

Lutherans for Life Annual Dessert Banquet

- Sunday, October 1st at 3:00 pm here at Immanuel.
- Guest speaker will be Kim Laube.
- Theme: "Satan is a Liar! Death is NOT the Answer"
- For more information, or to register, please email: FMLFLBanquet@outlook.com or call Amy Walker at 218-979-0953.



Kim Laube, BA, Deputy Director
Lutheran Family Service

Ms. Laube directs a multi-state pregnancy counseling & adoption agency in the Midwest. Kim has been involved in advocating for life in both her current role and former role as Executive Director of Iowans For Life, by being a voice in the public square. She has influenced public policy and the education of congregations regarding both abortion and physician-assisted suicide.



Immanuel will be hosting our Third Annual Trunk-or-Treat on October 28th from 3-5 PM

in the church parking lot. If you have never seen a trunk-or-treat, it is an event where people decorate their trunk in a theme – such as superheroes – in the parking lot and then the kids “trick-or-treat” from trunk to trunk instead of door to door. It’s a fun way to let little ones trick-or-treat in a safe and fun environment!

So, what do I need to do?

1. Sign up to be a part of the Trunk-Or-Treat!
2. Pick a theme to decorate your trunk! (Google and Pinterest are very helpful. Just type in “Trunk-Or-Treat Ideas”).
3. Bring your car and decorations to Immanuel on Saturday, October 28th at **2:30 PM** and decorate your car!
4. Wear a costume (part of your theme is always more fun) and pass out candy as kids come to your trunk!

This event is open to the congregation and we would love to see everyone participating in the Trunk-or-Treat! **Please see the sign-up at the Sign-up Center** for more information or contact the Board of Education or DCE Wolfram with any questions.



Confirmation Sunday

is slated for **2nd service on October 29, 2023**. Six young people will be making their confirmation vows that morning: **Claire Patricia Carr, Carl James DeBoer, Milan Carl**

Gornowicz, Adam James Schaefer, Shea Andrew Tollefson, and Evan Gustaf Albert Woyen. (Another member of the class, **Peter Andrew Duncan**, was confirmed May 14th, before the family’s move to Illinois.)



Dr. Mark Vande Braak, Ph.D., FT, MT-BC
Thanatologist/Music Therapist

Understanding the Grief Process

St. Andrew Lutheran Church, West Fargo

Saturday, October 14, 2023

9:00-12:00

Zion Lutheran Church, Bismarck

Sunday, October 15, 2023

1:00-4:00 pm

Dr. Mark has 30+ years of mental health experience in Thanatology (death and loss). He will share his vast experience in helping individuals, families, and communities in the face of tragedy from accidents, shootings, natural disaster, and suicide.

Free Will Offering

Acts 4 is a Wednesday evening children's program for kids from kindergarten to 5th grade. It includes a Bible lesson, games, crafts, and other activities. It runs from 7-8 pm on the same nights as confirmation meets [excluding Dec 13th & 20th]. For more information, please contact Amy Hirsch at 701-866-1668 or amyhirsch1979@gmail.com.



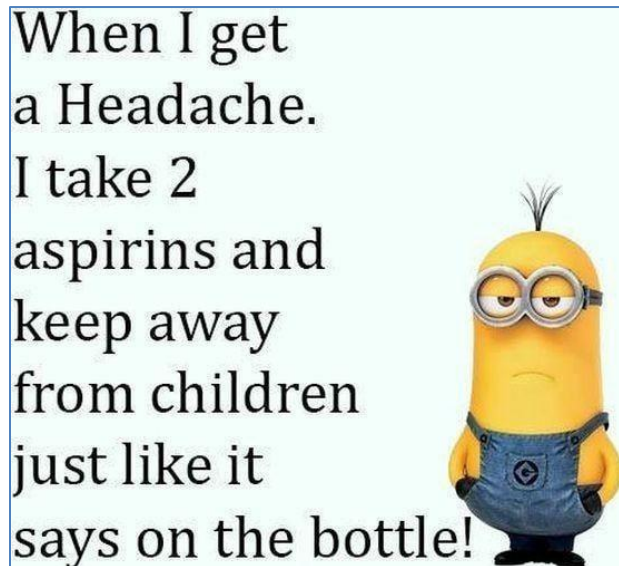
Adult Choir meets **Mondays** from 7-8:15 pm in the balcony. Weekly choir rehearsals are all about fun, fellowship, and praising God! Everyone is welcome to join! Contact Katie Rolf for more info: kathryn.rolf@gmail.com or 651-336-1012.



In 1302, a proof text was taken from Luke 22:38. *The disciples said to Jesus, "See, Lord, here are two swords."* "That's enough!" replied Jesus. With this proof text, the church set forth the doctrine of the two kingdoms. Because Jesus didn't beg off the use of two swords, the church is permitted to rule through the church and state to its own advantage. Pope Boniface VIII said, "Both swords, the spiritual and the material, therefore, are in

the power of the church; the one, indeed, to be wielded for the church, the other by the church; the one by the hand of the priest, the other by the hand of kings and knights, but at the will and sufferance of the priest." (Unam Sanctum)

There are other bad examples and not just from the Middle Ages. Proof texting has gone awry many times and in many other places. We sometimes put texts together from Scripture to prove our own point, instead of letting the text speak for itself within its own context. It is like forcing round pegs into square holes just to make things fit the way we see it.



