



The Immanuel Echo

The Newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church
Manitowoc, WI
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

February 2024

FULFILLMENT IN 2024?

So, we're a month out from the start of 2024 ... have you stuck with your plans to change?

Did you stop (overeating, smoking, drinking) and start (being a better parent, doing a better job at work, living a healthier lifestyle)? Will keeping your resolutions truly give you satisfactions in 2024? What happens when/if you break these personal promises - then what kind of emotions set in? Frustration: "I can't believe it is February and I am already back to my same unhealthy diet." Despair: "I am never going to be able to stop doing..." Failure: "Why even try? This is impossible. I'm a loser."

Then there are all the things that are completely out of your control. The winter storm that causes expensive damage. The climbing interest rates which cause your loan payments to be a little more stressful. The boss who decides someone else will be promoted this year even though you worked harder and performed better. Can we ever find true and lasting satisfaction in this kind of world?

God's answer is a resounding "YES!" In Psalm 107:9, God says that "*he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.*" But, here's the catch. The "good things" God gives us are not always the good things we are looking for.

Certainly, God can give us a good job, the willpower to keep our resolutions, and the good fortune not to have unforeseen accidents come into our lives. However, those things are minor compared to the real "food" God gives us. God TRULY satisfies us and gives us fulfillment in life when he shows us, in his Word, that we have a Savior in Jesus.

No job, no relationship, no possession, or no person can give us the satisfaction and fulfillment God offers us in Jesus. In Jesus, we are assured of the forgiveness of our sins. In Jesus, we know that God is our loving Father. In Jesus, we are confident that we will be in heaven one day based on his own work.

So, because heaven is yours through Jesus, you have the peace and fulfillment God intends for you to have in this life and in the one to come. Happy 2024!

~ Pastor Matt Zimpelmann





Lent is the season of the church year that we focus on Jesus' Passion. We take the time to realize what Christ did for us simply because He loved us so much.

During Lent we have special midweek Lenten worship services on **Wednesdays at 4:00 PM and 6:30 PM.**

Join us for worship for the Lenten series: ***“Baptized into His Death”***. “St. Paul writes, “Don’t

you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?” (Romans 6:3) There is a connection between our baptism and Christ’s passion. This makes Lent the perfect season to learn anew all that God’s Word tells us about Baptism. We will see how we were powerfully connected in our baptism to all Christ’s saving work. We will study again what our baptism means for our daily lives. And we will re-dedicate ourselves to the struggle of living the new life Baptism gives.”

- † **February 14th, Ash Wednesday**
- † **February 21st—“*The Right Tool for This Job*”**
- † **February 28th—“*Reliving Your Baptism Every Day*”**
- † **March 6th—“*A Sacrament, not a Sign*”**
- † **March 13th—“*A Great Power and a Greater Gift*”**
- † **March 20th—“*Baptism Is Needed by All*”**

Sunday Family Bible Study

Join us for Family Bible Study on Sunday mornings between worship services to dig deeper into God’s truths for us in our lives. During challenging times and joyful times, we learn to fix our eyes on Jesus, His truths, how vital He is in our lives, and our eternal future. Each week we explore a different topic so join us anytime. God has so much to tell us, to help us, at all times!



Our study is taught in a relaxed, family atmosphere. All ages are welcome! There are activity pages for the children that correlate with the lesson being studied, and they participate in the beginning of Bible study with their parents. At 9:50am, children are welcome to go with a teacher to the room across the hall. There they learn and explore the same portion of God's Word through felt board, video, crafts, etc. and sing praises to Jesus. At 10:10am the children are brought back to their parents in Bible study. Parents have the option of their children staying with them for all of Bible study; in this case parents with little ones may wish to bring along a snack or coloring book for them.

Our Bible study is held in the Fellowship Hall (church basement) from 9:30 AM to 10:15 AM.

