



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



February 2025

My PM On Call shift at the Marshfield Medical Center on December 2nd was uneventful until I received a page to the ER. Three members of a family arrived as trauma patients resulting from a motor vehicle crash. As I greeted other family members who were not involved in the crash, I recognized one set of grandparents as Marcie and Jay, members of Immanuel. I then spent the next 3½ hours with them and other family members as they anxiously awaited for updates on their loved ones.

It turned out the mother involved in the crash is Marcie and Jay's daughter, Kamie, who is a graduate of Immanuel's Day School and the mother of 6-year-old Olivia ("Livy") and 17-month-old Jack, who were also involved in the crash. The most serious injuries were experienced by Jack, who spent 15 days in Marshfield's Pediatrics Intensive Care Unit (PICU) before being transferred to UW's PICU in Madison.

Here's what has been shared publicly about the details and results of what took place...

"At a county road intersection, a pickup truck, traveling at high speed and failing to yield to a stop sign, broadsided the driver's side of the family's vehicle, sending it flying onto its side and into the ditch.

"The tragedy following has been difficult to grasp. Sweet little Jack, having been on the driver's side and directly in the line of impact, has been in the ICU since that afternoon. The crash caused [skull fractures and his] brain to swell, affecting many other functions in his body. We are hearing good news, but the long-term effects for him are still unknown.

"Kamie sustained major injuries as well, having a multitude of broken bones on the left side of her body. She will be undergoing months of therapy in order to regain the ability to walk.

"Livy did suffer a fractured skull but is currently home and in good health - we are so grateful for this.

"Needless to say, the Pupols' family will be under tremendous financial stress from this tragedy - a fact they are grappling with as they sit next to their [infant] son daily in the ICU."

As the apostle Paul reminds us as the body of Christ, "If one member suffers, all suffer together..." (I Corinthians 12:26)

Modern Woodmen Insurance has agreed to match up to \$2500 of all monies donated by Immanuel members and friends in support of the Pupols' family. *There are three ways you can donate...*

1. To donate online, Go to GoFundMe.com and search for Pupols. Instructions will be provided. After donating, please call Immanuel's office staff to share the amount donated so it can be added to the total to be matched by Modern Woodmen Insurance.
2. Donate using your offering envelopes. Make sure to indicate on the line that begins with "Other \$" the amount and "For Pupols Family."
3. Drop off your donation to any Immanuel office staff.

Our prayers will continue as we commend the Pupols' family to the care and presence of their Good Shepherd. As is shared by them on their GoFundMe site, "Thank you all so much for your support, generosity, and prayers - our family is truly touched."

Pastor Chris

SCHOOL NEWS

How many of you indulge in those chalky Valentine hearts that come with clever messages like QTPIE, XOXO, BE TRUE, HUG ME, and BE MINE? If Jesus celebrated Valentine's Day with those little candies, He would probably hand out piles of BE MINE (not that He would run short of the others). Long before Hallmark made greeting cards and jewelry clerks advertised huge sales, Jesus said this to His beloved believers: "You belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God." (1 Corinthians 3:23) And the message wasn't new. Isaiah 43:1 says, "But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." Jesus loves you. He did it first! His love and mercy truly are FOREVER, and your heart is on His sleeve.

Some things coming up here at Immanuel Lutheran School:

- | | |
|---|--|
| February 5 th | Our top spellers in grades 5 th -8 th will be advancing to the next level with a Spelling Bee at St. Paul Stevens Point. |
| <i>February 6th</i> | <i>All School Open House 5:30-6:30</i> |
| February 11 th | The 4 th graders will be visiting Mead Wildlife. |
| February 12 th -14 th | Our 7 th and 8 th graders are going to Camp Luther. |
| February 13 th | The 4K classes have a visit from Sara B. (the children's librarian at the public library). |
| February 17 th | NO SCHOOL |
| February 28 th | Students can dress up for Super Hero/ Movie or TV Character Day; The Accelerated Reader Challenge ends. |



Next month we will be celebrating *National Lutheran Schools Week* with many fun activities including our *Carnival on Saturday, March 15th*.

