

The Immanuel Lutheran Church Messenger

Strum, Wisconsin
Livestream available at immanuelstrum.org



Immanuel's Women of the ELCA



The WELCA will meet on Wednesday, February 4th at 1:30 pm. We will have a short business meeting and continue our new Bible Stud. The book "Women of Faith Bible Study Series Living Above Worry and Stress" was chosen for our Bible study this year. We will continue with Chapter Two "Fear and Trembling."

Our annual Prayer Breakfast has been moved to Wednesday, April 22nd at 9:30 am to accommodate our speaker. This year Jamie Halverson will be joining us as our speaker. He will be back in Wisconsin for a couple of weeks. Jamie comes to us from Papua New Guinea. He joined the Wycliff Bible Translators in 2004. In 2006 Jamie arrived in PNG as a pilot/mechanic. He flies a Cessna 206. The Cessna 206 is a versatile, six seat, high wing utility aircraft known as the SUV of the air. It's excellent for families, cargo, and bush flying due to its robust build, large cargo doors, and ability to operate from short, unimproved strips. Serving groups: 1, 2, 3 and 4 and Chairpersons: Betty Vold, Diane Thronson, Helen Beebe, and Emily Knudtson are serving.

NOTE: Our Ladies Day Out has been changed to Thursday, April 30th due to a conflict with the Confirmation Banquet. We will meet at the church at 10:30 am and carpool to Chippewa Falls to see "The Ultimate Potluck: A Celebration of Favorites." 2026 marks a major milestone for **The Looney Lutherans**; it's their 20th Anniversary! After two decades of touring and six previous appearances at the Heyde Center, the Loonies are back with a special "Anniversary Show: created just for this occasion.

(Continued on page 2)

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

Memorials

This performance brings together some of their most beloved moments and fan favorites from over the years. Whether you've enjoyed all six shows or are experiencing the Looney Lutherans for the first time, this is your chance to celebrate their unique humor, music, and fun in a one-of-a-kind event. 5-Star Catering is providing a theme appropriate meal featuring a savory chicken pot pie, Waldorf salad, dinner and a dessert. I have booked 2 tables (16 seats); the cost is \$39. Call Karen Franson to reserve your spot at 715-695-3553.

*****DATE CHANGE: Save the New Date! WELCA Summer Retreat at Luther Park Bible Camp is Monday and Tuesday, June 29-30, 2026. Pati Kachel is the speaker this year.**

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.

*****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 hall and go through the double doors; last room on the right.**

HOWARD HANSON MEMORIAL SERVICE



Howard Hanson passed away peacefully on Friday, January 23 under the care of the Augusta Health and Rehabilitation center and Heartland Hospice. Visitation will be held from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm on Friday, February 6. The funeral service is on Saturday, February 7 at 11:00 am (visitation one hour prior to service) at Immanuel. You are welcome to honor Howard by wearing bib overalls, tractor apparel or Eleva-Strum school attire.

<https://www.talbotfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/howard-hanson>

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed!

Available opportunities to serve in February: Sunday, February 15 and 22. If you would like to host a coffee hour, but are unsure of what to do, guidelines and suggestions are available in the office. Signup sheets are located on the table in the main entrance by the bulletin board.



Lenten Soup Supper Host(s) Needed for February 25

STRUM AREA FOOD PANTRY



Saturday, February 7: 9 AM - 11 AM
Wednesday, February 18: 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM



Exercise @ Immanuel

***I pray that God, who gives peace, will make you completely holy.
And may your spirit, soul, and body be kept healthy and faultless
until our Lord Jesus Christ returns.***

1 Thessalonians 5:23

I told Helen Beebe that I had in mind to write this article to promote several newly established opportunities for exercise and fitness offered here at Immanuel. I let her know that our church council had discussed and approved opening up a couple of currently unused rooms (actually one larger room now) with that goal in mind. I shared with her the good news that we had donations of a stationary bicycle, an elliptical machine, and a treadmill. All of which are now setup in rooms 5 & 7 of the Sunday School wing. When I asked about including a reminder of the exercise group she'd been leading in the Fireside Room until a family emergency took her time and attention away in late 2025 she said, "Yes, I've been planning to restart the class on February 9th." She also said something that reminded me of the well-balanced, complete manner in which God takes care of His people.

