



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Centered in Christ's love to invite, grow, & go

401 South 8th Avenue,
Princeton, MN 55371
(763) 389-1420 • Fax (763) 389-1426
www.immanuelprinceton.org

Pastor Paul Brown
(763) 389-1420
Cell phone (612) 250-8417
pastor@immanuelprinceton.org

Sue VanHooser, Director of Ministries with
Children, Youth, and Their Families
(763) 389-1420
Cell phone (612) 867-2933
youthandfamily@immanuelprinceton.org

Youth and Family Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday—8:00 am—4:00 pm
Wednesday—1:00—8:00 pm
Sunday mornings

Barb Nelson
Secretary
(763) 389-1420
barbnelson@immanuelprinceton.org

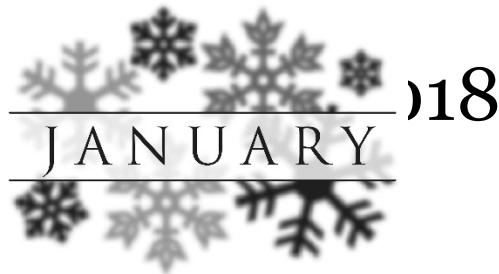
Worship for the Whole Family

Sundays: 8:00 a.m. Traditional
9:00 am Education and Fellowship
10:15 a.m. Celebrations
Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.
Communion is served every Sunday and
Wednesday

Secretary's Office Hours

Monday through Thursday —
8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m.—3:30 p.m.

Friday—8:30 a.m.—Noon



Check inside for more information on these upcoming January events.

January 14—National Youth Gathering Fundraiser

**January 26-28—Camp Onomia Elementary
“Winter Chill”**

**January 28—Parent Sunday and CAMP DAY with
Camp Onomia**

January 28—Youth are ringing or singing at 10:15

January 30—Small Group Leader Training

FYI on upcoming February events:

February 11—Noon—Annual Congregational Meeting

February 18—11:15 AED Training in Fellowship Hall

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

November 16, 2017 @ 6:30 pm

Attendance: Kim McDonald, Tammie Walker, Dianne Elsenpeter, Tony Smith, Dan Lofgren, Amanda Noaeill, Steve VanHooser, Pastor Paul Brown, Jerome DeMars, Sue VanHooser and Steph Collins.

Devotions: Amanda Noaeill

Call to Order @ 6:32pm

Approval of Agenda - Amanda Noaeill made a motion to approve the agenda, Dan Lofgren seconded, motion was approved.

Review of Board Minutes:

Mission & Outreach - Minutes were handed out at the meeting for review.

Youth & Family - Minutes sent out online.

Facilities & Properties - Minutes sent out online. There was some discussion about some items going missing lately such as ties for quilts and recently purchased spices.

Worship & Congregational Life - Minutes sent out online. Next step to verifying membership is to determine what to do with those we can't get in contact with.

Stewardship Committee - Discussed the 16.5% increase in expecting giving for 2018. We will need to look at adding to the Constitution at the annual meeting for this committee.

Treasurer's Report - The first report from our new software was reviewed. It is much easier to read however there are still a few things that need to be edited. The report gives a good summary of bills to pay, savings, balances, expenses and income.

Pastor's Report - Reviewed Pastor Paul's report.

Youth Director's Report - Reviewed Sue VanHooser's report. The Middle School Gathering this weekend was highlighted.

Old Business:

Youth Director's Office - Ongoing.

Welcome Center - Should continue after the first of the year.

Sex Offender Policy - Ongoing.

Wedding Coordinator Position - No applications yet.

Defibrillator - Need a date to set up a training session. Tammie Walker has the contact information. Tammie will contact him asking about a training opportunity between services on a Sunday, and also get the trainer's opinion on where to install the machine. Once that has been selected we will ask Ken Henchen to install it.

Office Reorganization - The Executive Team needs to plan end of year evaluations of employees.

2018 Budgets - All Board meeting is coming up to discuss the 2018 budget on November 28th at 6pm.

Nominating Committee - Pastor Paul will convene the committee and set up the first meeting. The two outgoing Council members that will serve on this committee is Steph Collins and Kim McDonald.

Carpet \$2900 - We have a bid from Corrow's in Milaca. The painting will be done by Pastor Paul and Kathy Carlson. A motion was made from Tammie Walker for the funds for this to come from the undesignated memorial fund. Dianne Elsenpeter seconded, motion was approved.

New furnaces \$7000 - This is an estimate to replace four furnaces with two furnaces and remove the existing chimney that is leaning. Amanda Noaeill made a motion to spend up to \$7000 from the Wedding and Funeral fund to replace a furnace and remove the existing chimney, Kim McDonald seconded, the motion was approved.

