



Rev. David McDonald  
*Administrative  
Vacancy Pastor*

Mr. Dean Jennissen  
*Principal*

Supporting the Ministry  
of the  
Lutheran Church –  
Missouri Synod  
at home and abroad

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Minnesota South  
District

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Immanuel Lutheran  
Church and School

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# The Newsletter

of Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Lakefield, Minnesota

January 2025

Volume LXIII, Issue 1

## January

A New Year  
*dawns*

... not to us but to your name be the  
*glory*, because of your love  
AND FAITHFULNESS.

PSALM 115:1, NIV

### *Immanuel's Statement of Mission*

**"We Love Because He First Loved Us" - 1 John 4:19**

*Acknowledging with gratitude all that God has done for us in Christ Jesus, we the members of Immanuel Lutheran Church and School dedicate ourselves to educating, equipping (2 Timothy 3:17) and building one another up in love as part of the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:16) and to the furthering of His kingdom in and around the city of Lakefield and throughout the world. (Acts 1:8)*

**JOINT BOARDS AND CHURCH COUNCIL** meets on Wednesday, January 8th at 8:00 p.m. All Board Members are asked and encouraged to attend. Communication between our Boards is a vital key in helping our congregation grow. Joint Boards meets in the church basement.

Meetings prior to Joint Boards are:

- Board of Congregational Services:  
Monday, January 13th at 5:15 p.m.
- Board of Elders:  
Wednesday, January 22nd at 8:00 p.m.
- Board of Finance:  
Sunday, January 26th at 12:00 p.m.
- Board of Trustees:  
Thursday, January 16th at 5:30 p.m.
- Board of Ed:  
Wednesday, January 22nd at 5:30 p.m.

**OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED** on Wednesday, January 1st so our staff can spend the New Year's holiday with their families.

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** for January through March are now available on the welcome center in the narthex in both regular and large print. Please help yourself to a copy.

**ADVENT DEVOTIONS** from Lutheran Hour Ministries are available in both regular and large print on the welcome center in the narthex. This year's devotions are called "Come, Let Us Adore Him". Please help yourself to a copy. Advent Devotions go through the Epiphany which is January 6th.

**VOTERS MEETING** for the 1st quarter is Sunday, January 12th right after church around 10:00 a.m.

### **2024 CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS**

Board of Elders: Jim Berkevich, Shane Rossow, Luke Henning, Steve Matasovsky, Joel Poppe

Board of Education: Jonah Dagele, Brandon Laabs, Justin Scholten, Leann Henning, Deb Jons, Lori Henning

Board of Finance: Jesse Ackermann, Joel Burmeister, Ron Gettler, Debbi Gettler, Tara Boogerd, Cheryl Ulferts

Board of Trustees: Jeff Frantsen, Travis Dennis Rossow, Mark Freking, Austin Rossow, Andrew T. Rossow, Clay Salzwedel

Board of Congregational Services: Sarah Laabs, Tim Timko, Monette Berkevich, Lola Gunther, Dellyne Monson, Danielle Rossow

Congregational Chairman: Kurt Swanson

Congregational Secretary: Kerry Sydnes

**THANK YOU** to our outgoing Officers for their many hours of dedicated work during their term of office. Your support and help are very much appreciated, especially by the staff of Immanuel. Thank you to:

*Albert Henning: Elder*

*Jared Ackermann: Trustee*

*Stuart Peterson: Trustee*

*Josh Swanson: Education*

*Katie Burmeister: Education*

*Luke Rossow: Education*

*Jeremy Boogerd: Finance*

*Lori Henning: Congregational Services*

*Sue Salzwedel: Congregational Secretary*

**LEADERSHIP IN THE CHURCH:** Please keep the men and women you have entrusted to lead our congregation in your prayers as they serve in the ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church in their official capacity as an officer or board member.

**INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS** will take place on Sunday, January 12th and Wednesday, January 15th. All incoming and continuing officers are asked to take part. A name tag may be found in the narthex for you. You may sit with your family until asked to come forward.

**YOUTH GROUP** will get together in January for Ice Skating. They will join with the youth from Holy Trinity. Time and location TBD. Watch for an email or text. Invite a friend to come along!

## **STARTING IN JANUARY**

**OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP  
SERVICE TIME ALONG WITH  
SUNDAY SCHOOL AND  
BIBLE CLASS TIMES WILL  
CHANGE TO:**

- ♦ **Worship: 9:00 a.m.**
- ♦ **Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.**
- ♦ **Youth Group Bible Study: 10:15 a.m.**
- ♦ **Bible Class: 10:15 a.m.**

**VALET PARKING:** We would like to invite those of you who have a problem walking a distance to drive your car up to the carport when you come for worship and we will have an usher or an elder park your car for you. Following services, we will return your vehicle to the carport. We especially encourage you to take advantage of this during icy, snowy, winter weather.

