

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church



October 2021

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Member of the ELCA Churchwide elca.org &
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Visit us on our Website @
Immanuelrhinelander.org

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

Pastor's Message ~ A Time to Lament

Psalm 4:1

"Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer."

On August 18-20 I attended the NGLS Theological Conference at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp in Chrystal Falls, MI. I am grateful to Bishop Katherine Finegan and the team who coordinated this event for Pastors, Deacons, Licensed Lay Ministers and their families. The title of the Conference – **Seeking Shalom: Post-Pandemic Wholeness and Health.**

It was true, we all could use a time and a place of stillness: a time and place to listen to the voice of the Spirit within ones' heart, nature, the world, and one's faith tradition. BUT we also needed a place to lament this past year. A place and time to share our sorrows. (We all do!!!) *Hint: Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center in Arbor Vitae is a wonderful place that engages persons seeking greater meaning in life and a deeper relationship with God, others, self, and all creation. They provide a space for inspiration, reflection and solitude.*

LAMENT – *Intransitive verb* = to mourn aloud

Transitive verb = to express sorrow, mourning, or regret for (often demonstratively)

Lament is a tool that God's people use to navigate pain and suffering. Lament is vital prayer for the people of God because it enables them to petition for God to help deliver from stress, suffering and pain. Lament prayer is designed to persuade God to act on the sufferer's behalf.

N.T.Wright – writes online <https://www.ntwrightonline.org/five-things-to-know-about-lament/>

Five Things to Know About Lament:

- 1) Lament is a form of praise
- 2) Lament is a proof of the relationship
- 3) Lament is a pathway to intimacy with God
- 4) Lament is a prayer for God to act
- 5) Lament is a participation in the pain of others



Perhaps you too need some time to lament. I encourage you to take some time and reflect on how the last year (or a time frame of your choice) has been for you. Make note of the predominant emotions you have been feeling during this time, in particular the more negative ones. Reflect on a particular situation or recurring theme that you know has been causing you distress, pain or anxiety and that you feel is beyond your control. (most things are beyond our control!) Imagine that God is with you and that God has given you complete freedom to lay it all down, to complain fearlessly without judgment, in order to get it all out.

I encourage you to write out your lament, inviting God's presence to lead you. Perhaps you can begin by reading the individual psalms of lament, which include: 3,4,5,7,9,10,13,14,17,22,25,26,27, 28,31, 36,39,40:12-17, 41,42,43,52,53,54,55,56,57,59,61,64,70,71,77,86,89,120,139,141,142. (Yes!!!! That many psalms are psalms of lament.)

Allow the Spirit to lament within us, so we become, small shines where the presence and healing love of God can dwell. ~ N. T. Wright

This way of lament will lead us to hope! For truly God is praying with us for the pain around us.

Yours in Christ +

Pastor Tammy

WAKE ME UP WHEN IT'S ALL OVER, WHEN I AM WISER AND I'M OLDER

This refrain from a recent popular song reflects the ancient wisdom of First Corinthians 13:11 which tells of the intellectual transformation from childhood to adulthood: *"When I was a child, I spoke as a child, understood as a child, and thought as a child, but when I became man I put away childish things."* Nobel Physicist Frank Wilczek also explains that adults must put away childish thinking and perspectives for the sake of fuller self and community. He asserts that much has to be unlearned and corrected, through life-long learning so that adults can be informed leaders and creators of family, work, church, community, and state. Franciscan Father Richard Rohr calls this stepwise transformation the Cruciform path of life (as in Jesus' life), whereby parts of our old small, misinformed, egocentric selves have to be pruned and die, perhaps many times over, and blossom again into ever more gracious and loving and larger selves, as if resurrected from the ashes of death of old self. It is necessary to grow into bigger and better selves because we have sacred responsibilities to one another and creation. As children we falsely perceive the world in simplistic duality, as self or non-self. This selfish perception, this egocentric mistake must be eventually rejected and corrected to a new, enlarged self that is fully inclusive of the world. The childish self must be enlarged over and over again to include family, neighbors, community, state, nation, and all of humanity. And, eventually, the new larger sense of self must include all of creation, both the animate, and the inanimate. We are ONE with all humanity, the mountains, the seas and oceans, all plant and animal life, and the stars and infinite mysteriousness of the heavens.



