

## From the Board for Human Care

Thanks to all who volunteered at the Emergency Food Pantry in November.

Thanks also to all those who gave personal items for our drive. We had over 500 items, 993 pounds (over 378 pounds more than last spring), \$60 donated, and \$500 from the partnership with Thrivent.

We are still looking for people to pick up gift tags from our **Giving Tree** in the Welcome Hall. This Christmas season, in partnership with Fargo Housing & Redevelopment Authority, we are giving gifts for specific people. Wrapped and labeled gifts need to be brought back to the church by December 11<sup>th</sup>.

*Taylor Banek, Barbara Downs, Ashley McDonald, Pastor Schulz*

## Devotion Books for Advent

are in the Welcome Hall. These devotions run from Nov 27<sup>th</sup> through Epiphany on Jan 6, 2023. Lutheran Hour Ministries is the source of these booklets, titled "A Son Is Given."



## Advent & Christmas Services

**4:15 & 6pm** on Wed: Nov 30<sup>th</sup>, Dec 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>  
"Symbols of Salvation" (Meals served 5-5:55 pm)

**3 pm Dec 18<sup>th</sup>:** Children's Christmas Service, followed by treats

**7 pm** on Wed, Dec 21<sup>st</sup>: Service of Nine Lessons & Carols (no meal offered)

**4:15 & 6pm** on Sat, Dec 24<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

10 am on Sun, Dec 25<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Day service with Holy Communion (no Education Hour)

*No area New Year's Eve Service*

**8:15 & 11am** on Sun, Jan 1<sup>st</sup>: Services as usual – sermon about hymn, "Amazing Grace"; Adult Bible Class as usual; Sunday School in Student Room: (Jesus' Birthday party and "Star of Christmas" video)

## Christmas Cookie Bake

The Christmas Cookie Bake is just around the corner! On December 11<sup>th</sup>, come ready to buy some delicious cookies for \$5 a dozen to support the youth of Immanuel. If you took a tag to purchase some items for the cookie bake, please have those items dropped off by Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Practices for the Children's Christmas Service will be **December 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 pm**, in order to prepare for the special service, which will be held at **3 pm on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.**



If you enjoy singing Christmas carols or listening to your friends sing, come to the Welcome Hall at **9:15 am on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>** and join in with Pam Sommer – no rehearsal, come as you are.

This year's Children's Christmas Service will be held on Sunday, **December 18<sup>th</sup>** starting at **3 PM**. The theme is "Symbols of Salvation." The service will include children from Nursery age through 8<sup>th</sup> grade and will be a wonderful celebration! Following the service, there will be refreshments provided by the LWML. We hope you are able to join us this year as the children of Immanuel remind us how Christ came down from heaven as that Baby in a manger.

## The Flower Calendar for 2023

is at the Sign-Up Center. Consider providing altar flowers to commemorate special events. You may sign up wherever there are blanks – first come, first served.



## “Symbols of Salvation” Advent Midweek Services

Jesus tells us that everything in the Bible points to Him. In other words, it's all about Jesus. “And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself” (*Luke 24:27*). From the very beginning of creation, the way God interacts with His people foreshadows and points ahead to the coming of Jesus as our Savior from sin and death. The various symbols and signs in the Old Testament point to a complete fulfillment in the person and work of Jesus, because Jesus is the embodiment of the Scriptures. “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (*John 1:14*). Even today, Holy Scripture continues to be the active, Spirit-filled Word of God that proclaims and brings Christ to us. Our Advent Midweek Services, as well as our Children's Christmas Service, will be presented this year under the theme: “Symbols of Salvation.” Please join us each Wednesday at 4:15 & 6 pm in the sanctuary, and enjoy supper together at 5 pm in the Celebration Center.



### “If Only...”

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 who are hurting around me.” “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 desolate.” “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. Could we not argue that the same thing is true for the “disaster” of a million dollars being suddenly dropped into our lap?

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 disaster, tragedy, or 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 us to share the Good News about Jesus with others.

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 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 at Calvary becomes clear. And, as we take up our cross and follow Him, we become holy witnesses to the reality of who Jesus Christ is, and what He has done for us and for our salvation.

