

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church



August 2021

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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 ~ Sanctuary

Exodus 25:8

"And have them make me a sanctuary, so that I may dwell among them."

My Spiritual Director recently introduced me to a new author – Terry Hershey.

Terry is an ordained minister who served as a youth minister, intern minister, and who worked with missionaries across the world. He is the founder of Christian Focus, an organization that provides seminars around the theme of building healthy relationships.

Terry writes a weekly devotion titled "Sabbath Moment" which I receive Monday mornings in my email, but he also is an author of many books. I recently purchased his book: *Sacred Necessities ~ Gifts for Living with Passion, Purpose, and Grace*.

The seven sacred necessities Terry lists for living with passion, purpose and grace are: amazement, sanctuary, stillness, grace, simplicity, resilience and friendship.

Terry starts the chapter on sanctuary with a story, that I would like to share with you.

Each afternoon, the son of a famous rabbi would return home from school, put his backpack on the dining table, and leave the house through the kitchen door. The young boy would run into a wooded area not far away. He spent thirty minutes – give or take – every school day afternoon in the woodland. His father knew of his son's peculiar habit but said nothing. After a matter of weeks, however, the rabbi grew concerned. "Is my son up to mischief?" he wondered. So, he decided to broach the subject.

"Tell me, son," he asked one afternoon after his son returned from his woodland visit. "Why do you spend each afternoon in the woodland? What are you doing out there?"

"Papa," the boy replied, "don't worry. I go to the woodland every day. It is my special space, because there I can talk with God."

"Oh," the father said, visibly relieved. "I am glad to hear it. But you, the son of a rabbi, should know that God is the same everywhere."

"Yes, Papa. I know that God is the same everywhere. But I am not."

(Terry Hershey-Sacred Necessities: Gifts for Living with Passion, Purpose, and Grace, Sorin Books, IN, 2005, pp 53)

Sanctuaries are created with intention. In this place we are nourished and replenished. A place we can withdraw to, like the boy in the story. Sanctuary is about refueling and reconnecting with the One who gives us life. It is a sacred place where we can pay attention to God. A place and a time to listen to what is most deeply beautiful,

nourishing, and true. It is a place where you do not need to perform or accomplish anything. A place where you can just be.

Where is your sacred place? Your sanctuary? Perhaps it is time to revisit and be renewed.

Yours in Christ +

Pastor Tammy



God is Still Speaking—Are we Listening?



As students of the Bible, we diligently ponder and discuss Holy Scriptures, which were derived from oral histories and private revelations put into written word thousands of years ago. These beguiling stories were told in the context of their ancient times as truths revealed by God. Many theologians like Reverend Michael Dowd and Father Richard Rohr assert that God hasn't finished speaking to us and therefore we ought to pay rapt attention lest we miss the Creator's still active voice. On the one hand, it may come to us individ-

ually in the form of intensely private revelations as we wonder and ponder, and as we love, suffer, grieve, and pray. On the other hand, God's speaking also comes to humanity in the form of public revelations, like those revealed from the world's science community. Science employs special methods to discover foundational truths that reveal the facts of Creation. These are verifiable and even beautiful truths that God has revealed to us. Such public revelations can transform our Churches and us because they permit deeper understandings of the ancient Scriptures and they reveal our deep interconnectedness, our oneness with all of Creation. Science isn't at odds with Scripture; it's complementary to Scripture. It reaffirms that we are not merely the Biblical stewards of the Garden, the highest life force responsible for its care; we are its cosmic heart and soul. We are its conscience. Science invariably reveals the truly miraculous, awe-inspiring beauty and ineffable mystery of Creation. And, whenever we are moved to be in deep awe and gratitude, we are spiritually one with God. As Albert Einstein once said, either nothing is a miracle or everything is a miracle. We should pray.

Submitted by Bill Mattson

— Amen —

Removing scales, softening hearts

BY CATHERINE MALOTKY

TEACH US TO SIT IN YOUR GRACE, O GOD, and trust that you do indeed love us.

It is important to me to understand, God, to know and make sense of things. It is important to me to be a good person, one who follows you, who seeks your will, who aligns my life with your good purposes.

So when I am confronted with something damaging to others in your spectacular creation (human and beyond), something long-lived, deep and persistent, it brings me up short, at least inside.

Like when?

- When I realize that so many places I have lived in and/or loved were once the home of Indigenous people, whose land and way of living were nearly extinguished by our assumption that the land was ours to colonize...
- When I learn that yet another African American has the blood of a plantation owner in their DNA, and I think of the young slave he took for his pleasure...
- When I recognize that the fruits and vegetables I eat are picked by people who brave heat and poison to feed their children, and that the low prices I enjoy are only possible because they are paid a pittance...
- When I confront the reality that my neighbors with darker skin are stopped for minor infractions exponentially more often than I am, and that they too often die in the process...
- When I see Asian elders beaten in broad daylight without apparent provocation...
- When yet again I hear from Christians that

my beloved daughter and her wife are an abomination...

