

The Immanuel Lutheran Church Messenger

Strum, Wisconsin
Livestream available at immanuelstrum.org



Immanuel's Women of the ELCA



The WELCA will meet on Wednesday, January 7th at 10:00 am. Some can clean while others put our 2026 WELCA book together. **POTLUCK DINNER** with meeting and Bible study to follow. The book "Living Above Worry and Stress" has been chosen for the 2026 Bible Study. Our first chapter is titled "Scattered Lives."

Let's Learn Spanish! Trinity Lutheran Church in Eau Claire is offering a two-day interactive language learning class on January 15 and 16 from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm. Registration is limited to 12; cost \$100 per participant. For more information or to register please visit: <https://nwswi.org/neighbor-to-neighbor>.

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.

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

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

Christmas Memorials

(Continued on page 2)

WELCA CONTINUED

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.

*****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.**

DALE OLSEN MEMORIAL SERVICE



Dale Olsen passed away Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at Ciel Assisted Living Facility in Plainfield, Illinois. We were blessed to have Dale's beautiful voice and soul with us for so many years. A memorial service will be held at Ciel Assisted Living on Friday, January 16 at 3 PM with a joint funeral service at a later date.

<https://www.simplicitycremationcare.com/obituaries/dale-olsen>.

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed!

Available opportunities to serve in January: Sunday, January 25. 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.



Saturday, January 3: 9 AM - 11 AM
Wednesday, January 21: 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

STRUM AREA FOOD PANTRY



Lent 2026 Begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th

with 5 p.m. worship at Immanuel
& 7 p.m. worship at Elk Creek
**(thereafter, for the duration of Lent, each church will
serve a light supper meal at 5:30 p.m.
with worship to follow at 6:30 p.m.)**

It usually begins with the question, "When is Easter Sunday this year?" And then it continues with an exercise in reverse calculating by counting backwards the appropriate number of weeks in order to determine just when Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. God's people have a rather long history of counting backwards in order to determine when to begin the season of Lent - about 1700 years worth.

The way to determine when the Lenten season begins is to start by figuring out when Easter Sunday will be. Easter Sunday is always the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. Got it? Good! Now count backwards 6 weeks to the first Sunday in Lent. Not done yet... back up from the first Sunday of Lent to the previous Wednesday and PRESTO! - you have arrived at Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the church's season of Lent.

If all this reverse calculating hasn't over-taxed your brain you may have noticed that while the church defines Lent as a 40-day period of fasting, reflection, and prayer there are actually 46 days in the season. Because the Sundays in Lent are defined as "in but not of" Lent you and I get to subtract them from our Lenten discipline if we so choose. I think I may have just heard all those folks who maintain their Lenten discipline throughout the season regardless of Sundays offer a sigh of disapproval.

All calculating exercises (reverse or otherwise) aside please note that Immanuel Lutheran and Elk Creek Lutheran will be taking part in the Round Robin Lenten rotation this year. Our parish begins with me leading Ash Wednesday worship in both churches, Immanuel at 5 p.m. and Elk Creek at 7 p.m. **Thereafter, Lenten services will be separate for each church (different pastor in each church) with both having a light supper meal beginning at 5:30 p.m. and separate worship services at 6:30 p.m.**

The return to Round Robin is a familiar format which has been an enjoyable way to experience worship with many of the area pastors who will rotate through the Lenten season. I hope to see you at our midweek Lenten Worship services this year.

God's peace and joy,
Pastor Terry Lorenz

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.

JANUARY 2026

Salad Option: Southwest Shrimp Salad

(Mixed greens, avocado, red onions, grape tomatoes, black beans, corn, black olives, diced peppers and shredded cheddar cheese with Cajun shrimp.

Served with cilantro lime vinaigrette)

Thursday, January 1: NO MEAL - HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Tuesday, January 6: Tater Tot Hotdish, Mixed Veggies, Dessert

Thursday, January 8: Turkey BLT Wrap, Chicken Noodle Soup, Dessert

Tuesday, January 13: Chicken Marsala, Broccoli, Rice, Dessert

Thursday, January 15: Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Veggie, Dessert

Tuesday, January 20: Gyro, Greek Salad, Dessert

Thursday, January 22: BBQ on a Bun, Pasta Salad, Chips, Dessert

Tuesday, January 27: Creamed Chicken over Biscuits, Mixed Veggies, Dessert

Thursday, January 29: Chicken Lo Mein, Veggies, Fruit, 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. Levens 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: \$85,059.20 (93.6%)

Amount Remaining: \$5,807.80

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.

