

## Welcome 2024



## Happy New Year, Siblings in Christ!

I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas, celebrating with people you love, and that Christ's presence was felt, was made real in the midst of your celebrations. If your Christmas, on the other hand, wasn't the best, it was hard for one reason or another, please know that you are in my prayers and you are remembered.

Things here at Immanuel have been bustling...with lots of people, children, worship, outreach and community time together! I thank God for the life here and for all of you who are offering your energy and yourself to the ministry that the Spirit is blessing and growing at Immanuel. I pray for God's guidance and continued blessing as we enter into a New Year. May the hope, peace, joy and love that we longed for during Advent, be made known in our life together with Christ.

For most of January, we will celebrate Epiphany. A time when we remember the magi who make their way to baby Jesus by following a star. A time when we remember the salvation given through Jesus was made known to the gentiles, and that today, the Gospel reaches beyond the borders and boundaries we make.

We hear from the Gospel of Matthew that when the wise men were on their way to find Jesus, the star led the way and that it stopped when they reached Him. "When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy." (Mt 2:10) We are on a journey, just as the Magi, looking for Jesus. In our day to day lives, in the highs and lows of life, we're on this journey. Maybe the story of the wise men can remind us of that.

We may not be led to Him by a star, but I bet that God will use other people and things to help us continue to seek and search and find Jesus over and over again. Maybe the story of the magi can also remind us of the joy we experience once we've found Him.

May this joy fill us, may we find this joy in each other, and as Epiphany reminds us, maybe we will find this joy in people and places we least expect or want joy to come from.

In Christ's Joy,  
**Pastor Bre Kinnunen**



## The 136th Congregational Annual Business Meeting of Immanuel Lutheran Church Sunday, February 4, 2024, 11:00 am for the purpose of Nominations, Elections, & the Meeting Annual Congregational Meeting



Our annual congregational meeting will take place in the Fellowship Hall. Again this year Council has chosen to combine elections and business meeting into one, so the February 4 meeting agenda will include elections, reports, and adoption of the 2024 congregational budget. A printed annual report booklet will be available a week prior to the meeting.

Hope to see all of you at the Annual Meeting. It would be nice to have all of your input and support. See you in person in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 4th, 11:00 am.

## The "ANGEL TREE" PROGRAM



**Thank you to All of You** who participated in Immanuel's *Angel Tree Program* by providing gifts or donations of monies for children of inmates.

This gift giving is another way of expressing God's love for the families of those who are incarcerated. We had 16 children who were blessed with Christmas gifts, thanks to your generosity. Thank you so much "**Angels**"!



**IMMANUEL HAS A PAGE ON FACEBOOK! SEARCH FOR "IMMANUEL NEGAUNEE" AND "LIKE" US.**  
ALSO, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[WWW.IMMANUELNEGAUNEE.ORG](http://WWW.IMMANUELNEGAUNEE.ORG)



## Sunday School

Although we are beginning a new calendar year, we are about midpoint in our Sunday School year. And it is time to evaluate and make resolutions for the upcoming year.

One of my resolutions is to make better use of our Sunday School Facebook page. If you are not a member of this private group, please consider joining.

One purpose of Sunday school is to support families in their Baptismal promises to “nurture their families in faith and prayer”. Faith is a gift from God. Faith grows as we experience love and hear how others have experienced God’s love. We learn how God has kept his promise to his people. Through faith we KNOW that God loves us and will keep those promises for us too.

How is that working for your family?

- What in Sunday School works really well for your family?
- What would you like to suggest for Sunday School improvement?
  - \* Something we should add?
  - \* Something to remove?
  - \* Something to change?



Think about your ideas. We **NEED** and **WELCOME** your input. We will be asking you or you can catch us first and tell us.



## Sunday School Curriculum

The Winter Term runs from **January 7** through **March 17**. Lessons will focus on Jesus’ Ministry. Early in the term, we will learn about some of the miracles Jesus performed. In Biblical terms, a miracle is something so extraordinary that it could only

happen through the power of God.

We learn that although the miracle helped the individual(s), the greatest purpose of that miracle was to demonstrate God’s power to the people who observe the miracle. When people observe this miracle, their faith increased. As we study these Bible stories, we look for:

- Where is Faith small?
- Where is **Faith** big?
- What happened to increase that faith?

## Sunday School Weather Alert

As I am writing this, I can see grass and leaves on my lawn. But, I know the picture below will repeat itself. If that happens on a Sunday morning, Sunday School may be cancelled.

The adult Sunday School staff does not live near the church. One lives about 11 miles south in Palmer. The other lives about 10 miles north on 510. There may be Sunday mornings that neither of us will be able to make it into town in time for Sunday School.

