

The Lutheran Beacon

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

February 2023



Dear Immanuel,

As we enter into the second month of 2023, I pray that this new year is off to a great start for you. January weather has been mild and the day light gets a little longer every day as we head into the last couple months of MN winter!

February will bring us from time after Epiphany into the Transfiguration as we then will find ourselves in the midst of Lent.

A poem for **Transfiguration Day** written by Meta Herrick Carlson

There are glimpses
in the thin places between our worlds,
where certainty gives way
to something else entirely.

We want to linger in the warm glow of
mystery,
the soft hum of all being well,
because the view is fair,
and the climb was all we had to offer.

But we do not glimpse the divine
thanks to our own struggle or deserving.
It is revealed by grace for a moment,
while we catch our breath and faith again.

Our figure is changed so that,
when we turn back down the mountain,
the glimpse might go with us and
warm those still waiting at the bottom.

As we transition between seasons, where
do you find yourself this season? Where
have you glimpsed the divine lately? What
are the thin places God is revealing
themselves to you in?

May you find God in the transition, the
wilderness, the turning of the seasons or
wherever it is you find yourselves right now.
May your star word lead, guide and reveal
to you something new, fresh and exciting
this season!

Join us for Ash Wednesday worship,
February 22 nd at 6:30 pm and then mid
week Lenten services each Wednesday in
March at 6:30. Lent is a season of fasting,
praying and giving. Beginning preparing
your hearts, minds, and imaginations on
what God is calling you to fast from or for,
how God is calling you into prayer and
where you can stretch your giving this
Lenten season.

Thank you Immanuel for being you! For all
that you do, all that you give, all that you
are in the name of Jesus! You are a blessing
to me, to one another and to the world!
Pray for the leadership of our new council
that they might lead, guide and take
Immanuel into the places that God is calling
us! To be good stewards, faithful disciples
and loving neighbors!

Happy February!

Pastor Liz





Happy Birthday

2	Garrett Lamppa
4	Whitney Cobby
6	Kalee Bjorgo
9	Joan Lamppa
12	Delores Hujanen
14	Emmi Aluni
15	Bill Meehan
15	Terrence Peitso
16	Piper Bundy
16	Faye Mobilia
18	Dorothy Aronen
18	Bob Swarz
22	Elaine McGillivray



29 Dean & Brianna Broten

Offering & Attendance

Date	Attendance	Offering
January 1	32	\$1,698
January 8	35	\$ 560
January 15	50	\$5,389
January 22	65	\$1,590
Direct Deposit/Vanco		\$2,079

Income & Expenses

January 2023	
Income: \$ 11,476	Expenses: \$ 14,345
January 2022	
Income: \$ 17,620	Expenses: \$ 14,600

February 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

We are in need of ushers

COMMUNION PREP

February 5	Shelley Padgett
February 12	Shelley Padgett
February 19	Shelley Padgett
February 26	Shelley Padgett

LECTORS

February 5	Kathleen Siskar
February 12	Muriel Scott
February 19	Laurie Anderson
February 26	Cathy Carlson

*We sincerely appreciate our Volunteers!
Thank you*

Council Meeting Highlights

The council met on Wednesday January 11th at 9 AM.

Treasurer's report-Cindy reported all bills paid, but givings still down. Strategic planning will be discussed at annual meeting. Pastor Liz purchased a new computer, monies from Memorial Fund.

The Finance Committee proposed a budget of 159K, proposed income 140K, a proposed deficit of 15-20K. Suggested ways of beefing up stewardship.

Brianna Broten and Wayne Dahl nominated as new council members, to be voted on at annual meeting. The annual meeting was held on January 22nd.

The carpets need cleaning, to be completed by the end of January. The elevator is still very slow, Angie suggested in-service with "elevator people."

The next council meeting will be held at 9 AM on Wednesday February 8th, 2023.

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

Annual Congregation Meeting

The Annual Congregation Meeting was held on January 22nd, 2023 at 11 AM. There were 45 church members signed in for the meeting. All church council members were present.

Angie Gurius gave a presentation on the Strategic Plan, highlighting the 5 goals.

Nancy Wagner and Heather Chaulklin were nominated and approved as delegates to the Synod Convention April 28-30,2023, at Cragun's in Brainerd.

Margie Johnson was elected to a 3 year term as auditor, to join current auditors Barb Burgess and Carol Norberg.

Brianna Broten and Wayne Dahl were nominated for the 2 open seats on the Church Council.

Becca Bundy was nominated as delegate to Voyageurs Luthern Ministry.

The budget for 2023 was presented as a deficit for the 2nd year in a row-it was moved to approve, with the understanding that the Finance Committee will reevaluate the situation in July 2023.

WELCA

Inviting Women of ALL Ages! Wednesday February 22nd, 2023 @ 1:00 p.m. Immanuel Fellowship Hall. The women of the church continue to work towards helping those in need. We pray that many of you will consider joining our group when we reconvene in January.

Come and find out what WELCA is all about. We are always looking for women who want to be of service to others and to the world.

Quilting

Join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesdays. 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!

Stewardship News

The stewardship committee has prepared a Time and Talent Survey which you will find included in the newsletter. We ask that you prayerfully fill out the survey and get it back to the church office by Sunday, February 26th. There is also an electronic version that you can fill out. The link is <https://forms.gle.cAf1KLnhK6Eqt8WB9>

This time and talent survey will help the stewardship committee match people with their interests, update our database, and broaden our volunteer base. There are a lot of volunteers that keep our church and ministries going and there is a place for everyone here, a time to share your talents and time and we want to help you find your place at Immanuel!