God + Me Class

Make a resolution to be closer to God this year. The God + Me class began on Monday, January 29th. We meet at **6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall**, located in the lower level of church. The God + Me Class explores the basic truths of the Bible and briefly compares some simple differences between religions and various Christian denominations. Most importantly, it answers the questions every person needs to know in life...*who am I?... what's my purpose in life?... how can I get to heaven?... how can I be certain I am loved and forgiven?... how does the Bible apply to me?*

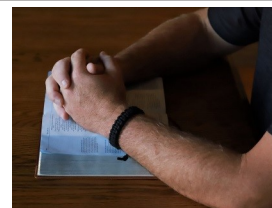


This class can serve as a membership class or simply a good spiritual refresher and a further step to understanding God and self. Either way, you will enjoy this course because here is our guarantee: There are no strings attached and there is not cost—all materials and childcare provided. “It’s try it before you buy it!” If, after 2-3 weeks you decide to step away, you won’t be made to defend your decision to leave. So, as the winter months continue, maybe you will consider warming up with some hot coffee and the God who loves you so much! To learn more or to register, please go to ilutheran.org/intro-class.

Men's Prayer Group

Men of Immanuel...here is an opportunity just for you! Please join us!!!

† **Men's Prayer Group** meets on **Tuesday, February 6th and 20th at 7:30 AM** in the Gathering Room.



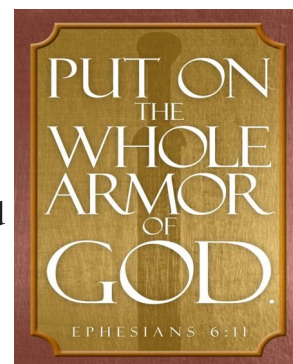
“For where two or three gather in My name, there am I with them.” Matthew 18:20

Womens Bible Study—Ephesians

Women of all ages are invited to join us for Women's Bible Study on **Saturdays, February 10th and 24th at 9:00 AM**. We meet in the Conference Room in the church office.

Currently, we are enjoying a study of Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Paul wrote his letter to them while he was a prisoner and in it he reminded the Ephesians of what God's great power and grace has done for believers. That means you too!

Bring your Bible, if you don't have one, please let me know and we will supply you with one. There is a study guide and we will also be using The People's Bible Galatians / Ephesians book for reference as well. We have copies of both available. If you are planning to join us or have any questions, please contact Judy Fuerbringer at 920-973-3355 or judynglenn@ameritech.net.



We will be starting a new Bible Study topic in March, watch for details!

Join us to be refreshed & strengthened by the words of our Savior!!

Hats, Mittens, Scarves, Gloves

The Immanuel Evangelism Team is again collecting new, homemade or store bought (crocheted, sewn or knitted) **hats, mittens, scarves and gloves** to be shared with those caught in the cold. A box has been placed in the Gathering Room where you can put your donated items. These will be collected weekly, placed in a zip lock bag and a card will be attached to let it be known that warm friends can be found here at Immanuel. The items will be then attached to our parking lot fence, and also distributed throughout the community.



2 Corinthians 9:7 - "Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."



In this New Year, may we strive to embody a spirit of joyful Christian giving as we are called to do in 2 Corinthians 9:7. The verse states, "Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

This biblical reference reminds us that giving should come from a place of joy and gratitude, not out of obligation or pressure. As we reflect on the love and blessings we have received from God, let us respond with a generous and cheerful heart, knowing that our giving has the power to impact lives and bring glory to God. May this be a year of abundant blessings and joyful giving as we embrace the opportunity to serve others in love.

Blessings on your month,
~ Tom Wurm, Financial Secretary

GriefShare is a support ministry to help people who are grieving the loss of a loved one whether recent or in the past. Each session is about 2 hours long. There is a short video on various topics presented by mental health experts who have also gone through the grieving process. This is followed by group discussion time. Between each weekly session there is a workbook that has daily exercises that point you to God's Word and help you work through your grief.



GriefShare will continue meeting Thursdays thru March 24th.

