

IMMANUEL IMAGE

WWW.IMMANUELFARGO.ORG

March 

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
FARGO, ND
VOLUME 57, EDITION 3
2024



Lent Services are on Wednesdays at 4:15 and 6PM with a meal in-between. There will be services Monday,

Tuesday, and Wednesday in Holy Week at 6 pm. 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 (no sunrise service this year). Easter Breakfast will be served from 9 until 10:45 am.

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



SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH.

Set your clocks ahead, so you aren't late for church 😊!

POTLUCK MEAL AND VOTERS MEETING

Sunday, March 17th, beginning at 12 noon. Bring a dish to pass. Afterward, all members over 18 Come, make your voice heard!



WANT TO EGG SOMEONE'S HOUSE FOR EASTER?

No, not that kind of egging! Since this fundraiser was such a hit last year, we've brought it back for this Easter! Immanuel's youth will be "egging" houses, and by that we mean placing plastic eggs filled with candy in people's yards, on Saturday, March 30th. Put in your order to "egg" someone's house by **Sunday, March 24th** to gift a fun surprise to someone you love or even for

yourself! Order forms are available on the Youth Board in the Welcome Hall as well as on the homepage of the church website.

You can bring the forms into the office or mail them to us!

Prices (to same location)

10 for \$10; 25 for \$20; 50 for \$35; 100 for \$60



GREETINGS FROM THE GFF IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE



GOD'S FIRM
FOUNDATION

The month of February was a very busy time, going through the various areas in the basement, culminating with a big weekend of obsolescence Feb 18th. As of this writing, the basement is in a great place prepping for Construction/Demolition to start after Easter. A big THANK YOU!!! to all who spent significant time doing the heavy lifting on this step; especially our PAA Louise, DCE Wolfram, Josh Baneck and Brant Jacobson for the very specific heavy lifting of pool table and couches, Clint and Pat Podoll for many hours spent and the many others I fail to personally recognize but know your efforts were appreciated and truly a blessing to this project! The additional volunteers Sunday Feb 18th made light work of the remaining items; we have a congregation filled with servant-hearted individuals!

The items for this month are transitional versus new and additional. Adult Bible study that is typically held in the Celebration Center during Education Hour each week will transition into the Sanctuary with a start date of March 17th. With that change, the Celebration Center will become the rooms for the Sunday School students typically in the basement, which we will move the following week prior to Easter as a soft start March 24th. To reiterate-Bible study in Sanctuary March 17th and Sunday School in Celebration Center March 24th. Groups who meet in the basement will have the ability to do so until the 24th, but DCE Wolfram

has decided to move activities to coincide with SS (move [to Student Room] afternoon of March 17th.) To accommodate these changes and space requirements, the stage will be taken down and that area will be divided up temporarily for Sunday school classrooms. We will have one final push to get EVERYTHING left in the basement (not bolted down) the week of March 17th in preparation for the Sunday school kids' move.

This is an update to our initial timeline plan; as we got closer and the physical work continued, we realized everything cannot happen in the course of one week, especially when that week is Holy Week! Since we are ahead of schedule on our end, this allows our general contractor to be able to better utilize their resources the last two weeks of March as well for some of the "cleaner demolition" revolving around removing all the various cabinets and curtain wall items that need to be gone for asbestos contractors. That work will be expected to happen over the course of the last two weeks in March.

The final note for this month's update relates to the safety and security of people and building as construction begins. There should be NO TRAFFIC in the basement during the first phase of demolition and asbestos remediation! This is April 1st until that step is completed – tentatively 4 weeks – so plan for **no basement entry during the full month of April**. We will have physical safeguards in place (all entries to the basement will be locked and/or boarded off); but we want to reiterate there should be no reason to be looking around down there during this phase. There will be separate monitoring each and every day of the asbestos remediation for everyone's safety, but please stay out of the basement and contractor's areas. If there are any specific questions or concerns, please talk to Josh Gornowicz or Mitch Semanko.

*The GFF implementation committee,
Josh Gornowicz, chair*



After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he

might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate

gave him permission. So, he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So, they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews." (John 19:38-40)



Our Holy Week schedule will offer services Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 6PM. March 25-27. We will be doing Compline which is a service of evening prayer. Compline comes to us from the word completion as in the close of the day. I like to call it the nighty night service! Our meditations for those three days will follow the story of Nicodemus. It is a journey from darkness to light.

