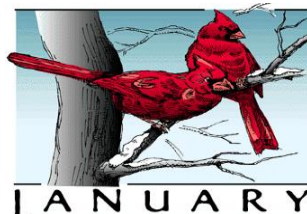


IMMANUEL IMAGE

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
FARGO, ND
VOLUME 57, EDITION 1
2024

CONFIRMATION PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Every year, the pastor and DCE have parent-teacher conferences on **January 3rd** to check-in about how students are doing in their confirmation classes. This conference is a great opportunity to make sure both parents and teacher are on the same page about each youth's faith growth.

THE 2024 FLOWER CALENDAR

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

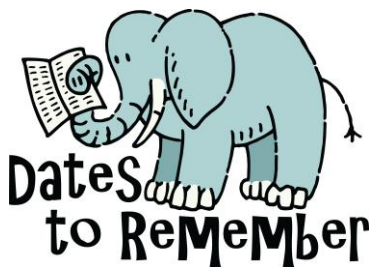


1. *Vanco (our online giving portal) has an article on page 8 of this newsletter for beginning or modifying your giving.*

2. Year-end statements for 2023 will be mailed around January 15th, 2024.

TWO CONCERTS:

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



THE ANNUAL VOTERS MEETING will be
Sun, **Jan 28th at 9:35 am** in the Celebration
Center, in place of Adult Bible Class. (Sunday
School opening will be in the sanctuary that
morning.) Help review the old and shape the new
year!

LIFE'S BIG QUESTIONS, GOD'S BIG ANSWERS: A PRACTICAL DISCUSSION ABOUT CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS

? If evolution doesn't explain how all life came to be, why is it taught as truth in the classroom?

..... If the earth is young, then why does it look so old? **?**

? Isn't the Bible just another ancient document, like so many other contradictory ancient documents?


..... Did Jesus really rise from the dead? **?**


? And what does "worldview" have to do with any of this?

2024 ND DISTRICT MEN'S RETREAT

Rev. Dr. Heath Trampe grew up in a Christian household but began to drift from church in his teenage years. You could say he was full of questions and desperately seeking answers. Those answers were found in God's Word and later studies in apologetics - at CUNE and CTSFW. Using Dr. Brad Alles' book LIFE'S BIG QUESTIONS: GOD'S BIG ANSWERS and insights from his own learning and ministry, Rev. Dr. Trampe will lead us in a journey through these big questions.

January 12-13 | Friday 6pm - Saturday 2pm | \$100
Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads | RSVP to Corey Isaak
corey.isaak@gracefargo.org | 701-281-0240





NOTE THESE DEADLINES:

Board Budgets to Bd. of Finance by Jan 2nd.
Annual Reports due to Louise by Jan 17th.
Articles for Feb. issue of Image to office by Jan 19th.

It's almost time for our **ANNUAL ZONE**
FAMILY SKI TRIP to Andes Tower Hills.
This is a favorite event and is for the entire
congregation. The event is scheduled for Saturday,
January 27th, weather permitting. Registration
forms must be turned in to DCE Wolfram by the
Sunday prior - Jan 21st. For those in the Fargo area,
you can meet at Beautiful Savior and travel
together. Others can meet us at Andes Tower Hills.
Look for registration forms on the Youth Board
starting January 8th. Please contact DCE Wolfram
with any questions.

Pastor's COLUMN



C3 MINISTRY BRIDGING THE DIVIDE BETWEEN CHRIST, CULTURE, AND THE CHURCH

"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you."
(John 15:17-18)

We are gearing up for our next session of this great new program designed to invite all members of our congregation, but especially our families, to come and learn what God says and the church teaches about those tough topics that are all around us in our everyday life.

