



ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKS

are available. **Pick up** a regular-size or large-print version in the Welcome Hall for use from December 3rd (1st Sunday in Advent) through Jan 6th (Epiphany). Contact the office if you need a copy mailed to you.

LYF CHRISTMAS COOKIE BAKE

Christmas is fast approaching, which means it is the time of year for our biggest fundraiser! Bring your money to get some delicious treats at \$5 per container on **Sunday, December 3rd**. First come, first served.

ADVENT & CHRISTMASTIME SERVICES

Join us Wednesdays beginning December 6th at **4:15 and 6PM** with a light supper in between (5-5:45 pm). Themes and readings below:

Dec 6th: Creation Star (Meal by LSF)
Psalm 147; Genesis 1:1-19; John 1:1-14

Dec 13th: Star of Promise (Meal by LWML)
Psalm 8; Genesis 15:1-6; John 8:31-59

Dec 20th: Star of David (Meal by LYF)
Psalm 110; Numbers 24:1-2; 15-19; Matthew 2:1-12

Dec 25th: Christmas Star (Monday @ 10 am)
Psalm 96; I Peter 1:19-21; Luke 2:8-20

Carols
around the
Grand



If you enjoy singing Christmas carols or listening to your friends sing, come to the Welcome Hall at **9:15 am on Dec. 17th** and join in with Pam Sommer – no rehearsal, come as you are.

Sunday, **December 24th; 8 am ONLY**: Service of Nine Lessons & Carols (NO Coffee served, NO Education Hour, NO 11 am service). *Same service at Grace Lutheran Church @ 10 am*

Sunday Dec 24th; 4 pm ONLY; Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Same service at Grace Luth Church @ 6pm

10 am on Mon, Dec 25th: **Christmas Day** service with Holy Communion.

Dec 31st Usual Morn. Svcs—No area NewYr Eve Svc

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Practices will be **Dec. 3rd and 10th from 1-3 pm.**

This special service will be held at **3 pm on Sun.,**

December 17th, titled "*Jesus Has Come: A Festival of Scripture and Song.*"



Jesus Has Come

upon completion of the service that afternoon, too.

Elders will be providing treat bags for youngsters, and LWML will be serving treats to all

AVAILABLE: There is a supply of mugs with **our logo** and mission statement – 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.



THE FLOWER CALENDAR FOR 2024

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.

Altar
Flowers

CONFIRMATION PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Every year, the pastors and DCE have parent-teacher conferences on **January 3rd** 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.



"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

(Galatians 5:22-23)

Why isn't **authenticity** on this list? Maybe we just assumed it would be there! But that has more to do with the culture in which we "live, move and have our being" (Acts 17:28) than it has to do with any teaching of God's Word. Today authenticity is a presumed moral good. It is important that we be authentic. Or is it? And who said so?

So, what does it mean to be authentic? Does it mean to be real as opposed to fake? Your-self as opposed to someone else? Is it to escape all hypocrisy? Or is it just an attack on formality and social norms? Is it just letting it all hang out for everyone to see, good or bad?

This emphasis has been with us the better part of a generation. Some of it is good; some, not so much. Dress in public has become more casual. The worst of this was when young men wouldn't wear a belt or pull up their pants. It took us a couple decades to get past this! The news on television started giving us "candid shots" where the camera pulls back to show us the other cameras and backstage area to let us know that the newscasters were real people who have to prep themselves for show time. (As if we didn't have the imagination for that!) Formality was replaced with informality. Remember when parents invited their children to call them by first name? I think this movement started cresting when people started saying "TMI" for "too much information," because, in the name of authenticity, we sometimes said too much about what was on our mind. We could just blurt out hurtful or selfish things; and we started recognizing the value of filtering whatever it is that we say, and the need for kindness and manners.

No matter how "authentic" you are, we all present ourselves in two ways. There is what I share with my wife, and there is what I share with strangers. There is how I dress at home and how I dress in public. There is teasing that may happen with friends, but others will need some context first. It isn't a way of being fake or hypocritical. It is just understanding that there are levels to transparency. Being polite and more careful with what you say is a way of playing nice with others.

But notice we're talking about our interactions with others. In our interaction with God repentance is required. God demands our honesty. We cannot hide behind fig leaves with Him. We cannot put up airs or maintain "a form of godliness" (*II Timothy 3:5*). We cannot be dishonest about our need for His mercy and grace. But with people, we can be less than brutally honest about what we may or may not be thinking just in the moment. We can even be nice to people we don't even like. Why? Because Jesus commanded us to love our enemies.

The Bible has much to say about speaking the truth to God and about God. But with others, we are to be more guarded, careful, and respectful than we would be of ourselves. This is why the Bible speaks about self-control. It is the last virtue listed in the fruit (no, not fruits...it's an all or nothing deal) of the Spirit. Self-control realizes our natural impulses are not always best. Like a wild horse that needs to be broken and a bit and bridle put in its mouth to be of good use, so too our sinful nature needs to be held in check.

