



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



September 2024

## School Choice Wisconsin Town Hall Meeting

August 14, 2024 5-7pm

A team of representatives from School Choice Wisconsin came from Milwaukee, Wisconsin to present in person at our Town Hall Meeting on August 14, 2024. They joined us by invitation of the Immanuel Lutheran Church, School and Child Care Center Task Force on School Choice.

There are 12 Lutheran Church Missouri Synod day schools in the North Wisconsin District. Ten of those schools participate in the Wisconsin School Choice Program. Immanuel Lutheran Church, School and Child Care Center is one of the 2 schools currently not participating. The task force spoke with leaders in these participating schools, as well as leaders from School Choice Wisconsin, during their fact finding mission.

At the Town Hall Meeting, the team of representatives gave an overview of the Parental Choice Programs operating in the State of Wisconsin. We learned that Wisconsin was the first state to have such a program available. Currently 54,949 Wisconsin students attend private schools with a voucher. This means the schools participating in any of the 3 regional choice programs receive a state aid payment for each eligible student on behalf of the student's parent/guardian. For 2024-2025 the voucher amount is: \$10,237 for K-8th Grade, \$12,732 for 9th-12th Grade. Schools must justify the amount of money it takes to educate a student. Excess amounts received from the voucher must be kept in a reserve account.

**IF** Immanuel Lutheran Church, School and Child Care Center were to enter the Parental Choice Program, and we were to partner with a school already in the program, an initial number of seats chosen by us could be opened up to students currently enrolled in our school. A school entering the program can choose how many seats they want to open up to the voucher program. The Tuition Assistance funds currently allocated to those students would be freed up to be given to additional students choosing to attend our school. The current Income Eligibility Chart for the Wisconsin School Choice Programs shows a family of 4 (2 parents, 2 children) earning \$73,000 or less would qualify for a voucher.

Behind the scenes, there are audits that take place based on fall and spring enrollment, fiscal and internal control practices, and a GAAP Financial Audit. There are costs associated with these audits, applying to be in the program, and the use of a Student Information System that can interface with the State Department of Instruction (which Immanuel already uses—FastDirect).

We are a Lutheran Church Missouri Synod school. We teach the church's doctrines, the Bible, and the love of Jesus in all aspects of the school day. We follow the mission of Immanuel Lutheran Church, School and Child Care Center. This is communicated to every parent who walks through the door seeking enrollment. This would continue to be the focus, if we were to enter into the Parental Choice Program. Another Town Hall meeting will take place on September 29 during the School Pancake Breakfast. Any decisions made would require a Special Voters Assembly.

~Rejoice Editor, H.S.

## SCHOOL NEWS

This year our school theme is "Rooted to Grow" based on Colossians 2:7 which says, "rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught and overflowing with thankfulness." As I look outside my patio window, I am amazed by what I see. With all the rain that we have had lately, it seems as if the weeds have come up in abundance. I often ask myself, "How can there be this many weeds in such a short amount of time? How is it that the ugly weeds can take root so fast and so deep without anyone helping them, but the beautiful plants and flowers have to be planted and tended delicately?" The "weeds" in our lives can grow fast without us even realizing they're taking root in our hearts, but the beautiful things that matter (such as our faith in God) have to be mindfully tended and watered in order for them to grow. I believe that it's a reminder that we can't be complacent in our faith and expect it to grow. Day after day, we have to keep chasing God's Word, praying, and coming back to what His will is for each of us. We need to work at it each and every day! We need to be rooted in Him in order to grow!

Heavenly Father, as we begin this new school year, may the roots of our students, their families, our teachers and staff, and this congregation grow in the Lord. May the weeds be pruned from our hearts so they can't take root. Help our faith to grow strong in God's truth. Amen

### **I am pleased to introduce our teaching staff for the 2024-2025 school year:**

**4K-** Mrs. Renee Griepentrog (mornings), Mrs. Erica Borgo (afternoons)

**Kindergarten-** Mrs. Emily Marino

**Grade 1-** Mrs. Beth Hollatz

**Grade 2-** Mrs. Jill Helgerson (mornings), Mrs. Sara Vechinski (afternoons)

**Grade 3-** Mrs. Heidi Foemmel

**Grade 4-** Mrs. Brenda Kuhnau

**Grades 5-6-** Mrs. Renee Hammond, Mrs. Jen Schifelbine (Science)

**Grades 7-8-** Mrs. Jen Schifelbine, Mrs. Renee Hammond (Math); Pastor Gary Albert (Confirmation)

**Elementary Aide-** Miss Jordyn Helgerson (M,W,F mornings) and Mrs. Christina Berger (T, Th mornings)

**Art-** Mrs. Erica Borgo

**Gym-** Mr. Nick Olsen

**Computer-** Miss Jordyn Helgerson

**Music-** Mrs. Jan Simonson

**Athletic Director-** in the process (If you or someone you know might be interested in this, please pick up an application in the office.)

### **Principal's Peek at the Week:**

Each week I will be sending home the Peek by email highlighting all the great things happening at Immanuel!

### **Pancake Breakfast:**

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. Not only will grades 4K through 8<sup>th</sup> be singing in the 9:00 church service, but we will once again be serving our delicious pancake breakfast. Look for more details soon.

