

The Lutheran Beacon

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

November 2022



Fall greetings Immanuel,

It is the season of apples and pumpkin! If you could just choose one would you choose apples or pumpkin? It is a hard choice for me, but I think I would go with pumpkin!

So many wonderful things happening in and around Immanuel these days. It feels like we are finally getting back to somewhat of a normal flow again and that feels wonderful! As I write this article there are folks at the church preparing our third community meal! The first two were a great success and it appears that each month will continue to be successful!

I am grateful for this ministry opportunity. We have sister churches that do similar ministries: Trinity in Cook does a monthly free community meal – playing off their great idea, we started ours in Tower! Also Gloria Dei in Duluth just restarted their monthly free Saturday breakfast this last weekend! Those are two that are fresh in my memory, but feeding the community is indeed one way to live and love like Jesus!

Grief support group has dates on the calendar, meeting twice a month as we get started and then moving into a schedule that works best for the group in the New Year. This is not a curriculum based group, it is a support group, come as you are, when you can. If you or someone you know could use a

support group as your journey in, with and through grief our next meeting is November 9th at 6:00 pm.

Sunday school and confirmation are up and running! We are adding in confirmation mentors this year. We have four confirmation students and they have been paired up with an adult (thank you for saying yes!). We will meet together a few times throughout the year, eat at the community meals together and build a relationship!

November is often a month where gratitude and thanksgiving are emphasized. So what are you thankful for today? What if every night before bed, after dinner, or sometime in the second part of the day you sat down and wrote three things you are thankful for that day. By the end of November you would have a list of 90 things you are thankful for. What a mind set! What a game changer! We indeed have so much to be thankful for even in the midst of illness, suffering, brokenness, we can always find just three things to be thankful for. I encourage you to take on this gratitude practice for the month of November!

I know that I am thankful for each of you, the ministry we share and do together, the new faces, the old faces, young and old, you all keep me excited about ministry, about my call as a pastor, about our community and congregation. You keep me on my toes as much as I hope I too keep you on your toes!

I have been at Immanuel for 8 full years and already into year 9 with you! It has been an amazing 8 years and I look forward to many more years to come!

Last Sunday we thought about God's divine presence in our lives and I leave that question here with you for this month to think about, to ponder, to wonder. When and how do you celebrate the divine presence of God in your life? I know that I don't do that very often, but lately over the last six weeks or so, God has been continually showing up in so many obvious ways pointing, affirming, comforting, loving and just being with me how can I not celebrate God's presence. I pray that you too can and will celebrate the many ways God shows up in your life!

Happy fall! Pastor Liz

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 6, 2022



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From Intention Into Action

DULUTH, MN – The elected leadership of the Northeastern Minnesota (NE MN) Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), in collaboration with Together Here Ministries, has resolved to gift \$185,400 + \$100 + \$1,100 to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. The funds are from a portion of the proceeds on the synod's sale of land that was originally inhabited by Anishinaabeg (Chippewa, Ojibwe) in the City of Duluth.

\$185,400 + \$100 + \$1,100 honors the treaties made between the U.S. government and Ojibwe nations in 1854, 1855, and 1866 that ceded the land making it possible for settlers to build lives, establish communities, and benefit economically in the area. The NE MN Synod and many of its members have benefitted and continue to benefit, either directly or indirectly, as a result. In the meantime, Tribal communities are still bearing a great cost to their traditional ways of living and cultures.

Reflecting on the significance of this unanimous vote, Steven Teff, a lay leader from Grand Rapids, shared his excitement: "When I first heard this, I felt like this was not truly happening because it's one of the first times that action has been added to what was said as being the right thing to do."

Understandably, there will be questions in the NE MN Synod about how this action may be received or understood. Sue Lyback, a lay leader from Lake Mille Lacs area, responded to the announcement by stating, "My reaction is indeed very favorable and supportive, but also guarded. I'm not sure people fully understand what the word 'reparation' actually means, and I am concerned that it may raise many questions and some defenses among those who hear it. That said, I am grateful for the leadership within our Synod."

This gift will present opportunities for synod churches and church members to reflect on what it means to be in relationship with God and one another and how we relate to our collective history. The amount of \$185,400 + \$100 + \$1,100 will provide opportunities to learn about, learn from, and be in deepening relationship with Indigenous Peoples and Tribal nations here and now. Along those lines, Theresa Jacobson, a lay leader from Duluth, stated the following about the decision: "My hope for my community is for us to get a better understanding that just because we are not personally

responsible for the suffering of others in history, and today, does not mean we are not benefiting from their suffering."

At the root of reparations is repairing, or better yet, re-pairing: a bringing back together that which was violently separated. This re-pairing refers both to the fractured relationships between Tribal and settler communities, as well as the breached trust that has resulted from violation of treaties.

The motivation behind this action is two-fold: to accept responsibility for participation, active or passive, in the harm done to Tribal communities; and to begin to learn how to be good neighbors who can live well together. In commitment to re-pairing, the NE MN Synod will embark on a continued journey of engaging in learning, listening and relationship building between diverse people groups and communities.

Repairing the damage done in any relationship takes time. This is particularly true when trust has been broken countless times across multiple generations. We view the presentation of these funds as a first step on a long journey.

This is a natural outpouring of the ELCA's understanding of God, our baptismal identity, and our theology. After the Synod Council vote, Rachel Berry, Vice-President of the NE MN Synod Council, shared her reflection on the deliberation and final decision. "This is sacred space. We are asked to journey into an intentional relationship, which means we must listen, learn, give without conditions, and open ourselves up to be transformed." Berry continued, "I believe this is our call as God's people in NE MN Synod to more fully live into God's commandment to love God and love our neighbors and boldly cherish the sacredness in each of us."