**OFFICIAL ACTS FOR  
DECEMBER 2024**

Membership:

Baptized: 590

Communicants: 433

ENTERING IMMANUEL...

LEAVING IMMANUEL...

...Entering Church Triumphant–

Delores Steffen took the hand of her Lord on December 1st, 2024 and was given a Christian funeral service on December 6th, 2024. Burial is at Immanuel Cemetery.

**ANNUAL REPORTS:** January is here. Amy would appreciate having the reports in the church office by January 10th. The list of reports needed includes:

- Voters' Annual Report
- LWML
- Quilters
- Youth Group
- Funeral Lunch
- Sunday School
- Vacation Bible School
- Immanuel Choir
- Immanuel Bell Choir
- Immanuel Lutheran School
- Endowment Fund
- Gardeners' Market
- Trustees
- Congregational Services
- Congregational Wellness
- Video Ministry

Thank you for your help!

**12.08.2024 VOTERS' MEETING MINUTES**

Called to order at 12:04 p.m. by Chairman, Kurt Swanson

Opening prayer by Pastor Bohmer

Only item for this Voter's Meeting is to vote for Congregational Officers.

MSC to have a unanimous ballot, as presented. The result of the vote is:

Elder: Steve Matasovsky, Joel Poppe

Board of Education: Leann Henning, Lori Henning, Deb Jons, Justin Scholten

Board of Finance: Joel Burmeister, Cheryl Ulferts, Tara Boogard

Board of Congregational Services:

Board of Trustees: Clay Salzwedel, Andrew T. Rossow

Congregational Secretary: Kerry Sydnes

MSC: to Adjourn

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

32 members attending

Submitted by Sue Salzwedel, Congregational Secretary

**DEAR MEMBERS,**

As part of the Call Committee, I wanted to let you know that we're working hard to find a pastoral candidate that we believe God wants us to have at Immanuel. This is very time consuming, but vital in our search. We did an intensive study to give us direction of what we're looking for. Some may wonder, what are we doing wrong, or why do we have so many pastors decline? All we can say is God has not revealed and isn't finished preparing His Pastor for us yet. It can be deflating to get our hopes up and then get declined, but it is part of the process. We must remain faithful and patient. Remember, we are still being fed with the Word and Sacrament while in vacancy. Another issue is the extreme shortage of shepherds. Do you know that just our MN South District currently has 20 congregations looking for a Pastor? And that's not counting the 3 churches who just had a Pastor accept. Please don't lose heart. God will send the Pastor we need in His time, not ours. Amy was gracious enough to include a prayer asking for God's guidance. Your call committee asks that you pray without ceasing, bringing our petitions to Him who will answer those prayers. Continually lift up our church in prayer as we continue this vacancy. Continue coming to worship and supporting Immanuel. As God reminds us in **1 Thessalonians 5:15-18 - Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**

Alan Salzwedel

Immanuel Call Committee

**IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE** you may contact Pastor McDonald directly (507-993-1113 or [mcdonald.david66@yahoo.com](mailto:mcdonald.david66@yahoo.com)), Amy in the church office (507-662-5718 or [immanuel@immanuellakefield.com](mailto:immanuel@immanuellakefield.com)), or speak to one of the elders. This includes visits, prayer requests, communion for home bound members, among others. Pastor McDonald is our administrative vacancy Pastor.

**NO WORSHIP SERVICE – WEDNESDAY JANUARY 1st**

## LWML Happenings

### Lutheran Women In Mission

Serving on Altar Guild for the month of January are Jean Bass, Sherrl Handzus, and Carolyn Hansen. We thank them for taking care of the altar duties.

The next LWML monthly meeting will be Wednesday, January 8 in the church basement. A light supper will be served by Jean Bass and Linda Wagner at 5:15, followed by our meeting at 5:30. Principal Dean Jennissen will be our guest and give some Immanuel Lutheran School highlights. We will also have installation of the 2025 officers. These include Co-Presidents Donna Hage and Carolyn Hansen; Vice President & Christian Growth Connie Rossow; Secretary Mary Poppe; Treasurer Amy Altman; LWML Delegate Crystal Dafoe; and Alternate Delegate Dory Poppe.

All women of the congregation are welcome to attend the Immanuel LWML meetings and activities. May the everlasting light of Jesus be your joy this coming year and forever.

Serve the Lord with Gladness  
~ Psalm 100:4

**A HUGE THANK YOU** to all who have donated to the ILS kitchen, with unprecedented generosity. All friends who want the kitchen to succeed, gave above and beyond what my imagination could have ever witnessed. Since this school year began donations have not ceased to come in. To say thank you for them does not seem enough. Nevertheless, getting to cook in the ILS kitchen has been just pure joy.