- When I see the wild lands burning and the coastlands degrade and the forests dying and the grasslands plowed...

Such moments bring me up short. These truths are not consistent with my understanding of the world we have built. So I rush to defend, to say I didn't know, to ignore, to deflect or blame, to deny. It can't be, can it? Could my own forebears have

elbowed onto Indian land? Could I be enjoying wealth now, four generations in, because my people were advantaged by laws and assumptions that supported them while denying others? Could I harbor deep prejudices that have taken root simply by living in the world I inhabit?

I am learning to answer, "Yes."

Then comes the discomfort of knowing these truths. I want it all to be tidy, to make amends, to solve it now! But "now" is not the timeline, except for my awareness. I am not the savior, but I am a player in the evolving reconciliation that so needs to be nurtured forward.

God of all nations, grant me grace. Forgive my cruel ignorance, my denial, my rush to justify. Teach me to love the truth, to walk with it, to learn. Show me the beauty of my humanity—my capacity to love and forgive, right alongside my devastating shortsightedness and scramble for survival. Let me lean into your grace and forgiveness. Turn my frightened face toward the world of love and abundance that you intend for all. In Jesus' name. Amen. 🙏



"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@nnglsynod.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.



Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

At the beginning of this pandemic, I likened our current times and days to that of the Israelites, wandering in the wilderness. I talked about emerging from this pandemic wilderness differently than we entered it. And here we are, more than a year later, and it feels like we can see the Promised Land.

As restrictions have eased, I have had the pleasure of gathering, maskless, with other faithful people in worship. What a joy! To sing! To eat! To share the Peace of Christ and see a person's whole face! It is such a blessing to gather once again as the Body of Christ and the community of faith. I will say that I am grateful for the vaccine, which makes me less anxious to actually gather with others. Our congregations are pivoting from online to in-person worship, from restrictions to protocols that allow for safe gathering. I sense a feeling of being done with the pandemic, done with masks, done with all the decisions and discernment necessary for safe gathering.

Perhaps we are done. I hope so. But don't throw away your mask just yet. Don't discontinue your online presence just yet.

If we are to learn anything from history and the Influenza epidemic of 1918-1920, and if we are to learn anything from what is happening around the globe, we would be wise to pay attention. For us, this pandemic has lasted just over a year. But the lessons of history would teach us to be prepared for closer to two years. With Covid variants making the news, with new waves of the virus plaguing population pockets across the globe, it makes sense to stay vigilant. I hope we do not have to pull out the masks again and limit the attendance of our gatherings, but mentally, emotionally, we need to be mindful of that possibility. Covid-19 continues to be a reality that lingers and mutates, as viruses do. I encourage congregational leaders to remain aware of Covid and vaccination numbers in your community and respond accordingly.

Currently, we are in a promising and hopeful trajectory. Covid cases are down significantly and the vaccination rate is slowly rising. But if Israel and India are any indication, we need to stay vigilant and be prepared to pivot, once again, if necessary.

I know that's not what people want to hear. I know that we are tired of protocols and masks and worry and we are ready to declare the pandemic over. But it is not over. Perhaps, for now, we can enjoy what low Covid numbers and rising vaccination rates make possible and gather once again for in-person worship, but please continue to make accommodations for those who cannot be vaccinated because of health factors or age.

I give thanks for the presence of Christ that we experience in each other. I am grateful for these past few weeks when I have been fed by corporate worship, fellowship, and hearing the voices of others raised in song and prayer. It feels like a drink in the desert and relief in the shade of an oasis. I hope we can stay here. But more than that, I hope that if we have to venture into desert territory again, that this reprieve from pandemic challenges will fortify us for the journey ahead. Whether we stay or whether we must go, Christ is with us.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Katherine Finegan
Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod

Thank you's

Thank you to John Plautz for mowing the lawn in July.

Thank you to all those who help at the Food Pantry.

