



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



January 2025

One of the things we'll be deciding on in 2025 will be whether to partner with School Choice Wisconsin (SCW) and participate in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP). This decision will be made at our Annual Voters' Meeting in May.

Since this past July, we've been meeting with Lutheran day school principals and pastors, School Choice Wisconsin leadership, and have hosted presentations which have been open to Immanuel members, visitors and parents whose children are enrolled in our day school.

The more we have heard and learned about the benefits of the School Choice voucher program, the more we have been encouraged to continue to provide opportunities for those who continue to have questions or who have yet to take advantage of getting the facts.

We will be inviting the School Choice Wisconsin leadership team back to Immanuel sometime this spring. Once we decide upon a date and time, we'll be encouraging folks to save the date. We will also be inviting the SCW leadership team to be present at our Annual Voters' Meeting in May. Doing so will provide one final opportunity to address any additional questions and concerns.

Throughout this process, nothing has changed as to where we as Immanuel's leadership – both pastoral, school, and laity – absolutely stand as to what is a non-negotiable if we should decide to move forward with the WPCP. That is absolutely nothing will change or be altered as to who we are and what our mission and ministry is – Reaching Out to All People, Teaching and Sharing God's Gift of Jesus.

Not a single sister day school within our North Wisconsin District which participates in the Wisconsin School Choice voucher program has said it has changed or altered their mission and ministry. In fact, our sister day schools have grown in their outreach and inclusion of families and students who seek to be part of a Christ-centered, Bible-based educational environment. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you'll find FAQ's regarding the WPCP. In each Rejoice! newsletter between now and our Annual Voters' Meeting in May you'll find additional FAQ's.

Know that any of our staff leaders and lay leaders are open to any questions or concerns you may have about this process or about the WPCP. If we don't have an answer, we will find the answer.

Pastor Chris

School News

It seems to happen to all of us. One minute we are frantically running around finishing up our Christmas shopping, decorating, and baking. The next minute we are flipping our calendar to January! Some might say we have entered the doldrums of winter. I don't think of it that way. I think of January as a new beginning, a clean slate. One of my favorite days of the year to teach is when we come back after Christmas break. Most of the kids are bored with the Christmas toys they received and are eager to see their friends (and maybe even their teachers) again. They are ready to get back to learning. It's a new beginning! This reminds me of the verses from Lamentations that say, "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23). I pray that your 2025 is filled with new beginnings and the hope that only comes from Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory!

Our basketball season comes to an end in January. If you haven't made it to a home game yet, there is still time. We have home games on January 14th at 4:30 and 5:30; January 21st at 5:15, and on January 30th a Parents vs. Players game (time to be announced).



January 17th marks the end of the 2nd quarter. It is so hard to believe that we will be to the halfway point of the school year!



Although the calendar says January, we are already planning for National Lutheran Schools Week and the Carnival. National Lutheran Schools Week begins on March 10th with the Carnival on March 15th. What a fun week and a fun event to celebrate this AMAZING school we have been blessed to have! Please join us in celebrating!

Jill Helgersen

Baptism

Finley Marie Schmidt. Daughter of Rylie Schmidt & Ashley Seehafer was baptized on December 15, 2024. Sponsors are Crystal Hlavac & Tanner Wachholz.

**Funeral**

Larry Warren, age 74, of Marshfield passed away at the University of Wisconsin Hospital in Madison on November 30, 2024 surrounded by his loved ones. A memorial service was held at 11:00am on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at Immanuel

Lutheran Church.

Chapel Communion

January 16th at 1:30pm will be our next Chapel Communion Service. This is open to anyone!

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

Kid's Bible Study

Wednesdays: 6:30-7:30pm

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!

Lutheran Women in Mission

The ladies in our Lutheran Women in Mission group would like to wish everyone a Blessed Happy New Year. There will not be a meeting in January. Stay warm and we'll meet again the 2nd Tuesday evening in February, the 11th, at 6:30pm.

Soup of Socks

Thank for all your donations. 55 bags were filled to help support the local community!

Lutheran Hour

Sponsorship dates for 2025 are available. If you would like to sponsor and 8AM Sunday morning on WDLB-1450AM/98.7FM contact Lisa Snortheim at 715-659-4006. A full sponsorship is \$94

Stamps for Missions

If you have any intact cancelled stamps, please consider dropping them off at church! There is a box in the hallway where Quarterlies and Missions Tidings are placed. Place cancelled stamps in there. LWML uses these funds to help support missions projects! Any questions, please connect with the LWML Ladies.