We meet at Immanuel **from 2:30 to 4:30 PM** in the church Conference Room. If you are interested in getting more information or know someone who we should personally invite, please contact Larry Verlinden at 920-323-2297 or verlinden@comcast.net. More information and registration is available online at the GriefShare website, griefshare.org. There is a charge of \$20 per person which is to cover the cost of workbooks. Please register by December 26th so we can ensure that we have a sufficient number of workbooks. Anyone is welcome to join the group at any time during the new session.

LENTEN MEALS

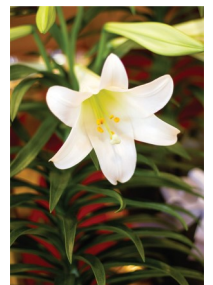
Ash Wednesday is right around the corner. The theme that we will be focusing on this year is: *"Baptized Into His Death"*. During Lent we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ as we focus our attention on the price He paid for our freedom. Jesus will fill our minds, good food will fill our bellies, and friendship will fill our hearts. Join us for dinner between services on the following Wednesdays. If you are willing to host a supper, please call Jenny at the church office—920-681-3404. The dates available are those open below.



- ◆ Wednesday, February 14th— PIE (Partners in Education)-Grilled Cheese & Soups
- ◆ Wednesday, February 21st— Ladies of Immanuel
- ◆ Wednesday, February 28th— Youth Group, 2024 WELS Youth Rally
- ◆ Wednesday, March 6th—
- ◆ Wednesday, March 13th— Church Council
- ◆ Wednesday, March 20th —

EASTER LILY SIGN-UP

With the beginning of the Lenten season upon us, we are already preparing for the celebration of Jesus resurrection. If you would like to help add some special beauty to honor Jesus resurrection you can order Easter Lilies for our Easter morning worship services. The **cost is \$12.00** per plant (includes saucer). There are envelopes for signing up in the Gathering Room on the podium. Please fill out the front of the envelope, enclose your payment, then drop the envelope in the podium. Checks should be made payable to Ladies of Immanuel. The **deadline for ordering lilies is Thursday, March 7th**. All lilies can be taken home following the 10:30 AM Easter Sunday worship service. If you have any questions, please call or text Judy Fuerbringer at 973-3355.



MORNINGS WITH MOMMY

Join **Mornings with Mommy** on **Tuesday, February 13th** from **10:00 AM to 11:00 AM** for **VALENTINES + LOVE!** Join us for a fun and interactive playdate—a place where moms and caregivers can mingle with each other and enjoy activities with their children including: arts and crafts, sensory play, flannel stories and story time, music, themed activities and a snack. For ages birth to 5 years old and their caregivers. Meet new friends and Moms in a fun and welcoming environment!

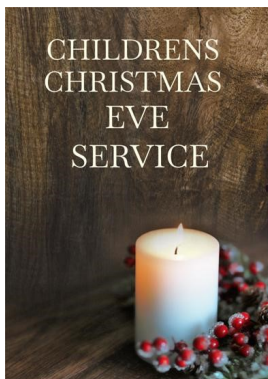


We will meet in the Fellowship Hall, located in the lower level of Immanuel church. Please contact Andrea at 715-220-1439 or aldolan@gmail.com with any questions and to secure your spot and allow us to plan in advance. Feel free to invite a friend too!

Like and follow us on Facebook—Mornings with Mommy—Manitowoc to stay up to date with future events.

School News

Our mission is to **assist** the families of our **congregation** and **community** in **training** their children, both **spiritually** and **academically**, through **excellence** in **Christ-centered** education.



On Christmas Eve, the children in our preschool through 8th grades had the wonderful privilege of sharing the good news of the birth of our Savior through recitations and songs. The service this year was entitled “*What A Story!*” It reminded us of the wondrous love God the Father showed to the world by sending us the greatest gift ever given, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We thank the children, our faculty, and our staff for all of the hard work that they put in to helping the children prepare to share the wonderful Christmas message.

Hornet Athletics

Our basketball teams wrapped up their seasons at the season end tournaments at MLHS. Our Girls’ and Boys’ B teams played the weekend of January 19th-21st. Both the Boys’ and Girls’ A teams played the weekend of **January 26th-28th**. We thank all of our volunteer coaches for giving of their time and abilities to support our teams.