Scientists have remarkably discovered the core, physical laws of the workings of the universe. But, academics, humanists, theologians, and spiritual leaders are still struggling to establish and declare the core metaphysical laws of humans living harmoniously with one another in our sacred Garden of Eden. Why is that? Jesus deserves a posthumous Nobel peace prize because 2000 years ago he revealed that the core metaphysical law that governs long-term harmonious coexistence is the unselfish act of LOVING one another. Love is, in fact, the core message of the New Testament. First Corinthians 13:4-7 describes the law of love in detail: *"love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy...love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always preserves."* Furthermore, about 500 years ago, the radical Martin Luther, carrying on in the tradition of Jesus, taught that as individuals we should not only love our neighbor, but that we must also build a caring and loving civil governance that insures that there is corporate justice for ALL. That's what love demands. Father Richard Rohr goes on to say that "we have made Jesus into a mere religion instead of a journey toward union with God and everything else." Heavenly Father and Mother, guide us to be a loving, serving ONE, as we pray in humility and gratefulness.

~ Submitted by Bill Mattson

**Blessing of the Backpacks
and Teachers
September 12, 2021**





*"What then shall we say to this?
If God is for us, who is against us?
He who did not spare his own Son
but gave him up for us all,
will he not also give us all things with him?"*
~Romans 8:31ff

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

This verse has been coming to mind lately...

When we needed to cancel our Walking Together events, what then shall we say to this?

When hospital beds are full of covid patients, leaving little room for accidents and other health emergencies, what then shall we say to this?

As people continue to disagree about vaccine safety, masks, and protocols, what then shall we say to this?

God promises in Christ, that God is not against us. This is good news. But what if we are against each other?

When suspicions are stronger than the ties that bind, when the conviction of political views undermines our common mission and congregational unity, what then shall we say to this?

I think we look for answers, for a diagnosis, for someone to explain or blame. Perhaps we stop listening and only assert our position more loudly. Perhaps we seek to convince instead of understand.

I believe it helps to remember that we are not the first people of faith to argue, lament, suffer, and disagree. The Israelites in the wilderness certainly suffered uncertainty, fear, and pain. And they also grumbled and complained. Paul's letters to the Galatians, the Corinthians, the Colossians and more give witness to each congregation's challenges, from persecution and fear to how to get along and remember their purpose. In his letters, Paul makes an effort to remind people of faith who they are in Christ and what that means.

In the midst of the grief and weariness of all that we must face in these days, I ask you to remember who you are in Christ Jesus, and all that Christ calls you to do and be, no matter the circumstances.

Matthew 22:35-44 reads,

"...and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'" This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

I encourage you to weigh your words and your actions, your social media posts and your conversations, your opinions and convictions, against the metric that Jesus provides, love of God and love of neighbor.

While I know there is interpretive room as to how to live these two commandments, I would like to think that remembering love of God and neighbor can indeed help shape our actions and our words in these days, as it has always meant to.

What does it mean to you to love God with your whole heart? What does it mean to you to love your neighbor as yourself? And who do you consider to be your neighbor? Jesus answered this question for us with the parable of the Good Samaritan. If we apply historical context to contemporary circumstances, our neighbor is anyone whom society considers "less than." Or in the nitty gritty details of the parable, anyone that you would rather not be obligated to, anyone you would rather not have touch you, anyone whom the dominant culture considers free to disparage, exclude, ignore, ridicule, oppress, or denigrate.

As you know, loving people that we dislike or do not understand is not easy. And yet, Christ's call upon our love, our speech, and our actions remains.

I encourage you to remember in this pandemic wilderness that "this too shall pass." A time will come when either the pandemic will be managed, or some other new reality will emerge that feels less anxious. Then we will have the luxury to argue about new things and disagree about something other than the current disputes. Whatever the future holds, we are the body of Christ now, called to show the world the rest of what Paul writes in his letter to the church at Rome in Romans 8:38-39, that

"neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from
the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan



Hi Everyone!

This past year, thanks to the financial support of Immanuel, I started working on a youth ministry certification which consisted of eight courses focused on youth.