### If that were to happen, Sunday School will be cancelled.

It is not appropriate to run Sunday School without the sufficient number of adult staff.

I will put that information on our Sunday School Facebook page by 7:30am. When you see the cancellation notice, please pass it on to your friends who may not have seen it yet.



## Internet Safety for Kids and Teens



On Wednesday, January 24, Trooper Tom Kinnunen will be doing a presentation and discussion on Internet Safety in the Fellowship Hall. A meal will be served at 6:00pm with the presentation to follow. All are welcome to attend!

## Noisy Offering

The Youth will collect the noisy offering on the first Sunday of each month to help fund their transportation to New Orleans this summer.





## FAITH FORMATION

Many hands make light work!

Thank you to everyone who helped us with Coffee Fellowship this month. Thanks for decorating, bringing food, serving the food and for cleaning up.

It is time to begin working on VBS!



In January, the behind the scenes community wide VBS planning will begin. We checked with the Fortune Lake Camp schedule and it is looking like our VBS will be the week of June 10-14.

**VBS Planning Team** We need a few people to work on Immanuel's planning team and we need help reaching the other congregations in the area.

This would be a short term work group, probably completing their work before Easter. Is this something you would do?

**VBS Staff** We will need folks for classroom, Art and Music, snack time, playground and more. Think about what you would like to do.



**Library** Our reference Library is taking shape. We found some very interesting books! There is still more organizing to do.

### Preschool Play Group

Is this still a thing? Or are family schedules set for the winter? We got a few mildly interested comments, but not a "Yes, let's do this!"

So, are you interested in:

- Attending with a child?
- Helping plan sessions?
- Providing an extra set of hands during the play-group?

If you or you and a group of friends are interested, we can get moving early in January. Or we can plan to get started later, summer, next fall...

Talk to Paulette Patron, Pastor Bre or leave a message in the office.



## Book of the Month

We have not been making much progress on our goal to have a "Book of the Month" type of display in these center shelves.

Do you have ideas?

Would you be interested in a shelf/shelves for a month? We have some good titles to be highlighted and would like to purchase some new books to catch our eyes and our hearts.



## 'UN-DECORATE THE SANCTUARY'

We will be un-decorating the sanctuary on Thursday, January 11th, starting at 9:00 am. If you can come to help, your help would be appreciated.

Thank you!

## COUNCIL CORNER

### Highlights from November/December

- Affirmed the hiring of Julie Vargason as the new church secretary.
- Established the 136th Annual Meeting date of Sunday, February 4, 2024 at 11:00am. This meeting must be attended in person.
- Established a nominating committee for the purpose of finding delegates to fill:
  - \* One Council position.
  - \* Three Northern Great Lakes Synod Delegates
  - \* Two Fortune Lake Delegates
  - \* One Endowment Fund Delegate
- If you are interested in learning more about these opportunities to serve Immanuel as a member of the Church Council, or as a delegate to the Northern Great Lakes Synod, Fortune Lake, or as a member of the Endowment Fund, please talk to Pastor Bree, Noreen, or any current member of the Church Council.
- Learned that the Elevator Project is 80% complete. We have run into issues with completing the last 20%. There has been an add-on cost of \$7,500 due to the State of Michigan Elevator Code change.
- Voted to change the schedule of worship services by moving the Monday night service to Sunday night at 6:00pm.
- Approved the 2024 Proposed Budget, it will be presented for congregational approval at our Annual Meeting.



## January & February Mission Emphases

**IN JANUARY**, our **Tanzanian Connection and Relations** will be the Mission Emphasis (ME). Many miles separate us, but we discover God's blessing of strengthened faith and vitality in the relationships we develop visiting and being visited by our Tanzanian brothers and sisters in Christ.

January's above-and-beyond ME offerings will go to our Immanuel Companion Congregation fund, to help defray the cost of traveling to Yombo Lutheran Church of the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania this May.

If you wish to give above-and-beyond to this mission, please use January's mission emphasis envelope from your offering envelope box or in some other way designate your gift. *Thank you for your generosity!*



## IN FEBRUARY our Mission Emphasis is Immanuel Quilters.

Every year the quilters from Immanuel create over 100 quilts in our church basement. The quilts are sent around the world and are used for warmth and tents. That is over 100 lives and families impacted by our congregation every year.



One of our parishioners was asked to join the quilters as a new member many years ago. No, she couldn't sew, knew nothing about quilting but they found her a job to do. One thing she quickly learned was how kind the women were but more amazing how talented and artistic they were. Taking bits of cloth and creating beautiful blankets. Take a closer look next fall during quilting Sunday.