The word used for "gentle" (prautès) in this list of fruit refers to a domesticated animal. A "gentleman" is one who holds his wild anger, and passions in check, etc. to be a better man for others. He is "broken in" for public service! If a horse were to be his "real self" he might trample others under hoof and refuse to be of any service to others!

It is always difficult to critique your culture. It is like riding on a bus and trying to get out and push the bus too when it stalls. We all ride along with the culture and let it take us places without getting outside of it to really look at it and see if it is going in the right direction. But stay with self-control.

That's a good thing!

That is a morally necessary thing. Be skeptical of your natural impulses.

Don't just blurt out

the first thing that comes to mind. Don't just run with whatever you feel at the moment. "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." (*Ephesians 4:32*)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control ...

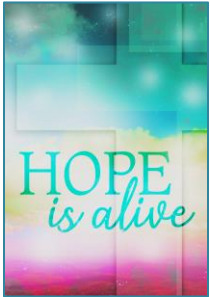
The Immanuel Image is edited by Parish Administrative Assistant, Louise M. Tegtmeier. Parish Workers Circle of Immanuel LWML assembles the newsletter, usually on the last Thursday of each month. Distribution to members & friends is sent monthly via USPS. Subscription changes: Immanuel Lutheran Church,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



"MAIN STREET LIVING" MEDIA MINISTRY - DECEMBER UPDATE

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name of Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21.



Herein lies the sure HOPE of the nations – and our own sure HOPE! HOPE is something that seems to be in very short supply from the world these days – and yet, that is the way it has always been and always will be whenever trust is put in anything or anyone other than the Creator & Savior Himself!

Please continue to share information about our LCMS "MSL" 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 December 2023:

Dec 3rd: Rev. Heath Trampe, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Minot, ND, presents the message: "Prepared for Christ!" based on Mark 13:24-27. *"This Is the Life" program:* "Stable Boy" - A manger scene comes to life and tells the story of the first Christmas.

Dec 10th: Rev. Richard Jones, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Minot, ND, presents the message: "Comfort, Comfort, for the People of God" based on Isaiah 40:1-11. *"This Is the Life" program:* "Red Boots for Christmas" - A shoemaker learns the true meaning of Christmas.

Dec 17th: Rev. Timothy Stout, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Sawyer, ND, St. Martin Lutheran Church, Anamoose, ND, and St. John Lutheran Church, Kongsberg, ND, presents the message: "The Lord Comes" based on John 1:6-8, 19-28. *"This Is the Life" program:* "Christmas Is" - The shepherd in a Christmas play learns the importance of Christmas.

Dec 24th: Rev. Matthew Harrison, President of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, presents the Christmas message. More information at www.MainStreetLiving.com. *"This Is the Life" program:* "Christmas on Main Street" - The Christmas message at a mission brings a grandson and his grandfather together.

Dec 31st: Rev. Philip Beyersdorf, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Minot, ND, presents the message: "Impatient Assumptions" based on Luke 2:22-40. *"This Is the Life" program:* "Burden Made Light" - The housekeeper helps a family through the struggle of an increasingly sick child.



Two (2) cemetery plots at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Fargo still remain. If interested, contact Clint Podoll (701-793-7133.)

FAMILY SERVING GROUPS

Ed Bean, FSG Coordinator, has stated the December group is **Dra** (Eggebraaten-Gunnerson), the January group is **Haa** (Haarstick-Janssen), and the February group is **Jen** (Jenkins-Larson). Thank you for volunteering once or twice per year to assist with serving coffee time and the occasional congregational dinner.

A BIG THANK YOU to all who participated in the **Time and Talent Fair** in November. It was an impressive sight with so many creative and informative displays. It was also fun to watch folks stroll along, soaking in all the different ways we branch out to serve at Immanuel. And...there was even a piece of candy or two to be had along the way!

The Board of Stewardship



ACTS 4 is a Wednesday evening children's program for kids from kindergarten to 5th grade. The program includes a Bible lesson, games, crafts, and other activities.

It runs from **7-8 pm, only on December 6th this month.** Class will resume January 10th. For more information, please contact Amy Hirsch at 701-866-1668 or amyhirsch1979@gmail.com.



1. The date of the Procession of the Promises was Nov 19th; however, completed Promise Cards may be put into the box in the Sign-Up Center until **December 31st**.

2. People that give via Vanco: If you change your promise on the Promise Card, you will still have to change your promise by contacting Vanco yourself.
3. New boxes of giving envelopes are available in the Welcome Hall. Most people will have the same numbers for 2024 as they did in 2023. **Contact the office if you expected an envelope box and didn't find it, or if you'd like Louise to mail envelopes to you.**
4. Year-end statements for 2023 will be mailed around January 15th, 2024.