The courses completed were Jesus- Centered Youth Ministry, The REAL Approach to Ministry, Making Parents your Allies, Helping Hurting Teenagers, Outreach Strategies, Engaging Youth Culture, The LIFE Strategy for Recruiting and Equipping Volunteers, and The Power of Relational Ministry Leadership.

I am excited to announce that as of the end of August, I have completed the Youth Ministry Certification.

This was quite a variety of subjects within a Youth Ministry and they taught very practical ways to implement these new ideas into your ministry.

For example, Jesus-Centered Youth Ministry was all about putting Jesus in the center and how everything in Scripture points to Jesus in one way or another. A main goal is to teach students more about Jesus to keep them curious and wanting to know more. This is the center point of all the other courses as well, without Jesus at the center outreach projects don't have the same meaning, parents aren't as involved, we have a harder time recruiting volunteers and we lose our perfect model of leadership. Always remember to keep Jesus as the center!

Some things I would like to put into action are after going through my classes, include:

- Having a short Bible lesson/ discussion at the beginning of each youth group to give the students a foundation to their faith.**
- Making all our youth group/classes very experiential and giving the students a voice to really own their faith.**
- Creating a youth room that can be used as a safe space for teenagers**
- Meet/talk with parents to see what they would like their youth to experience and/or learn through youth group.**
- Create a calendar of youth events/ fundraisers ahead to time to plan for recruiting and equipping volunteers.**
- Using different teaching styles in teaching Faith Explorers and Confirmation cause everyone learns in a different way.**

Thank you for providing this education and thank you so much for the opportunity to serve our youth at Immanuel!

Brittany



***Congratulations Brittany on earning your Youth Ministry Certification!
Thank you for all you do for our youth and congregation!***

PRESIDING BISHOP

WE *ARE* THE BODY OF CHRIST

By Elizabeth A. Eaton



There was once a time when two distinct peoples were trying to comprehend how they could be one people. One was a millennia-old people who had persevered through enslavement, oppression and exile. And they still preserved their identity and trust in God. They believed that God had blessed them to be a blessing to all humanity even when the rest of humanity reacted violently against them. They believed that God had made an everlasting covenant with them and had given them a sign of that promise.

The other people were hostile, polytheistic, the majority and suspicious of the other. They rejected any claims by the other group that a life lived by covenant obligations could possibly be a good one. This wasn't just a lack of understanding, but antagonism and contempt.

Then, something happened. Through the cross these two peoples became one people. This is the story of the first-century church. "But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us" (Ephesians 2:13-14).

I think it's difficult for 21st-century Christians to comprehend the seismic shift that had occurred. The very first Christians were Jews. They didn't see themselves apart from the covenant God had made with God's people. The Torah wasn't an arbitrary collection of burdensome requirements. It was the living voice of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in their midst and throughout their lives. The circumcision of males was a sign of that covenant, a sign instituted by God and communicated to the people by Moses. Jesus was circumcised. Paul was circumcised. The male disciples were circumcised.

But what to do about the uncircumcised gentiles? How could they possibly be considered part of the covenant? They were "other," literally beyond the pale. "So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called 'the uncircumcision' by those who are called

'the circumcision' ... remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world" (Ephesians 2:11-12).

This was a critical moment for the early church. Paul and others had witnessed the Spirit at work among the gentiles, who weren't circumcised and, therefore, weren't considered to be heirs of the covenant. The dispute between the two groups was heated. It went to the very core of what it meant to be part of the church. Peter and Paul weren't of one mind. Could these competing understandings of God's work in the community be reconciled?

This was brought to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. They took counsel from Scripture, tradition and the report of the outpouring of the Spirit. They then sent this decision to the gentiles: "For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to impose on you no further burden than these essentials: that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from fornication. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well" (Acts 15:28-29). They were "no longer strangers and aliens," but "citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God" (Ephesians 2:19).

They were one body. We are one body. We are the body of Christ. We are members one of another and knit together by and in Christ. Yes, we have significant disagreement about very important issues, but our cultural and political differences cannot dissolve this bond.

We can take heart from the example of the early church. If, by the Spirit's power, they could set aside their differences—which were far greater than any of ours—then we, too, by the power of the Spirit, can live into the unity that already exists in Christ. †

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

Thank You for Serving

Thank you to Isaiah Willoughby for mowing the grass in September.