FACILITY UPDATES AND SCHOOL EXPANSION INFORMATION

This year, our new project is to update the lighting throughout the school building from fluorescent to LED fixtures. We have been told that this will result in a significant savings on our electricity bills which could be in the \$3000-\$4000 range per year. We are very close to our goal of \$18,000. If you would like to donate towards the project, you can either click the “Give” tab on our website at ilutheran.org, or you can contact Mr. Wilson or Mrs. Lemke, our secretary.

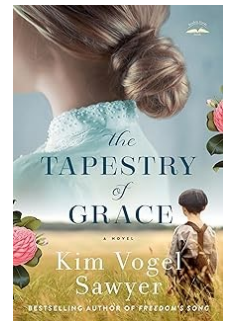


Immanuel School Expansion
Preparing for God's Blessings

As most of you know, Mr. Philip Warnecke accepted the call to be our 5th grade homeroom teacher and departmentalized science teacher. In order to create a classroom for Mr. Warnecke, the school board is making plans to construct a temporary wall in one of the larger classrooms in our school. This, once again, illustrates the need for a building expansion project at Immanuel. Over the next several months, a formal study will be completed to determine how much Immanuel members are willing to contribute towards such a project. We humbly ask that you prayerfully consider how you might be able to support that work. Please look for more information on the project under the “*School Expansion Info*” tab on our website at ilutheran.org. Thank you!

BOOK CLUB

Our Book Club is meeting is on **Friday, February 8th at 1:15 PM** in the Gathering Room. The book for this month is *The Tapestry of Grace* by Kim Vogel Sawyer. “When a group of Kansas women start a *Frauenverein*, a benevolent society devoted to aiding widows and orphans, life changes for more than just the hurting people they seek to help in this heartwarming romance inspired by historical events. Alexandertol’s schoolteacher Augusta Dyck knows exactly who their town’s benevolence society should help first: quiet, reserved widower Konrad Rempel and his young twin sons. Martina Krahn is relieved to have a reason to spend time outside her unhappy home. Augusta, Konrad, and Martina each have deep needs and desires, and each imagines how they should be met: by reaching out or by being left alone. But God, indeed, knows best. Will the competing agendas of Alexandertol’s residents prevent them from receiving God’s help? Or will the members of this small Mennonite community find the answers to their prayers in the very last place they expect—in one another?”



For those who are wanting a book, please call Ardis Haag at 682-1002.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION—PIE

Partners in Education (PIE) is a parent organization that plans social events and fundraising for Immanuel School. Serving this school year as contact person is Jaimie Carlson.

This year, our fundraiser is for LED lighting in the north classrooms. The cost is \$18,000. Please consider donating by contributing at the church office or attending our Trivia Night fundraiser on Saturday, November 4th.

UPCOMING EVENTS—2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR—Mark your calendars!

FEBRUARY

- ◆ **23rd—Friday—Fun Night of BINGO!**—Please join us at Harrigan Gathering Center, 620 North Water Street! **Arrive at 5:30 PM. Bingo will go from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM.** Money raised will offset the cost for the 7th and 8th grade class trip to Chicago. Bingo Cards will be available to purchase: 1 card for \$3 or 2 cards for \$5. Raffle tickets and prizes will also be available. Hope you can join us.

MARCH

- ◆ **8th—Friday—Read-A-Thon Fundraiser—Kindergarten thru 8th grade**—PIE is hosting a school wide read-a-thon fundraiser on **Friday, March 8th**. The oldest students of each family will receive a donation envelope on February 23rd. Every family envelope returned by **Thursday, March 7th** to your classroom teacher will receive a prize for each student in that family. The top three donors will also receive a family grand prize. This is going towards LED Lighting and Gym fans.

SPONSORS NEEDED FOR READ-A-THON FUNDRAISER!