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.*

NOTICE THESE DEADLINES:

Articles for Jan. issue of Image to office by Dec 21st.
Board Budgets to Bd. of Finance by Jan 2nd.
Annual Reports due to Louise by Jan 17th.

GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL LIBRARY!

The Christmas season is upon us and what could be better than curling up with a Christmas book and a warm cup of cocoa (or in my case – tea) to relax during the holidays. I was surprised to find so many delightful books in our library centered around Christmas. There are titles such as *The Case for Christmas*, *God's Gift of Christmas*, *The Heart of Christmas*, and many more. I have pulled as many Christmas-themed books as I could find

and displayed together for ease of selection. Come take a peek and check one out!

Connie Grondahl,
Immanuel Librarian



"4X4"

The Board of Outreach at Immanuel will continue our "in-reach and outreach" initiative again this coming January. "4 x 4" is a fellowship idea designed to create an evening (or afternoon) of interaction and fun among members of a congregation who might otherwise never have an opportunity to get to know each other. It can also be used to introduce non-members or inactive members to the fellowship life of the congregation. The goal of 4x4 is to have three "family groups" (individuals, couples, or families) get together for fun and fellowship once a month for three consecutive months. Here is how it works.

1. Couples, individuals, or families sign up to participate in "4 x 4". There will be a sign-up sheet at the Sign-Up Center from December 3rd until **December 17th**, so be watching for it. We will also have notices in the Immanuel News. Please keep in mind that 4x4 is open to ALL families, couples, or individuals at Immanuel, so please be sure to sign up.
2. The Board of Outreach will take the names of those who signed-up and group together THREE "family groups" at random. Each set of three names will form a "4x4" group. The Board of Outreach will then contact each 4x4 group to let each couple, family, or individual know who is in their 4x4 group.
3. During the months of January, February and March, these 4x4 groups will meet together in whatever setting they choose. a) They can meet for supper at someone's home, and rotate homes each month; b) They can meet at a restaurant for lunch. c) They could meet in someone's home for an evening of games and dessert! d) They could meet in the Student Room at the church for a potluck dinner/supper (*contact the office to schedule this option*).

Each 4x4 group is encouraged to invite a friend or neighbor (member or not) as a special guest of the group, thus making up the "4th" in the 4x4.

The meeting places and activities can vary depending on the wishes of the individual 4x4 group, but the

important thing is to get together three times during the months of January, February and March in order to have fun and to get to know one another better. Whatever meeting format you choose, be sure to close your gatherings with a short devotion and a prayer. As the body of Christ here at Immanuel, we want to be sure to rejoice together in the promises of God's Word and the privilege of prayer.

GREETINGS FROM THE GFF IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

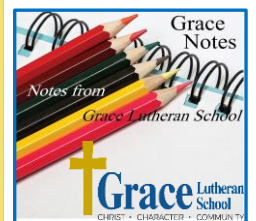
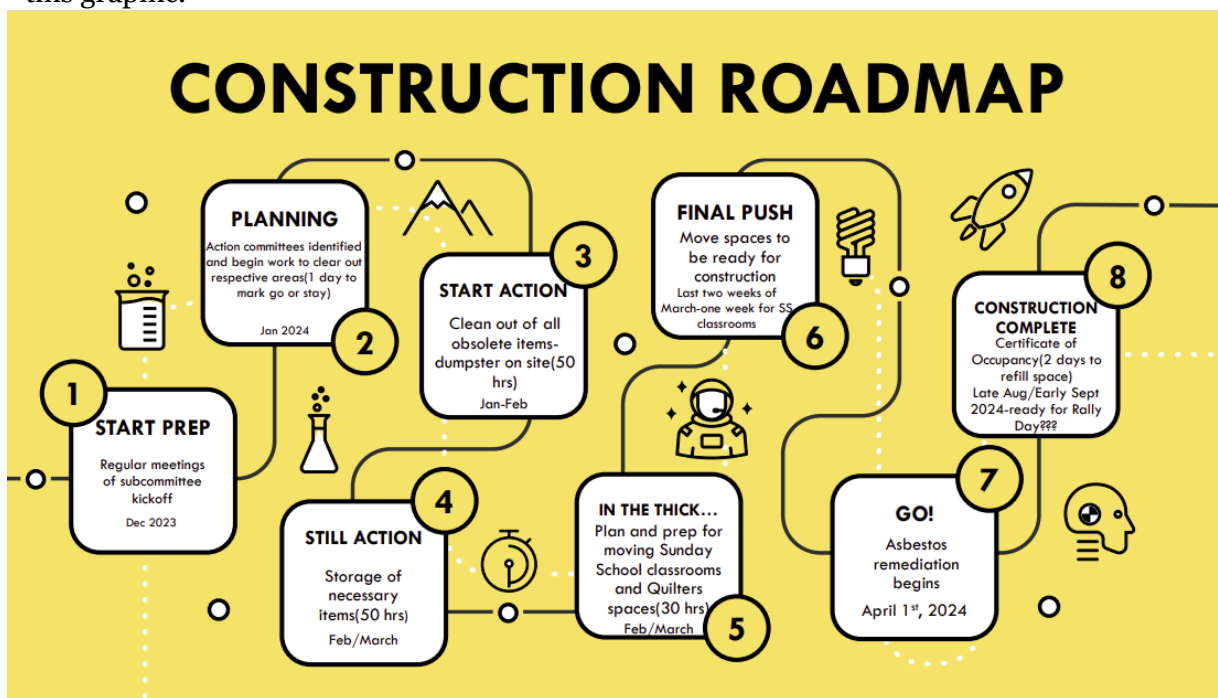