Financial support is requested to help defray the cost of batting (the guts of the quilt), sewing materials, sewing machine repairs and shipping. Donations of materials and your time are always welcome. So please give generously during our February monthly mission.



## Camping News from Fortune Lake

The Summer Camp 2024 Schedule is ready! Hot off the press is a fantastic array of faith-filled fun!

More information will follow as we update our website and get brochures ready for print.

WEEK	DATES	CAMP PROGRAM & AGE/GRADE COMPLETED	COST
Week 1	June 9-14	Victory Camp (Adult 18+ with disabilities)	\$625
Week 2	June 16-21	Intergenerational Week (all ages) New! Treehouse Adventures (Grades 7-12)	See website \$475
Week 3	June 23-28	High School Week (Grades 9-12)   LIT Training Week (Grades 10-12)	\$475
Week 4	June 30-July 2	Mighty Ones (Grades 1-2)	\$225
Week 5	June 30-July 3	Mini Camp (Grades 2-3)   MashUp (Grades 4-8) LIT #1 Option (*No charge)	\$305 No charge
Week 6	July 7-10	*Mini Camp (Grades 2-3)	\$305
Week 7	July 7-12	*Villager (Grades 3-4)   *Vagabond (Grades 5-6)   *Venturer (Grades 7-8) Camp ACTS (Grades 3-12)   LIT #2 Option (*No charge)	\$445 \$475
Week 8	July 14-17	New! Evergreen Camp (Adults 55+)	\$260/\$305/\$405
Week 9	July 21-26	LEGO® Camp (Grades 3-9)   Jr High Night Owl (Grades 6-8)	\$445
Week 10	July 28-Aug 2	Art Camp (Grades 3-9)   LIT #3 Option (*No charge)	\$475
Week 11	July 22-25	Onsite Day Camp (Grades K-5)	\$130
Week 12	July 28-Aug 2	Intergenerational Week (all ages)	See website
Week 13	July 30-Aug 2	Vagabond (Grades 5-6)   LIT #4 Option (*No charge)	\$445
Week 14	August 4-7	Intergenerational Half Week (all ages) *Mini Camp (Grades 2-3)   *Villager (Grades 3-4) *Vagabond (Grades 5-6)   *Venturer (Grades 7-8)	See website \$305

2024 SCHEDULE

More info at FortuneLake.org

Scholarships Available



Registration opens January 2. Dream about your favorite programs, invite your friends and save the dates for the best summer at Fortune Lake yet!

New this year: Treehouse Adventures (Grades 7-12), Evergreen Camp (adults age 55+), as well as a Water Week or Nature Week focus for our classics.

FYI...Immanuel provides scholarships for both children and adults to attend Fortune Lake camping sessions. Stacy McEachern is organizing scholarship information and will have it published so you can start applying!

## NEW MEMBERS

Look for a New Member Dinner coming in January or February. Stay tuned for more information.





## Financial Peace University

My Immanuel Family,

I come to you with an opportunity for the New Year. We are hosting Financial Peace University beginning in February.

I can tell you that Kitty and I took the class a few years ago, back when we lived in Tennessee. It helped us build a budget system. We learned how to have better conversations about money. We still aren't completely debt free, yet. It did give us a lot of tools to understand and track how we spend our money.

This nine week course meets once a week for about an hour and a half with each session. The classes will be held at Immanuel. The cost is \$58.25 whether you're an individual or married couple.

### Who can attend FPU?

The short answer is just about anyone. Parents, this can be a great gift for your graduating seniors. It can also be a helpful tool for adults at any stage of life. We will have 12 open positions for the class. If you have a spouse, you can attend the class together or alternate weeks. The important thing is that you make the commitment to be there all nine weeks.

### How does the class work?

Each week, we'll watch a video lesson. Then we'll have group discussion and activities to put the video lessons into practice?

### What's the point?

Whether you're just starting out in your adult life, are struggling with debt, or just looking for some tools to help control your finances and not let them control you, the series of lessons, discussion, and workbook activities can change the way you think and act when it comes to money. You don't have to have your finances already figured out to be in an FPU class. There's no judgment, no shame, just a bunch of people trying to figure out money stuff together.

You can learn more about the class here.