We read that, in their first encounter, Nicodemus comes to Jesus by night. He approaches this rabbi from Nazareth at the height of his popularity. His first miracle changing water into wine, and his cleansing of the temple in Jerusalem, squarely put him in the headlines of the local papers. "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." (Jn 3:2) Why does Nicodemus come at night? For the same reason John calls Joseph of Arimathea a secret disciple of Jesus. There were consequences for open faith in the man from Nazareth. Both these men were in high positions within the Jewish ruling council. They had much to lose, but even more to gain.

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

Slowly but surely, Nicodemus steps out of the shadows until he is there, not at the height of the popularity of Jesus, but there at the depths. When Jesus is already left dead on his cross. And Nicodemus is there, believing there is more to this man from Nazareth than what meets the eye. You can mock his secret discipleship, but he is there in broad daylight taking Christ down from his cross. Where were the other chosen disciples of our Lord?

Find out more during the Compline Services this March.

Pastor Bernie Worral

CALLING AN ASSOCIATE PASTOR, COUNCIL MEETING, AND OTHER UPDATES

From board reports, some notable items include: Elders sponsor their **Pancake Breakfast** on March 16th; Clare Johnson (Solberg) completed LCMS teacher colloquy; Grace School phase one improvement added roof improvements, so costs increased; there will be a Food Pantry drive in March.

The **Call** Committee is and will continue to be actively putting candidates before the congregation until the call is filled. The special voters meeting on February 25th meant that nominations are again open. Forms are on the table in the Celebration Center. It is possible that a Call meeting will take place on April 14th.

GFF and Basement Remodel Implementation Committees are very active now working with the contractors and clearing the way for asbestos removal and construction to begin in April.

GTIG (Growing Together in Grace capital campaign to remodel and add onto Grace Lutheran School) had enough fund commitments to approve construction this summer. Increased costs were due to adding geothermal heating (to be fully reimbursed by federal government as energy savings) and roof replacement (found to be in such condition as to be required in Phase 1 rather than waiting for Phase 2). Increasing Immanuel's commitment to fund "our share" will be discussed at our March and May Voters meetings.

The **Nominating** Committee members are Myrna Larson, Sara McNett, Dave Manzey, Mitch Semanko, Pastor Worral, and Jim Walla

(chair). Currently-known vacancies to be filled by vote during our May voters meeting are Treasurer, Secretary, Elders (2), Education, Endowment, Finance, Human Care, Outreach, and Trustees. Immanuel members are asked to **consider nominating** someone or **volunteering** for any of these offices that you may know of a good candidate or in which you wish to serve, but please do so soon. We currently have volunteers willing to be nominated for the Treasurer, Finance, and Human Care positions. If you are asked to consider serving your congregation and the Lord in one of these offices, *please be open to the request* and prayerfully consider whether you are willing and able to be nominated.

Jim Walla, Congregational President

BOARD FOR HUMAN CARE UPDATE

The Board for Human Care is hosting a food drive for the Emergency Food Pantry over the month of March. All items will receive a proportional match through Minnesota FoodShare! See display in the Welcome Hall.

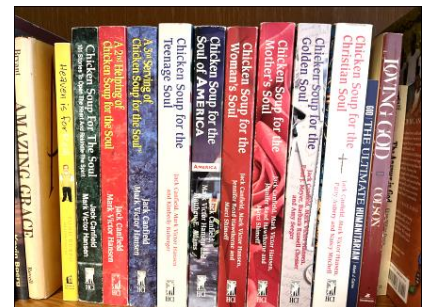
Also, Immanuel is hosting a week of volunteering at the Emergency Food Pantry April 8th-12th. Volunteer times run from 9:30 am-12 pm and 1-4 pm. See sign-up in the Sign-Up Center.

GREETINGS FROM IMMANUEL LUTHERAN LIBRARY!

March weather can be a bit fickle. It can be spring like one day and turn blustery the next. As winter hangs on, we sometimes turn to comfort food to warm our stomachs and chicken soup is a popular choice. How about some Chicken Soup for the Soul to warm your spirit? The Chicken Soup series of books are great for a pick-me-up. Each one contains a collection of short, inspirational stories. The

library has a wide selection: from "Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul" to "Chicken Soup for the Soul of America," "Chicken Soup for the Woman's

Soul," and more. Check one out for warm dose of inspiration! *Connie Grondahl, Librarian*



FAMILY SERVING GROUPS

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

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. 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. 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.

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 are also available for submission of hard copies of recipes for those that can't submit by email (on the Welcome Table). 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 a few 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 or talk to her at church.