But quoting scriptures to prove a point has gotten a bad rap. Just search the internet with the phrase "proof texting" and you'll read all sorts of articles on how it is a bad thing. And the phrase "proof text" is redefined to mean something bad in the first place. Go back a century and it was never used this way, despite obvious abuse. I suppose words do change their meaning over time, but to me a proof

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text is just that. A text to prove a point. You can do so poorly, wrongly, or rightly. But it doesn't mean it is necessarily bad.

Jesus quoted the Old Testament scriptures endlessly to prove his points. He used them authoritatively to substantiate his arguments and to provide answers to questions. We have 78 skillful examples in the four Gospels, where Jesus is quoting scriptures, referring back to stories in the Bible, and also pulling in phrases from the Old Testament to strengthen his teaching. Despite being the Lord of the Sabbath and able to trump any argument of the Pharisees on points about the Sabbath, he quotes from the Old Testament to establish his doctrine. The idea here isn't "don't do proof texting," but back up your teaching rightly. Keep the context in mind. Let the text speak for itself and instead of for your own point.

When Jesus is tempted by the Devil in the wilderness, his answer to him is exactly the same each time... "It is written..." "It is written..." "It is written..." Scripture is the perfect rejoinder to the Devil's scheme. (Matt 4:7)

Jesus also had a way of superseding the Scriptures. Like when he said, "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you..." (Matt 5:21) "Christ is the end of the law," says the apostle Paul (Rom 10:4). So, he does get to have the last word on things. Nevertheless, we only know truth from God's Word and the Word who became flesh. That's where the church derives her own authority to teach and preach. Otherwise, our "rules are but teachings taught by men." (Mk 7:7)

You'll notice too that Jesus never quoted the teachers of the Jewish faith. The Midrash and Talmud contained the sayings of the great teachers of the Jewish faith down through the centuries. They were well known in His time. But our Lord kept going back to the Scriptures.

We should read the church fathers. They are the great teachers of the Christian faith down through the centuries. It is helpful to know what the second disciples of the first disciples had to say about such things as the sacraments, Christ, and our salvation.

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. Website: www.immanuel.fargo.org

But we accept their teachings only as they illuminate God's Word – so too the creeds of the Christian Church. We accept them because they rightly teach God's Word.

Why go on about this? Because authority is important. Sources of information are vital. We need primary sources. We need the straight scoop from God himself through his prophets and apostles. If we are going to assert God's truth, and if we are going to seek to make men holy by receiving that truth, then it better be God's Word.

Pastor Worral

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). 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.*



Family Serving Groups

Ed Bean, FSG Coordinator, has stated the October group is **Aas** (Aasland-Bubach); the

November group is **Bum** (Bumgarner-Downs); and the December group is **Dra** (Eggebraaten-Gunnerson). Thank you for volunteering once or twice per year to assist with serving coffee time and the occasional congregational dinner.



Time and Talent Fair 2023



Time & Talent Fair

Calling all boards, organizations, committees, and groups associated with Immanuel Lutheran! The Stewardship Board is hosting a Time and Talent Fair in the Celebration Center

between services on November 19, 2023. This is a great opportunity to showcase all of the 'branches' of our Immanuel 'tree' which serve our Lord and congregation by being available to highlight your group and answer questions. Brochures and table displays are welcome and encouraged (some may have saved theirs from the fair in 2021 and have a head start). The whole congregation is invited to attend and learn of new opportunities to bear fruits of faith. Ways in which we serve include:

Board of Elders	Board of Education
Sunday School	VBS
Grace Lutheran School and RRLSA	
ILC Endowment Board	Board of Finance
Board for Human Care	Board of Outreach
Board of Stewardship	Board of Trustees
Ushers & Greeters	LWML
Quilters	Guardian Angel Program
Family Serving Groups	Bible Classes
Music Programs	Acts4 Program
ILC Prayer Chain	Lutheran Student Fellowship
LYF	Main Street Living
Lutherans for Life	Men's Encouragement
ND Right to Life	ND Family Alliance

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to a Stewardship Board member: Kris Lym, Korey Zellers, Connie Grondahl, or Pastor Bernie. (Also, let us know if there are any additions or corrections to the list above.)

