



The Image

January 2024



New Year Blessings!

The best part about a new calendar year is a fresh start. I love the idea of a fresh start. A fresh piece of paper, a new day, a snow covered lawn, a clean kitchen~ hallelujah! As human beings we constantly need new starts. That's because of that very thing- we're human. As humans, we are constantly getting worn out, making mistakes, and making a mess of things. One thing we can rely on, is that God is ready and able to give us a new start. God is ready to make new creation with the stuff of our lives and our very selves.

We begin January with a very fresh start Bible story~ the story of Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River by his cousin John. This story marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. And baptism for us is always a new start too. Every day, we die to sin and are raised to new life through the waters of baptism. That's what our Christian faith promises us. That's the hope we have in Christ. And thank you God for that! Because I don't know about you, but I need that every day, because of the aforesaid human thing.

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In this new year of 2024, we begin with Baptism of our Lord Sunday and we remember we are blessed and forgiven as children of God. God, our Parent, is eager to help us start again with grace and mercy this year. May your new year be filled with as many new starts as you need.

From a blessing for beginnings and endings by Kate Bowler:

“Blessed are we who take a minute
To look over our shoulder
At all we learned from what was,
The people we became,
The people who loved us into becoming.
The peace that came with familiarity.

Blessed are we who trust this timing,
And who open our hearts anew
To change, to new friends, to hope.
Nervous, maybe heavy-hearted,
But brimming with gratitude for a life
So beautiful that it hurts to say goodbye.

Blessed are we, turning our eyes ahead
Toward a new path not yet mapped.
God, give us courage to take this next step...”

Grace and courage in this New Year!

Pastor Jamie



*A Church Without
Walls*

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS 9 AM
followed by JoF and
Fellowship

WEDNESDAYS 6 PM
Worship on Wednesday
occurs most
Wednesdays, check
calendar for special
events.

Youth and Family Spotlight

Alyssa Engedal familyministry@immanuelec.org

Christmas is passed, the presents are opened, and the cookies are eaten. Now – what to do with that bare tree? Again this year, on Sunday, January 7, our 2024 Youth Gathering Team will be offering Christmas tree pick up. Please sign up via [SignUpGenius](#), or contact the church office to add your name to our pick up schedule. All donations are appreciated. Tell your friends and neighbors, too!

Thank you for your generosity! Gifts were purchased for each of the children on our LSS Foster Care list, and we also packaged and shipped many Baby Care Kits to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you for spreading joy to some deserving children this year.

Attention families of 2nd graders - on Sunday, January 28 we will celebrate your child with a Milestone Blessing and gifting of their first “big kid” bible in worship. We hope you can join us for this special occasion.

Thanks for supporting our trip team! We have another Panda Express fundraiser scheduled in January - this one is on Sunday, January 14. Again, all you need is a flier (or picture of one) from the Narthex. Please spread the word!

Back by popular demand, the Immanuel Family Retreat! We are so excited to bring back a fun event for families of all ages and stages, for the first time since COVID. We have reserved the Shalom center at Luther Park Bible Camp for the weekend of February 9-11. Watch for registration details, or talk to Alyssa or Becky Carter to find out more!



Mark Your Calendar:

Jan 3: WoW Resumes
7:30 Youth Gathering
Meeting

Jan 7: Tree Pick up

Jan. 14: Panda Express
fundraiser

Jan 17: Service Project
at Feed My People
4 pm
(No WoW or Learning
on-site)

Jan 28: Bible Milestone
2nd grade

Christmas Story

Our youth did a great job
sharing the
Christmas Story and
birth of baby Jesus!

Great work to all who
participated, and a big
thank you goes to all who
helped make it great!

Eucharistic Ministry News

by Dr. Michael C. Rehak, Caring Ministry Coordinator

Eucharistic Ministries

January 6, Epiphany, marks the end of the 12 days of Christmas. It is the season of LIGHT; God's light of love through Jesus in the world, in our hearts. It is the light which calls us to be a neighbor and to reach out to others in need bearing the light of hope, the light of love. I am honored to be the next Caring Ministry Coordinator. I am pleased to work with the identified Eucharistic Ministers. Once a month, they faithfully take communion to members (called partners) who are unable to be in worship at our 9 am service. If you, or someone you know, would benefit in receiving communion in your place of residence, please contact me or Pastor Jamie.