- Pat Pohlman

**DVDS** of both the Sunday School Christmas Service and the ILS Christmas Program are available. The cost is \$3 per DVD. Please let Amy in the church office know if you would like one by calling 507-662-5718.

### HELP CELEBRATE NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS' WEEK

**JANUARY 26- FEB. 1ST!** As a servant event, Immanuel Lutheran School students are going to pack Mercy Meals to the tune of 99 crates. This project will require \$3500 toward supplies for the food and for shipping costs. A donation from you would help us offset this Orphan Grain Train sponsored event. Please consider sending a check to Immanuel Lutheran School at 620 Bush Street, Lakefield, MN 56150 earmarked Orphan Grain Train, by Tuesday, Jan. 28th, 2025.

### YOU'RE INVITED TO A BRAND-NEW BIBLE STUDY

In the beginning was the Word... This is how the book of John begins. In the beginning God spoke, and light invaded the darkness. But instead of walking with God in the light, humanity fell into sin and darkness. Now, God has once again invaded the darkness with the incarnate Word, Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. Join us for Bible Class as we learn more about the "Word" – Jesus Christ – in the book of John. Interactive video, stimulating conversation, coffee and treats await. Bible Class time will change time to follow church after the New Year.

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** If you would like to place flowers on the altar for a special occasion for this coming year, please contact Amy in the church office at 507-662-5718.

**ALTAR GUILD:** Ladies, we welcome your help... it is time once again to set up the schedule for our Altar Guild for the 2025 calendar year. Time involved is approximately one hour per week getting the chancel ready for worship. There will always be two others on the schedule with you. Your job would include dusting the Chancel area, filling the candles, preparing for communion, and cleaning the communion ware after communion services. To volunteer or if you have any questions, please contact Dory Poppe or Connie Rossow.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR NAME ON THE PRAYER LIST, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 507-662-5718 OR EMAIL [immanuel@immanuellakefield.com](mailto:immanuel@immanuellakefield.com)

We would rather hear it two or three times than not at all. Also because of privacy issues we need your permission.



### *Stewardship Moment...*

**Luke 2:40 – “And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.”** At Christmas God became man. And as a man, Jesus grew up and increased in strength and wisdom. We are called to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, to grow in His image. The power for this growth comes from receiving the grace of Jesus in His Word and Sacraments. How is the Lord calling you to grow this year?

## Lutheran Hour Ministries

The Lutheran Hour may be listened to on Sunday –

KICD – 1240 AM, Spencer, IA at 10:30 AM

WCCO – 830 AM, Minneapolis, MN at 6 AM

KSUM -- 1370 AM, Fairmont, MN at 11 AM

KJLY – 104.5, Blue Earth at 6 PM

**KDOM, 103.1 FM at 10 AM**

KDCR, 88.5 FM at 1 PM

You may also listen anytime on their website: [lhm.org](http://lhm.org)

**January 5** "In the Beginning Was Dialogue"  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Ziegler

*Do you need more faith? Then you need the Word. Faith comes from hearing the Word of Christ.*

(John 1:1)

**January 12** "What's This Neighborhood Coming To?"  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Ziegler

*When you're not limited by the size of your table, you can invite everyone.*

(John 1:14)

**January 19** "He Made Me a Believer"  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Ziegler

*God makes us believers and the more we believe, the more we become involved in the institutions God made--church, marriage, family, and work.*

(John 2:11)

**January 26** "An Overture to the Greatest Story Ever Told"  
Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Leopoldo Sanchez

*Like an overture that introduces a great musical work, John the Baptizer is the living voice sent by God to bear witness to Jesus' lordship and salvation.*

(John 3:26-36)

### FLAT SHEETS, COTTON AND FLANNEL

The Immanuel Quilters are in need of flat sheets, both cotton and flannel. The sheets will be used as bottoms and fillers for the Orphan Grain Train quilts that the quilters are assembling. You may drop them off at the church basement. Questions, please call Connie at 507-841-3350.

**LAKEFIELD MEAL SITE** is serving in-house and home delivered meals. Meals served at 11:30. Call 507-662-6714 to reserve. NO Half Price Meals in January.

- Wednesday, January 1st: CLOSED
- Friday, January 3rd: Entertainment by the ILS students
- Tuesday, January 7th: Bingo at 12:30. Prizes awarded
- Wednesday, January 8th: Game Day! Bring your own or play what's here.
- Tuesday, January 14th: Pinochle at 12:30
- Wednesday, January 15th: 500 at 12:30
- Monday, January 20th: CLOSED
- Tuesday, January 28th: Frozen meals only for those already reserved
- Wednesday, January 29th: Pinochle at 12:30
- Friday, January 31st: Lakefield Birthday Party. Menu: Rigatoni Beef, Green Beans

Call Marless (507-662-5254) for card details and to schedule playing. All card games cost 10 cents to play.

### CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY AT THE

**LAKEFIELD MEAL SITE:** We have a spot just for you & 3 or more of your family and/or friends. We'd love to acknowledge your special day with a Free meal for you. Make your Birthday an event to remember. Reserve Your party's table by calling 507-662-6714.

**REDCROSS BLOODMOBILE** will be here at the Immanuel Lutheran Activity Center on Tuesday, February 4th from 1:00-6:00 p.m. For appointments call 800-733-2767 or online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)

### Stewardship Moment...

**Luke 3:21** – "Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying ..." We know why the people were baptized, but why was Jesus baptized? He didn't need repentance or forgiveness. The answer is that He did it for us. The reason God sent His Son into the world is to fulfill all righteousness for us, to do what we could not do. The whole of Jesus' life, everything He did and said, was one great offering to the Father in our stead to fulfill all righteousness for us. With our righteousness fulfilled in Jesus and given to us in Baptism, our hearts now overflow with thanksgiving and praise.

# Immanuel Lutheran School Highlights

*"We love because He first loved us." -1 John 4:19*



- **FIRST DAY BACK FROM CHRISTMAS BREAK—THURSDAY, JANUARY 2ND**
- **CHAPEL OFFERINGS** for the 2nd quarter (collected through January 15th) will go to the Lakefield Food Shelf. We are accepting both food and hygiene items, plus monetary donations.
- **CHAPEL OFFERINGS** for the 3rd quarter (beginning on January 22nd are going to Hearts for Jesus—World Vision Ignite. World Vision Ignite equips Christian educators with tools and training to inspire students to live out their faith and become world changers. They've developed resources to guide teachers in helping students develop a culture of philanthropy and give them a biblical vocabulary for poverty and global concern.
- **PARENT TEACHER LEAGUE (PTL)** meets on Thursday, January 2nd at 6:00 p.m.
- **PRAIRIE ECOLOGY BUS** meets on Wednesday, January 8th from 2:15-3:45 p.m. in Mrs. Ackermann's classroom. It is for students in grades 3-6.
- **CHESS CLUB** will start on Monday, January 6th. It is held on Mondays from 3:15-4:05 p.m. in the church basement. Chess Club is for students in Kindergarten through 8th grade.
- **LAST DAY OF THE 3RD QUARTER is Friday, January 17th.**
- **NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK** is January 26th through February 1st. A full week of fun activities is being planned including
- **ALL SCHOOL CHOIR** sings here at Immanuel on Sunday, January 26th at 9:00 a.m.
- **JANUARY BASKETBALL GAMES & TOURNAMENTS**
  - January 7 at 4:15: B at St. John Vianney Fairmont
  - January 13 at 4:00: A & B at Worthington Christian
  - January 17-18: A tournament at St. Paul's Truman
  - January 21: B at St. Paul's Truman
  - January 23: A & B at home vs. St. Paul's Fairmont
  - January 27 at 4:15: B at home vs. St. Paul's Truman
  - January 31-February 1: A tournament here at ILS



## *From the Principal:*

Galatians 5:22 says...

*"...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness and faithfulness."*

I was always told a fruitcake can last quite some time before going bad, but I was astonished to find out a Michigan family has kept one around for 141 years! According to the article I read, the keys to a long shelf life for a fruitcake are the ingredients and the preparation. Makes sense... It all starts with a great foundation. While that might work for a fruitcake, what are keys to an active faith in Christ that bears fruit? I would say it comes down to this: dependence upon Jesus. Like fruitcakes, I believe the word "dependent" has gotten a bad rap. Our American Experiment is founded on independence. People take pride in being fiercely independent and it all started with Adam and Eve. "Did God really say...?", the serpent asked. And, we're off and running... doing things our way. Trust, and complete dependence on God was broken. How do we request a do-over? One simple word: dependence. Romans 11:18-19 "But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you." The root, Jesus, supports us wild olive shoots, not the other way around. Yes, God did really say... Yes, though our independent nature struggles against it, it's in surrendering our will to God (daily, maybe by the minute) and fully depending upon Him that we bear fruit that lasts... much longer than a fruitcake!

Wishing all a great new year filled with an ever-increasing measure of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness and faithfulness!