Thank you to Darlene Machtan (her inspiration and enthusiasm) for organizing “Gig for God” and for band members (and others) who sang.

Thank you to the Youth who sold food at “Gig for God”, and for Brittany and Cory who organized this effort.

Thank you Cory Dellenbach for using your Living Generously Thrivent Card to purchase food for the “Gig for God”.

Thank you for all who participated in our God’s Work, Our Hands “Gig for God” and for donating toward the National Youth Gathering and Rhinelander Area Food Pantry.

Thank you to everyone who continues to make meals for NATH.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered at the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry in September.

Thank you to Sarah Willoughby and Becky Eades for volunteering to teach Faith Explorers.

Thank you to Brittany Landphier for being our Youth Leader and leading Youth group and other youth activities.

Thank you to our quilters who made quilts for Lutheran World Relief. (Dianne Syms, Darlene Piasecki, Kathy Maule, Karen Stroede, Priscilla Johnson, and Mary Gregory).

Thank you to Cory Dellenbach for keeping our web page current and live streaming our Sunday worship.

Thank you to all the members of Immanuel who continue to use their gifts and talents to further the kingdom of God. (Especially those who work behind the scenes!)



We express our deepest sympathies to Arlene Lueck and family on the death of her husband Ken.

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. Regular Coffee
2. Napkins
3. Liquid Dishwasher Soap
4. 13 Gallon Garbage Bags
5. 30 Gallon Garbage Bags
6. Clear Shoe Box size Containers
7. Kitchen Garbage Cans
8. Bathroom Garbage Cans
9. Nighttime Cold Medicine
10. Men's T-shirts size XL to 3XL

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

SNOW SHOVELING

We are looking for volunteers to shovel snow November through May.

If you are interested, please call the church office @ 715-362-5910.

Thank you for shoveling!





“Faithful Innovations” Learning Communities of Jesus

**For Laity, Pastors, Deacons and Licensed Lay Ministers
of the Northern Great Lakes Synod**



“During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’

When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.” ~Acts 16:9-10

Announcing the 3rd Cohort Group* of Faithful Innovations

(Online or In Person Training options)

*9 congregations from our synod participated in previous cohort groups.

- Helping people connect with God, each other, and their neighbors.
- Dwelling in the Word and listening exercises.
- Solid training in a cohort model with accountability and coaching support.
- Affirming the role of lay people in our congregations.
- Broadening your perspective beyond mere “maintenance.”

Training Schedule & Themes for Cohort #3 (all times Eastern)

1st Training via Zoom only

Saturday, January 22, 2022 “Tracing God’s Movement in our Lives and Neighborhoods” 11 am to 2:30 pm (30-minute lunch break)

2nd Training via Zoom or in person at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

Saturday, March 5, 2022 “Learning by Doing: Using Action Learning to Discover God’s Leading” 11 am to 4 pm (60-minute lunch break)

3rd Training via Zoom or in person at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

Saturday, May 21, 2022 “Sharing our Learning: Intentional Reflections on Our Actions” 11 am to 4 pm (60-minute lunch break)

What’s a congregation’s commitment?

- A congregation has a “Guiding Team” of 4 to 7 lay people committing to 3 training sessions and follow up assignments between trainings. The pastor or licensed lay minister also attends the trainings.
- Cost for Training Sessions is only \$50* per congregation which includes meals at Fortune Lake and a copy of Dwight Zscheile’s book, *The Agile Church* (Dr. Zscheile was keynote speaker at the May 2019 Synod Assembly).

*The actual full costs of these trainings are supported by a generous subsidy from an ELCA Synod Vitality Grant and a Siebert Grant.