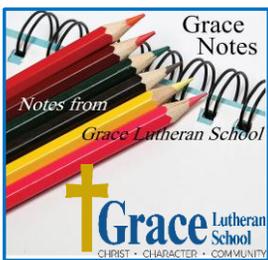
On the other hand, the Theology of Glory says it takes a million dollars to make a difference for God, and if you have enough faith it will happen. If you just believe hard enough, God will give it to you! The Theology of the Cross, however, tells us that it takes Jesus to make the difference because without Him we can do nothing! And we have

*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 & friends is sent monthly via USPS. Subscription changes: Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1258 Broadway, Fargo, ND 58102-2637; 701-293-7979; [Immanuel.fargo@gmail.com](mailto:Immanuel.fargo@gmail.com). Website: [www.immanuel.fargo.org](http://www.immanuel.fargo.org)*

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 personal 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 to live with Him forever.

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

**Thanks to** Becky Bartelt for speaking about her missionary work on Nov 20<sup>th</sup>! She is looking to return to the mission field, but this time to Taiwan in Jan 2023 as a sacred music educator. See her leaflet in the Sign-Up Center (near elevator).



**Dear Friends,**  
 Advent is here and we rejoice in the anticipation of the birth of our Lord.

A Celebration of Grace took place on November 11 at the Sanctuary Events Center. We had 293 item donations, 174 unique bidders, 110 dinner guests, 16 cheesecakes, 13 live auctions, 2 emcees, and one lovely evening. Thank you to ALL who donated, promoted, participated, and organized this celebratory event. Together with all of you, we raised \$52,500, with almost 90% of that amount directly benefiting students through curriculum updates and scholarships, ensuring that every child has access to Lutheran education. We are humbled and we are thankful for every one of you. Thank you.

The Christmas Musical will take place on Friday, December 16 with performances at 1:30 and 7:00 pm. Please note the date change. All are invited to enjoy the Christmas message shared by our student body.

*Merry Christmas from Grace Lutheran School!*

**Notice these Deadlines:**

Articles for Jan. issue of Image to office by Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>. Board Budgets to Bd. of Finance by Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. Annual Reports due to Louise by Jan 18<sup>th</sup>.



**Giving Envelopes** are available in the Welcome Hall, starting Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. Please remember to WAIT until 2023 to use the new envelopes. It has been five (5) years since the numbers have

been updated, **so most people have new numbers for 2023.** Contact the office if you wish to have physical envelopes but didn't this year (and vice versa). The Board of Stewardship also reminds you that **Promise Cards** for 2023 will be accepted throughout December in the church office.

**Family Serving Groups**

Ed Bean, FSG Coordinator, has announced the December group is **Aas** (Aasland-Bubach); the January group is **Bum** (Bumgarner-Downs); and the February group is **Dra** (Duncan-Gunnerson).

Thank you for answering 'yes' when asked to volunteer.

Ed Bean also reminds us all that there is still a supply of **mugs with our logo** and mission statement. They are ready to go – and a bargain at \$6 each. Get a Christmas gift for your favorite member or friend of Immanuel! Pay in the church office.



memorials & gifts	
From (date)	Honor/MEMORY
Terry/Dolly Meyer (11-7)	MARY MANKE
Bob Stahlecker (11-14)	HELEN HUMPHREY
Vi Aasland	HELEN HUMPHREY
Clint/Pat Podoll	HELEN HUMPHREY
Mary Hallgren	HELEN HUMPHREY
Marlo Davis (11-21)	HELEN HUMPHREY
Bruce/Kay Levenson	HELEN HUMPHREY
Dave/Karlene Gilster	HELEN HUMPHREY
Delores Berndt	HELEN HUMPHREY
Wayne/Elaine Hankel	HELEN HUMPHREY
Curt/Pam Sommer	HELEN HUMPHREY
Clint/Pat Podoll (11-28)	DARYL HANKEL
Jim/Patty Walla	HELEN HUMPHREY
Paul/Deanna Mayland	HELEN HUMPHREY; EVELYN MONTGOMERY



Having just celebrated Thanksgiving, it is an appropriate time to also be giving thanks for all the wonderful support and gifts of sharing for our diaper and wipes package collection for The Perry Center, our pregnancy and maternity home for unwed young mothers. We collected 82 packages, surpassing our goal of 80! THANK YOU to all who contributed. Please continue to keep the Center in your prayers as they care for and share the love of Christ with these young women.

