

## **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.

## **Two concerts:**

Bach Cantata Vespers, Sunday, **February 18, 4pm**, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, West Fargo [see poster on page 2]; 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](mailto:Kathryn.rolf@gmail.com); 651-336-1012.

## **Annual Voters Meeting**

Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:40 am (in place of the Adult Bible Class). Come, make your voice heard! The Annual Report document also contains the newest version of the Member Directory.

## **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 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**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**

At a Special Voters meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup>, our members were led to extend a Divine Call to the Reverend Daniel Suelzle to consider a Divine Call to serve as Associate/Campus Pastor at Immanuel. Rev. Suelzle is currently serving as pastor at Wittenberg Chapel on the University of North Dakota campus. A phone call immediately after the vote found that he would prayerfully consider our Call. Please pray for God's guidance to Rev. Suelzle and his family as they seek God's will. Also pray that the Lord guide the ministry at both Wittenberg Chapel and Immanuel Lutheran Church during this time of decision.

*Jim Walla, Congregational President*

Guardian Angels: a reminder to continue to encourage your confirmation student with notes, cards, & gifts for special occasions. Confirmation students, remember to thank your Guardian Angel for their prayers and support.



*"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." (John 12:23)*

In the gospel of John, there is this theme of destiny with time. On seven different occasions, there are references from John and from the lips of Jesus of His hour not yet having arrived, and then it finally does come. It is a tension that starts building with the very first miracle of Jesus, and when His disciples first put their faith in Him. Jesus says to His mother, *"Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come."* (Jn 2:4)

This tension mounts until Jesus comes into Jerusalem riding a donkey; and some outsiders, Greeks to be exact, come asking to see Jesus the Promised One. Then Jesus says, *"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."*

This Lent season, we will be exploring this tension in the life of Jesus, and consider our own appointed times in life to consider the mercy of God in Christ. We too know what future that God has in store for us; and even though it may go through suffering and death, it will lead to resurrection!

Lent Services will begin Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:15 and 6PM with a meal in-between. There will be services. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in Holy Week. Holy Thursday service will be 7PM. Good Friday there will be a noon service. Good Friday 7PM there will be a service at Grace Lutheran Church. The Festival of the Resurrection services will be the normal Sunday morning times.

Feb 14 "My Time Has Not Yet Come" John 2

Feb 21 "Stubborn Jesus" John 7

Feb 28 "Protected for that time to not be Protected" John 8

March 6 "Divine Necessity" Matthew 16

March 13 "The Hour Has Come" John 12

March 20 "One More Thing to Do" John 13

March 28 "Glory in the Cross" John 17

March 29 Good Friday Service of Shadows

**IMMANUEL IMAGE, FEBRUARY 2024**

*"My time has not yet come, but your time is always here.... You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, for my time has not yet fully come...So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come." (Jn 7:6,8, 30)*

*"These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come." (Jn 8:20)*

*"Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour." (Jn 12:27)*

*"Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end." (13:1)*

*"When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you.'" (17:1)*

*Pastor Bernie Worral*

## BACH CANTATA VESPERS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024 | 4:00PM

St. Andrew Lutheran Church  
1005 1st St., West Fargo

Bach's Cantata  
"Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit  
(Actus Tragicus)," BWV 106,  
within the Vespers Liturgy.

FEATURING:  
RRVAGO ORGANISTS  
F-M BACH CHOIR  
CHAMBER ORCHESTRA



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

## GFF Implementation Report



GOD'S FIRM  
FOUNDATION

Greetings from the GFF Implementation committee; Gods richest blessings to you in this season of Epiphany!

From our initial timeline,

we are moving into the very active phase for cleanout of the various storage areas in the basement. Perhaps you've noticed there are items in the Celebration Center that were in the basement – work has begun!

Over the month of February and into March, we will be clearing all the storage rooms and old kitchen out; this begs the question-where will it all go? Some necessary items may be stored offsite, others will move to storage areas on the main level or to the upstairs classrooms if necessary and space allows, and finally we will also be creating a temporary storage area in the Celebration Center for the duration of the project-this area will be curtained off so all know items in this area we are keeping.

