

IMMANUEL IMAGE



Immanuel Lutheran Church
Fargo, ND
Volume 53, Edition 1
2019

New Class starts Jan 20th



Do you know someone interested in membership at Immanuel Lutheran Church? Or would you like to shake out the cobwebs on your faith journey? We are starting a new Adult Instruction toward Membership class on Sunday Jan. 20, 2019 at 6PM. Our AIM classes meet over six Sundays. They are open to those who want to refresh their knowledge of the chief articles of the Christian faith, as well as those looking at Lutheranism for the first time! Please sign up at the Sign-up Center; and be sure to ask the pastors any questions you may have.

2019 LCMS YOUTH & FAMILY DAY AT ANDES TOWER HILLS

Annual Circuit Event! All Ages Invited!

Saturday, **January 12th** at Andes Tower Hills (near Alexandria, MN)

- Traveling with the group? Meet at Beautiful Savior Lutheran (Fargo) at 7:30am.
- We will arrive at Andes at 9:45am to take a group photo & check-in by 10am.
- Leave Andes by 4pm, and plan to stop in Fergus Falls at Pizza Ranch for supper.
- Return to Fargo between 8-8:30pm.
- Ski, Snowboard, or tube! See information sheet for rates & details.
- 5th grade students and younger must be accompanied by an adult.
- If paying by check, please make **payable to: Eastern Zone LYF**
- **Registration Deadline:** Return completed registration form & payment to Immanuel office by **Friday, Jan 4th**



Saturday, Feb 2, 2019, we will be hosting a lay workshop that will focus on care ministry with a congregation. The workshop registration begins at 9 am. Lunch is provided; the workshop ends by 2 pm. Pastor Arnold comes to us from Doxology and he works with them in much of their care ministry. He also wrote our "Pastor's Page" article for this month (page 2).

Lay Care Ministry
Workshop



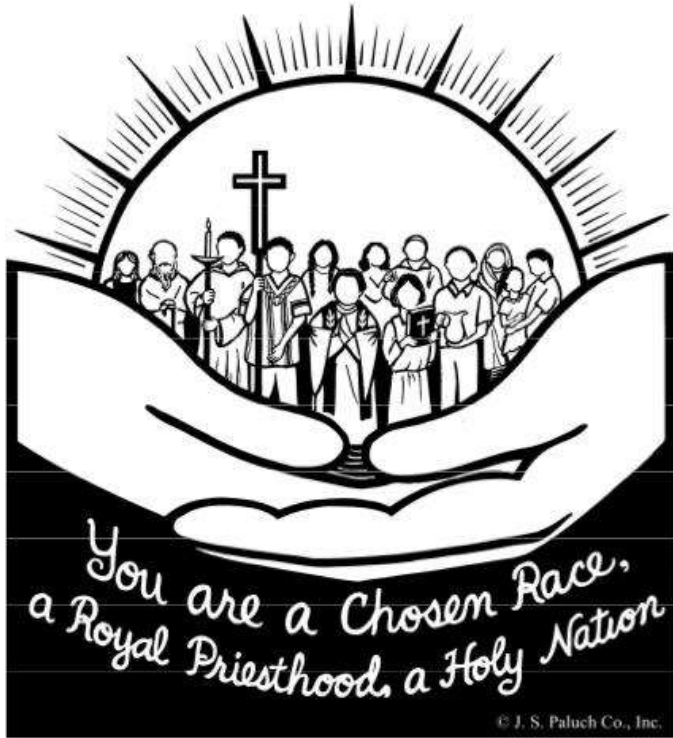
Guardian Angels: Thank you for participating in this important ministry to our youth! Please remember to communicate with your student, letting them know when you observe them participating in special events or youth ministry activities, and inquiring about school and home life and any prayer requests. They have been encouraged to write you back! Make sure to check the area near the stairs for any communication. There are still several letters waiting to be picked up there now. Please contact Cori at 218-233-1628 or mom2rn69@gmail.com if you have any questions or concerns.



Several **boxes** of 2019 envelopes remain in the Welcome Hall. We will now begin to use these envelopes as the new year begins. Contact the church office if you need assistance with envelopes.