General Fund Contributions	Total	% of Income	Annual Budget	Over/(Under)	Annual Budget	Budget Remaining	Budget
			Avg/Mo	Monthly Budget			Remaining Avg/Mo
Contributions	9,370.00	68.1%	10,416.67	(1,046.67)	125,000.00	20,948.32	20,948.32
Electronic Contributions	1,951.63	14.2%	2,508.33	(556.70)	30,100.00	3,099.97	3,099.97
Memorials & Other	2,427.50	17.7%	1,550.00	877.50	18,600.00	8,568.36	8,568.36
Total Contributions	13,749.13	100.0%	14,475.00	(725.87)	173,700.00	32,616.65	32,616.65

General Fund Expenses	Total	% of Income	Annual Budget	Over/(Under)	Annual Budget	Budget Remaining	Budget
			Avg/Mo	Monthly Budget			Remaining Avg/Mo
Building & Property	79.02	0.6%	1,250.00	(1,170.98)	15,000.00	5,470.07	5,470.07
General	60.60	0.4%	75.00	(14.40)	900.00	(94.70)	(94.70)
Ministry	1,318.67	9.6%	500.00	818.67	6,000.00	(1,902.29)	(1,902.29)
Office	100.18	0.7%	283.33	(183.15)	3,400.00	976.01	976.01
Pastor	6,216.86	45.2%	6,340.49	(123.63)	76,085.92	6,223.60	6,223.60
Payroll	4,181.28	30.4%	4,757.20	(575.92)	57,086.44	10,212.09	10,212.09
Utilities	859.06	6.2%	1,216.67	(357.61)	14,600.00	2,487.21	2,487.21
Total Expenses	12,815.67	93.2%	14,422.70	(1,607.03)	173,072.36	23,371.99	23,371.99

Net Contributions	933.46
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Money Market Accounts	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Ending Balance
CD-Roof	84,524.42	-	-	84,524.42
Checking Account	22,206.19	21,458.33	14,435.63	29,228.89
Building	5,078.44	25.00	58.23	5,045.21
General	41,573.25	1,538.88	9,449.00	33,663.13
General - Housing AI	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	502.79	2,319.96	504.68	2,318.07
Library	251.60	-	-	251.60
Local Missions	209.79	-	-	209.79
Music	2,006.38	-	-	2,006.38
Organ Fund - Refurb	12,857.00	2,836.00	-	15,693.00
Parsonage - General	28,402.88	550.00	-	28,952.88
Parsonage - Property	5,887.83	250.00	-	6,137.83
Social Concerns	1,102.07	-	500.00	602.07
Strum Area Food Par	9,784.23	5,781.00	643.64	14,921.59
Sunday School	804.39	3.00	-	807.39
Youth - General	7,192.49	4.00	-	7,196.49
Youth - Luther Park	1,190.00	-	-	1,190.00
Prepaid Pastoral Exp	7,160.27	6,307.75	6,216.86	7,251.16
Prepaid Postage	44.46	-	42.12	2.34
Total Assets	260,875.06	41,073.92	31,850.16	270,098.82

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				No Senior Meals Office Closed		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:30 AM Worship/Communion 9:30 AM Coffee Hour 9:45 AM Sunday School	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 1:30 PM WELCA 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		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:30 AM Worship/Communion 9:30 AM Coffee Hour 9:45 AM Sunday School Annual Report Deadline	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Pastor's Day Off	11:30 AM Senior Meals	3:45 - 4:45 PM Confirmation	11:30 AM Senior Meals		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Coffee Hour No Sunday School	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Pastor's Day Off	11:30 AM Senior Meals	3:45 - 4:45 PM Confirmation 4:30-6:30 PM	11:30 AM Senior Meals 1 - 4 PM Quilting		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Coffee Hour No Sunday School	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study Pastor's Day Off	11:30 AM Senior Meals	3:45 - 4:45 PM Confirmation	11:30 AM Senior Meals		

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Christmas Poinsettias, Memorials, and Honorariums



Christmas Wreaths

Donated by Tom & Gloria Wagener in memory of parents: Leonard & Betty Bolling and Tony & Lucille Wagener.

(Wreaths made by Juan Mora of Strum, WI)

Poinsettia Honorariums

**Matt Kunes, Christina, Carmen & Kyli
Arlene Kantos**

Bonnie Myhers & Dan Kantos

Poinsettia Memorials

Family & Friends	Jim & Judy Foss
Fredric & Janice Back	The Kids
Robert & Marion Hatcher	David & Colleen
Jewel & Norma Berge	Ann Kisor
Ralph Kisor	Jennie, Wayne, Blake & Jenny
Our parents, Bob & Darlene Insteness	Derrick Westphal and Family
Jessica Westphal	Bonnie Myhers & Dan Kantos
Robert Kantos	Greg & Suellen Hageness
Ron & Char Myhers	Nathan & Lindsay Hageness and Family
Garry & Sonia Hageness	

