

The Lutheran Beacon

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

January 2020



Christmas Greetings Immanuel,

I hope you have found some time this Advent to slow down. To just be. To take in the beauty all around us. Spend quality time with family and friends and to witness to God who is, who was, and who is to come.

Immanuel thank you for your faithful witness to our Savior. Thank you for sharing your faith with one another. Thank you for your love and support of the ministry we share together here at Immanuel! Thank you for being you.

As I reflect on the last 12 months we have accomplished so much! We have also had a great deal of loss, change and transition; whether it be through death, into assisted living, new staff, new members. We have endured. We have changed. We have come so far as people of faith. I can't help but wonder 'what is God up to?'

Speaking of what God might be up to; what has God been up to in your life the last year? What

do you have to be thankful and grateful for? What do you grieve? What have you lost? What have you gained? This time of year there is a lot of reflecting, looking back to be able to look forward and setting goals for a fresh start. We do it in our personal lives, why not set some goals for your spiritual life.

What will you do in the new year to grow your faith, to deepen your relationship with God? Will you set aside each day to read the Bible? Will you start a prayer journal? Will you begin a daily devotional? There are so many opportunities which one will you choose?

As we all know there is always room for improvement, change, something new! There are always opportunities to get rid of the old and welcome the new. May your hearts, minds and imaginations be opened to what God has in store for you in the coming year. This is my favorite poem because reminds us of the work of Christmas that is actually our calling all year around!

The Work of Christmas

By Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the Kings and Princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins.

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

Merry Christmas!
Pastor Liz



- 6 Presley Chiabotti
- 11 Gabe Meehan
- 13 Tim Tomsich
- 14 Joseph Anderson
- 14 Kathy Leino
- 16 Ralph Christopherson
- 18 Aili Wilkinson
- 20 Rolf Anderson
- 30 Ashley Bystrom
- 30 Colbie Stellmach
- 31 Alice Taylor



- 2 Paul & Lispeth Buettner
- 12 Dennis & Georgette Larson

Offering & Attendance

Date	Attendance	Offering
November 24	81	\$2635.00
December 1	<i>no worship</i>	\$0.00
December 8	77	\$6863.00
December 15	73	\$1473.00
December 22	108	\$1873.75

<u>November 2019</u>	<u>November 2018</u>
Income: \$12,832	Income: \$11,512
Expenses: \$11,537	Expenses: \$15,323

Year To Date: (January – November)
 2019 Income: \$129,943 / Expenses: \$123,597
 2018 Income: \$148,983 / Expenses: \$154,488

Volunteers

Ushers & Communion Prep volunteers are needed for 2020. Please sign up in the Narthex if you can volunteer. Thank you.

Lectors:

- January 5 Laurie Anderson
- January 12 Muriel Scott
- January 19 Jim Carlson
- January 26 Lynn Scott

Volunteers Needed

A new set of sign-up sheets have been placed in the Narthex for Ushers and Communion Prep. If you are able, please consider volunteering a small portion of your time for the benefit of our worship services. If you've never volunteered before and aren't sure where to start, please let Amber know and she can pair you with one of our current stewards to show you the ropes!

Volunteers for Coffee & Snack during fellowship would also be greatly appreciated. There is a sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall.

Council Notes

Immanuel's Church Council met on December 10th. Some of the highlights to note were that the furnace had been fully covered by donations and the windows had arrived at the hardware store and would be installed in the spring.

Motions to approve constitution changes and a 2020 budget passed; these items would then move on for congregational approval at the January 26 annual meeting.

The next Council Meeting will be held January 14th at 1:00 p.m. The church minutes are available for viewing in a binder in the church office.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Please plan to attend this meeting on January 26 after the Worship service. There are proposed changes to be made to Immanuel's Constitution, these changes will be approved at the Annual Meeting. A copy of the proposed changes is available in the office for review by church members prior to the meeting. The annual budget will also be approved at the Annual Meeting.

Stewardship News

Stewardship in the New Year

Welcome to 2020! It's a new year, a fresh start and an opportunity to take a look at your weekly and monthly tithing. Not only a fresh year and a new start, but we will be looking together as a church body at a new budget.

Some things to think about as you consider what your weekly offering might look like this year:

- 1) Do I give of what's leftover OR do I give first and then sort out what's leftover.
- 2) When is the last time I increased my giving?
- 3) Would a \$5 increase create a hardship for me?