The big item for all to understand and be aware of is there will be items that no longer serve any purpose at Immanuel. Prior to disposing of anything, we would like members of the congregation to have the opportunity to decide if there is value individually. We will have a table (or two) setup IN FRONT OF CURTAIN in the CC with items that are free to be taken home on a first come, first serve basis. After two Sundays of viewing opportunity, we will dispose of any items remaining. This will start immediately; in fact, you may see items before reading this article.

We have an agreement with our construction contractors that the FORMAL START DATE will be Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> after Easter. No outside contractors will be working prior to that to allow an uninterrupted Sunday school and Lenten schedule. April 1<sup>st</sup>, we will have pre-asbestos remediation work happening leading up to the asbestos work starting April 8<sup>th</sup> with a projected three-week timeline. Sunday School classroom moves, and any temporary reorganization will be implemented Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, volunteer opportunities to assist with physically clearing out storage and going through unknown items will begin in earnest for the month of February. If able, work during the

weekday/daytime is great; however, we will also coordinate a few evenings and potentially Saturday morning/Sunday afternoon activities as needed for a couple “big lift” days. Please contact a member of the Implementation committee with any questions or your desire to volunteer to help in any way!

*Respectfully,*

*The GFF Implementation Committee*

*Josh Gornowicz, chairman*

## Family Serving Groups

Ed Bean, FSG Coordinator, has stated the February group is **Jen** (Jenkins-Larson), the **Lea** (Lee to McNett) group is assigned to March, and the **Mea** group (Menze-Podoll) is set for April. Thank you for volunteering once or twice per year to assist with serving coffee time and the occasional congregational dinner.

## Greetings from the Immanuel Library!

We are all aware of one thing - we are in the middle of winter. The days can get long. Perhaps you are getting an itch to learn something new. How about diving into some thought-provoking information about the Bible? 1001 Things You Always Wanted to Know About the Bible But Never Thought to Ask by J. Stephen Lang is sure to provide interesting morsels. Two more titles which caught my eye are Where to Find It in the Bible, The Ultimate A to Z Resource by Ken Anderson and “misquoted” Rethinking Commonly Misused Bible Verses by Dan Suelzle. The Bible Helps section has many more titles sure to feed your information appetite; check them out!



*Connie Grondahl, Librarian*



## Synodical College/Seminary/Colloquy Scholarship Application

The Immanuel Board of Education is pleased to announce the availability of the 2024-2025 Synodical College/Seminary Scholarship application. All interested members are encouraged to apply. The link to the application is <https://forms.gle/1FfCdENetDRWBNka8>. Should you prefer the link in email, request the link from [ilcboardofed@gmail.com](mailto:ilcboardofed@gmail.com). The application is due April 28, 2024. Please contact the email or a member of the Immanuel Board of Education with your questions or comments.

## Grace Lutheran School Scholarship Application

The Immanuel Board of Education is pleased to announce the availability of the 2024-2025 Grace Lutheran School Scholarship application. All interested families are encouraged to apply. The link to the application is <https://forms.gle/P4fEhEpJBWT4D1eG6>. Should you prefer the link in email, request the link from [ilcboardofed@gmail.com](mailto:ilcboardofed@gmail.com). The application is due April 28, 2024. Please contact the email or a member of the Immanuel Board of Education with your questions or comments.

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



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



The five of us braved the travel elements to attend the winter retreat at Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads on January 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>. Great topic and speaker! *L to R: Gene DeLorme, Russell Bubach, Dean Sonnenberg, Mitch Semanko, and Ed Bean.*

## Immanuel's 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 committee is led by Tiffany Menze. Recipes can be submitted anytime over the next several months (no deadline at this time). We want to have the cookbook printed and available during our anniversary celebration. It is planned to be a memento cookbook, of course, with many great recipes from members and with a large dash of Immanuel history sprinkled in. To Submit: A format has been set up so people can submit recipes directly (go to <https://forms.gle/omrhin4Fig1xeuY4A>). Scanning the QR code below with your cell phone camera also brings you to that form. Direct submission reduces retyping errors and prep time. Paper forms will also be available for submission of hard copies of recipes for those that can't submit by email. There is an initial limit of two recipes per person per category – we would like you to share your very



favorite recipes. There are 16 categories, as listed on the submission page, so anyone that wishes will be able to get many recipes included.