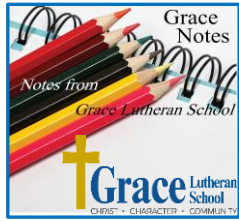
God's Firm Foundation (GFF) Update

Paul writes of his ministry to the Christians in Philippi (Philippians 4) that he can do all things through Christ who strengthens him (v. 13) and, furthermore, God will provide for every need in riches in glory (v. 19). God's Firm Foundation is a testament to God's provision of strength to his church at Immanuel. God has provided physically for the needs of the campaign through sure and steady support. In Philippians 4, Paul also thanks the churches that have supported his ministry, the gift itself less important than the fruitfulness it provided. As Immanuel stands on the cusp of construction, we anticipate the fruitfulness of this gift of a new space. Please prayerfully consider a gift toward this project that all who use it may draw strength from Him who provides for every need in riches in glory.

To date GFF total funds in hand: \$706,346, with promises also outstanding.

Thank you,

Mitch & Lorinda Semanko, co-chairs (701-730-0885)



Fall greetings from Grace Lutheran School!

Mark your calendars for A
"Celebration of Grace"
Dinner and Auction on

Friday, November 10th! Social hour starts at **5:30 pm** with dinner and a program with live auctions to follow. Tickets are available on the school's website, www.gracelutheranschoolfargo.com. If you would like to donate an item or an experience to the live or silent auction, please contact Amy Hirsch at 701-232-7747 or amy.hirsch@glsfargo.org.

Grace added one more teacher to our roster right before school started, Ms. Katie Link. Ms. Link is teaching and assisting in a variety of subjects, including art, one of her specialties. Please welcome Ms. Link if you see her around!

Make sure you check out the Growing Together in Grace update article for exciting news on the capital improvement campaign!

Calendar: Oct 19th and 20th – No School



Growing Together in Grace Capital Improvement Campaign Update

It is with great pleasure and thanksgiving that we can announce that the Growing Together in Grace capital improvement campaign has surpassed the 66% fundraising threshold. As of mid-September, the campaign has raised \$845,605 of \$1.25 million. The Board of Education has approved taking the next step in the campaign. This is an exciting time in the history of Grace Lutheran School.

GTIG will continue its work until the project can be fully funded. If you feel called to support the campaign, please contact Amy Hirsch at 701-232-7747 or amy.hirsch@glsfargo.org.

Thank you to all who have pledged or sent gifts in the early stages of this campaign. God has worked mightily to bring the project to the next step.

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS			
7-31-2023			
	BUDGET	2023	2022
* RECEIPTS *			
REGULAR ENVELOPES	\$585,000.00	\$374,908.13	\$354,192.75
PLATE OFFERINGS	\$10,000.00	\$6,242.00	\$7,219.50
SPEC. SERVICES & MISC.	\$20,000.00	\$8,544.74	\$10,888.00
ASSETS RELEASED	\$110,000.00	\$0.00	\$18,864.03
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$725,000.00	\$389,694.87	\$391,164.28
* EXPENSES *			
MISSIONS	\$123,000.00	\$77,732.45	\$74,355.68
ELDERS	\$29,900.00	\$15,290.02	\$21,884.75
EVANGELISM	\$3,750.00	\$1,918.87	\$5,486.93
STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE	\$8,300.00	\$4,794.69	\$2,435.60
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$58,900.00	\$33,439.38	\$31,329.91
TRUSTEES	\$136,000.00	\$52,546.76	\$63,614.90
ADMINISTRATION	\$304,100.00	\$161,567.35	\$182,552.46
HUMAN CARE	\$2,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
CAMPUS MINISTRY	\$76,280.00	\$47,058.11	\$50,496.04
ENDOWMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$742,480.00	\$394,347.63	\$432,156.27
HOME PURPOSES PLUS (MINUS)	(\$17,480.00)	(\$4,652.76)	(\$40,991.99)
YEAR-TO-DATE REC'D			
BOTW-BLDG. MAINT. FUND		\$7,967.46	\$14,495.59
GFF (Basement Remodel)		\$484,391.03	\$0.00
GTIG (Grace Bldg Project)		\$3,500.00	\$0.00
THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS		\$6,712.00	\$4,334.00

"Main Street Living" Media Ministry - October Update



As I write this newsletter article on "9-11" of 2023, it's hard to believe that 22 years have now gone by since the Twin Towers in New York City were destroyed. Many of the news programs are remembering the horrific actions flowing from mankind's sinful hearts which killed and injured so many people! Holy Scripture tells us that "Out of the heart comes evil thoughts, **murder**, adultery, sexual immorality, theft false testimony, slander." Matthew 15:19. But thanks be to God through Jesus Christ, there is power in God's word to renew our fallen hearts and minds - and to forgive repentant hearts! 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 – then click on the link under the picture identified as **“Fargo/Bismarck.”**

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!

