

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church



September 2021

Page 2—Pastor's Message
Page 3—Care for Creation Corner
Page 4,5—Message from Bishop Katherine Finegan
Page 6—Message from Angela !Khabebe
Page 7—Thank you's, Sympathies
Page 8—NAMI, NATH Wish List
Page 9—Walking Together
Page 10—Message from Bishop Eaton
Page 11—By Faith We Stand Firm
Page 12—Council Minutes
Page 13—Welcome New Members
Page 14—This is Stewardship
Page 15—FLLC Stewardship Event
Page 16—Confirmation Class, Faith Formation
Page 17—Youth Retreats at FLLC
Page 18—GIG for GOD
Page 19—GIG for GOD Inspiration—Darlene Machtan
Page 20—RAFP News
Page 21—Word of the Month, Welcome Kari Britton
Page 22—Calendar
Page 23—Birthdays, Financial Summary, Attendance, Anniversaries

Rev. Tammy K. Barthels - Pastor
Church - 715-362-5910

Emergency-Cell Phone: 715-581-0468
prtammyimmanuelrhinelander@gmail.com

Office Hours Tues.-Thurs. 10-3pm
or by appointment

Kari Britton - Administrative Assistant
immanuelsecretary2015@gmail.com

Office Phone: 715-362-5910
Office Hours Tuesday & Thursday 8—3

Sheree Vanden-Heuvel - Financial Secretary
finimmanuel@gmail.com

Cell Phone: 715-360-3176

Member of the ELCA Churchwide elca.org &
the Northern Great Lakes Synod nglsynod.org



Visit us on our Website @
Immanuelrhinelander.org

"Inspired by God's grace to love and serve all"

Pastor's Message ~

Come to Me

Matthew 11:28-30 (The Message)

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”



On July 9th I arrived at Holy Wisdom Monastery to attend the Ecumenical Center for Clergy Renewal Program (ECCSR). 16 other pastors from across the United States and 1 pastor from the UK gathered to be refreshed and renewed by God’s Word. The 11 days had been designed to provide us with an opportunity to listen deeply – to God, to our own spirit and to one another. We were immersed into the sacred rhythms of the Benedictine community at Holy Wisdom. Each day was anchored in the liturgy of the hours where scripture, prayer and devotional readings illumined our spirits. We were reintroduced to spiritual disciplines that lead us into deep places of listening to and resting in God’s lifegiving presence. And the sacred landscape of the prairies invited us into the blessings of creation and the gifts found in nature.

We were encouraged to listen to our spirits. Pay attention to the places in our heart that are yearning for support and renewal. We were captivated by the Benedictine Spirituality in the 21st Century. By calling us back to prayer throughout the day, St. Benedict recognized that all time is holy and any time is a moment when we may encounter God. Benedictine spirituality attunes us to an awareness of the divine in the ordinary. In a world where alienation and suspicion of the stranger runs deep, Benedict’s respect for all persons and valuing all persons equally can heal our enmity with one another. In a world torn by violence Benedict’s emphasis on “right relationships” can put us on a path toward justice and peace. The Benedictine

ecumenical community emphasizes the value of prayer, hospitality, justice and care for the earth into a shared way of life. It is my hope that I can introduce you to these values and spiritual practices that enhances these values. In doing so, as your pastor, and with the guiding of the Holy Spirit, I pray that these values and practices will lead you into a deeper relationship with God, self and others, so all may experience the unforced rhythms of grace.

Yours in Christ + *Pastor Tammy*

The Fall: Losing and Recovering our Sacred Relationships?

The creation parable tells of early humans, Adam and Eve making selfish decisions while living in the Garden of Eden, their gifted paradise. As a consequence, it forever cost them their special relationships with their Creator, their paradise, and with their fellow humans. One common interpretation is that early humans forfeited a Heavenly life on Earth. Some mystics say that's where Heaven truly is and it can be recovered. Adam's and Eve's blissful life vanished, and they came to discover that they were in a different place, far away from the paradise of Eden.



The parable is about the importance and fragility of our relationships. It's about how we humans can move either closer to or further away from a utopian heaven depending on how we value and nurture our spiritual and physical relationships with our creator, fellow humans, and our home, i.e. the rest of earthly creation. Can we discover and recover Heaven on earth by seeking loving relationships with one another, all of creation, and God? Isn't that what Jesus taught? It may be argued that ALL of these relationships must be simultaneously cherished and nurtured and in good repair in order to find that sacred physical and spiritual place. Look around, and ask if we latter day Adams and Eves are climbing toward or are falling ever further away from our gifted Garden of Eden. God help us to help ourselves do better at these sacred relationships. We have immense responsibilities that precede our rights.

~ Submitted by Bill Mattson

*“I am the living bread
that came down from heaven.
Whoever eats of this bread
will live forever;
and the bread that I will give
for the life of the world
is my flesh.”*

~John 6:51



Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

I remember my First Communion on Easter Sunday of my 5th grade year of school. On the Maundy Thursday previous, our community of faith gathered for a Seder Meal and even though it was Lent, I had an Epiphany. That meal, coupled with the worship experiences of The Three Days (also called The Triduum: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday with Easter Vigil), connected the dots in my 11-year-old mind to the chronology of the passion story. Calling Holy Communion the “last supper” actually made sense for the first time. One would think that this would have been obvious, but I confess it was not. Until that Maundy Thursday Seder, I didn’t quite understand the flow and connectedness of Jesus’ last hours. When Easter Sunday came, there were two worship services

with a brunch in between. I had to stay for both services, so I went to communion twice that morning. My parents thought that was funny and I remember not really understanding why.

I would guess most of us have a First Communion story. And those who are older will remember when Holy Communion was celebrated far less frequently – annually even, then maybe monthly, then every other week, and for many of our congregations, our pre-pandemic rhythm was weekly.