December and Advent are upon us, and we have a couple opportunities to share and serve others within our congregation. Please mark your calendars and check to see where you are able to help! There are sign-up sheets on our purple LWML table for helpers still needed for both of our serving events. By having people signed up, we are assured that we will have helpers for each shift.

**Wed, Dec 7<sup>th</sup>** – LWML serves the Advent meal @ 5 pm. Chili will be prepared on Tuesday at 10:45 at church. We need a few extra workers for serving and clean-up on Wednesday.

**Sun, Dec 18<sup>th</sup>** – LWML serves Christmas cookies/bars, hot chocolate, and coffee immediately following the Sunday School Christmas Service, which is at 3 pm. Please check the sign-up to see how you might be able to help! Sharing the load makes light work for all!

**Sun, Jan 8<sup>th</sup>** – LWML Board Meeting @ 12:15 pm

The winter issue of our Quarterly magazine has just arrived! It contains all the information on the June 2023 LWML National Convention in Milwaukee, so be sure you pick up your copy and take a look, and start planning to attend the convention!

I thank God for all of you, my sisters in Christ, as we share friendship and a desire to serve others and share the love of Christ far and near.

May you all be blessed with time to reflect on the gift of a Savior and the true meaning of Christmas!

*Patty Walla, LWML President*

*Immanuel Image, December 2022*



The Board of Outreach at Immanuel is continuing to implement an **“in-reach and outreach” initiative**. The first

groupings for **“4x4”** have ended, and the deadline for the second groupings is looming.

With a sign-up deadline of December 18<sup>th</sup>, **the process begins all over again** for the months of January, February, &

March. The sign-up sheet is at the Sign-Up Center. See the church’s website for more information on the four-by-four program.

December Worship Assistants				
Dec 4	8:15 am	Elder: Andrew E Acolyte: Leah G Usher Team: Esping Greeter: RCote/PCoste Video: Samuel Boateng	11 am	E: Andrew Eggebraaten A: Madden T UT: Stahlecker G: Bill Piper
Dec 7	4:15 pm	Volunteer Ushers	6 pm	Volunteer Ushers; Jack B, video
Dec 11	8:15 am	E: Steve Larson A: Carl D UT: Montana G: Myrna Larson V: Jack Bumgarner	11 am	E: Steve Larson A: Peter D UT: Diers G: Clint/Pat Podoll
Dec 14	4:15 pm	Volunteer Ushers	6 pm	Volunteer Ushers; Kay Tegtmeier, video
Dec 18	8:15 am	E: Larry Bakken A: Scarlett H UT: Semanko G: Diane Heagle V: Samuel Boateng	11 am	E: Larry Bakken A: Elsie T UT: Steve Asche G: L/P Lindgren <b>3p: Jacob S, video</b>
Dec 21	7 pm	Service of 9 Lessons & Carols		Volunteer Ushers; Jacob Schulz, video
Dec 24	4:15 pm	UT: Rachow A: Maris H	6 pm	UT: Roesler/Rolf V: Kay Tegtmeier
Dec 25	10 am	E: Vas Soori A: Maris H UT: Esping G: P/D Mayland V: Jacob Schulz		<i>There is no area New Year's Eve service this year.</i>



## “Main Street Living” Media Ministry - December Update



“GLORY TO GOD in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” Luke 2:14 There doesn’t seem to be much peace on earth these days. As I write this article in mid-November, Russia continues to rain down missiles throughout the Ukraine, tensions are growing with North Korea, as well as with China, and the recent mid-term elections seem to indicate an ever-deepening split in our own nation regarding who should govern. And sadly, I could list many more examples of a lack of peace. BUT there IS PEACE between God and those of us who believe in Him! This PEACE has been made possible by the Jesus we celebrate especially at this time of the year we call CHRISTmas!

Please continue to share information about our LCMS “Main Street Living” media ministry with others. In addition to being broadcast each Sunday morning, you can view archived programs anytime at [www.mainstreetliving.com](http://www.mainstreetliving.com) – then click on the link under the picture identified as “Fargo.”

Thank you for your 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 on the website. God’s blessing in Christ!