Hope to see you there!

Blessings,

Jill Helgerson

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

“Reading, Learning, Marking and Inwardly**Digesting God's Word”** aka Bible Study.

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!****Chapel Communion**

February 20, 2025 at 1:30pm will be our next Chapel with Communion Service. This 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.

Lutheran Women in Mission

Our next meeting will be held February 11, 2025 at 6:30pm. Remember that guests, friends and visitors are always welcome!

Lutheran Hour Broadcast

If you would like to sponsor dates for 2025 on WDLB-1450AM/98.7FM please contact Lisa Snortheim at 715-659-4006.

Death

Nellie “Nell” Mae Schwantes, 86, entered her heavenly home on Sunday, January 5, 2025 at Marshfield Medical Center. A memorial service is planned for Saturday, May 17, 2025 in Marshfield, WI.

MomCo date change update

Beginning in January and until May 2025, MomCo will be meeting on the Second and Fourth Friday's of each month, instead of the first and third Friday's. If you would like to volunteer to care for the mom's children as they meet please let the office know. Thank you.

Mark Your Calendars!

Ash Wednesday—March 5th at 5pm & 6:30pm. With a meal provided by the Youth Group at 5:45pm

Midweek Lenten Services will be March 12, 19, 26 and April 2 & 9 at 5pm with a Sponsored Lenten Meal to follow at 5:45pm.

Lenten Meal Sponsors Needed

We are seeking groups of people to prepare and serve a meal at 5:45pm for Midweek Lenten Services. A sign up sheet is on the Library Table. If no meal is sponsored, it will be a potluck.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS RECEIVED THROUGH**December 9—January 10, 2025***(Please note on offering envelope which project you choose to sponsor)***December 8th Bulletin in Memory of Louis Grottke**

Donna Angel

Youth Group

John & Linda Hart

Ron & JoAnn Steltenpohl in Memory of Larry Warren

Harriet Brandt in Memory of Larry Warren

Roland & Karen Hagen in Memory of Loved Ones

HVAC

Vickie Dux

Catechism

Anonymous

Immanuel School

Roland & Karen Hagen In Memory of Loved Ones

Little Free Pantry

Sharon Guenther

Memorial Gift

Diane Markworth in Memory of Emil & Erna Beyer

Handbells

Anonymous

Portals of Prayer

Doreen Fuller

Singing with the Exiles

Gathered by the waters of Babylon, the exiles sadly wondered: "Is God for real? If so, does He really care about us? What does our future hold? Will this ever change?" God's people had watched their world shatter into a million pieces. They were demoralized and disillusioned. Their disaster looked terminal.

Do you feel this way? Does it look as though your current problems are more than you can bear? Do you find yourself asking: Why did this happen? Why did God allow it? Is there any order in the world? Will God really deliver on what He said?

God's prophet, Isaiah, answers these questions. He announces that just when Israel's history seemed closed and controlled by hopeless Babylonian policy, to the shock and surprise of everyone the Lord will stir up a king named Cyrus, and a new exodus will explode in the desert! A Servant will be wounded for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities. And barren Zion will be given so many children that, like the old woman in the shoe, she won't know what to do! Standing behind these marvelous promises is God's almighty Word. "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever" (Isaiah 40:8). The exiles are going home!

That's why we beginning with Ash Wednesday, March 5th, and throughout Lent, Holy Week, and Resurrection Sunday, April 20th, we will be "Singing with the Exiles" as they are restored to their home.

Lent 2025, Isaiah 40-55 will shape us as we listen and take to heart these messages . . .

