

The Lutheran Beacon

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

November, 2019



Greetings Immanuel and Friends!

Thankfulness, gratitude, appreciation..... have all been on my mind for the last month or so. Partially due to the songs the choir has been singing..... you know that catchy call to worship... Give thanks to the Lord lift up your voice, Give thanks to the Lord rejoice and sing, give thanks to the Lord..... Yeah you got it!

And the other catchy anthem – and all the people said Amen! Music is so good for the soul! And my soul has been touched and filled by music this last month. How about yours?

One of my favorite aspects of being a pastor is creating a worship service. Inviting the Holy Spirit in to the process and seeing all the pieces come together, from prayers, to sermon, to the music we hear and sing. I was just at the Synod office Monday for a worship team meeting. We began the important work of planning worship for the Synod Assembly in May 2020, which also

happens to be the Bishop Election as well. Choosing hymns, liturgy, prayers, confessions and so on is important, because whether we know it or not, it all sets a tone, it all sends a message. It was an amazing two hours with colleagues! The coolest piece of our planning for me, is that during the Friday evening worship at Synod Assembly we are going to be celebrating 50/40/10 – the significant anniversaries for the ordination of women (50), women of color (40) and LGBTQ (10).

Did you know there are 61 ordained women in our Synod – this includes, retired and specialized ministry such as chaplains. I was surprised at the number! And we get to celebrate this together during the opening worship for our Synod Assembly, which will thereafter be entirely focused on the calling of a new Bishop! Here is the music part that gets me super excited..... Gracious Spirit, hear our pleading.... Come, Come, Come, Holy Spirit Come will be the song the 50/40/10 women process in to wearing red! We will be inviting the Holy Spirit to join us as we celebrate and honor the ordination of women AND as we prepare to elect a new bishop to lead us into the next six years of ministry in the NE MN Synod!

I know this isn't as exciting to you as it is to me, but at the same time what is exciting for you, is that you are connected to greater work than just what we do at Immanuel. We are very interconnected in so many ways locally, regionally and at the Synod level. I am honored to represent Tower, MN and Immanuel through this work that goes beyond our church, our doors, our people. For this I am very grateful! And you should be too!

As this month continues on with the theme of thanksgiving and gratitude, I invite you to take

out a piece of paper and list all the things you are grateful for. Then on a day that doesn't seem to be very thank filled, you can take your list out and be reminded of all that God has blessed you with. I have a journal that has you list just three things each day you are thankful or grateful for.... Some days it is hard to come up with just three and other days I could write pages! That is the nature of life though - ups and downs! But every single day, even the hard days, I am grateful for my faith and my relationship with a God who is love!

Happy Thanksgiving month!

Pastor Liz



- 1 Courtney Aluni
- 1 Dennis Larson
- 6 Keith Gurius
- 14 Marit Kringstad
- 16 Roger Lamppa
- 17 Pam Peterson
- 18 Tyler Baker-Potter
- 18 Linda Wagoner
- 25 Rebecca Bundy
- 25 Ronald Hujanen
- 27 Barbara Burgess



- 10 Mike & Janet White
- 19 Terry & Donna Mosher
- 29 Mel & Corliss Bremer

Offering & Attendance

Date	Attendance	Offering
Sept. 29	84	\$2820.00
Oct. 6	91	\$7882.00
Oct. 13	70	\$3895.50
Oct. 20	76	\$1798.50
Oct. 27	75	\$2,160.00

World Hunger \$117.94

Income & Expenses

Sept. 2019	Income: \$13,411	Expenses: \$11,285
Sept. 2018	Income: \$25,928	Expenses: \$26,374
Oct. 2019	Income: \$14,036	Expenses: \$11,492
Oct. 2018	Income: \$16,153	Expenses: \$14,457

November 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

- November 3 *Lloyd McIntire*
- November 10 *Dennis Passi & Randy Johnson*
- November 17 *Mike & Janet White*
- November 24 *Mike & Janet White*

COMMUNION PREP

- November 3 *Richard & Kay Hanson*
- November 10 *Richard & Kay Hanson*
- November 17 *Mike & Janet White*
- November 24 *Mike & Janet White*

LECTORS

- November 3 *Laurie Anderson*
- November 10 *Muriel Scott*
- November 17 *Lynn Scott*
- November 24 *Cheryl Lamppa*

We sincerely appreciate our Volunteers! Thank you!