New Year's Eve worship service is held at 7:00 pm on Monday, December 31st. This year, we meet at Grace Lutheran Church, 821 5th Ave South, Fargo. Pastor Schulz will be preaching. The offering will be going to Grace Lutheran School projects.





How involved should congregation members and leaders be in the spiritual matters of the Church? Does the work of “soul care” belong to pastor only? Some may question the right of the laity to carry on a spiritual ministry within the congregation. However, St. Paul reminds us in 1 Peter 2 that all of us are “royal priests” who belong to God and, therefore, have been given the task to care for the spiritual needs of others.

As Christians, we not only have direct access to God by grace through faith in Christ Jesus, we are also given the wonderful privilege and duty to share the Gospel with others through teaching and serving. The laity are indeed empowered by God to exercise spiritual care duties toward other Christians. On the subject of the ministry as it pertains to all believers as “priests” of God, Luther wrote: “As priests we are worthy to appear before God to pray for others and to teach one another divine things...Thus, Christ has made it possible for us, provided we believe in him, to be not only his brethren, co-heirs, and fellow kings, but also his

fellow priests” (*The Freedom of a Christian, AE 31:355*)

Paul says that Christians make up the royal priesthood of God. To put it bluntly, this means Christians are priests. But what does it mean to be a “priest of God?” Better put, what is the ‘function’ of a priest of God within the Christian congregation? Some think that the extent of member duties within the church is “pay and pray” – bring offerings and speak petitions for the sake of the needy. With that, members are supposed to care for the church lawn, cleaning God’s house, usher on Sunday morning, and organize the church potlucks. While this is important work, Christian priests are given a much broader task that includes spiritual care of others within the church-family.

On February 2nd, Immanuel Lutheran is hosting a seminar for lay leaders called ***Care for the Soul in a Christian Congregation***. We will delve into the foundations of soul-care found in the Scriptures as well as be equipped with practical tools in order to carry out this ministry within our congregations. Not only will we learn about the value and function of lay leaders within the ancient church, we will also discuss how important and needful lay involvement in the care of souls is for the spiritual well-being of the church today. This is an important educational opportunity for Elders and lay leaders.

Do plan on joining us, oh “royal priest” of the Lord Most High.

In Christ’s service, Pastor Tyler C. Arnold

Parent – Teacher Conferences for 6th and 7th grade confirmation students are January 9, 2019.

Be sure to make an appointment for that evening via SignUp Genius.

Affected families were sent a link to the page through email. Eighth grade parents were sent a letter from DCE Ryan Avery. **Regular confirmation classes begin on January 16, 2019.** Jay Schaefer will be the teacher for the eighth grade until the end of this school year.

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 via US Postal Service. Subscription changes: Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1258 Broadway, Fargo, ND 58102-2637; 701-293-7979; Immanuel.fargo@gmail.com.

**Red River Lutheran School
Association**

Grace Lutheran School

Monthly Newsletter – January 2019

Theme for 2018, from Matthew 5:14-16: **“You are the Light of the World”**. Jesus tells us that we are shining our light (Jesus in us) to everyone around.

Welcome Wednesday!

Each week we open “our house” for prospective families & students on Wednesdays. Please share this information with everyone so that they can see what it is like at Grace Lutheran School. Hours to visit GLS are 9 - 3 Monday – Friday. If you are stopping in - give us a call - and we will meet you at that time. (701) 232-7747

GLS at Grace Luth Church – Jan 20, 2019

Some of the faculty and students will visit Grace Lutheran Church Sunday, January 20th to share information about the school and highlight our ministry to the families of Grace Lutheran Church and our Association.

Annual Grace Auction committee looking for volunteers to find donations!

The Grace Auction committee is already at work and you can help us out greatly by procuring donations, helping with decorations, setting up the ballroom, working on special class projects, and finding those special items that will highlight our evening and promote our school with all of your friends. To help, contact Dinah Sommerfeld at 701-212-0072 or call the school office for more information.

Save the Dates!

This year’s Annual Grace Auction: March 23, 2019
Lutheran Education Week Jan 26th-Feb 1st

Supporting Grace Lutheran School

As a “not for profit” organization we will always need the financial backing of our association churches and generous donations from our alumni. We sponsor two main fundraisers to strengthen our budget: Giving Hearts on February 14th and the Annual Grace Auction on March 23rd. You can also support our ministry through your Thrivent Choice Dollars by contacting Thrivent and tell them you want your Choice Dollars to go to GLS. Your year-end gifts can also be a great way to minister to families and give you a tax break. You are able to support the school by investing in an LCEF account, which strengthens your church and also communicates to LCEF, that they can invest in the future of GLS, knowing that the association churches are supporting it.

