

9Dec – Drew Kittelson

10Dec – Emily Engebretson, Ben Moen, Lisa Vasicek, Houston Wagner (4)

11Dec – Landon Deisler-Williams, Josh Gornowicz, Ashley Salmonson

12Dec – Ellisyn Esping (5), Trey Larson

13Dec – Kay Leverson

14Dec – Rod Lym

15Dec – Christine Sauvageau

16Dec – Elijah Caldwell (4), Amy Hirsch, Rylee Hoppe, Mathew Kaeding, Bonnie Kittelson, Ashlynn Schroeder

17Dec – Carl Bumgarner, Martha Gross (97), Diane Lueck, Alycia Stam

19Dec – Brian Aasland, Safara Simmons (3), Travis Woyen

20Dec – Michael Vasicek, (Cheryl Orman-Lindsey)

23Dec – Noah Olson, Carolyn Worrall

24Dec – Dan Backstrom (91)

25Dec – Sofia Jacobson

26Dec – JohnHenry Merz (2)

27Dec – Blair Aasland

28Dec – Kathy Bumgarner, Leah Gornowicz (7), Mike Wardlow

29Dec – Donovan Larson

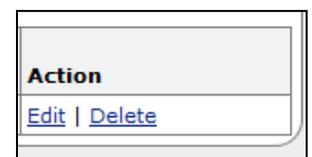
30Dec – Mary Hallgren, Julie McCoy, Allan Ochsner, Jennifer Walla

31Dec – Ben Duncan, Bruce Thomas



2. Enter email and password. Click Forgot your Email Address or Password? if you do not remember.

3. Click on Edit on the right-hand side of the window.



4. Update your donations.
5. Click Log Off when complete.



Initiating online offering continues to be a viable option – you can sign up anytime! Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account. Our **electronic giving program (Vanco)** offers convenience for you and donation consistency for our congregation. Go to Immanuel's Simply Giving site by clicking on the **"Donate"** button and following the prompts. The button is located on our website's "Information", then "News" tab.



Below are some photos of the Reformation celebration that was held in Spain with Pastor Warner:



chorus that too often that ends up sounding like a scolding. But of course, we should be thankful, so hearing the exhortation to be thankful as scolding makes us feel even more guilty. Happy Holidays!

There is another Way to thankfulness, the Way of abundance. When Jesus (*Luke 17:11-19*) or Paul (*Colossians 3:12-17*) exhort us to thankfulness, they do so from the base of abundance. Lepers are healed, and even better, one of them, realizing that his Healer is God in the flesh, falls down to worship Him who gives eternal cleansing.

Paul teaches that when the Word of Christ dwells in us richly, then from this abundance flows thankfulness, for that Word tells us again that our sins are forgiven, our death is defeated, our guilt is washed away in the flood of Jesus' blood. *Being thankful is not a decision, it is a reaction, a reaction to God's abundance.*

Even though we may or may not have many earthly blessings, in Christ we are chosen, holy and beloved of God. This is our abundance, the abundance from which thankfulness flows, both today and forevermore. So, Happy Abundance Day. Enjoy the thankfulness that the Spirit of Christ creates in your heart. Amen.

Pastor David and Shelee Warner
#yourmissionaries in Spain

To support God's work in Spain, you can make a donation to "God's Reign In Spain" so that the Gospel can continue to be shared!

You can make a gift by mail-- Make checks payable to the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod. Write WARNER SPAIN in the memo line and mail to **Mission Central**, 40718 HWY E16 Mapleton, IA 51034-7105 OR **Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod** PO Box 66861 St Louis, MO 63166-6861

A note from Pastor Worrall:

Our North Dakota District LCMS is meeting in convention this January 21-24 in Dickinson. **Mitch Semanko** will be our lay delegate and **Pastor Bernie Worrall** is our pastoral delegate. The nominations report came out in October and names can still be added at the floor of the

convention. We have nominated (late) Mitch for lay person on the board of directors. Elections for District President and Vice Presidents will happen on the first day of the convention. The theme of the convention will be "Unity in Christ!"

See also **the insert.**

and I are really looking forward to being with family and showing them the ultrasounds and Madison's bump. Madison makes delicious pies and pastries and our field work church is very generous to send us home with leftovers after their Wednesday night meals, so I probably have a little bump as well.

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS			
10/31/2017			
	BUDGET	2017	2016
* RECEIPTS *			
REGULAR ENVELOPES	\$536,682.00	\$449,216.91	\$418,898.53
PLATE OFFERINGS	\$12,000.00	\$8,748.27	\$9,686.60
SPEC. SERVICES & MISC.	\$25,700.00	\$13,235.21	\$12,184.93
ASSETS RELEASED	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$574,382.00	\$471,200.39	\$440,770.06
* EXPENSES *			
MISSIONS	\$114,736.40	\$93,999.82	\$87,976.46
ELDERS	\$27,500.00	\$22,532.84	\$12,302.45
EVANGELISM	\$1,350.00	\$621.39	\$1,339.25
STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE	\$2,200.00	\$2,356.10	\$1,449.67
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$69,921.50	\$46,154.92	\$48,927.69
TRUSTEES	\$52,600.00	\$51,613.25	\$43,219.38
ADMINISTRATION	\$261,316.00	\$211,558.83	\$204,099.34
HUMAN CARE	\$2,250.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
CAMPUS MINISTRY	\$64,257.50	\$51,319.37	\$47,925.05
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$596,131.40	\$481,156.52	\$447,239.29
HOME PURPOSES PLUS (MINUS)	(\$21,749.40)	(\$9,956.13)	(\$6,469.23)
YEAR-TO-DATE REC'D			
BOTW-BLDG. MAINT. FUND		\$9,247.00	\$41,490.05
THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS		\$7,138.00	\$12,713.00

From our former LSF President and current seminary student:

Dear Immanuel Family,

With the first quarter at the seminary completed and a short break before the next, I have found some time to write and tell you how things are going for Madison and me in Fort Wayne. We have settled into a one bedroom apartment that has become quite crowded with my school books and things that we have accumulated. We are expecting our first child on March 25, so it will become even cozier when we have to make room for our baby girl!