For the last thirty years or so, our church body has encouraged weekly communion so that people will be reminded with a clear and tangible sign, a sign they can taste and touch, that Christ is with them, and they are forgiven and loved. After all, this news is so good it is just that difficult to believe. We need to be reminded regularly. In the words of Luther, “This is most certainly true.”

But then the pandemic made worshiping together in person unwise. And what is Holy Communion without the gathered assembly?

Faithful people tried to answer this question in consideration of our theological traditions and in new practices meant to meet the challenges.

- Some fasted until we could gather again, relying on the presence of Christ in the Word proclaimed, personal devotions, and Bible study through online or written communications.
- Some provided a combination of online worship followed by communion offered in the parking lot, referred to by some as “drive through communion.”
- Some encouraged online viewers to provide their own elements at home, bread and juice/wine, which was consumed during an online communion service where people were gathered virtually.
- Some encouraged bringing your own elements to parking lot worship, broadcasted through a short-range FM transmitter, so people were able to worship together, separately in their cars.
- Many gathered for worship outside and came up with creative ways to safely distribute the elements, including the newly invented “communion pods” with wafer and juice prepackaged.

How much of these new practices will continue post-pandemic remains to be seen. As we enter August, our gospel readings will highlight the words of Jesus regarding his identity as the Bread of Life and the importance of eating and drinking in memory of him. Week after week we will hear about Jesus and bread and body and blood. I do believe it is not uncommon for weekly preachers to feel like they have nothing left to say about Jesus and bread by the third week.

With our gospel readings so focused on Jesus as the Bread of Life in the coming weeks, and as the Church emerges from pandemic challenges and begins to reestablish former practices, now is a good time to consider again what is Holy Communion and how do we best honor its practice so that what we do and think and is “good, right, and salutary.”

In October, as part of Lifelong Faith Formation, I invite you to join me in reflecting on how our sacramental theology has been challenged or affirmed by pandemic practices and wrestle together over questions that the pandemic has brought to the fore. For example:

- Can I record the service and press replay at the consecration part so I can have communion at home at a time when it's more convenient?
- Do we still need a pastor if our dad has been blessing the elements at home?
- If a TV preacher had tried to offer communion during their program pre-pandemic, there would have been a holy uproar. Why has that changed?
- What have people found to be most meaningful? What has fallen short of that?
- If I don't have communion every week, or if I missed it for many weeks, will God hold that against me?
- What are the pros and cons of having weekly Holy Communion?
- What effects has the pandemic had on people's understanding of the presence of Christ in and out of the community of faith?
- What is non-negotiable for communion to be holy?

As a kid, I was glad when there wasn't Holy Communion because then there would be a children's sermon – a concession, I'm guessing, to those who were concerned with the length of the worship time. As a young adult, I found that I missed communion if it wasn't offered, but also found the liturgy of the weekly communion service to not leave a whole lot of room for any other creative worship ideas. During the pandemic, I found that I preferred to wait until I could eat and drink with the Body of Christ, that is, my siblings in Christ as the gathered assembly. For me, anything less than that felt, well...less than. And I found it was important to me to give and receive the words “for you” on a one-to-one basis and not collectively.

During the pandemic, our congregations and pastors have done their best to navigate all the questions and decisions that the pandemic demanded. It has not been easy. I have taken comfort in remembering that this is Christ's church and whatever mistakes we made in the last year, God will have another 100 years to correct before the next major pandemic strikes. However, I do believe there is room for us, as people of faith who love our church, to pause and reflect on what we believe are the essential components of our worshipping life. Whether this reflection happens in your own devotions, with a group in your congregations, or as part of our Synod wide conversation, I believe there will be blessing.

Jesus commands us to eat and drink. Add to that the promise of his presence, and we have more than enough reason to desire a spot at the Lord's Table. In good Lutheran tradition, that invites the engagement of both head and heart, we are blessed to wrestle with the question...and ask it again...what does this mean?

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

Holy Communion

Holy Communion will be served the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, when pastor is present. It will also be offered the week following the 1st and 3rd Sundays by calling pastor and making an appointment.



GROUNDING IN GRACE

SABBATH GROUND

By Angela !Khabele

This month I chose to write about sabbath-keeping because I thought it could be a therapeutic activity that might even lead to firmer sabbath disciplines in my life. However, as I began to engage the topic, I quickly realized that my understanding of sabbath was largely superficial. I considered my sabbath day to be my day off—one that instantly filled with errands, doctor appointments, housework, quality time with family and maybe a true-crime show on TV.

My so-called sabbath day was packed with activity. My “day off” from church was actually a “day on” at home.

Clearly sabbath means more than time away from our places of employment. During this past year, many of us have been in our homes and away from our jobs, but I doubt we’ve experienced much sabbath rest. Instead, this has been a stressful time for a host of reasons. So, I asked myself, “What was the primary intent for sabbath?”

God provides us with the original sabbath blueprint at creation, when God rests on the seventh day (Genesis 2:2-3). God also commands God’s people to honor the sabbath day and keep it holy (Exodus 20:8).

What does this mean for us today? Is sabbath for prayer? Should sabbath time be reserved only for God? Self? Family? All of the above? Or is sabbath something else altogether?

Jesus tells us, “The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath” (Mark 2:27). Therefore, by Gospel definition, sabbath practices may vary from person to person. In fact, individuals may need different sabbath rituals for different times or situations in their lives.

There are times when I need sabbath *from* and times when I need sabbath *to*. Some of us need sabbath *from* negativity—news media, negative self-talk, toxic relationships, etc. Sometimes I need sabbath *from* the expectations of others, to have all the answers or to be the perfect wife, mother, pastor, etc. And we need sabbath *to*—sabbath to rest, to dream, to play, to write, to simply be.

