



Immanuel Lutheran Church, School  
and Child Care Center  
604 S Chestnut Ave., Marshfield, WI  
Website: [immanuelmarshfield.org](http://immanuelmarshfield.org)



May 2024

Last month, I began sharing with you some excerpts from *The Ends of the LCMS*. Its author, a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod pastor, begins by sharing evidence without passing judgment that the church you and I belong to or worship at is not the church your grandparents and mine once belonged to or worshiped at.

This month, I share with you a couple of insightful suggestions and prescriptions to remaining faithful to what we profess and possess as Christians.

More than ever before, Social media strikes me as an oxymoron (two words which have opposite meanings or contradict each other). Social is the need for relationship – companionship. Media is the means, or the ways people communicate with one another.

To initiate and build relationships and companionship, communication is a must. It's built into who we are as created by God in His image. God's "social media" is His Word. He initiated a relationship with us by having His Word become flesh and blood in Jesus. God's means to communicating with us is giving us Spirit-led faith and to keep building trust in Him by way of His Word in water (Holy Baptism) and bread and wine (Holy Communion).

Today like never before our world has initiated its own take on Social media. This is not to say that Social media is a bad thing so long as we recognize its dangers. Here's one of the dangers observed by the author of *The Ends of the LCMS*: "Social media shifts our focus away from the local level, where we can actually love our neighbor, to the national level, where we can do very little to love our neighbor."

Can Social media be done in a way where it helps to communicate the Gospel? Absolutely. Do most of us use it that way? No. We get pulled into the never-ending scrolling that reinforces our beliefs apart from what God would have us believe and plays off our anger and outrage so that we keep scrolling as the anger and outrage builds.

There is also this: "Social media rewards false witness against our neighbors." "Likes, shares, follows" usually are attached to statements where outrage, disgust, anger, and putting the worst construction on things is posted. It's so easy to forget the goal and the provision God gives us in the Eighth Commandment. Whereas Social Media provides all kinds of opportunities to betray, slander, and hurt the reputations of others, we are called to defending, speaking well, and explaining everything in the kindest way.

How about "prioritizing the physical over the digital"? Pursue relationships in person. Keep making face to face, in person invites to church, Bible studies, and church-sponsored events. Eat meals together. Potlucks! Lenten meals! Laugh together. Do whatever it takes to build relationships.

And in those moments when you are at your computer or on your Android or Smartphone, make sure you control your technology, and your technology does not control you. As long as we keep letting our influence be God meeting us in the person of His Son in the simple means of water, bread, and wine, not only will we flourish but also those the Good Shepherd continues to seek to bring into His fold to join with us. And He does it with and through us! ~Pastor Chris

## Church Photo Directory Update

Those who participate in being photographed will receive 1 free 8x10 per household.  
Each participating household will receive a free Church Photo Directory.

**WHO?** Dennis Wibben, Wibben Photography, and member of Immanuel, will be taking the portraits for our new directory.

**WHEN?** Please consider these dates for being photographed:  
 May 30 & 31, 2:00-7:30pm;  
 June 1, 9am-1pm;  
 June 5, 6, 7, 2:00pm-7:30pm;  
 June 8, 9am-1pm.

**HOW?** Scheduling for times to be photographed will take place before and after weekend worship in early May at the Library Table. You may also call the church office to schedule a photography session.

We will also accept your photo submissions of jpg format-200dpi or greater, which are appropriate for a directory.

**WHERE?** Photographs will be taken in the Church Fellowship Hall. You will be asked to check in at the library table 15 minutes prior to your photography session

### **WHAT ELSE?**

There will be a price list available for ordering additional photographs from Wibben Photography. There will be no obligation to purchase. Dennis' compensation will be through any portraits purchased from the price list.

We are funding the new Church Directory through business ad sales and personal contributions. Our projected financial need in providing a complimentary 8x10 and a directory to participating families is \$4,500. If you would like to help offset the cost of producing our directory, please mark your offering as "Church Directory."



## Immanuel Lutheran Church Photo Directory Business Listing Options

### \_\_\_\_\_ **\$25.00 Line listing**

Example: Sally's Hair Salon, 222 1st Ave, Marshfield 715-999-9999

Listing Information:

### \_\_\_\_\_ **\$40.00 Business Card listing**

Please submit your business card or a digital version in jpg format-200dpi or greater

### \_\_\_\_\_ **\$50.00 Line listing AND Business Card listing**

Your Name  
 Phone Number  
 Email Address

Immanuel Lutheran Church, School and  
 Child Care Center (715-384-5121)  
 604 S. Chestnut Avenue, Marshfield, WI  
 54449 info@immanuelmarshfield.org

## SCHOOL NEWS

Throughout life there are times and events that cause us to take note of the passing of time.

