



Immanuel Lutheran Church
Brownton, MN

Quarterly Caller 2024 *May, June & July Issue*

“God’s Family”

Many passages in Holy Scripture speak of the church as being God’s family. We are the sons or children of God, His own people, and His Name is upon us. We are truly brothers and sisters not only of Jesus Himself but also of one another.

Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. God settles the solitary in a home; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land. (Psalm 68:5-6)

In Psalm 68, God speaks of fixing the brokenness of being alone. He sets each of us into His family or home. We are His children, and we are given to one another in and for love. Thus writes St. John: **“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God”** (1 John 4:7).

Therefore, congregations ought to be free of any lonely people. None of our members should ever have the sense that they don’t fit in or belong or that they go unnoticed by their brothers and sisters.

Every one of us experiences the contrast between the biblical descriptions of what the church is in Christ (and what it will be in the new creation) and what it is now. Every one of us finds this contrast to be disappointing and frustrating at times. However, for those who struggle with loneliness or depression and are most desperate for the love we owe one another, it can be devastating and a serious threat to faith itself.

The congregation is the family of God. That is a true statement even when it doesn’t feel or act much like a family. The reality is, we each belong to that family by grace. God is our Father. Jesus is our brother. The Spirit abides in us as His temples. By that grace, we also belong to one another. We owe one another affection, kindness and attention.

Especially when or if our brothers and sisters fail us, we need to remember the admonition from the author to the Hebrews: **“let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works”** (Heb. 10:24). The lonely or those who otherwise feel neglected or out of place in the congregation need to teach their brothers and sisters their obligations and the love they owe both by admonitions and example, always remembering the planks in their own eyes.

In short, being placed in the family of God isn’t only about finding contentment and peace and joy in a family. It is also a set of obligations and duties that we have toward one another. We are to love as we are loved, looking past weaknesses, covering sin and striving together to walk according to our calling in service to one another. Loneliness can actually be overcome, at least in part, on this side of glory, by suffering some awkwardness and embarrassment and keeping on. It isn’t only the lonely who need love, the loveless and unfriendly among us need love also, that they might expand their own horizons and strive to walk according to the calling we all have...

Easter blessings in our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!!!+
Pastor Reed

VOTERS MEETING, SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024 @ 10:15am
IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, BROWNTON, MN

60 members present.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Mathwig.

Pastor Reed opened the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting agenda was approved. MMSC to accept.

The Secretary's minutes from the Annual Voters meeting on January 21, 2024, written by Kathy Nordby, were distributed, and reviewed. The minutes were approved, MMSC to accept.

The Treasurer's report was given by Donald Albrecht. The first quarter treasurer's report was distributed and reviewed. It was also noted that the Easter Breakfast profit was given to Noah's Ark Preschool (\$402.00) and Ladies Aid (\$200). The Treasurer's report was MMSC to accept.

The Trust Fund Treasurer report was shared by distributing copies of the financial report for the first quarter. The report was approved, MMSC to accept.

The Board of Deacons report was given by Pastor Reed. New members transferred in:

3/15/2024 David and Annita Powers from St. James Lutheran Church and School, Howard Lake, MN, and Jennifer Powers from St. James Lutheran Church and School Howard Lake, MN

The summer park service is planned for July 10, 2024, at 6:30pm.

The next Council meeting is planned for Wednesday, July 24, with the next Voters meeting on Sunday, July 28, 2024. The Deacon's report was approved, MMSC to accept.

The Board of Trustees report was given by Dave Geier. The hail damage on the parsonage and church will be repaired/replaced. The skylight will be replaced, along with a new fan. Work will begin mid-May, and all is covered by hail insurance. A Rainy water softener will be installed. Jeff Ribar donated and installed 6 new smoke detectors. There was discussion on adding more detectors and security cameras. The trustee report was MMSC.

The Board of Education report was given by Britt Buxcel. The last Sunday School session will be April 28. The new curriculum used this year has been good, planning to continue for next year. Vacation Bible School will be Monday, July 22-Thursdays, July 25. The Board of Education report was approved, MMSC.

The Noah's Ark Preschool report was given by Pastor Reed. Our preschool is participating in the Parent Aware program, working on achieving a 4-star rating. The program includes resources, training, coaching and financial support. It assists parents in choosing quality schools for their children. Student registration for next year continues, with 22 students signed up. The Preschool report was approved, MMSC accepted.

The Office Manager report was given by Mona Geier. An update was given on offering envelopes: how many are ordered; how many people use them and how many people use the on-line giving option. Envelopes for 2025 have already been ordered. Mona is working on updating all data for members. She would like new addresses and phone numbers.

There has been a committee formed to research a new website for the church. The Council has recommended

\$9000 to be used for the update. Hopefully a new site will be in place by this fall. The Office Manager report was approved, MMSC.

Old Business:

The remaining pew cushions have been ordered, paid for and are being shipped soon.