Your church supports GLS by offering families financial support by paying a percentage of your tuition expenses. Immanuel Lutheran Church offers 60% of the tuition cost for your children. Please feel free to check with your pastors or church office to get this financial help now, so you can enroll your children for the 2019-20 school year.

We are humbled and honored to **teach 67 children** this year and look for many ways to reach out to more children and to share the love of God with all. Please invite families with school age children to visit. Your congregation is a vital part of the future of Grace Lutheran School.

As we look to the future, our goal is to develop our curriculum and technology equipment, work on deferred building maintenance projects, and strengthen our teachers and staff salaries as well as adding early childhood classes (3 yr. olds).

Give us a call and set up a Care Visit and help us with our goals - today!

Volunteers are always needed!

Do you like to volunteer for a good causes? At Grace Lutheran school we have LOTS of ways to volunteer your talents to help us! We always need helpers to assisting students in completing their work, helping teachers with tasks and breaks, supervising morning care and recesses. When our cook is ill or takes a day off, we need help in the kitchen. Through the year there are projects and repairs to do around the school. Feel free to contact us for a service project. Please contact John Hagge, Principal at (701) 232-7747 or email jhagge@gracels.com for further information.

January Events at Grace Lutheran School

1/3: CLASSES RESUME

1/10: Ambassador Music Concert – 7pm

1/11: 2nd quarter ends

1/16: Chapel with Pastor Worrall

1/20: Grace School children at Grace Luth. Church

1/22: Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten Open House

1/23: Chapel with Rev. Erlandson – baptismal remembrance

1/26: PTL Winter Carnival – Kick off for Lutheran Schools week! (Special Lutheran School week activities daily! Details to follow)

1/30: Chapel with DCE Emily Leising

1/31: Ski Trip 5-7 grades

2/1: Lutheran schools week celebration in Perham!

Facebook: facebook.com/gracelutheranschoolfargo

Website: www.gracelutheranschool.org

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

Twitter: @glsfargo

Instagram: gracelutheranfargo



**“Main Street Living North”
TV Program
January Update**

We are now entering YEAR THREE of our MAIN STREET LIVING NORTH MEDIA MINISTRY! We lift thankful hearts to our Lord and Savior for blessing this ministry addition to the Minnesota North and North Dakota Districts of our LCMS! We also give special thanks to our production crew members Jay Schaefer and DCE Ryan Avery for their MANY hours of dedicated work! Sadly, we bid Ryan farewell as he has accepted a call to serve in the Michigan District. We'll miss you Ryan!

And we thank all of the congregations and individual members who have faithfully supported MSLN financially over our first two years! Our primary expenses are – of course – the weekly broadcasting costs. With the recent expansion to the western half of North Dakota, we also thank the Main Street Living NETWORK for providing **matching funds of up to \$16,000** for any new donations made! 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. Thank you and God’s blessing in Christ!

“MSL North” TV Programs for Jan 2019:

January 6: Rev. Lester Wolfram, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, presents the message: “A Light For Our Dark World,” based on Matthew 2:1-12. *This Is The Life* program is **“A Friend In Deed”**.

January 13: Rev. Kevin Zellers, Messiah Lutheran Church, Mandan, ND, presents the message: “Theophany of God,” based on Luke 3:15-22. *This Is The Life* program is **“God of Love”**.

January 20: Rev. Brandon Woodruff, Peace Lutheran Church, Garrison, ND and St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Max, ND, delivers the message: “Signs,” based on John 2:1-11. *This Is The Life* program is **“Adrift”**.

January 27: Rev. Thomas Marcis, Zion Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, presents the message: “Jesus’ Opening Address,” based on Luke 4:21. *Today’s This Is The Life* program is **“The Hand of God”**.