There are currently only four recipes that have been submitted so far. Members will be reminded and updated periodically and invited to participate in this cookbook project. For questions, email Tiffany at [immanuelcookbook@gmail.com](mailto:immanuelcookbook@gmail.com) or talk to her at church.



## **"Main Street Living" Media**

### **Ministry - February Update**

**"GIVING HEARTS DAY 2024" on Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>** will be a special opportunity to show support for your Main Street Living North Media Ministry! This will be a first for our ministry organization! You can add your support online (<https://app.givingheartsdays.org/>), or send...only or send a check to Main Street Living, 821 - 5th Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103 and write "giving Hearts Day" in the memo line.

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

*Ken Koehler, MSLN Coordinator*

### **"MSL North" Programs for February 2024:**

**Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>:** Rev. Craig Fenske, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, ND, presents the message: "The Greatness of God" based on Isaiah 40:21-31. *"This Is the Life" program:* "Which Way Grows the Vine" - A father struggles to accept the consequences of his actions and set an example for his son.

**Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>:** Rev. Bruce Blocker, Immanuel Lutheran Church, McIntosh, MN, presents the message: "They Saw No One Except Jesus" based on Mark 9:2-9. *"This Is the Life" program:* "Prescription TLC" - Injuries after a plane crash cause a couple to seek God for comfort and healing.

**Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>:** Rev. Scott Ramey, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rolla, ND, All Nations Lutheran Church,

Rock Lake, ND, and Zion Lutheran Church, Munich, ND, presents the message: "The Word of the Lord is powerful and effective" based on Isaiah 55:11. *"This Is the Life" program:* "Dangerous Moment" - An affair on a business trip leads to tension at home.

**Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>:** Rev. Daniel Voth, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, ND, presents the message: "Confess Jesus" based on St. Mark 8:27-38. *"This Is the Life" program:* "Who will tell Lauria?" - A family struggles with what to do after their daughter loses her sight in an accident.



## **"4x4"**

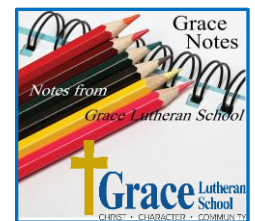
The Board of Outreach at Immanuel is continuing our "in-reach and outreach" initiative for Jan, Feb, and Mar. "4 x 4" is a fellowship idea designed to create an evening (or afternoon) of interaction and fun among members of a congregation who might otherwise never have an opportunity to get to know each other. During March, the sign-up will be open for meetings during April, May, and June.

## **Grace Lutheran School**

Grace, mercy, and peace from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Giving Hearts Day is coming soon! Connect with us in Christ on February 8<sup>th</sup> at [www.glsfargo.org](http://www.glsfargo.org) with your "Heart for Christian Education." We are pleased to announce a \$3000 match provided generously by DRI (formerly Dakota Refrigeration), longtime supporter of Grace Lutheran School. Every dollar raised on Giving Hearts Day is prayerfully spent to support our students and ministry.

We just wrapped up an exciting National Lutheran Schools Week, complete with all-school devotions, dress up days, reading with chapel buddies, card making for homebound church members, and a trip to Alexandria to visit our sister school, Zion. Enrollment for 2024-2025 is in full swing at 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 7<sup>th</sup> grade pay only 10% of total tuition for 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Open houses for all grades, and especially Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten, are on Thursday, February 22, 2024 and Monday, March 4, 2024 from 4:30 to 6 PM. Pre-register at [www.glsfargo.org](http://www.glsfargo.org).