### “MSL North” Programs for Dec 2022:

**Dec 4<sup>th</sup>:** Rev. Heath Trampe, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Minot, ND, presents the message: “Peace? Are you kidding me?” based on Matthew 3:1-12. *Lutheran Hour seasonal program: “Stable Boy” - A manger scene comes to life and tells the story of the first Christmas.*

**Dec 11<sup>th</sup>:** Rev. Philip Beyersdorf, St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, Minot, ND, presents the message: “The Work of the Great Physician” based on Matthew 11:2-11. *Lutheran Hours seasonal program: “Red Boots for Christmas” - A shoemaker learns the true meaning of Christmas.*

**Dec 18<sup>th</sup>:** Rev. Craig Fenske, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, ND, (message to be announced). *Lutheran Hour seasonal program: “Christmas Is” - The shepherd in a Christmas play learns the importance of Christmas.*

**Dec 25<sup>th</sup>:** Rev. Matthew Harrison, LCMS President, presents the Christmas message. *Lutheran Hour seasonal program: “Christmas on Main Street” - The Christmas message at a mission brings a grandson and his grandfather together.*

*Immanuel Image, December 2022*

## Confirmation Parent-Teacher Conferences

Every year, the pastors and DCE have parent-teacher conferences on **January 4<sup>th</sup>** to check-in about how students are doing in their confirmation classes. Sign-up email will be sent at the beginning of December, so take a few moments to pick your time! This conference is a great opportunity to make sure both parents and teacher are on the same page about each youth’s faith growth.

## To request prayers for the PRAYER CHAIN,

contact one of the coordinators: Clarice Michel (Claricemichel39@gmail.com; 701-237-9759) or Sandi Gardner-Leikas (701-237-9661; [srendrag76@gmail.com](mailto:srendrag76@gmail.com)). You may also wish to join the prayer chain. Contact Clarice or Sandi to volunteer. *Note: Prayer Chain items do NOT go on the Prayer Page of the Immanuel News unless directed to do so.*

4Dec – Rod & Kris Lym (40<sup>th</sup>)

7Dec – Debby & [Don] Bickle (49<sup>th</sup>)

9Dec – Brent & Kristi Aasland (11<sup>th</sup>)

15Dec – Jared & Alexis Riesen (11<sup>th</sup>)

18Dec – Bill & Dona Piper (51<sup>st</sup>)

20Dec – Ted & Linda Gangelhoff (53<sup>rd</sup>)

21Dec – Donovan & Hddie Larson (26<sup>th</sup>)

23Dec – Richard & Norma Frohberg (60<sup>th</sup>)

26Dec – Edward & Karen Woyen (29<sup>th</sup>)

27Dec – Bob & Donna Roach (70<sup>th</sup>)



1Dec – Patty Wolter; Keri Stevens; Paul Ill

2Dec – Gretchen

Kirklewski; Patrick Maassel

3Dec – Nathan Walsh

4Dec – ReNae Schaefer

5Dec – Ali Cortez; Wayne Redmann; Clara Sauvageau; [Don] Bickle

6Dec – Todd Mairs; Matthew Walla; [Ward Briggs]

7Dec – Beth Mairs; [Cheryl Orman-Lindsey]

8Dec – Jonathan Schulz

9Dec – Kirsten Rowe; Drew Kittelson

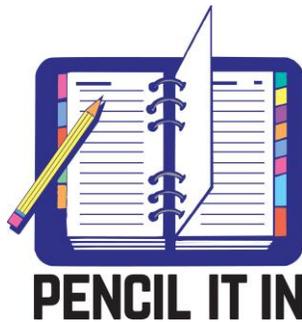
10Dec – Ben Moen; Emily Engebretson; Lisa Vasichek

