



The Immanuel Echo

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

November 2023

WHY DOES BAD STUFF HAPPEN TO ME?

My mom has cancer. My dad lost his job. My sister is in high school and pregnant. My brother's grades are slipping. Work is so stressful. My life is unstable. Why does bad stuff happen to me?

Plenty of people have plenty of suggestions.

"Maybe God does not love you."

"Maybe he is punishing you for something."

"Maybe everything is too much for him to handle."

Do you want to know the real answer? It is staggering.
"God is LOVE" (1 John 4:16).



What? How can that be? How can there be so many bad things in my life if God is love? Wouldn't a loving God just erase all the bad stuff and only give me good? Well...no.

Your son needs to take medicine for his sickness. But it doesn't taste good, so he doesn't want to take it. Is medicine "bad"?

You need surgery. It's going to hurt and take some time to heal. Your doctor cares about you. Is surgery "bad"?

Your football coach tells you to run ten 100-yard-sprints. It's not exactly a vacation. Your coach wants what is best for you. Are the sprints "bad"?

So much in our lives looks like "bad stuff," but it is really "good." It certainly looked like a lot of "bad stuff" was happening on the day Jesus died. Jesus was falsely accused of breaking the law. He was whipped, mocked, and executed on the cross. That is some really "bad stuff" for Jesus, but Christians still call that day GOOD Friday.

Because of that "bad stuff" on Good Friday, Jesus removes all of our sins and all of our guilt and says, "I'll take those for you. I'll make them mine." Jesus has tremendous love for us. He takes the punishment away from us. He has the power to handle everything in our lives.

While everyone has their own opinions about why "bad stuff" happens to them, God gently points me to Jesus and gives me the right answer: "God is LOVE."

Do you want to learn more about this love? We invite you to join us to learn more about God's perfect love for you, and how he uses all the "bad stuff" in your life for your good.

~ Pastor Paul Bowe

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP....



Although Thanksgiving is a secular holiday, it is a wonderful opportunity for Christians to come together and worship and praise our Maker and Redeemer for **ALL** he has done for us!

We'll join to celebrate this year:

- ♥ 6:00 PM on Wednesday, November 22nd
- ♥ 9:00 AM on Thursday, November 23rd

Bring a family member(s) and/or friend(s) to thank God with you this year!

Opportunities for Men

Here are several opportunities for all the men to grow in God's Word!

† **Men's Prayer Group** meets on **Tuesdays, November 7th and 21st at 7:30 AM** in the Gathering Room.

† **Men's Bible Study**— **Saturday, November 4th—8:00 AM** at Grace Lutheran and on **Saturdays, November 11th and 25th—8:00 AM** at 1st German Lutheran

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



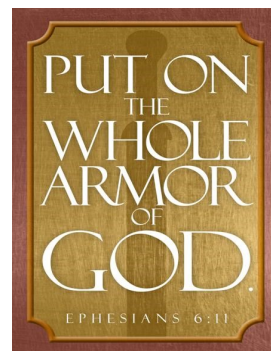
Womens Bible Study—Ephesians

Our Bible Study exists to nurture, encourage, and equip women to faithfully and fully use their God-given gifts to glorify God.

Mark your calendars to join us on Saturdays, November 11th and 18th at 9:00 AM. Women of all ages are invited to join us for Women's Bible Study. 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 the Ephesians while he was a prisoner and in it he reminded them of what God's great power and grace has done for all believers...that means you too! Paul also helps us to understand what our response should be to God's amazing grace. In November we will study Chapter 6.

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. ***Join us to be refreshed & encouraged!!!***



2 Corinthians 8:12 - "A Cheerful Heart"

According to 2 Corinthians 8:12, giving should be done willingly and with a cheerful heart. This verse emphasizes that it is not the amount of what one gives that matters, but rather the willingness and sincerity behind the act. It encourages believers to give according to their means, without burdening themselves or others. This verse reminds us that giving is an expression of love, compassion, and gratitude towards God and our fellow human beings. It teaches us that true generosity comes from a place of selflessness and a desire to bless others, rather than seeking recognition or personal gain. Ultimately, this verse encourages us to give with a joyful spirit, knowing that our generosity can make a difference in the lives of others and bring glory to God.