As always, thank you for your continuous prayer for our students, staff, and families.



## Growing Together in Grace Capital Campaign January Update

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

We are very blessed and excited to announce that the pledge total as of January 19, 2024 is now **\$1,417,343.00**. We continue to push toward a fully-funded project (\$2.5 million).

Construction bids for this summer's project thankfully came in lower than expected, and gifts and pledges received are very encouraging – however, we need to reach a goal of \$1.8 million **by February 15, 2024** in order to proceed this summer and avoid excess debt. Two identical and inspiring pledging events are taking place at St Andrew Lutheran Church. The first is Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm with dinner, program, and dessert. The second is Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am at St Andrew with lighter fare and an accompanying children's party to accommodate families. RSVP by February 5<sup>th</sup> to [amy.hirsch@glfargo.org](mailto:amy.hirsch@glfargo.org).

Please note that gifts do not need to be sent immediately. Pledges can be fulfilled over two to three years. We hope you can assist us with this critical goal.

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](mailto:amy.hirsch@glfargo.org) with any questions.

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS			
12-31-2023			
	BUDGET	2023	2022
<b>* RECEIPTS *</b>			
REGULAR ENVELOPES	\$585,000.00	\$558,754.75	\$565,374.30
PLATE OFFERINGS	\$10,000.00	\$10,957.00	\$11,305.50
SPEC. SERVICES & MISC.	\$20,000.00	\$14,645.09	\$17,290.24
ASSETS RELEASED	\$110,000.00	\$55,779.00	\$24,932.25
<b>*TOTAL RECEIPTS*</b>	<b>\$725,000.00</b>	<b>\$640,135.84</b>	<b>\$618,902.29</b>
<b>* EXPENSES *</b>			
MISSIONS	\$123,000.00	\$116,335.78	\$118,556.21
ELDERS	\$29,900.00	\$25,039.30	\$29,916.15
EVANGELISM	\$3,750.00	\$4,278.71	\$3,055.15
STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE	\$8,300.00	\$8,518.33	\$3,217.40
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$58,900.00	\$55,834.86	\$53,415.78
TRUSTEES	\$136,000.00	\$125,146.72	\$89,327.19
ADMINISTRATION	\$304,100.00	\$252,925.80	\$285,893.72
HUMAN CARE	\$2,250.00	\$2,250.00	\$2,250.00
CAMPUS MINISTRY	\$76,280.00	\$53,812.57	\$74,112.84
ENDOWMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>*TOTAL EXPENSES*</b>	<b>\$742,480.00</b>	<b>\$644,142.07</b>	<b>\$659,744.44</b>
<b>HOME PURPOSES PLUS (MINUS)</b>	<b>(\$17,480.00)</b>	<b>(\$4,006.23)</b>	<b>(\$40,842.15)</b>
<b>*YEAR-TO-DATE REC'D*</b>			
<b>BOTW-BLDG. MAINT. FUND</b>		\$12,483.74	\$20,214.69
<b>GFF (Basement Remodel)</b>		\$541,618.63	\$121,362.14
<b>GTIG (Grace Bldg Project)</b>		\$18,567.34	\$0.00
<b>THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS</b>		\$7,160.00	\$5,094.00

## My Faith Story...

*Note from the Editor Former member, Adam Presler, sent in this month's addition to our Faith Stories [see next page]*

*Perhaps you can submit an article for next month? A booklet of all the "My Faith Stories" will be made for our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025 – won't you consider contributing?*

*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 creativity to convey a story to 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 **will** inspire others – give it a try!*



***My Faith Story by Adam Presler*** (member  
from 2019 to 2021) Submitted January, 2024

I had the privilege to come and worship with you all at Immanuel in December—my first visit back in nearly two years. Much to my delight, I got to hear God’s Word alive and active throughout the service, just as I did the first time I ever visited, in the summer of 2018.

