

The Lutheran Beacon

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

304 Spruce St., P.O. Box 466, Tower, MN 55790

July 2022



Summer greetings Immanuel!

As we are about to celebrate our Day of Independence, July 4th, I share with you the words written by Emma Lazarus whose poem can be found on the pedestal on which Lady Liberty stands.

*"Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
MOTHER OF EXILES. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.*

*"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

Just a few questions for you to ponder this month:

- ~ What does freedom mean to you?
- ~ What does freedom look like to you?
- ~ How would you describe the land of the free to someone else?
- ~ What does freedom of a Christian mean to you?

As we attend parades, celebrate with red, white and blue themed food, drinks, and decorations, I wonder about the above questions as a way to not lose focus

on why we are celebrating and what exactly we are celebrating. We often get caught up in the details we forget what the fuss is all about.

One idea of freedom for me is that we will all answers those questions a little differently and that is great! Our experiences, our convictions, our faith, our lives bring us all to differing ideas, learnings and answers. The diversity of not only our answers, but also our country is a symbol of freedom to me. What about you? What symbols of freedom ring true to you? Martin Luther writes about the Freedom of a Christian it is

"...a confession of Christ in a nutshell. Christian freedom is a gift from Christ Himself, "For freedom Christ has set us free..." (Galatians 5:1). What Christ did to win salvation in His divine and human natures, He now gives to those who by baptism bear His name: Christian. God justifies the sinner by faith alone. The sinner is changed in inner and outer man after the likeness of Christ. The Christian is at once utterly free in faith and a servant to all in works of love. Christian life is lived between these twin poles of faith and love. This is the paradoxical Christian freedom as Luther taught the Church."

The freedom of a Christian is living between twin poles of faith and love! Servant to all in works of love! So how do we love our neighbor, ourselves and the people of the world? How does faith and love inform our decisions, choices, and acceptance of all people who have been created in the image of God?

All this freedom talk sounds good, until the law intervenes – sometimes for good (think safety laws) and sometimes for not so good.... Sometimes I am at a loss for words, terrified, scared and afraid of what the future holds as a woman, as a female pastor, as a leader that happens to be a woman. Whether it be Biblical law that you read as the inerrant word of God or the public law that is dominated by men, both worlds collide and so I trust that God makes good out of all and if I live within the twin poles of faith and love, I will be ok and so will you!

Lastly, we can't talk about freedom without thanking and remembering all those men and women who have served, are serving and those who are yet to be called to service to our country. Thank you for all you have sacrificed and given up to fight for our freedoms. To fight for, to stand up for, and to work towards a country that is free. May the Lord bless you now and always!

Peace to you!
Pastor Liz



- July 2 Jack Carlson
- July 4 Brett Carlson
- July 5 Linda Jensen
- July 7 Lori Tomsich
- July 9 Ross Mayo
- July 10 Briggs Mosher
- July 10 Parker Mosher
- July 11 Eileen Swanson
- July 13 Laurie Anderson
- July 15 Grace Bundy
- July 16 Grant Meehan
- July 20 Paige Niemiste
- July 21 Kay Hanson
- July 23 Halli Aluni
- July 23 Susan Norha



- July 9 Dale & Joyce Swanson
- July 11 John & Gretchen Niemiste
- July 12 Roger & Barbara Rinne

- July 25 Orlyn & Marit Kringstad
- July 27 Casey & Courtney Aluni

Offering & Attendance

| Date | Attendance | Offering |
|----------------------|------------|----------|
| May 29 | 64 | \$ 2,960 |
| June 5 | 55 | \$ 1,926 |
| June 12 | 49 | \$ 1,260 |
| June 19 | 43 | \$ 3,585 |
| June 26 | 57 | \$ 1,385 |
| Direct Deposit | | \$ 2,323 |
| Noisy Offerings-June | | \$ 93.60 |

Income & Expenses

June 2022

Income: \$10,572 Expenses: \$ 12,406

June 2021

Income: \$26,663 Expenses: \$ 12,432

July Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers-if you are able to help the church, there is a sign up sheet in the Narthex. Thank you.