General Fund Honorariums

Marv Johnson	Maxine & Dennis Ulberg
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General Fund Memorials

My husband, Bob, and parents, Percy & Odella Missell	Deloris Sather
Milford & Lorraine Johnson	
Clifford & Vivian Ulberg	Maxine & Dennis Ulberg
Jim Ulberg and Armond Johnson	Dave & Jean Herman
Our son, parents, and loved ones	Michael Olson
Mr. & Mrs. Orrie Olson	
Bill & Pat Peaslee, Diane Peaslee	Michelle Jacobson and Family
Howard Sackmaster, Sr, Howard Sackmaster, Jr.	
Kathy Sackmaster	

Sunday School Fund Memorials

Our first grandson, Niles Wayne Larson	Grandma Jennie & Grandpa Wayne
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Immanuel Lutheran Church

Christmas Poinsettias, Memorials, and Honorariums



Organ Fund Honorariums

Natalie Evenson

Judy & Dennis Clark

Organ Fund Memorials

Norman & Juordice Foss

Lawrence Gullicksrud and Robert Schmidt

Jim & Judy Foss

Loved Ones

Arlan & Diane Davidson

Jewel & Norma Berge

Ingrid Guse (Peter's Sister)

Marie & David Roseth (Rita's Parents)

DeAnn Greenwold (Rita's Sister)

Rita & Peter Berge

Kay Evenson

Judy & Dennis Clark

Joe & Lylah Olson and Mark "Sparkie" Olson

Bob & Martha Solfest

Milford & Lorraine Johnson

Clifford & Vivian Ulberg

Maxine & Dennis Ulberg

Dean Anderson and Wayne "Turbo" Anderson

Doris Anderson

Michael & Family Loved Ones

David & Diane Thronson

Spencer Olson and Rita Drake

Butch & Debbie Olson

Son-in-law: Brad Windjue

Parents: Vivian & Orlin Rongstad

Doris & Orv Sather

Den & Carol Sather

Otis & May Franson (Eric's Parents)

Dale Franson (Eric's Brother)

DeeDee & Laura Card (Karen's Sisters)

Eric & Karen Franson

Family & Friends

The Tobiason Family

LaVerne Gullicksrud

Ruth & Family

Dick & Beulah Schlink

Henry & Martha Vredeveld

Bill Schlink, Danny Ernst, Karen Peterson, Pat Vredeveld

Bob & Lyn Schlink

Tony Bjorgo and Elmer & Delores Bjorgo

Leonard & Agnes Rindahl

Julia Bjorgo

Tonya Bjorgo and Bjorgo Grandparents

Rindahl Grandparents

Greg & Daphne Bjorgo and Family

Angela & David Jameson and Family

Our daughter, Pamela and our parents

Edward & Judy Olson

Children's Quiet Bags Available During Worship

Quiet bags, bags that are filled with activities to help occupy children's time and attention if they've lost interest in the service, are available in the south and north entryways. Our thanks to Valerie Lorenz for tending to the quiet bags and refilling them with fun surprises every so often. If you have suggestions on what else would be helpful for our children in worship, please let us know.

November Food Drive

The Strum Area Food Pantry says THANK YOU for the food donations and monetary donations from the November food drive at Immanuel Lutheran and the Thanksgiving Service at Chimney Rock Lutheran Church. We appreciate all that was done for our community of families. When we all work together great things can happen and DO. May you ALL enjoy a happy and healthy 2026.

God Bless,
Strum Area Food Pantry Volunteers

Hats & Scarves Donation

The Strum Area Food Pantry and Immanuel Lutheran Church wish to acknowledge and give thanks for the generous donation of hand knit winter hats and scarves given by local Strum resident Holly Kolander. Holly, who makes beautiful items out of scraps of yarn, would rather see her handiwork being put to good use rather than stored away waiting to be sold. If you know of anyone in need of an adult or child's winter hat, please stop by the Strum Food Pantry during their regular hours.

When All Else Fails – God Reigns



When we deliberate, God reigns;
When we decide wisely, God reigns;
When we decide foolishly, God reigns;
When we serve God in humble loyalty, God reigns;
When we serve God self-assertively, God reigns;
When we rebel and seek to withhold our service, God reigns –
The Alpha and the Omega, which is, and which was and which is to come, The Almighty.

– William Temple at the Lamberth Conference, 1930

A Little Spark of Wisdom

“Belief is truth held in the mind; faith is a fire in the heart.”
– Joseph Fort Newton

“Worry is interest paid on trouble before it falls due.”
– E.C. McKenzie



**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
office@immanuelstrum.org

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STRUM, WI

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