Ken Koehler, MSLN Coordinator

“MSL North” Programs for October 2023:

October 1st: Rev. Justin Whitmore, St. John’s Lutheran Church, Perham, MN, presents the message: “Authority Comes from God” based on Matthew 21:23b. *“This Is the Life” program: “Like Father Like Son” – A father’s example leads to his son making questionable choices at school.*

October 8th: Rev. Brock Schmeling, Trinity Lutheran Church, Great Bend, ND, and Peace Lutheran Church, Barney, ND, presents the message: “Yet the LORD set His heart in love” based on Deuteronomy 10:12-13. *“This Is the Life” program: “Families Come First” – A man contends with the demands of his career, promotion, and his vocation as a father.*

October 15th: Rev. Jeff Ross, St. John Lutheran Church, Garfield, MN, presents the message: “Take Heart!” based on Matthew 9:1-8. *“This Is the Life” program: “Conspiracy of Silence” A husband and wife come to grips with a terminal illness.*

October 22nd: Rev. Robert Hill, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Wimbledon, ND, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Kensal, ND, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Pettibone, ND, and Redeemer Lutheran Church, Woodworth, ND, presents the message: “Render to God and Caesar” based on Matthew 22:21. *“This Is the Life” program: “Big Account” – An advertising agency art director learns the impact of his work on his family and others.*

October 29th: Guest Speaker. *“This Is the Life” program: “The Sexton” – A pastor and a sexton (church caretaker) with magical powers fight an eerie duel in a church.*

Update from September 10 and 17 Voters Meetings:

1. Following a declaration on Twitter celebrating pride month by Thrivent Financial, letters from the Immanuel Lutheran Church president and Board of Elders had been prepared and proposed to the voters to be sent on Immanuel

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letterhead. Those letters were intended to ask Thrivent, as the only business that has a presence in our congregation, to return to their neutral stance regarding social issues that defy biblical teachings. A motion was made and passed to **not** send either of the proposed letters from Immanuel congregation to Thrivent Financial, so they were not sent.

2. A cookbook of recipes submitted by congregation members will be prepared as part of the celebration of the 75th anniversary of Immanuel Lutheran Church in 2025. Tiffany Menze will be lead that effort, and information regarding submissions and participation will be provided in the next few months.
3. Members cast a unanimous ballot to call Pastor Kazmierski from St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI as our Associate/Campus Pastor. Pastor Kazmierski agreed to consider this call. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to guide him in his deliberations.



Greetings from the Immanuel Library!

I know it has been a while since I submitted an article highlighting our wonderful little library. The inventory and related processes have taken waaayyyy longer than anticipated; however, I am happy to

say I am getting close! With this said, **books are available** to check out anytime!

This month I would like to highlight a beautiful set of 18 hardcover novels donated by Donna Roach. This set is published by Guidepost Books and subtitled “Ordinary Women of the Bible.” *Her Source of Strength; Raya’s Story* by Jill Eileen Smith, *An Unlikely Witness; Joanna’s Story* by Ginger Garrett, *Daughter of the Light; Charlene’s Story* by Melanie Dobson are just a few of the many titles and authors. Thank you, Donna; your generosity will entertain and enlighten for years to come!

Connie Grondahl, Immanuel Librarian

From the Board for Human Care

During the entire month of October, we collect **Personal Care items** for the Emergency Food Pantry. There will be a display posted with a list of most-needed items the first Sunday in October. We will also have a week of **volunteering at the Food Pantry** from October 23rd -27th. See the sign-up list in the Sign-Up Center.



1. An updated **Member Directory** (purple cover; as of September, 2023 is available. Please pick one up! Each member household is entitled to a copy.
2. The giving statements for January 1st through August 31st (treasure, not time or talents) have been mailed in a separate mailing than the Image. All members 18 and over should receive a statement. As always, contact the office if you notice discrepancies or if you don't receive a statement by October 10th.
3. Promise Cards will be sent in a mailing in late October or early November. The date of the Procession of the Promises is November 19th.
4. New boxes of giving envelopes will be available in late November. Most people will have the same numbers for 2024 as they did in 2023. **Contact the office if you wish to have physical envelopes but didn't this year (and vice versa).**



Four-by-Four Update

The Board of Outreach has a smaller number of participants this fall (Sep, Oct, Nov) for the 4x4 gatherings. *This is a busy season, after all.*

During the month of December, **the process begins all over again and we will have another sign-up sheet at the Sign-Up Center** for the months of Jan, Feb, and Mar.

ND District LCMS Youth Gathering
Thursday – Saturday, October 19–21
Ramada Inn, Fargo ND
For grades 6 and up!

...may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all... I Thessalonians 3:12 ESV

Bible Study Leader
Rev. Jason Neel
Spirit of Christ Lutheran Church
Ham Lake, MN

Musician
Lloyd Garrelts
Nokomis, IL

Michael Harvey, DCE
Redeemer Lutheran Church
Rochester, MN

"A Good Book"

by Rev. Steve and Sue Schulz

As we begin to finally settle into our new home in Mapleton, Iowa, we have been reflecting more and more on the wonderful years that our Lord granted to us at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Fargo. Sue and I feel like we have just finished reading a good book. We are sad to have reached the end, but we look back on the pages written here with a great sense of joy, fondness, and appreciation.