Blessings on your month,
~ Tom Wurm, Financial Secretary

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 9:20 AM to 10:15 AM.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

WHEN: November 16th through 30th

"...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, self-control." Galatians 5:22-23

As Christians feeding the needy is part of serving one another and as we serve others we are serving Christ.

The Immanuel Evangelism Team will be hosting the annual **Food Drive for Peters Pantry**, benefitting our community members. This year we are collecting canned soups, however other non-perishable goods are also appreciated. Blue Drop Off Barrels will be placed in the entrance way of the church. **PLEASE CHECK EXPIRATION**



DATES, the pantry cannot accept expired items. Place an Immanuel label on the item. Labels are located next to the barrel. This allows our neighbors to know the One who provides soup not just for the body, but soup for the soul as well.

GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD!

Women's Advent By Candlelight

Saturday, December 9th

Women of all ages are invited to set aside the hustle and bustle of the holiday season and take a quiet evening to prepare our hearts for the busy and hectic run-up to the holidays, a time to gather amid the soft glow of candles and the sound of music and God's Word—a time to raise our voices in word and song.

Join us on **Saturday, December 9th at 5:30 PM** to view the tables illuminated with candlelight. You will then enjoy desserts and social time, followed by a special program and music. Please, invite your female family members, friends, and neighbors of all ages and join us for this special evening of fellowship, music, God's word and delicious desserts! All ladies, whether invited by a specific hostess or not are encouraged to sign-up to attend. The sign-up sheets are in the binder located in the back of the Gathering Room. It is an evening you won't want to miss! **If you need a ride, please indicate that on the sign-up sheets.**



Hostess Opportunities: Please consider volunteering to be a hostess for the evening! Hostesses provide table settings, holiday decorations, candles, and a favorite dessert for between 6-10 guests. Many ladies decide to co-host with a partner. It is lots of fun and requires only a few hours of your time for planning, baking or buying, and decorating and serving your guests! If you are interested and would like more information please contact Kathy Groth at 920-682-5276.

TRIVIA NIGHT



Give it a try, it's so much fun!



6:15 pm Registration/ 7pm—9pm Trivia
Welcome to stay until 10 pm at the Gathering Center

Harrigan Parkside Gathering Center
628 N Water St, Manitowoc

Cash Bar and Mulligans for sale



You can sign up as a team or as
an individual or couple and
we can place you on an
excellent table.

\$20 per person/\$150 Table of 8

920-242-4286 text/call Jaimie to sign up
GOAL: \$18,000 for LED lighting
for classrooms & gym fans

Order Your Poinsettia(s)

Help to beautify Immanuel for the celebration of the birth of our Savior!

Place your order for poinsettias for the Christmas celebration beginning **Sunday, November 5th**. The cost is \$12.00 per plant. The plants are in 6.5" pots and approximately 15-17" tall. The color of the poinsettias is red. There will be envelopes for signing up in the back of the Gathering Room.

The deadline for signing up is Sunday, December 3rd.

You are able to take your poinsettia home following the Christmas Day worship service.

Questions? Call or text Judy Fuerbringer at 920-973-3355.



Arise,
YOUR *light* HAS COME

2023 WELS NATIONAL CHORAL FEST
NOVEMBER 3-5, 2023
Wisconsin Lutheran College • Milwaukee, WI

*Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.*
Isaiah 60:1

POPS CONCERT
Friday, November 3 • 7pm

SACRED CONCERT
Sunday, November 5 • 2pm

CLINICIANS

Dr. Jeremy Bakken
EXULTATE CHOIR

Dr. James A. Nowack
JUBILATE CHOIR

Prof. Jon Ziesemer
LAUDATE CHOIR

Both concerts are free general admission seating. No tickets are required. Scan the QR code or visit welsfinearts.org/choralfest for more information.

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE
Recreation Complex
8725 W. Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53226

Manitowoc Lutheran High School presents

WASHINGTON IRVING'S
THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW
by Kathryn Schultz Miller

&

RIP VAN WINKLE
by Patrick Rainville Dom

produced by special arrangement with Dramatic Publishing Co. of Woodstock, Ill. & Ebbelge Publishing Co.