Remember we don't give because we are expected to or out of obligation, but we give out of our abundance and because we want to give. We give with grateful hearts in gratitude for all that has been given and done for us through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your faithful tithing Immanuel. My prayer is that you receive this as a challenge and not a demand. That you hear this plea as 'food for thought' and not an expectation. Tithing is your personal faith discipline and only you can determine what God is speaking to your heart.

Tithing is personal, and then each of our personal giving comes together to make possible the ministry that we at Immanuel carry out. We don't do ministry alone and we invite you,

through your financial weekly gifts to partner with us and help us expand our ministry in ways only God can lead us to.

Annual Committee Reports Due

Please either email reports to ielctower@gmail.com or leave a copy on Amber's desk in the church office.

WELCA

The Christmas Luncheon was a great success. Scooby and Liz made a delightful meal, games were played, prizes were given, and all had a wonderful time. Thank you to everyone who attended.

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2020 are available in the Narthex and have been placed in alphabetical order by last name. If you were missed, please let the office know.

Lost & Found

A woman's necklace was found, please speak to Pastor Liz or Amber to identify and claim.

Other lost & found items are generally placed in the Narthex on the shelf to the right of entrance doors to the sanctuary; if you misplaced something, please check there!

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:

- Faye Mobilia, Parish Nurse 753-6708
- Cathy Carlson 753-3885
- Muriel Scott 410-4543
- Barb Rinne 753-2091
- Ilene Rice 719-331-3447
- John Aronson, 753-4192.
- Kay Hanson, 218-248-0198

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

VLM Annual Meeting

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry's annual meeting is taking place on **February 1st at Trinity Lutheran Church, 231 2nd Street East, Cook, MN.**

Registration starts at 10:30 am with the meeting starting at **11:00 am**. Lunch will be provided.

A friendly reminder that each member congregation has a pastoral vote along with one adult lay delegate and one youth lay delegate. All member congregations with confirmed members in excess of 500 can have one additional delegate for every 500 members. Visitors are welcome and encouraged to attend. Contact the VLM office to RSVP!

Upcoming Events!

Annual Meeting, February 1 – Trinity, Cook

Jr. High Rejuve, February 21-22 – Camp Vermilion

Elementary Rejuve, March 6-7 – Camp Hiawatha

Elementary Rejuve, March 13-14 – Camp Vermilion

Paddle Building, April 17-18 – Camp Vermilion

Family Overnight, April 24-25 – Camp Hiawatha

Work Day, April 25 – Camp Hiawatha

Mother's Day Brunch, May 10 – Camp Vermilion

Family Overnight, May 15-16 – Camp Vermilion

Work Day, May 16 – Camp Vermilion

www.VLMcamps.org • vlm@VLMcamps.org
800-331-5148 • 218-666-5465

Camp Hiawatha

36944 Camp Hiawatha Road, Deer River, MN

Camp Vermilion

2555 Vermilion Camp Road, Cook, MN

Members Who Are Homebound

Jim Charles (Birthday May 5)
4559 Shoreline Drive, Apt#304
Spring Park, MN 55384

Elsie Dahl (Birthday April 23)
Edgewood Vista
705 17th St. N., Rm. #134
Virginia MN 55792

Edith Eidelbes (Birthday March 21)
Carefree Living
421 10th St. S., Rm. #1
Virginia, MN 55790

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

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

Contact Us

Church Office: 753-2378

ielctower@gmail.com

www.towerlutheran.com

www.facebook.com/ImmanuelTower

Regular Office Hours are Tuesday 9:00 – 1:00,

Wednesday – Friday 8:30 – 12:30

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Liz Cheney

Office Manager: Amber Zak

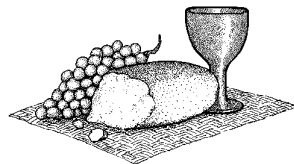
Education Assistant: Rebecca Bundy

Minister of Music: MaryBeth Reller

Custodian: James Urick



304 Spruce St.
PO Box 466
Tower, MN 55790



*Please join us for worship with holy
communion every Sunday at 10:00*

IMMANUEL
CARE. SHARE. WELCOME. ELCA.

Contact Pastor Liz Cheney at
218-780-8907

lizcheney44@gmail.com (personal & private)
ielctower@gmail.com (public)