*~ Dean A. Jennissen, Principal*



# JANUARY *birthdays*

- 1 ~ Roger Carlson  
Jamie Koep
- 2 ~ Shirley Freckmann  
Kaitlyn John  
Kayle Koep
- 3 ~ Kiara Baumann  
Claire Dagel  
Timothy Tungland
- 4 ~ Lisa John
- 7 ~ Olive Kruger  
Luke Rossow  
Tricia Schulz
- 8 ~ Douglas Hansen  
Crystal Rossow  
Derek Somnis
- 10 ~ Jessica Rossow
- 11 ~ Leah Gunther  
Brenda Matasovsky  
Simeon Peterson  
Parker Wendt
- 14 ~ Julie Pederson
- 16 ~ Matthew Dorschner
- 17 ~ Laura Hage  
Jolene Rossow  
Isaiah Schmid
- 19 ~ Greg Pauling
- 20 ~ Zadi Farmer  
Travis Dennis Rossow
- 21 ~ Russell Burmeister  
Michael Dempster  
Deb Jons
- 25 ~ Marilyn Bauer  
Austin Haar  
Jacqueline Ward
- 27 ~ Clayton Burmeister  
Phyllis Rossow
- 31 ~ Pamaline Bellows  
Merlyn Rossow

## SALEM CHILI FUNDRAISER & COOK-OFF COMPETITION

Join us at Salem Lutheran Church in Jackson on Sunday, January 26th at 11:30 a.m. for our Chili Fundraiser and Chili Cook-Off Competition! Enjoy a delicious meal with a freewill donation. In addition to chili, we'll also be serving another soup option during mealtime. Don't miss this chance to enjoy great food and friendly competition. The church is located at 500 N Highway in Jackson.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARY?

- "Get Your Mitts on a Good Book" Winter Reading Program for adults and teens (grades 8-12) is from January 1st through March 31st. Register online or at your library.
- Library is closed January 1st
- Story Time for kids is on Thursdays at 10:00
- Bedtime Story Hour is Thursday, January 16th at 6:30
- Elementary After School Program for K-4th graders is Thursday, January 9th at 3:45. Activity is Pom Pom Shooters. Registration required by calling 507-662-5782.
- Tween & Teen Scene for 5th-12th grade is Tuesday, January 28th at 3:45. Activity is Hack That Painting. Registration required by calling 507-662-5782.
- Great Puzzle Race is Saturday, January 18th from 10:30-12:30. Register a team of 2-4 people to compete and see who can finish a 750 piece puzzle first to win a prize.
- Adult Monthly Programs
  - Wednesday, January 8th at 2:00: Bingo with prizes
  - Friday, January 17th at 2:15: Movie Matinee
  - Wednesday, January 22nd from 1:00-3:00: Craft Café
- Book Club meets on Wednesday, January 2nd at 3:00 to discuss "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt.

**CHILDREN'S WINTER CARNIVAL** is at Martin Luther High School in Northrop on Sunday, January 26th from 1:00-3:00. Cost is \$5/child or \$15 per family. Parents are free. There will be Games, Prizes, Bouncy House, Snacks and a Parent Lounge. Carnival is sponsored by the Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School, Northrop National Honor Society and Student Council. MLHS is located at 315 Martin Luther Drive, Northrop.

**THE ENDOWMENT FUND** of Immanuel Lutheran is made available to members of our church who are advancing their education to be Christ-centered, life changing future church professionals or lay leaders (including pastors, Lutheran school teachers, principals, deaconess...) Parents encourage your children to consider this as a career choice. Please call the church office with any questions.



# JANUARY *anniversaries*

- 1/1/10 Michael and Kim Devries
- 1/8/94 Keith and Tami Otterstatter
- 1/8/72 Gary and Lois Jochims
- 1/15/83 Jim and Jeanine Ackermann

**FOR LIABILITY REASONS** and safety issues we need to know who is in the church and when, especially as we host benefits and other events. All building use needs to be scheduled with Amy in the church office. Many groups and individuals for whom we are very thankful use our building, but we do need to remember to schedule rooms. Please call the church office to schedule an event or meeting. Thank you for your consideration.

**SCRIP IS A GREAT WAY TO SUPPORT IMMANUEL!**

What is scrip and how does it work?

- You purchase a gift card.
- That business gives back.
- The amount given back can be put towards a family's tuition or hot lunch account. It can also go directly to the school, into the Teacher Salary Fund, Tuition Assistance Program, or Hot Lunch Assistance Program.

There are over 750 gift card options available through scrip for places you already shop at (including grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, stores...) We have local scrip. Right here in Lakefield you can buy gift certificates for Maynard's, Cutting Image, SoJo, Styles on Main, Village Green, or Horse Barn and Hunt Club. Amy normally has Maynard's, Cutting Image, and SoJo gift cards on hand (no wait!).

There are 3 easy ways to order scrip:

- Fill out the blue order form and turn it in by 8:00 on Monday morning. Order forms can be found in the church office or on the welcome center in the narthex. Your order will be ready to be picked up the following Monday.
- Online at raiseright.com (you can even get egift cards!)
- On your mobile devices with the RaiseRight app.