Sometimes I wonder if an entire sabbath day is feasible. How many of us can take time off from work



As our country searches for a new normal, we seem busier than ever.

and home for one day *each* week? What about caregivers of children, parents or partners? For some of us, having an entire sabbath day is a privilege. Could that be God’s original intention—sabbath for some?

If a sabbath day seems out of reach, perhaps sabbath moments are possible throughout the day. I wear a fitness tracker that reminds me to move around every hour. Maybe we could employ a similar approach to sabbath-keeping. Designate two minutes every hour to breathe deeply, pray quietly, use a finger labyrinth, listen to your favorite song or engage in some activity that you find peaceful. This is a holy moment.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel (1907-1972), a prominent Jewish theologian, often said that the meaning of the sabbath is to celebrate time rather than space. He also described the sabbath as “a sanctuary in time.”

As our country searches for a new normal, we seem busier than ever. I hope that, while we move ahead, we will continue with the positive practices we gained over the past year, such as staying home more, driving less, developing innovative solutions and staying in touch with loved ones.

Clearly, I don’t have all of the answers, but I know this much is true: whatever brings you joy, gives you life and strengthens you to face another day—this is your sabbath activity.

The psalmist declares, “In [God’s] presence, there is fullness of joy” (Psalm 16:11). So, if something brings life-giving joy, God is in the midst of it. Dwell there, whether for an entire day or for two minutes every hour. Find your sabbath ground and rest in it for a while. After all, the sabbath was made for you! †

Thank You for Serving

Thank you to Terry Strong for mowing the grass in August.

Thank you to JoAnne Barrix who assisted in the office as we were in the process of hiring a new Administrative Assistant.

Thank you to Randy Barthels who continues to be the custodian and keep the church clean.

Thank you to the Tuesday Morning Crew, John Plautz, Gene Frane, Glenn Johnson, and Bill D'Aprix who maintain the property.

Thank you to Dianne Syms for organizing the school kit collection for Lutheran World Relief and thank you to all of those who donated to the school kit cause.

Thank you to our wonderful musicians that continue to record music for Sunday worship.

Thank you to Deb Rinka, Kathy Maule and Karen Bergsbaken who keep up the perennial garden and flowers.

Thank you to Kris White for baking bread and being the Altar Guild for July and August.

Thank you to Kari Britton for saying "Yes" to the Administrative Assistant position. Welcome Kari!!

Thank you to all who donate flowers to adorn the altar on Sunday morning.

Thank you to all who volunteer to usher, read, communion assist, count, and open and close. (We are still in need of volunteers! If you can assist, please call the office at 715-362-5910)

*Thank you to all members of Immanuel who continue to use their gifts and talents to further the kingdom of God. (Especially those who work behind the scenes and are not seen.)
You are appreciated!!*



Our sympathies to the family of Betty Brietzman.
Betty passed away on July 11th. A graveside memorial service will be held on Friday, September 17th at 9:00 a.m. at Northland Memorial Cemetery.
Our sympathies go out to Lisa Kroll and family on the death of Lisa's mom.

Pastoral care

Pastor is willing to visit you in your home, wearing a mask and social distancing. If you would like to have her give you a home visit, please call the office to schedule a time.



National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAMI Northern Lakes

Providing support, education and advocacy for people living with mental illness and their families in Forest, Oneida, and Vilas Counties. Monthly meetings: open to anyone; 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at First Methodist Church, Rhinelander. Northern Lakes Center located in Trinity Lutheran Church, Rhinelander.

WE ARE OPEN AGAIN!!!! OUR HOURS ARE MONDAY TO FRIDAY 11 AM TO 3 PM.

DUE TO CURRENT CONCERNS WITH ONEIDA COUNTY COVID CASES, MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR EVERYONE WHO ENTERS REGARDLESS OF VACCINE STATUS.

Please call Linda at [715-420-1700](tel:715-420-1700) or e-mail at northernlakescenter@gmail.com if you are in need of anything.

Wish List

Frederick Place

Most Needed Items

1. Lamps
2. Iphone charging cords with "brick"
3. Liquid dishwasher soap
4. Extension cords
5. Silverware
6. Casserole dishes
7. Ear buds
8. Jump drives



Household items are given to residents when they leave Frederick Place so have to be replaced often



Providing Safe
Housing & Basic
Needs ♥ Promoting
Self-Sufficiency &
Independent Living



204 West Frederick Street
Rhinelander, WI 54501
Office Phone: (715) 369-9777
FAX: (715) 369-5174
nathnorthwoods@gmail.com
www.nathnorthwoods.com



Coming the Fall of 2021!!!

You are invited! These events will include idea generating conversation, encourage creative solutions, and offer the blessing of being church together with other congregations in your area. You are welcome to attend an event in a neighboring Conference, and next year, Conferences 1,2,4, and 6 will host.

<u>Conference</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
3 Headwaters	9/19	12:30 pm CT	Immanuel, Rhinelander
5 Menominee Valley	9/18	9:30 am CT	Porterfield, Porterfield
7 Three Lakes	9/26	3:30 pm ET	Faith, Sault Ste. Marie
8 Superior Central	9/16	5:30 pm ET	Messiah, Marquette

DON'T MISS IT!!

The Synod Staff and Conference leadership are planning a positive and energizing event.

Please plan on observing current Covid protocols.

Come and see what it's all about!



We are in Conference 3.

Please sign up below so we know how many are attending:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Pastor/Council President, please call in your numbers to the Synod Office one week before your event.

Thank You!

Please call the office if you would like to attend this event.

Lawn Mowing

We are looking for volunteers to mow lawn at church in October.

