



IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Image

May 2023



Immanuel Lutheran Church

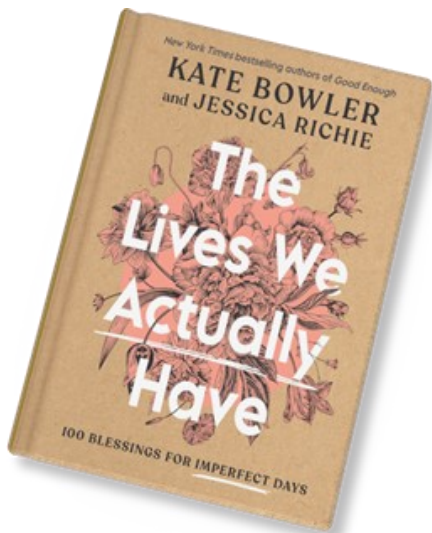
3214 Golf Road

Eau Claire, WI 54701

Website: immanuelec.org

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715-832-7832



May Blessings to you Church!

I recently attended an event featuring Kate Bowler with a church group. Kate is a professor who focuses on the history of the prosperity gospel in America. She has also written several books and is an accomplished speaker. Her latest book is a collection of blessings entitled, “*The Lives We Actually Have*.”

Kate proposed being ‘good enough’ could actually be enough. She cautioned that constantly striving to improve yourself and your life can be a fruitless endeavor. She said that our American obsession with #bestlife and #blessed often blinds us to the ordinary and beautiful lives we actually have.

Kate’s teachings really match our Lutheran theology. Our Lutheran lens of Christianity does not strive for perfection, but instead, it acknowledges our sin and brokenness and our deep need for God. God comes to us when we are in need! We will always be simultaneously sinning saints who are welcomed into God’s beloved community. No need for perfection when you are loved. No need for constant improvement when you have a purpose to share God’s love in the world. No need for living the famous life when you are known by the Holy Spirit and held in community.

Maybe this May ‘good enough’ can be enough for us too.

~Pastor Jamie

A Blessing for Easter by Kate Bowler

Blessed are we who stretch out
our hands to you
in doubt and grief,
in sickness of body
and mind and spirit,
our prayers not fully realized,
rejoicing... anyway.

For that’s what makes us Easter people:
carrying forth the realized hope
of the Resurrected One,
singing our alleluias
great and small
while it is still dark.

Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.



Come Worship With Us in May!

Sundays at 9 am:

May 7 - Church Music Sunday

May 14 - Mother's Day and Youth Led Worship

May 21 - High School Graduation Milestone

May 28 - Worship



Daylily Work Days May 15th and 20th 10 am - 4 pm

Come to Kaufmann farm for two work days in May to move plants so they can take root and bloom in time for daylily dig weekends in July. In addition to moving plants, there will be an opportunity to weed for those who don't like shovel work. Both work days: Monday, May 15 and Saturday, May 20 will run from 10 am - 4 pm. Come for both/one, all or part of each day, as you have time. Lunch will be provided by a Thrivent Action team grant.

Mark your calendar:

The actual daylily dig dates are:

July 14 & 15 and August 4 & 5

9 am– 1 pm

All proceeds benefit our partnership with Malawi.

PRAISE IN THE PARK RETURNS SUMMER 2023



Sundays - 10 am - Phoenix Park

June 4th - August 27th

Held at the Labyrinth in beautiful Phoenix Park every Sunday at 10 am June through August, this opportunity offers outdoor worship with a rain location again at the Brewing Projekt.

**Immanuel will lead Praise in the Park on
July 2 and July 30.**

NOTE: No indoor service will be held on these Sundays at Immanuel.

Two Positions Open at Immanuel:

Immanuel Lutheran Church Office Administrator Position

Seeking a welcoming and energetic team member for the Immanuel staff. Duties include: office management, communication with parishioners, and coordinating volunteers. Currently, Immanuel office hours are Monday through Thursday 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Please submit a resume and letter of interest to: pastor@immanuelec.org or Immanuel Lutheran Church, 3214 Golf Rd Eau Claire, WI 54701. A detailed job description and salary details are available upon request.

Caring Ministry Coordinator

Immanuel is hiring a caring ministry coordinator to organize our Eucharistic Ministry, which is our at-home communion program. Coordinator will recruit and train volunteer ministers, identify individuals in the congregation who may need a partner, and organize quarterly meetings for Eucharistic Ministers. Person must be a caring presence who promotes congregational care at Immanuel. Position is 20-25 hours per month, paid via monthly stipend. Job description available upon request. Email pastor@immanuelec.org.