Nov 10 & 11 at 7 PM
Nov 12 at 2 PM
4045 Lancer Circle, Manitowoc, WI 54220
Adults \$8 • Students \$5

Manitowoc Lutheran High School uses its God-given gifts to help each student become thoroughly equipped for paths of service to our Redeemer.

BOOK CLUB

Our Book Club is meeting is on **Friday, November 10th at 1:15 PM** in the Gathering Room. The book for this month is *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. “The unforgettable novel of a childhood in a sleepy Southern town and the crisis of conscience that rocked it. Compassionate, dramatic, and deeply moving, *To Kill a Mockingbird* takes readers to the roots of human behavior—to innocence and experience, kindness and cruelty, love and hatred, humor and pathos”

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



DO YOU LIKE SCRAPBOOKING?

Open Scrapbooking for members and friends. Join us on **Saturday, November 11th, from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM**. Come for all day or part of the day. We are having a Potluck lunch and snacks to share, bring own beverages. There is plenty of room to spread out your projects. Any questions contact Toni at 920-901-2725. This event is for adults and anyone in high school.



MORNINGS WITH MOMMY

Come to **Mornings with Mommy—Manitowoc** for some fun with your little ones and fellowship with other moms and caregivers. On **Thursday, November 9th from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM**.

This month our theme is **THINGS THAT GO!** Join us for a fun and interactive play date—a place where moms and caregivers can mingle with each other and enjoy activities with their children. Activities, geared towards birth to 5 year olds and their caregivers include: hands-on activities, engaging crafts, sensory play, story time, songs, and snacks. Meet new friends and Moms in a 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!

Follow us on Facebook to stay up to date with events, meet-ups, and details.

DECORATE IMMANUEL FOR CHRISTMAS!



WHAT: Many hands make light work! Won't you come and help decorate your church for the Christmas? Calling all men, women, and children to help set up the Immanuel's three Christmas trees, garland, ornaments, wreaths, angels, and other decorations

WHEN: Saturday, November 25th

TIME: 9:00 AM to Noon

QUESTIONS: Linda Verlinden: 920-683-3432

See you there for some decorating fun!!!

CHURCH LIBRARY...

You may stop in at the Immanuel Church library at any time. It is located in our church basement. You will find books, music, videos and DVDs. Check out is self service.

"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18

As the above Bible verse states, the library has many opportunities for you to grow in the knowledge of our Lord. That is the main purpose of our little library. We are blessed to be able to add to our collection through gifts of books and monetary gifts as well. Through these gifts, the library has made some new purchases from Northwestern Publishing House.



One of these additions was recommended by a fellow co-worker. It is *Seeds of Joy*. In the midst of work stress, health issues, family struggles, and your own self doubt, living with increasing joy can feel like an impossible challenge. This book of devotions will plant a seed of joy in your heart day by day.

Psalms in my Backpack by Linda Jane Niedfeldt has 154 vignettes from her family's trail hike of the Appalachians. Told from a mom's perspective, the story appeals to adventurous moms and dads, as well as backpackers and wanna-be hikers.

I Know That I Know book *The Certainty of Christian Faith*, is from Certainty series by Jacob Behnken. Through this book, God's Word is used to peel away layer after layer of uncertainty to reveal the true secret of strong faith. This is a quick read that covers faith in the unseen, struggles with doubt, and nourishing and refining faith.

These books will be available for you to check out in the Church Library. There are a few other book purchases from Northwestern Publishing House which will also be available in the library.

~ Laura Rozoff

WORSHIP SERVICE GREETERS ~

Do you enjoy meeting people, making them feel welcome? We have an opportunity for you! Join Immanuel's Greeter Team! If this is an area of service that interests you, please contact Jenny at the church office **before Monday, November 13th** by calling 920-684-3404 or email her at church@ilutheran.org. When you contact Jenny, please indicate if you prefer greeting for the early or late worship service.