In Helen's words she reminded me that participants in the class work on their mental, physical, and emotional health. They work together to build up their bodies by improving strength and balance. They encourage one another through laughter and discipline to improve their overall health and fitness and lessen some of the pains of aging. Whether you prefer Helen's description or Paul's in the above excerpt from his first letter to the church at Thessalonica, they both speak of the same thing – a healthy balance makes for a healthy body.

We are blessed to have a nice balance of ways in which you can come to the church to exercise your body by showing up for class in the Fireside Room, using our newly established exercise rooms in the Sunday School wing, or by just walking the hallways and stairways of Immanuel. The Fireside bunch meets on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:30 a.m. Our Exercise Room, along with the walking paths, are open anytime the church is open. With regard to tending to the well-being of the body of Christ, Sunday morning worship is at 8:30 a.m., midweek Lenten services are at 6:30 p.m.

Let's make a commitment to a new sort of Lenten discipline, let's take better care of our body and of our body of Christ here in this place,

God's peace and joy to all,
Pastor Terry Lorenz

**Immanuel Lutheran Council Meeting
December 18, 2025**

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

Meeting called to order at 5:55 pm

November minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve by Gloria Wagener, second by Bob Schlink, motion carried

The November Treasurer's Report was reviewed by Gloria Wagener. A motion was made by Bob Schlink to approve, second by John Eide. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Pastor will be working to get out and visit more homebound members. Michelle will be taking over bulletin duties, which Pastor has been taking care of.

Spoke again about organizing a trip to take kids to Sylvania in Upper Michigan in 2026. Less cost and closer than other trips planned by other churches. High school students have also asked about doing a mission trip.

Thinking about putting together a social time after Tuesday & Thursday senior meals.

February 9th - 16th Pastor is planning on being on vacation. Pastor Donna Fonner will cover service and any other duties.

Exercise equipment is here and will be set up in one of the empty Sunday School rooms. The yoga class will remain in Fireside room.

An additional resource to provide music/audio during a service has been set up through the sound system.

Immanuel Lutheran's Thanksgiving Day Community Dinner has received a donation from an area family trust in the amount of \$2500.

Old Business

A group has been put together to discuss the possible reorganization of the alter/organ/choir loft area. When the organ is removed to be renovated, if any changes are to be made, this would be the time to make them.

Lighting under the balcony is dim, will have someone look at it to see what can be done to provide more light.

A nightlight is needed in the stairway to the Fireside Room.

We are getting closer to our goal of completely paying for the organ renovation, with under \$9,000 left to raise.

Thanksgiving dinner was a huge success with about 225 meals served. Leftover meals were donated to the food pantry.

Discussion on the 2026 Annual Meeting, Sunday, February 1, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. The proposed 2026 Budget was looked over, adding a line for Thanksgiving dinner, approved on a motion by Bob Schlink, second by Tyler Back, motion carried. Council member terms & elections were discussed. Meeting will be held with brunch in the Fellowship Hall.

2026 Join Parish Agreement with some verbiage clean-up was agreed upon and signed.

New Business

The next Joint Parish Meeting is to be held Sunday, February 15, 2026 @ 11:30 am at Elk Creek Church.

Next council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2026.

Other Business

Bob Schlink brought up providing Giving Statements more than once a year. It has been proposed to provide twice a year.

Motion was made to adjourn after the Lord's Prayer by Dean Anderson, second by Gloria Wagener.