Update on the Blessing Bags and Blessing Box Ministry

As many of you may know, we have a Blessing Box located outside of church that contains practical hygiene and household items for anyone in our community to take as needed. We also have Blessing Bags assembled at all times in the Narthex. These bags are meant to be carried in your car and distributed when you come across a person in our community asking for help. The bags contain travel size toiletry items, individually packaged snacks, seasonal items such as hats (thank you knitters!), hand warmers, socks, rain ponchos, etc. We have also compiled a list of local resources, food pantries, and shelters to include with each bag.

If you are able to help out with this ministry, please feel free to take a bag or two for distribution. If you are able to help with a donation, there is a bin under the small table next to the drinking fountain in the Narthex. The items we currently need most are:

Rain Ponchos/Umbrellas
Travel Size Shampoo, Conditioner, Lotion, Deodorant (hotel items work great!)
Individually Packaged Snacks (Protein Bars, Dried Fruit, Cereal Bars)
Hand wipes or sanitizer
Free meal or gas cards and coupons
Bar soap
Travel size toothpaste
Bug spray

Thank you for supporting this ministry! If you have any questions, please reach out to Megan Hofeldt at megan.hofeldt@gmail.com



SPRING CLEANING TIPS FROM THE GREEN TEAM

De-cluttering?

Are you doing a little spring cleaning and looking to get rid of some clutter? The Green Team would like to remind you of all the great resources in our community to recycle or reuse your unwanted items so that they don't end up in the landfill.

Old Clothing and Shoes

Hope Gospel Mission and most of the thrift stores in the area will take unwanted clothing and shoes. If you have old socks, torn t-shirts or clothing that is not wearable, simply put in a bag and label as such.

Building Supplies and Old Furniture

Hope Gospel Mission Building Center and Habitat for Humanity will take building supplies and old furniture and many times they will do pick-up.

Mattresses

Beacon House is often in need of twin mattresses, but if you can't find a new home for your mattress, call Kjersten Junk Removal and they will recycle any size mattress for a fee. They will also arrange pick up.

<https://www.ecjunkpickup.com>, 715-559-3677.

Electronics, Computers

First Choice Computer Recycling will take your electronic items free of charge. Just drop off at their location at 525 Park Ridge Ct (which is 1 block down from Menomonie Street and Clairemont Avenue).

Metal Scrap

There are many places in town that pay for metal scrap, so don't throw those items in the trash, take them to the scrap yard:

Alter Metal Recycling
EMR Metal Recycling
Spickler Recycling

Youth & Family Ministry News

Alyssa Engedal—familyministry@immanuel.org



It's not too late to sign up for summer programming!



Luther Park Bible Camp: Registration is available now, and Immanuel's Trust Fund is offering 50% Sponsorships! Use the code "ILEC23" at checkout to apply the discount. Luther Park offers a variety of options for kids ages kindergarten-high school. Detailed information found online at lutherpark.org.

Immanuel VBS: Immanuel will lead Vacation Bible School the week of June 19! Registration forms are available in the Narthex or on our website: immanuelec.org - Faith Formation - Children & Families.



Summer Stretch This Middle School Ministry, full of fun and service, will be offered during the week of July 10. Registration forms are available in the Narthex, or on our website: immanuelec.org - Faith Formation - Youth.

Youth Trip: We're getting excited to head to Tennessee! Our group of high school youth will be spending a week exploring and serving in the Nashville area. Thank you for your support of this trip!



Thrift Sale: Our thrift sale drop off will be June 7-8, and the sale will be June 8 & 9. Start your spring cleaning and save your donations! Drop off will be available during office hours or by appointment. Then, be sure to stop by and shop the sale to support the Summer Youth Trip and our Zomba Immanuel Partnership!

Youth Led Worship Sunday (on Mother's Day) May 14: Join us for a special worship service as we end our creation themed learning year at Immanuel. The Journey of Faith students will be sharing some of what we learned this year, as well as leading prayers and sharing special music. We hope to see you there!



Congratulations High School Graduates: On Sunday, May 21 we will bless and recognize our high school graduates. Join us in rejoicing with Karina Barquist, Grant Johnson, Carter Chapman, Dagen Rassbach, Maddy Rosenberger, Emma Larson, Molly LoRusso and Marissa Schroeder.

Brat Barn: The Summer Trip Team will be grilling brats at the Festival Foods on Mall Drive the weekend of May 19-21. Please come get some tasty food and support our summer trip!