If you are currently a greeter, please let Jenny know if you would like to continue serving your Immanuel family in this way. We are happy to work around your schedule. No experience necessary, just a smiling face and a warm welcome to everyone.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN ENDOWMENT FUND

Immanuel Lutheran Endowment Fund (ILEF) founded in 2003

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” Hebrews 13:16



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.

Why have an Endowment Fund?

The Immanuel Endowment Fund offers opportunities and structure to those who wish to provide financial support for our Church and School's mission through charitable giving. The purpose of the Endowment Committee is to enable Immanuel's Endowment Fund to promote funding for specific needs, projects and the overall financial stability of our Church and School. Through this Endowment Fund, the committee seeks to provide a perpetual source of income in support of education programs for youth and adults and other projects to sustain and grow the mission of Immanuel.

Supporting our Endowment Fund is one of the best ways you can ensure our Church's mission and vision will thrive for years to come. Contributing to the Endowment Fund is a way to be a sound financial steward of God's gifts because by giving of yourself, you give a portion of your treasures back to God.

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:

Greg Schmill, Chairperson

Tony Dick, Secretary

Dave Nickels, ECHO articles

Scott Stuckmann, Treasurer

Judy Gueldner, Grant Request Coordinator

Member News



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

James 5:16

- † **Our Immanuel Family**— that we may continue to trust in the Lord and His plans for us.
- † **A Prayer of Thanksgiving**—for the abundant blessings our Lord has showered on us, His sons and daughters.

Pastoral Acts



Home in Heaven

Gail M. Robinson

Baptisms

Harriet Kenneke - 9/3

Rhys Weller - 10/1

[Private] - 10/18

Isla Rozmarynoski - 10/22

Gracelynn Zommers - 11/4

Amelia Watts - 11/5

Weddings

Corbin Braun/Callie Brice - 9/23

Jacob Schnell/Maggie Hassemer - 10/14 (reaffirmation)

Gifts and Memorials

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



Serving Our Lord

2023 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@lutheran.org. (One e-mail sent to that address reaches all the Council members with e-mail.)

- Tom Winter**, President
- Reed Kabelowsky**, Secretary
- Bob Seal**, Treasurer
- Dave Ramseur**, Board of Elders
- Tom Wurm**, Financial Secretary
- Nate Hochmuth**, Family Ministry
- Ron Nicklaus**, Evangelism
- Dan Smith**, Property
- Jason Sweney**, Board of Education

NOVEMBER GREETERS

11/05/2023

8:00 AM—Chuck & Linda Kauth

10:30 AM—Ann & Karen Winter

11/12/2023

8:00 AM—Bob & Sue Kempfert

10:30 AM—Sandy Stadelman & Helen Demsien

11/19/2023

8:00 AM—Jason & Amy Muench

10:30 AM—Ron & Toni Nicklaus

11/26/2023

8:00 AM—Bob & Shirley Blattler

10:30 AM—Gary & Lynn Markwoski



THIS MONTH USHERS

Thanks-

giving Worship:

11/02/2023 6:30 PM—Team 13

11/05/2023 Early—Team 2

11/05/2023 Late—Team 8

11/09/2023 6:30 PM—Team 10

11/12/2023 Early—Team 3

11/12/2023 Late—Team 9

11/16/2023 6:30 PM—Team 11

11/19/2023 Early—Team 4

11/19/2023 Late—Team 6

11/22/2023 6:00 PM—Team 5

11/23/2023 9:00 AM—Team 12

11/26/2023 Early—Team 1

11/26/2023 Late—Team 7

11/30/2023 6:30 PM—Team 13





IMMANUEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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NOVEMBER 2023

The Newsletter Staff

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Assembly: Barb Nitka
Sue Schroeder
Mary Ann Raduenz

Worship & Contact Information

Worship Schedule

Thursdays: 6:30 PM

Sundays: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM



Pastoral Staff

- † **Pastor Matt Zimpelmann—208-861-3623**
pastorzimpelmann@ilutheran.org
- † **Pastor Paul Bowe—262-853-2398**
pastorbowe@ilutheran.org
- † **Church Office—684-3404**
church@ilutheran.org

Immanuel Lutheran School

Preschool to Grade 8

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