When I first received the Divine Call to serve as your campus pastor, the pages of our book were blank. Blank, except for the pictures we had in our minds. Pictures of people we didn't yet know, pictures of a beautiful house not yet our home, pictures of a church full of people we now call our dear friends. We could only wonder what would be written on those empty pages of our lives. We could only wonder what the Lord had planned for us in Fargo, North Dakota.

Now, the empty pages are filled. And, like any good book, the stories that fill those pages speak of blessings and blunders, pain and happiness, sorrow and joy. Through it all there has been the guiding hand of Jesus, His love, His forgiveness, and His strengthening presence. He has given us friendships at Immanuel that will last for all eternity. There are no better friends than friends in Christ. There is no better family than the family of God. There is no better church home than we have had with all of you during these past eleven

years. Immanuel is a very special place, and we have been so richly blessed to be a part of it.

We thank and praise God for the chapters of our lives that have been written while we were at Immanuel. You have touched our hearts and helped us to grow and, for that...we thank you and we love you. Thank you so much for the many years of blessings that we enjoyed as members of your church family. We miss all of you, but we know that the Lord is at work in our lives here, as well.

We want to express our deepest appreciation to those who made our parting a little easier with your beautiful cards, gifts, and words of encouragement and support. I have the picture of Jesus and the children (a gift from Immanuel) hanging right over my desk in my office here. We feel so blessed to have known the people of God at Immanuel. We pray that the Lord of the Church will soon provide a faithful pastor who will serve alongside Pastor Worrall to nourish your faith and celebrate with you the wonderful future that God has planned for you.

Rejoice in God's presence and His peace, and remember...It's all about Jesus!

Pastor and Sue Schulz



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10Oct – Bethany Ill; Aislyn Walla (9)
 2Oct – Jaana Caldwell; Alice Carr; [Austin] Decker; Clayton Decker (2); Amanda Johnson
 3Oct – Tom Dahl
 5Oct – Karen Woyen
 6Oct – Shaina Casebeer; Nichole Hanson; Mariah McCaul; Amy Walker
 7Oct – Mike Rachow; Glenn Ulland (83); Bernie Worrall
 8Oct – Ed Bean; Jessica Cruz; Tim Flakoll
 10Oct – Roger Kading; Remington Klemz (3); Laura Simmons
 13Oct – Winston Kreklau (3); Jim Martin; Cody Rotzien
 14Oct – Melissa Meyer; Felix Wendlick (3)
 15Oct – Lane Hanson; Val Severson
 16Oct – Steve Asche; Lanette Calkins; Amelia Swanson (7)

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October Worship Assistants				
Oct 1	8 am	Elder: Andrew E Acolyte: Milan G Usher Team: Semanko Greeter: J/M Gornowicz Video: Samuel Boateng	11 am	E: Andrew Eggebraaten A: Shea T UT: Rolf G: Jim/Bernett Rotzien
Oct 8	8 am	E: Dave Manzey A: Carl D UT: Rachow G: P/D Mayland V: Kay Tegtmeier	11 am	E: Dave Manzey A: Madden T UT: Lindgren G: Rick Cote/Pam Coste
Oct 15	8 am	E: Russell Bubach A: Claire C UT: Sather (was Esping) G: Clarice Michel V: Jack Bumgarner	11 am	E: Russell Bubach A: Elsie T UT: Tegtmeier G: Jamie (+Ella) Jacobson
Oct 22	8 am	E: Steve Larson A: Maris H UT: Montana G: Curt/Pam Sommer V: Samuel	11 am	E: Steve Larson A: Louis C UT: Stahlecker G: Bill Piper
Oct 29	8 am	E: Larry Bakken A: Bella S UT: Semanko G: Lorinda Semanko V: Kay Tegtmeier	11 am	E: Larry Bakken A: Leah G UT: Rolf G: Clint/Pat Podoll V: Jack Bumgarner

memorials & gifts	
From (date)	Honor/MEMORY
Clint/Pat Podoll (9-5)	MARILYN HANSON
Vi Aasland	DARRELL AASLAND
Chuck/Joan Miller	MARILYN HANSON
Steve/Sue Schulz	Lane Hanson
Tim Flakoll (9-11)	WILMA FLAKOLL
Jim/Patty Walla	MARILYN HANSON
Diane Reese	MARILYN HANSON
Clint/Pat Podoll (9-17)	ALAN COTE
Vi Aasland	Deanna Mayland
Tim Flakoll	WILMA FLAKOLL
Laurie Rachow (9-25)	MARILYN HANSON

17Oct – Grace Wolfgram
 18Oct – Eric DeBoer; Jonah Eggebraaten (8); Diane Reese
 21Oct – Jay Beam; Gregg Kosel
 22Oct – Cassidy Semanko; Zella Fischer (5)
 23Oct – Jenny DeBoer; Vicki Gira; Logan Hintz; [Josh] Stanton
 25Oct – Vi Aasland (87); Norma Frohberg (84); [Chris] Hanson; Steve Larson; Scott Olson
 26Oct – Tom Calkins; Elinor Eggebraaten (6); Zac Idland
 27Oct – Miriam Duncan; Linda Gangelhoff; Karen Hintz; Ed Woyen (82)