Date: Wednesday, February 7th
Time: 6-8 PM

How do we live in our own world? The Christian church is rather purposely in the world, both to live in it and share with it the gospel of Jesus Christ. But the church is also called to not conform to its ways. We are *in* the world, but not *of* the world. We sing the songs of our culture, laugh at its jokes, and tell the stories of its past. But we are also called to sing the song of salvation, and teach people to laugh at the grave by telling the story of Christ. How much of one and the other? Is it 50-50; 70-30; 90-10? Is it Christ over culture? Do we immerse ourselves in the culture to reach it? Are there even winners and losers in this juxtaposition? Our C3 Ministry event this year will be on this very topic. **Pastor Chris Durham** will be coming up from Lisbon, ND to talk about Christ and Culture and the Church. He'll be bringing his confirmation students up, too; as this is a timely topic. **The event is open to all.** Confirmation students will meet as a class. Adults and youth will meet in the Celebration Center. There will be a meal offered at 6; and our speaker, Pastor Durham will begin his presentation at 6:30.

CALLING AN ASSOCIATE PASTOR

The Call Committee has reviewed the PIFs and SETs of the 14 candidates on our call list, and has identified 4 pastors that seem particularly suited for the Campus Ministry focus of the current opening. Those pastors are, in alphabetical order: Matthis, Moyer, Ondov, and Suelzle.

But don't take our word for it: packets are now available for checkout from the church office that contain the PIFs and SETs for the 11 remaining candidates so that you may make an informed vote.

The call meeting in which the congregation will vote for one of these candidates is scheduled for **January 14th, immediately following the second service.**



January is typically the time of year we take on a resolution or two. Perhaps reading a book in lieu of scrolling through social media might be one of

them. Immanuel has a whole library to help you! I recently asked one of the library's frequent customers to name an author they liked and Karen Kingsbury was the reply. Karen Kingsbury writes novels from a Christian viewpoint depicting everyday life with its twists and turns. As Karen's bio states: "Karen Kingsbury, #1 New York Times bestselling novelist, is America's favorite inspirational storyteller, with more than twenty-five



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

million copies of her award-winning books in print. Her last dozen titles have topped bestseller lists and many of her novels are under development with Hallmark Films and as major motion pictures. Her Baxter Family books are being developed into a TV series slated for major network viewing sometime in the next year. Karen is also an adjunct professor of writing at Liberty University. In 2001 she and her husband, Don, adopted three boys from Haiti, doubling their family in a matter of months. Today the couple has joined the ranks of empty-nesters, living in Tennessee near five of their adult children." She has quite the background story as well which ends with: "Ever since that first novel, I've been writing Life-Changing Fiction™, certain that when God puts a story on my heart, He has your heart in mind."

Some novels included in the library are: "Leaving;" "Unlocked;" "Hannah's Hope: Red Glove Series;" "Brush of Wings;" "Take One;" "Take Two;" "Take Three;" "Take Four;" "Divine;" "Where Yesterday Lives;" "Like Dandelion Dust;" "Just Beyond the Clouds;" "Beyond Tuesday Morning;" "Oceans Apart;" "Even Now." Happy reading in the New Year!!

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 January group is **Haa** (Haarstick-Janssen), the February group is **Jen** (Jenkins-Larson), and the **Lea** (Lee-McNett) group is on deck for March. Thank you for volunteering once or twice per year to assist with serving coffee time and the occasional congregational dinner.



3Jan – Rhoda Viker (82)
 4Jan – Peter Woyen
 5Jan – Alexis Riesen; Jack Schroeder
 6Jan – Clint Podoll; Brian Williams
 10Jan – Roselynn Speidel (80)
 11Jan – Jordan Dahl; Shirley Janssen (87)
 12Jan – Samantha Albrecht; Carly Erdmann; Katie Ill; Mary Marohl; Ben Stevens
 14Jan – Owen Duncan
 16Jan – Gretchen Klein
 17Jan – Jack Bumgarner; Nathan Fischer; Jacob Schaefer; Brexley Swenson (5)
 18Jan – James Speidel
 19Jan – Bob Stahlecker; Mariah Westerhausen
 20Jan – Bethany Katka; Curt Sommer; Clara Tegtmeier (4)
 21Jan – Thea Baneck (1); Eric Reinke
 22Jan – Jamie Jacobson; Faith Luebke; Sue Williams
 23Jan – Dean Sonnenberg
 25Jan – Pam Coste; [Trista] Walla
 26Jan – Krista Klein; Henry Swanson (5); Carol Thoreson
 27Jan – Chase Gerer
 29Jan – Melissa Gornowicz
 30Jan – Austin Moltzan