Want more information?

Talk to Amy in the office at 507-662-5718 or [immanuel@immanuellakefield.com](mailto:immanuel@immanuellakefield.com).

**CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER...** *A serious illness or death in your family; a personal crisis; a time of major decision making; a time of great joy; all of these times when pastoral care is vitally important. If you or a family member or a friend is experiencing any of these, please contact the church office. We, here at Immanuel, welcome the opportunity to provide spiritual care and guidance in difficult times, as well as to rejoice with you in times of joy.*

**WE NEED YOUR HELP:** We are looking for members to help with ushering. Please check out the sign-up sheet on the window in the narthex and write yourself in for a service if you are able to. Questions on ushering? Please ask one of our elders.

**EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN:** We have an email prayer chain so we can pray for our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ when they are in need. If you would like to be added to the email prayer chain, please email Amy at [immanuel@immanuellakefield.com](mailto:immanuel@immanuellakefield.com).

**OFFERING ENVELOPES:** With our offering envelopes not being date specific, please continue to use them until they are gone. When you are getting low ask Amy in the church office or an elder for a new box and they will get one for you. Remember, your number will never change and we do have an extra box with your number on it.

**HAVE YOU MOVED IN THE LAST YEAR? CHANGED YOUR PHONE NUMBER OR EMAIL?**

If so please fill out the form below and let Amy in the church office know.

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH MEMBER  
ADDRESS, EMAIL, AND PHONE NUMBER UPDATES**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ TEXT? Y N

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ USE OFTEN? Y N

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

Please email monthly newsletter

Please send monthly newsletter in the mail

Please do not publish my email in the annual report

Please do not publish my cell phone in the annual report

*Please feel free to drop off this form in the Offering Plate, box in the Narthex, or at the church office*



**ELECTRONIC OFFERING PROGRAM:** We have been utilizing the online giving program, Joyful Response, for quite a few years now here at Immanuel. Joyful Response is a simple and easy program to use that is available through Lutheran Church Extension Fund. This program means you can give your offerings through an electronic funds transfer from your checking or savings account. There are no charges associated with Joyful Response. Here's why you may want to try Joyful Response:

- You won't have to write checks or remember your offering envelope.
- It can help with your budgeting as you can plan your giving throughout the year.
- You can set it up so your offering is given automatically – be it weekly, monthly, bi-weekly, or whatever works best for you and your family.

The Benefits for our church are a more consistent and reliable cash flow for meeting obligations, especially during the summer months, and better information for the budget planning and decision making. Many of us already pay our bills and other obligations electronically. These are obligations we intend to pay, but we set them up for automatic withdrawal for convenience, peace of mind, and simply so we don't forget to pay them.

Maybe this giving option for your offering could be a tool to help you meet your giving goals. Signing up is simple. The form can be found on the welcome center in the Narthex and in the church office. Take the completed form to Amy in the church office and she will get you enrolled. If you ever want to change or stop the withdrawal, Amy can do so in the church office. Remember, there is no charge to you or the church for using this option, thanks to LCEF and their Joyful Response program. All offerings given using Joyful Response will be for the current fund. All other budget items-building, mission, memorial, and special project giving should be done through an offering envelope. Ask any member of the Board of Finance, the Elders, or Amy if you would like more information. We encourage you to try it, even with a small amount, to see how it works and you may find it makes your gifts easier to give. We hope the Joyful Response program will help you, as well as our ministry and mission at Immanuel.

**STAY ACTIVE AND INDEPENDENT FOR LIFE (SAIL):** One of the most important activities that adults can do to stay active and reduce their chance of falling is to perform exercises that improve strength, balance, flexibility, and fitness. SAIL is a program which includes exercise classes and education designed specifically for older adults to help prevent falls. All exercises and aerobics can be done sitting or standing. Participants meet at the Lakefield Multi-Purpose Senior Center on Mondays and Fridays 1:00 – 2:00. This is offered to the community, free of charge, by Catholic Charities of Southern Minnesota.

**WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS,** the Lakefield Food Shelf would like to thank the members of the Lakefield community for their outpouring of love and generosity this Holiday season. Your generosity warms the hearts of the Food Shelf Board and the families receiving the support.

**RADA CUTLERY FUNDRAISER:** Immanuel Lutheran School is doing a RADA Cutlery Fundraiser. These are the knives, kitchen utensils, and food products that ILS had done as a fundraiser years ago. All shopping is done online and shipped directly to you. Here is the RADA shopping link:  
<https://radafundraising.com/?rfsn=7714827.f00d30>

It will be open for the whole school year. Orders can be submitted anytime and will be shipped right to you. Thank you for supporting Immanuel Lutheran School.

