



Immanuel Lutheran Church, School
and Child Care Center
604 S Chestnut Ave., Marshfield, WI
Website: immanuelmarshfield.org



November 2024

Where We're At with the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP)

It was this past July our Staff Leaders (Principal, Jill Helgerson; Business Manager, Cathy Muraski; Childcare Center Director, Brooke Draves; and Pastor Chris) began investigating whether becoming a WPCP participating parochial school would be beneficial to the mission and ministry of Immanuel.

Since then, we've met with and asked questions of Brian Elmhurst, Principal at our sister day school, St. Paul Lutheran, Manawa, and with Paul Thompson, Principal at our sister school, Peace Lutheran, Antigo.

From there we met with School Choice Wisconsin staff, Carol Shires, VP of Operations, and Michael Metoff, Dir. of Research. Carol has a 20-year history with the Parental Choice Program. Previously she served as Business Manager for Eastgate Academy, a Christian Day School in Milwaukee. She believes in the power of a good education to help each child develop their God-given potential.

In August we invited Carol, Michael and President of School Choice Wisconsin, Nicholas Kelly, to be in person to present to and answer questions from members of Immanuel's three Boards – Elders, Administration, and Day School – as well as Immanuel's faculty and staff. During our Day School sponsored Pancake Breakfast on September 27th, Mr. Kelly and Mr. Metoff returned to be in person to meet with interested Immanuel School parents and Immanuel Church members.

All the facts and the answers to questions we have received have encouraged us to continue our dialogue with the School Choice Wisconsin staff. We have also been encouraged in our dialogue with our Day School faculty and staff, parents and grandparents of our students, as well as Immanuel members.

We plan to continue providing more opportunities for more of our Immanuel members who have yet to participate in a School Choice Wisconsin presentation and Q & A session. We as Immanuel Staff Leaders agree it would be best to wait before asking Immanuel's Voting Assembly to make the decision whether to become a WPCP participating school. We hope to have as many voters as possible learn about and share their questions and any concerns before an official vote takes place. If a decision is reached to enter the WPCP, we as Staff Leaders believe it is best not to do so until the 2026-2027 school year. With this proposed timeline, the Voters' Assembly would need to decide before January 10th, 2026.

We have School Choice Wisconsin resources available on request. You can also learn more about the WPCP by accessing the School Choice Wisconsin website at schoolchoicewi.org

Please continue to get the facts on School Choice, ask your questions, share your concerns, and above all keep in your prayers with praise and thanksgiving everything and everyone our gracious Triune God has blessed our congregation, day school and childcare center with for the mission and ministry of reaching out to all with God's gift of Jesus!

Pastor Chris

School News

Thanksgiving is a holiday which most of us spend with family and friends eating turkey, watching some football, and relaxing. It is filled with love and gratitude for what we have. Whether this past year has left you feeling encouraged and refreshed or weary and wanting, give thanks to the Lord. Giving thanks shows that we trust Him and His purposes no matter what. Thanksgiving comes from a full heart. A full heart comes from God. HE loved us so much that HE sent HIS Son to die for us. HE loves us and accepts us for who we are. HE promises us eternity. Doesn't it fill your heart to know that HE did all of this for YOU?

Father God, we come to You with thankful hearts. Year after year, you are faithful to us. You give us good gifts-far more than we deserve. Most of all, we are thankful for You. You love us so much that You sent Your Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins. Thank you! In Jesus' name, Amen.

First of all, a big “thank you” to all of you that donated, attended, and/or helped with the Pancake Breakfast. We served 272 people (up from 218 in 2023) and raised over \$2,700 to be used for updating an outdated Social Studies curriculum. You are a blessing to us! November proves to be a busy month at school. At the beginning of the month, all our full time teachers will be attending the North/South Wisconsin Teachers' Conference in the Dells. We will have a day and a half of worship, sectionals, and fellowship with other teachers. Shortly after we return, we will be having parent/teacher conferences where we will be able to share all the great things we are seeing in our classrooms with our parents. November 9th through November 17th the I55 Book Fair will be going on in the multi-purpose room. Looking for some Christmas gifts for a special someone? This might be just the opportunity to find the perfect books and support the school at the same time! We also have several basketball games the next few months, and many of them are right here in our school gym. Come and cheer on the Spartans to victory!



