

## *Quarterly Caller 2025*

### *February, March & April Issue*

#### **“Making Known”**

Epiphany is a season of making known. The coming of Jesus is first made known today to the wise men, and by relation all Gentiles. In the coming weeks, in the readings on Sunday, Jesus will make Himself known through the many and various signs and wonders that He will perform. And ultimately, the reason for Jesus coming will be made known as He begins to focus on Jerusalem and the cross.

Many claim that if Jesus came today and did signs and wonders in their presence that they would not question or doubt Him, but that they would believe immediately. I had a teacher who said that if Jesus came today, He would be broadcast over the radio and television and internet, and would reach many more people than He ever reached wandering from town to town in Israel.

The false assumption behind all of this is that Jesus does not come today, that Jesus came 2000 years ago, and that once He ascended into heaven He was no longer making Himself known to people on earth.

But the making known of Jesus continues today. It continues through the Word proclaimed in pulpits and on street corners. It continues through Baptism and Lord’ Supper. It continues through one neighbor helping another.

The readings for the season of Epiphany are about Jesus opening the eyes of the people He encountered that the one who stood before them was truly the Son of God come in the flesh, whose purpose was to bring about the salvation of man.

And now the making known of Jesus continues today because Jesus is still present among us, working in us and through us to open the eyes of those around us to the hope of salvation and eternal life that we have received from Jesus.

Epiphany is about making Jesus known to people for the first time. To those who have made the journey from Bethlehem’s manger to Calvary’s cross and the empty tomb before, Epiphany is like watching re-runs of television; you know the story. But to those who have not made the journey before, to those who do not yet know Jesus, they are still in Epiphany, learning who Jesus is and for what He has come.

Bring this Epiphany joy to others: help them to know that Jesus has come to save them from sin, death and the devil. Make the love of Jesus known to those around you.

We Bless the Lord!!!+  
Pastor Reed

ANNUAL VOTERS MEETING, SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025 @10:15am  
IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, BROWNTON, MN

42 members were present.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Mathwig.

Pastor Reed opened the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting agenda was approved, and MMSC accepted.

New Business:

The church officer's ballot was distributed and approved, and MMSC to accept.

Officers elected are Vice Chairman-Brett Klabunde, Deacons-Lane Miller and Nathan Zellman, Assistant to Head Usher-Trent Benson, Trustee-Jason Buxcel, Secretary-Sheila Bussler, Financial Secretaries-Brenda Reed, Deb Draeger, Stacy Schuch, Board of Education-Kourtney Meister.

The salary adjustment ballot for church staff was distributed and explained. The ballot was approved, MMSC accepted. The congregation voted to raise the Pastor's salary by 5%, Preschool Teacher's salary by 5%, Office Manager/Secretary's salary by 10.5%, and the Custodian's salary by 3%.

The Secretary's minutes from the October 20, 2024, Voters meeting, written by acting Secretary Karen Buckentin, were reviewed. Minutes from December 1, 2025, Special Voters meeting were also reviewed. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve of all Secretary's minutes.

The Treasurer's report was given by Donald Aibrecht. The report is found on pages 3-4 of the annual report. It was highlighted that on page 4, the Scholarship item is the tuition reimbursement for families that send their children to parochial schools. Being no further questions or comments, the report was MMSC to approve.

The Audit Committee stated that all financial records are complete and correct.

The Trust Fund report was given by Lori Cacka. It is found on page 4-5 of the annual report.

The report was MMSC to accept.

The Deacon's report was given by Pastor Reed. It is found on page 1-2 of the annual report.

Membership changes:

Transfer out- 11/4/2024 Kayla Grams and family, Carter, Jaxon, Tyson and Brynlee, released to St. John's Lutheran Church in Norwood/Young America, MN. MMSC to approve.

The new ESST state mandates were explained by Deacon Jerry Zaske. It stands for Earned Sick and Safe Time, and requires employers to provide paid leave to employees who work in MN. The Deacons report was approved, MMSC.

Chairman Mark Mathwig asked for a motion to destroy all ballots from the officer election and the salary adjustment voting, MMSC to approve.

The Trustees report was given by Dave Geier. The report is found on page 6-7 of the annual report. Repairs and projects from 2024 were highlighted. Upcoming projects are the electrical repairs and replacements and the landscaping around the church. Dave thanked Robert Heil and DuWayne Paehlke for all of their work inside and outside of the church. The Trustees report was approved, MMSC.

The Board of Education report is found on page 8.

The Office Manager's report was given by Mona Geier. Projects during the final quarter of the year were offering envelopes, year end statements, annual reports and Christmas events and services. The Financial secretaries will rotate every third Sunday with 1 new member and 1 experienced member working together. The new church website is working well.

The Office Manager's report was approved, MMSC.

The Noah's Ark Preschool report was given by Teacher Vicki Herrmann. The report is found on page 9 of the Annual report. She is very grateful to Mona for helping with the school's bookkeeping, especially help with the fund raising records. She also thanks the Trustees for their help, the van drivers and board members, along with the whole congregation for their unfailing support with every aspect of the school.