Healing Worship Services

I understand that in the past, the congregation would periodically have a worship service focusing on prayers for healing. My intent is to return to that practice. Working with Pastor Jamie and we will offer healing worship services three Sundays a year. Mark Your Calendar - Jan 21, 2024 will be our first Sunday morning healing service. I expect we will have one in the Spring and a third Sunday healing service in the Fall. In the future a healing worship will be offered at WOW.

Reaching out to Home Bound Members

Identifying home bound members is a major concern I have. I hope to explore with Council members and Pastor a means to gather related information. I know that congregations across the Church face an equal challenge exacerbated by Covid. Helpful data may include options for worship, frequency, and transportation. I trust members will openly participate.

Honoring Our Octogenarians

I believe it is important to recognize our seniors. I suggest at some point this summer we host a nice luncheon with an appropriate program for our special members.

I anticipate your participation in these Caring Ministry opportunities. One of the most humbling admonitions that Jesus gave us, As you do to the least of these, you do it to me.

Peace,

Michael C. Rehak

Email: mcrehak9556@charter.net

Cell: 608-509-8795.

Home: 715-514-2372



Mark Your Calendar:

Jan 21: Healing
Service

*Jeremiah 17:14
Heal me, O Lord, and I
shall be healed; save
me, and I shall be
saved: for thou art my
praise.*



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Upcoming Events:

Troubling the Waters - Session 4 For Healing of the Church

January 9, 2024

7:00 - 8:00pm

You are invited to join Deacon Lidixe Montoya and Michelle Pride to Trouble the Waters. Based on the ELCA's Social Statement "Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture" this 18-session course explores the power, privilege, and prejudice that belongs to White Christians. Join as individuals or with a group for awareness & growth and to work for change together within your congregations and communities.

Register [HERE](#)

Book Club: When Church Stops Working Lead by Bishop Laurie Snow-Anderson

January 25, 2024

Join via Zoom at Noon or 7 pm.

It's no big surprise that churches are struggling to find a new way moving forward in God's mission. The old ways don't work anymore. So what if the new thing is to do nothing and simply "wait upon the Lord?" I invite you to join me into a conversation about this book that is surprisingly hopeful and bonus, it is an easy read.

Join Meeting [HERE](#)

Passcode: 636430

Malawi Update - by Deacon Laura Ramlow

Learn about updates with our partnership with Malawi.

Deacon Laura Ramlow shares information on health, Bishop Election, fundraising efforts for borehole water wells, the economy and recent Malawi visit. Click here to read her article:

<https://nwswi.org/malawi>

Bishop's Initiative: Water is Life Malawi Well Project

WATER IS LIFE

"MADZI NDI MOYO"

In response to our recent visit to Malawi, and in light of the effects of climate change on weather, health, and agriculture there, we are inviting the people, congregations, and friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin to partner with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi in the building of 2 new solar-powered, deep drilled borehole wells.

The goal is to raise \$40,000 by June 2024.

If you would like to give a financial gift toward this project, you can do so at this link:

<https://subsplash.com/u/-V3B7TF/give?embed=true>

Blessings from the ZIP Team

by Holli Jacobson



Happy holidays from the ZIP team! We had a productive December meeting in which we returned to our mission of accompaniment with our Malawi friends. Covid had interrupted our 3 year exchange of visitors and our team decided to once again invite a Malawi group to Immanuel during the summer of 2025. We are excited to continue to foster relationships with our Malawi friends in person! We also discussed an upcoming Synod project to fund 2 solar powered deep-drilled wells in Malawi. We celebrated Diane Kaufmann's many accomplishments over the years as the Malawi coordinator, including a detailed history she recently compiled on our relationship. We are hoping to find ways to digitize her many hours of video tape of rare and special footage from Malawi. Keep our ZIP family in your prayers this holiday season and God's blessings to all!

Green Team Reminders

by Sue Waits



If you have non-working holiday lights, drop them off at church and the Green Team will take them in for recycling.