Are you a small business owner? Our Immanuel students are having a read-a-thon March 8th. They are looking for sponsors to donate to the PIE fundraiser. Would your small business be interested in donating to the cause? We have \$7,000 left to go. Please contact Jaimie Carlson 920-242-4286.

Thank you for your support!

Please contact Jaimie Carlson at 920-242-4286 to see how you can assist with our events. We are looking for parent volunteers for the many events we have planned. Our events help give back to the school, create social events for students and parents and support the staff.

Together, We Stand For One Another In Prayer

"Pray in the Spirit on all occasions, with all kinds of prayers and requests." Ephesians 6:16

Did you know that Immanuel has a Prayer Circle? The purpose of our prayer circle is to provide spiritual support for our brothers and sisters in Christ, and their families and friends. How can we pray for you?

We realize that the personal and often confidential and time-sensitive information that is entrusted to us. Our sole purpose is to PRAY for that person(s) and/or that situation. As a request is updated, we will PRAY prayers of thanksgiving - thanking God for bringing blessings and asking God to strengthen faiths through trials. All information shared with the Prayer Circle will be held in absolute confidence. Prayer Circle participants will not reveal prayer requests to others. All concerns should be brought to Pastor Zimpelmann's attention.

You can submit a prayer request by emailing Bill Hoeltke at bthokey@tutanota.com or by calling or texting, Pastor Matt Zimpelmann at 208-861-3623 or emailing Pastor at pastorzimpelmann@ilutheran.org. When emailing your prayer request, please put **PRAYER REQUEST in the Subject Line of the email**. When submitting a prayer request, you can be as specific as you would like. Please indicate in your communication if you would prefer to keep the name(s) of the person or situation private and we will honor your request.



LAKESHORE LUTHERAN
Children's Choral Festival
2024

*Thank the Lord
and Sing His Praise!*

Friday, February 16, 2024
Concert - 6:30PM
Manitowoc Lutheran H.S. Gymnasium

LAKESHORE LUTHERAN SCHOOLS

FINISH STRONG

MANITOWOC LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL
PRESENTS

Book By *Michael Stewart* Music By *Charles Strouse* Lyrics By *Lee Adams* Originally Produced By *Edward Padula*

BYE BYE BIRDIE
A Musical Comedy

March 8 - Lakeshore Lutheran School Matinee - 9:00AM
March 8 - Opening Night - 7:00PM
March 9 - Saturday Performance - 7:00PM
March 10 - Sunday Matinee - 2:00PM

For tickets and info visit www.mlhslancers.org
\$10 - General Admission | \$14 - Reserved Seating

BYE BYE BIRDIE is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC.
www.concordtheatricals.com



Save The Date For VBS!!!
Immanuel's VBS
(Vacation Bible School) is
July 29th thru August 1st

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
ENDOWMENT FUND

Immanuel Lutheran Endowment Fund (ILEF) founded in 2003

**“His mercy extend to those who fear Him,
 from generation to generation.” *Luke 1:50***



How can life insurance be used to benefit the church and/or synod?

You can give an existing or a new life insurance contract to the church, making the church the owner and the beneficiary of the contract. At your death, the church will receive the death benefit. You will receive a charitable deduction for your income taxes. If you give a new insurance contract, you can deduct the amount of the annual premiums you pay each year to keep the insurance in force. If you give an existing insurance contract you can claim an immediate income tax deduction based on the less of (1) the cash value of the insurance contract or, (2) the aggregate amount of the paid premiums.

Alternatively, you can remain the owner of the insurance contract, but name the church as primary beneficiary. Although you will not receive an income tax deduction, your estate will be entitled to an estate tax deduction for the amount of the death benefit. You can also name the church/synod as a contingent beneficiary, meaning that the church receives the death benefits only if the primary beneficiary dies before you do.

Gifts to the Endowment Fund are gifts from the heart that keep on giving and further Immanuel's work and mission of spreading God's Word.