Respectfully Submitted

John Eide

MEMORIALS



HARRIET GILBERTSON

General Fund

David & Jean Herman

DALE OLSEN

Organ Fund

Robert & Dawnmarie Anderson

Bruce & Cathy Hawkins

PRICILLA SKOUG

Organ Fund

Donald & Linda Rudy

Darcy Fredrickson

HOWARD HANSON

General Fund

Dave & Colleen Berge

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.

FEBRUARY 2026

Salad Option: Chicken Bacon Ranch Salad

(Mixed greens topped with warmed chicken, bacon, red onion, parmesan cheese and ranch dressing)

Tuesday, February 3: Pasta Bolognese (Pasta with meat and veggie sauce), Dessert

Thursday, February 5: Cauliflower, Broccoli & Bacon Casserole, Canned Fruit, Dessert

Tuesday, February 10: Coconut Chicken Curry, Rice, Dessert

Thursday, February 13: Chef Salad, Soup, Dessert

Tuesday, February 17: Grilled Bacon Cheeseburger, Tater Tots, Veggies, Dessert

Thursday, February 19: Baked Honey Mustard Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Dessert

Tuesday, February 24: Cajun Chicken Pasta, Sauteed Veggies, Dessert

Thursday, February 26: Baked Cod, Rice, Roasted Veggies, Dessert

- 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: \$87,048.20(95.8%)
Amount Remaining: \$3,818.80

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.

DECEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund Contributions	Total	% of Income	Annual Budget Avg/Mo	Over/(Under) Monthly Budget	Annual Budget	Budget Remaining
Contributions	17,488.00	79.2%	10,416.67	7,071.33	125,000.00	3,460.32
Electronic Contributions	4,053.70	18.4%	2,508.33	1,545.37	30,100.00	(953.73)
Memorials & Other	537.58	2.4%	1,550.00	(1,012.42)	18,600.00	8,029.78
Total Contributions	22,079.28	100.0%	14,475.00	7,604.28	173,700.00	10,536.37

General Fund Expenses	Total	% of Income	Annual Budget Avg/Mo	Over/(Under) Monthly Budget	Annual Budget	Budget Remaining
Building & Property	3,128.16	14.2%	1,250.00	1,878.16	15,000.00	2,341.91
General	60.60	0.3%	75.00	(14.40)	900.00	(155.30)
Ministry	1,648.31	7.5%	500.00	1,148.31	6,000.00	(3,592.72)
Office	141.12	0.6%	283.33	(142.21)	3,400.00	834.89
Pastor	6,727.95	30.5%	6,340.49	387.46	76,085.92	(504.35)
Payroll	5,423.13	24.6%	4,757.20	665.93	57,086.44	4,788.96
Utilities	533.77	2.4%	1,216.67	(682.90)	14,600.00	1,953.44
Total Expenses	17,663.04	80.0%	14,422.70	3,240.34	173,072.36	5,666.83

Net Contributions **4,416.24**

	Account	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Ending Balance	
	CD-Roof	84,524.42	2,036.78		86,561.20	
	Checking Account	29,228.89	46,819.90	18,335.88	57,712.91	
Money Market Accounts	Building	5,045.21	-	639.97	4,405.24	
	General	33,663.13	2,117.02	16,325.00	19,455.15	
	General - Housing Al	55.19	-	-	55.19	
	Benevolences	2,863.45	-	-	2,863.45	
	CBELC	22,786.84	-	-	22,786.84	
	Daughters of the Kin	4,391.10	-	-	4,391.10	
	Fellowship	2,319.07	-	1,635.72	683.35	
	Library	251.60	-	-	251.60	
	Local Missions	209.79	-	-	209.79	
	Music	2,006.38	-	153.16	1,853.22	
	Organ Fund - Refurb	15,693.00	12,846.00	-	28,539.00	
	Parsonage - General	28,952.88	550.00	338.80	29,164.08	
	Parsonage - Property	6,137.83	250.00	-	6,387.83	
	Social Concerns	602.07	-	-	602.07	
	Strum Area Food Par	14,921.59	2,457.00	577.00	16,801.59	
	Sunday School	807.39	2,202.00	-	3,009.39	
	Youth - General	7,196.49	20.00	2,009.99	5,206.50	
	Youth - Luther Park	1,190.00	-	-	1,190.00	
		Prepaid Pastoral Exp	7,251.16	6,307.86	13,559.02	-
		Prepaid Postage	2.34	156.00	64.75	93.59
	Total Assets	270,099.82	75,762.56	53,639.29	292,223.09	