The organ repair date has been delayed, there is not a definite date for when the work will begin.

New tables for the church basement will be ordered soon. Round tables for seating and rectangle tables for serving are in order. Old tables will be donated, for a free-will offering.

New Business:

There was a discussion on how to use the interest money from the Orlin Knick monetary donation, which is \$47,434.00. Suggestions are to donate to Mission Central and to donate to seminary students at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MS. A motion was made to donate \$10,000 to Mission Central and \$5,000 to seminary students. MMSC to approve.

Tom Heil gave a presentation on the need to replace the LCD projector in church. A motion was made to replace the projector for \$5,000, along with the \$9,000 recommendation for a new church website, a total of \$14,000 to be used on technology, using the interest from the Orlin Knick donation. This motion was seconded and carried to accept.

Other suggestions for the use of the interest money will be welcomed at the July Voters meeting.

The Noah's Ark preschool funds will be included and reported on at all quarterly meetings.

There was no further business. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, MMSC.

Pastor Reed closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Secretary, Kathy Nordby



LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Newsletter Article – May 2024

More Than a Negative

Even if you've never had to testify in court, a thousand TV shows have made you familiar with the question, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Why not just make people swear to tell the truth? Or make them promise not to lie?

Any parent who has ever had to interrogate a child about a broken cookie jar or a scuffle over a toy knows the answer. There are plenty of ways to try to get out of trouble without *technically* lying. You tell *just enough* of the truth to skate on by.

We often play the game of seeing *how close* we can get to sinning without *technically* going over the line.

But in our heart of hearts we know that this is not what God intended when He gave us the commandments. He's not giving us a merely negative rule and challenging us to just barely stay away from this or that. There is much more to each

commandment than a prohibition. We shouldn't just avoid murdering people — we should be of service to our neighbor.

For each negative prohibition in the commandments there is a positive good that we are to cherish and protect. In the Eighth Commandment, that gift is the reputation of our neighbor and our relationship with him:

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Your relationship with your family members (who are your nearest neighbors), the other members of your congregation, your coworkers and your friends is one of the most precious gifts you have been given. You need to exercise good stewardship with this gift just as much as you need to exercise good stewardship with your life, resources, time and income. This is an especially fragile gift because it's easy to ruin a relationship with slander and talking behind someone's back.

But speaking well of your neighbor in Christian love is absolutely free; it costs you nothing, yet it pays you great dividends. If you find this challenging at times, if you are tempted to speak ill of others, just remember that this other person is also a beloved child of God for whom your Lord Jesus suffered and died. Your Lord Jesus loves you both. In the Small Catechism, Luther also points out that every "do not" in the commandments also includes a "do this:" "We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but help and support him in every physical need" (SC, Fifth Commandment, emphasis added).

We are not called merely to avoid evil; we must also do positive good.

So, when Jesus drew near to us and became our neighbor by taking up our humanity, He came not only to avoid harming us, but He came to positively help us, bless us and serve us.

We are now called to show the love to our neighbors that Christ showed to us. Your neighbor is yet another gift that God has given you that requires your stewardship. We are called to show mercy, to be kind, to love and serve our neighbor. One aspect of this stewardship is financial: our neighbors need us to support the church's work so that they can hear the Gospel and come to faith. Our neighbors need the church's alms and mercy work. Our neighbors need our faithful service in all we do in the name of Christ.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR CHURCH OFFICE

We have been very busy since the last Caller with Lent and Holy week in February and March.

Here are some Fun Facts:

Did you know that we printed out 750 bulletins for Holy Week. Which included – 5 services (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and 2 Services at Easter.) Out of the 5 services 3 were booklets meaning stapling them together and putting them through the folding machine one at a time. I did get a note from the Deacon's that Easter Sunday 9:00 service we ran out. So, I think all our services were well attended. Also, for Ash Wednesday we had 120 booklets printed out and for the Wednesday night Lenten Services we had 5 services, and 300 sheets were printed out and then cut into half sheets. So now it should be back to normal here in the office.

At the last Voters meeting we discussed Envelops so here are some facts on that.

Current Immanuel Members – 545

2023 Number of Immanuel Current Envelop packets were – 283.

Active Givers as of 2023 – 186

1. So out of 283 packets that went out we had 97 packets that weren't even used.
2. Out of the 97 packets 31 packets were assigned to the online givers.
3. 2 of the 33 online givers physically did not receive envelope packets.

Total packets order for 2024 which we have now was 300.

1. Out of the 300 we had 40 packets left over.
2. 6 envelop packets were mailed out to members that didn't pick up.

Total packets order for 2025 which was ordered in Jan was 287.