CONCERT:

FM Bach Choir Summer Concert, Thursday, August 8, 7pm, Immanuel Lutheran Church. *Interested in participating in the Bach Choir? Contact Katie Rolf at Kathryn.rolf@gmail.com; 651-336-1012.*

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.*



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



“MAIN STREET LIVING” MEDIA MINISTRY – MARCH UPDATE

This month provides us with the remembrance and celebration of the most precious Bible lessons of the church year: the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus, the Christ! May these Scriptural truths – of what our loving Creator God has done for us – never get too familiar in our ears that we might begin to take them for granted. Rather, they refresh and renew our faith with the sure hope of forgiveness and eternal life!

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 blessings in Christ! *Ken Koehler, MSLN Coordinator*

“MSL North” Programs for March 2024:

March 3rd: Rev. Thomas Puffe, St. John’s Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls, MN, and Zion Lutheran Church, Warren, MN, presents the message based on the text of John 2:13-22. “*This Is the Life*” program: “*Betrayed*” - A man struggles to do what is right after a reporter uncovers shady dealings in his business.

March 10th: Rev. Daniel Suelzle, Wittenberg Lutheran Chapel, Grand Forks, ND, presents the message: “The Sign of Salvation” based on Numbers 21:4-9. “*This Is the Life*” program: “*Aftermath*” - A father tries to make things right with his daughter after a life of bad choices.

March 17th: Rev. Doug Thompson, Trinity Lutheran Church, Fisher, MN, and St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Euclid, MN, presents the message: “The Glory of Jesus” based on Mark 10:32-45. *This Is the Life*” program: “*Holy Land Tour pt. 1*” - A video tour of locations in Jesus’ earthly ministry, led by SD pastor Nabil Nour who grew up in Israel.

March 24th: Rev. Michael Suelzle, St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Devil’s Lake, ND, Grace Lutheran

Church, Lakota, ND, and St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Niagara, ND, presents the message: “Glory” based on John, 12:20-43. “*This Is the Life*” program: “*Holy Land Tour pt. 2*” - A video tour of locations in Jesus’ earthly ministry, led by SD pastor Nabil Nour who grew up in Israel.

March 31st: Rev. Steven Turner, District President, LCMS Iowa District West, presents the message: “Jesus Lives! What does this mean?” based on Mark 16:1-8. “*This Is the Life*” program: “*Three Days*” - The disciples’ reactions and interaction in the days between Jesus’ death and resurrection.



“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 in the Sign-Up Center for meetings during April, May, and June.

GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL

March is Grace Lutheran School’s favorite month – it comes in like a LION.

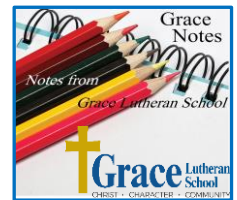
There is an open house on Monday, March 4 from 4:30-6 pm for prospective families to explore Grace. Please register at www.glsfargo.org.

Join us on Thursday, March 7th from 6:30-8 pm for the Geography Fair. Our 5th-8th grade students have prepared presentations about many countries across the globe. It will be an educational evening! Taco in a bag will be served starting at 6 pm.

A very heartfelt thank you for helping us raise \$42,500 on Giving Hearts Day. We had a gracious match donation from DRI (formerly Dakota Refrigeration) to help us reach this goal.

See the Growing Together in Grace article for an exciting update on the capital improvement campaign. God is blessing our supporters and this project.

Save the Date: Pasta with a Purpose **Spaghetti Dinner is on Saturday, April 27 from 12-7 pm**. If you would like to assist with planning, serving, or leading a group to serve, please contact Susan or Amy at 701-232-7747.





GROWING TOGETHER IN GRACE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN MARCH UPDATE

In the words of David in Psalm 72 we pray, “Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen!”

We announce with great thanksgiving to God our Father that as of this week the Growing Together in Grace capital improvement campaign for Grace Lutheran School has raised \$1.8 million, the threshold needed to award bids for construction this summer.

Grace Lutheran School will get new entry doors, windows, roof, geo-thermal heating and air conditioning, and six classrooms remodeled this summer.

This campaign has moved at breakneck speed – we received our very first dollar in May of 2023 (from Immanuel’s Rachel Bible Class!). And today we’re over \$1.8 million in pledges. We cannot even begin to express our thanks to all who have shared their hearts for Christian education.

We will continue toward fully funding the project, but today we celebrate God’s mighty work in our school.

This message will be shared by a board member or other representative at each of churches this Sunday. Thank you for all of your support of this project and of Grace Lutheran School.

In Christ’s service,
Amy Hirsch

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@glsfargo.org with any questions.

ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS

Thrivent members are encouraged to designate their Thrivent Choice Dollars if they have not already done so. Any 2023 Choice Dollars that have not been designated by **March 31st** will be removed from your account. Choice Dollars

IMMANUEL IMAGE, MARCH 2024

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS			
1-31-2024			
	BUDGET	2024	2023
* RECEIPTS *			
REGULAR ENVELOPES	\$585,000.00	\$53,327.06	\$58,932.35
PLATE OFFERINGS	\$12,000.00	\$829.00	\$677.00
SPEC. SERVICES & MISC.	\$13,000.00	\$156.50	\$180.00
ASSETS RELEASED	\$60,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$670,000.00	\$54,312.56	\$59,789.35
* EXPENSES *			
MISSIONS	\$122,000.00	\$10,833.21	\$11,931.87
ELDERS	\$30,400.00	\$2,197.44	\$1,573.50
EVANGELISM	\$6,675.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE	\$3,900.00	\$263.36	\$156.71
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$66,650.00	\$5,105.86	\$3,530.00
TRUSTEES	\$89,100.00	\$6,045.68	\$8,691.17
ADMINISTRATION	\$275,700.00	\$22,398.83	\$17,994.75
HUMAN CARE	\$2,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
CAMPUS MINISTRY	\$70,850.00	\$1,916.83	\$2,104.71
ENDOWMENT	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$669,525.00	\$48,761.21	\$45,982.71
HOME PURPOSES PLUS (MINUS)	\$475.00	\$5,551.35	\$13,806.64
YEAR-TO-DATE REC'D			
BOTW-BLDG. MAINT. FUND		\$1,497.82	\$1,707.92
GFF (Basement Remodel)		\$17,348.72	\$2,969.20
GTIG (Grace Bldg Project)		\$100.00	\$0.00
THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS		\$1,598.00	\$5.00

designated for the benefit of Immanuel are used to support our youth, college students, LWML, music, facility improvements and other programs. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Podoll, Paul Mayland, or Wayne Hankel. We thank all those that have supported Immanuel in the past.



BUILDING HEALTHY FAMILIES:

If you or someone you know and love has experienced the heartbreaking loss of a newborn through miscarriage or stillbirth, please plan to attend **Heartache & Hope with Infant Loss** on Saturday, April 6 from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Minot **or Sunday, April 7 from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Grand Forks.** Come to learn what is

helpful – and not helpful – following such a painful, life-changing experience. Brought to you by the North Dakota District of the LCMS and led by Thanatologist (grief specialist) Dr. Mark VandeBraak with Lutheran Family Service, this informational program will be an important help to any parent, family member, or loved one who has suffered such a loss. No cost to attend, but please register your intent to come by contacting Rev. Les Wolfgram by email at pastor.wolfgram@gmail.com or by phone call or message to his office at (701)258-4231 or cell phone at (701) 400-0646.

Lutheran Family Service
www.LutheranFamilyService.org

1Mar – Mary S. Swanson

2Mar – Jordan
 Engebretson; Andrea
 Simmons

5Mar – Becky Lako

6Mar – Evan Menze

7Mar – Les Ressler

8Mar – Marilyn

Helgeson (88); Scott

Kroeger; [John Levenson], Bill Piper; Jana Sather

9Mar – Laurie Rachow; Pam Sommer; Jodi
 Tollefson

12Mar – Erik Koons (7); Donna Roach (89)

13Mar – Rich Foster, Evan Hass (82); Clare
 Johnson; Larry Lindgren; Josh Worral

14Mar – Barbara Downs

15Mar – James Bean; Judy Kading; [Aurora
 Zainhofsky]

16Mar – Josh Baneck; Bonnie Martin; Cindy
 Winters

17Mar – Jessica Erickson; Mike Stirling

18Mar – Allison Kipp; Mitchell Kosel

20Mar – Paul Mayland (85); Melody Spangelo

21Mar – Darynn Hoppe; Ilse Sieler; Hayleigh
 Wiedeman

23Mar – Ashley McDonald; Joan Miller

24Mar – Kristi Aasland

25Mar – Deb Bubach; Chad Peda

26Mar – Ryan Engebretson

27Mar – Victoria Bolstad; [Alivia Steiner]

28Mar – Ella Corwin; Johanna Zinke

29Mar – Jared Riesen

31Mar – Suzzanne Kelley



MARCH BIRTHDAYS




MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

2Mar – Chad & Mary Moen (20th)

4Mar – Mike & Karen Maassel
 (35th)



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.



**NORTH DAKOTA DISTRICT
COLLEGE
SCHOLARSHIP**

Applications close April 14, 2024.
Winners will be announced on May 6, 2024.