11Dec – Ashley Williams; Landon Deisler-Williams; Josh Gornowicz

12Dec – Trey Larson; Ellisyne Esping; Rick Cote  
 13Dec – Kay Levenson (86); Chris Rieckman; Ian Bernard  
 14Dec – Rod Lym; Chad McCoy; Sammi Hintz; Lazarus Swenson (1); Scarlett Hanson  
 15Dec – Christine Sauvageau  
 16Dec – Matthew Kaeding; Bonnie Kittelson; Ashlynn Wendel; Rylee Hoppe; Amy Hirsch; Elijah Caldwell (9)  
 17Dec – Alycia Decker; Diane Lueck  
 19Dec – Brian Aasland; Safara Simmons (8); Travis Woyen  
 20Dec – Michael Vasicek  
 23Dec – Carolyn Worrall; Noah Olson  
 25Dec – Sofia Jacobson  
 26Dec – John Henry Merz (7)  
 27Dec – Blair Aasland  
 28Dec – Mike Wardlow; Leah Gornowicz; Layne Jenkins; Euphemia Rubbert (2)  
 29Dec – Donovan Larson  
 30Dec – Mary Hallgren; Al Ochsner; Julie McCoy; Jennifer Walla; Croix Briggs (2)  
 31Dec – Bruce Thomas; Ben Duncan; Todd Hirsch

Do you know the meaning of Privilege? Politically correct? Woke? Anti-racist? Social justice? Victim? Divisions by gender, race, religion?

**Educational Event**  
 on Feb 25, 2023  
 "Christianity and Wokeism"  
 Pastor Paul Dare,  
 special speaker



Pastor Worrall, Pastor Schulz, and Immanuel Lutheran Congregation:

With the passing of Helen Humphrey, we would like to thank you for keeping Mom in your hearts, especially during these last years of her life. A special thank you to those who officiated, played the organ, sang, served the meal, attended Mom's service, made a memorial donation in her name, or sent a card. We truly appreciate everything you've done.

-the family of Dean and Helen Humphrey

Immanuel Image, December 2022

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS			
10-31-2022			
	BUDGET	2022	2021
<b>* RECEIPTS *</b>			
REGULAR ENVELOPES	\$550,000.00	\$453,316.85	\$445,311.99
PLATE OFFERINGS	\$10,000.00	\$8,939.50	\$5,655.50
SPEC. SERVICES & MISC.	\$20,000.00	\$11,217.12	\$8,260.00
ASSETS RELEASED	\$69,000.00	\$18,864.03	\$0.00
<b>*TOTAL RECEIPTS*</b>	<b>\$649,000.00</b>	<b>\$492,337.50</b>	<b>\$459,227.49</b>
<b>* EXPENSES *</b>			
MISSIONS	\$116,000.00	\$94,524.51	\$91,607.65
ELDERS	\$28,500.00	\$24,955.40	\$25,607.77
EVANGELISM	\$3,750.00	\$6,236.93	\$2,787.50
STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE	\$3,450.00	\$2,838.40	\$3,045.03
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$43,950.00	\$43,398.75	\$24,235.45
TRUSTEES	\$125,000.00	\$73,893.69	\$89,959.14
ADMINISTRATION	\$283,370.00	\$232,182.63	\$224,606.87
HUMAN CARE	\$2,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
CAMPUS MINISTRY	\$72,830.00	\$62,176.29	\$59,002.77
ENDOWMENT	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>*TOTAL EXPENSES*</b>	<b>\$681,100.00</b>	<b>\$540,206.60</b>	<b>\$520,852.18</b>
<b>HOME PURPOSES PLUS (MINUS)</b>	<b>(\$32,100.00)</b>	<b>(\$47,869.10)</b>	<b>(\$61,624.69)</b>
<b>*YEAR-TO-DATE REC'D*</b>			
<b>BOTW-BLDG. MAINT. FUND</b>		\$18,524.79	\$10,867.57
<b>THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS</b>		\$4,349.00	\$7,381.00

**Thank you to all of the Guardian Angels that have volunteered to pray for and give support to our confirmation youth. Here's a reminder to encourage your student through cards, notes, or other small remembrances. May you be both a blessing and blessed by your service as a Guardian Angel.**

**Joanne Kaeding**

## Chili for Chile

Brothers and sisters of the North Dakota District, Peace be with you. Our brothers and sisters in Chile need our support. We budgeted an amount for them at our convention which is insufficient to cover their ministry needs. To solve this problem, St. Matthew Lutheran congregation in Hazen

challenges our sister congregations to a fund-raising effort, "Chili for Chile".