<https://www.ramseysolutions.com/ramseyplus/financial-peace/class?snid=products.pay-off-debt-and-build-wealth.financial-peace-university.join-a-class>

Thank you for your consideration,

Ben Raymond

## CELEBRATION OF CHURCH WOMEN

From WELCA to Women of Immanuel,

Women of the ELCA (WELCA) has had a long active history at Immanuel. There are notebooks and scrapbooks highlighting this history. There were multiple committees with dozens of members each. Prayers were prayed, scriptures were studied, projects were completed. Funeral luncheons were served. Quilts were made and sent to Lutheran World Relief. Monetary donations were made to help promote wholeness in the church, in society, and the world. Delegates represented Immanuel on district and synod level teams. Synod and national conferences were attended.

As Immanuel's membership has aged and declined, WELCA has also felt the crunch. For about 5 years, we have prayerfully considered the future of Immanuel's WELCA organization. We have tried several organizational changes suggested through the churchwide WELCA. None of those models seemed to fit Immanuel WELCA going forward into the 2020s.

While we lack numbers, we still have dedication. What we found was that prayers are still being prayed. Scriptures are still being studied. Quilts are still being made and sent to Lutheran World Relief. We are still assisting families with funeral luncheons. We are still working on projects, just with smaller committees and fewer projects.

Rather than decrying our inability to maintain the WELCA synodical model, we are focusing on our strengths. We will work more closely with Immanuel's ministries. We are going to operate within the **MI Immanuel** model - Praying, Serving, Giving and Loving - through existing ministries at Immanuel while still promoting wholeness in the church, in society and the world.

Bible Study groups will still meet. Prayers will still be lifted to God. Quilting for World Relief will still happen. Funeral luncheons will still be offered to families. Community activities such as Pioneer Days Salad Luncheon and Christmas Market will happen under the auspices of existing committees. Offerings collected will directly support **MI Immanuel** projects of wholeness in the church, in society and the world.



Our enrollment continues to climb, but we still have openings in each class. New registrations are still being accepted from Preschool through Grade 5.

Call the church office, or come to Sunday School at 9:15am to meet the teacher and get registered.

**To sign up for Financial Peace University, please call the church office at 906-475-9161 or speak to Ben Raymond.**

# January 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> OFFICE CLOSED No Worship	<b>2</b> 10:00 Bible Study	<b>3</b> 6:00 Choir Practice	<b>4</b> 10:00 Quilting	<b>5</b> 10:00 AA OFFICE CLOSED	<b>6</b> 8:00-10:00 Men's Bible Study Breakfast
<b>7</b> Baptism of our Lord 9:30/6:00 Worship/Noisy Offering 9:30 Sunday School 10:30/7:00 Coffee & Fellowship 5:00-7:00 UPLIFT 5:30 Community Meal 7:30 AA	<b>8</b> <u>DEADLINE FOR COUNCIL PACKETS</u> 5:30 Lion's Club	<b>9</b> 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Bible Study @ Pasquali's	<b>10</b> 4:30 Tanzanian Meeting 6:00 Choir Practice 7:00 Sunday Evening Worship Planning	<b>11</b> 9:00 Un-Decorate the Church 10:00 Quilting	<b>12</b> 10:00 AA 1:00 Social Ministry/Parish Life OFFICE CLOSED	<b>13</b>
<b>14 2nd Sun after Epiphany</b> 9:30/6:00 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30/7:00 Coffee & Fellowship 5:00-7:00 UPLIFT 7:30 AA	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:30 Miriam Circle 10:00 Bible Study 6:00 Exec Committee 6:30 Church Council 7:00 Bible Study @ Pasquali's	<b>17</b> 1:30 Abigail Circle 6:00 Choir Practice 7:15 Stewardship Meeting	<b>18</b> <u>ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE</u> 10:00 Quilting	<b>19</b> 10:00 AA OFFICE CLOSED	<b>20</b>
<b>21 3rd Sun after Epiphany</b> 9:30/6:00 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30/7:00 Coffee & Fellowship 5:00-7:00 UPLIFT 7:30 AA	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Bible Study @ Pasquali's	<b>24</b> 6:00 Choir Practice 6:00 Internet Safety	<b>25</b> 10:00 Quilting	<b>26</b> 10:00 AA OFFICE CLOSED	<b>27</b>
<b>28 4th Sun after Epiphany</b> 9:30/6:00 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30/7:00 Coffee & Fellowship 5:00-7:00 UPLIFT 7:30 AA	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Bible Study @ Pasquali's	<b>31</b> 5:00 Companion Congregation 6:00 Choir Practice 7:00 Sunday Evening Worship Planning			