God's richest blessings to you as we enter the Advent and Christmas seasons! At the November voters meeting, we formally "kicked off" the implementation committee to begin the work of renovating the basement. We have highlighted key milestones for the project, expected time required for each task, and the calendar for completion on this graphic.

contractors, progress within the building, and opportunities to be involved using the unique gifts God has given each of you. Some of the bigger tasks will be moving furniture and classrooms, clearing out storage rooms and closets and creating new spaces for storage and the displaced Sunday Schoolers to the main level.

There are a lot of items in the basement; some have not been used for a very long time and others perhaps only used by a few individuals. We will be intentional with going through ALL of these items in order to ensure we have the necessary individuals/ groups involved in deciding if is needed for the future ministry at Immanuel, or if it has served its purpose. If you are reading this and wondering about something specific, please reach out to a member of the committee to discuss it so we know! There may be opportunities for members to take items home, if they are meaningful to them versus being thrown away if no longer needed at Immanuel. There will be more information to come on that soon.

*Respectfully,
The GFF
implementation
committee
Josh
Gornowicz,
chairman*



God has abundantly blessed our congregation with the required funds to progress with the project, so the implementation sub-committee and many volunteers will need to be busy in the coming months, vacating the spaces to prepare for construction, currently scheduled for completion by the fall of 2024. In the coming weeks and months, you will be hearing updates about the status of the

Immanuel Image, December 2023

HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND A JOYOUS ADVENT FROM GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL!

We humbly thank you for all that you have provided for the school. Our school is regularly nourished by a wide array of volunteers, faithful donors and supporters, and many who hold the school up in prayer. Grace Lutheran School is a ministry for our community, and we are grateful to

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all who help us continually provide for our families, year in and year out.

A Celebration of Grace took place on November 10th. We packed the Sanctuary Events Center and had a very fun, successful evening. Preliminarily, we estimate that the school raised just over \$40,000 for new curriculum and scholarships. This is an incredible gift for our students. Thank you so much.



You are invited to the **Christmas Musical on Friday, December 15 at either 1:30 pm or 6:30 pm.** “We Three Spies” will take you undercover with the Christmas Intelligence Kids (the CIK), a covert group of spies who secretly bring Christmas cheer to the needy. Come see the CIK as they overcome obstacles and share the true meaning of Jesus’ birth.

On Tues., Dec 19th, the Grace Lutheran School Choir is performing a Christmas program at Beautiful Savior at 6:30 pm. Grace’s Choir is made up of boys and girls from 4th-8th grade.

As we enter the season of waiting, may the God of Israel provide you with peace and joy.

GROWING TOGETHER IN GRACE IMPROVEMENT CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE



Grace Lutheran School’s Growing Together in Grace campaign continues to move forward at a good speed. The project is officially open for bidding. We are so thankful for our architect, teachers, and committees involved in this project for their hard work pushing toward the bidding stage.

As the architect and engineers completed their preparations for bidding, a building code requirement has necessitated a change to the scope of work to include the roof in Phase 1 instead of Phase 2. This, of course, means we will be returning

