



Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

E.L.C.A

Rev. Tammy K. Barthels ~ Pastor

SPECIAL APPEAL

June 14, 2020

Dear Members of Immanuel,

Change has been thrust upon us all. People are working from home, parents are home schooling their children and many of our members are worshipping by Zoom. Worship. Worship as we have known it for our lifetimes has completely changed. We at Immanuel have been very blessed with members with the gifts of understanding technology. We have met challenges and have continued to worship. And we are all wondering...when can we go back to “normal”?

Opinions on this question vary greatly. Some people think that the Covid-19 virus is in the past. Some people are not worried as they are young and healthy. Others have great concern for the thousands of lives that have been lost to this pandemic. Much of the science surrounding the Coronavirus suggests that we may never go back to “normal”. Scientific publications question the reliability of testing. Much work is being done to develop a vaccine. But how far off is a successful vaccine *and* will everyone be willing to get the vaccine?

Normal. Immanuel's Council, Covid Advisory Team and Stewardship Committee are all working to move Immanuel to what we feel is a “new” normal. It appears that the new normal will involve technology. Zoom, web sites, audio-visual, and live streaming will all be needed to add to the conventional worship that we have known in the past. With technology, we can reach homebound, nursing home residents, snow birds and those for whom the 8:00 or 9:00 or 10:30 service is difficult to attend. Already, using Zoom, we have added people that were not attending our regular worship service.

With this all in mind, and with the support of our congregation, we would ask your help through a special appeal to purchase the equipment necessary for virtual worship services and the enhancement and safety of our future in-person worship services. Our goal is to purchase what is needed, have it be current technology and also be user friendly. We are again blessed with members that are gifted and talented in their knowledge of these areas. We are advised that the cost would be about \$2,100 for the computer and camera, \$8,000 for speakers and installation and an additional \$3,000 for LED television displays in the worship space. The computer and camera would be necessary for live streaming of our worship in the sanctuary. The speakers would enhance the sound for the live streaming and also in-person worship. And the LED televisions would allow us to follow worship without a paper bulletin or hymnals. The plan is to move forward with these purchases, in this order, as the donations are received.

As your Council and Stewardship Committee, we are cautious about using building funds and/or general funds to meet this expense. Unfortunately, we could not have predicted this pandemic or this situation. What audio equipment we did have was extremely outdated and has been replaced. Cost of this was \$3,100 and was supported by donations of \$1,600 and the general fund. Now we have the opportunity to move forward and meet needs that we were not even aware of. This equipment would be useful well into Immanuel's future.

Please help us meet these needs and move our worship services to what will be the new normal. Please consider how virtual worship can help us reach well beyond the walls of our building. Please donate generously to this special appeal so that we can reach out and tell that “all are welcome” at Immanuel.

Thank you in advance for your generosity to this Special Appeal.

Immanuel Council Members

“Inspired by God's Grace to Love and Serve All”

21 W Timber Drive ❖ Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501 ❖ 715-362-5910
immanuelrhinelander.org ❖ prtammyimmanuelrhinelander@gmail.com