USHERS

- July 3
- July 10
- July 17
- July 24
- July 31

COMMUNION PREP

- July 3
- July 10 Peggy Fry
- July 17
- July 24
- July 31

LECTORS

- July 3 Cheryl Lamppa
- July 10 Jim Carlson
- July 17 Lynn Scott
- July 24 Muriel Scott
- July 31 Cathy Carlson

***We sincerely appreciate our Volunteers!
Thank you***



The 2022 Immanuel Lutheran Church picnic was a huge success, with 65-70 in attendance. It was a beautiful song-filled service. Pastor Liz lead us in a fun interactive sermon experience with stories from the Spark's Children's Bible. The food and good fellowship was shared by all attending.

Council Meeting

The council met on Wednesday June 8th, 2022 at 9 AM.

Parsonage payments for January 2019 to present where transferred from Savings account to Building account.

Pastor Liz was approved by council to take a course to become a certified grief educator.

The following is a DRAFT of a welcome statement written by the church council and presented at the May 22, 2022 congregational meeting. There will be a meeting in September to vote to adopt this statement. If you have any suggestions, ideas, or thoughts on the draft statement please share those with a council member.

"Immanuel Lutheran Church ministers, welcomes, and encourages everyone to participate and have access to all worship, fellowship, sacraments, membership, leadership, funerals, weddings, and baptism regardless of race, disability, age, sexual or gender identity."

The next congregational meeting will be held in late August or early September.

The next council meeting will be on July 13th at 9 AM.

A full copy of the Council Minutes is on file with the church secretary if interested.

Diversity/Welcome Statement

During the May 22 congregational meeting, the council reported on the work they have been engaging in around creating a welcome statement for Immanuel that is inline with the ELCA theology, doctrines and teachings. There were 62 members present for the meeting and a wonderful and respectful conversation took place. The council put forward the following draft statement at the meeting and asks if anyone has any suggestions, ideas, or thoughts on the draft statement please share those with a council member.

This statement will be voted on for adoption during the next congregational meeting to take place in September/October.

"Immanuel Lutheran Church ministers, welcomes, and encourages everyone to participate and have access to all worship, fellowship, sacraments, membership, leadership, funerals, weddings, and baptism regardless of race, disability, age, sexual or gender identity."

Parish Health Ministry

Our Parish Health Ministry cabinet members are the following and can be contacted with any suggestions for the health ministry. If any of you have family or friends that the ministry may be able to assist in some way, please do not hesitate to contact any of these cabinet members:

- * Cathy Carson 753-3885
- * Muriel Scott 410-4543
- * Barbara Rinne 753-2091
- * Kay Hanson 218-248-0198
- * Shelly Padgett 218-780-3192
- * Ilene Rice 719-331-3447
- * Faye Mobilia, Parish Nurse 753-6708
- * Marit Kringstad, Council representative 1-612-280-9195

Please note there is a Resource Book/Binder in the church office for your convenience.

Bluegrass Time Again!

Where: Camp Vermilion

When: The Concert and Fundraiser is Saturday, July 30th - 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. But you can spend the whole weekend with us too!

The full weekend schedule looks like this:

Friday, July 29th

6 pm arrivals
6:30 to 8:30 p.m. - Bluegrass Jam with the Bands -
Bring an instrument and play along! Snacks Provided

Saturday, July 30th
9:30 a.m. Breakfast in Voyageur Lodge
1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Festival and Fundraiser

Sunday, July 31st
10 a.m. Worship at the Lakeshore with Sloughgrass
Family Bluegrass
11 a.m. Brunch at Voyageur Lodge

There are a limited number of cabins available to rent for \$50 per night. Breakfasts are available for purchase.

Please contact Retreats@VLMcamps.org to reserve your spot!

Our Bands:

Sloughgrass Family Bluegrass
The Eclectics
The Blue Drifters

The Church Basket Challenge is Back and Online! People around the world LOVE the church basket challenge. Therefore, once again, you will be able to buy tickets online. Compete with other churches and try to creatively bring in support for your camps! Please see the attached letter for more details as you put your basket together. **Church Baskets will be posted soon on [Bluegrass2022.Givesmart.com!](https://www.givesmart.com)**

The Raffle Prizes are back for 2022! Raffle tickets can be purchased in person or over the phone. Make sure to stop by one of our sites/office or call 800-331-5148 for your chance to win a \$3,000 shopping spree to Frost River in Duluth, an electric bike from Ely Bike and Kick Sled, or \$500 cash.

Vacation Bible School August 1-5 (9:30-Noon)



Join St. James and Immanuel Churches of Tower for a week of Vacation Bible School.

We will focus on healing in an expansive sense – the healing of mind, body, spirit, community, and creation.