If you are interested, please call the church office @ 715-362-5910 or email immanuelsecretary2015@gmail.com



THE LIFE HE PROMISES WILL PREVAIL

By Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton

I planted a garden last summer during the pandemic. Here in Chicago, March and April 2020 were cold and dreary. And it snowed. All around us was the oppressive reality of COVID-19: the lockdown, the fear, the daily grim statistics of rising cases and deaths, the isolation. I longed for a project that would look to the future and be life-giving. A garden would be just the thing.

I planted green beans and tomatoes, basil and lavender. I even planted raspberry canes, which turned out to be a challenge because there was a run on them—everybody must have been planting their own patch of Eden. I also planted petunias for a splash of color. When all was in, I admired the colors and waited for vegetables to grow.

With human beings in quarantine, the rest of creation had a chance to breathe and thrive. The smog had abated so much in India that people could see the Himalayas for the first time in decades. Penguins roamed the streets of Cape Town, South Africa, and mountain goats strolled through towns in Wales. I heard coyotes howling at night in my urban neighborhood. Rabbits and squirrels had the run of the place. At first this was a welcome sign of life flourishing despite the pandemic. But soon the rabbits and squirrels became brazen, and they turned their attention to my garden.

The squirrels chewed the raspberry canes down to a nub. The rabbits treated my petunia bed and green beans like an all-you-can-eat salad bar. Just as the tomatoes were beginning to ripen, the squirrels took them right off the vine. It was maddening. I tried all kinds of deterrents—Tabasco sauce mixed with dish soap, chunks of Irish Spring soap tied to stakes, constant vigilance—all to no avail. I even considered the possibility of an air rifle, but I'm pretty sure that there is an ordinance prohibiting the discharge of weapons in the city limits.

Legend has it that Martin Luther once said: "If I knew that the world were to come to an end tomorrow, I would plant an apple tree today."

Eventually I came to believe that the rabbits and squirrels had formed an unholy alliance and were organizing against me. My suspicions were confirmed when I found tiny copies of *Watership Down* (the rabbit liberation manifesto) tucked in the bushes. All that was standing by the end of the season was the lavender, which I found remarkable because I was sure they would have taken the opportunity to fashion little wreathes to adorn their burrows and nests. To add insult to injury, the rabbits kept producing more little bunnies. They were adorable! Darn it!

I planted a garden this summer. Green beans, tomatoes, lavender, basil, zucchini, sage, rosemary and thyme. Flowers will follow soon. The rabbit and squirrel populations are robust, and it doesn't help that my husband feeds the squirrels and has given them names. I thought about constructing a garden compound topped with razor wire, but I'm not going to do that. I will try the traditional methods of Tabasco sauce, dish soap, Irish Spring soap and vigilance. I will also place some fencing around the green beans and tomatoes. And I will hope.

Legend has it that Martin Luther once said: "If I knew that the world were to come to an end tomorrow I would plant an apple tree today." This is a powerful statement of faith in the God who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the confidence that, when "he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end" (Nicene Creed), God will restore all of creation and this will be a good end.

This is the faith which declares that through pandemics, droughts, floods, famine, deadly bigotry, war, all the death-dealing things in nature and the human heart, life—the abundant life that Jesus promises—will prevail.

Plant something in the summer.

***A monthly message from the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
Her email address is bishop@elca.org.***

BY FAITH WE STAND FIRM: MINISTRY IN THE ERA OF COVID VARIANTS

A Returning to Church Supplement

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God.

– 2 Corinthians 1:3.4 (NRSV)



INTRODUCTION

By Faith We Stand Firm is a continuation of the Wisconsin Council of Churches' ongoing guidance to churches for how to make safer choices during the COVID-19 pandemic. We say safer choices, because no choice is definitively safe. We can only mitigate risk, not eliminate it altogether. This document builds on the recommendations contained in Returning to Church 2.0, released in January 2021 and its successor documents Bearing with One Another in Love and Love Builds Up, released in spring 2021.

We note several circumstances necessitating a more comprehensive update to our guidance:

- A decline in the number of COVID cases almost to the threshold of “Safer” or “Safest” levels in our earlier guidance in early summer, followed by a rapid increase in cases in midsummer due in large part to the delta variant.
- Societal pressure to return to what seems normal and familiar.
- Stagnation in vaccination rates at approximately 50% of the population, with notable disparities by race, age, and other personal characteristics. The rapid escalation of the delta variant of COVID to be the predominant strain in Wisconsin, with increased transmissibility and impact upon the unvaccinated, as well as an uptick in breakthrough infections among the vaccinated.
- Significant turnover in clergy leadership due to the stresses of ministry in the time of COVID, including difficulty accessing support from extended family and other communities of care where they are in ministry. A refresher on the fundamentals of ministry safety during COVID for every community is timely. Support and mutual trust is vital if we are to prevent rapid turnover and the exit of even more clergy from ministry in the years to come.

The Immanuel COVID Advisory Team continues to utilize the information provided by the WI Council of Churches to guide us in making informed decisions regarding COVID precautions. For a review of this whole document, please go to:

<https://www.wichurches.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/By-Faith-We-Stand-Firm-final.pdf>

COUNCIL MINUTES

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Meeting Minutes: July 14, 2021

Council Members Present: President: Matt Johnson, Vice-President: Becky Eades, Secretary: JoAnne Barrix, Glenn Johnson, Darlene Machtan, Jackie Waldorf, Gene Frane, Mary Wolf, Deb Rinka.

Opening

President Matt opened the virtual meeting at 6:04 PM.

Devotion by Mary Wolf: From Psalm 91:1-2 Thank God for protecting us, especially if it is from something we may wish for. Have trust in God's love.

Action – Motion/Second/Carried... Approved the minutes from the June 9, 2021 Council Meeting

Action – Motion/Second/Carried... Approved the minutes from the June 24, 2021 Council Meeting

Pastor's Report: Noted as submitted. Pastor Tammy is attending an Ecumenical Clergy Spiritual Renewal Program.