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS			
10-31-2023			
	BUDGET	2023	2022
* RECEIPTS *			
REGULAR ENVELOPES	\$585,000.00	\$454,876.31	\$453,316.85
PLATE OFFERINGS	\$10,000.00	\$8,031.00	\$8,939.50
SPEC. SERVICES & MISC.	\$20,000.00	\$9,960.22	\$11,217.12
ASSETS RELEASED	\$110,000.00	\$55,779.00	\$18,864.03
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$725,000.00	\$528,646.53	\$492,337.50
* EXPENSES *			
MISSIONS	\$123,000.00	\$94,083.89	\$94,524.51
ELDERS	\$29,900.00	\$19,447.02	\$24,955.44
EVANGELISM	\$3,750.00	\$2,668.87	\$6,236.93
STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE	\$8,300.00	\$6,963.07	\$2,838.40
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$58,900.00	\$44,649.97	\$43,398.75
TRUSTEES	\$136,000.00	\$116,136.45	\$73,893.69
ADMINISTRATION	\$304,100.00	\$204,673.66	\$232,182.63
HUMAN CARE	\$2,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
CAMPUS MINISTRY	\$76,280.00	\$50,564.62	\$62,176.29
ENDOWMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$742,480.00	\$539,187.55	\$540,206.64
HOME PURPOSES PLUS (MINUS)	(\$17,480.00)	(\$10,541.02)	(\$47,869.14)
YEAR-TO-DATE REC'D			
BOTW-BLDG. MAINT. FUND		\$9,968.10	\$18,524.79
GFF (Basement Remodel)		\$520,921.54	\$0.00
GTIG (Grace Bldg Project)		\$3,700.00	\$0.00
THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS		\$6,730.00	\$4,349.00

to our churches in the near future to ask for permission to increase the budget to include the roof.

As of November 20th, \$852,843 is pledged to the Growing Together in Grace campaign. We continue to push toward a fully-funded project. Donations can be sent to the church, to PACE at the school’s address, or through Vanco at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZHMF>. Please also consider a year-end gift to Growing Together in Grace. Contact Amy Hirsch at 701-232-7747 or amy.hirsch@glsfargo.org for more information.

If you would like to pledge toward Grace Lutheran School’s capital improvement campaign, contact Amy Hirsch. This project also has a Vanco portal at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZHMF>.



1Dec – Paul Ill; Keri Stevens;
Patty Wolter
2Dec – Patrick Maassel
3Dec – Nathan Walsh
4Dec – ReNae Schaefer
5Dec – Ali Ressler; Wayne
Redmann; Clara Sauvageau;
[Don] Bickle
6Dec – Todd Mairs; Matthew

Walla; [Ward Briggs]

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

8Dec – Jonathan Schulz

9Dec – Drew Kittelson

10Dec – Ben Moen; Emily Engebretson; Lisa
Vasichek

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

12Dec – Trey Larson; Rick Cote

13Dec – Chris Rieckman; Ian Bernard

14Dec – Rod Lym; Chad McCoy; Sammi Hintz;

Lazarus Swenson (2); Scarlett Hanson

15Dec – Christine Sauvageau

16Dec – Matthew Kaeding; Bonnie Kittelson;

Ashlynn Wendel; Rylee Hoppe; Amy Hirsch; Elijah
Caldwell

17Dec – Alycia Decker; Diane Lueck

19Dec – Brian Aasland; Safara Simmons (9); Travis
Woyen

23Dec – Carolyn Worrall; Noah Olson

25Dec – Sofia Jacobson

26Dec – JohnHenry Merz (8)

27Dec – Blair Aasland

28Dec – Mike Wardlow; Leah Gornowicz; Layne
Jenkins

29Dec – Donovan Larson

30Dec – Mary Hallgren; Al Ochsner; Julie McCoy;

Jennifer Walla; Croix Briggs (3)

31Dec – Todd Hirsch



4Dec – Rod & Kris Lym (41st)

7Dec – Debby & [Don] Bickle
(50th)

9Dec – Brent & Kristi
Aasland (12th)

15Dec – Jared & Alexis

Riesen (12th)

18Dec – Bill & Dona Piper (52nd)

20Dec – Ted & Linda Gangelhoff (54th)

21Dec – Donovan & Hidie Larson (27th)

23Dec – Richard & Norma Frohberg (61st)

26Dec – Edward & Karen Woyen (30th)

27Dec – Bob & Donna Roach (71st)

BUILDING HEALTHY FAMILIES

Someone once said, “Marriage is not just spiritual communion, it is also remembering to take out the trash.” What have you done lately to show your spouse how much you appreciate them? During these busy days of preparation for the coming Christmas celebrations, a handwritten note, an unexpected and gentle physical touch, affirming words, preparing a favorite meal or joyfully helping with household responsibilities are simple ways to let your spouse know just how much they mean to you. **Lutheran Family Service** www.LutheranFamilyService.org

My Faith Story...

The following “Faith Story” was read by Connie Grondahl at church in November. It is reprinted here:

Stewardship of the Soul

Hi, my name is Connie Grondahl, and I am speaking today on behalf of the Immanuel Stewardship Board. Last month, we reprinted a wonderful message from Korey Zellers, centering on our God-given gifts and the opportunities we are given to use them. As I thought about my own unique gifts and how God uses them, I realized I often get sidetracked, and it’s usually because my brain started going in a different direction. Once my brain starts going and gets stuck in circles, my heart follows and pretty soon my soul feels heavy. And when my soul feels heavy, it’s so very hard, if not impossible, to appreciate, offer, and use my gifts the way God intended. Proverbs 4:23 states: “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it”. I would like to explore another aspect of stewardship, and that is stewardship of the soul.