28Oct – Chloe Klemz (8); Jean Larson (101); Ken Schatzke
 29Oct – Dolly Meyer
 30Oct – [Tim] Caldwell; Ray Peda; Jay Schaefer
 31Oct – Banks Bubach (3); Nathaniel Galster; Logan Gornowicz (9); Jeff Sornsin



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

4Oct – Bobby & Mary Swanson (9th)
 5Oct – Ross & Mary Marohl (32nd)
 6Oct – Mike & Candy Nelson (22nd)

7Oct – Steve & Janet Asche (23rd)
 12Oct – Scott & Aynsley Gunnerson (11th)
 16Oct – Jack & Linda Olson (47th)
 18Oct – Ed & Carolyn Bean (58th); Don & Donnie Erstad (58th)
 19Oct – Jim & Patty Walla (44th); Peter & Laura Woyen (11th)
 21Oct – Bill & Jessica Hoppe (28th)
 25Oct – Steve & Dena Larson (32nd)
 27Oct – Alex & Ashlynn Wendel (5th)
 28Oct – Courtney & Claire Johnson Solberg (17th)

My Faith Story...

*Note from the Editor: This means of fellowship among our Immanuel family was instituted in March 2015. “My Faith Story” was a monthly feature for a couple of years, where someone from Immanuel uses his/her creative writing abilities to **share their faith story** with the rest of the congregation. The story should be short, authentic, and personal. The story can be about a point where faith was tested, originated and/or strengthened, or an overview/ outline of one’s “faith-in-a-nutshell.” Several members have stated that they look forward to these articles! If you are interested in participating in this project, contact the editor for future inclusion. Your story can inspire others – give it a try!*

*This article was read by **Korey Zellers** back in March 2023, and he has given permission to reprint his speech here:*

Good Morning! My name is Korey. My wife is Lindsay and we have 2 daughters, Mila and Kampbell. With the recent decision to move

forward on the basement remodel I was asked to give an account pertaining to my own experiences. Over the last 30 years I’ve had the pleasure of being a part of a number of different churches. When I was 7 years old my family and I moved to Beach, ND. It was a significant life change for us all. On one side of our house, we had a park with a pool and on other side we had St. John’s Church. The people of that church and the church building quickly became an influential part of my formative years. We did everything you would think of in a church during the 90’s... lock in’s, pot lucks, full Saturdays of confirmation classes to catch up, ping pong in the basement and the list goes on. Lifelong friendships were made during my time at this church.

In 1997, at age 13, my family moved to West Fargo where we were a part St Andrew Lutheran Church. It wasn’t an easy move for us and again marked another significant life change. I was a small kid, moving from a small town moving to what I considered a “big city.” Frankly put, I was scared. This challenge, as I saw it back then, seemed insurmountable. The snow banks were taller than I was then – and now, for that matter. However, regardless of the cold weather, the congregation warmed our hearts by how welcoming they were. I vividly remember a handful of the LYF (Lutheran Youth Fellowship) kids coming over to help us unload the 2 large U-Haul trucks we had parked in the driveway. They were the same kids that ended up going to the National Youth gathering with my older siblings, making lasting memories. At that time the younger kids like me used classrooms on the upper level and the high school kids used a partitioned portion of the Fellowship Hall. It felt like an achievement to make out of the upper classrooms and finally get to use the Fellowship Hall where the LYF kids met – almost like graduating from the kids’ table at Thanksgiving 😊. I, like my siblings, formed long- lasting friendships that to this day would be met with a smile and a hug when we have the occasional chance encounter. It seemed like history repeated itself. However, in hindsight I see that this was not a coincidence but more so intentional. As an adult, I now understand how fortunate I was that God had placed a church in my life that encouraged my participation in things like the LYF... even during the times when I resisted.

Once I graduated high school and my time with the LYF was over, I embarked into my college years. I

found myself in a place with little to no encouragement; even criticized for my faith. I often use Psalm 23:4 as reference to that time: "Even though I walk through the Valley of the Shadow of death I will fear no evil." To make matters even more challenging, I found out my parents were moving to a small town more than 4 hours away before the end of the year, when I was anticipating returning home. This left a feeling like my church home was going to change and I didn't know where my next one would be. I told myself it was fine and I could continue my walk of faith pretty much on my own. This was my own sin and pride taking over. This is the part where I like to reference Matthew 18:20: "For where there are 2 or 3 gathered in my name, there I am among them." This is a passage I wish I had paid more attention to back then. Even though I had faith and I had my Bible, I didn't feel like I had a place to go with it. Thankfully, within a year or two I had heard that there was a Mission church starting up in south Fargo called Crosspointe Lutheran. Once again, a new church home was about to make a significant change in my life. When I first attended this church, there were very few attendees, Jim Walla among them. A very special thanks to Jim for everything he did in his participation there! Once again, the fellowship of my brothers and sisters in Christ proved to be influential and even instrumental in my life. Since then, I have been blessed with friendships at Zion Lutheran church in Bismarck, Messiah Lutheran Church in Mandan and now here are Immanuel. In every scenario, challenge, and opportunity God has BLESSED me with I have found – Love within the Church walls. While we define the Church as a People and not necessarily the walls we use to worship within, we are truly blessed by God to have them. When I think of the youth that are getting confirmed each year and the little ones we hear making all the noise in the back, I am comforted by thought that they too get the chance to make the kind of connections I have made and share in similar experiences I was able to have. Just yesterday as I was jotting some of these words down in preparation this testimonial, I was approached by someone I had just met a few hours earlier who was jokingly asking me, "What are you doing? Writing in your journal?" When I told her the words I was writing she proceeded to unwittingly give her own testimony of how she was "one of those kids" that got dragged along with her