Ash Wednesday: "God Has a Word for That" (Isaiah 41:14-16)

Lent 1: "He Only Has Eyes for You" (Isaiah 43:1-7)

Lent 2: "Marked" (Isaiah 44:1-5)

Lent 3: "Breaking Down the Gates" (Isaiah 45:1-8)

Lent 4: "Get Out!" (Isaiah 48:17-22)

Lent 5: "One Little Word Can Fell Him" (Isaiah 49:1-6)

Holy Thursday: "He Prepares a Table" (Isaiah 49:7-13)

Good Friday: "All" (Isaiah 52:13-53:12)

Easter Vigil: "Nothing" (Isaiah 54:1-8)

Easter Sunday: "We Are Going Home" (Isaiah 55:6-13)

Plan now to sing with the exiles as we learn from Isaiah to walk the Lenten way to the cross and to the empty tomb. God promises to turn our weeping into joy and our present pain into an endless Alleluia!

Board of Elders:

- Pastor Chris expanded the dates and time he is offering Bible studies. The same study is currently being offered Sunday before church, Mon and Wed at 100pm and Wed at 630pm.
- We held a variety of worship services during Advent and Christmas and will begin setting Lent and Easter worship in the near future.
- In the fall, Immanuel partnered with MOMCO, offering them a place to meet.

Board of Administration:**Ongoing Business**

- Custodian Back-up Plan
- Subcommittee Formation
- Maintenance Report
- Gym Roof
- Router Switches
- School Choice
- Facilities Usage
- Work Order
- 1, 3, 5 Year Plan
- CD's
- Church Roof
- WIFI Speed
- Door #5
- Door #8
- Gym Exterior Doors
- GO Missions
- Congregation Update
- Seal Church Blocks
- BOA Document Storage
- Church Cemetery
- Tunnel Maintenance
- Current Maintenance Leaders
- Roof Access
- Lightening/Windows
- Asphalt Sealing
- Church & School Auxiliary Groups

2024 Accomplishments**Infrastructure**

- Shingles were installed on the gym roof
- Exhaust fan curb was installed on the gym roof
- (3) whiteboards were installed in the office hall
- security camera cage installed over playground camera
- South gym entrance stab cracks were sealed
- Church door opener was replaced
- Concrete raising of sidewalks at the Church and School West Entrances
- WIFI speed increased and new router installed
- Received building maintenance list from Ron Steltenpohl

- Discussed the cemetery requirements with Ron Steltenpohl
- Church RTU was replaced
- Replaced the (4) West parking lot lights
- Replaced the (2) West entrance lights to illuminate the crosses

Financial

- Healthcare package was updated to better lower cost option
- Pay raise approved for Pastor Chris and Pastor Radde
- Immanuel Lutheran Endowment Fund Note/CD was renewed

Next meeting

- Monday, February 3, 2025 at 5:30pm combined with the Board of Education.

Board of Education:**Accomplishments in 2024:**

- Developed an evaluation form for principal
- Teachers (100% participation) evaluated principal performance
- Finalized Mentor and Mentee Handbooks
- Accreditation successfully completed for another five years
- Adequate funds raised to purchase a new Social Studies curriculum
- Pancake breakfast fundraiser earned \$3,342 to be used for new curriculum
- Deeper exploration of Wisconsin School Choice Program
- Increase in enrollment
- (2024 – 2025 school year = 104) (2023-2024 school year = 99)
- Increase in boxes sent to Operation Christmas Child
- (2023 = 347; 2024 = 493)

Old Business Items (ongoing challenges):

- Marketing the school for higher enrollment
- Developing a plan for a better, well-functioning PTL
- Updating curriculum in a timely, rotating schedule
- Providing adequate, annual raises for teachers, day-care workers, and staff
- Recruitment of staff and daycare workers
- Maintaining and updating technology as needed
- Improving personal development of teachers (additional course work, conferences, etc. and providing funding for these opportunities)

Next Meeting:

- Monday, February 3, 2025 at 5:30pm
- Combined meeting with Board of Administration (Subject to change)

Each Quarter the Boards will submit to the REJOICE their accomplishments and on-going business or challenges. If you have any questions regarding their summaries, please connect with that specific board. Thank you.

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

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

WISCONSIN SCHOOL CHOICE FAQ'S

How many parochial and private schools and students participate in a taxpayer funded parent choice program in Wisconsin?