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8:30 AM Worship/Annual Meeting/Breakfast 9:30 AM Coffee Hour No Sunday School	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Pastor's Day Off	11:30 AM Senior Meals	1:30 PM WELCA Bible Study	11:30 AM Senior Meals		9 AM - 11 AM  Strum Food Pantry
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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	10:00 AM WELCA 3:45 - 4:45 PM Confirmation	11:30 AM Senior Meals 1 - 4 PM Quilting 6 PM Council		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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	5:30 PM Ash Wednesday 6:30 PM Soup Supper 4:30-6:30 PM Food Pantry	11:30 AM Senior Meals	Newsletter Deadline	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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	5:30PM Soup Supper 6:30 PM Lenten Service	11:30 AM Senior Meals 1 - 4 PM Quilting		

The Upside-Down Blessing



The Beatitudes are more than poetic lines from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. They are a radical redefinition of what it means to be blessed. The Greek word *makarios* doesn't just mean "happy." It describes deep, untouchable joy that pain, loss or hardship cannot erase. As scholar William Barclay wrote, it is "the joy which shines through tears."

Jesus flips the world's idea of success upside down. The "blessed" aren't the powerful or prosperous, but the poor in spirit, the mourners, the meek and the merciful. Imagine reading them as "Congratulations, you who feel broken, God's kingdom belongs to you!" His words assure us that, even in suffering, we stand in God's favor.

Real blessing isn't about shiny possessions or smooth sailing. It's the steady, saving presence of God--a life preserver tossed to us when we are struggling to stay afloat. And it's not just an individual promise. Jesus spoke these blessings to a community, a "we" more than a "me." Together, as the body of Christ, we find comfort, strength and the courage to live with joy that nothing in life or death can take away.

-Adapted from HomileticsOnline.com

Spring Cleaning for the Soul

Ash Wednesday is February 18, and it marks the beginning of the 40 days of Lent. Lent hints of spring, a time when the earth begins to awaken from a winter's nap, and new growth bursts forth all about us.

More personally, it is an opportunity to enter into a springtime for our spirit. For centuries Christians have used the 40 days of Lent to seek spiritual growth. Sincere repentance, a changing of heart, casting off old sinful practices and seeking to commune with our creator help us go in the right direction. Spending serious time in silence and prayer focuses our attention. Reading spiritual literature, becoming more knowledgeable about the New Testament, meeting in small groups with other Christians to share personal stories of faith can all be immensely stimulating. Joining with others to serve the helpless and hopeless can strengthen our spiritual life.

Lent is a time to let God do "spring cleaning" within us. It's our opportunity to allow God to help us toss out the "stuff" that hinders us and then freshen up the "new creature" we are meant to be as followers of Christ.

The Love God Desires

God's love is never meant to stop with us; it's meant to flow through us. When we love others, we reflect his very heart. As 1 John 4:12 (NIV) reminds us, "If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."

This is the true mark of a Christian--love that reaches beyond comfort zones, opinions and differences. Jesus said in John 13:35 (NIV), "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

The world is watching, not to see how loudly we profess our faith, but how deeply we practice it. Every act of compassion, every gentle word and every moment of grace reveals something divine--God's love at work in us. The more we give that love away, the more it grows within us, mirroring the heart of Christ, who gave Himself for all.

Does the world recognize you by the way you love?



**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

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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

office@immanuelstrum.org



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