**MARTIN LUTHER HIGH SCHOOL, NORTHROP** has an on-going business selling "This is Most Certainly Brew" Gourmet Coffee. Their coffee beans are hand-selected from the country of origin, then custom-roasted in Minnesota. Flavors include:  
"Pastor's Study Blend" Euro Dark Blend  
"Church Basement Brew" Honduran Medium Roast  
"Bible Study Blend" Sumatra/Mexican Medium  
"Eternally Yours Blend" Italian Roast Decaf—3 Bean  
"Christmas Joy" Velvet Hammer  
"Heavenly Hazelnut Cinnamon" Single Brazilian Bean  
"Garden of Eden Rain Forest"  
"Katie's Kup" Jamaican Me Crazy  
"Sunrise Special!" Maui Yellow Caturra

The coffee is available in 12 oz. bags grounded for \$10-\$13. Bible Study Blend and Pastor's Study Blend are also available in 12 oz. bags whole bean for \$10. Pastor's Study also comes in a 5 pound whole bean for \$50. It is available to buy in person at the MLHS office, Hy-Vee in Fairmont, or at Kiehl's Bakery in Lakefield. You may also order on-line at [www.thisismostcertainlybrew.com](http://www.thisismostcertainlybrew.com). They ship nationwide. This is an on-going enterprise supports the MLHS Ministry.

**FROM TIME-TO-TIME** confirmation class ends early. When that happens, Pastor McDonald has the students write down questions they may have for him to answer. The questions do not have to be about what was studied for the day. Here are some examples of them:

*What year was the flood?*

*How old was John the Baptist when he died?*

*How long was John the Baptist in the wilderness?*

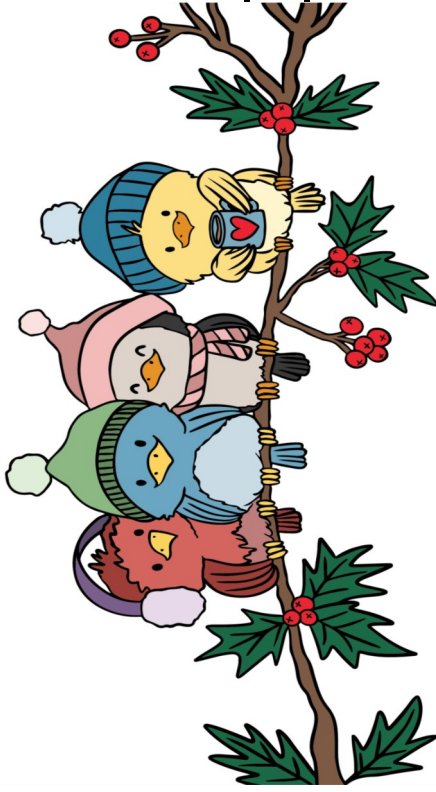
Great questions! I actually figured the first one out a 20 years ago. This is tricky because you can't just add up the years each person lived together to come up with the number. The sons lived while the parents lived. We also have to note that we have no Biblical information about how long Adam and Eve lived before the fall into sin or how long the heavens and the earth existed before the first day. Science tells us that the earth is billions of years old, but that can't be trusted. Adam was a functioning adult at his creation, whatever age that may be. He didn't grow up through being a baby, then a child, then a teenager, then an adult. He was an adult at his creation. So too, the earth was whatever age it needed to be to maintain life and allow it to thrive. Time really is kept from the fall into sin, when death entered the picture and our lifetimes were more defined. Here is the chart I made in 2003:

| Descendant | Age start children | Age after children | Age of death | Time after Father | Total |
|------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------|
| Adam       | 130                | 800                | 930          | 930               | 930   |
| Seth       | 105                | 807                | 912          | 112               | 1042  |
| Enosh      | 90                 | 815                | 905          | 98                | 1140  |
| Kenan      | 70                 | 840                | 910          | 95                | 1235  |
| Mahalalel  | 65                 | 830                | 895          | 55                | 1290  |
| Jared      | 162                | 800                | 962          | 132               | 1422  |
| Enoch      | 65                 | 300                | 365          | 0                 | 1422  |
| Methuselah | 187                | 782                | 969          | 169               | 1591  |
| Lamech     | 182                | 595                | 777          | 0                 | 1591  |
| Noah       | 500                | 450                | 950          | 168               | 1759  |

Enoch didn't die but was taken by God into heaven, so his years can't be added to the total since they are still ongoing. Lamech died before his father, so his years aren't added as well. From what I can figure from what the Bible says, the flood happened 1759 years after the fall.