1Jan – Megan & [Ben] Kunkel (8th)
 11Jan – Myrna Larson & [Dick Anderson] (10th)
 13Jan – Jason & Jennifer Wilkie (23rd)
 16Jan – Andy & [Kristin] Wollin (3rd)
 17Jan – Reid & [Carissa] Kittelson (10th)



CHRISTMAS COOKIE BAKE THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who donated ingredients and helped with the baking of the cookies for the Christmas Cookie Bake this year! It is always such a fun weekend to bake Christmas cookies and you all helped to make that possible. Thank you also to everyone who helped support the youth by purchasing the group's delicious treats.



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



"MAIN STREET LIVING" MEDIA MINISTRY - JANUARY UPDATE

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23

We are often asked what "New Year's resolutions" we are making. While this may be helpful for some people, we Christians realize that each new day brings **"new mercies"** from the Lord, and each act of repentance and forgiveness brings a fresh start! May today and every day be lived in the assurance of such great mercy and fresh starts – all because of Jesus!

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 identified as **"Fargo / Bismarck"**. Worship services from the five other MSL broadcast areas, as well as the weekly *"This Is the Life"* programs, are also available for viewing on the website.

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 January 2024:

Jan. 7th: **Rev. Arie Bertsch**, President of the ND District, LCMS, presents the message: **"Anchored in Christ"** based on Mark 1:4-11. *"This Is the Life" program: "The Other Wiseman"* - Another Magi, making his journey to the Christ child, encounters others and shows kindness along the way.

Jan. 14th: **Rev. Richard Jones**, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Minot, ND, presents the message: **"Selective Hearing Loss"** based on I Samuel 3:1-10. *"This Is the Life" program: "The Priceless Book"* - Money and

health troubles on the farm lead a father to God's Word for comfort.

Jan. 21st: **Rev. Jim Lamb**, Lutheran Family Service, Fort Dodge, Iowa, presents the message: **"The Trinitarian Value of Human Life"** based on Isaiah 43:1.

Visit www.MainStreetLiving.com for more information. *"This Is the Life" program: "Live Option"* - A 15-year-old pregnant daughter and her mother disagree on the future of her child.

Jan. 28th: 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: **"Depart, Thou Unclean Spirit"** based on Mark 1:21-28. *"This Is the Life" program: "In Search of Dignity"* - Two factory workers struggle to find meaning after they are replaced by machines.



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**, resuming January 10th. For more information, please contact Amy Hirsch at 701-866-1668 or amyhirsch1979@gmail.com.

NOTES ON WEDNESDAYS: (1) Hannah Bible Class also begins again on Jan 10th at 7:05 pm. Contact leader, Lydia Trandem to join in this group. (2) The UR Handchime Choir will rehearse on Jan. 10th, 17th, 24, and 31st from 6-6:45 pm in the balcony. Free supper is still being offered to Kind. through 5th grade UR members from 5:45 to 6 pm, in the Student Room. Contact directors Sammi H & Louise T for further info.



"4X4"

The Board of Outreach at Immanuel will continue our "in-reach and outreach" initiative again this January, February, and March. "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.

During the months of January, February and March, these 4x4 groups will meet together in whatever setting they choose. Groups should also be sure to close 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.

If you missed the deadline in December, please remember that there will be another opportunity to join "4x4" during March for April, May, and June gatherings.