WIN A \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP

Learn more and apply at
lcef.org/northdakotascholarship

Questions about this scholarship?
 Connect with Tami Ulland
 LCEF District Vice President
tami.ulland@lcef.org
 701-360-1469



Sunshine and mild temperatures have us feeling like Spring is already

here, and looking to the new growth of the earth that will soon be coming. It's a good reminder to also be looking to the new growth we have in Christ Jesus as we study His Word and grow in our faith. Five members from our Immanuel LWML joined others from the area LWML churches on Feb. 3rd at Beautiful Savior for the LWML annual Prayer Service titled "Grace, Mercy, and Peace," worshiping and praising our Savior as we heard His Word.

Eleven members and one visitor from our LWML met at noon on Feb. 3rd to fellowship, plan, and prepare 34 Valentine bags and mailings – including Valentine cards made by our Sunday School students – for our homebound. The prepared bags were taken and delivered, along with a short visit wherever possible, shining a light and reminder that they are still part of our Immanuel family of God's children.

Thank you to those who again joined in fellowship and service as we prepared and served the Lenten supper on Feb. 21st. We had a fun time working together, and our meal was well received and enjoyed by around 100 that evening. Thank you to Thrivent Choice Dollars to help with food purchases for our meal! March is fairly quiet, but special events will be coming in April, so mark your calendars and plan to attend:

Sunday, March 3 @ 12:15 – LWML Board Meeting (Officers and Circle Chairs)

Saturday, April 13 @ 9:00 am-Noon – Eastern Zone Spring Event @ Grace Lutheran Church

Saturday, April 27 @ 9:30 am – Women’s Spring Brunch for all women of Immanuel, including daughters and guests. We will have a MITE offering, but no charge for the brunch. There will be a sign-up sheet out after Easter, to help us plan for food.

Have you checked the LWML table in the Welcome Hall, along the wall between the office and the doors to the Celebration Center? There you will find the **LWML Quarterly magazine** and the **ND Messenger** newsletter, which has information and registration form for anyone interested in attending the **LWML ND District Convention** held in Bismarck on June 14th-16th, this summer. New Mission Grants will be selected at that time for the next biennium. Please remember that your MITE offerings are what fund these grants! We are ‘*Women in Mission*’!

God’s richest blessings to all as we focus on the cross and prepare to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection on Easter! *Patty Walla, LWML Unit President*

My Faith Story...

Perhaps you can submit an article 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? Here’s the latest entry:

Faith Journey by Clare Johnson

I think it is true to say that I have never doubted the existence of God.

My mother, when she was pregnant with me, would go to church. She said that when the organ played, I would move. Therefore, she assumed I would grow up to be musical. Ha! Some hope, although I do love a good Christian hymn or two: “And Did Those Feet”; “I Vow to Thee My Country”; “Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer”, and “I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light”, for example – and the list goes on...

Anyway, I have always felt the Lord was with me, directing and supporting my life choices every step of the way. My parents and I attended a local Church of England church in England on the small island where we lived for many years, with events, including: fundraisers, youth-based contemporary services on Sunday evenings, four consecutive services over Easter, communion every week, choir rehearsals, and

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS - MARCH

Mar 3	8 am	Elder: Jeff Sornsin (DM) Acolyte: Leah G Usher Team: Montana Greeter: R/J Kading Video: Sammi Hintz	11 am	E: Jeff Sornsin A: Ian B UT: Tegtmeier G: Diane H/Karen H <i>CoffeeTime: P/L Lindgren</i>
Mar 10	8 am	E: Dave Manzey A: Scarlett H UT: Semanko G: J/B Jacobson V: Samuel Boateng	11 am	E: Dave Manzey (RB) A: Perrin B UT: Rolf G: L/P Lindgren <i>CT: S/J McNett</i>
Mar 17	8 am	E: Russell Bubach (SL) A: Bella S UT: Rachow G: P/D Mayland V: Samuel Boateng	11 am	E: Russell Bubach A: Elsa S UT: Lindgren G: Jack Bumgarner <i>CT: D/P Mayland</i>
Mar 24	8 am	E: Steve Larson A: Wyatt S UT: Sather G: M/L Semanko V: Sammi H	11 am	E: Steve Larson (MR) A: Elsie T UT: Stahlecker G: Diane H/Karen H <i>CT: K/R Lym</i>
Mar 31	8 am	E: Larry Bakken (asst?) A: Gretchen/Kinley K UT: Montana G: C/J Miller V: Kay Tegtmeier	11 am	E: Larry Bakken (asst?) A: Perrin/Ian B UT: Tegtmeier G: P/J Moltzan <i>CT: Easter Bfast in CC</i>

monthly Saturday coffee mornings. I loved being part of that Christian community and this only strengthened my faith.