Long Term Items: (Great Commission Schedule and Constitution article C12.04)

Care for (love) one another: Fellowship Serve Give (3xyr): Glenn suggested that our caring for one another may need some strengthening in regard to communication about those that currently need special care.

Administer and oversee financial affairs and budget (quarterly): There was a slight dip in the giving for the month of June that is predictable. It was reported that our treasurer has no concerns.

Evaluate Ministry (2xyr):

- a. The youth ministry position has been clarified.
- b. COVID recommendations: The COVID team recommended one of two options regarding masks and congregational singing. **Action – Motion/Second:** A motion was made to sing and not wear masks. There was much discussion regarding safety and what other congregations are doing. Motion **Failed** by a 3 to 5 vote against. At this point Deb Rinka joined the meeting. **Action – Motion/Second:** A motion was made to allow singing and have masks be optional. Motion **Carried** by a 5 to 4 vote in favor. **Action – Motion/Second/Carried:** A motion was made to recommend masking as a best practice. We will phase this into worship after Pastor Tammy returns.
- c. \$300 synod grant: We received a grant from synod. **Action – Motion/Second/ Carried:** A motion was made to split the \$300 equally between NATH and RAFF.

Short Term Items:

Old Business: None

New Business:

Action – Motion/Second/ Carried: Moved to accept Kristine Mladucky and Stan and Julie Vanden Berg as new members.

Action – Motion/Second/Carried: Moved to hire Kari Britton as the new Administrative Assistant for 16 hours per week at \$15.00 per hour. Kari comes to us with many years of experience as a church administrative assistant. We welcome her.

Action – Motion/Second/Carried: Moved to spend \$417.00 for mandatory elevator maintenance. We will clarify exactly what is covered in our maintenance contract.

Opening closing schedule: **Action – Motion/Second/Carried:** Moved to start monthly assignments in September. JoAnne will cover July 25th and Matt will send out an email to get weekly volunteers for August

Live-Stream help: It was recommended that whoever opens and closes also does the live-stream. Matt will talk to Cory and Charlie about training council members for this task as no other volunteers have come forward.

Committee Actions:

Darlene had an idea for the September 12, God's Work our Hands Sunday – She has talked to several musicians about a Christian music concert. She has arranged for the shell at River Walk Center and has a volunteer that would provide sound equipment and run it. Our band would perform as well as other local musicians. It would be from 1 to 3 in the afternoon with a potential rain date on September 19th after the Headwaters Conference meeting. Youth would collect free will donations and sell concessions. Proceeds would go to the youth for their annual gathering. Darlene and Brittany are leading the charge.

Pastor has a Theological Conference at Fortune Lake on August 18-20

There will potentially be a youth bike ride on September 18th.

Headwaters Conference meeting is on September 19th.

Next scheduled meeting: August 11, 2021 Devotion: Glenn Johnson

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM after closing prayer.

Closing Prayer: Mary closed with a prayer giving thanks for God's protection

Respectfully Submitted,
JoAnne Barrix, Council Secretary

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Let us introduce ourselves, John & Kristine Mladucky. It's not a typo, our name is spelled correctly, Mladucky (Mmm-laducky). John and I were born and raised in S.E. Wisconsin and grew up vacationing "Up North" with our respective families. Married since 1987, moving 11 times (between Wisconsin 5x, Washington 3x, Oklahoma, Illinois, and Georgia), we are ready to stay put! Almost 20 years ago we jumped on an opportunity to purchase our own cottage on the Clear Lake end of Lake Mildred and are now calling it home.

My husband, John, continues to work for Georgia Pacific, but the fish are calling him and he plans on retiring sooner than later. I am happily retired and enjoy expanding my interests that allow me to improve our cottage home. We are empty nesters, except for our best 4-legged walking partner, Polar (who motivates us to get moving no matter what the weather is). Our oldest son, John R., lives in Portland, ME with his wife Alayna. Our daughter, Janessa, lives in Park City, UT and is getting married to Eric next year! Our youngest child, Jacob, is in Heaven and passed from complications of a genetic disease, Spinal Muscular Atrophy when he was 7 months. We look forward to getting to know you and growing our faith, family and friends.



Did you know...?

Limits. Sounds like scarcity, restrictions and negativity. However, limits and stewardship of our limits are actually gifts from God. Limits can give us messages about who we are and what it is that God wants us to do. Limits give us the gift of rest and trust in God. God knows about limits because Jesus took on human form with all of its limits. Jesus needed rest and time away. Jesus exercised limits when he walked away from some places, situations and people. Jesus empowered others and sent them out. So, limits can bring gifts of connection, community, knowing who we are, trust, rest, and ideas for new possibilities.



Facing and stewarding limits as a congregation might feel pretty scary. The pandemic has placed many limits on our church community. Worship is limited. Communion is limited. Fellowship is limited. But we need to look at our limits with compassion and trust in God. This can help us understand where and to whom God is calling us and may even revive our sense of mission. Steward limits that have been revealed to you with gentleness and look for how they reveal God's abundance. Limits are messages to rest, trust in God and seek connection. Limits are messages that God's abundance includes peace, hope, faith and love. When we gently respect our limits we start to see all that we really have and that who we are and what we have is more than enough.

...This is Stewardship!

JoAnne Barrix

Year of Discovery Task Force Update

At our May 2021 Synod Assembly, our Northern Great Lakes Synod strongly passed a "Resolution on the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery." The Doctrine of Discovery was one of the foundations to justify colonization and mistreatment of Indigenous people in the name of the Christian church. As part of the Synod Assembly week, we hosted a listening panel as five tribal members were able to share their personal stories. For many members of our synod, this might have been their first exposure to the issues facing our Native Americans siblings.