GFF IMPLEMENTATION REPORT



GOD'S FIRM
FOUNDATION

You will see from the Construction Roadmap that we are in the Planning and Start Action phases.

There are a lot of items in

the basement that need removal before any work can occur.

The new news from our meeting in December with the asbestos abatement team is that they would like our



clean-out to be completed by March 15th

(2 weeks earlier) so that they can do preparatory work before the start date of April 1st. This means that more volunteers will be needed in late January and February in order to accomplish the clean-out by this earlier date. A curtain will be placed in the alcove section of the Celebration Center in order to have storage in that area. There will be more information soon on the updated basement-clean-out schedule.

Other decisions that have been made are: (1) Adult Bible Class will begin meeting in the Sanctuary on March 10th; (2) Sunday School opening will continue in the Celebration Center, but as of March 10th, the classes that formerly met in the basement (that's Nursery through 2nd grade) will meet in separate corners of the Celebration Center. If anyone has a spare room divider, contact the office about loaning it to Immanuel during the basement remodeling project.

Respectfully,

The GFF Implementation Committee

Josh Gornowicz, chairman

IMMANUEL IMAGE, JANUARY 2024

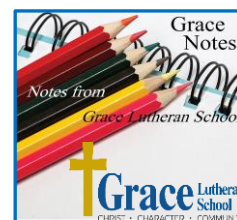
YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS			
11-30-2023			
	BUDGET	2023	2022
* RECEIPTS *			
REGULAR ENVELOPES	\$585,000.00	\$501,865.89	\$508,123.44
PLATE OFFERINGS	\$10,000.00	\$9,102.00	\$9,792.50
SPEC. SERVICES & MISC.	\$20,000.00	\$11,226.72	\$13,023.62
ASSETS RELEASED	\$110,000.00	\$55,779.00	\$18,864.03
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$725,000.00	\$577,973.61	\$549,803.59
* EXPENSES *			
MISSIONS	\$123,000.00	\$103,933.01	\$105,991.43
ELDERS	\$29,900.00	\$21,981.87	\$27,813.44
EVANGELISM	\$3,750.00	\$3,100.32	\$6,236.93
STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE	\$8,300.00	\$7,517.41	\$2,991.74
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$58,900.00	\$49,376.51	\$48,120.72
TRUSTEES	\$136,000.00	\$120,618.91	\$80,071.46
ADMINISTRATION	\$304,100.00	\$227,713.38	\$256,637.58
HUMAN CARE	\$2,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
CAMPUS MINISTRY	\$76,280.00	\$52,181.45	\$68,287.48
ENDOWMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$742,480.00	\$586,422.86	\$596,150.78
HOME PURPOSES PLUS (MINUS)	(\$17,480.00)	(\$8,449.25)	(\$46,347.19)
YEAR-TO-DATE REC'D			
BOTW-BLDG. MAINT. FUND		\$11,675.92	\$19,660.09
GFF (Basement Remodel)		\$532,460.43	\$111,550.00
GTIG (Grace Bldg Project)		\$15,233.67	\$0.00
THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS		\$6,766.00	\$5,020.00

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL!

This is an excellent time of year to count blessings and we have 103 of them in our care. We're thankful for each and every one of them. Our fervent prayer would be to continually grow the ministry at Grace.

January starts enrollment season for Grace. Grace Lutheran School is YOUR school. Students from Immanuel can receive up to a 60% tuition subsidy. Additionally, students who attend Grace for all years from Kindergarten through 7th grade pay only 10% of total tuition for 8th grade.

Prospective students are invited to **Preview Day on Monday, January 15th**. Spend the morning in




the classroom, meet teachers, and experience the difference Grace offers. Register at www.glsfargo.org.

Open houses for all grades, and especially Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten, are on **Mon, Jan 15th, Thu, Feb 22nd, and Mon, March 4th** from 4:30 to 6 PM. Pre-register at www.glsfargo.org.