We know from Luke's gospel that John the Baptist is 6 months older than Jesus. Jesus started His ministry when He was 30 years old (Luke 3:23). Matthew 3:1 tells us that John came preaching in the wilderness "in those days." Luke 3:2 tells us that John started preaching in the wilderness when Annas and Caiaphas were high priests. The Bible doesn't really tell us what year that was, but other historical documents do. Annas was made high priest by Quirinius from 6-15 AD. Caiaphas was high priest from 18-36 AD. Jesus started His ministry in 30 AD. Church tradition holds that John had a ministry that lasted a year and a half. So he would have been 31 or 32 when he died. Jesus' ministry lasted 3 years, which means He died when He was 33, and since John was younger, this fits the timing of the Bible.

As to how long John the Baptist lived in the wilderness, this is all conjecture. It is believed that he was a member of a group of Levites known as the Essenes, known for their asceticism, which means avoiding self-indulgent temptations like fancy food or nice clothes. Remember that John wore a leather belt (simple, not fancy) and ate wild locusts and honey (not fancy). The Essenes are thought to have hidden the Dead Sea Scrolls to protect them from the Roman soldiers. Again, Matthew 3:1 says John came in the wilderness preaching "in those days." So the answer is around the time Jesus came to be baptized, but we can't really get into specifically how long he was in the wilderness from the Scriptures. We know it was before Jesus was baptized, but we don't know how long before.



# JANUARY 2025

|                                                                                                                                                                    | Tue                                                                                                            | Wed                                                                                   | Thu                                                                                                                                                                  | Fri                                                 | Sat                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 5<br>9:00 Worship with Communion<br>10:15 Sunday School<br>10:15 Youth Group Bible Study<br>10:15 Bible Class                                                      | 6<br>9:00 Worship with Communion<br>10:15 Sunday School<br>10:15 Youth Group Bible Study<br>10:15 Bible Class  | 7<br>4:15 B BB at St. John Vianney Fairmont                                           | 8<br>8:20 Chapel<br>2:10 Confirmation<br>2:15 Prairie Ecology Bus—grades 3-6<br>5:15 LWML Mtg<br>7:00 Worship with Communion<br>8:00 Joint Boards and Church Council | 9<br>6:00 Parent Teacher League                     | 10<br>11                                            |
| 12<br>9:00 Installation of Officers<br>10:00 Worship<br>10:00 Voters Mtg<br>10:15 Sunday School<br>10:15 Youth Group Bible Study<br>10:15 Bible Class              | 13<br>4:00 A & B BB at Worthington Christian<br>5:15 Bd Cong Services Mtg                                      | 14<br>15 Installation of Officers<br>8:20 Chapel<br>2:10 Confirmation<br>7:00 Worship | 15<br>8:20 Chapel<br>2:10 Confirmation<br>7:00 Worship                                                                                                               | 16<br>5:30 Bd Trustees Mtg                          | 17<br>18<br>A BB<br>Tournament at St. Paul's Truman |
| 19<br>9:00 Worship with Communion<br>10:15 Sunday School<br>10:15 Youth Group Bible Study<br>10:15 Bible Class                                                     | 20<br>9:00 Worship with Communion<br>10:15 Sunday School<br>10:15 Youth Group Bible Study<br>10:15 Bible Class | 21<br>4:15 B BB at St. Paul's Truman                                                  | 22<br>8:20 Chapel<br>2:10 Confirmation<br>5:30 Bd Ed Mtg<br>7:00 Worship with Communion<br>8:00 Bd Elders Mtg                                                        | 23<br>4:00 A & B BB at home vs. St. Paul's Fairmont | 24<br>25                                            |
| 26<br>9:00 Worship<br>9:00 All School Choir sings at Immanuel<br>10:15 Sunday School<br>10:15 Youth Group Bible Study<br>10:15 Bible Class<br>10:30 Bd Finance Mtg | 27<br>4:15 B BB at home vs. St. Paul's Truman                                                                  | 28<br>8:20 Chapel<br>2:10 Confirmation<br>7:00 Worship                                | 29<br>8:20 Chapel<br>2:10 Confirmation<br>7:00 Worship                                                                                                               | 30<br>31<br>ILS A BB Tournament                     | 31<br>1<br>January 26-February 1                    |

National Lutheran Schools Week

“Endure” ~ Hebrews 12:1-3

Immanuel Lutheran Church and School  
P.O. Box 750, 604 Bush Street  
Lakefield, Minnesota 56150  
507-662-5718

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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U.S. Postage Paid  
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Permit #21

*Worship Schedule —*

Sunday Morning Services  
9:00 AM

Sunday School  
Youth Group Bible Study  
Bible Class  
10:15 AM

Communion Celebrated  
1st and 3rd Sunday

Happy New Year!

*JANUARY Monthly*