- We do this on birthdays.
- We do this on wedding or work anniversaries or when someone retires.
- We do this at the beginning and end of a school year.

In just a few short weeks many of our young people will be ending their schooling for this year.

The following students will be celebrating a graduation milestone:

**Our kindergarten graduates are:** Deya Bluhm, Everest Borchardt, Lyndsey Craft, Rory Gomez, Camryn Hasz, Lincoln Martin, Arthur Seehafer, Adeline Steinmetz, Bennett Stuefen, and Emersyn Zimmermann. Please join us for their graduation Chapel service on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 a.m..

**Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduates are:** Isaac Howard and Sydney Willman. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation will be held May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m..

We also invite you to join us on May 2<sup>nd</sup> for our Spring Musical/Art Show at both 1:30 and 6:00, our spaghetti dinner on May 9<sup>th</sup>, and to cheer on our racers for Race for Education on May 10<sup>th</sup>!

Updates from recent events:

**Carnival total:**

**\$14,456.00 \*\*for educational needs**

**Envelopes of Hope total:**

**\$7,607.00 \*\*for tuition assistance**

**Race for Education: (4/22/2024)**

**\$12,262.10 \*\*for technology**

We thank you for all the continued support you give to both the school and the Child Care Center. You are a blessing beyond measure!

At the end of the school year we give thanks to God: for all the teaching and learning that has taken place in our school (both in and out of the classroom), for gifts and talents that have been shared, for challenges that have been faced, for respect and care that has been given, for friendships that have grown, and for hope, faith, and love that has kept us going. We give thanks for the community that we are. Bless our students and families (as well as our church family) as we begin our summer vacation. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

In Christ, Jill Helgerson

It's not too late to join us for our partnership with Concordia Chicago in improving and growing our service and ministry to senior adults. It's known as SAM. Its focus is on helping adults to live fully as we grow older. It is designed to address some of the complex factors affecting aging and how a variety of Christian practices can enrich the faith of and foster the well-being and emotional resilience among older persons. Topics will include loneliness and isolation, caregiving, mental health, and end-of-life planning.

There is no cost, and anyone is welcome to participate. For those who can't gather with those who choose to participate in person, there may be the option of participating virtually.

The 60–90 minute sessions continue, Thursdays, beginning at 6pm on these dates: May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>. In-person sessions will be held at Immanuel, 604 Chestnut Ave S, Marshfield. Call 715-384-5121 for more information.

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL &  
CHILD CARE CENTER**

604 South Chestnut Avenue, Marshfield, WI Phone  
(715) 384-5121

Website: [Immanuelmarshfield.org](http://Immanuelmarshfield.org)

Email: [info@immanuelmarshfield.org](mailto:info@immanuelmarshfield.org)

**Office Hours:** 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*Rejoice* is published by Immanuel Lutheran Church, Marshfield, WI to inform the congregation of upcoming events as well as to promote Christian love, fellowship and understanding.

**PASTORAL STAFF:**

Rev. Chris A. Schwanz—Pastor

Rev. Donn Radde—Visitation Pastor

**SCHOOL FACULTY:**

Jill Helgerson, Principal

Stephanie Wolf—7/8 Homeroom,

English & Literature, 5/6 Social Studies

Jen Schifelbine—7/8 Social Studies & Science,  
5/6 Science

Rev. Chris Schwanz—7/8 Catechism

Renee Hammond—Grades 5—6, 7/8 Math

Brenda Kuhnau—Grade 4

Heidi Foemmel—Grade 3

Jill Helgerson—Grade 2 Morning

Sara Vechinski—Grade 2 afternoon

Beth Hollatz—Grade 1

Emily Marino—Kindergarten

Christina Berger—Elementary Aide

Renee Griepentrog—4K

Jan Simonson—School Music

Nicholas Olsen—Physical Education

Erica Borgo—Art

Jordyn Helgerson—Computer, Elementary Aide

Thomas Rose—Athletic Director

Dennis Wibben—Director, Nutrition Services

**CHILD CARE STAFF:**

Brooke Draves, Child Care Supervisor

Sheena Brunzo

Jenny Flugel

Jordyn Helgerson

Jeanine Kaszuba

Caitlyn Muraski

Miranda Ruiz

**CUSTODIAL STAFF:**

Terry Fischer

Dan Langteau

**OFFICE STAFF:**

Cathy Muraski—Business Manager

Heidi Schwanz—Administrative Assistant

**Deaths**

Amy Sue Roggenbauer, 53, formerly of Marshfield, peacefully passed away Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024. A private family service was held Saturday, April 13th at Rembs Funeral Home, Marshfield. Pastor Chris Schwanz officiated.