National Lutheran Schools Week is Jan 22nd-26th. Activities include daily all-school chapel, special service projects, and all sorts of zany fun. The theme for this year's NLSW is "Connected," based on John 15:1-5, "He is the Vine, we are the branches."

As always, thank you to all of our supporters, volunteers, and prayer partners. We can do all things through Christ as He works through you.

	
From (date)	Honor/MEMORY
Vi Aasland (12-11)	JAN LIEN
Curt/Pam Sommer	JAN LIEN
Terry/Dolly Meyer (12-17)	PAUL SCHIERMAN
Richard/Norma Frohberg	JAN LIEN
Edward/Karen Woyen	JAN LIEN



GROWING TOGETHER IN GRACE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN - JAN. UPDATE

Grace Lutheran School's Growing Together in Grace campaign continues to move towards construction if all necessary funds can be pledge/raised.

A couple of large donations recently came our way. We are very blessed and excited to announce that the pledge total as of Dec 18th is now \$1,289,843. We continue to push toward a fully-funded project.

Fundraising is a slow process, so if the GTIG committee has not reached out to you yet, know that we want to give all donors a chance to participate. Small-group events are in the works for 2024. If you would like to speak to a committee member about your gift, please contact Amy Hirsch via the contact info below.

Donations can be sent to the church, to PACE at the school's address, or through Vanco at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZHMF>. Contact Amy Hirsch at 701-232-7747 or amy.hirsch@glfargo.org with any questions.

IMMANUEL IMAGE, JANUARY 2024

My Faith Story...

Note from the Editor: There is no story this month, because I didn't receive one. Perhaps you can submit one for next month?

A booklet of all the "My Faith Stories" will be made for our 75th anniversary in 2025 – won't you consider contributing your story?

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 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 will inspire others – give it a try!



THANK YOU

Our highest need right now continues to be financial contributions. We are seeking

donations to support the food purchases and service to feed 5,500 families. 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

FABRIC STILL NEEDED

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! Please give Elaine Hankel (701-232-1813) a call if you have questions about the details. 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. The lovely quilts you see in the Welcome Hall are for sale; and 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.



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BUILDING HEALTHY FAMILIES:



The beginning of a New Year brings feelings of anticipation, excitement, and hope as we start with a clean slate, our resolutions to keep. Still looking for ideas that will bring new life to your New Year? In addition to more physical exercise and better food choices, how about one of these: read from Scripture 15 minutes every day; go to church every Sunday; set aside 20 minutes at the end of the day to pray; join a Bible Study group; memorize a new Bible verse each week. Don't give up! It takes 6 weeks of doing something repeatedly to make it a habit. *A Blessed, Happy, & Healthy New Year to you and your family!*

Lutheran Family Service

www.LutheranFamilyService.org

We are still in need of more **greeters** [15-minute commitment about 6-8 times per year] and **ushers (especially for second service)** [serving on a team about once every 3-5 weeks]. Contact the office for more information about these volunteer opportunities.



December was so busy for LWML Immanuel members and their families, making meals (Dec 13th) and treats (Dec 17th) and decorating (Nov 27th) our church and our homes. Hopefully, all was done to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Savior.

Upcoming events:

Jan 7th; 12:15pm: LWML Board Meeting (for officers and circle chairpersons)

Sat, Feb 3rd; 9:30-11 am: FM Area Prayer Service @ Beautiful Savior Luth. Church, Fargo

Sat, Feb 3rd; 12n-1:30 p (NOTE NEW TIME!!): UNIT Meeting [select District Convention Delegates; Assemble Valentine Bags for Homebound Members. Serving & Cleanup: Welcome Circle

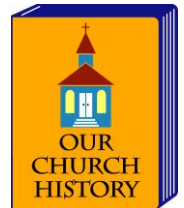
Wed, Feb 21st: LWML Serves Lenten supper at 5 pm