Register and pay by January 13, 2022. Contact Pastor Jim Duehring (906) 228-2300

To learn more about this learning process and to hear testimonials go to:

www.nglsynod.org/faithful-innovations

**If you have interest in attending this program please contact
Pastor Tammy @ prtammyimmanuelrhinelander@gmail.com**

Ministries Thrive at Immanuel

COVID has not stopped Immanuel members from doing ministry. THANKS BE TO GOD!!!!
If you would like to be involved, please contact

Food Pantry – Second Saturday of the month 10:00-1:30 contact Darlene Machtan - machtdar@gmail.com

NATH MEALS – 4th Wednesday at Fredrick Place at 4:30 pm. Contact Brittany for more information brittanylandphier@gmail.com

Youth Group – 2nd Wednesday of month at 6:00 pm contact Brittany for more information - brittanylandphier@gmail.com (any Youth activity contact Brittany)

School Kits - Contact Dianne Syms at dsyms27@charter.net

Quilting- Wednesdays at 1:00 pm Contact Dianne Syms at dsyms27@charter.net

Book Study – “Mocha on the Mount” – 4th Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am.
Contact Sue Larsen at larsesus@charter.net

Women’s Circle – “Awake – God Who Speaks” evenings – contact Pastor Tammy at prtammyimmanuel@gmail.com

Outreach and Social Ministries contact Cory at corydellenbach@gmail.com

Stewardship – Contact JoAnne Barrix @ jbarrix@frontier.com

Blood Drive – Contact Jackie Waldorf at sassyjackson@hotmail.com

Tuesday Morning Crew – buildings and grounds contact Gene Frane at bngfrane@gmail.com
or John Plautz at jeplautz@hotmail.com

Home Bound Eucharist Ministries – Contact Pastor Tammy at prtammyimmanuelrhinelander@gmail.com

Racial Equity Challenge – Contact Susan Anderson woodrow1640@gmail.com

Serving on Committees - Council, Stewardship, Youth and Education, Outreach, Worship and Music, – Contact Kari at immanuelsecretary2015@gmail.com

Care For Creation – Contact Bill Mattson - wjmattson@gmail.com

Worship Assistance - Ushering, Reading, Communion Assistant, Flowers on Altar, Altar Guild, etc... Contact Kari at immanuelsecretary2015@gmail.com

Choir – Contact JoAnne Barrix @ jbarrix@frontier.com

Band – Contact Brittany at brittanylandphier@gmail.com

Lutheran Office for Public Policy in WI Contact Bill Mattson - wjmattson@gmail.com

I am sure that I have missed some wonderful things that we do at Immanuel. Please contact the office if you would like your ministry to be added to this list. If there is a ministry you would like to begin. Bring your idea to council the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm. Please email Council President (Matthew Johnson) 1 week prior so we can put it on the agenda. at mjjhodag@gmail.com

Anyone is invited to attend Council on the 2nd Wednesday of the month!

MORE COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE NORTHWOODS VOLUNTEER FAIR OCTOBER 5TH

10AM—2PM @Rhineland Trigs Riverwalk

Get connected with Rhinelander non-profit organizations and learn how YOU can make a difference through volunteering!



Volunteer Meals on Wheels drivers and kitchen help needed at the Rhinelander Dining Site.

Volunteers needed one day a week for a few hours to deliver the Meals on Wheels or Kitchen help to help package and serve meals at the ADRC of Oneida County.

If you are interested in helping, please call Dawn Johnson, RSVP Coordinator for Oneida County at 715-369-6307 or email djohhson@co.oneida.wi.us. The need is great in your community.



Organizers of the local Warm for Winter clothing giveaway have decided to put the program on hold and will not be taking donations as of now. Please keep your donations until next year or donate to Goodwill or the Thrift Store.



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

Thrivent Seed Money for Quilters



WELCA/Quilters will not be holding the annual bake sale this year due to COVID. They are looking for you to donate your Thrivent seed money of \$250 toward buying quilt batting for quilts as they continue to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief.



**Ecumenical
Worship Services
being Offered**

Thanksgiving Eve
November 24 @ 7pm
at Immanuel

Blue Christmas
December 21st @ 7pm
at First Congregational
United Church
of Christ

COUNCIL MINUTES

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Meeting Minutes: August 11, 2021

Council Members Present: President: Matt Johnson, Secretary: JoAnne Barrix, Glenn Johnson, Darlene Machtan, Mary Wolf, Charlie Strong, Bill Mattson, Deb Rinka, Pastor Tammy Barthels.

Opening

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

Devotion by Glenn Johnson: Reminisced about a friend and how we need to appreciate all that we have in our lives.

Action – Motion/Second/Carried... Approved the minutes from the July 14, 2021 Council Meeting with three abstentions.