Council Notes

Immanuel's Church Council met on October 8th
Some of the highlights were:

- Christian Ed reported an average of attendance of 7 – 9 children each week in Sunday School
- Windows are still on order and hopefully will be arriving soon, however they will not be able to be installed until spring
- The council approved a motion to hire Amber Zak as the new Office Manager as well as a motion to hire Jennifer Herdman to temporarily cover the position during Amber's maternity leave.

The next Council Meeting will be held November 12th at 1:00 p.m. The church minutes are available for viewing in a binder in the church office once approved.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

Join the Tower-Soudan Ministerial at St. Paul's in Soudan on Wednesday, November 27th at 7:00 PM for a Thanksgiving Worship service.

March Mission Team Information

If you are interested in traveling to Guatemala in March as part of the 6th mission team out of Immanuel, please see Pastor Liz by November 15th. An application and \$100 deposit is due November 15th (can be later if Pastor Liz knows). The dates of travel are approximately March 22 - April 2. This will be in the heart of the Lenten season in Guatemala and we will be able to experience and take in some cultural aspects during this time as well. Projects will be decided once a team is set and then fundraising will begin. Bunk beds and cook stoves will most likely be a part of the plan. A pasty sale will take place in January to help with team fees as well. Once a goal is set and ministry objectives are created an announcement will be made so we can begin raising those funds. The next mission team will travel in late July or early August so if March doesn't work for you, keep in mind the summer trip. Please keep this ministry in your prayers as people discern the call to this team! God is good all the time! All the time God is good!

Quilting

The quilting group meets every Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The Quilters will meet weekly through May. If you are interested in joining the fun, please contact Penny Jackson at 651-238-3732.

Monthly Blood Pressure Checks at Immanuel

Blood pressure checks will be offered here at Immanuel every 1st Sunday of the month after worship.

WELCA News

Penny Jackson shared pictures and crafted items along with stories of her trips to Africa. She is a strong supporter of the mission organization "Friends of Africa Education". Her passion and time shared speaking with the WELCA encouraged us to send a gift of \$100 to the organization. Thank you so very much, Penny, for blessing us with your memories.

The women of Immanuel have also supported, and hold close, the "Current for Curran" mission. We voted to also send a \$100 gift to that mission.

There were nine in attendance at the October meeting. Faye Mobilia served a very tasty dessert with ice cream. The fellowship will be hosted by Cindy Zollar at the November 13th meeting.

The Service Committee had sent twelve birthday, six get well, and three sympathy over the last four months.

The Quilters have begun their season and have ten small and sixteen regular quilts on hand. They have received a grant from Thrivent to update and organize the quilting room. A wonderful group, a great time, a blessing.

The Health Ministry will have seven memorials on All Saints Sunday. They also have two informational presentations that they are planning to schedule in the near future.

Jan Brown reported on the fall gathering with a monetary focus, at this time, on Homeless Children. The guest speaker presented a

program on "Spiritual Direction in Prayer". A very enlightening program.

Join the women on November 13th at one for their next time of being blessed to be a blessing.

Voyageur's Lutheran Ministry Upcoming Events

Dec. 8th - Celebration of Light and Music at Camp Hiawatha

Book Your Group Now!

Experience camp the fall, winter, and spring! Enjoy the fall colors, ice covered lake, or the first buds on the trees by booking a retreat, meeting, or gathering at Camp Hiawatha or Camp Vermilion.

Call the VLM office to book your event.

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

Contact Us

Church Office: 753-2378

ielctower@gmail.com

www.towerlutheran.com

www.facebook.com/ImmanuelTower

November Office Hours

Hours will vary based on staff availability. Thank you for your patience during this transition.

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Liz Cheney

Office Manager: Amber Zak

Education Assistant: Rebecca Bundy

Minister of Music: MaryBeth Reller

Custodian: James Urick

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

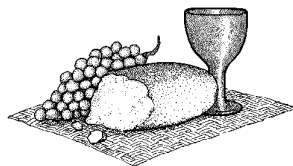
Eileen Swanson (Birthday July 11)
Vermilion Senior Living
Tower, MN 55790

304 Spruce St.
PO Box 466
Tower, MN 55790



IMMANUEL

CARE. SHARE. WELCOME. ELCA.



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

Contact Pastor Liz Cheney at

218-780-8907

lizcheney44@gmail.com (personal & private)

ielctower@gmail.com (public)