Take a minute and think about the last time your brain got stuck in circles or created some mighty fine stories in your head. For me, perhaps someone did not react the way I thought they should and I got stuck on that, maybe I had heard others’ opinion which started to cloud my own, or sometimes I pay attention to something I didn’t need to and even shouldn’t.

Satan uses any opening he can to push us off course. Many times, it starts with our sinful nature confusing our brain with what we hear and see. The world is loud; and we have so much information and misinformation at our fingertips, it is hard to plug the holes. As Luke tells us in chapter 11, verse 34 “Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body.

When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. But when it is unhealthy, your body is filled with darkness.”

So how can we grow in stewardship of our soul? In Romans 12:2, Paul states: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” And this is a constant battle. Jesus stated we need to take up the cross daily and follow him, or in my case many times per day. One of my favorite verses to steward my soul is found in Paul’s letter to the Philippians, chapter 4, verse 8: “Finally brothers, whatever is true,” (and this one word ‘true’, stops many of my misguided thoughts in their tracks when I stop long enough to apply it) “whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”

May God help all of us be fierce stewards of our souls. May His light shine through our eyes as we use our gifts to His glory. Thank you.

*Note from the Editor: This means of fellowship among our Immanuel family was instituted in March 2015. “My Faith Story” has been a regular feature, 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!*



THANK YOU to everyone that supported the Emergency Food Pantry this last month! We supported 4 days of volunteering, 732 pounds of donated goods (well

over 500 items), and \$44. We met our requirements for Thrivent’s Give Thanks Give Back event, so an extra \$500 should be donated to the pantry soon. Thank you from the Board for Human Care!

Three main ways to support the pantry’s mission are donate nonperishable items, donate funds, and

volunteer. **Our highest need right now is financial contributions.** We are seeking donations to support the food purchases and service to feed 5,500 families. Please consider a year-end donation to feed our neighbors in need. Donations can be made online at www.emergencyfoodpantry.com or by cash or check at Emergency Food Pantry 1101 - 4th Ave N, Fargo, ND 58102

WONDERING WHAT TO DO WITH...?

Wondering what to do with sheets you don’t use anymore? Or leftover scraps from sewing projects? Or old flannel sheets? Or even mattress pads? Or extra pillow cases? Or tablecloths you don’t need? The Quilters can use them! If you have a question about what we can or can’t use, give Elaine Hankel (701-232-1813) a call. About the only thing we really have trouble recycling into quilts are knit fabrics, denim and slippery, silky fabrics. Maybe your favorite thrift store could use those items. We use almost everything else that is donated. The lovely quilts you see in the Welcome Hall are for sale (which proceeds are often used to aid other ministries of Immanuel), but we make many others that we donate to local charities, who in turn use them for their clients. If you have items you would like to donate, you may leave them in the downstairs kitchen, (until March 1st) or contact Elaine Hankel or Clarice Michel (701-200-3612). So many blessings, so much to be thankful for, as



we reflect on our Thanksgiving holiday and look ahead to preparing our hearts and minds for celebrating the birth of Jesus, our Savior.

Christmas cards were prepared by 19 women at our November 4th Unit Meeting for mailing to our homebound, college students and active military. We also repurposed 278 cards by attaching a Spanish message, which were sent to the Ysleta Mission in El Paso, TX. The mission will insert these cards in food boxes given out to the needy.

We also were enlightened on the mission of Kirk Rosin and his brother. They ensured that Orphan Grain Shipments to an orphanage in Ukraine for distribution reached their destination safely. It was

a wonderful morning of learning, serving, and fellowship, including lots of conversation and laughter!

Our LWML will be tying on our aprons and preparing to serve for two events in December. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us in joyful fellowship as we work together. Some of you have already signed up to help for a shift or two – thank you so much! Sign-up sheets are at the LWML table in the Welcome Hall if you are able to help fill a few blank spots.

Wed, Dec 13th – LWML serves the Advent supper at 5:00 pm. Chili will be prepared at church on Tuesday, Dec. 12, beginning about noon. All supplies for chili, hot dogs and buns, veggies, crackers and rolls, *other than the dessert treats*, will be purchased and brought to church. Each Circle is asked to provide 5 doz. dessert treats (cookies/bars).

Sun, Dec 17th – LWML will serve Christmas cookies/bars, hot chocolate, marshmallows, and coffee immediately following the 3 pm Sunday School Christmas Service. Each Circle please provide 6 doz. treats to be sure we have enough for all our students, families, and guests.