# February 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 10:00 Quilting	<b>2</b> 10:00 AA <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>3</b> 8:00-10:00 Men's Bible Study Breakfast
<b>4 5th Sun after Epiphany</b> 9:30/6:00 Worship/Noisy Offering 9:30 Sunday School 10:30/7:00 Coffee & Fellowship 11:00 Annual Meeting 5:00-7:00 UPLIFT 7:30 AA	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Bible Study @ Pasquali's	<b>7</b> 6:00 Choir Practice	<b>8</b> 10:00 Quilting	<b>9</b> 10:00 AA <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>10</b> 9:00-12:00 PEO Meeting
<b>11 6th Sun after Epiphany</b> 9:30/6:00 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30/7:00 Coffee & Fellowship 5:00-7:00 UPLIFT Super Bowl Party 7:30 AA	<b>12</b> 5:30 Lion's Club	<b>13</b> 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Bible Study @ Pasquali's	<b>14</b> 6:00 Choir Practice 6:00 Ash Wednesday Service	<b>15</b> <b>DEADLINE FOR COUNCIL PACKETS</b> 10:00 Quilting	<b>16</b> 10:00 AA <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18 7th Sun after Epiphany</b> 9:30/6:00 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30/7:00 Coffee & Fellowship 5:00-7:00 UPLIFT 6:00-8:00 Financial   Peace University 7:30 AA	<b>19</b> <b>BEACON DEADLINE</b>	<b>20</b> 9:30 Miriam Circle 10:00 Bible Study 6:00 Executive Committee 6:30 Church Council 7:00 Bible Study @ Pasquali's	<b>21</b> 1:30 Abigail Circle 5:30 Soup Supper 6:00 Choir Practice 6:15 Lenten Service	<b>22</b> 10:00 Quilting	<b>23</b> 10:00 AA <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>24</b> 12:00-4:00 Hall Rental
<b>25 8th Sun after Epiphany</b> 9:30/6:00 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30/7:00 Coffee & Fellowship 5:00-7:00 UPLIFT 6:00-8:00 Financial   Peace University 7:30 AA	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Bible Study @ Pasquali's	<b>28</b> 5:30 Soup Supper 6:00 Choir Practice 6:15 Lenten Service	<b>29</b> 10:00 Quilting		



## SERVING THE LORD FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Comm. Asst.</u>	<u>Counters</u>
<b>7</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	Alice Mutkala	Alice Mutkala	Alice Mutkala	Stacy McEachern	Vicki Lempinen
		Julie Vargason	Julie Vargason		& Youth	Judy Hallgren
<b>6:00 PM</b>		Diana Hetrick	Diana Hetrick	Kerri Puckett	Heidi Hill	
		Jim Hetrick	Jim Hetrick			
<b>14</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	Alice Mutkala	Alice Mutkala	Cody Scanlon	Danielle Songer, Emily	Linda Ogea
		Julie Vargason	Julie Vargason		Huff, Cody Scanlon	Juliana Herman
<b>6:00 M</b>		Diana Hetrick	Diana Hetrick	Sheila Meier	Sheila Meier	
		Jim Hetrick	Jim Hetrick			
<b>21</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	Judy Hallgren	Jucy Hallgren	Val Paulson	Dana & Sally Echelbarger	Alice Mutkala
		Dave Hallgren	Dave Hallgren		Mike Lempinen	Connie Kemper
<b>6:00 PM</b>		Reuven Romback	Reuven Romback	Ben Raymond	Katie Ritzenhein	
		Kevin Crupi	Kevin Crupi			
<b>28</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	Noreen Collins	Noreen Collins	Luanne Skrenes	Sara & Terry Garceau	Fae Collins
		Valerie Paulson	Valerie Paulson		Danielle Songer	Merry Bengry
<b>6:00 PM</b>		Reuven Romback	Reuven Romback	Kay Korpi	Kay Korpi	
		Kevin Crupi	Kevin Crupi			

PARAMENT COLORS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY: White - 7; Green - 14, 21, 28.