For the 2023–2024 school year, a total of 383 private schools enrolled nearly 55,000 students across the four existing parent choice programs in Wisconsin. Included in these schools are ten of the twelve North Wisconsin District day schools. Immanuel Marshfield's Day School is not currently enrolled.

Who is eligible for the Wisconsin program?

Eligibility is limited to families with income at or below 220 percent of the federal poverty level. That is about \$68,000 for a married family of four.

Must a student participate in religious activities?

No. A family may choose to opt their child out of religious activities. However, this rarely occurs because families choose schools in line with their values.

What happens if family income increases?

Once admitted, students may remain in the program regardless of changes in family income. A parent must still complete an annual application.

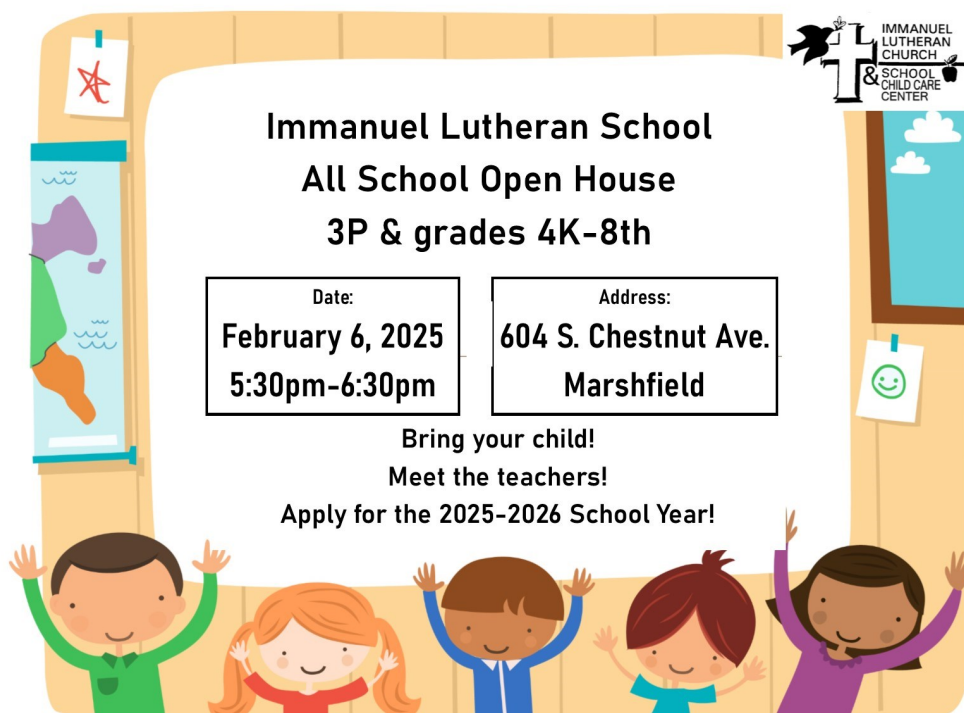
Are participating schools accountable?

Schools must provide the same hours of instruction as public schools and adhere to the same health and safety requirements as public schools. Teachers must either be licensed or have a bachelor's degree. Background checks for teachers are also required.

Do families value school choice?

Yes. The pandemic taught many families the importance of choosing a school in tune with their values. School Choice Wisconsin poll of likely voters conducted in February 2022 showed that 65 percent of Wisconsinites favor school choice for all families. Notably, support has increased among Independents and Democrats.

Don't delay in getting the facts of the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program! To learn more, go to schoolchoicewi.org. A decision will be made during the May 2025 Voters' Assembly as to Immanuel Lutheran Day School's participation beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.



IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
&
SCHOOL
CHILD CARE
CENTER

Immanuel Lutheran School
All School Open House
3P & grades 4K-8th

Date: February 6, 2025 5:30pm-6:30pm	Address: 604 S. Chestnut Ave. Marshfield
--	--

Bring your child!
Meet the teachers!
Apply for the 2025-2026 School Year!