“MAIN STREET LIVING” is a locally-produced TV program that includes a 30-minute worship service, led by participating pastors of the North Dakota and Minnesota North Districts of our LCMS, along with a 30-minute Lutheran Hour

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program (normally *“This Is The Life”*, along with occasional church-season specials). Programs are broadcast at **9:00am Central time** on the following FOX stations: KVRN Fargo-Moorhead Channel 15.1, KBRR Thief River Falls-Grand Forks Channel 10.1, KJRR Jamestown Channel 7.1, KNRR Pembina Channel 12.1, **AND at 10:00am Central (9:00am Mountain)** on the following WDAY & affiliate Xtra Channels: WDAY Xtra Channel 6.3 Fargo-Moorhead, WDAZ Xtra Channel 8.3 Grand Forks, KBMY Xtra Channel 17.3 Bismarck/Dickinson, and KMCY Xtra Channel 14.3 Minot/Williston – as well as the cable and satellite systems carrying these stations, some of which may have a different channel number, and archived on www.mainstreetliving.com.

Ken Koehler, MSLN Board President



MANY THANKS to all who helped prepare food, serve, and clean up for both our Advent meal on Dec. 12th and treat-serving following the Sunday School Christmas Service on Dec. 16th! Many cheerful and willing workers make the project fun and the fellowship meaningful. We were blessed with receiving Thrivent matching funds to help with our expenses for the Advent meal, so the offerings will be able to be used for mission projects and other events.

PLEASE CHECK THE SIGN-UP SHEETS ON THE PURPLE TABLE!


PIE DAY at ROSEWOOD on January 3rd.

We will need 9-10 pies and 4-6 ladies to plate and serve the pies that Thursday. We still need pies! Helpers, and pies, will need to be at Rosewood on Broadway by 12:45 for preparation. Serving begins at 1:30. If you choose to leave your pie at church, it needs to be in the kitchen no later than noon so it can be picked up for delivery.

LWML Quarterly magazine for 2019. This magazine is for anyone interested in enjoying wonderful 1- to 3-page articles, Bible studies, LWML news and information. Cost is \$6 for the year – an envelope for payments can be found in the office. We only order for those who have signed up for one. **Deadline for sign-up is Jan 13th.**

Sun, Jan 13 – LWML Board meeting @ 12:15. May God be with us all and bless our fellowship and the work we do in the coming year, that we may do it all to the glory of God. Wishing you all a blessed NEW YEAR!

In Christ’s Service, *Patty Walla, LWML President*

	
From (date)	Honor/MEMORY
Dave/Rhoda Viker (12-3)	LAVONNE STASKA
Darrell/Vi Aasland	LAVONNE STASKA
Jim/Patty Walla	LAVONNE STASKA
Bruce/Kay Levenson	LAVONNE STASKA
Edward/Karen Woyen	LAVONNE STASKA
Sandi Gardner-Leikas (12-9)	JOYCE HEGGE
Parish Workers Circle	LAVONNE STASKA
Wally/Diane Lueck (12-16)	LAVONNE STASKA
Richard/Norma Frohberg	LAVONNE STASKA
Leona Leapaldt	LAVONNE STASKA
Jim/Patty Walla	DAVID HORNSTEIN
Jim/Patty Walla	JOYCE HEGGE
Carol/Chris Rudel (12-31)	BERNHARD & EVELYN BOHN; ALLEN BOHN

slots. You can help to beautify our worship services and honor a person or event in your life. See the nearby poster for more information.

Library Hi-Lights

Our Librarian, Ardis Danielson, is taking the month off to read some new books.



next month for a new review!



ACTS

enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Acts 4:29

Acts 4 Program is on winter hiatus until January 16, 2019.

Coordinators of Acts4 Program: Todd & Melissa Evensen; tmevensen@gmx.com



Many thanks for all the prayers, cards, memorials, and visits we received after my mother passed. What a blessing to be in the Immanuel family.

Wally & Diane Lueck

On behalf of everyone who came caroling on December 9th, thank you for such a pleasant afternoon. Caroling is a lovely Christmas tradition, and we appreciate the thoughts and well-wishes. Pearl Backstrom, Helen Humphrey, and all

Dear Immanuel Family,
Thank you all for your cards and prayers. I am recovering well and I hope to return to all activities in a few weeks. Isaiah Soori
Our heartfelt gratitude for your prayers and thoughtfulness as we went through Isaiah's open-heart surgery (surgical repair of coarctation of the aorta). Immanuel, "God with us," has once again demonstrated that He is indeed with us through his people at Immanuel. We are so blessed to be part of this family and our thanks to you for your generosity with your prayers and time.