Other items to drop off at church for recycling:

Batteries Chargers Cords

Just leave them in the red buckets by the office and the Green Team will take it from there.

Don't throw out those Packing Peanuts

If you received a package with packing peanuts, those can be bagged and taken to Pak Mail (2809 Hamilton Avenue, Eau Claire) for re-use.

The Green Team meets the 3rd Sunday of the month after worship. Grab a cup of coffee or tea and join us!

Knit Together Contributions

by Pira Mueller



A huge Thank You to the crafters of the "Knit Together" group - and some unexpected contributors - for knitting and crocheting 85 items to help raise funds for the youth trip next summer. A total of 56 items were sold and the remainder was distributed at our food pantry, blessing bag project and The Community Table. Thanks to Lorrie Franson for the idea and everybody for jumping in and making it a reality. Knit Together will meet again on January 8 from 1-3pm at Immanuel. We welcome knitters and crocheters of all levels of experience.

It's a New Year!

Are you looking for ways
to serve at
Immanuel in 2024?

Below are several ways to offer your time and talents at church. For more details or to sign up, contact the church office or highlight and click here:

<https://www.immanuelec.org/community/volunteer/>

Read lessons at Worship

Assisting Minister

Provide Special Music

Usher/Greeter

Serve at Community Table

Prepare food for Beacon

House Jan. 2 - 6

Join Choir or Bell Choir

Deliver Weekend Kids

Meals to Meadowview

Elementary from

Feed My People

The Image has a new look!

With the new format of *The Image* birthdays and anniversaries will no longer be included. If you would like a copy emailed or mailed to you, please contact the office 715.832.7832.

JANUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1 Happy New Year!</p> <p>Food Pantry Closed</p>	<p>2 9:30 AM - H3</p> <p>Immanuel serves at Beacon House</p>	<p>3 10:AM Bible Study</p> <p>5:15 Meal 6:00 WoW Resumes 6:30 Learning 7 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 NYG Mtg Immanuel serves at Beacon House</p>	<p>4 12 - 4 Material Witness Quilting</p> <p>Immanuel serves at Beacon House</p>	<p>5 Immanuel serves At Beacon House</p>	<p>6 Immanuel serves At Beacon House</p>
<p>7 Baptism of Our Lord 9 AM Worship Followed by JoF & Fellowship and Adult Forum World Relief Xmas Tree Pickup 6 Neighbor to Neighbor Worship</p>	<p>8 1 - 3 Knit Together 4 - 5:30 Food Pantry Open 6:30 - H3</p>	<p>9 9:30 AM - H3</p>	<p>10 10:AM Bible Study</p> <p>5:15 Meal 6:00 WoW 6:30 Learning 7 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11 12 - 4 Material Witness Quilting</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 9 AM Worship Followed by JoF & Fellowship Panda Express NYG Fundraiser</p>	<p>15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 1 - 3 Knit Together 4 - 5:30 Food Pantry Open 6:30 - H3</p>	<p>16 9:30 AM - H3</p> <p>7 Council Mtg</p>	<p>17 10 AM Bible Study 4 Service Project at Feed My People (NO WoW or Learning on site) 7 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>18 12 - 4 Material Witness Quilting</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 9 AM Worship Healing Service Followed by JoF & Fellowship Green Team Mtg</p>	<p>22 1 - 3 Knit Together 4 - 5:30 Food Pantry Open 6:30 - H3 Mindset Monday Somatic Practices</p>	<p>23 9:30 AM - H3</p>	<p>24 10:AM Bible Study</p> <p>5:15 Meal 6:00 WoW 6:30 Learning 7 Choir Rehearsal Immanuel serves at Community Table</p>	<p>25 12 - 4 Material Witness Quilting</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 9 AM Worship Bible Milestone 2nd Grade Followed by JoF & Fellowship</p>	<p>29 1 - 3 Knit Together 4 - 5:30 Food Pantry Open 6:30 - H3</p>	<p>30 9:30 AM - H3</p>	<p>31 10:AM Bible Study</p> <p>5:15 Meal 6:00 WoW 6:30 Learning 7 Choir Rehearsal</p>			