**Chile named for Chili?**

Rather, Chile comes from an Aztec word for "Where the land ends". If you look at a map, Chile is a long



narrow country that borders the Pacific Ocean in South America. So, the Aztec word for "where the land ends" is very descriptive. Chili is also

from an Aztec word that describes a type of pepper plant. This plant was unknown in Europe before Columbus brought them back from the Americas. We are going to connect the two to help us remember and have a soup supper called, "Chili for Chile". The proceeds will be sent to the North Dakota District to be sent to assist the important ministry in Chile. (The plans are for a later event called "Chilly for Chile", where we host an ice cream Sunday also to collect a gift for our Lutheran brothers and sisters in Chile). We would offer the challenge of raising \$5,000 dollars through the participating congregations. This matches their need, but what a blessing it would be if we were able to raise more! Start choppin' the onions, and diggin' out the Chili recipes. May the Lord bless our efforts.

*Yours, in Christ,*

*St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Hazen, ND*



Rev. Dr. Matt Heise (L) and Mr. Jeff Rahn display the new Spanish hymnal in the chapel of Concordia the Reformer Seminary.



*Safe Shelter, Stable Housing, Nutritious Food, and a Path Toward Healing*

Churches United is here for every neighbor. Help us rise to the challenge of continuing to serve our community! We are seeking 5,000 \$100.00 donors this November & December. Join us in meeting and exceeding this goal and watch for updates over the coming weeks.

Donate here <https://donorbox.org/community-challenge-campaign>.

5,000 Donors. \$100.00 Gifts. This Nov & Dec.

The sprint to year end is ON! We will see you all at the finish line.

**What does 100 dollars do?**  
 100 dollars provides shelter, food, and housing focused case management for a family of 3 for one day. 100 dollars can make a huge difference in the lives of our neighbors. Churches United is here for every neighbor.




*Basement Remodel Update*

At the last Voters meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup>, it was decided to move forward with a capital campaign as outlined in the addendum to the meeting agenda. A budget was passed, which includes our very own Ed Bean as consultant (at a greatly reduced rate from another professional).

Stay tuned for more information as we form the capital campaign committee, complete with a chair of that committee. Contact Pastor Worrall or Jim if interested in this committee.

*Jim Walla, Congregational President*

# News from the Maita family serving the Lord in Puerto Rico



We thank God for the mission team from St. Matthew's Esko, Minnesota, who helped in so many areas at both our church locations. The team helped: 1. Paint the inside of

our church (pictured) 2. Teach 6 English classes on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday for a special "intensive" at both our



Lutheran churches: Mayaguez and Ponce 3. Lead a Vacation Bible School for kids, all in English, in Mayaguez. The Minnesota team also joined in on the fellowship time on Wednesday and Friday. We



Our church family with our Reformation banners. One reads "You are saved by works, but NOT your works."

had a bi-lingual hymn sing: 1 verse English, 2nd verse in Spanish! With two hymnals, it felt like skipping Double-Dutch! Short-term teams help accomplish so many jobs, that need more man power than we have on a daily

basis. We thank God for the hard work of this group and the joy with which they served each day. We thank God for the times of devotion and having church services together also.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

*Pastor Gustavo, Ruth, Mikhaela, and Isaiah Maita*



News from God's mission field in Latin America from  
Pastor Philip and Deaconess Rachel Jaseph,  
Career Missionaries of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod,  
serving in Montevideo, Uruguay

Volume 9  
September/October 2022

**Pastor Phil** has been able to jump right into assisting with various aspects of the Divine Service at Iglesia Luterana

San Pablo, the congregation associated with the school here in Uruguay. It has been a joy for him to have the privilege of giving God's gifts to God's people in Word and Sacrament during this time of transition, before planting and pastoring another congregation.



**Deaconess Rachel** was invited to lead the Liga de

Damas (Women's League) meeting in October during which they studied the Bible readings assigned for that week and learned about how the lectionary can be a great tool for personal devotions as a pattern and guide for Bible reading. Thank the Lord for so quickly providing us a new home! Since leaving our last home in Fort Wayne in June 2021, we have never lacked for anything, and are thankful for our home base with family in Maryland since last year. However, it feels great to be settling into and furnishing a home of our own once again. Thanks be to God! **Thank you so much to all of our TIM congregations who have already partnered with us!** The Lord is using you to sustain us and our work in His name here in Latin America. We are always looking to grow this network of partners so that, Lord-willing, we may serve here for years to come.