If I were to tell my whole faith story, I suppose I would need more space than we have in the newsletter, so let’s call this Immanuel’s chapter in my faith story. I graduated from Concordia in May 2018, newly equipped with both a bachelor’s degree and a strong sense of resentment toward God for not making my life all I thought it should be. I had failed in my goals as a college wrestler; I felt no inclination to teach, though my degree was in education; my faith was stagnating. I never said so aloud, but I decided that since God had not come through for me, I would try living in the ways of the world for a while. Several months of blatant sin ensued, and I thumbed my nose at God in every way I could. And yet, He still deigned to call me His own.

In spite of all my poor decisions, I thank my parents for instilling the habit of attending church every Sunday, because no matter what I had done on Monday through Saturday, I continued to find my way into some pew each week. Then, it must have been about July or August, I happened into worship at Immanuel. There, a funny thing happened. The words that had been passing over my head and my heart in the months prior, suddenly hit home. Like water to a desert traveler, God’s Word spoken in this little church on Broadway began to quench my thirst. I came back the next week. And the week after that. I attended new member classes and got connected to a young adult Bible study. One Sunday I became so convicted to confess the sin and anger I’d been harboring, that I drove home to Sioux Falls immediately after a service to tell my dad all that I’d been trying to carry alone. I drove back to Fargo feeling lighter and more joyful than I had in years.

As my time at Immanuel continued, I continued to be blessed with the pure and wholesome power of God’s Word—in scripture reading, in preaching, in music. I loved also being able to take part in sharing God’s Word, as I began teaching Sunday school and singing in the choir. On many Sundays, I was

inspired to write poems in reflection on the sermon, one of which I will share below. All the while, God was preparing me for something I did not yet know.

It was nearly two years into my time at Immanuel that I met my wife, Natasha. As I reflect, I see that all the doors God closed and opened, all He taught me before and during my time at Immanuel, were His refining tools to prepare me to be her husband. Alas, our marriage did mean a move back to Sioux Falls and a departure from all the friends I had found at Immanuel. Though my time in communion with you all was brief, Immanuel will always hold a special place in my heart. Not only that, but I rejoice that we will one day join in the feast of Christ’s victory together. And, of course, I will be glad to visit every chance that I can. For now, as Paul wrote to the Philippians, so I write, “I thank my God in all my remembrance of you.”

As promised, here is one poem I wrote as I worshiped at ILC. I believe it summarizes the transformation I experienced in your church community. This poem is actually meant as a hymn to the tune of “God Loved the World So That He Gave” (LSB 571).

1. Freed from my sin, but prodigal still; / Jesus I long to do your will! / Yet not the good that I would do, / my wand’ring heart strays far from you.
2. Savior, yours is the victory. / Why, then, does sin still dwell in me? / To old temptations, prone to yield, / be now my light, my strength, my shield.
3. Why, in the midst of tragic loss, / do I forget to seek the cross? / On bread alone, I’ll surely die. / Lord, for your word, I plead, I cry!
4. Without your grace, I do no good. / Teach me to serve you, as I should. / Father, I’ve stumbled, fallen, too. / Strengthen my feet to walk to you!
5. As often as I stand, I fall. / Father, you love me through it all. / O, what a privilege to see, / you running down the road to me.
6. As you draw near, I see your face, / bask in the warmth of your embrace! / My comforter, my saving grace, / you set a feast, gave me a place!
7. Thanks be to God, how great thou art! / You have renewed my sinful heart! / You are the potter, I, the clay; / mold me and make me, Lord, I pray.