May God bless you and all your loved ones this Thanksgiving.

In Christ, Jill Helgerson

Upcoming School Dates In December:

4K be having a Christmas Program on December 11th at 8:00 during Chapel
K—8th grade will be having a Christmas Chapel on December 18th at 8:00



On Gambling and Raffles

The question has been asked if having a raffle is appropriate in raising money for church, school or childcare center needs.

What follows is a summary of “A Pastoral Perspective on the Question of Gambling” which was prepared by our Synod’s Commission on Theology and Church Relations...

If gambling holds so great a potential for abuse, why not simply declare it a sin and condemn it in all its forms? A word of caution, however, is in order. Some Christians have taken the position that certain behaviors (such as any form of dancing, smoking, alcoholic consumption, the cinema, card games, certain forms of music, and the like) are sinful because they can lead to sinful behavior. Such a way of proceeding is reminiscent of the thinking of religious leaders of Jesus’ day. The rabbis built a so called “fence around the law” in order not to commit a sin and in so doing they placed terrible burdens upon God’s people.

Some today may be led to argue that, though the Scriptures do not speak directly to the matter of gambling as being a sin, because of the attitudes, desires, and habits that gambling so strongly encourages and promotes in our culture today, it is impossible for an individual to gamble without sinning. They then conclude that every act of gambling must be declared sinful and prohibited to those who wish to call themselves Christians.

Though gambling itself is not identified as sinful in the Bible, we must remain aware of the potential for wrongdoing in the lives of those who are “weak” or have an addiction to gambling. If it causes another to sin though it is not a sin, the question becomes do we have a responsibility to protect those who cannot protect themselves?

Based on the above, I, Pastor Chris, personally have no problem with those who wish to participate in a church or school sponsored raffle. However, there may be a need to do some educating before making the decision to allow a raffle, especially if there are those who are unaware of what the Scriptures say and do not say about it. For some, gambling and raffles are entertainment or another way to support a godly cause without it hindering their God-given stewardship and management of all they have been entrusted.

If you should have further questions or concerns, I encourage you to share them with any Staff Leader (Jill Helgerson, Cathy Muraski, Brooke Draves, Pastor Chris), members of the Board of Elders (Corey Kuhnau, Dave Henning, Dave Rogers, Eldore Messerschmidt, John Simonson), or our elected Congregational Leaders (Jeremiah Jensen, Steve Koran, Becca Ayers).

Submitted by Pastor Chris

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
 Jessica Bucheger—Athletic Director
 Dennis Wibben—Director, Nutrition Services
 Heidi Schwanz—Nutrition Services Accounting

CHILD CARE STAFF:

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

CUSTODIAL STAFF:

Terry Fischer
 Dan Langteau

OFFICE STAFF:

Cathy Muraski—Business Manager
 Danyelle Hasz—Administrative Assistant

SPECIAL OFFERINGS RECEIVED

September 23, 2024 – October 8, 2024:

(Please clearly mark on the envelope the special you are giving toward.)

PORTALS OF PRAYER

Doreen Fuller

HEATING & BUILDING UPDATES

Vickie Dux

Darwin & Renee Anding
 Earl & Darleene Giese

H. S. YOUTH-NAT'L YOUTH GATHERING
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Social Studies Curriculum:

Larry & Sue Pribbernow
 Sharon Guenther
 Harriet Brandt
 Brad & Nancy Hafermann

GYM ROOF

Anonymous Donor
 Bea Montgomery
 Stan and Darlene Hein

Immanuel Worship Services
Broadcast Update

View via Roku, Amazon, Apple TV Live, and YouTube Live on-demand and at the times listed.