JANUARY COFFEE SERVERS: SOCIAL MINISTRY



## SERVING THE LORD FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Comm. Asst.</u>	<u>Counters</u>
<b>4</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	Valerie Paulson <b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>	Valerie Paulson <b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>	Renee Prusi	Stacy McEachern & Youth	Vicki Lempinen Mike Frustaglio
	<b>6:00 PM</b>	Deb Hicks Sarah Hill	Deb Hicks Sarah Hill	Sheila Meier	Sheila Meier	Linda Dillman
<b>11</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	Linda Derocher Jim Derocher	Linda Derocher Jim Derocher	Charlee Schlicht	Danielle Songer, Emily Huff, Walter Scanlon	Linda Ogea Judy Hallgren
	<b>6:00 PM</b>	Deb Hicks Sarah Hill	Deb Hicks Sarah Hill	Kitty Raymond	Paulette Patron	Dave Hallgren
<b>14</b>	<b>ASH WED</b>	<b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>	<b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>	<b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>	<b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>	<b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	Linda Derocher Jim Derocher	Linda Derocher Jim Derocher	Linda Derocher	Val Paulson, Linda Dillman, Walter Scanlon	Alice Mutkala Juliana Herman
	<b>6:00 PM</b>	Katie Ritzenhein Carrie Villalobos	Katie Ritzenhein Carrie Villalobos	Kerri Puckett	Cheryl Dix	
<b>25</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	Walter Scanlon Jim Hayward	Walter Scanlon Jim Hayward	Alice Zinsser	Alice & Bill Zinsser Andy Roberts	FaeCollins Merry Bengry
	<b>6:00 PM</b>	Katie Ritzenhein Carrie Villalobos	Katie Ritzenhein Carrie Villalobos	Tom Johnson	Cheryl Dix	

PARAMENT COLORS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY: Green - 4, 11, 18, 25.

FEBRUARY COFFEE SERVERS: FORTUNE LAKE / YOUTH



## Companion Congregation

Planning and orientation for the May 2024 delegation to Tanzania is ongoing. Those traveling to visit our brothers and sisters at Yombo are Pastor Bre and Thomas Kinnunen, Dana and Sally Echelbarger, along with Pastor Tom and Luanne Skrenes. Flights will be in/out of Minneapolis to reduce the flight time and cost.

We are looking forward to seeing our friends from Yombo and meeting their new pastor, Rev. Debora Lusambi.

We will bring with us gifts for the people of Yombo and others in the Eastern and Coastal Diocese. The ties and jewelry donated by individuals in the congregation that we brought with us in 2019 were a hit! As you do spring cleaning at home, go through your ties, jewelry and scarves. These can be placed in a bin marked "Yombo" in the stewardship center. We will be happy to bring them to Tanzania!

In addition to spending time at Yombo and worshiping with them, we will visit institutions (schools, clinics, etc.) supported by our synod. We will also enjoy God's creation on an animal safari.

Please pray for our group. Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ at Yombo as they plan for our visit. God is good!

The annual Companion Congregation Sunday will be held on a Sunday in April since the delegation will be in Tanzania on Pentecost this year. This year's Companion Sunday will include a meal and an auction to help offset the costs of travel to Tanzania for the delegation from Immanuel.

Bwana Asifiwe! Praise the Lord!

Luanne Skrenes, Chair

### Women of Immanuel

At Immanuel, our Lutheran World Relief Quilting team meets at 10:00am every Thursday. The first Thursday of the month will be a longer session and include lunch. On the other Thursdays there will be coffee and snacks served.

All skill levels are welcome. These are not elaborate decorative works of art being made, so no high level skills are required. If you have not yet developed a skill, this group will teach you to be part of their team.

The fluffy batting for the quilts is purchased. All labor and other materials are donated. Quilt covers are pieced together from woven materials containing a high percentage of cotton. Sheets and leftover pieces of fabric make good quilt tops. Knits and synthetic fabrics are not sturdy enough for these quilts.

#### Kitchen Project

January Date and time to be announced

- Clean up and inventory
- Many hands make light work
- Wash cabinets, refrigerator, etc.
- Neaten cabinets and pantry

February

- Depends on results of inventory
- Details will be forthcoming

#### From Lutheran World Relief:

Volunteer to quilt for kids and families in need. Often, when natural disasters strike or war drives families from their homes, our hearts ache with compassion but we don't know how to help. If you've wondered how to volunteer to quilt for charity, look no further. Making Lutheran World Relief Mission Quilts is a tangible way to express love to our neighbors in need. Quilts can be used as warm bedding, simple tents or floor coverings. Each one reflects God's loving presence in a world rife with suffering.

### Will you join a Women's Bible Study?

Two Bible study groups will meet each month. Bible studies are from the *Gather Magazine*.

**Miriam Group:** 9:30am Bible Study followed by lunch

- Tuesday, January 16
- Tuesday, February 20

**Abigail Group:** 1:30pm Bible Study and dessert

- Wednesday, January 17
- Wednesday, February 21

#### January 2024 Topic:

Weather: Powerful force for change

We can't control the weather, but we can learn from it. Storms, rain, drought and wind shape the lives of human and non-human beings, both in scripture and today. As we face catastrophic storms and the weird weather of climate change, biblical stories of extraordinary weather convict and humble us. They show us how to live faithfully, moving us to act even when we feel powerless.

