

The Lutheran Beacon

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

August 2022



Dear Immanuel,

It is hard to believe that we are entering the last month of summer! Where have the weeks gone? I hope that you have had an enjoyable summer so far!

We are kicking off the last month of summer with a week of Vacation Bible School. This is always a fun, high energy week at the church and it is so fun to be able to share this week with our ecumenical neighbors, St. James. It is fun to share this time with kids singing, praying, learning and having fun!

After a week of VBS and then worship on Sunday, I will be off to Guatemala for a couple of weeks. This is my yearly trip as the state side food distribution coordinator for Recycled Lives. It looks like I will miss the monthly food distribution by one day, but will still have the opportunity to visit families as we deliver cook stoves and lamina!

Upon returning on August 22, it will be time to get ready for our first monthly community meal which will take place on the last Wednesday of each month. August 24th is the kick off and we have planned a nice community block party with

entertainment and all! All FREE! Save the date and bring a friend!

We then begin our fall programming as Sunday school, confirmation, Thursday book study, and other events and programming.

I hope during this Ordinary time in the church calendar you have been able to nurture your faith, water the seeds that were planted, and cultivate your relationship with God.

As we continue to "return" to what ever this new normal looks like, we continue to welcome people back to in person worship. We see our choir coming back together, new ministries taking root and old ministries finding energy once again. All of this while we still remain cautious in some ways because in some ways we are still in a pandemic as CoVid ebbs and flows, peaks and valleys.

We hope you too are finding your new normal and have found your way back to church activities, worship and whatever else fills your soul throughout the week.

I am thankful for each of you and all that you add to, contribute and participate in the ministries of Immanuel. We are so blessed here with active members, a heart for service and a willingness to always try new things! Thank you for being you and for all that you do!

As I near the end of my 8th year as your pastor, I think about how far we have come, how we have transformed, and get excited for what the future holds! Time flies when you are having fun!

Enjoy the rest of summer!

Pastor Liz



Offering & Attendance

Date	Attendance	Offering
July 3	57	\$ 1,334
July 10	54	\$ 2,325
July 17	67	\$ 2,349
July 24	66	\$ 2,187
July 31	not recorded in time for newsletter	

Direct Deposit \$ 2,323
 Noisy Offerings-July-collected July 31st, not recorded

Income & Expenses

July 2022

Income: \$ 10,311 Expenses: \$ 12,096

July 2021

Income: \$ 10,574 Expenses: \$ 11,791

August 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

August 7 Lloyd McIntire and Dennis Passi
 August 14
 August 21
 August 28

COMMUNION PREP

August 7 Peggy Fry
 August 14 Peggy Fry
 August 21 Peggy Fry
 August 28 Peggy Fry

LECTORS

August 7 Jarri Ankrum
 August 14 Mary Batinich
 August 21 Faye Mobilia
 August 28 Greta Tuominen

*We sincerely appreciate our Volunteers!
 Thank you*

August 3	Zaija Schroeder
August 3	Dawn Dix
August 5	Charlie Mayo
August 6	Douglas Anderson
August 7	Amelie Zak
August 8	Austin Hujanen
August 16	Ben Mosher
August 20	Victoria Barsness
August 22	Janice Brown
August 22	Dwayne Kittelson
August 23	Mel Bremer
August 23	Sophia Harasyn
August 29	Wyatt Turnbull
August 30	Ryan Kittelson
August 31	Rory Bundy



August 4	Neil & Elizabeth Cheney
August 4	Randall & Marjerie Johnson
August 7	Rolf & Laurie Anderson
August 9	Patrick & Katy Mickle
August 14	Ronald & Delores Hujanen
August 17	Chuck & LeAnn Bystrom
August 17	Bill & Diane Meehan
August 18	Jack & Lois Mausolf
August 18	Dan & Faye Mobilia
August 21	Wayne & Karen Dahl
August 22	John & Tina Jesme
August 22	Brian & Amber Zak
August 24	Ben & Doris Mosher
August 31	George & Janice Brown

Council Meeting

The council met on Wednesday July 13th, 2022 at 9 AM.

Pastor Liz reported that her Grief Counseling course is going well!

A Guatemala 'fundraiser' was suggested for the Fall.

Church Property discussed some Disability Improvements, improving outside ramp, re-doing outside steps, changes to accommodate pews for better wheelchair accesses, installing middle rail on outside steps and replacing carpeting and a 'moveable pulpit'.

The Evangelism/Social Ministry updated that they were all set for the annual picnic at Greenwood Pavilion.

There will be a Congressional Meeting held on September 11th, 2022.

The next council meeting will be held at 9 AM on Wednesday August 10th, 2022.

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."



Vacation Bible School

August 1-5 (9:30-Noon)

There's still time to join us at VBS this summer!!

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.

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>



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.

Cook Stoves and Lamina

Pastor Liz will be in Guatemala for two weeks in August. She will be checking in on food distribution families as well as delivering as many cook stoves and sheets of lamina that she can raise funds to purchase.

It is rainy season there and their tin shacks are in need of new lamina to seal up the holes so rain and water don't get in. Cook stoves are important because without one families cook on a open fire which fills the house with smoke. These are two of the biggest needs in San Gabriel next to food and houses.

If you would like to make a donation you can do so by writing a check to Immanuel with Recycled Lives in the memo, or send a check directly to Recycled Lives, or online – Pastor Liz can get you the online link to donate.

If you sponsor a family on the food distribution list and would like to send a small gift, picture of your family or card, Pastor Liz will deliver it!

We look forward to welcoming Shawn and Brad Johnson to Immanuel this fall for a visit, update and fundraiser. Date is yet to be determined, but will be in September or October while the Johnsons are back in the states.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Recycled Lives and the ministry they do in Guatemala! Cross your fingers for a mission team in 2023 and be praying if that team might include YOU!

Thursday Book Study

The Thursday book study will resume on September 8 th at 10:00 a.m. We will continue with the book If God is Love, Don't be a Jerk by John Pavlovitz. We didn't get very far, so all are welcome to join as we resume in September!

Quilting

Attention Immanuel Quilters:
Mark your calendar for Wednesday, September 14th as we return to the tables and sewing machines to make our beautiful quilts. We will be meeting from 9 AM to 12 noon.
If you have any questions please contact Penny Jackson at church on Sundays or leave a message on her voice mail.
651-238-3732. Hope to see you soon.
The Immanuel Quilters have finished quilting for the season.

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.

Free Community Meals

August 24th from 4:00 – 6:00 pm will be our first monthly community meal and it will be an end of summer block party BBQ! Plan to attend for a free meal, free entertainment, fellowship and neighborly conversation!

You could bring a lawn chair if you'd like. We will have tents and a few tables set up. Steve Solkela will be here from 4:30 – 5:30 to sing and entertain!

We have a wonderful planning team who has been working hard the last couple of months to pull all the details together to make this first meal a success!

Mark your calendars for the last Wednesday of each month from 4:00 – 6:00.

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 August

August 7

Genesis 15:1-6
Psalm 33:12-22

Hebrew 11:1-3,8-16
Luke 12:32-40

August 21

Isaiah 58:9b-14
Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrew 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

August 14

Jeremiah 23:23-29
Psalm 92

Hebrew 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

August 28

Proverbs 25:6-7
Psalm 112
Hebrew 13:1-8,15-16
Luke 14:1,7-14

304 Spruce St.
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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)