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1Feb – Theresa Hosford  
 2Feb – Sara Danielson  
 4Feb – Emilee Stevens  
 6Feb – [Len Leikas (81)]  
 7Feb – Shari Soori, Kinley Klein, Diane Heagle  
 8Feb – Riley Gira, Nyla Nolte (97); Nick Ill;  
 Brenda Schmidt  
 9Feb – Jim Thoreson, Kay Tegtmeier  
 10Feb – Megan Kreklau  
 12Feb – Meghan Tegtmeier; Carole Olimb  
 14Feb – Amanda Gangelhoff; Bella Salmonson; Ave  
 McDonald (2)  
 15Feb – Reid Kittelson; Ella Jacobson; Susan  
 Gemar  
 16Feb – Natalie Tegtmeier; Madden Tollefson; Don  
 Dettling  
 17Feb – Greta Gornowicz (72)  
 19Feb – Ken Sieler; Bill Hoppe; Jeff Haarstick;  
 Jennifer Wilkie  
 20Feb – 74<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF IMMANUEL'S  
 FOUNDING  
 21Feb – Candy Nelson; Spencer Harwood  
 22Feb – Trent Westphal  
 23Feb – Madeline Croucher; Elsie Collins (6)  
 24Feb – Hidie Larson; Erling Podoll (99)  
 25Feb – Michelle Solberg; Corrine Bakken (96)  
 26Feb – Tim Preuss; Jerry Bierdeman (84)  
 KEN & ILSE SIELER (52<sup>ND</sup> ANNIVERSARY)  
 27Feb – Travis Klein  
 28Feb – Steve Trautman; Megan Kunkel; James  
 Trandem; Briar Hanson (8); David Schulz; Arthur  
 Wendel (4)



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.

## February Worship Assistants

Feb 4	8 am	Elder: Paul Ill (AE) Acolyte: Gretchen K Usher Team: Montana Greeter: P/D Mayland Video: Sammi Hintz	11 am	E: Paul Ill A: Perrin B UT: Tegtmeier G: J Bumgarner <i>CoffeeTime: TBA</i>
Feb 11	8 am	E: Andrew Eggebraaten A: Kinley K UT: Semanko G: M/L Semanko V: Samuel Boateng	11 am	E: Andrew E. (TF) A: Louis C UT: Rolf G: L Tegtmeier <i>CT: TBA</i>
Feb 18	8 am	E: Tim Flakoll (AS) A: Wyatt S UT: Rachow G: C/P Sommer V: Samuel Boateng	11 am	E: Tim Flakoll A: TBA UT: Lindgren G: J/B Rotzien <i>CT: TBA</i>
Feb 25	8 am	E: Aaron Simmons A: Scarlett H UT: Stahlecker G: J/M Gornowicz V: Sammi H	11 am	E: Aaron Simmons (JS) A: Louis C UT: Sather G: C/P Podoll <i>CT: TBA</i>



Winter finally arrived, with some snow, some cold,  
 and God's gift of beauty in the shimmering when  
 the sunshine hits the snowflakes.  
 We were blessed with good weather and no snow as  
 our ladies gathered to prepare and serve an Advent  
 meal on Dec. 13 and treats and hot chocolate  
 following the Sunday School Christmas Service on  
 Dec. 17. Thank you to all who helped in any way!  
 As the days begin to lengthen, we look to upcoming  
 events to bring us together in fellowship and  
 service. Please mark your calendars and plan to join  
 us for February projects, including 2 separate  
 events on Saturday, February 3:  
**Saturday, Feb. 3, 9:00-11:00 – FM Area  
 Women's Prayer Service @ Beautiful Savior,**  
 beginning with 9:00 registration, treats and  
 fellowship prior to the beginning of the Service  
**Saturday, Feb. 3, beginning at noon – our  
 LWML Unit Meeting @ Immanuel.** Due to the  
 Prayer Service being scheduled the same day as our  
 Unit meeting, we changed the time to begin at  
 noon, with a light lunch being provided by  
 Welcome Circle. We will be assembling Valentine  
 bags to be delivered to our Homebound members.  
 We will also be deciding on our 'year-end'



donations, which we decided to tie in with Giving Hearts Day with the matching funds available then. And, we need to select delegates to the LWML ND District Convention in Bismarck in June. So please join us for decision making, serving those unable to be at church with us every week, and fellowship with your fellow sisters in Christ! See you Saturday!!

**Wednesday, Feb. 21 – LWML serves the Lenten meal @ 5 pm.** We will be signing up for times to help, to assure we have helpers at each time slot so everything runs smoothly and the load is shared. Each Circle is asked to bring 5 doz. bars/cookies. Supplies for the rest of the food will be purchased and at church for preparation.