Thank you in advance for taking the time to fill out the survey and return it to us!

There is also room for you on our stewardship committee. Current members are: Pastor Liz, Angie Gurius, Marit Kringstad, and Deb Setterberg.

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
- * Kay Hanson 218-248-0198
- * Shelly Padgett 228-780-3192
- * Ilene Rice 719-331-3447
- * Faye Mobilia, Parish Nurse 753-6708

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

Welcome New Council

The 2023 council members are:

Brianna Broten (2025)
Wayne Dahl (2025)
Angie Gurius (2024)
Nancy Wagner (2024)
Jim Carlson (2023)
Marit Kringstad (2023)
Lynn Scott (2023)

Council meets on February 8th and officers will be elected during that reorganizational meeting. Council installation will take place during worship on a Sunday in February yet to be determined.

Immanuel Choir News

Our choir rehearsals will resume in a few weeks, so watch for texts, call and announcements from MaryBeth and in the weekly bulletin.

We meet Thursdays at 11 AM which has been working for our members. Consider joining us! The old adage *"If you don't use it, you lose it"* holds true for singing.

If you enjoy singing this is the place for you!!

MaryBeth Reller
Cell:218-929-1167



New COVID-19 Telehealth Treatment Pilot Program

On December 19, the State of Minnesota launched a new telehealth test-to-treat program to ensure Minnesotans who have tested positive for COVID-19 have easy access to clinician care and therapeutic treatments that reduce their risk of serious illness or hospitalization. Beginning immediately, Minnesotans who test positive for COVID-19, either with a home test or a positive test from a lab, can download the Cue Health app and sign up to have a virtual consultation with a licensed clinician who will evaluate them to determine if therapeutic treatment is a good option. If they are a good candidate for therapeutics, the clinician can issue that prescription to the patient's local pharmacy. In some areas of the state, those prescription medications can be delivered to the person's home.

All services, including the consultation, medication and delivery, will come at no cost to the Minnesotans who use this service. This pilot program is available to all Minnesota residents.

For more information on how to access this program and for instructions on downloading and getting started with the Cue Health App, please visit care.cuehealth.com/mn.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Grief support group will meet the third Wednesday of each month beginning at 6:00 p.m. This is an open support group that is facilitated by Pastor Liz. Sharing, discussion and support is offered each month in a group setting. For individual grief support contact Pastor Liz (lizcheney44@gmail.com or 218-780-8907) to set up a one on one session.

The February grief support group will be held on February 15th.

Ash Wednesday Worship

Ash Wednesday is February 22 and we will have a worship service with Holy Communion and imposition of ashes at 6:30 p.m.

Mid Week Lenten Worship

There will be a mid week Lenten worship every Wednesday during Lent starting at 6:30 pm beginning March 1. Dates are March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29.

Strategic Plan – Adopted 1.22.23

- Our Core Ministries
 - Weekly worship with Holy Communion
 - Building maintenance
 - Music and choir
 - Pastoral care
 - NEMN Synod and ELCA
 - Children, youth, and families
- Our Core Committees
 - Finance
 - Stewardship
 - Social Ministry/Evangelism
 - Church property
 - Personnel
 - Memorial

Goal 1: Increase Membership and Increase Stewardship

- Responds to membership loss, pandemic reset, inflation
- Actions:
 - Expand summer opportunities
 - Promote education programs to reach young families

- Encourage Memorial contributions (highlight needs)
- Reinvigorate Stewardship program
- More “special” Sundays
- Encourage summer and lake visitors
- Reach out to inactive members

Goal 2: Strengthen Faith Formation as a core ministry

- Responds to support lifelong education and faith formation.
- Actions:
 - Support Sunday School in the budget and add volunteer support
 - Promote Congregation mentoring of Confirmation students
 - Provide more adult education opportunities
 - Use Newsletter to provide information

Goal 3: Care for other congregations and local community

- Responds to local church changes and community needs
- Actions:
 - Partner with St James and St Paul’s as possible
 - Expand community presence through Community dinners, etc
 - Initiate youth activities
 - Consider local mission initiative
 - Promote education programs to reach young families

Goal 4: Building renovation and maintenance

- Goal is to provide inviting, safe space for worship and fellowship
- Actions:
 - Priority: Accessibility (Audit as first step)
 - Upstairs windows
 - Floor covering in basement
 - Sanctuary updates

Goal 5: Support Global Missions through relationship with Recycled Lives

- Responds to interest to help others less fortunate beyond Immanuel:
- Actions:
 - Reinvigorate Recycled Lives programs post-pandemic.
 - Provide broader opportunities for congregation to participate in Recycled Lives missions
 - Occasionally highlight other mission programs supported by ELCA and our members

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

Eileen Swanson (Birthday July 11)

Vermilion Senior Living
Tower, MN 557

Scripture readings for the month of February

February 5

Isaiah 58:1-9a{9b-12}
Psalm 112:1-9{10}
1 Corinthians 2:1-12{13-16}
Matthew 5:13-20

February 12

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

February 19

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

February 26

Genesis 2:15-17,3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

304 Spruce St.
PO Box 466
Tower, MN 55790



IMMANUEL
CARE. SHARE. WELCOME. ELCA.

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)