Any gift you make will 100% directly support our family. You may send a check made out to "LCMS" with "Jaseph Mission Support" in the memo line to either: Mission Central, 40718 E 16, Mapleton, IA 51034 or LCMS, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. *Pastor Phil and DCE Rachel Jaseph*

## ND District LCMS Message in a Pew

**November 2022**  
**Meet Carolyn!**

On October 25, Carolyn Fiechtner began her Fargo Office Manager duties with the North Dakota District! Carolyn comes to us with more than 15 years of office experience and owns her own virtual assistant business. She lives in West Fargo with husband Randy, daughter Lyla and their miniature Aussie dog named Bear. They have a grown daughter, Kelli, who also lives in West Fargo. The family are all members at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in West Fargo. Carolyn enjoys cooking, sewing, quilting, reading and spending time with her family.



Carolyn is in the office Monday—Wednesday from 9-3. She can be reached at fargooffice@ndlcmss.org or 701-293-9001. Vicki will still be working with the archive records. She can be reached at historian@nodaklcmss.org or 701-293-9001. Any historical records can still be sent to the Fargo office.

**Congregations' Status**

**St. Peter-Belfield:** vacancy (Rev. Anthony Ahrendt).  
**Redeemer--Grassy Butte:** vacancy (Rev. Mike Wolters).  
**St. Martin-Anamoose;** St. John-Kongsberg: vacancy (Rev. Tim Stout).

**First English-Fairmount:** vacancy (Rev. Matthew Tooman).  
**Zion-Edgeley;** Bethlehem-Forbes: Rev. Brandon Woodruff was installed Nov. 6.

**Trinity-Drayton;** Zion-English, Grafton;  
**St. John-Crystal:** vacancy (Rev. Craig Fenske).  
**Zion, Gwinner:** vacancy (Rev. Chris Durham).  
**Peace-Garrison;** St. Matthew-Max: vacancy (Rev. Nathan Schieber).

**Pastors & DCE's**  
Rev. Michael Suelzle, St. Andrew-Niagara, St. Peter-Devils Lake and Grace-Lakota, returned a call to Zion-Gordonville and St. Paul-Chaffee, MO.

## NORTH DAKOTA DISTRICT LCMS

### Financial Information

October 2022

<b>INCOME:</b>	
Congregational Mission Giving	\$57,222.64
Less Synodical Pledge (35%)	(\$20,027.92)
<b>Net Congregational Mission Giving</b>	<b>\$37,194.72</b>
Other Unrestricted Gifts	1,560.45
1-1-1 Mission Giving	801.10
Current gifts/fees for missions	10,402.31
<b>Available Income</b>	<b>\$49,958.58</b>

<b>EXPENSES:</b>	
Local Missions and Committee Activities:	\$17,004.07
(Includes Wittenberg Chapel, Deaf Ministry, Youth)	
Congregational Support/Operating Expenses	37,766.76
(Includes General Operations, District President, Business Manager, Board of Directors)	
International/Local Missions	
Christ's Care for Children – Kenya (\$10,000)	0.00
Chile Mission (\$20,000)	0.00
Shepherd's Hill Retreat (\$5,000)	0.00

(These missions were voted on by the District Convention. They will be paid quarterly as funds are available)  
**Current Expenses** **\$54,770.83**  
**NET OPERATING LOSS FOR OCTOBER** **(\$4,812.25)**  
 Past Funds Given used for Current Expenses **\$3,462.21**  
**Year To Date NET INCOME** **\$36,148.90**

October giving was again below average. Income and expenses reflect both Pastors Conference and the Love Abounds Family Convocation. We are still in the black due to the withheld oil royalties we received at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Gifts from individuals and congregations designated for our convention resolution missions are sent at the end of each fiscal quarter. YTD designated gifts for these missions as of October 31, 2022:

Christ's Care for Children – Kenya	\$4,309.00
Chile Partnership	\$3,875.00
Shepherd's Hill Retreat	\$4,943.35

Please contact Tami Ulland at lcmss.nd.busman@gmail.com or call 701-360-1469 if you have more questions.

**You can now use your credit/debit card to donate directly to the District. Click on the Joyful Response button on nodaklcmss.org to pick where you would like your donation directed. Thank you.**

*[This page reserved for cover.]*