Sun, Jan 7, 2024 – LWML Board Meeting @ 12:15 pm in the Student Room.

God's blessings as you set your hearts and minds on our greatest gift of all, the gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior!

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:11

In Christ's Service,

Patty Walla, LWML President

NOVEMBER VOTER MEETING SUMMARY

75th Anniversary Cookbook Update. A cookbook is the only project proposed to date to help us commemorate Immanuel's 75th anniversary in 2025. The project, led by Tiffany Menze, is getting started soon. Look for more information in the January issue of the Image.

God's Firm Foundation (Basement Remodel Project) update. Mitch Semanko, co-chair of the GFF Capital Campaign, reported that offerings and pledges have reached the \$750,000 projected remodel cost. He thanked everyone for their tremendous generosity in reaching this goal. It was noted that there will be

additional costs for furniture and equipment in the various rooms, as was part of the plan when initially approved by Immanuel members. Josh Gornowicz, chair of the Remodel Implementation Committee, reported on plans for getting the project done, as noted in a separate article.

Associate/Campus Pastor Call Committee update. Steve Larson, Chair of the Board of Elders, noted that our second call (to Pastor Gann) had been returned this week. Aaron Simmons has agreed to assume chairmanship of the Call Committee moving forward. Russ Bubach was thanked for his great leadership on the committee, and respected his request to step down for medical reasons. The Call Committee will be meeting to evaluate how to move forward in preparation for the next call meeting as soon as reasonably possible.

In addition to the special business noted above, each board reported on their recent and planned work. Immanuel has very active leaders doing great work for Immanuel. I will note one area of

DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS				
Dec 3	8 am	Elder: Mike Rachow Acolyte: Leah G Usher Team: Rachow Greeter: Clarice Michel Video: Kay Tegtmeier <i>CoffeeTime: C/J Erdmann</i>	11 am	E: Mike Rachow A: Elsa S UT: Lindgren G: Rick Cote/Pam Coste Dec 6 V: Jack Bumgarner
Dec 10	8 am	E: Aaron Simmons A: Maris H UT: Sather G: Curt/Pam Sommer V: Samuel Boateng <i>CT: D/R Foster</i>	11 am	E: Aaron Simmons A: Scarlett H UT: Tegtmeier G: Jamie/Brant Jacobson Dec 13 V: Kay Tegtmeier
Dec 17	8 am	E: Andrew Eggebraaten A: Bella S UT: Montana G: M/L Semanko V: Jack Bumgarner <i>CT: A/S Gunnerson</i>	11 am	E: Andrew Eggebraaten A: Elsa S UT: Semanko G: Bill Piper Dec 20 V: J Bumgarner
Dec 24	8 am	E: Dave Manzey A: Gretchen K UT: Stahlecker G: L/S Bakken <i>No Coffee Time</i>	4 pm/ 10 am	UT: Lindgren V: Samuel Boateng Cmas Day UT: Rachow V: Kay Tegtmeier
Dec 31	8 am	E: Russell Bubach A: Kinley K UT: Sather G: Roger/Judy Kading V: Samuel Boateng	11 am	<i>CT: L/T Gangehoff?</i> E: Russell Bubach A: Elsie T UT: Rolf G: Clint/Pat Podoll

focus by the Board for Human Care. There has been greater recent need for alms, and increased alms giving would be greatly appreciated. You can place alms offerings in the pew envelopes (designate alms) or in the alms box on the column just outside the office.

The potluck meal followed a cold sandwich and salad format to save time and work. Several people noted their appreciation for this format, especially with the variety of salads available and time savings for serving and cleaning up.

*Submitted by Jim Walla,
Congregational President*



Two concerts: Bach Cantata Vespers, Sun., Feb. 18, 4pm, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, West Fargo; and Bach Summer Concert, Thur., Aug. 8, 7pm, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fargo.
Interested in participating in the Bach Choir? Contact Katie Rolf at Kathryn.rolf@gmail.com; 651-336-1012.

memorials & gifts	
From (date)	Honor/MEMORY
Jeff/Janell Reginbal (11-19)	MARILYN HANSON
Richard/Marilyn Wentzel	MARILYN HANSON
McClarnon family	MARILYN HANSON
Deon Wentzel	MARILYN HANSON
Pletan family	MARILYN HANSON
J/A/ Wentzel	MARILYN HANSON
Scherbenske family	MARILYN HANSON
Tim Flakoll (11-27)	WILMA FLAKOLL



Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
North Dakota District
Unity in Christ Ephesians 4:1-16



DR. GREGORY SELTZ
Executive Director of
Lutheran Center for
Religious Liberty & Speaker
Emeritus for Lutheran
Hour Ministries

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

- LEARN WHY CHRISTIANS SHOULD ENGAGE WITH CULTURE.
- LEARN THE PRINCIPLES OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.
- DISCOVER HOW WE CAN INTERACT WITH CULTURE FOR ITS BENEFIT AND THE CHURCH'S MISSION.