The Parent Aware program comes with a grant. This grant will be used on the Outdoor Classroom. The Preschool report was approved, MMSC.

#### Old Business:

The organ repair project is in progress now. It could take up to 2 months to complete.

The electric project will begin late January or early February. The \$16,000.00 cost of the electrical project will come from the Trust Fund. MMSC to approve.

#### Other Business:

The Congregation decided to give \$10,000 to Missions this year: \$7,000 to Synod and \$3,000 to Noah's Ark Preschool. This was approved, MMSC.

There was a recess of the Voters meeting for the Cemetery Board meeting. The meeting was opened by Gerry Graupman. The Cemetery report is on page 10 of the annual report. A new lawn mower and a new care taker are needed for the upcoming year. A new roof was put on the storage shed at the cemetery. There have been requests to put new tar on the cemetery's roads. This is quite costly and is tabled at this time. Prices for burial plots was discussed.

The Cemetery Board meeting was adjourned.

There was a motion to reopen the Voters meeting, MMSC to accept.

There was no further business. Motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting. Pastor Reed closed with prayer and the table prayer, along with the singing of the doxology. A potluck dinner, with chicken was served in the church basement.

Respectfully submitted, Secretary, Kathy Nordby



## LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article

---

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

Stewardship Newsletter article

### Christ's Love Compels Us

*"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, therefore all died. And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him Who died for them and was raised again" (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).*

Some sons disobey their fathers. Others obey unwillingly with arguing and complaining, resentful of their fathers' authority. Still others are compliant, but are there any who would be as submissive as Jesus was to His Father's will? "... yet not My will, but Yours be done," Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:42). Carrying out His Father's will was no easy task, but, because His love for us is as great as the Father's, He was willing to win our salvation for us by carrying out the plan the Triune God had established before the foundations of the world were laid. It was His love for us that caused Christ to give His very life so that we, who were dead in sin, might be alive forevermore in Him.

There is nothing we can do to earn this love; there is nothing we can do to “pay Him back.” The Christian life of stewardship is a response to His love. His love compels us to respond by loving Him first and best and loving others as ourselves. His love compels us to provide for our pastors, teachers, and missionaries who work to bring the Gospel to the world for which He died (1 Corinthians 9:9-12). His love compels us to look after the widow and the orphan (James 1:27). His love compels us to feed the hungry, extend hospitality to the homeless, clothe the destitute, and visit the prisoner (Matthew 25:37-40).

Stewardship is the use of life and all of life’s resources in response to the grace of God in our lives, poured out in service to others, even as Christ poured out His lifeblood for us. The prophet Micah clarifies to us what God requires of us: *“To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God”* (Micah 6:8b). These are not attitudes we can work up of our own accord. Only as we are renewed daily through Word and Sacrament can we respond to this great love of Christ and respond in joyful service and generous giving that please God.

## **LCMS Stewardship Ministry**

---

# **WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR CHURCH OFFICE**

### **The Office Has Been Quite Busy Recently:**

- **Transition to 2025:** I’m in the process of updating all documents, schedules, and systems for 2025.
- **Year-End Statements:** On Tuesday, January 7th, 2025, Immanuel mailed out 174 year-end statements. Hopefully, everyone has received theirs. If you haven’t or if you have questions, please let me know.
- **Annual Reports:** The office has prepared Immanuel’s Annual Report. A total of 232 reports were assembled and mailed out this morning, January 15th, 2025.
- **Financial Secretaries Update:**
  - We’re trying a new system this year: Instead of three Financial Secretaries each Sunday, we will now have two—a Senior Secretary paired with a new secretary.
  - This approach aims to provide better training and support for new secretaries.
  - If more help is needed on busy counting days, the team can decide to bring in additional support.
  - I’ll have the yearly schedule ready for them at the Installation on Sunday.

---

### **End-of-Year Update:**

We’re pleased to share that we ended the year by completing several office projects, including updating church records and refreshing the church website. At this time, there are no major projects planned for the coming year, but we will keep you updated.

Thank you to everyone for making this past year a success. Your support has been invaluable in helping us enhance communication and organization within our congregation. We are truly blessed by your dedication and contributions!

If you have any questions or feedback, feel free to reach out. 😊

---

**Immanuel:** For those who weren’t at the Voters Meeting on January 26th, we kindly ask for your help when filling out your offering envelopes. Please include the following:

- **Check Number:** If you are giving a check.
- **Cash:** If you are giving cash.
- **Your Name:** Please write it on the envelope.

This small step helps speed up the process for the Financial Secretaries and the office. ***Thank you for your cooperation!***

That’s it for now. Until next time!

Blessings,

**Mona Geier**

Immanuel Office Manager

# Special Happening at Immanuel

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

Holy Communion is on the 1<sup>st</sup> and Last Sunday of the Month.