I met my husband in 2001 (the year I became a teacher) and we married in 2006 in England, with my father officiating (he’s a priest in the Church of England). It was an enormously important life choice to move to the States once married, but I never felt alone. The Lord was with me then too, as He was when I had to start from scratch retraining as a teacher so I could work in the States. (*Ps.50:15*) While training, I worked as a substitute teacher and teacher’s assistant in the government school system. However, I missed sharing my faith with the youth of today and jumped at the chance (once I got my license) to work at Grace Lutheran School, here in Fargo. Around the same time, Courtney and I visited Immanuel for a service and decided to make it our home church. Things have fallen into place; and I am very happy and settled both at GLS and Immanuel. Fast forward to the present(ish) day...a couple of years ago, Pastor Jahnke (St. Andrew) mentioned the colloquy program in passing. I knew nothing about it, except that I had never heard the word ‘*colloquy*’ before! It sounded like a real challenge, which I readily accepted.

For the next two summers, I spent countless hours watching over 650 videos on the Old and New

Testament, Varieties of Belief, Christian Doctrine, the History of Theology, Lutheran Confessions, and Becoming a Lutheran Teacher. I took notes on *every single one*.

I enjoyed learning as much as I did; and the classes really helped my religious knowledge fall into place while writing my essays – even if some of my work was done while recovering from shoulder surgery! I know that the Lord helped direct my words onto paper, arranged my thoughts logically, and I passed all my classes with very few problems.

After meeting with Pastor Worrall – who went through my final paper – it was submitted and accepted after only one revision. I leaned heavily on my faith and conversations with the Lord during this time, especially once my final interview date was set for early January. (*Philippians 4:6-7*)

I was incredibly nervous on the day; however, it all went very well; and I, once again, never felt alone. The Lord was always with me and led me to a successful outcome. I am looking forward to receiving a Call to where the Lord wants me –hopefully GLS.

	
From (date)	Honor/MEMORY
Virginia Lepage (1-29)	STEVE STREGE
Russell/Deb Bubach	JAN LIEN
Delores Berndt	STEVE STREGE
Dale Strege	STEVE STREGE
Scott Kroeger	STEVE STREGE
Laurie Rachow	STEVE STREGE
Vi Aasland	STEVE STREGE
Paul/Deanna Mayland	STEVE STREGE
Brad/Pam Loose	STEVE STREGE
Clint/Pat Podoll	STEVE STREGE
Larry/Patty Lindgren	STEVE STREGE
Wayne/Elaine Hankel	STEVE STREGE
Russell/Deb Bubach	STEVE STREGE
Bob/Donna Roach	STEVE STREGE
Chuck/Joan Miller	STEVE STREGE
Myrna Larson	STEVE STREGE
Jack/Linda Olson	STEVE STREGE
Lucy Radke (2-5)	STEVE STREGE
Terry/Dolly Meyer	BILL WEY
Len/Colleen Hurajt	STEVE STREGE
Nyla Nolte	STEVE STREGE
Steve/Janet Asche	STEVE STREGE
Mary K. Swanson (2-11)	STEVE STREGE
Richard/Norma Frohberg	STEVE STREGE
Clyde Huber	KAY LEVERSON
Betty Wohlfeil	KAY LEVERSON
Jim/Patty Walla (2-26)	HANK MAYLAND
Brian/Jessica Nalipinski	TROY REINKE

I pray that you all feel the Lord's presence at every stage in your life too. (*Isaiah 41:10*)
May God bless you all. *Clare Johnson*

JANUARY 16, 2024

DEAR PARTNERS IN MISSION,

The months since our last letter have been a whirlwind, yet have most certainly been a memorable time of much blessing and as always, God's provision. Phil conducted his last services in Prado and out in Costa de Oro, Rachel taught make-up classes for a few deaconess students who had missed a few, and we made the most of conversations and visits with dear brothers and sisters in Christ of Lutheran Church of Uruguay. In the past 12 years, and especially during our years as missionaries, we have said "goodbye" and "hello" to many places in various countries and to many dear fellow children of God. Thankfully, there truly are no "goodbyes", but rather "see you later" as we remember that whether in this life or the one to come, we will be reunited with all who are in Christ. On November 8th, we said "goodbye" to Uruguay, yet we carry many dear folks in our hearts and continue to pray for them and the body of Christ in that small nation of 3 million.