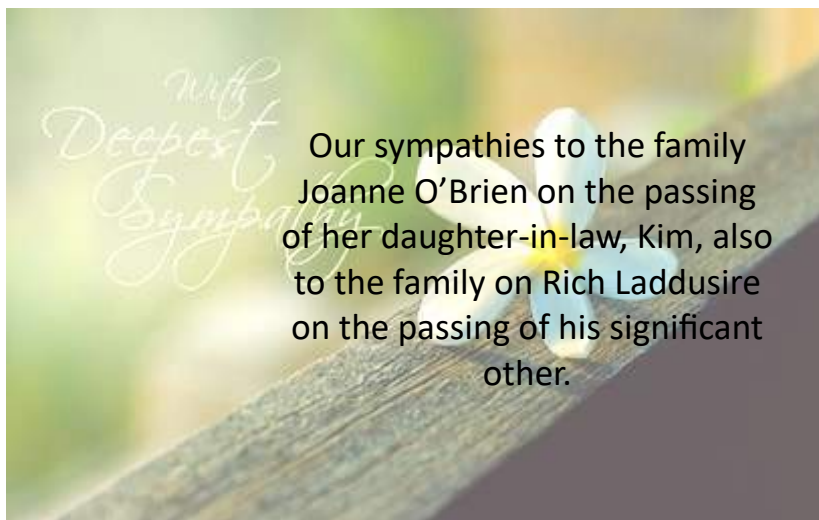
Thank you to Cory Dellenbach, Allie Johnson and Charlie Strong for running live stream during worship in July.

Thank you to all our ushers, readers, counters and opening and closing people for serving the Lord in July.

Thank you to all our musicians and singers for their beautiful music.

Thank you to those who provide meals for Frederick Place and those who donate items from their Wish List.

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 Joanne O'Brien on the passing of her daughter-in-law, Kim, also to the family on Rich Laddusire on the passing of his significant other.

Thank you for all the prayers, cards and expressions of sympathy for my family and I after the passing of my daughter-in-law, Kim.

Your caring words and concern have helped us through this difficult time

With appreciation and love,

Joanne O'Brien

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. Closed until further notice.



Wish List

Frederick Place Most Needed Items

1. Aloe Vera/After Sun Care
2. 30-Gallon Trash Bags
3. 13 Gallon kitchen Garbage Cans
4. Shoebox Size Storage Bins
5. Shower Curtains/Liners
6. Shower Curtain Rings
7. Bath Mats



Household items are given to
residents when they leave
Frederick Place

 <p>NATH Northwoods Alliance for Temporary Housing</p>	<p>Providing Safe Housing & Basic Needs ♥ Promoting Self-Sufficiency & Independent Living</p>		<p>204 West Frederick Street Rhinelander, WI 54501 Office Phone: (715) 369-9777 FAX: (715) 369-3074 nathnorthwoods@gmail.com www.nathnorthwoods.com</p>
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Walking Together

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.

Conference	Date	Time	Location
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!

Call the office if you would like to attend.

Lawn Mowing

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

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





1 IN 6 CHILDREN IN THE US ARE FIGHTING HUNGER!

The YMCA of the Northwoods and the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry have partnered together to provide a **FREE summer food distribution program** to all area children throughout the summer!

This **HODAG FOOD WAGON** will begin on **Thursday, June 24th**.

We will continue to grow, but see below for program details:

LOCATION: Rhinelander Central Elementary School

TIME: 12:00pm-1:00pm

DATE: Every Thursday

For additional information, please contact the YMCA of the Northwoods at 715-362-9622.

YMCA OF THE NORTHWOODS | 2003 E. Winnebago Street, Rhinelander, WI | www.ymcaofthenorthwoods.org

RHINELANDER AREA FOOD PANTRY | 627 Coon Street, Rhinelander, WI | www.rhinelanderareafoodpantry.org

Youth Events Finally on the Calendar!

After a year of virtually no youth events, we finally have some on our calendar that are happening later this fall and winter month that we want you to mark down.

The first of these events is a Fall Fun Weekend at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp for youth in grades 3-6 in the fall. This weekend, one night event, is Friday, Oct. 15 to 16.

In November, Pine Lake Camp, an ELCA camp in Waupaca, Wisconsin, is hosting a junior high blast event the weekend of Nov. 5-7.

Looking back north of here, Fortune Lake will be hosting an intergenerational winter wonderland retreat from January 14-16, 2022. Then in February, the camp is inviting youth in grades 7-12 to a junior/senior high retreat the weekend of February 4-5.

We'll have more information on all of these events as they approach, but wanted you to mark them on your calendar. We typically have attended the Fortune Lake events as a church youth group in the past.



IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Special Council Meeting Minutes: June 24, 2021

Council Members Present: President: Matt Johnson, Vice-President: Becky Eades, Secretary: JoAnne Barrix, Glenn Johnson, Darlene Machtan, Bill Mattson, Charlie Strong, Gene Frane, Pastor Tammy Barthels

Opening

President Matt called the virtual meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Action – Motion/Second/Carried... To accept with regret Brittany Landphier's resignation as the administrative assistant for Immanuel Lutheran Church. The resignation was received on June 23rd with a 2 week notice.

Action – Motion/Second/Carried... To post the position as part-time for 16 hours per week at \$13 - \$15 per hour with the ability to do some remote work and authorize up to \$100 to advertise if needed. Applicants are asked to respond to a special Gmail account and the personnel committee will review.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:09 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
JoAnne Barrix, Council Secretary

Did you know?...