LONGINGS AND LOSSES:

At the beginning of 2022 the council made a goal to do a listening exercise, recognizing that The Church at large is in a time of change and the pandemic created many experiences of change, loss, and grief, in order to better understand what members of the congregation were thinking and feeling. The *Longings and Losses* exercise is a spiritual listening exercise taken from the Faith+Lead resource, *Navigating a New Future*. Here is a description of the exercise from this resource: "The spiritual practice of lament invites participants to enter into a process of lamenting the longings and losses that accompany any type of change that occurs as we faithfully innovate. Fears of loss can prevent congregations from pursuing faithful innovation altogether. Lamenting can create space for grieving losses as well as building trust in God's direction for the future."

Conversations were held between April and October 2022 and the council allowed for space at several council meetings during 2022 to share what they heard. Here are some of the responses from individuals as compiled by the council:

What's one wish you have for your congregation?

- That visitors and new members would feel as welcome as those who have been coming to Immanuel for many years.
- Continue the warm welcome when entering church and a safe place for all to worship.
- More small group experiences in person.
- See church membership grow but keep the older population engaged in worship.
- See more members return to church physically post COVID.
- Keeping things more simple and streamlined/balanced.
- A wish for broadening the Caring/Eucharistic Ministry for the most vulnerable, and a wish for adding ongoing support or circles for grieving or other needs
- A longing to value elder members

What's something that used to happen in the congregation that you wish would return?

- More mentoring opportunities between high school students and younger students.
- Increase in attendance and full choir back
- Opportunities for engaging conversation.
- Connect Wednesday night and Sunday morning families/students.
- Presentation of the bread and wine/church rituals (and organ music!).
- Return to previous service time (9:30)
- Returning to coffee and snacks on Sunday morning and meals on Wednesdays.

What's one thing you fear might be lost as your congregation moves into the future?

- Appreciation of the history and legacy of the older members of our congregation. This would have more emphasis for the younger and new members of Immanuel.
- That all genders and age groups' spiritual needs are met, i.e., small groups.
- Church may struggle with the younger population and participation.
- Experience of worship may not be as meaningful as it has been in the past.

What's something that has changed that you feel is a loss in the life of the congregation?

- Keeping high school students engaged and coming to confirmation/church.
- A working organ.
- Watching church Live or on YouTube may not bring folks back to church physically.
- Sharing the Peace by handshake or hugging.
- Grieved the loss of high church rituals such as the presentation of bread and wine, communion served by elders, and passing the plate at offering



No Mow May 2023 Chippewa Valley Pollinator Partnership

It's that time of year when warm weather motivates gardeners and homeowners to tend to their lawns with regular mowing. To promote and educate the community about the critical period of pollinator emergence, the month of May has been designated as **No Mow May** in a growing number of communities like Eau Claire.

The goal of **No Mow May** is to provide early pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, more native plants/food by reducing mowing during a month when these types of resources are limited to pollinators.



At the April meeting, Immanuel Council members agreed to support this community-wide endeavor by not mowing the church grounds during the month of May.

Signs explaining **No Mow May** will be acquired through JONAH and placed in various areas on the church lawn. Hopefully, this will encourage neighbors/others to do the same, allowing common flowering plants like dandelion, clover, creeping Charlie and violet to provide food for hungry pollinators, when many other flowers are not yet in bloom. More information can be found [HERE!](#)



Support JONAH!

Stop by the Brat Barn at Festival Foods for a delicious brat (or two)!

Festival on Mall Drive

Saturday, May 5

10 am - 6 PM



Beginning in June... Help keep the church property looking good!

We're looking for a few people to take turns mowing the lawn as needed.

The church has a mower or you are welcome to use your own.

Please contact the church office if you are able to help!

The church also appreciates anyone who is able to help with weeding/trimming.

[Email](mailto:office@immanuelec.org) office@immanuelec.org or call 715.832.7832. Thank you!



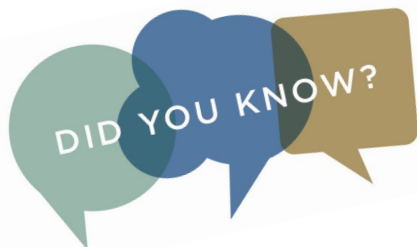


Trip to the Holy Land

with Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

January 8, 8 am - January 17, 2024 5 pm

The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin is coordinating with Elias Tours to plan this transformative pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Visit the holy sites from the Bible in Palestine, Israel, and Jordan Meet and worship with our Lutheran sisters and brothers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) Learn about the work of the Lutheran World Federation's Augusta Victoria Hospital. Discuss relationships between Israel and Palestine. Hear first-hand the stories of the living stones, the people of the land (See 1 Peter 2). More information can be found [HERE](#).



Church Council meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. Once the Council minutes are approved, they are posted on the Immanuel website [HERE](#).

If you would like a paper copy mailed to you, please [email](mailto:office@immanuelec.org) office@immanuelec.org or call the church office.