Many people are now asking the question, "Now what?"

The Task Force on the Year of Discovery continues to meet and discuss intentional ways to engage with our Indigenous siblings in our area. We are discerning that relationships with the various tribes in our synod are best done on the local tribal level. Each tribe has their own unique opportunities and challenges. So, we are encouraging those local relationships and understandings rather than one "synod-wide" strategy.

Here's a quick summary of some of those local efforts:

- Pastor Dave Van Kley, Pastor Bre Kinnunen, and Dr. Mike Coyne have met with leaders at the Center for Native American Studies at Northern Michigan University. They listened to what is going on at NMU and in the Marquette community and some important priorities.
- Assistant to the Bishop, Jim Duehring attended a Native Justice Coalition event in Rapid River, Michigan. He heard about the realities of "Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples."
- Bishop Katherine Finegan and Pastor Bucky Beach and Pastor Julie Belew attended a Water Walk as part of the Pow Wow week with the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community in Baraga, Michigan.
- Pastor Melinda VanderSys is working to establish a network in the Eastern U.P.
- Pastor Grant Van Lishout from the Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center in Arbor Vitae, Wisconsin reports that Marywood is already engaging in dialogue with the Lac du Flambeau tribe in Northern Wisconsin.
- Pastor Scott Ehle is building relationships with the Native community in Menominee, Michigan.
- Pastor Bucky Beach, Pastor Julie Belew and Jeff Henquinet continue to work in the Copper Country (U.P.) and with KBIC.
- And, we are beginning to develop contacts in the Rapid River, Michigan area.

To learn more details about these activities of engagement, see this article on our website:

<https://nglsynod.org/dataarchive/ngls/pdf2021/YearofDiscoveryTaskForceUpdateAugust2021.pdf?swcfpc=1>

We also know of pastors and lay people from our synod who have engaged in developing relationships with tribal people for many years. We all have so more to learn from each other. God's Spirit of love and hope is going before us.

"Stewardship's Flip-side: Recognizing and Removing Obstacles to Generosity"



Rev. Richard Wehrs

ELCA Regional Manager for MIF (Mission Investment Fund)

Saturday, September 11, 2021

12 pm CT: lunch at the Fortune Lake Dining Hall

1-3:30 pm CT: workshop at the Fortune Lake Dining Hall

This event is scheduled to be in-person at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp but will also be recorded and available on the NGLS YouTube channel. Lunch will be provided, so please be sure to RSVP to Pastor Jim (details below).

Cost: FREE! Open to everyone!

RSVP by Tuesday, August 31, 2021:

Your RSVP is required to properly plan for lunch and meeting space. Please contact Pastor Jim Duehring at (906) 228-2300 or jduehring@nclsynod.org no later than Tuesday, August 31.

Description:

Too often our church stewardship is focused solely on the church member's obligation to give – and fails to recognize the church's obligations to its donor base. This workshop will focus on the 12 "donor confidence" factors which can either bolster or undermine your congregation's stewardship efforts. Learn what you can do, throughout the year, to reduce the gap between your contributors' financial *capacity*, and their financial *will*, by learning from the non-profit fundraising industry.

Presenter information:

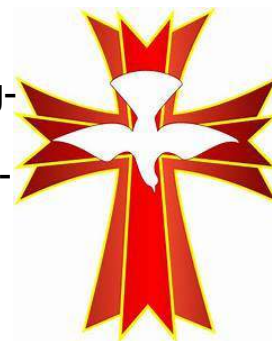
Pastor Richard Wehrs is our Regional Manager for the ELCA Mission Investment Fund, working with 13 synods in the states of Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky. He brings to this position extensive experience as a consultant in church stewardship, fundraising, building projects and strategic planning, having worked with scores of congregations around the country over the last 16 years.

Lodging:

Lodging costs on your own. If you need overnight lodging, please contact Fortune Lake directly at (906) 214-2267 to inquire about options.

Confirmation class begins on September 15th

Any students entering the 6th grade should call the office and register. Confirmation classes include youth who are in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. (and 9th graders being confirmed on Reformation Sunday October 31st) Classes will meet the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month from 6-7:30.



Welcome to Lifelong Faith Formation!

The Northern Great Lakes Synod offers a diverse series of online classes for adults who want to increase their knowledge and understanding of the Bible, church history, Lutheran Theology, contemporary Christian issues, and more. Launched in 2020, Lifelong Faith Formation, evolved from the synod's Lay School for Mission.

Fall Semester 2021

While pandemic restrictions have eased, these are still uncertain times. The Synod will continue to offer online classes this fall. **Two special notes:** First, some people may meet as a group out of their own congregations. Second, last year we realized that online learning presents an opportunity to connect people from across the synod—people who share a love of learning and have discovered that adult studies help them to grow in faith. **Classes are FREE**, but may require the purchase of textbooks or other materials (details below). Students will receive Zoom links from their instructor. For more information or to ask questions, please contact Deacon Lori Ward at (615) 519-1969 or lori.ward@nglsynod.org.