friends to the LYF and VBS in their church basements. She went on to tell me that her family was not religious but through those invitations from her friends that God had used her to spread the faith to her 4 siblings. She touted that each one of her siblings is now, as adults, the "ones that hold the Bible Studies." At that point, she stopped and asked me why I had that look on my face. I quickly replied, "I don't think it was a coincidence that you came over when you did." She now knows that she is welcome at Immanuel Lutheran Church anytime the Good Lord calls her.

At this point in time, God has placed a challenging task in front of us to provide a safe and encouraging space for our children and grandchildren to connect with other children of God – a place where the seed faith can be nourished like fresh potting soil, much like the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13:8. When God has chosen to bless us, it is important to be a blessing to others. The basement remodel that I am referring to is an incredible opportunity to use these walls as a blessing for generations to come. Please prayerfully consider in the days to come the decisions asked of all of us. Ask of the One who blesses you how you can use those blessings to be that blessing for others.

*Heavenly Father,
We are thankful that you have chosen to love us.
We are thankful that you have chosen to bless your people. We ask that you guide our hearts and minds so that everything we do might be pleasing in your sight. Please unblock our ears and soften our hearts;
so that when we hear your call, we might have the courage to act on it. In Jesus' name we pray.
AMEN.*



New Life Center serves men who are on the journey from homeless and hurting to whole and healthy by meeting basic needs and transforming lives through the love of Christ.

encouragement
MEN'S BREAKFAST

FOOD - FELLOWSHIP - THE WORD

Men need to be given opportunities to get to know one another and to grow in their faith through a variety of conversations and activities. They need to see that there are other Christian men who are excited about and committed to our Lord Jesus Christ. Our society does little to encourage men to "be there" for one another or to support and encourage each other. That's why we need to make some intentional efforts to provide an ongoing, Gospel-centered ministry to the men of our congregations.



November 18TH, 9AM-NOON
Grace Lutheran Church
821 5th Ave. S., Fargo
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
Corey Isaak
701-281-0240 corey.isaak@gracefargo.org



In July, we hosted our Law and Gospel intensive course for the

deaconess students here in Montevideo. We are pictured here with Ana Clara, Maíra, Jéssica, Marianna, Marta, Paula, Gabriela, and Rubi. Bibiana was unable to join us unfortunately, but caught up later. Thank you for your continued prayers for these dear and faithful women.

The Jaseph family has grown by one!

We thank God for His countless blessings every day to us, and in particular we are excited to share with you about a very special new blessing He has given us—the gift of a baby girl! Our daughter is due to arrive in February 2024 and we thank God for continued health for our little family of three. We ask that you would keep us and our daughter in your prayers during this new adventure of parenthood and that God would grant both Rachel and baby health and strength.



Any gift you make will 100% directly support our family. Send checks made out to "LCMS" with "Jaseph Mission Support" in the memo line to: Mission Central, 40718 E Hwy. 16, Mapleton, IA 51034

LWML, ILC Unit – Oct Update

God's love and care for us are so wonderfully displayed in all the Fall colors and Fall activities that are upon us! We kicked off our Fall LWML Unit meeting on September 19th with fun and fellowship. The 17 women attending enjoyed a delicious variety of good foods for our "Tasting Bee" as the conversation and laughter filled the room! President Patty Walla & Secretary Joan Miller were both re-elected to serve another 2-yr term in their respective offices. Plans for upcoming events were discussed, and attendees were challenged with LWML trivia questions as our national Convention attendees, Bonnie, Louise, and Patty, shared some highlights from this summer's convention.

LWML Sunday is celebrated this Sunday, October 1st. Our LWML Officers and Circle Chairs will be installed at the end of 1st Service, LWML members will be assisting with ushering and scripture readings, and coffee-time treats will be provided by our LWML. Our Mite box will be out, collecting funds to help support the mission grants adopted for the 2023-2025 biennium. Our national Mission Grant Goal for the biennium is \$2,350,000 to fund 31 mission projects, locally and throughout the world. Our collections are ongoing. It's amazing how all the offerings, large or small, when added together can do such mighty things!