Patty Walla, LWML President

JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Jan 7	8 am	Elder: Steve Larson Acolyte: Leah G Usher Team: Montana Greeter: J/G Gornowicz Video: Jack Bumgarner	11 am	<i>CoffeeTime: C/L Hurajt</i> E: Steve Larson A: Madden T UT: Tegtmeier G: P/J Moltzan
Jan 14	8 am	E: Jeff Sornsin A: Maris H UT: Semanko G: TBD V: Kay Tegtmeier	11 am	<i>CT: A/T Hirsch</i> E: Jeff Sornsin A: Louis C UT: Rachow G: Diane H/Karen H
Jan 21	8 am	E: Vas Soori A: TBD UT: Stahlecker G: TBD V: Samuel Boateng	11 am	<i>CT: Organists (honor of Barb Downs' retirement)</i> E: Vas Soori A: Elsa S UT: Rolf G: TBD
Jan 28	8 am	E: Tim Flakoll A: TBD UT: Sather G: TBD V: Jack Bumgarner	11 am	<i>CT: A Heagle/M Hallgren</i> E: Tim Flakoll A: TBD UT: Lindgren

Anyone that might still possess Immanuel information and printed materials, especially from the 1960's, 70's, and 80's, please consider sharing your information with the office. Some of our **historical records** are not complete; but we'd like to make a nice display for our 75th anniversary celebration in 2025. *Thank you.*



Please consider submitting your favorite recipes for **IMMANUEL'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK!**

To submit a recipe, a) Please complete a form here: <https://forms.gle/omrhin4Fig1xeuY4A>



b) you email your typed recipe to: Immanuelcookbook@gmail.com.
c) Hard copies for recipe submissions will be available by request in the office for those who do not have access to email and/or a computer. Please include your name, the recipe name, the ingredients, the instructions/ directions, the yield, and any notes or tips.

The deadline for submitting recipes is yet to be determined, based on completing the book for the 75th Anniversary in 2025.

Thanks! Immanuel Anniversary Cookbook Committee; Tiffany Menze, chair

SERVING THE LORD IN
PUERTO RICO
NEWS FROM ASHLEY LEHR



LITTLE HELPERS Pastor Gustavo and Ruth Maita's four-year-old daughter has started helping me fold the bulletins for service on Sundays. It is encouraging to see her get so excited about what I believe is a mundane task. It is a blessing to be able to watch children grow up in the church and begin helping with Joy.

THANKSGIVING IN PUERTO RICO To celebrate Thanksgiving, we gathered together as a church family for a service and a meal at Iglesia Luterana Principe de Paz (Mayaguez) on Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Carlos made the turkey and other church members brought sides and desserts to share. Cindy brought thanksgiving shaped butter cookies for the kids to decorate and enjoy. After the meal it has become a tradition for the church family to decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. It is a wonderful time of preparing together.

I celebrated Thanksgiving Day with Pastor Adam



Lehman, his family, and with church members Andrew and Stacey from our congregation in San Juan. We had

all the traditions foods and enjoyed a feast together.

SIGN UP FOR ONLINE GIVING AT IMMANUEL

****Remember to log in and update your account to match your new pledges****

****Immanuel is not able to change amounts from pledge cards****

1. Go to: <https://immanuelfargo.360unite.com/donate>

2. Click on Donate

3. Log in or Sign up

a. If you have an account:

i. Click: Log In in top right

ii. Enter: Email and Password

b. If you do not have an account:

i. Click: Sign Up in top right

ii. Enter: First name, Last name, Email, and Password

4. Click on the Donate button under the fund you would like to give to

5. Enter the Amount and Select One Time or Recurring

a. If you selected One Time:

i. Select: Once, now or Once, on a future date



b. If you selected Recurring:

