

The Immanuel Lutheran Church Messenger

Strum, Wisconsin

Livestream available at immanuelstrum.org



Immanuel's Women of the ELCA



Our next WELCA meeting will be on **Wednesday, November 5th at 1:30 pm.** Our Bible Study will follow for those who would like to continue our journey together. We are on Lesson 11, "Silence the Fools."

The Apple Pie Project was a success again. A total of 612 pies were made; 601 were sold and 11 were eaten as dessert. Our success was due to the many volunteers, about 45 showed up each day. Thanks to all those who were able to join us. It is always an enjoyable three days of fellowship, laughter, and memories. A big thank you to Maxine and Dennis Ulberg for being co-chairs and for all the extra work the job involves. It has been suggested that I share how some of the apple pie money has been spent. Here is a partial list: basement walls, \$7,000; basement shades, \$779; furnace, \$4,500; roof, \$1,000; and Organ fund, \$4,500.

***The WELCA has their own storage room now. If you can't find your cake pan or bowl it could be there. Our room is located downstairs in the basement. Go all the way through the Fellowship Hall and through the double doors; last room on the right (the old Music room).

Sunday, November 23rd is our annual Thankoffering Service. Strength, Soul, and Spark: Celebrating the Gifts of Women is your 2025 Thankoffering Service. For those who attend the church service, a basket will be placed in front of the altar. Envelopes were not provided this year; a plain white one can be used or funds may be placed directly into the basket. Your Thankoffering can also be mailed or delivered to

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In this newsletter
you can expect:

WELCA News

Message from
Pastor Terry

Council Minutes

Upgrading Our
Musical Worship
Legacy Update

Financial Report

Food Pantry &
ADRC Senior Meals

Calendar of Events

Gifts & Memorials

Endowment Fund

the church office or mailed to Jean Herman, our treasurer. Count your blessings and give thanks. Giving thanks is a daily practice for many women of faith. Whether you give thanks daily, weekly, monthly or yearly, the Thankofferings you give support life-changing ministries of the Women of the ELCA. This year's service was created by students and staff of the Office of Spiritual Life and Campus Ministry at Wartburg College for Women of the ELCA. A service will be held on November 9th at 6:30 pm at Warburg College. All are welcome. The service will be live streamed via Knightvision.

****The WELCA Christmas Dinner and Program is on **Wednesday, December 3rd at 11:00 am.** A sliced ham and cheesy hashbrown potato dinner will be served. Serving groups 12, 1 & 2 (Chairpersons Maxine Ulberg, Betty Vold, and Joan Guenther) are serving. We start with the program upstairs and then go down for dinner at noon.

We welcome back as our guest speaker and musician Mary Segerstrom. Mary grew up on a farm near Gilmanton, Wisconsin. She is grateful from her Christian parents and the values they instilled in her. She attended Oak Grove Grade School, Gilmanton High School, and Stout State University. She is married to Neil and they recently celebrated their 50th Anniversary. She is retired after working 26 years as a Teachers Aide for Special Needs students at the Mondovi Public Elementary School.

Mary is a humorist, speaker and singer, who accompanies herself on her baritone ukulele. She is a normal person with an abnormal attitude and her greatest joy is to uplift and inspire others. The title of her program is "What is Christmas, Anyway?" She might strip?! or put clothes on, make you laugh, or make you cry; but she does it all in good taste, and always does it "to the Glory of God."

Our WELCA Bible Study will continue on **Monday, December 8th at 1:30 pm;** no business meeting. Potluck Christmas baking if you have some. If not, don't worry. Come anyway, there is always plenty.

The next Triennial Gathering is in Des Moines, IA, July 16-19th, 2026. The theme for the 2026 Triennial Gathering is "I am Worthy" based on Psalm 139:14: "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." This statement serves as a reminder of God's promise to be with us, even in times of devastation and division. By repeating the phrase "I am Worthy" we can recognize the Holy Spirit's ongoing work in our lives. Learn more about the 2026 WELCA Triennial Gathering at the website: <https://welcatg.org>. This website is updated regularly with information about speakers, workshops, hotels, and more! Plus they are looking for sponsors, vendors and exhibitors.

We are still looking for one or two ladies to step forward and help next year. We are currently two officers short for 2026. We are looking for a President, Vice-president, or Co-chairpersons. Please prayerfully consider accepting a position on your WELCA team. Please remember your WELCA plays an active role in the life of our church. Our serving groups provide food and service for funerals and special events. our fundraiser, the Apple Pie Project, helps support many missions and projects in our church. So please consider joining our small group of dedicated members and officers of our WELCA. Come to one of our monthly meetings or special events to see what we are up to! You don't have to become an officer to join us at our meetings. All women of Immanuel are welcome to attend.