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!

Operation Christmas Child– Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who donated to Operation Christmas Child, in purchasing supplies, packing boxes, shipping costs, prayers and more. We exceeded our goal and mailed out 493 boxes this year! Many children were blessed this Holiday Season!

November 18—December 8, 2024

*(Please note on offering envelope which project you choose to sponsor)***Youth Group/Gathering**Harriet Brandt
Linda & John Hart**Praise Band**

Larry & Sue Pribbernow

Higher Grounds & Quilting

Larry & Sue Pribbernow

In celebration of their 56th Anniversary

Don & Dianne Borgen

Compassion Child

David Henning

In Memory of Bob Aschenbrenner

Ken Aschenbrenner

Portals of Prayer

Doreen Fuller

Christmas Candle Arrangement

Stan Backus

Little Free Pantry

Sharon Guenther

In Memory of Larry Warren

Darwin & Renee Anding

OCC Shipping

Jan & John Simonson

Furnace/HVAC

Vickie Dux

Poinsettia's Donated by Family & Friends In**Memory/ Honor Of:**Howard & Lucille Grandy
Jayme Kleinschmidt
Don Beach
DuWayne Dux, Butch Hale & Rose Hale
Dorothy & Fred Schmidt
In Memory of Loved Ones
Soh & Erv Jewett, Eric Pueschuer
Jacob Gnan & Dennis Rolf
Jerry Griepentrog
Lorene & Elenor
Ron & Sharon Ratsch
Roger Seehafer, Janile Seehafer &
Shirley Seehafer
Ron Regele
Ruben and Arline Pribbernow
Jen Kolstad
Harvey Kolstad
Don & Elly Mueller
Wesley & Gayle Kunz, Richard & Barbara Wirtz
Earl & Karen Spindler
Ken Schwantes & Myrna Schwantes
In Memory of Loved Ones
Lester, Helen and Carol Frank
In Memory of Grandparents
Merle & Sylvia Sleiter
To the glory of God, who came as Baby Jesus

Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery is located near the corner of St. Joseph's Avenue and Upham, west of the Marshfield Medical Center.

Immanuel has a Columbarium:

Single Niches are \$1,200

Companion Niches are \$2,400

Name Plate is \$455.00

Immanuel has Single Cemetery Plots.

\$900 for a single plot of up to 2 people:

1 traditional burial + 1 cremation Or 2 cremations

Contact:

Ronald Steltenpohl @ 715-384-2604, joron06@frontier.com

Ronald Koepke @ 715-384-2610, koepke@live.com

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 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

Immanuel Worship Services Broadcast Update:

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

Sunday 9am services are broadcast on Charter/Spectrum Cable Digital 989 at these times:
 Sundays at 2:30pm Tuesdays at 1:30pm Fridays at 12:30pm

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

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."

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.



PLEASE NOTE :

To check for cancellation of worshipservices during bad weather, view Wausau TV Channels 7 or 9
 or the Immanuel Lutheran Website: immanuelmarshfield.org

School Choice Frequently Asked Questions

Can a School Choice voucher school suspend or expel students that violate school policies and procedures?

Yes, state law requires schools participating in Wisconsin's school choice programs to have policies and procedures in place and published in handbooks that regulate suspensions and expulsions. The school's handbooks and written policies should be explicit as to student responsibilities, expectations, and causes for disciplinary action, including suspension and expulsion. Once a student is enrolled and accepted in the school, he or she is bound by school policies and procedures including suspension or expulsion. Parents and older students should sign a document stating that they have read the handbooks and policies, understand them, and will abide by them. This document forms a contract between the school and the parent/student. A school must supply parents with a copy of its handbooks, including the procedures the school has in place for imposition or appeal of suspensions or expulsions.

Note: Our sister School Choice voucher Lutheran day schools have emphasized the importance of being crystal clear in our handbooks and policies as to who we are and what is our mission and ministry. A student family which receives a voucher and chooses Immanuel day school must understand that everything we do and teach in all classes and activities (not only in religion classes) has at the core our Christ-centered, Bible-based confession and witness.