## February

February 11<sup>th</sup> | 6:30pm-Deacon's Meeting

February 19<sup>th</sup> | 1:30pm-Afternoon Worship Service  
with Holy Communion

## March

March 1<sup>st</sup> | 2:30pm-Miller/Peterson Wedding

March 5<sup>th</sup> | 7:15pm- Ash Wednesday Service/Holy Communion

March 11<sup>th</sup> | 6:30pm-Deacon's Meeting

March 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> | 5:30pm | Lenten Supper  
6:45pm | Lenten Service



## Stay Updated!

*Always check the website for the most current events and announcements.*

## A Message of Hope heard on The Lutheran Hour

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 February, you will hear the following program topics on the 9:00 am broadcast:

Feb 2 **"Do the Things That Make for Unity"** with Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#). Jesus crosses borders, and even breaks down the barrier of death to do the things that make for unity: shared worship, shared mission, shared harvest. (John 4:9)

Feb 9 **"We Have an Advocate"** with Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#). Where we might see only a problem, Jesus sees a person who needs an Advocate. (John 5:6)

Feb 16 **"The Bread of Our Lives"** with Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola. Jesus gives us Himself as the Bread of Life so that everything we need can be filled by Him and His gifts. (John 6:35)

Feb 23 **"Need to Know"** with Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#). If you don't need God, you won't know God. (John 7:28-29)

### Our Mission

Help us spread the Gospel message in the KDUZ Radio listening area. The KDUZ Radio Lutheran Hour broadcast is a congregational outreach ministry supporting 38 congregations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in the KDUZ listening area by inviting listeners (at the end of each broadcast) to attend a "Church of the Lutheran Hour" in their area. It is independently funded by generous Christians, church groups and congregations who want to spread the pure and powerful message of the Savior's love in their communities.

### 2025 Sponsor Campaign Report

Our 2025 Sponsor Campaign continues. As of January 21, 2025 we have received \$3,644.00 or 74% towards our goal of raising \$4,888 for the 52 broadcasts in 2025. You are Invited to become a 2025 KDUZ Lutheran Hour Broadcast Supporter. Any gift amount helps. Sponsor one broadcast (\$94.00) or broadcasts by sending your gift (payable to KDUZ Lutheran Hour Broadcast) to: KDUZ Lutheran Hour Broadcast Supporters, % First Lutheran Church, 925 13<sup>th</sup> Street East, Glencoe, MN 55336. Questions? Please call or text Rich at 320-779-0123. Thank you for your support!

***And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.***

***Galatians 6:9 ESV***

# **Board of Education**

---

## **The Giving Tree Project: A Heartfelt Christmas Mission**

This Christmas season, our Sunday School students and congregation joined together in a wonderful act of Christian love and generosity through the **Giving Tree** project. Designed to support local families in need, this initiative beautifully captured the true spirit of Christmas giving.

Our Sunday School children played a vital role by decorating ornaments for the Giving Tree. Each ornament represented a specific need or wish from two local families facing challenges during the holiday season. Thanks to the compassionate coordination of community member **Becky Havelka**, we were able to identify these families' needs while honoring their privacy and dignity.

Thanks to the overwhelming kindness of our congregation, all gifts were wrapped and delivered to the families before Christmas Eve. Through your generosity, two local families were able to experience the joy and love of Christ this holiday season. This project has truly shown us that when we come together as a community, we can make a significant and meaningful difference in the lives of others.

May God bless each of you for your selfless kindness. As we move forward into the new year, let us continue to seek opportunities to serve our community and share God's love with those around us.

**Board of Education: Anna Draeger, Britt Buxcel, Brittany Glaeser, and Jackie Schueler**

---

# **Noah's Ark Preschool**

---

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

## **Preschool Highlights**

Our big achievement this year was receiving a **4-Star Rating** through the Parent Aware Program—the highest rating a program can receive! Achieving this milestone took countless hours of hard work to demonstrate that we are a high-quality program, but it was well worth the effort. This rating also includes grant funding, and we are currently working on setting goals to make the most of these opportunities.

## **Ways to Support the Preschool:**

- Participate in fundraisers.
- Donate to the **BIG TICKET RAFFLE**.
- Check the **wish list** located in the entry for classroom needs.
- Continue sending memorials to the preschool.

Memorials and donations are crucial for replacing, updating, or adding new materials to our classroom. Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide an exceptional educational environment for our children!

Thanks for your support of Noah's Ark Preschool!

Vicki Herrmann  
Noah's Ark Preschool



Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church  
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
Pastor: Rev. R. Allan Reed  
700 Division St., P. O. Box 147  
Brownton, MN 55312-0147

## February, March & April Issue

**A Monthly Newsletter of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church**

700 Division St. P.O. Box 147, Brownton, MN 55312-0147

[www.immanuel Lutheran brownton.org](http://www.immanuel Lutheran brownton.org)

**Pastor's Office** and **Church Office**: 320.328.5522

**Noah's Ark Preschool**: (Vicki Herrmann) 320.510.2726

Publication by Church Office Manager: (Mona Geier) 320 510 0920

### **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."*