RON & CHAR MYHERS**Organ Refurbishment**

Brad & Jan Smith
 Fred & Dianne Mathson
 Erik & Kathleen Matson
 Karloy & Carol Galstad
 Dianne Fossum
 Steven & Martha Fremstad
 Gary & Constance Larson
 Darrell & Sandra Arndt
 Ronald & Vicki Anderson
 Daniel & Patricia Halverson
 Dennis & Linda Barneson
 Fred & Karen Strasburg
 Richard & Monica Bahr
 Ralph & Linda Myhre
 Kurt & Joan Tonn
 Jim & Kris Husby
 Jim & Judy Foss
 Carol Olson
 Paul & Mary Gullicksrud
 Jon & Joan Higley
 Ann Kisor

Eric & Karen Franson
 Jim Gullicksrud
 Gary Hanson
 Don & Cheryl Solfest
 George & Berti Ross
 Ron & Marlene Onstad
 Lois Hulberg
 Tom & Gloria Wagener
 Scott & Mary Bjorgo
 Mark & Vickie Hanson
 Tom & Debbie Peterson
 David & Jean Herman
 Deloris Sather
 Julia Bjorgo
 Patty Runkel
 Dennis & Maxine Ulberg
 Dan & Barb Adams
 Marlys Bjorklund
 John & Mary Stendahl
 Ardell & Wyllis Olson
 Friends & Family
Strum Area Food Pantry
 Roseann Monson

WAYNE "TURBO" ANDERSON**Organ Refurbishment**

The Anderson Family

West Beef River Cemetery

The Anderson Family

HANK HORLACHER**Organ Refurbishment**

Bob & Martha Solfest

DAVID FERGUSON (Daphne Bjorgo's Father)**Organ Refurbishment**

Dean & Carolyn Boehne

**STRUM AREA FOOD PANTRY**

Saturday, November 1: 9 AM - 11 AM
 Wednesday, November 19: 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM



Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Psalm 107:1

Thankfulness has been an indispensable element of worshipping God going all the way back to when Cain first lifted up the fruit of the ground in gratitude towards God and Abel did likewise with the animals of his flocks.



Admittedly, for the first two worshipers, things went downhill in a hurry soon thereafter that first impromptu worship service but one thing remains as a crucial part of our worship – thanksgiving.

In Old Testament accounts of worshipping God, thankfulness and the grateful expression thereof are always a central part of the worship service. God's people were to come to worship to give happily from what God had first blessed them with. One did not arrive begrudgingly prepared to relinquish some of the finest things they claimed as theirs. They came, in large part, to simply express their thankfulness.

New Testament teachings encourage God's people to be thankful from a particular perspective. Christians are called to worship God with thanksgiving in the name of Jesus Christ for healing and wholeness and deliverance from the bondage of sin and death. We worship to express our gratitude for the gift of faith, the celebration of the sacraments, and the power of God's holy word. In short, God's people still have a great many things to be thankful for.

On Wednesday, November 26th a number of area churches will join together for a worship service of thanksgiving and gratitude on the eve of our nation's holiday that strives to do likewise. This year we gather at the Chimney Rock Lutheran Church at 7 p.m. to read, confess, sing, pray, meditate, take part in fellowship, and, of course, give thanks for the many ways in which our loving God continues to provide for His people abundantly.

Choirs from Eleva Lutheran, Elk Creek Lutheran, and Immanuel Lutheran will each offer choir anthems and then collectively, as a mass choir, conclude worship with a powerful expression of thanks with one voice.

I extend an invitation to all to come and pack the church as we carry on the age-old tradition of giving thanks to God Almighty. Refreshments will be served in the church basement after the worship service. All designated offering for the evening will be forwarded to respective churches and all undesignated offerings will be given in support of local food pantries. I hope to see you there, hear your voice in song, and join with you in giving thanks to the One who has given us all.

Peace and Joy,
Pastor Terry Lorenz



Immanuel Lutheran Council Meeting October 9, 2025

Present: Kris Husby, Bob Schlink, Gloria Wagener, Dean Anderson and John Eide, Tyler Back

Absent: Pastor Lorenz

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm.

September regular minutes were approved via e-mail

The September Treasurer's report was reviewed. A motion was made to approve by Bob Schlink, second by John Eide. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Confirmation class for 2025-26 is off and running. We have 14 students registered with one that decided not to attend this year. One student will attend classes at Immanuel and be confirmed at Elk Creek. We have had two classes and when we resume on Wednesday, October 15 we will be spending our time doing service work at St Paul's Cemetery. Carolyn Boehne has a list of some maintenance that can be done before the snow flies. Later this fall we will also be helping at Rolling Meadows just down the street from the church.