We pray that the Lord of the Church would continue to strengthen the witness and resolve of His people there, that many would continue to hear the saving message of the Gospel and avail themselves of the means of grace. We pray for the pastors, teachers, members, and deaconess students of the Lutheran Church of Uruguay. We pray for the school families, especially those living without faith in Jesus. We pray for our former neighbors, the staff in our apartment building we got to know, our former language teachers, and the local business owners with whom we had conversations while living in Montevideo.

Below we have included photos of our last gatherings with various groups in Uruguay, the baby shower so lovingly put on by some of the deaconess students, and Phil's installation as pastor of Martini Lutheran Church in Baltimore. The entire world needs Christ and is therefore God's mission field. To this end we hope you will include Baltimore and our U.S. urban churches in your personal prayer list.

The Lord of the harvest has always sent workers into His harvest field, per His promise. There remain faithful workers in the fields on the other side of the world, and we thank Him for their witness and for allowing us to serve Him in Uruguay. Please join us in continuing to remember the dear ones in this country for whom Christ died, even as we ask you to pray for us as we adapt to the new mission field of Baltimore to which the Lord has sent us.

We could not have been sent without your generosity and partnership, and we hope that you would continue to support the mission efforts of the LCMS both locally

and overseas. There is information below as to how to transfer your financial support to foreign missionaries doing the work of the Gospel around the world. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your years of faithful support of us and our work. We are so grateful to call you brothers and sisters in Christ and partners in mission. May He bless and keep each of you as you serve Him in various areas of this field.

With our sincerest gratitude and love,

Pastor Phil and Deaconess Rachel Jaseph
(and baby Evangeline due to arrive in February)

“WHERE IS YOUR CORNER?”

WRITTEN BY STEVE COHEN ON 23 FEBRUARY 2024. Reprinted from the POST IN STEVE COHEN

Starting any new venture can be gut-wrenching at best. As a new believer in Jesus, I was introduced to the Jews for Jesus ministry when Moishe Rosen, the founder, came to the Lutheran Bible Institute in Seattle and showed slides of what they were doing...

...I saw them take to the streets with gospel tracts, face paint, and a zeal to want to raise the question of who Jesus is. My initial reaction was, “I have a college degree and I am well educated. I am not a radical street preacher who faces the scorn and ire of others.”

In 1974, I was invited to come to San Francisco to see first-hand what the ministry was doing. My week with that group at that time changed my life. While there, I was invited to join a team of four other people to go to downtown San Francisco and distribute gospel tracts. I chose to tag along even though there was an uneasiness. I felt totally unprepared.

My training took place in the car as we drove the thirty minutes from San Rafael to San Francisco. I was told: 1) hold the gospel tracts so that people who are coming towards you can see the title; 2) offer the flyers to all who pass by with a smile and an invitation to have a conversation about Jesus; 3) stay on the corner that we assign you and do not leave! We want to be sure to find you when we're done. That was it!

We got to the North Beach area of San Francisco where there were five corners, one for each of us. I knew that the team leader could keep an eye on me as I could see the others doing the same things. The corner they put me on was in front of a club that was called the Garden of Eden. Inside was the stage which presented live sex acts. To my surprise, as I offered the flyers to passersby, they took them and a few even stopped to have conversations. Not long into the outreach, one of the barkers (read bouncer) left his post at the doorway and came up and asked me, no he directed me, to leave the corner and go up halfway to the next corner up the block. He said I was interfering with his attempts to get people into their establishment. He seemed like he was twice my size, and I couldn't believe that the next words out of my mouth were, “I was told to stand on this corner. I don't want to lose my job by leaving.”

Needless to say, he wasn't happy. So, he went to the other door and got his co-worker who was bigger and the two of them approached me. I felt like I was a Steve Cohen sandwich in between these two very large individuals. They not very subtly urged me to leave. Not knowing exactly what to do, I went across the street and told the team leader. He corralled the rest of the team and the five of us stood on that one corner. Of course, tensions increased, and I was sent to get the police to have the harassment stop. But the police were not going to interfere or help. Our two hours ended, and we returned to the office and informed the leadership of what happened.

The next night, 14 of us went back to that corner and had an attestation of the gospel and God's love. The owner was not thrilled, but when it was explained to him that we were standing on public property and had a constitutional right to be present without being harassed, he yielded, and we were able to continue our witness at that location. We stood on that corner!

On reflection, I wondered what came from our time there and what difference was made when we stood on that corner and did not yield.