Soori family

December 17, 2018 Dear Pastor Worrall,
Enclosed is a gift to Immanuel Lutheran Church to use as is needed. The gift is in memory of my parents and my brother [see above].

This past summer, we attended the wedding of my sister-in-law, Pam Coste. Being in the sanctuary brought back so many memories and made me reflect on the importance that Immanuel Lutheran has had on my faith journey. Pastor Thiem was such a gifted preacher and teacher – also my Sunday School teacher, Mrs. Kay. I felt like I was singing with angels in the choir loft when Al Hepper directed us.

Although we have lived in Arizona for 47 years, I have not forgotten how blessed I am to have been a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church. God Bless the congregation, and Merry Christmas.

Sincerely, Carol Bohn Rudel and Chris Rudel

Family Serving Group – January 2019

Co-Chairmen: Bobby & Mary Swanson (701-403-0940); Del & Julie McCoy (701-371-4961)

Ed & Carolyn Bean	Keith & Alice Carr
Ardis Danielson	Ted & Linda Gangelhoff
Greg & Joanne Kaeding	Bruce & Kay Levenson
Del & Julie McCoy	Brett & Ashley McDonald
David Manzey	Mark Manzey
Jack & Linda Olson	Curt & Pam Sommer
Bobby & Mary Swanson	Ken & Marla Schatzke
Ryan & Melissa Sather	Brian & Sue Williams

Flower Calendar for 2019 is near the church's Sign-Up Center. There are still many open

I wish to thank so many from the Immanuel family who have extended prayers, cards & visits & to our pastors who have visited while I've been recuperating from my fall resulting in a couple broken bones. With God's grace & favor I hope to be back among you soon. *Clarice Michel*

Dec 11, 2018: Dear Ladies of the Immanuel LWML, I wanted to thank you so much for the Christmas ornament and the McDonalds gift card. I'm going to use the gift card to buy myself a lunch on my flight back to Fargo. It really means a lot to me to know that you all are keeping me in your thoughts and prayers. School here in California is going great and I'm nearly done with the semester. It's amazing how fast it's gone by! I'm have a good time, but I'm also excited to graduate in a year and a half and go to the seminary. Thanks so much for encouraging me along the way!
God's blessing this Christmas season, Owen Duncan



God's Reign in Spain:
 The Missionary Journey of **Rev David & Shelee Warner**, LCMS
 Missionaries to Spain
Dec 2018
www.lcms.org/warner

Above: Chestnuts roasting o'er an open fire, Sevilla Fellowship of Believers — Around the Word, Sacraments, ... And Paella

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. --Hebrews 10:24-25

Having served in Montana, David knows about dual parishes and travelling between towns for church services. With only 12 miles between Sidney and Fairview, he probably had the shortest Sunday travel of many of the pastors in the Montana District. He made up for that last month, as he drove 1676 miles, adding visits to his normal trips to Madrid. One weekend, after Divine Service on Sunday morning, he continued north of Madrid to Logroño, where several IELE members live. He held Divine Service for 3 families in a member's home, and the following day met with another



member in Zaragoza. **North Route + South**



Route = 1,676 Miles



Two weeks later he made a southern loop after church services in Madrid, travelling to Jaen to meet new contacts, then continuing on to Granada to serve our 3 members there before returning home to Cartagena.

Pastor David and Shelee Warner
#yourmissionariesinSpain

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 **LCMS**, PO Box 66861 St Louis, MO 63166-6861

ND District Annual Men's Winter Retreat –
January 25-26, 2019

Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads, St. John, ND
"Misquoted: Things the Bible Doesn't Say"

The Bible is God's loving, self-revelation to the world; and the center of the whole thing is Christ, crucified and risen for the forgiveness of all people. However, this simple and wonderful good news is often left behind as popular Christian authors twist, distort, and manipulate verses in order to make the text say things it simply does not say. At this year's men's retreat, Pastor Dan Suelzle will discuss how we read the Bible on its own terms, so that we will have the true comfort that God gives there.