*“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” John 3:16*  
Happy Valentine’s Day, and God’s blessings,

*Patty Walla, LWML President*



**Beautiful Savior LWML invites all Ladies  
to the LWML Prayer Service  
Saturday, Feb. 3  
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church  
2601 23rd Ave S, Fargo**

*Coffee and Breakfast at 9 a.m.  
Prayer Service Starts at 10 a.m.*

#### **Grace, Mercy, Peace**

*Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord (1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2).*

At some point you have probably heard a pastor begin his sermon by saying something similar to this verse from 1 Timothy. The 2024 Prayer Service is designed around those first three words — those three gifts that come to us from our gracious Father and our Savior — Grace, Mercy, and Peace.

## ***LWML Unit Meeting***

- Sat, February 3<sup>rd</sup>*
- Starting at noon, with a light meal*
- Participants will assemble Valentine gift bags and deliver them to homebound in our congregation*
- Brief business meeting, too*



## **Building Healthy Families:**

Our culture encourages us to see the world and our relationships through a lens of individualism in which we make decisions based on the question, “How will this effect ME?” How would our world be different if we returned to a faith, family, and community-centered lens, in which decisions are instead based on this question: “How will my actions effect my children, my spouse, my parents, my congregational family, my community?” Give it a try this week and see what a difference it makes! **Lutheran Family Service** [www.LutheranFamilyService.org](http://www.LutheranFamilyService.org)

<div style="text-align: right; color: #008000; font-weight: normal;"> <b>memorials &amp; gifts</b> </div>	
<i><b>From (date)</b></i>	<i><b>Honor/MEMORY</b></i>
Clint/Pat Podoll (12-26)	<i>MATT BERNARD</i>
Clint/Pat Podoll	<i>JAN LIEN</i>
Clint/Pat Podoll (12-31)	<i>EDDIE ANDERSON</i>
Clint/Pat Podoll	<i>ROSS UECKERT</i>
Clint/Pat Podoll (1-8-24)	<i>RICHARD TIMIAN</i>
Jim/Patty Walla	<i>JAN LIEN</i>
Tim Flakoll (1-16)	<i>WILMA FLAKOLL</i>
Clint/Pat Podoll	<i>HANK MAYLAND</i>
Tim Flakoll (1-22)	<i>WILMA FLAKOLL</i>
Mike Rachow	<i>STEVE STREGE</i>
Mary Hallgren	<i>STEVE STREGE</i>
Bob Stahlecker	<i>STEVE STREGE</i>
Ed/Karen Woyen	<i>STEVE STREGE</i>
Michelle Solberg	<i>Grandson, Gordie</i>



— Update No. 7 —  
(dated December 18, 2023)

As **Lutheran Family**

**Service** continues to rollout into the

LCMS North Dakota District, we want to **THANK YOU** for your continued partnership over the 2023 calendar year. With your help, great things are taking place in the realm of marriage & family counseling, mental health counseling, pregnancy support, adoption services, church worker wellness, and grief education & support right here in your backyard! May God bless each of you and your families, and may God bless the people of the congregations, schools, and ministries you serve this Christmas. Together we celebrate the reason for our hope and peace: Jesus!

## Serving the Lord in Tanzania: News from the Steffenson Family



Our driver loading food on the luggage rack on top of the Land Cruiser.

Much of our work this year is figuring out how to live in a new country. This month's theme is "getting around." In a previous month's newsletter, I shared pictures of our walk to school. We walk and walk to get places. We purposely rented a house this first year in a location where we can walk to the boys' school, to the "sokoni" (market) and the "kijiji" (the downtown area) in order to be able to get the basic necessities. Besides walking, we take "bajaji" (three-wheeled motorcycle) and taxi. Also, the church here in Tanzania will send a Land Cruiser for us to borrow with a driver for longer

distances. Pictured is Anna Marie taking a turn in the back seat of the Land Cruiser with our luggage on a two-day return drive from the LCMS missionar conference in Rwanda.