#### February 2024 Topic:

Creatures: Our siblings in praise and trust

Jesus invites us to consider the birds, but we'll get to know biblical critters beyond the sparrows. We'll look at biblical animals (some adorable, some terrifying) from ravens and lions to a big fish, paired creatures on the ark, and that sneaky serpent in Eden. Stories of human and animal interactions in scripture help to reorient our relationships with the non-human world, while pulling us into deeper trust in God.





**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** those members of our congregation who will celebrate birthdays in the months of:

**JANUARY** . . . . .

- Jan. 1 Rose Ahola, William Flis, David Garcia, Jessica Hetrick, Dawn Laukka, Wendy Niemi, Joshua Paquet, Heather Sandstrom, Jeanne Sironen-McCartney
- Jan. 2 Mindy Pellinen
- Jan. 3 Michelle Laitala
- Jan. 4 Morgan Carilli, Jim Hetrick, Bryce Jarvi, Dylan Larson
- Jan. 5 Adam Maxon
- Jan. 6 Ellen Lindblom, Olivia Torreano
- Jan. 7 Kathleen Palomaki, Ronald Ulvila
- Jan. 8 Ben Collins, Seija Lawson
- Jan. 9 Matthew Jarvi, Douglas Lindblom, Julie Mager, Charlee Schlicht
- Jan. 11 Tyson Butorac, Jessica Juchemich, Maxine Sylvester
- Jan. 12 Loraine Lehto, Jean Manginen
- Jan. 13 Joseph Dost
- Jan. 15 Kelly Larmour, Linda Rose
- Jan. 16 Katie Carlson, Daniel Lindblom
- Jan. 17 Elaine Ault, Susan Bazinette, Anne Henderson
- Jan. 18 Pamela Dost, Kimberly Frustaglio, Paula Frustaglio
- Jan. 19 Bethany Jarvi, Nathan Krook
- Jan. 20 Larry Marta, Nicole Whitford
- Jan. 21 Marcus Songer, Darrel Stambaugh
- Jan. 25 Owen Roberts
- Jan. 26 Cassidy Holcomb, Cheyenne Holcomb, Gretchen Lakenen, Shirley Terzaghi
- Jan. 27 Sarah Kroon
- Jan. 29 Darryl Tincknell
- Jan. 30 Bethney Bergh, Hunter Hetrick, Cubby Nelson
- Jan. 31 Macie Annala, Noreen Collins, John Kallioinen, Kristy Malmsten, Rheana Nelson, Emily Vercoe

**FEBRUARY** . . . . .

- Feb. 1 Riley Carlson, Samantha Toth
- Feb. 2 Mikel Annala
- Feb. 5 Courtney Beckman, Betty Kinnunen, Sandy Lincoln
- Feb. 6 Cindy Sirtola
- Feb. 7 Alec Nelson
- Feb. 8 Liam Laitala, Sawyer Maki
- Feb. 9 Cooper Chapman, Kurt Collins, Connie Kemper, Darla Soeltner
- Feb. 10 Lori Kill, Charlie Smith
- Feb. 11 Rolf Anderson, Eric Koski, Walter Scanlon, Jr., Arnie Spickerman
- Feb. 12 Marge Myers, John M. Thomas
- Feb. 13 Eloise Williams, Hailey Williams
- Feb. 14 Connie Scanlon
- Feb. 16 Terry Cathcart, Linda Hickey, Kendra Klein, Harper Nerwuca
- Feb. 17 Scott Couture, Victor Orr, Jr., Veronica Starrine
- Feb. 18 Avery Miller, Sanna Paulson, John Vercoe
- Feb. 19 Doug Palomaki, Debra Young

*(continued in the next column.....)*

- Feb. 21 Lorin Laukka
- Feb. 22 Sarah Amis
- Feb. 23 Beverly Martin, Michelle Saunders
- Feb. 25 Gavin Jacobson, Marsha Larmour
- Feb. 26 Lindsey Butorac, Kenley Laitala
- Feb. 27 Deanna Johnson, Iris Williams
- Feb. 28 Linda Derocher, Tanya Johnson, Arianna Paananen

**Happy Birthday to You!!**

**CONGRATULATIONS! GOD'S BLESSINGS ....**

to those members of Immanuel who celebrate milestones in Their marriage in the months of



**JANUARY & FEBRUARY**  
**20 YEARS AND OVER**

- 01/15 - John & Diana Benti - 29 years
- 01/20 - Steven & Rachel Lambertson - 28 years

**30 YEARS AND OVER**

- 02/20 - John M. & Wendi Thomas - 31 years
- 02/28 - Dennis & Linda Hickey - 33 years
- 02/28 - Larry & Lori Marta - 37 years.