Sundays at 2:30 pm

Tuesday at 1:30 pm

Friday at 12:30 pm

Sunday 9am services are broadcast on Charter/Spectrum Cable Digital 989 at these times.

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 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."

Baptism on October 12

Mavis Grace Reuter

Daughter of Dustin & Lynsey Reuter

Sponsors are Amanda Vanderleest & Derek Reuter

Sullivan Jude Reuter

Son of Dustin & Lynsey Reuter

Sponsors are Whittney Kaszuba & Chad Kaser

Cradle Roll Materials

When an infant is baptized at Immanuel, the child's name is added to our Cradle Roll. We purchase materials from Concordia Publishing House to provide to the child and family to help them with their early faith life. The materials currently cost \$20 and cover infant-3years of age. If you would like to contribute to these materials, please mark your envelope.

Youth Ministry at Immanuel**Catechism Instruction for 7th & 8th Grade**

Wednesdays: 6:30-7:30pm

Simple Truth Youth Praiseband, 5th Grade & up

Sundays: 10:15am.

High School Youth

Wednesdays: 7:30-9:00pm

3rd—6th grade Christian Education “Sunday School”

Wednesdays: 6:30-7:30pm

Chapel Communion

November 21 at 1:30pm will be our next Chapel Communion service. This service is open to anyone!

If you like to make lap size blankets—Palliative and Dialysis at the Medical Center could use Donations. Drop off at the office!

Operation Christmas Child (OCC)

Immanuel Lutheran School students are currently collecting items for Operation Christmas Child boxes. If you would like to donate small items to share drop them off in the office. If you are unable to provide items, shipping costs \$10 per box. Thank you! **Items are due by 8AM on November 18.**

Lutheran Women In Mission:

Ladies, our next meeting will be our annual Prayer Service on Tuesday evening, November 12th at 6:30pm, followed by a short business meeting. You are welcome to come and please feel free to bring a friend.

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

aka Bible Study for this fall. Here's the weekly schedule...

*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!

155 Book Fair— Multi Purpose Room. **November 9-17.** Before and After Worship & 2:30-3:30pm on school days.

MomCo— First and Third Friday each month

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. Let the office know if you can help!

Deer Hunter Service is November 20 at 5:00 PM with a chili feed after.

Higher Grounds Café Fellowship:

Thank you to all groups and board members who Currently support Higher Grounds Café Fellowship Ministry on Sunday mornings. The first Sunday each month is open to sign up to host fellowship. All drinks are provided. Please let Joy Wirtz know if you are interested (715-305-0873) so you can be added to the schedule.

Mark Your Calendars!!

Advent Services: December 4, 11, 18 at 5:00PM



Pastor Chris Schwanz Receives NWD School Shepherd Award



Congratulations to Pastor Chris Schwanz for receiving the North WI District School Shepherd Award. Pr. Schwanz is only the fourth pastor in the NWD to receive this recognition. The NWD School Shepherd Award has been established to honor a faithful pastor who has provided outstanding encouragement, support and service to his school. Nominations must come from the NLSA visiting team, the school principal, the District Accreditation Commission, the District Education Executive, and finally from the District President. Using criteria from the National Lutheran School Accreditation process, the nominated pastor must meet the following standards...

- *understands and articulates a clear philosophy of Lutheran education;*
- *values and supports school administrator(s) and actively participates in team ministry in the church and school community;*
- *provides spiritual encouragement, guidance and support for the school community;*
- *engages and participates in school activities;*
- *works well with the governing body of the school and/or parent advisory associations;*
- *champions the school.*

The NLSA Team Captain shared this statement in the close of his nomination, **“Pastor Chris Schwanz is a true champion for his school. To God Be the Glory!”** Pastor Schwanz received his plaque from the NWD Education Executive during chapel service on October 2nd.