Pastor's Report: As submitted

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

Worship: Discuss effectiveness and quality (3xyear): There are about 30 people in-person attending and about 60-65 attending by live stream. Totals are about the same as pre-covid.

Goals: review and discuss (2xyear): God's Work our Hands planning, Stewardship emphasis planning around covid. Also, renew choir and nursing home ministries.

Engage in ministry partnerships (annually): Gig for God is ecumenical, Nursing Home ministry in partnership with Trinity, Blue Christmas, Thanksgiving Eve ministry partnerships.

Short Term Items:

Old Business

a) Youth position description/guidelines: **Action – Motion/Second/Carried...** Approved youth position as presented. Brittany Landphier is continuing in the position of Youth Leader and Cory is mentoring her in this position.

b) Open/Close schedule: August – JoAnne and Mary; September – Glenn and Darlene; October – Deb and Glenn; November – Charlie and JoAnne; December – Bill and Matt.

New Business

a) Letter from a member of the congregation: Council recommends that Pastor invite this member to join the Covid Team, Worship and Music and be on the ballot for council. Also, on the first Monday of the month, Pastor's email will remind the congregation that all are invited to have input to the Council agenda by contacting Matt Johnson.

b) Mask-Wearing: Bill presented information on the new numbers for Covid infections. Much discussion.

Action – Motion/Second/Carried with one opposed... Approve recommendations from Covid Team including masks required and social distancing for all indoor church activities.

c) New Member request: John Mladucky **Action – Motion/Second/Carried...** Approve member request.

d) Pastor Tammy's ECCSR program: This is a wonderful program. Out of 18 people attending, four have resigned their calls. There has been incredible amounts of stress related to Covid. They were reminded that they are shepherds of the people and administrative work can be delegated. Pastor Tammy will have a newsletter article talking more about scripture, Bible study and continuing to use her gifts.

e) Immanuel hosting September 19th Headwaters Conference Event: Due to Covid numbers this may move to a virtual event. We will wait for a decision from the synod office.

f) Racial equity education event: Partnership with Trinity? Is anyone in this congregation interested in being involved in this? Potential partnership with Ascension in Minocqua.

Committee Actions:

Gene reported that all windows are installed and the parking lot doors are going to be sanded and repainted.

Darlene reported Gig for God information: posters are available and the \$100 fee for music at the bandshell was waived for our event.

Council Members are encouraged to get new keys.

Next Scheduled meeting: September 8, 2021 Devotion: Darlene

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:09 PM after closing prayer.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Tammy closed with prayer from Psalm 42

Respectfully Submitted,
JoAnne Barrix, Council Secretary

BRIDGING THE GAP...

RACIAL EQUITY...REVERSE DISCRIMINATION...BACK THE BADGE...BLACK LIVES MATTER...

phrases expressing differing perspectives on one of today's issues. Is it possible for us to have a discussion, bridge the gap, find common ground, respecting one another in the process?

YES, IT IS! Where there is division, Jesus says, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." Matt.5:9. **That**, being children of God, is our basic identity. In this era of dissension in our culture, Jesus calls us to be the peacemakers, the catalysts for honest conversation with civility, here, and now, in our church.

In "Stamped from the Beginning", the author points out that there are problems from the founding of our country that those of darker skin experience that those of us with lighter skin do not, may not be aware of, and do not consciously or actively condone. We hear the fractured dialogue on the issues of our times. As Christians and citizens, we can begin the process of understanding in the hope that we can be peacemakers toward the goal of becoming "...one nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all."

If you are interested in having conversation regarding this topic, please contact Susan Anderson at woodrow1640@gmail.com, or Council President Matthew Johnson at mjjhodag@gmail.com.

**Communion will be
served Sunday,
October 17th and
Sunday, October 31st.**

**Reserve the Date
BLOOD DRIVE
Tuesday, November 16th
from 2 to 6.**

Did you know...?

Stewardship Committee is starting to plan for the annual stewardship emphasis that happens usually in November. This year we are working on a Zoom event for November 14th. This got me to thinking about my giving and why I give to Immanuel. The culture of the world says one thing about giving and faith says something different.



Do we give because we can benefit ourselves perhaps with a tax benefit or being recognized for our generosity? Do we give to challenge God to give us back even more? Is giving an afterthought rather than a priority? Do we give only what is left over? Or, do we feel guilty and give only because we feel it is our duty? God's gift of stewardship is none of these because none of these brings us the joy that God wants for us.