Pastor Dan Suelzle is the campus pastor of Wittenberg Lutheran Chapel, serving the students of UND with the Gospel of Christ. After growing up in Hazen, ND, he received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Concordia Nebraska and an M.Div. from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. His first call was to Grace in Eugene, OR, where he served for six years before accepting the call to Wittenberg. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at Concordia Seminary. He and his wife have four children.

For over 25 years, men have enjoyed the camaraderie of these retreats – thought-provoking, Scripture-based presentations, fellowship, music, good food, card games, skeet shooting, etc. Father & son duos are encouraged to come. Contact Corey Isaak to register: Call 701-281-0240, or email: corey.isaak@gracefargo.org

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS			
11-30-2018			
	BUDGET	2018	2017
* RECEIPTS *			
REGULAR ENVELOPES	\$539,000.00	\$443,638.79	\$488,749.11
PLATE OFFERINGS	\$12,000.00	\$10,301.50	\$9,484.27
SPEC. SERVICES & MISC.	\$25,700.00	\$13,666.50	\$15,747.71
ASSETS RELEASED	\$0.00	\$15,097.04	\$0.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$576,700.00	\$467,606.79	\$513,981.09
* EXPENSES *			
MISSIONS	\$117,200.00	\$93,377.72	\$102,538.82
ELDERS	\$28,610.00	\$22,635.84	\$25,223.94
EVANGELISM	\$4,350.00	\$2,707.10	\$721.34
STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE	\$2,700.00	\$2,805.96	\$2,467.13
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$60,300.00	\$57,455.60	\$50,846.62
TRUSTEES	\$54,200.00	\$52,220.73	\$58,269.63
ADMINISTRATION	\$265,690.00	\$239,926.87	\$232,513.87
HUMAN CARE	\$2,250.00	\$2250.00	\$2250.00
CAMPUS MINISTRY	\$63,280.00	\$59,153.06	\$56,289.70
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$598,580.00	\$532,532.88	\$531,121.05
HOME PURPOSES PLUS (MINUS)	(\$21,880.00)	(\$64,926.09)	(\$17,139.96)
YEAR-TO-DATE REC'D			
BOTW-BLDG. MAINT. FUND		\$12,136.00	\$9,973.00
THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS		\$6,890.00	\$8,504.00

11Jan – Jordan Dahl; Shirley Janssen (82); Cheryl Mammel-Hamdan
 12Jan – Samantha Albrecht; Katie Ill; Olivia Olson (5); Ben Stevens
 13Jan – Jeremy Duncan, Sally Hallman
 14Jan – Owen Duncan
 16Jan – Gretchen Klein
 17Jan – Jack Bumgarner; Jacob Schaefer
 19Jan – Bob Stahlecker
 20Jan – Curt Sommer
 21Jan – Bill Fortier; LeRoy Janda (83)
 22Jan – Jamie Jacobson, Faith Luebke; JoAnn Stewart; Susan Williams
 23Jan – Holly Johnson, Dean Sonnenberg
 24Jan – Sophia Olson
 25Jan – Pam Coste
 26Jan – Krista Klein, Carol Thoreson
 29Jan – Melissa Gornowicz
 30Jan – Austin Moltzan
 31Jan – Kristin Mathis

*Dean Sonnenberg had his tools stolen last week while on a job. He's lost about \$3,000 in tools and is slowly repurchasing what was lost. He would like to **thank** all the generous Immanuel members who have helped him replace his livelihood these past few weeks.*



4Jan – Ben & Becky Duncan (22nd)
 13Jan – Todd & Melissa Evensen (18th)
 13Jan – Jason & Jennifer Wilkie (18th)



3Jan – Naomi Schwinghammer (3); Rhoda Viker
 4Jan – Peter Woyen
 5Jan – Jackson Schroeder; Garret Schwinghammer
 6Jan – Lyle Brandt; Clint Podoll; Brian Williams
 10Jan – Roselynn Speidel

Note to Board Chairs and other officers:

Deadline to submit articles and reports for the Annual Meeting is January 14th. Contact Louise if you need an extension.