LeRoy H. Stroetz, 84, Marshfield, passed away on Friday, April 5, 2024 at Three Oaks Health Service, Marshfield under the care of St. Croix Hospice. A memorial service was held on Friday, April 12, 2024 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Marshfield. Rev. Donn Radde officiated. Burial was at Hillside Cemetery, Marshfield. Rembs Funeral Home assisted the family.

**Baptism**

Elliana Patricia Stanley

Daughter of Daniel and Jamie Stanley

Sponsors are Kristy Peterson and Nick Ludwiczak

**May 5th Confirmation of Faith**

Kainan Davis

Mason Elmhorst

James Hafermann

Isaac Howard

Grayson Varsho

Sydney Willman

**High School Graduates**

Trevor Meyer

Morgan Vechinski

Gracie Wolf

**April 28 New Member Welcome**

Robert & Donna Danielsen

Jim & Jan Maves

Bob & Rita Beam

Mary Zahn

Dr. John Mitchell

Kevin Jones

**Altar Circle**

Altar Circle will meet on May 6, at 6:30pm.

**Quilting for Missions**

Quilting meets on Wednesday mornings from 8-noon. We break for coffee and conversation at 10am. If you would like to help tie or stitch quilts for missions, please join us!

**Adult Bible Study will be Mondays and Wednesdays at 1pm**

The topic will be the same each week on both days. The two opportunities are to make room for our growing group! Come and learn with us!

**Youth Ministry at Immanuel**

Sunday School K - 6th grade - 10am

High School Youth Wednesday - 7:30pm.

Simple Truth Youth Praiseband,

5th Grade and up, Sunday - 10:15am.

**Confirmation**

May 1 @ 6:15pm Confirmation Photos, rehearsal, faith statements, cake and ice cream reception

May 5 @ 9am Confirmation of Faith

**Lutheran Women in Mission**

Please mark your calendar for our Rummage Sale on June 6 & 7. Items will be collected at the gym June 1-4. Set up is June 5 & 6. Help is always appreciated!

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, May 14th at 6:30pm. The evening begins with a devotion and Bible Study, followed by our meeting and fellowship. Please plan to attend and remember, guests and visitors are always welcome.

**Chapel Communion**

May 16 at 1:30pm will be our next Chapel Communion service. This service is open to anyone! It is especially convenient for those not able to join us for weekend worship or who desire a small group setting for worship.

**“Kick Off to Summer” at Wenzel Plaza**

May 29, 5-8pm with Simple Truth, food, and fun.

**Immanuel Worship Broadcast: YouTube during Worship Service times.  
Connect via the Immanuel Website.**

View Sunday worship services on Charter/Spectrum Cable Digital 989:  
Thursday 2pm Sunday 4pm

**Mission Statement**

**"Immanuel Lutheran Church, School and Child Care Center:**

Reaching out to all people, teaching and sharing God's gift of Jesus Christ, with the values of empowering, equipping and encouraging all the saints."

# Annual Voters' Assembly - May 19, 2024, 10:30am Potluck afterward

In May of 2023, the congregation approved several significant changes to the constitution and bylaws of Immanuel Lutheran Church and School. The approved document was sent to the North Wisconsin District LCMS for review and approval. We did receive approval from the district, however it was requested that we review two minor points. The edits, as directed by the NWD review, are on page 7 of the REJOICE and will be voted on at the May 19, 2024 Voter's Assembly.

## “Kick Off to Summer” At Wenzel Family Plaza May 29, 2024, 5:00pm-8:00pm

Music, Concessions and fun! Let's celebrate together with our community! Bring your lawn chair.

### Current Elected Board Members-

JJ Jensen—President , Steve Koran —Vice President, Becca Ayer—Secretary  
Board of Education: Jolene Albert, Hannah Barth, Kim Bernarde, Daniel Craft, Amanda Sessions  
Board of Elders: Glen Buth, Corey Kuhnau, Brian Mortvedt, Dave Rogers, Doug Wirtz  
Board of Administration: Laura Abel, Jake Bernarde, Al Merkel, Tom Schafer, Joe Vechinski

### SPECIAL OFFERINGS RECEIVED March 23, 2024—April 22, 2024: *(Please note on offering envelope which project you choose to sponsor)*

#### PORTALS OF PRAYER

Doreen Fuller  
Gladys Frome

#### CHURCH DIRECTORY

Tania Davis  
Dennis & Darla Wibben  
Harriet Brandt

#### HEATING & BUILDING UPDATES

Vickie Dux  
In memory of Wally Reek's birthday,  
which would have been 3/14:  
Shirley Reek

#### IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL

In memory of LeRoy Stroetz  
Family & Friends of LeRoy Stroetz

#### CHOIR

Ruth Korth

#### IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

In memory of LeRoy Stroetz  
Family & Friends of LeRoy Stroetz

#### GO MISSIONS

In memory of husband, Wayne Korth and daughter,  
Kelly Korth:  
Ruth Korth

#### IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL

#### GYM WINDOWS

Darwin & Renee Anding  
Harriet Brandt  
John & Jan Simonson  
Jake & Kim Bernarde  
In memory of Amy Roggenbauer  
Harriet Brandt  
In memory of LeRoy Stroetz  
Harriet Brandt

#### BAPTISM FAITH CHEST

In honor of Gladys Thimmesch's 90th Birthday on  
March 25th, by her family.

To check for cancellation of worship services during bad weather,  
view Wausau TV Channels 7 or 9, or the Immanuel Lutheran Website:  
[immanuelmarshfield.org](http://immanuelmarshfield.org)

To address Pastor Engebretson's concerns, the Constitution Committee submitted the following minor edits to the ILC Board of Administration. The Board of Admin approved the changes and submitted them to the congregational president to be brought before the voters at the May 19, 2024, voters' meeting.

**The language of Articles 6 and 8 was amended to change all references to "Commissioned Ministers and Called Workers" to "Ordained and Commissioned Workers."**

**Furthermore, the following statement was removed from Article 6: "In addition, commissioned ministers and called workers may be removed from office for reasons of economic hardship related to the financial well-being of the congregation." It was replaced by the following sentence: "However, any commissioned position may be eliminated by the congregation as need dictates." The proposed changes are detailed below.**

---

#### **ARTICLE 6: ORDAINED AND COMISSIONED WORKERS**

- A) Only candidates who profess acceptance of, and pledge faithful adherence to, the confessions of this congregation as set forth in Article 2 of this constitution shall be called and elected to serve as ordained and commissioned workers.
1. The pastoral office shall be conferred only upon ordained ministers who are members of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, candidates for the pastoral ministry who have satisfied the qualifications and requirements for assignment of first calls by Synod, or ordained ministers who are members in good standing of church bodies that have been formally recognized to be in altar and pulpit fellowship with the Synod when agreements for such calls are in place.
  2. Only those commissioned workers shall receive a call who adhere to the confessional standard set forth in this constitution, who are qualified for the work of the ministry to which they are called, and who have been endorsed by and are members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, who are candidates of LCMS colleges and universities who have satisfied the qualifications and requirements for assignment of first calls, and who are commissioned workers in good standing from church bodies that are in altar and pulpit fellowship with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
- B) In the absence of adequate cause for dismissal, the tenure of office of ordained and commissioned workers shall be the remainder of their active life lives, or until the Lord calls them into another field of service.
- C) However, any commissioned position may be eliminated by the congregation as need dictates.
- D) An ordained or commissioned worker may be removed from office in Christian and lawful order for one of the following reasons: persistent adherence to false doctrine, scandalous life, willful neglect of the duties of office, the inability to perform those duties, or domineering in office. Matthew 18 must be followed under such circumstances.  
~~In addition, commissioned ministers and called workers may be removed from office for reasons of economic hardship related to the financial well-being of the congregation.~~
1. Issues or concerns specific to one or more ordained or commissioned workers must be communicated in writing to the board which supervises the individual. That board will investigate the matter as necessary.
  2. If the board determines that the issue or concern is valid and that it cannot be resolved, the board may refer the matter to a voters' assembly.
  3. After careful deliberation based on Christian principles, an ordained or commissioned worker may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the voting membership present at a voters' assembly.

#### **ARTICLE 8: VOTING**

- A) The following decisions shall require the approval of the congregation by a simple majority of those members present and voting:
1. Selecting members to serve on the Boards of Church Administration, Education, and Elders
  2. Selecting members to serve as President, Vice-President, and Secretary of the congregation
  3. Ratifying the annual financial work plan in broad categories
  4. Amending the By-Laws
  5. Calling ordained and commissioned workers
- B) The following decisions shall require the approval of the congregation by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting:
1. Changes to the Articles of Incorporation or Constitution
  2. Purchasing or selling the primary Church, School, or Child Care Center facilities
  3. Dissolving the corporation
  4. Dismissing ordained and commissioned workers
  5. Excommunication of a communicant member
  6. Removal of an officer or board member
- C) To amend the Constitution or By-Laws, the wording of the proposed amendments shall be publicized in the weekly bulletin and/or at worship services for two weekends preceding the date of the meeting.
- D) Article 2 is hereby irrevocable.

Respectfully submitted, Steve Koran, Chair, ILC Constitution Committee 5/19/2024