Instead, give faithfully and with a glad heart in response to God's goodness and abundance. God gives us good things and our giving is a simple way to say we are grateful. Secondly, faithful giving acknowledges that God is our source of security. Another way to think of it is not to put your security in wealth, but in God, the provider of wealth. A third faith filled reason to give is to further God's economic justice. There is a growing inequality of resource distribution in our world today and it is the source of a great deal of conflict. Finally, when we release money by giving it away, it breaks the hold that money can have over us.

So think about it. What are your reasons for giving? And giving doesn't stop with money. We have many thriving ministries at Immanuel. Sometimes it is a lot easier to write a check than to give of our time. If there is a ministry that you would like to start, bring the idea to council. If there is a ministry in which you feel called to participate, let Pastor Tammy or Kari in the church office know.

...This is Stewardship!
JoAnne Barrix

WORD OF THE MONTH

“Oneing”

Oneing – is an old English word that was used by Lady Julian of Norwich (1342-1416) to describe the “Encounter between God and the Soul”. The Center for Action and Contemplation proudly borrows the word to express the Divine Unity that stands behind all of the divisions, dichotomies, and dualisms in the world. We pray with Jesus’ words, “that all may be one” John 17:21)



God's Work, Our Hands: Gig for God, the Fragmented Abridged Recap

By Darlene Machtan

A pandemic absence and sorrow. A longing for music and fellowship. An idea for an outdoor Christian concert. Gig for God I call it. Cautious support from Dave Kroll, Kevin Kirby, Charlie Strong, Norm Peterson, and Tina Schmitz. Brittany Landphier, JoAnne Barrix, Beth Bloom, and I are crazy excited, or maybe just crazy. Pastor gives us her blessing, and so it begins in July. We've got two months to get it together.

The need for a sound system and engineer resolves in a single phone call to my old band mate Mike Allen. He loves the idea and will lend us his equipment and expertise. Our original Immanuel-band-only concert expands to 2 acts, then 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. A program that was going to last an hour morphs into three and a half. The venue shifts from the Immanuel parking lot to the Riverwalk Bandshell. Permits and regulations. City Clerk. City Council. County Health Department. Press releases and feature articles and radio announcements and community calendars and posters. Cory Dellenbach and Thrivent donate a generous \$250 for seed money. Rehearsals squeeze into overcrowded schedules until ready-or-not, here (hear?) we come.

Prayers for good weather are answered. God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, September 12, dawns sunny and clear. The empty bandshell stage at 8 a.m. looks daunting, as do the empty benches and lawn. What if no one shows up? What if I am the only one who thinks this is a good idea? Soon music stands and speakers and amplifiers and microphones and monitors and cables and cords crowd the space with electronic chaos. I carry what I can, then step back and trust the able hands and minds of those who know these things. Shortly after 11 we are ready for sound checks. Microphones, acoustic guitars, a bass, a keyboard, a beat box, flutes, and that dreaded accordion stand at the ready. Performers are tuning, playing, and warming up their voices. By 11:45 the concessions table is stocked with goodies, the Immanuel Youth armed with programs and song sheets, concessions, and cash boxes. Now just so we have an audience.

Immanuel band leads off the first set promptly at 12 with "All Are Welcome," and we so mean it. People gradually filter in, and lo and behold, we've got a crowd: Immanuel congregants, their friends, neighbors, guests. Members from other churches, and non-members and strangers and passersby and the old, middle-aged, millennials, teens, and children, men and women, boys and girls, two young people from France, even a couple of music-loving dogs. This is an ecumenical Christian concert for the faithful, the questioning, those who have found their spiritual home and those still seeking. Over 40 area musicians as young as 14 and as old as who knows celebrate God's love. Besides the Immanuel band, joined by Beth Bloom and Mike Allen, First Congregational Church, Calvary Baptist Church, the Rhinelander Male Chorus, Northwoods Choraliers, Tom Nelson, Dianne Mueller, and Amanda Anderson all fill the air with song. We miss the talent of Vince Strong who wisely stays away due to a positive Covid test. We laugh, we cry, we feel the absence of those we've lost and the presence of those we hold dear, the joy of being surrounded by love and harmony, a serenity and sense of peace and hope we have been very much missing.