January 2019 Worship Assistants				
Jan 6	8:15 am	Russ Bubach Lucas D, Eric D Stahlecker Team TBD	11 am	Jeremy Rolf Kay T Hankel Team S/C Trautman
Jan 13	8:15 am	Vas Soori Natalie E Montana Team D/V Aasland	11 am	Russ Bubach Clara S, Lauren D Zinke Team Jack Bumgarner
Jan 20	8:15 am	Dean Sonnenberg Jeremy D, Ella C Mayland Team TBD	11 am	Clint Lowe Jenna C Roesler Team C/P Podoll
Jan 27	8:15 am	Erick Esping Alessandra S Walla Team TBD	11 am	Peter Woyen Gabrielle E, Logan K McCoy Team TBD

My Faith Story

This is the conclusion of Clarice Michel's submission, the first part of which was printed a few months ago.

Hoa's Story [part two]

To say this story has more twists and turns than you can possibly imagine simply understates it. I've only given you the highlights! But the main goal has always been to get Hoa back in a facility that will care for him and makes sure he stays on medication, as he had not been taking his medication for some time. Just talking to him for a short time makes one fully aware of this fact! The family has put up with so many heartaches and frustrations as any family does that deals with untreated mental illness.

Currently (August 2018), Hoa is in a psychiatric hospital. And this came about because he got in a physical fight with his brother in law, who he had been living with when he returned to California. But this allowed the police to arrest him as he had now become classified as a danger to others & himself. He was soon diagnosed as mentally ill; but part of his future now depended on clearing up the charges in Fargo.

Through all this I have asked the Lord, "What is it you want me to do?" "What is my role in this story?" And the answer has come back, "Just extend my love to those who are hurting". "Do what you can." Two verses have been very helpful, Judges 6:14-16 "...Go with the strength you have...have not I sent you? ...and the Lord said, I will be with thee. And Deuteronomy 31:8 "The Lord is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed..." And so, I'm now on first name basis with the staff at the Public Defender's office as I try to get information to them from the Du family, because if the attorney's office here can get the paper work from the psychiatric hospital, and Hoa's psychiatrist stating that he is mentally ill and under a doctor's care and on medication, they should be able to prove this to the court here in Fargo and the charges dropped, and Hoa can be admitted to a long-term facility. That is the main goal. The secondary goal is to have the \$7000 + bail money restored to the family. This is the best thing for him and what the family would like to see happen.

Now as Paul Harvey used to say, "...Here is the rest of the story": On August 22nd, I received a phone call from Cuc Du that she'd received word from the Public Defender's office here in Fargo that all charges have

been dropped against Hoa Du and the bail money can be returned to the family. Cuc has been named his Conservator (guardian) for Hoa; and he is in a long-term facility where he gets his medication and he seems to be doing well. What an answer to so many prayers! Only the Lord knows what He will do with this piece of their story, but we rejoice that we could be a part of it even if we don't always understand what He, who knows all mysteries, has in mind.

And now, we will have the first portion of John Trandem's faith story:

My name is John Trandem. I am the first of two children born in Fargo to wonderful, decent, and loving parents. I attended church and Sunday School throughout my youth, had perfect attendance for almost all of those years and was confirmed at Hope Lutheran Church in North Fargo.

As a young person I learned all of the typical Bible Stories, sang the songs, prayed before dinner, and celebrated Christian Holidays with our family. I believed that I was a believer- and for all intents and purposes, I was. As I grew older, I bought into the notion that one did not have to go to church to have a relationship with the Lord. In retrospect, that belief was rooted more in the not going to church part than it was in pursuing that relationship and as time went by, any relationship I did have with Christ diminished severely. During my teenage years I satisfied myself by being 'better than my peers', that is, they used alcohol, tobacco, and drugs, and I didn't. Even though I engaged in many other improper activities right alongside them, my conscience was relatively clear as I had convinced myself that I was exercising the requisite discipline to still be considered 'a good person'. I stopped going to church other than on Holidays with my family, but still clung to the idea of the relationship I was convinced still existed between myself and the Lord. This went on into my early twenties when I was approached by a friend to portray Christ in the Stations of the Cross at Good Friday services. I agreed to do so and did each Good Friday for the next 7 years. It was impossible not to be touched and even convicted each year as we acted out the stations, but I was still not prepared to commit to regular worship or surrender my life to the Lord.

Next Month: Find out what happens from 1995 and forward ...

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

[This page is ND District LCMS
"Message in the Pew"]

[this page reserved for cover]