Our Bajaji driver driving down the street.

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Jason and Anna Marie Steffenson. Make Checks payable to Mission Central, 40718 Highway E 16, Mapleton, IA 51034. On the memo line include *Steffenson-Tanzania*.

### For Such a Time as This

February 10, 2024  
Zion Lutheran Church  
413 E D Ave, Bismarck, ND 58501

**Dr. Gregory Seltz**  
Speaker  
Emeritus for  
Lutheran Hour  
Ministries

**Rev. Dr. Adam Filipek**  
Author of "Life in Christ: Rooted, Woven, and Grafted into God's Story"

Registration 9:00  
Event 9:30-3:30  
Deadline to Register February 2nd

Nearby Hotels:  
LaQuinta Inn (701) 751-3313  
Hampton Inn (701) 751-5656

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

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
North Dakota District  
Unity in Christ Ephesians 4:1-6



## ND District LCMS Message in a Pew

January 2024  
COMING SOON!!

There is still time to join a mercy work trip in response to Hurricane Idalia planned for January 29-February 2, 2024. The group will be working through Faith Lutheran Church in Lecanto, FL. This rural area was hit hard, but because of low population, did not receive media attention. Many different projects are planned. For more information, contact Kirk Rosin at 701-361-6441.

"For Such A Time As This" will be held on February 10th at Zion-Bismarck. Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty will hold three sessions discussing Why Christians Should Engage with Culture, The Principles of Religious Liberty, and How We Can Interact with Culture For Its Benefit and the Church's Mission. Rev. Dr. Adam Filipek, Holy Cross and Immanuel, Lidgerwood will walk participants through Scripture to answer "Who will crush the serpent's head?" Please register ahead of time to aid in food planning.

For more information on both of these events, registration forms, and more, visit [nodak.lcms.org](http://nodak.lcms.org)



### Congregations' Status

### Pres. Arie Bertsch

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: associate pastor 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: Rev. Samuel Beltz, St. John-Oskaloose, IA has returned the call (Rev. Carlyle Roth and Rev. Rick Jones).

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

### Pastors & DCE's

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

December 2023

#### INCOME:

Congregational Mission Giving	\$49,532.74
Less Synodical Pledge (35%)	(\$17,336.46)
<b>Net Congregational Mission Giving</b>	<b>\$32,196.28</b>
Other Unrestricted Gifts	5,518.61
1-1-1 Mission Giving	772.01
Current gifts/fees for missions	15,399.72
<b>Available Income</b>	<b>\$53,886.62</b>

#### EXPENSES:

Local Missions and Committee Activities: (\$10,994.65)	\$10,994.65
(Includes Wittenberg Chapel, Deaf Ministry, Youth)	
Congregational Support/Operating Expenses	26,563.79
(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	0.00
Shepherd's Hill Retreat (\$5,000)	0.00
(These missions were voted on by the District Convention. They will be paid quarterly as funds are available)	

<b>Current Expenses</b>	<b>\$37,558.44</b>
<b>NET OPERATING LOSS FOR DECEMBER</b>	<b>\$16,328.18</b>
Funds Given used for Current Expenses	\$400.00
<b>Year To Date NET INCOME/LOSS</b>	<b>\$18,710.25</b>

December giving was below average, but God provides. We received a couple of wonderful endowments designated for our current missions. Expenses were also down a bit resulting in a nice bottom line.

Gifts from individuals and congregations designated for our convention resolution missions are sent at the end of each fiscal quarter. YTD designated gifts/payments made to these missions as of December 31, 2023:

Christ's Care for Children - Kenya	\$4,232.18/\$12,500.00
Chile Partnership	\$3,366.00/\$20,000.00
Shepherd's Hill Retreat	\$4,644.72/\$9,677.85

Please contact Tami Ulland at [lcms.nd.busman@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://nodaklcms.org) to pick where you would like your donation directed.**



*[This page reserved for cover.]*