If your group has a ministry idea or project in need of special funding, please complete the "Grant Request Form" that can be found in the Church gathering room or contact a member of the ILEF Committee. **The deadline to submit requests for 2024 is February 29, 2024.**

Immanuel's Endowment Fund (ILEF), focuses on the long-term financial future of our congregation. If you have questions about the Immanuel Lutheran Endowment Fund (ILEF), someone from the Endowment Committee will be happy to contact you. Endowment Fund brochures, contribution envelopes and bookmarks are available upon request or at the Welcome/Information Center in the Gathering Room at Church.

Committee Members:

Anton Doneff, Chairperson

Jason Sweney, Secretary

Dave Nickels, ECHO articles

Scott Stuckmann, Treasurer

Grant Request Coordinator

Member News



The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

James 5:16

† **Dear Savior,**
 as we look forward to an *end* for our winter, we also look forward to the *beginning* of Lent. Let this season bear spiritual fruit in our lives. Help each of us to treasure the lasting benefits of your suffering and death so that we might trust anew your lasting forgiveness and gift of new life. **Amen.**

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms

Dec: Benson Hall, Olive Hall, Rhetten Behnke, Delilah Grabher, and Liliana Stadelmann

Jen: Luna Zastrow, Oliver Menges, Sophia Menges, and Vivian Menges

Gifts and Memorials

♥ Many thanks for the gifts of love for our Savior Jesus Christ for Immanuel



Serving Our Lord

2024 Church Council

God has richly blessed our family of faith with so many gifted people. One of the ways in which God's people have been gifted to serve is in the area of servant-leadership. So that your leaders are available for you to contact with ideas, encouragements, or concerns, we've listed the names of your Church Council here. Feel free to also use the following e-mail address to contact the entire Council: council@ilutheran.org. (One e-mail sent to that address reaches all the Council members with e-mail.)

Larry Verlinden, President
Reed Kabelowsky, Secretary
John Gnewuch, Treasurer
Dave Ramseur, Board of Elders
Tom Wurm, Financial Secretary
Nate Hochmuth, Family Ministry
Ron Nicklaus, Evangelism
Terry Welnicke, Property
Matt Carlson, Board of Education

FEBRUARY GREETERS

02/04/2024

8:00 AM—Bob & Shirley Blattler

10:30 AM—Gary & Lynn Markowski

02/11/2024

8:00 AM—Virginia Temme

10:30 AM—Cody & Danielle Freemyer Family

02/18/2024

8:00 AM—Daryl & Lisa Kliment

10:30 AM—Matt & Jamie Carlson Family

02/25/2024

8:00 AM—Mark & Joanne Gaedtke

10:30 AM—Judy Fuerbringer



THIS MONTH USHERS

02/01/2024 6:30 PM—Team 11

02/04/2024 Early—Team 1

02/04/2024 Late—Team 9

02/08/2024 6:30 PM—Team 13

02/11/2024 Early—Team 2

02/11/2024 Late—Team 6

02/14/2024 **ASH WEDNESDAY**

4:00 PM—Team 3

6:30 PM—Team 10

02/18/2024 Early—Team 4

02/18/2024 Late—Team 7

02/21/2024 **LENTEN WORSHIP**

4:00 PM—Team 8

6:30 PM—Team 11

02/25/2024 Early—Team 5

02/25/2024 Late—Team 9

02/28/2024 **LENTEN WORSHIP**

4:00 PM—Team 1

6:30 PM—Team 10



IMMANUEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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FEBRUARY 2024

The Newsletter Staff

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Sue Schroeder
Mary Ann Raduenz

Mailing: Jenny Lemke

Worship & Contact Information

Worship Schedule



Thursdays: 6:30 PM
(during Lent there is no Thursday Worship)

Sundays: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Lenten Worship:
Wednesdays: 4:00 PM & 6:30 PM

Pastoral Staff

† **Pastor Matt Zimpelmann—208-861-3623**
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† **Pastor Paul Bowe—262-853-2398**
pastorbowe@ilutheran.org

† **Church Office—684-3404**
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Immanuel Lutheran School

Preschool to Grade 8

† **David Wilson, Principal - 684-3404**
dwilson@ilutheran.org