For 2025 there are 3 online giving members sign up for not using envelopes and we will have 6 confirmation students needing packets. So, if my calculations are correct, we will have 4 packets left over for any new members coming in. Also remember that if anyone passes away by 2025, we will be gaining their envelopes unless they still have a spouse still alive. We will be evaluating packets every year before ordering. I feel having 40 packets left over is a waste of money and maybe having only 4 left over for new people is also tight but we can figure it out if we need more than 4 packets.

Updating Immanuel Records we also need to address.

We have around 250 household records in our system. It's been 5 years since we updated our records. So, I would like to start updating our records with verification of addresses, phone numbers, and if any of the kids under the household have moved out and have their own information. Right now, I am trying to figure out what the best way of getting this done. So, if anyone has any suggestions on how to get this done, please let me know.

Once I have gotten all our records updated maybe start thinking about if you would like a Church address-phone book with the members of Immanuel in it and all members would get one to have at home. Now days No one is in the phone book now and most everyone has a cell phone. It would be great to have the members have a current phone and address list.

Updating the Church's web Site:

Our church's website is very important to us here at Immanuel. It's the Inreach/Outreach website for our church. Our website is a tool for our members to keep updated on what's going on and it's also for the public to see what's going on here at Immanuel. Our website is outdated, and the Council and Voters have given us a green light to go ahead and update our church's website with Vivid Image Inc. More information will be provided at our next voters meeting.

New Church Logo: Immanuel has a new logo we are excited to share with all of you and it's not new to the church!



Immanuel Lutheran Church
Brownton, MN

That's it for now. Until next time.

Immanuel Office Manager

Mona Geier

Special Happening at Immanuel

Worship Service is on every Sunday at 9:00am.

Holy communion is on the 1st and Last Sunday of the Month.

May

May 7th | 6:30pm – Deacon's Meeting

May 22nd | 1:30pm – Wednesday Afternoon Service/ Holy Communion

June

June 2nd | Graduation Sunday

June 11th | 6:30pm – Deacon's Meeting

June 19th | 1:30pm – Wednesday Afternoon Service/ Holy Communion

A Message of Hope heard on The Lutheran Hour

May 2024

Hear the Good News of the Gospel on the Lutheran Hour each Sunday at 9:00 am on KDUZ 1260 AM Radio.

During the month of May, you will hear the following program topics:

May 5 & quote; Rejoicing On the Way & quote; with Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes. God empowers His people to share the Gospel with those they meet along the way. (Acts 8:28-39)

May 12 & quote; Unforecastable & quote; with Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. It & #39;s been said that God's call often comes as a surprise. In Acts 9, we meet three men who found themselves called in ways they could neither forecast nor control. (Acts 9:31)

May 19 & quote; Waiting, But Not Alone & quote; with Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jason Broge. Jesus leaves His followers waiting for Him to return but He promises they will not be left alone. (Acts 2:1-21)

May 26 & quote; Topic not available at newsletter deadline & quote;

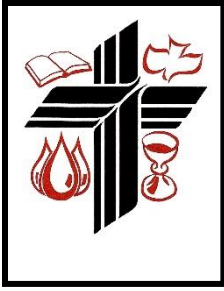
Thank you for your financial support and prayers. The cost for sponsoring a broadcast is \$96.00. Sponsors are needed for the following broadcasts: July 21, July 28, October 13, and October 27. Broadcast sponsors can dedicate a sponsorship in memory of a loved one, in honor of a birthday or anniversary, or sponsor a broadcast as a service project for their congregation organization. Please contact Rich Streufert at 320-864- 6884 or e-mail richstreufert@embarqmail.com to verify that the Sunday date you would like to sponsor is open before sending a donation. Checks should be made to "KDUZ Lutheran Hour Broadcast". Send your checks to: KDUZ Lutheran Hour Broadcast Supporters, % First Lutheran Church, 925 13th Street E, Glencoe, MN 55336. You will receive confirmation in the mail with the dedication you will hear at the beginning of the broadcast. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Noah's Ark Preschool

700 Division St. P.O. Box 147 Brownton, MN 55312 320-328-5325

The preschool has been busy this school year preparing and training through the Parent Aware rating program of Minnesota. Parent Aware is an early childhood program that connects families with childcare and preschools and provides coaching, training, and financial support for the preschool. At the end of the school year the preschool will have done one year (2 sessions) of "building quality" (essentially preparing to rate). Next fall we will begin the actual rating process by submitting materials and documentation for a 4 Star rating, which is the highest rating one can apply for. Grant dollars come with each building quality session as well as the rating session. I think it's important for families and the community to know that not only does Noah's Ark provide a Christian education but a HIGH quality, CHRISTIAN education for young children.

Vicki Herrmann
Noah's Ark Preschool



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May, June & July Issue

A Monthly Newsletter of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church

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Mission Statement of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Brownton

“Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church is a fellowship of believers in Jesus Christ seeking to nurture individuals and families in their Christian faith, teaching them a caring ministry to each other, our community, and the world by sharing the message of Jesus through word and deed.”