Ezekiel Bible Study with Pastor Tommy Richter of Zion, Manistique

Every Thursday, September 16-November 4 (8 weeks) from 7-8 ET / 6-7 CT

Intermediate Greek with Pastor Nicole Hanson-Lynn of Salem & Zion, Ironwood

Every Sunday, September 19 — November 21 (9 weeks, no class November 7) from 7-8 pm ET / 6-7 pm CT

An Introduction to Family Systems Thinking with Pastor Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop/Director for Evangelical Mission

Thursday, September 23 (1 session) from 7-8:30 pm ET / 6-7:30 pm CT

Materials needed for this class: none

Walking Together: Companionship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania with Luanne and Rev. Thomas Skrenes

Every Thursday, September 30—November 4 (6 weeks) from 5-6 pm ET / 4-5 pm CT

Recommended resource for this class: *Africans and Americans: Embracing Cultural Differences* by Joseph Mbele

Book Study of Friedman's Fables: "Metaphors for Family Systems Thinking" with Pastor Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop/Director for Evangelical Mission

Saturdays, October 2, October 9, October 23 and November 6 (4 sessions) at 11 am ET / 10 am CT Materials needed for this class: *Friedman's Fables* by Rabbi Edwin Friedman

Holy Communion Post-Pandemic: What, When, Where, Who and Why with Bishop Katherine Finegan

Monday, October 11 and Monday, October 18 (2 weeks) from 7-8:30 pm ET / 6-7:30 pm CT

Youth Retreat Opportunities

CAMP IS NOT JUST FOR SUMMER!

Fortune Lake offers retreats throughout the year where people come to unwind, refresh their spirits, connect with others, and learn new things.



FORTUNE LAKE
A place of grace in Crystal Falls, MI

Youth Retreat for Grades 3-6

This fast-paced overnight will cram in games, Bible studies, new and old friends, and loads of general silliness! It's perfect for first-timers or returners who can't wait 'til next summer. Bring a group from your church!

January 17-19 (20): Winter Wonderland Retreat

This snowy getaway will include sledding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and possibly even ice skating. Downhill packages for Ski Brule can be purchased for an additional fee. Prefer indoor activities? The sauna will be lit, the hot drinks will abound, with board games aplenty!

February 7-8 : Junior High & High School Youth Retreat

Come to camp in the winter to reconnect with God, reunite with other campers and former staff, and rejuvenate your faith. There will be camp-style worship, saunas, authentic conversation, and (maybe?) sleep.

Please let Brittany know if you are interested in attending any of these retreats at brittanylandphier@gmail.com!

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
invites you to our outdoor

GIG for GOD

a free ecumenical Christian community concert

**SUNDAY,
SEPT. 12
NOON –
3:30 P.M.**

**RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, SEPT. 19,
3:30-7 P.M.**

MUSIC PROVIDED BY

- Immanuel Lutheran Church with Mike Allen
- Mary Peterson (First Congregational choir director leading traditional hymn sing-along)
- Tom Nelson and Dianne Mueller
- Rhinelander Male Chorus
- Vince Strong
- Calvary Baptist Church
- Amanda Anderson
- Northwoods Choraliers

Freewill offerings
will be divided
between the
Rhinelander Area
Food Pantry and
Immanuel Youth
Group.

**LOCATION:
TRIGS
RIVERWALK**

For more information: www.immanuelrhinelander.org/gig

Immanuel Hosts Gig For God Ecumenical Concert September 12, Noon to 3:30

“Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands!
Serve the Lord with gladness;
Come before His presence with singing.”
(Psalm 100, 1-2)

One of the things that drew me to Immanuel from the very beginning was the music. I loved the piano, the organ, the band, the choir, the hymns. The church rang with joy every service from the prelude to the postlude, and as a lover of both instrumental and vocal song, I found it both contemplative and uplifting. I was amazed by the enormous talent our small congregation possessed and so selflessly shared.

I had been thinking for a while about making that musical experience available to the community at large, and as God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday approached once again, I thought, “How about an ecumenical Christian concert?” So...Sunday, September 12, from noon to 3:30, eight acts will join together in a massive Gig for God. Be sure to bring a lawn chair or picnic blanket to the concert at the Rhinelander Riverwalk Bandshell adjacent to Trig’s. Admission is free, but donations and concession sales will be divided between the Immanuel Youth Group and Rhinelander Area Food Pantry. Congregants are also encouraged to make a special offering of cash or non-perishable food items at Immanuel the day of the concert. The Butcher Shop Bake Company is donating cookies and brownies to add to the deliciousness of the day.

Performers include the Immanuel band; Mary Peterson, First Congregational Church choir director leading a hymn sing-along; Tom Nelson & Dianne Mueller; Rhinelander Male Chorus; Vince Strong; Calvary Baptist Church; Amanda Anderson; and the Northwoods Choraliers. Each group will share 20-30 minutes of music as an expression of faith.

Sincerest thanks to Mike Allen for providing the sound system, to Cory Dellenbach for help with publicity and Thrivent seed money, the Riverwalk Bandshell for the venue, to the city council for waiving the music permit fee, to the many musicians and volunteers who are making this event possible, and to all who attend. Please encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to join us for a lovely afternoon of almost 50 musicians doing God’s Work with their hands, making a joyful shout to the Lord, feeding the hungry, and encouraging a deepening faith in both our youth and community.

Rain date is September 19, 3 to 6:30 p.m. Pray for good weather!

RHINELANDER AREA FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Here is our food pantry crew
for the month of July!
Thank you so much to all
who volunteer!!



**RHINELANDER AREA FOOD PANTRY
HARVEST HOEDOWN**

WAGON RIDES KIDS GAMES	LIVE MUSIC GOOD FOOD	
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 25TH 11AM TO 5PM	THE WOODPECKER BAR & GRILL 6776 COUNTY ROADK RHINELANDER	
	CRAFT & BAKE SALE	RAFFLE AND MORE!
FAMILY FUN! FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK		
SPONSORED BY: COVANTAGE CREDIT UNION GFWC RHINELANDER WOMAN'S CLUB WXPR PUBLIC RADIO		FREE ADMISSION!

The 6th Annual
RAFP Harvest
Hoedown will be a
great day of
live music,
good food,
local crafters,
bake sale,
wagon rides,
kids activities
and more!
Join us on
Saturday,
September 25th at
the Woodpecker
Bar & Grill from
11am to 5pm.