604 South Chestnut Avenue, Marshfield, WI Phone  
(715) 384-5121  
Website: Immanuelmarshfield.org  
Email: info@immanuelmarshfield.org

**Office Hours:** 7:30am-4pm

**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  
Rev. Gary Albert—7/8 Catechism  
Jen Schifelbine—Grade 7—8; 5/6 Science  
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  
Erica Borgo—4K PM/Art  
Jan Simonson-School Music  
Nicholas Olsen—Physical Education  
Jordyn Helgerson—Computer;Elementary Aide  
—Athletic Director  
Dennis Wibben—Director, Nutrition Services

**CHILD CARE STAFF:**

Brooke Draves, Child Care Supervisor  
Sheena Brunzo  
Destiny Brunzo  
Jenny Flugel  
Jordyn Helgerson  
Jeanine Kaszuba  
Danielle Meddaugh  
Caitlyn Muraski  
Miranda Ruiz

**CUSTODIAL STAFF:**

Terry Fischer  
Dan Langteau

**OFFICE STAFF:**

Cathy Muraski—Business Manager  
Heidi Schwanz—Administrative Assistant

**Elected Board Members**

JJ Jensen—President , Steve Koran —Vice President, Becca Ayer—Secretary  
Board of Education: Jolene Albert, Kim Bernarde, Daniel Craft, Krista Henderson, Amanda Sessions  
Board of Elders: Dave Henning, Corey Kuhnau, Eldore Messerschmidt, Dave Rogers, John Simonson  
Board of Administration: Laura Abel, Kurt Hollatz, Al Merkel, Tom Schafer, Joe Vechinski

**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

You may have noticed a disruption in the broadcast schedule recently. Marshfield Cable tv is currently working to find a better way to access the production of the worship services and to make them public on their station. Please be patient as this gets worked out.

**Immanuel Lutheran has two ways to set up recurring contributions.**

- 1. Consider automatic contributions drawn on your bank account through “Simply Giving.”**  
You choose the amount and date of withdrawal. Forms are located by the church office door.
- 2. Giving online is fast, easy and secure.**



***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."

**Funeral**

Ronald Raymond Parks, age 88, of Marshfield, passed away peacefully into eternal life on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, at House of the Dove surrounded by loved ones. Funeral service was held at 11am on Saturday, August 10, 2024 at Hansen-Schilling Funeral Home in Marshfield.

**New Members**

Bob & Sandy Lulloff

Neil & Karla Blomquist, Noah & Liam

**Baptisms**

Nora Tuchscher,

Daughter of Austin & Heather Tuchscher

Sponsors are

Spencer Bittner, Joshua & Roberta Bruss

Hudson Ray Hintz

Son of Kasey & Kelly Hintz

Sponsors are Andrew & Caroline Jensen

**Youth Ministry at Immanuel**

**High School Youth** Wednesdays: 7:30-9:00pm beginning September 11th.

**Catechism Parent Orientation** Sept. 18, 6-7pm

**Catechism Instruction** for 7th & 8th Grade

Wednesdays—6:30-7:30pm starting Sept. 25th

**Simple Truth Youth Praiseband,**

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

**Chapel Communion**

September 26 at 1:30pm will be our next Chapel Communion service. This service is open to anyone!

**Ice Cream Buckets**

Immanuel Lutheran Women in Mission are looking for donations of empty, clean ice cream buckets.

These buckets are used for left overs after funeral meals. Larger margarine containers work well also.

**Mark your calendars for “Reading, Learning, Marking and Inwardly Digesting God’s Word”**

aka Bible Study for this fall. Here’s the weekly schedule beginning the week of September 9th...

Sundays: 7:45a-8:45a in the Conference Room

Mondays: 1p-2:15p in the Conference Room

Wednesdays: 1p-2:15p in the Conference Room

Wednesdays: 6:15p-7:15p in the Conference Room

The topic will be the same for all four weekly sessions. All are invited!

**Church Photo Directory Update**

The directory is nearing completion. As of this now, we are still waiting for a few group photos. The goal is to proof read and have the directory to Heinzen Printing by the end of September! Thank you for your contributions to fund the project. Thank you for your photos! We have 165 photos of family units included in the directory! We can’t wait to share it with you!

**Beginning September 6-MomCo**

MomCo is for moms seeking Christ-centered support and encouragement. MomCo is seeking Immanuel members as volunteers to care for the moms’ children as the moms meet to learn, discuss and grow further in MomCo’s Scripture-based values and principles. MomCo will meet twice monthly on Friday mornings. Let the office know if you can help!

**Lutheran Women In Mission:**

Our next regular meeting is Tuesday, September 10, 6:30pm. Come and join with us as we gather for a study of God’s Word and fellowship together. Friends and guests are always welcome!

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS RECEIVED WILL BE REPORTED IN THE NEXT EDITION OF THE REJOICE NEWSLETTER

**Save the date: Saturday, October 12, 2024**

Mark your calendars! Join the North and South Wisconsin LLL Districts at their annual joint convention hosted at Trinity Lutheran Church, Wausau, Wisconsin. All are welcome to attend. ***Our guest speaker is Lutheran Hour Ministries staff member Kari Vo, Theological Editor and Author of the Daily Devotions and So California LLL District President, Dick Gast and chairman of the PetalPushers® focusing on Energizing Mission.*** Join us for a day of spiritual growth with inspirational presentations to encourage and equip you as partners in His mission. More convention details will be shared in the coming months. Visit <https://www.nw-sw-lll-lhm.org/> for more information.