Day 1 – Roots of Creation (Psalm 104)
Day 2 – Healthy Minds and Bodies (3 John 1:1-5, 11-14)
Day 3 – Different Bodies, Different Gifts (Psalm 139: 1-18)
Day 4 – Healthy Grief (Romans 14:6-9) or Being Filled (Psalm 78:29)
Day 5 – Bearing Fruit (John 13: 3-15, 33-35)

Open to Age 4 – Grade 6

Please Pre-register by returning the form to IELC PO BOX 466, Tower, MN 55790

Or filling out the following form online:
<https://forms.gle/xgr7WeV99gnAUfAL6>

Free Community Meals

The Social Ministry and Evangelism committee will be heading up a brand new community ministry beginning in August. A monthly FREE meal served to the community and/or all who come to eat will take place on the last Wednesday of each month (with the exception of a couple months that it interferes with holidays).

There will be an opportunity for take out or drive up. Food will be served from 4-6 each time or until the food is gone.

We have applied for two Thrivent Action Team grants to get us started. One will be used to purchase large pots, chaffing pans, and supplies for making large meals. The other will be used to purchase the food and other supplies for the first couple of meals.

If you would like to give financially to this ministry you can write “Community meal” in the memo of your check. If you would like to help with prep, serving or clean up on meal days, please see one of the Social Ministry members or Pastor Liz.

SAVE THE DATE: Wednesday, August 24th from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Block Party Kick Off BBQ! Bring the family, your neighbors and everyone else! Let's end summer with a fun block party, free

food and Steve Solkela the one man Finnish band will be here from 4:30 – 5:30.

VLM Church Basket Challenge

In connection with VLM Bluegrass Festival, the church basket challenge is back on and will be online as well! Each member congregation is encouraged to put together a themed basket that will be part of the fundraiser. Raffle tickets are purchased and out in for each basket. The church basket that gets the most tickets wins!

Let's put together a basket this year Immanuel! The theme for our basket will be

"Let's go to the Beach"

If you would like to contribute to our basket just purchase something you would take to the beach and we will put all the items together! Let's win ourselves some time at camp!

Items should be "new" and some suggestions are:

| | | |
|------------------|---------------|------------|
| Cooler | Suntan lotion | Chalk |
| Beach ball | Water bottles | Frisbee |
| Chairs | Beach towels | Sunglasses |
| Bubbles | Beach Blanket | Snacks |
| Sand castle toys | | Float toys |

Let's be creative and have fun creating a basket!

Items can be placed in the narthex and we will watch it grow. **Items due BY Sunday, July 17th!**

Contact Us

Church Office: 753-2378
ielctower@gmail.com
www.towerlutheran.com
www.facebook.com/ImmanuelTower

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:00 – 1:00

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Liz Cheney
Office Manager: Donna Frank
Minister of Music: MaryBeth Reller
Custodian: James Urick

Members Who Are Homebound

Jim Charles (Birthday May 5)
4559 Shoreline Drive, Apt #406
Spring Park, MN 5584

Carol and Bob Burgess
705 17th St. N. Apt #304
Virginia, MN 55792

Ron Hujanen (Birthday November 25)
Cook Hospital & Nursing Home Room S-204
10 5th St. S.E.
Cook, MN 55723

Eileen Swanson (Birthday July 11)
Vermilion Senior Living
Tower, MN 55790

Ralph Christopherson (January 16)
Edgewood Vista
705 17th St.
Virginia, MN 55792

Scripture readings for the month of July

July 3

Isaiah 66:10-14
Psalm 66:1-9
Galians 6:{1-6}7-16
Luke 10:1-11.16-20

July 10

Deuteronomy 30:9-14
Psalm 25:1-10
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

July 17

Genesis 18:1-10a
Psalm 15
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

July 24

Genesis 18:20-32
Psalm 138
Colossians 2:6-15{16-19}
Luke 11:1-13

July 31

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23
Psalm 49:1-12
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

304 Spruce St.
PO Box 466
Tower, MN 55790



In Person Worship 10:00 am Sunday with Holy Communion
Find us online:
Facebook: Immanuel Lutheran Church of Tower

Contact Pastor Liz Cheney at
218-780-8907
lizcheney44@gmail.com (personal & private)
ielctower@gmail.com (public)



IMMANUEL
CARE. SHARE. WELCOME. ELCA.