WORD OF THE MONTH

Statio: The Holy Pause

Statio is a monastic custom born centuries ago that holds gifts for today. Statio is the practice of stopping one thing before we begin another. It is the time between times. It is a cure for the revolving door mentality that is common in a culture that runs on wheels. In monastic spirituality it is common for the community to gather outside of chapel in silence before beginning prayer or at least to gather for a few minutes together in the chapel (sanctuary) itself before intoning the opening hymn (or confession).



Thank you for the Warm Welcome....

My name is Kari Britton. I am a lifelong resident of Rhinelander, moving here when I was six months old, and living here all but 3 years of my life. My parents were Karen and Lynn Eggman for those of you who may have known them. I am married to my wonderful husband, Eric, who is a Disabled Army Veteran and Store Specialist at Charter Spectrum. Together we have 8 children, his 5 and my 3. My oldest daughter Tricia is a paramedic for Oneida County EMS and new mom. I have the pleasure of watching my newest granddaughter, Charlotte, on Mondays and Wednesdays. My daughter Hannah is an LPN who has chosen to be a stay at home mom to Bailey, 7, and Jackson, 3. She works part-time as a trail boss at Elmer's Fun Park in the summer. My youngest is Karter. He is 14 and a freshman in high school and active in hockey and other sports. My step-children are Brittney and Karl and his wife Abbie, who live in Florida. Stephen and Rainne who live in Wisconsin and Eric, Jr. who lives here in Rhinelander and is enrolled in the culinary arts program at Nicolet.



For those of you who knew my parents, my sister Elizabeth was born when I was a sophomore in high school when my mom was in her 40's. I was the same age my mom was when I got pregnant with Karter, Hannah was the same age I was in high school when her brother was born and the ultrasound confirmed Karter was conceived one year to the day my mom was diagnosed with her leukemia. My parents passed away in 2004 and 2005, 9 months apart from each other. Karter is truly a blessing to me, a connection to my parents, and a reminder that those coincidences with my mom's pregnancy are God's handiwork.

I truly believe that God works in the littlest coincidences of our daily lives, our steps, drawing us closer to Him through those experiences. It was the coincidence of JoAnne Barrix behind me in line at Trig's in early July that brought me to Immanuel. *"The mind of man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps."* Proverbs 16:9
I have been so blessed by the warm welcome I have received and look forward to serving along with you as your new Administrative Assistant.

September 2021

Immanuel Lutheran Church 715-362-5910
21 W Timber Drive, Rhinelander

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
					Pastor's Sabbath	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00 Worship Communion	7pm AA & Alanon OFFICE CLOSED	6pm Stewardship	6pm Council		Pastor's Sabbath	10:30-1:00 Food Pantry
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:00 Worship God's Work Our Hands Day GIG for GOD Noon—3:30 Trig's Bandshell	7pm AA & Alanon		Newsletter Articles Due!!! 6pm Confirmation Class begins		Pastor's Sabbath	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00 Worship Communion 12:30pm Conference Walking Together Event Immanuel Host	7pm AA & Alanon		4:30 Meal @ Frederick Place		Pastor's Sabbath	
PASTOR TAMMY ON VACATION September 20—October 4 Pastor Rich Likeness on call—815-713-3431						
26	27	28	29	30		
9:00 Worship	7pm AA & Alanon	10:00 Mocha on the Mount Bible Study				
PASTOR TAMMY ON VACATION September 20—October 4 Pastor Rich Likeness on call—815-713-3431						

All Nursing home worship services are cancelled this month!

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

July 2021

GENERAL FUND:

Beginning Balance	\$21,953.56
Offerings	\$10,853.52
Expenses	(12,224.93)
Ending Balance	\$20,582.15

BENEVOLENCE:

July Offering	\$ 1,134.00
2021 Pledge	\$19,000.00
YTD Remittance	\$11,475.52

BUILDING FUND:

Beginning Balance	\$24,666.47
Offerings	\$ 852.07
Expenses	(\$ 0.00)
Ending Balance	\$25,518.54

Expenses exceeded the income by \$1,371.41.



July Attendance:

	In-person	Online	Total
7/4	13	60	73
7/11	30	63	93
7/18	28	49	77
7/25	26	48	74

Our average worship attendance for the month of July was 79.



9/2	Tina & Jerry Schmitz
9/8	Dianne & Michael Syms
9/19	Sheree & Bryan Kral
9/22	Jean & Quentin Milz
9/19	Kristine & John Mladucky
9/28	Joseph & Stephanie Patrone

9/1	David Dart	9/24	Linda Gary
		9/24	Otto Schoeneck
9/6	Sheree Kral	9/24	Jessica Scholtes
9/8	John Plautz	9/25	Roxine Zunker
9/9	Johanna Dellenbach	9/26	Elizabeth Eades
9/9	Peggy Johnson	9/27	Darlene Machtan
9/17	Alex Fortier	9/28	Scott Scholtes
9/19	Buddy Meek	9/29	Romelle Ewert
9/22	Greg Hargraves	9/30	Heather Morrison
		9/30	Mike Piasecki

May Your Day Be Special!

If you were omitted or listed in error, please contact the church office at 715-362-5910. Thank you!

IMMANUEL'S MESSENGER

21 West Timber Drive
Rhineland, WI 54501

Electronic Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Rhineland, WI
PERMIT NO. 194

**Join us for
in-person worship
Sundays at 9 a.m.
All are Welcome!**

Or join online

1) Through YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYfWH9caWNuzOxf9T9JgecQ> or search Immanuel Rhineland) on YouTube.

2) Through our website: www.immanuelrhineland.org/worship (you'll also find the bulletin and lessons here).

3) Through our phone app. Just click on the "worship" button at the bottom of the screen.

The live stream will begin at about 8:55.