We all know that 2020 was a tough year in many ways. Not only did we deal with a pandemic, but also with social justice. And we had to do this basically in isolation. I was back in “in-person” church for the first time last Sunday. I had been thinking up to that time that I was really liking live streaming the church service. It is so convenient to watch the service any time, any place. But as worship started, I realized that live streaming is not worshipping. It is not being in community. It is being in isolation.

It is only in worship that you hear the stuff that is hard to hear. Our confession says:

“It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live.

We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you.

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.”

It is only in church that we are asked to face our biases whether they be racial, sexual orientation or just others that are not like us. It is only in worship that we are asked to share what we think belongs only to us. *“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8*

Our Covid Team is being very careful about our re-opening. Regardless of vaccination status, we are still masking, social distancing and using hand sanitizer. It is sometimes hard to hear what we need to hear, but it is somehow a bit easier when we are gathered together. It may be more convenient and convenience is the way of the world, but worship is community. I would suggest that we all come back to worship in community.

...This is Stewardship!
JoAnne Barrix

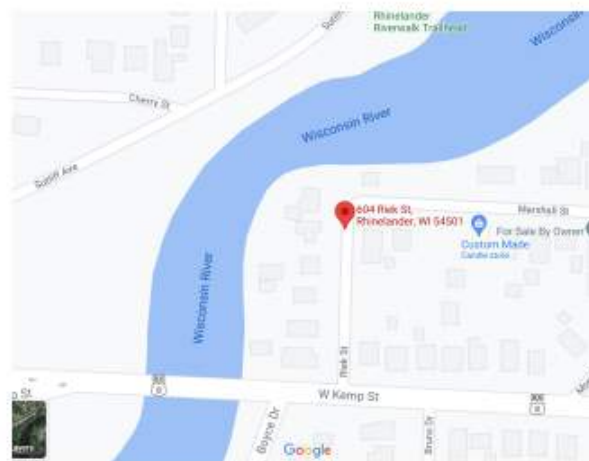
It's A Garden Party!



Rhineland Area Food Pantry Volunteer Picnic

Thursday, July 22, 2021 from 11 am to 1 PM
604 Riek St

Pulled Pork sandwiches and
drinks provided - bring a
dish to pass. Rain or shine!
RSVP to Jane by July 19
RAFP@frontiernet.net



August 2021

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:00 Worship	7pm AA & Alanon				Pastor's Sabbath	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:00 Worship	7pm AA & Alanon	5pm Stewardship	6pm Council		Pastor's Sabbath	10:30-1:00 Food Pantry 9:30—3 Pastor at St. Anthony's Spiritual Directors Prayer Group
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00 Worship <div>Newsletter Articles Due!!!</div>	7pm AA & Alanon		Pastor at Theological Conference at Fortune Lake August 18—20		Pastor's Sabbath	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00 Worship	7pm AA & Alanon		4:30 Meal @ Frederick Place		Pastor's Sabbath	
29	30	31				
9:00 Worship	7pm AA & Alanon					

All Nursing home worship services are cancelled this month!

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

June 2021

GENERAL FUND:

Beginning Balance	\$25,746.21
Offerings	\$10,363.59
Expenses	(14,156.24)
Ending Balance	\$21,953.56

BENEVOLENCE:

June Offering	\$ 1,092.25
2021 Pledge	\$19,000.00
YTD Remittance	\$10,341.52

BUILDING FUND:

Beginning Balance	\$25,965.21
Offerings	\$ 1,192.07
Expenses	(\$ 2,491.08)
Ending Balance	\$24,666.20

Expenses exceeded the income by \$3,792.65.



8/1	Sue Larsen	8/20	Jennifer Peterson
8/2	Jeremiah Bellow	8/21	Joseph Schmitz
8/11	Chet Moore	8/26	Alan Higgins
8/11	Devon Vanden Heuvel	8/28	Nancy Blumreich
8/15	Steve Scholtes	8/31	Gloria Moore
8/16	Joanne O'Brien		

June Attendance:

	In-person	Online	Total
6/6	20	68	88
6/13	28	53	81
6/20	36	45	81
6/27	40	46	86

Our average worship attendance for the month of June was 84.



8/7	Thomas & Rae Anne Cheslock
8/10	Travis & Shauna Drossart
8/17	Bob & Katelyn Williams
8/18	Bruce & Linda Gary
8/23	Lois & Robert Wallace
8/24	Cory & Christy Dellenbach
8/25	Cal & Romy Ewert
8/25	Kris & Marlin White
8/26	Pam & Keith Snyder
8/31	Dave & Lisa Kroll

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.