About 20 years later, I was in Pasadena working on my master's degree in missiology. We took some time to go to the Santa Monica pier to hand out gospel tracts. A couple came up to us, saw our shirts and the literature, and told us the following:

Back in the early 1970s we used to work on the stage at the Garden of Eden in San Francisco. I remember one evening seeing some of your literature float throughout the auditorium. I picked it up and read the gospel tract. I didn't fully understand it, so I contacted one of my Christian friends. They patiently help us understand Jesus the Messiah and our urgent need for his gift of salvation. We both confessed Jesus as our Messiah, settled into a local Christian Church for discipleship, and quit the sex industry following our marriage. Now we have a ministry to people who are oppressed in that industry and seek to help others find freedom in Jesus.

We don't often hear how the gospel seeds that are planted, take root, flourish and multiply. But when we do, it is a blessing to be sure and an encouragement to know that the promises of God are still fully applicable: that is faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God, and the word of the Lord will not return void.

It is not up to us to make converts; that is the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit.

It is simply up to us to be faithful to stand on the corner speak truth in love and invite others to find out for themselves the good news of Jesus the Messiah. Where is your corner? Where are you standing? We want to encourage you to be faithful in telling the good news.

The words of 1 Corinthians 15: 58 hold out great promise: “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”

(Steve Cohen is the founder of Apple of His Eye)

ND District LCMS Message in a Pew February 2024

Deadlines for two awesome youth events in the North Dakota District are coming soon. Check out one or both!! More information on both of these retreats can be found at nodaklcms.org.

The LYF Retreat, Making Saints of Us All: God's Work Through Spiritual Practices, is on March 8-9 at the Chieftan Conference Center in Carrington. Participate in devotions, Bible study, large/small group discussion, closing Divine Service, and more! Contact Pat Sebastian at 701-471-3289 or patsebbis@aol.com.

The Higher Things Retreat, Endure: Suffering Through Fiery Trials, will be held at St. Paul's, Minot, on April 5-6. This theme will be explored through several sessions. Contact Rev. Matt Richard at 701-389-0418, stpaulsrev@srt.com; Diane Pierson at dipierson1989@gmail.com; or Tana McKenna at 888-482-6630 ext. 4, retreats@highertthings.org.

Congregations' Status

Pres. Arie Bertsch

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

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

Crosspointe-Fargo: Rev. Douglas Slavens, Memorial-Sioux Falls has returned the call. Applying for a seminary candidate (Rev. Chris Waldvogel).

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

Grace-Fargo: Rev. Anthony Oliphant, Redeemer-Elmhurst, IL returned the call (Rev. Bernie Worral).

Immanuel-Fargo: Rev. Dan Suelzle, UND Wittenberg Chapel-Grand Forks has returned the call.

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.

Pastors & DCE's

Rev. Zelwyn Heide, St. Peter-Hannover, Zion-New Salem has returned a call to Trinity-Logan, Trinity-Sugar Grove, OH.
Rev. Michael Suelzle, St. Peter-Devils Lake, Grace-Lakota, St. Andrew-Niagara returned a call to St. John-Austin, MN.

NORTH DAKOTA DISTRICT LCMS Financial Information January 2024

INCOME:

Congregational Mission Giving	\$142,017.90
Less Synodical Pledge (35%)	(\$49,706.61)
Net Congregational Mission Giving	\$92,311.29
Other Unrestricted Gifts	21,598.46
1-1-1 Mission Giving	4,270.92
Current gifts/fees for missions	17,676.41
Available Income	\$135,857.08

EXPENSES:

Local Missions and Committee Activities: (Includes Wittenberg Chapel, Deaf Ministry, Youth)	\$44,534.72
Congregational Support/Operating Expenses (Includes General Operations, District President, Business Manager, Board of Directors)	26,874.76
International/Local Missions	
Christ's Care for Children - Kenya (\$10,000)	2,969.50
Chile Mission (\$20,000)	5,000.00
Chile Mission - Special Events	0.00
Shepherd's Hill Retreat (\$5,000)	3,696.11
(These missions were voted on by the District Convention. They will be paid quarterly as funds are available)	
Current Expenses	\$83,075.09
NET OPERATING INCOME FOR JANUARY	\$52,781.99
Funds Given used for Current Expenses	\$27,140.61
Year To Date NET INCOME/LOSS	\$91,947.26

God has richly blessed the North Dakota District! January was average end of year giving and helped the bottom line finish strong for the fiscal year. Expenses include second semester student aid payments and the final installment in 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/payments made to these missions as of January 31, 2024:

Christ's Care for Children - Kenya	\$4,951.68/\$15,469.50
Chile Partnership	\$3,391.00/\$28,666.00
Shepherd's Hill Retreat	\$7,915.83/\$13,373.96

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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