**40 YEARS AND OVER**

- 01/15 - Rolf & Janice Anderson - 50 years

**60 YEARS AND OVER**

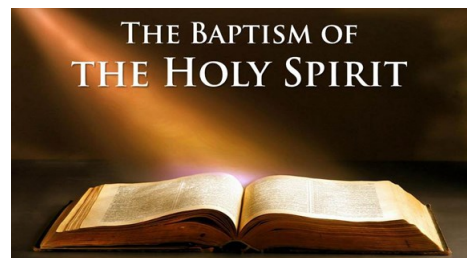
- 01/27 - Barbara & John 'Jack' Cohan - 62 years

**Baptisms**

**Mason James Roberts**, son of Emily Jean (Garceau) and Isaac Norbert Roberts was baptized on November 12. Sponsors were Abby & Josh Paquet.

**Julia Kay Soeltner**, daughter of Sanna Rae Paulson and Brent Scott Soeltner was baptized on December 17. Sponsors were Preston Paulson and Henna DuMoulin.

**Elias Grunwald Bhatia**, son of Annalisa (Grunwald) and Souful Bhatia was baptized on December 24. Sponsors were Michael and Nicole Grunwald.





**Web Page:** www.ImmanuelNegaunee.org  
**E-Mail Address:** Office@ImmanuelNegaunee.org  
**Telephone:** (906)475-9161  
**Pastor:** Breanna Kinnunen  
**Parish Administrator:** Noreen Collins  
**Office Secretary:** Julie Vargason  
**Assistant Secretary:** Sharon Cottrell  
**Treasurer:** Mary Schlicht  
**Organists:** Connie Scanlon  
**Choir Director:** Connie Lindblom  
**Accompanist:** Vicki Lempinen  
**Ministers of Music:** Connie & Dan Lindblom



**ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2023 ARE DUE BY JANUARY 18th, 2024.**

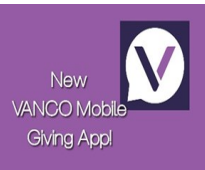
## SNOW ADVISORY

As we return to winter snows, please be advised that...

- Parking too close to the building in the east parking lot risks snow and ice falling on your vehicle. Please allow extra distance. Thanks!
- Although others will plow and shovel in advance of our services, there may be last-minute needs you discover with our entrance walks. Snow shovels and salt will be available at those entrances for your use, if you are able. Thank you for sharing in these family chores.
- If extreme weather forces a cancellation of Sunday or Monday worship, an alert will be given via TV6 and our church website at least an hour before the service start time. And even if worship is not cancelled, please use your common sense for your situation.



Thanks!



## ELECTRONIC OFFERINGS



VANCO Mobile is a free app and offers a better user experi-

ence with easy giving options, including giving to special funds. Here are the steps to follow: 1) **Search for Our Church;** 2) **Select Your Fund and Amount;** 3) **Enter Payment Method;** 4) **Choose to Cover Processing Fees;** 5) **Complete Your donation;** Review and complete your gift by clicking **SUBMIT**. That's all there's to it. And, *Thank You!*

## The Warming Center / Room at the Inn . . . .



... is always in need of coffee, paper products, home baked treats. They can accept cookies, etc but not casseroles or soups. All main menu items need to be prepared at the Warming Center.

They are always in need of winter coats, both men and women's. These can be placed in the tub at Immanuel or dropped off at the Warming Center.

Thank you for the tremendous support for the homeless population in Marquette County. Thanks to the generosity of the community, the guests at Room at the Inn are sheltered from UP winters.



**Thank you all for your Poinsettia donations. Your flower(s) can be picked up after the Christmas season. The 'Poinsettia Donation Recognition Booklet' can be found on the table in the upstairs hallway.**

*Thank you.*



## HOSPITAL VISITATION

Please let us know if you go to the hospital or are planning on surgery. Due to privacy laws, we do not have access to any records at any hospitals. Patients sign a release form so the pastor can visit, but this is not always passed along. Be sure to call 475-9161 to inform us. We want to visit you!



## RECYCLING

We do battery recycling here at Immanuel. **ALL BATERIES**, are recycled, including phone, hearing aid, & any others. Drop them off in the Stewardship area, into the appropriate bin.



## Northern Great Lakes Synod

Marquette, Michigan

Equipping the Saints for Ministry

**NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD** News – Visit:  
[www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org)

**Lutheran Campus Ministry** @[www.nmulutherans.org](http://www.nmulutherans.org)  
228-8033

**NOTE: If you choose NOT to receive the BEACON or would like to receive it by email, please notify the church office at 906-475-9161, or email to:**