Eastern Zone Fall Rally at First American Lutheran in Mayville is(was) Saturday, September 30th, will be completed by the time you receive this. We pray for a good day of Bible Study, business, fellowship, and an eye-opening awareness as we hear Rev. Paul Dare speak to us on 'Wokeism'.

Upcoming Events:

Sun, Oct 15th @ 12:15 pm – LWML Board Meeting in Student Room

Sat, Nov 4th @ 9:30 am – **Unit Project Meeting** – preparing cards for homebound, member college students and active military. Kirk Rosin will speak to us about his mission work in Ukraine, and pictures from the 2023 LWML convention will be shared. Serving: Parish Workers. From keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, speaking at the LWML National Convention: "Be God's salt and light in the world. Rise to be LWML Esthers – proclaim; don't remain silent; 'engage the culture war' of today. Be God's voice in many places. Our cultures, churches, families need Christ's influence. Be influencers!"

God bless and be with each of you as you 'Go Forth in His Name!'

Patty Walla, LWML President

ND District LCMS Message in a Pew September 2023 Board of Directors Updates

The Board of Directors met at St. Mark, Minot, on Friday, August 18th, for their third quarter meeting. Some important updates came out of this meeting.

Vacancies filled. Since Rev. Steve Schuitz, who was the Chairman of the BOD and the East first vice president, had left our ND District, Rev. Kirk Peters, (West) moved from second vice president to first.

Mr. Tom Langer moved from vice chairman to chairman and Rev. Dr. Adam Filipek was elected vice chairman. The board elected Rev. Mark Chepulis to fill the second vice president position from the East.



Salary Guidelines. Proposed salary guidelines for 2024 were approved. The documents can be found on the District website and were sent out to all the congregations.

Wittenberg Chapel Organ Fund. The Chapel is in need of a new organ (the old one cannot be repaired economically) and the goal is to raise \$100,000 in time to be able to dedicate it at the 60th Anniversary celebration. The Board approved to match all donations made by January 31, 2024, up to \$50,000.

New Website. I am excited to announce that a new District website has been launched! Go to nodaklcms.org and check it out! The goal is to keep the calendar up to date and have it serve as a one stop place to find out what is going on in the District and get any appropriate registration forms as needed. More content will be added to the website by our new communications manager, Adrienne Montonye, as she has time. If you have information for the website, please email either Adrienne at communication-slcmsnd@gmail.com or Tami at lcms.nd.busman@gmail.com.

Congregations' Status

Pres. Arie Bertsch

St. Peter-Belfield: vacancy (Rev. Anthony Ahrendt).

Redeemer-Grassy Butte: vacancy (Rev. Mike Wolters).

Crosspointe-Fargo: vacancy (Rev. Chris Waldvogel).

Peace-Garrison; St. Matthew-Max: vacancy (Rev. Nathan Schieber).

Grace-Fargo: vacancy (Rev. Bernie Worral).

Pastors & DCE's

Rev. Matthew Tooman, First English-Fairmount, Immanuel-Wahpeton returned a call to Holy Trinity-Logan, UT.
Rev. Lester Wolgram, Shepherd of the Valley-Bismarck, returned a call to Faith and Holy Trinity-Menomonie, WI.

NORTH DAKOTA DISTRICT LCMS Financial Information August 2023

INCOME:

Congregational Mission Giving	\$68,784.66
Less Synodical Pledge (35%)	(\$24,074.63)
Net Congregational Mission Giving	\$44,710.03
Other Unrestricted Gifts	1,006.08
1-1-1 Mission Giving	660.95
Current gifts/fees for missions	12,704.85
Available Income	\$59,081.91

EXPENSES:

Local Missions and Committee Activities: (Includes Wittenberg Chapel, Deaf Ministry, Youth)	\$17,585.86
Congregational Support/Operating Expenses (Includes General Operations, District President, Business Manager, Board of Directors)	41,896.94
International/Local Missions	
Christ's Care for Children – Kenya (\$10,000)	2,500.00
Chile Mission (\$20,000)	5,000.00
Chile Mission – Special Events	0.00
Shepherd's Hill Retreat (\$5,000)	2,177.85
(These missions were voted on by the District Convention. They will be paid quarterly as funds are available)	
Current Expenses	\$69,160.65
NET OPERATING LOSS FOR AUGUST	(\$10,078.74)
Funds Given used for Current Expenses	\$11,484.33
Year To Date NET INCOME/LOSS	(\$3,783.35)

August was a typical summer income month and overall giving is at our average for this point of the fiscal year. Part of the Fall semester student aid payments were made; the rest will be paid in September. Second quarter convention resolution missions were also paid.

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 August 31, 2023:

Christ's Care for Children – Kenya	\$1,468.18
Chile Partnership	\$1,391.00
Shepherd's Hill Retreat	\$2,327.85

Please contact Tami Ulland at lcms.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 Give button on nodaklcms.org to pick where you would like your donation directed.

[This page reserved for cover.]