I am still working on getting a grief support group going. It has been difficult getting a day/time that works for most folks.

Old Business

Building/Maintenance

Nothing to report.

Sunday School – \$2000 will be transferred from Youth Fund to Sunday School Fund on a motion by Bob Schlink, second by Dean Anderson, as we look to grow our Sunday School and provide financial assistance during our time of rebuilding the program.

Thanksgiving Dinner – A meeting will be held soon to finalize details of this event.

2026 budget sheets were provided to the council. Work on the 2026 Budget will begin at the November Council Meeting.

2026 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 1, 2026. Anyone interested in serving on the church council, please reach out to a current council member or contact the Church office.

Console Refurbishment (Upgrading our Musical Legacy): Updates are being provided to congregation on a regular basis.

New Business

2026 Health Insurance Options – In 2026 Portico Benefit Services, a Ministry of the ELCA created all new health insurance options for its members and Immanuel/Elk Creek Joint Parish had to elect plan/plans that would be available to our Pastor. On a motion by Tyler Back, second by Bob Schlink, the council voted to select a traditional type plan and a high-deductible plan from which to choose from. The cost of the two plans is similar to what we are currently paying. Elk Creek vote was the same as Immanuel's.

2026 Parish Agreement – Elk Creek and Immanuel both have some updates to the agreement. Updates mostly change wording to reflect current practices. Outside Fall clean-up, including trimming of shrubs and pulling flowers was discussed.

Kris will work with Michelle to create an information sheet for Coffee Hour, to assist those that would like to host a Coffee Hour, but are unsure of process.

The next Joint Parish Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 16 at 11:30 a.m. at Elk Creek.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 2025.

Meeting was adjourned on a motion by Bob Schlink, second by Dean Anderson, following the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted
John Eide, Secretary

THANKSGIVING DINNER



If you are without family members to gather with or would simply appreciate bringing your family to a delicious, stress-free meal provided for you in the fellowship hall at Immanuel Lutheran, please call the church office at 715-695-3511 or email office@immanuelstrum.org to sign up for the Thanksgiving meal prepared and provided by members of Immanuel. Serving is from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm on Thursday, November 27. A free will offering for the meal will be received. Carryouts available. Please **RSVP by November 20** to reserve your spot.

STRUM SENIOR DINING AT IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:30 AM; Catered by Sweet Temptations.

Reservations are required by 9 AM the Monday prior by calling 715-695-3511.

The **suggested donation is \$5.00 per meal**, which is given at the meal site.

The Senior Dining program relies on contributions from our customers so that we can serve more meals. You're welcome but not obligated to contribute.

NOVEMBER 2025

Salad Option: Cobb Salad

(Mixed Greens, Bacon, Smoked Turkey, Avocado, Black Beans, Red Onions, Tomatoes, Black Olives, Feta Cheese & Egg)

Tuesday, November 4: Gyro, Greek Side Salad, Pita, Dessert

Thursday, November 6: Chicken Salad Sandwich, Chips, Soup, Dessert

Tuesday, November 11: Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Dessert

Thursday, November 13: Shepherd's Pie, Fruit, Dessert

Tuesday, November 18: Baked Chicken Breast, Rice, Veggie, Dessert

Thursday, November 20: Burgers w/all the fixings, Pasta Salad, Dessert

Tuesday, November 25: Turkey, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Dessert

NO MEAL ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

- Follow us on Facebook! @ADRCofTrempealeauCounty
- Senior Dining menus may be found on our website:
www.co.trempealeau.wi.us/adrc

*Menu items are subject to change due to item availability and unexpected shortages or shipment delays.

UPGRADING OUR MUSICAL WORSHIP LEGACY

Over 60 years old, the organ console is in dire need of a major overhaul. Levsen Organ Company submitted a bid to rebuild it and also add a record/play feature.

With a bid just under \$91,000, the congregation voted to have the console rebuilt. Scheduled to start after Easter 2026, we have one year to raise the money.

This requires an aggressive commitment from the congregation. Please prayerfully consider how the pipe organ enhances worship and consider a donation to the Organ Refurbishment Fund. Immanuel is also equipped to accept IRA distributions and corporate stocks and securities; contact Tom Wagener or Karin Back for more information.



Goal (Easter 2026): \$90,867

Amount Raised: \$69,362.20 (76.3%)

Amount Remaining: \$21,504.80

To keep an eye on how we are progressing toward our goal, check the Organ Fund meter in the main entrance of the church created by Kent and Karen Nelson.

SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

	Total	Annual Budget Avg/Mo	Over/(Under) Monthly Budget	Annual Budget	Budget Remaining
Contributions	12,770.00	10,416.67	2,353.33	125,000.00	47,472.32
Electronic Contributions	2,267.63	2,508.33	(240.70)	30,100.00	9,349.38
Memorials & Other	365.96	1,550.00	(1,184.04)	18,600.00	11,910.80
Total Contributions	15,403.59	14,475.00	928.59	173,700.00	68,732.50

	Total	Annual Budget Avg/Mo	Over/(Under) Monthly Budget	Annual Budget	Budget Remaining
Building & Property	59.00	1,250.00	(1,191.00)	15,000.00	8,083.16
General	60.60	75.00	(14.40)	900.00	194.60
Ministry	368.21	500.00	(131.79)	6,000.00	53.87
Office	227.56	283.33	(55.77)	3,400.00	1,342.48
Pastor	6,347.21	6,340.49	6.72	76,085.92	25,534.88
Payroll	4,164.50	4,757.20	(592.70)	57,086.44	23,239.78
Utilities*	875.15	1,216.67	(341.52)	14,600.00	5,792.72
Total Expenses	12,102.23	14,422.70	(2,320.47)	173,072.36	64,241.49

Net Contributions **3,301.36**

	Account	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Ending Balance
	CD-Roof	84,524.42	-	-	84,524.42
	Checking Account	12,872.95	58,374.26	51,435.09	19,812.12
Money Market Accounts	Building	(536.89)	6,040.23	216.99	5,286.35
	General	55,455.70	38,924.96	42,880.92	51,499.74
	General - Housing Allowance	55.19	-	-	55.19
	Benevolences	2,858.45	5.00	-	2,863.45
	CBELC	27,786.84	-	5,000.00	22,786.84
	Daughters of the King	4,391.10	-	-	4,391.10
	Fellowship	466.75	-	-	466.75
	Library	251.60	-	-	251.60
	Local Missions	346.92	-	-	346.92
	Music	1,986.38	20.00	-	2,006.38
	Organ Fund - Refurbishment	9,182.11	30,305.69	38,346.80	1,141.00
	Parsonage - General	28,127.78	550.00	-	28,677.78
	Parsonage - Property Tax	5,137.83	250.00	-	5,387.83
	Social Concerns	1,102.07	-	-	1,102.07
	Strum Area Food Pantry	9,233.81	710.00	-	9,943.81
	Sunday School	1,099.05	-	-	1,099.05
	Youth - General	7,192.49	-	-	7,192.49
	Youth - Luther Park	1,650.00	-	-	1,650.00
	Prepaid Pastoral Expenses	6,887.41	6,307.75	6,216.86	6,978.30
	Prepaid Postage	12.41	78.00	-	90.41
	Total Assets	260,084.37	141,565.89	144,096.66	257,553.60

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30						1
8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Coffee Hour 9:45 AM Sunday School						9 AM - 11 AM 
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:30 AM Worship/Communion 9:30 AM Coffee Hour 9:45 AM Sunday School	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Pastor's Day Off	11:30 AM Senior Meals	3:45 - 4:45 PM Confirmation 1:30 PM WELCA Meeting	11:30 AM Senior Meals		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
KIDS SING 8:30 AM Worship/Communion 9:30 AM Coffee Hour 9:45 AM Sunday School	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Pastor's Day Off	11:30 AM Senior Meals	3:45 - 4:45 PM Confirmation Class	11:30 AM Senior Meals 1 - 4 PM Quilting		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Coffee Hour 9:45 AM Sunday School	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Pastor's Day Off	11:30 AM Senior Meals	3:45 - 4:45 PM Confirmation Class 4:30-6:30 PM 	11:30 AM Senior Meals		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:30 AM Worship/Thankoffering Service 9:30 AM Coffee Hour 9:45 AM Sunday School	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Pastor's Day Off	11:30 AM Senior Meals		11 AM - 1:30 PM THANKSGIVING DINNER		

November



Food Drive to Support the Strum Food Pantry

We will be having a Food Drive to support the Strum Food Pantry at Immanuel Lutheran during the entire month of November 2025. The number of people we are feeding continues to grow, especially in the 0-50 age groups. We average 1-2 new families each month.

There will be a grocery cart in the main entrance of the Sanctuary to place your items in and at the north/handicap entrance there will be a basket to put them in.