At 3:30, Dave, Beth, and Britt close with "The Prayer," the crowd heads home to watch the Packer game, the equipment is taken down, transported, and stored, and I am alone once again at the empty bandshell. I am exhausted. But mostly I am proud and grateful and satisfied with this undertaking. Our own little "Godstock" concert was more work than I imagined but better than I hoped. We raised \$1000 to be divided between the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry and Immanuel Youth's attendance at the 2022 National Youth Gathering. We did God's Work with Our Hands. We shared our love of Christ beyond the walls of our church. And maybe, just maybe, next year we'll do it again. But right now, I need a nap.

P.S. Thanks to all of the above mentioned musicians who made this possible, to Pastor Tammy for her support, to the Rhinelander Community Band for use of the bandshell, for the City Council for waiving the music permit fee, to Butcher Shop Bake Company, to Cory Dellenbach, to Thrivent, to Immanuel Youth, to Mike Effinger, to Mike Allen, to our audience, and to those who selflessly reached into their pockets again and again. Blessings, one and all.

P.P.S. CDs of prerecorded versions of Immanuel Band's Gig for God concert performances plus a few other favorites are available at church free of charge.
(see pictures of this event on pages 16 and 17)



GIG for GOD Sunday, September 12th

Thank you Cory Dellenbach for taking these amazing pictures and to everyone who was involved with making this event happen. This event raised \$1,000 (\$500 will be given to RAFP and \$500 to Immanuel National Youth Gathering.)



October 2021

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
PASTOR TAMMY ON VACATION September 20—October 4 Pastor Rich Likeness on call—815-713-3431						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00 Worship	7pm AA & Alanon	5pm Stewardship Pastor Returns to Office	1pm Quilting 6pm - 7:30pm Confirmation		Pastor's Sabbath	10:30-1:00 Food Pantry
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00 Worship	7pm AA & Alanon		1pm Quilting 6pm Youth Group 6pm Council		Pastor's Sabbath Newsletter Articles Due!!!	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00 Worship Communion	7pm AA & Alanon		1pm Quilting 6pm - 7:30pm Confirmation	11:00 Ministerial Association	Pastor's Sabbath	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00 Worship	7pm AA & Alanon	10am "Mocha on the Mount" Book Study	1pm Quilting 4:30 Meal @ Frederick Place		Pastor's Sabbath	
31 9:00 Worship Communion CONFIRMATION						

All Nursing home worship services are cancelled this month!

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

August 2021

GENERAL FUND:

Beginning Balance	\$20,581.15
Offerings	\$10,920.76
Expenses	(13,221.99)
Ending Balance	\$18,279.92

BENEVOLENCE:

August Offering	\$ 1,078.00
2021 Pledge	\$19,000.00
YTD Remittance	\$12,553.52

BUILDING FUND:

Beginning Balance	\$25,518.54
Offerings	\$ 1,070.07
Expenses	(\$ 1,407.98)
Ending Balance	\$25,180.63

Expenses exceeded the
income by \$2,301.23.



10/1	Kristina Jacobson	10/16	Gayle Wilmot
10/2	Mary Meek	10/20	Natalie Dellenbach
10/3	Mary Schoeneck	10/21	Leonard Bauman
10/4	Shaylee Kohnhorst	10/22	Karen Franke
10/4	Dee Montgomery	10/22	Kevin O'Rourke
10/4	Adrian Patrone	10/24	William Mattson
10/5	Nathan Kohnhorst	10/26	Joanne Dart
10/8	Andrew Furyk	10/29	Jean Milz
10/16	Priscilla Johnson		

August Attendance:

	In-person	Online	Total
8/1	35	62	97
8/8	26	39	65
8/15	32	47	79
8/22	31	47	78
8/29	23	59	82

Our average worship attendance for the
month of August was 80.



10/2	Gloria & Chet Moore
10/7	Robbie Potter & Michael Cornelius
10/12	Anita & Danny Snyder
10/19	Julianne & Tom Duffy
10/22	Pastor Tammy & Randy Barthels
10/22	Brittany & Jesse Landphier

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

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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.