Joyful music on Easter Sunday!



**PALM
SUNDAY**



Confirmation 2023



Happy Anniversary!

- 17 Jonathan Seamon and
Cindy Bullock
- 23 Thom & Barb Hokanson
- 26 Kelly & Deb Kavanagh
- 26 Mark & Lauri Malnory
- 27 Loren & Emilie Anderson
- 28 Steve & Brenda Johnson
- 28 Todd & Julie Pickett
- 30 JonPaul & Jessica Dragseth

Happy Birthday!

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 01 Steve Mickelson | 19 Mark Helland |
| 01 Holli Jacobson | 20 Grant Johnson |
| 01 Molly Sorvaag | 22 Rosemary Boyea |
| 03 Julie Renz | 22 Rose Reck |
| 04 LeRoy Johnson | 23 Sonja Thomsen |
| 06 Abby Pickett | 23 Disa Wahlstrand |
| 06 Sara Hegde | 26 Hemant Hegde |
| 07 Frankie LoRusso | 26 Allisa Hansen |
| 08 Jaxson Bentley | 27 David Schaffer |
| 10 Maya Cox | 28 CJ Woletz |
| 10 Hayden Hofeldt | 29 Jackie Johnson |
| 11 Emily Johnson | 30 Chad Brieske |
| 13 Tom Zimpel | 30 Nathan Hagstrom |
| 17 Pam Woletz | |

VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEART OF THE CHURCH

LECTORS/READERS NEEDED

Help lead worship by reading the lessons and the Prayers of the People during the indoor and/or outdoor service. Click [here](#) to sign up or contact the church office.

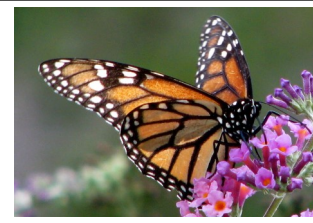
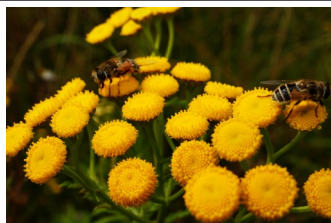


ASSISTING MINISTER

Sign up to serve as the Assisting Minister. Pastor Jamie will provide training to anyone who needs it (or needs a refresher.) Please arrive a little early to worship to prepare. Click [HERE](#) to sign up!

USHER/GREETER

Welcome people as they enter the building for worship and help them find a seat. Click [here](#) to sign up or contact the church office.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1 4-5:30 PM Food Pantry Open</p> <p>6:30 PM - H3</p>	<p>2 9:30 AM - H3</p>	<p>3 10 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>4 Noon-4 PM - Material Witness Quilting</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 10 - 1 pm Neighbor to Neighbor Health Fair</p> <p>JONAH Brat Stand @ Festival</p>
<p>7 9 AM Worship Music Sunday 10 AM Learning & Fellowship</p>	<p>8 4-5:30 PM Food Pantry Open 6:30 PM - H3 7 PM Property Committee Mtg</p>	<p>9 9:30 AM—H3</p>	<p>10 10 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>11 Noon-4 PM - Material Witness Quilting</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 Mother's Day 9 AM Youth Led Worship 10 AM Fellowship</p>	<p>15 10 am - 4 pm Daylily Work Day 4-5:30 PM Food Pantry Open 6:30 PM - H3</p>	<p>16 9:30 AM—H3 7:00 PM Council Mtg</p>	<p>17 10 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>18 Noon - 4 PM - Material Witness Quilting</p> <p>Youth Brat Stand @ Festival</p>	<p>19 11 am Karen McCrady Funeral</p> <p>Youth Brat Stand @ Festival</p>	<p>20 10 am - 4 pm Daylily Work Day</p> <p>Youth Brat Stand @ Festival</p>
<p>21 9 AM Worship High School Graduation Milestone 10 AM Fellowship</p>	<p>22 4-5:30 PM Food Pantry Open 6:30 PM - H3</p>	<p>23 9:30 AM—H3</p>	<p>24 Preschool Graduation</p> <p>Immanuel serves @ Community Table</p>	<p>25 Preschool Graduation</p> <p>Noon-4 PM - Material Witness Quilting</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 9 AM Worship</p>	<p>29 Memorial Day Office Closed</p> <p>No Food Pantry</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>			

Pastor Jamie Brieske
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Alyssa Engedal
Family Ministry/Camp Create
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Katy LoRusso
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Communications Administrator
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immanuellutheranec@gmail.com

Immanuel Lutheran Church
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Address service required

Dated Material—useless if delayed

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



*A congregation of the
Northwest Synod of the ELCA of Wisconsin*