i. Select: Frequency, and Start Date, then click Add to Basket

6. Repeat steps 4 & 5 to donate to additional funds

7. When complete, go to Basket and click on Continue to payment

8. Enter Payment Method

9. Click Continue to review

10. Click Submit

UPDATING ONLINE GIVING

****To update your online giving, create a new donation, then cancel your previous donation****

****Immanuel is not able to change amounts from pledge cards****

Creating your new donation

1. Go to: <https://immanuelfargo.360unite.com/donate>

2. Click on Donate

3. Log in

a. Click: Log In in top right

b. Enter: Email and Password

4. Click on the Donate

button under the fund you would like to give to

5. Enter the New Amount and Select One Time or Recurring

a. If you selected One Time:

i. Select: Once, now or Once, on a future date

b. If you selected Recurring:

i. Select: Frequency, and Start Date, then click Add to Basket

6. Repeat steps 4 & 5 to donate to additional funds

7. When complete go to Basket and click on Continue to payment

8. Enter Payment Method

9. Click Continue to review

10. Click Submit



CANCELING YOUR PREVIOUS DONATION

1. Go to: <https://immanuelfargo.360unite.com/donate>

2. Click on Donate

3. Log in

a. Click: Log In in top right

b. Enter: Email and Password

4. Click on Profile in top right

5. View Transactions

a. You should see your new donation and your previous donation

b. Click Cancel under your previous donation

ND District LCMS Message in a Pew

December 2023

North Dakota Income Tax Credit



Did you know the State of ND offers a state income tax credit to donors making monetary donations to non-profit private schools in ND like our LCMS schools: Martin Luther School, Bismarck and Grace Lutheran School, Fargo? A state income tax credit for 50% of your donation, up to the lesser of \$2,500 or half of your ND income tax liability is available for individuals or businesses. Appropriate tax forms need to be filed. Please consider donating to our schools and take advantage of this tax credit. Donations can be made online to Martin Luther at <https://mlsclassical.org/support> and to Grace at <https://glslfargo.org>, or can be mailed directly to the schools. To learn more about the credit, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ndtaxcredit>.



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Congregations' Status

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

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

Crosspointe-Fargo: has issued a call to Rev. Douglas Slavens, Memorial-Sioux Falls (Rev. Chris Waldvogel).

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

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

Immanuel-Fargo: vacancy.

Grace-Carrington: applying for a seminary candidate (Rev. Tom Eckstein).

Zion-Binford; Grace-Cooperstown: applying for a seminary candidate (Rev. Bob Hill).

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

Zion-Bismarck: applying for a seminary candidate as associate pastor.

Pres. Arie Bertsch

Pastors & DCE's

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

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

Rev. Zelwyn Heide, St. Peter-Hannover, Zion-New Salem is considering a call to Trinity-Logan, Trinity-Sugar Grove, OH.

NORTH DAKOTA DISTRICT LCMS

Financial Information

November 2023

INCOME:

Congregational Mission Giving	\$60,625.34
Less Synodical Pledge (35%)	(\$21,218.87)
Net Congregational Mission Giving	\$39,406.47
Other Unrestricted Gifts	809.82
1-1-1 Mission Giving	608.10
Current gifts/fees for missions	3,894.34
Available Income	\$44,718.73

EXPENSES:

Local Missions and Committee Activities:	\$13,436.59
(Includes Wittenberg Chapel, Deaf Ministry, Youth)	
Congregational Support/Operating Expenses	40,699.31
(Includes General Operations, District President, Business Manager, Board of Directors)	
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)	1,250.00
(These missions were voted on by the District Convention. They will be paid quarterly as funds are available)	

Current Expenses

NET OPERATING LOSS FOR NOVEMBER **\$18,167.17**

Funds Given used for Current Expenses **\$2,374.87**

Year To Date NET INCOME/LOSS **\$3,241.15**

November giving was average. Expenses include a large annual payment and the third quarter payments to the convention resolution missions.

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 November 31, 2023:

Christ's Care for Children – Kenya	\$2,607.18
Chile Partnership	\$1,841.00
Shepherd's Hill Retreat	\$4,319.72

Please contact Tami Ulland at lcms.nd.bushman@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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