Madison just started a new job for the Fort Wayne Housing Authority, which she will work at until she is no longer able to work. So far she enjoys it even though it is very tiring. During the break I am trying to get a head start on classes for next quarter and completing some hobby projects. For Thanksgiving we will be meeting my parents half-way in Wisconsin where my relatives live. Madison

During my first quarter I learned a lot, passed all of my classes, and enjoyed every one of them. My biggest challenge was getting into the discipline of reading the endless required texts and making wise use of my time. I found it very enjoyable to study theology under such knowledgeable professors. CTSFW has a fantastic seminary program and an environment that is conducive to learning unlike anywhere else I have been. We form a sense of brotherhood and comradery when we struggle, learn, and grow together, using the countless good resources on campus. These friendships, I'm sure, will not only last for the rest of our lives, but also help to form other vital pastoral components outside of the classroom.

Life at the seminary revolves around chapel, which is the most edifying and uplifting part of every day. Our most important formation is done by receiving absolution for our sins, our guilt removed in Holy Communion, and the preaching of Christ's work on the cross and what it means today. Our focus is to be always on Jesus Christ. With so many distractions and anxieties it is sometimes hard to keep that focus, but God is faithful to provide for our needs and equip us for work in His harvest.

I am exceedingly grateful for your prayers and support! I could not continue my pastoral formation without it. I pray God's richest blessing to you and all of those that are with us in thought and prayer. We pray that our gracious Lord help, save, comfort, and defend you.

Sincerely, Tanner (and Madison) Post



Here is a list of New Members thus far in 2017:

William (Billy) Zottnick (baptized in Jan, joined the Army National Guard)
 Evan and Tiffany Menze (newlyweds)
 Taija Turpin (NDSU student)
 Courtney Solberg & Clare Johnson (Clare teaches at GLS)
 Lori Althoff (returning – was a member in the 1990's)
 Hannah Worrall (returned from IA, is moving to Minot)
 Alan Orv Weaver (new Christian, baptized in Oct, friend of Olson family)
 Matthew Abrahamson (NDSU Student)
 Brody Katka (recently joined the Air Force)
 Joseph Adama (Jennifer's significant other)
 Jennifer Oster (Joseph's significant other)
 Lowell Halstenson & son Tyler (husband of Melissa nee Williams)



Hope Hotchkiss
 Virginia Lepage
 Cheryl Mammel-Hamdan (cousin of Angie Peda)
 Ted & Judy Rossman (Judy is sister to Bob Roach)
 13 Confirmands became communicant members
 There have been 11 baptisms (9 children, 2 adults):

Grayson Daniel Cigelske
 Malaki Mark David Cruz
 Erik Edward Koons
 Jemma Elizabeth Hipsher
 Jaxson James Hipsher
 Maelynn Grace Esping
 Silas Brian Halstenson
 Katherine Grace Tegtmeier (transfer to IA)
 Elinor Auguste Eggebraaten



Poinsettias

Help Beautify our Chancel during the Christmas season!

If you would like to provide a Poinsettia to decorate the Chancel this Christmas, please complete this order form and send it, with payment, to the church office.

Colors available this year are Red, White, & Marble (white/pink).

Deadline for ordering Poinsettias is December 13th!

Poinsettias may be picked up from the church after services on Monday, December 25th.

Poinsettia Order Form

Name: _____

Phone: _____

In Honor/Memory of: _____

Color: _____ Qty: _____

Color: _____ Qty: _____

Please enclose **\$8.50** for each plant ordered. Checks should be payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church.



December 2017 Worship Assistants				
Dec 3	8:15 am	Steve Asche (+JR) Landon D-W, Tyler H Hass Team E/L Esping	11 am	Jeremy Rolf Logan K Hankel Team T/M Evensen
Dec 6	4:15/6p	Montana Team	5p	Meal by LSF
Dec 10	8:15 am	Erick Esping Isaiah S Stahlecker Team M/L Semanko	11 am	Clint Lowe Serenity D, Zinke Team S/C Trautman
Dec 13	4:15/6p	Hankel Team	5p	Meal by LWML
Dec 17	8:15 am	Peter Woyen Jacob D, Trevor D Montana Team P/D Mayland	11 am	Jim Thoreson Lauren D Roesler Team Pam Coste
Dec 17	3p	Volunteer Ushers	4p	Treats by LWML
Dec 20	4:15/6p	Stahlecker Team	5p	Meal by LYF
Dec 24	8:15 am	Rod Draeger Ella C Volunteer Ushers Danny Montana	11 am	Ben Duncan Logan K Volunteer Ushers W Redmann/S Dobmeier
Dec 24	4:15 6p	Mayland Team; McCoy Team	Dec 25	10a: Hass Team
Dec 31	8:15 am	Dean Sonnenberg Grace S, Jana S Walla Team Clarice Michel	11 am	Ray Albrecht William H, Jackson S Kosel Team B/R Templin