Conference

**FEBRUARY 10TH, 2024
9:00 TO 3:30**

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - BISMARCK, ND

DR. SELTZ WILL DISCUSS THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING DUAL KINGDOM CITIZENS AND EXPLORE WHY CREATING A NETWORK OF BELIEVERS AND CHURCHES IS CRUCIAL "FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS."

Registration Fee:
\$50/person
\$75/family



REV. DR. ADAM FILIPEK
WILL SHARE INSIGHTS ON
HIS BOOK, "LIFE IN CHRIST:
ROOTED, WOVEN, AND
GRAFTED INTO GOD'S
STORY"



Contact Tami Ulland:
for More Info:
lcms.nd.busman@gmail.com
(701) 360-1469

Becky Bartelt, 5F #167 Gongyuan Road, East District, Chiayi City, Taiwan 600044; +886 903337255 (cell number and WhatsApp number)

Rebecca.Bartelt@lcms.org

PLEASE GIVE THANKS FOR:

- prayer and financial supporters, like yourself!!!
 - God's steadfast love which endures forever!
 - my dad's progress in his recovery post back surgery
- PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- wisdom & courage from God as we make decisions about the music conservatory and worship space.
- my sister's continued chemotherapy and her witness to others going through cancer treatments.
- the Christmas outreach concert that those who attend would be blessed.

ND District LCMS Message in a Pew November 2023

Did you know your investment can have a bigger impact this season with Lutheran Church Extension Fund? Our new, limited-time, six-and-a-quarter term note empowers you to grow your savings while strengthening, sustaining and starting Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod ministries. This is for new money, with a minimum of \$500 to open an account. And that is what truly sets us apart – your investment with LCEF directly supports LCMS ministries through this 2.5 year term note. Visit lcef.org/invest to open an account today and earn a solid 6.25% return as you help build a brighter future for LCMS ministries. Visit https://lcef.org/6_25-percent-2_5-year/ or call 1-800-843-5233 or Tami at 701-360-1469.



Congregations' Status

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: Rev. Kevin Olson, Redeemer-Machesney Park, IL, has returned the call (Rev. Bernie Worral).

Immanuel-Fargo: Rev. Jaim Gann, Grace-Chester, VA has returned the call.

Grace-Carrington: vacancy (Rev. Tom Eckstein).

Zion-Binford; Grace-Cooperstown: vacancy (Rev. Bob Hill).

Bethlehem/St. John-Upham; Zion-Kramer; Faith-Towner: vacancy (Rev. Carlyle Roth and Rev. Rick Jones).

Immanuel-Hankinson: DCE Joshua Schmitt has returned a call.

Pres. Arie Bertsch

Pastors & DCE's

Rev. Brian Doel, Our Savior-Minot, returned a call to St. Paul-Williamsburg, IA.

Rev. Clark Jahnke, St. Andrew-West Fargo, returned a call to Our Savior-Albuquerque, NM.

Rev. Adam Filipek, Holy Cross & Immanuel-Lidgerwood, returned a call to Trinity-Clinton, MO.

Rev. Michael Suelzle, St. Peter-Devils Lake, Grace-Lakota, St. Andrew-Niagara is considering a call to St. Matthew-Spring Lake, MI.

Rev. Michael Suelzle, St. Peter-Devils Lake, Grace-Lakota, St. Andrew-Niagara is considering a call to St. Paul/Immanuel-Blue Earth, MN.

NORTH DAKOTA DISTRICT LCMS Financial Information October 2023

INCOME:

Congregational Mission Giving	\$95,681.44
Less Synodical Pledge (35%)	(\$32,788.50)
Net Congregational Mission Giving	\$62,892.94
Other Unrestricted Gifts	5,391.72
1-1-1 Mission Giving	1,038.12
Current gifts/fees for missions	15,394.98
Available Income	\$84,717.76

EXPENSES:

Local Missions and Committee Activities:	\$21,531.55
(Includes Wittenberg Chapel, Deaf Ministry, Youth)	
Congregational Support/Operating Expenses	33,331.69
(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
Chile Mission – Special Events	1,225.00
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	\$56,088.24
NET OPERATING INCOME FOR NOVEMBER	\$28,629.52
Funds Given used for Current Expenses	\$400.00
Year To Date NET INCOME/LOSS	\$14,928.69

Timing is everything and God is good! The timing of giving made October an above average month and YTD giving is close to where it needs to be. Income and expenses include the Middle School School Gathering.

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 30, 2023:

Christ's Care for Children – Kenya	\$1,982.18
Chile Partnership	\$1,466.00
Shepherd's Hill Retreat	\$4,219.72

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.

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