Bishop Amy Odgren noted, "We know that this amount is just the beginning in repairing generations of damage we have done to our relationships with the Anishinaabeg. This is a significant step toward the ongoing work we are committed to do."

Inquiries regarding this action can be made to Bishop Amy Odgren or Deacon Colleen Bernu, Synod Minister of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, at colleen.bernu@nemnsynod.org or (218) 724-4424.

The purpose of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod is to nurture a Christ-centered climate conducive to healthy, mission-focused congregations and their ministries throughout the world.

Together Here Ministries creates space for transformational change through listening, learning, and relationship building among diverse peoples and communities. Formed in response to NEMN Synod's commitment to the repudiation of the Christian doctrine of discovery, Together Here expanded in 2019 to include the implementation of the ELCA's Strategy for Authentic Diversity.



Offering & Attendance

Date	Attendance	Offering
October 2	52	\$ 1,690
October 9	62	\$ 1,619
October 16	62	\$ 1,291
October 23	57	\$ 1,920
October 30	not recorded in this newsletter	
Direct Deposit		\$ 2,323
Noisy Offerings-September		\$ 41

Income & Expenses

October 2022

Income: \$ 8,110 Expenses: \$ 12,225

October 2021

Income: \$ 9,238 Expenses: \$ 10,350

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 6	Jim & Cathy Carlson
November 13	Jim & Cathy Carlson
November 20	Jim & Cathy Carlson
November 27	Jim & Cathy Carlson

COMMUNION PREP

November 6	Nancy Wagner & Shelley Padgett
November 13	Nancy Wagner & Shelley Padgett
November 20	Nancy Wagner & Shelley Padgett
November 27	Nancy Wagner & Shelley Padgett

LECTORS

November 6	Muriel Scott
November 13	Faye Mobilia
November 20	Muriel Scott
November 27	Rolf Anderson

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

November 1	Courtney Aluni
November 1	Dennis Larson
November 2	Abigail Lamppa
November 4	Patti Stoddard
November 6	Keith Gurius
November 14	Marit Kringstad
November 17	Pam Peterson
November 18	Tyler Baker-Potter
November 18	Linda Wagoner
November 21	Boone Broten
November 24	Danielle Lamppa
November 25	Becca Bundy
November 25	Ronald Hujanen
November 27	Barbara Burgess



November 19	Terry and Donna Mosher
November 29	Mel and Corliss Bremer

Council Meeting

The council met on Wednesday October 12th 2022 at 9 AM.

Sunday School began on October 2nd, 5 children attended. Becca has volunteers to help her out with Sunday School.

Confirmation started back up on October 12th.

We have 10 new members to join the church (October/November).

It was noted that the September Community Meal was a success, these meals are funded with 'Thrivent Funds' help.

The Congregational Meeting held on October 9th vote on 'Diversity Statement' passed by written ballot-36 in favor, 6 no votes.

The next council meeting will be held at 9 AM on Wednesday November 9th, 2022.

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



Quilting

Have you ever wanted to know how to quilt? Come and spend a couple hours with the Immanuel Quilters. They will gladly include you in the group and teach you the secrets of tying quilts. It's very easy and a lot of fun.

Join us next Wednesday downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. We start around 9 am and work on quilt projects until coffee break time and wrap up around noon.

If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Penny Jackson at 651-238-3732 (leave a message and I will return your call) or just show up on Wednesday and join the fun!

Social Ministry Committee

The Social Ministry Committee met on Wednesday October 19th in the afternoon at Vermilion Senior Living to celebrate the birthday of seven residents. The residents were presented with birthday cards (made by Nancy Wagner). They, as well as other residents, were treated to candy, cupcakes or angel food cake (made by Lori Tomsich). We followed with a bingo game (Heather Chauklin called the numbers). Winners were awarded with prizes (provided by Barb Burgess and Diane Meehan).

The residents truly love having people from our church spending time with them. A few other ladies who faithfully join in our group couldn't make it that day, but they are always ready to help any other time.

A message to other ladies in our church is that we, along with WELCA would love to have you join all of us also-guaranteed you will feel blessed by all whom we share our time and talents with, locally or in the world!

Also a heartfelt thank you to anyone who so generously shares your heart already in any parts of or church activities.

Thank you for the article Janice Brown

WELCA

WELCA will meet on November 16th at 1 PM. All welcome.

Thursday Book Study

Thursday book study will continue to meet on Thursday mornings at 10 AM. New members welcome.

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.

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

Scripture readings for the month of November

November 6

Job 19:23-27a
 Psalm 17:1-9
 2Thessalonian2:1-5,13-17
 Luke 20:27-38

November 13

Malachi 4:1-2a
 Psalm 98
 2Thessalonian3:6-13
 Luke 21:5-19

November 20

Jeremiah 23:1-6
 Psalm 46
 Colossians 1:11-20
 Luke 23:33-43

November 27

Isaiah 2:1-5
 Psalm 122
 Romans 13:11-14
 Matthews 24:36-44

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



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IMMANUEL
CARE. SHARE. WELCOME. ELCA.

Contact Pastor Liz Cheney at
218-780-8907

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

In Person Worship 10:00 am Sunday with Holy
Communion

Find us online:

Facebook: Immanuel Lutheran Church of Tower