We appreciate any non-perishable food item but items that we also need are: paper products, Jell-O and instant pudding mixes, cake mixes, dish soap and financial support. We buy vouchers for milk and eggs from Feed my People so the families get milk and eggs each time they come to the pantry and vouchers to get extra milk and eggs if needed. We purchase food from Feed My People and Robbe's. Robbe's graciously donates bread each month to the pantry. Have more venison than you need? Venison donations are also much appreciated. Please call to Martha or the church office to arrange venison donations.

We all have so much to be thankful for so let us give back to our community of families so they too are blessed.

If you choose to give a monetary donation, **PLEASE** make the check out to **STRUM AREA FOOD PANTRY**. This may be put in the offering plate on a Sunday morning or sent to the church.

THANK YOU in advance for all your support of this ministry for our wonderful community and surrounding area!

APPLE PIE PROJECT



A big thank you to all who helped with the Apple Pie Project: 16 for box making, 45 each day to make the pies. We made a total of 612 pies with 601 being for sale. Thanks also to the Serving groups for the tasty lunches and to everyone who bought the pies. The Apple Pie Project 2025 was a huge success!

Maxine and Dennis

MISCELLANEOUS

The Last of the Louvers

Thanks to Dave Berge and his ability to climb well, fit into small spaces, and not mind more than a little dust; our bell tower louver replacement project has been completed. Thanks to Bob Schlink who made the louvers, Zac Erickson who painted them, and Dave for his aforementioned contributions.

Eleva Lutheran Church

Fall Harvest Dinner

50553 South 2nd St; Eleva, Wisconsin

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

10:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner

Adults: \$25

Meatball Dinner

Adults: \$15; Children 6-12: \$10; Children 5 and under: Free

Take-out also available

Roof Project Update

We have recently received inquiries from members concerning the status of the roof project and what are our plans going forward. We first want to give you a little history about our roof and how it all came about.

In 2018 we found we had leaks in the roof on the north entrance tower and we also had some issues on the chapel roof. At that time temporary repairs were made to the chapel roof and we had permanent repairs made to the tower roof.

In April of 2019 the Council started looking into our options for a permanent repair to the Chapel and Education wing roof. One suggestion was to investigate the installation of a peaked roof. Just as this got started, COVID happened and we all went into shutdown. At the 2022 Annual Meeting the issue was discussed briefly again and we moved orward, getting bids.

One bid was obtained for a peaked roof for \$110,000 and another bid for flat roof repairs of \$90,000. We started fundraising and with generous donations from our congregation and a generous matching donation of \$40,000 we currently have \$84,524 designated funds for the roof. Thank you to all who have contributed.

Currently we are not having any issues with the roof over the Chapel and Education wing of the building. We do know that the 30-year-old roof will need replacing in the future, however, based on the current stability of the roof, we are hoping to get a few more years out of the roof and that hte price of materials will stabilize. At today's prices we know that our old estimastes are low and we will have to budget accordingly. We continue to investigate the option of a peaked roof, which will require an engineering study, or a flat roof. Please know that as we get closer to a decision on when to replace the roof, peaked or flat, we will include you, the member of Immanuel, with that information.

If you have any questions reagrding this project, please let us know.

Your Congregational Council.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN ENDOWMENT FUND

Grant Applications Now Being Accepted

The mission of the Immanuel Lutheran Church Endowment Fund is to encourage Christian Stewardship and to enhance the outreach ministry of the congregation. Requests are invited in in November and December of each year and awards are made at the February annual congregational meeting. A minimum of five percent of the fund's value is given out in four categories.

- Scholarships to members of the congregation attending a Lutheran college or seminary
- Local social service agencies administering to the needs of people in the community
- ELCA education and outdoor ministries
- ELCA and Northwest WI Synod sponsored outreach programs and partner ministries

Grant applications made be found on our website at immanuelstrum.org/endowment-fund-church-grants or at the main entrance (Narthex) of the church. **Application deadline is December 31.**



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

This is Christ's Church.

There is a place for you here.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person – questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

<http://www.elca.org/>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor

Terry Lorenz

Cell: 715-533-8121

email: pastorterrylorenz@tcc.coop

Administrator

Michelle Jacobson

Office: 715-695-3511

email: office@immanuelstrum.org

Office Hours

Sunday: 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Monday: 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Thursday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Church Council

Kris Husby, President

Bob Schlink, Vice-president

Gloria Wagener, Treasurer

John Eide, Secretary

Dean Anderson, Member-at-large

Tyler Back, Member-at-large

Need Offering Envelopes?

Please contact Michelle
in the office.

715-695-3511 or ilc@triwest.net

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