Youth Info Center Chair Purchase - Back in September the Council approved the purchase from Ikea for furniture in that area. Option has changed due to the previous choice going out of stock. We have another options as described by Sue VanHooser and spend no more than before. Dan Lofgren made a motion to approve spending no more than \$500 out of the undesignated memorial fund, Jerome DeMars seconded. The motion was approved.

New Business:

Principal Reduction Sign - Discussion around removing or keeping the signs up as there have been some members who have questioned having them up any longer. Tammie Walker will follow up with those who were a part of the principal reduction team and then get them taken down if possible.

New Light bulbs - \$1100 was spent on the new light bulbs in the Fellowship Hall, which was paid for by Jerry Randall. We will get almost half back in the form of rebates to repay Jerry. Tammie Walker made a motion to repay Jerry Randall the rest of the expense \$650 from undesignated memorial funds, Dianne Elsenpeter seconded, the motion was approved.

Devotions for Next Meeting: Jane Miller

Closing Prayer

Adjourn - Amanda Noaeill made a motion to adjourn at 8:23pm, Kim McDonald seconded, motion was approved.

Next Meeting: December 21, 2018 @ 6:30pm

From the Pastor

The month of January marks the beginning of a new year and therefore presents us with an opportunity to begin anew as it were. It was once thought that January was named after the Roman god of beginnings, gates, transitions, time, duality, doorways, passages, and endings. Janus is depicted as having two faces, looking to the future and to the past.

That's what we do, don't we. The two faces of January give us the opportunity to look to the past year and to the coming year. As a church we look to the past year and what has taken place to help inform our future and the course of our ministry of God's work in the world.

As I look back at the past year I can see a lot that has taken place in the life of Immanuel Church. We have established a new mission statement and a set of core values. We just completed a very successful stewardship emphasis with our Consecration Sunday and a significant increase in our pledged giving. We began, once again, our Wednesday night worship involving several of our musicians led by Jane Miller. This past summer 24 young people were involved in the Summer Splash program for eight weeks with a mix of service and social activities. We were involved in a collaborative Vacation Bible School with Trinity Lutheran Church which proved to be quite successful. These are just a few examples of what took place this past year.

As we look forward to the coming year there are several things we can see happening. There will be new small groups cropping up here and there sparked by a small group leaders training session driven by people's passions. One of these small groups will be the starting up of a new drama troupe here at Immanuel. As we continue to set goals for our future and what God wants us to be about we will look for ways in which we can "invite, grow, and go" as we are centered in Christ's love.

I would like to conclude my article by sharing a brief personal story with you. On Sunday morning, December 31st I woke up early to go to the church. The temperature was -20 degrees Fahrenheit and my car wouldn't start. I had to take Brenda's car. Later, that evening, a friend of mine came over with some jumper cables to try and start the car. It would not turn over. The next day, New Year's Day, the

temperature wasn't getting any warmer but my brother-in-law, Ron, helped me get and install a new battery. The car started right off.

The new battery created the needed charge to get the engine to turn-over and get started for my car to move once again. It took energy, some determination, and yes, some money to get the car to run again. We might feel stalled, sluggish, or slow to get motivated to move. But with the help of the Spirit, we can be motivated to move forward toward the direction God would have us go.

I happen to believe that we have the talent in our congregation to move forward with our goals for the coming year. I also happen to believe that we have the money, the resources, as well. The spark that gets us motivated, believing together, that God can use us to move forward in our mission is the work of the Spirit in, with, and around us.

Thank you for sharing the ministry with me this past year. I look forward to see what God has in store for us in the coming year. †

Greetings from your Church Treasurer. God is good!

Here is an update for you on Immanuel's financial health as we begin this new year... we have:

1. paid all of the *General Operating* bills
2. moved the Synod Payment off of the records for the time being, which we will visit again at the Annual Meeting
3. received 96% of the budgeted amount for 2017 when all donations were totaled
4. spent 101% of our estimated expenditures
5. updated our financial software to Quickbooks which gives us the ability for multiple users direct deposit payroll and online bill paying
6. sent \$23,344.36 to *Pay Down the Debt* principal portion of our mortgage
7. added a *Give Now* button to our web page
8. conducted a successful Stewardship Drive
9. partially completed the auditing
10. continued to tighten up our financial records

As the Body of Christ we do our best, keeping in mind that it is *His* will and not our own that lasts. A huge THANK YOU needs to go out to all who have contributed monetarily and also with their willingness to serve. Continue to keep Immanuel in your prayers as we move to serve our Lord in 2018.



In my January 2017 Epistle article I wrote about creating new “endings” for Immanuel’s youth and family ministry. I quoted Ted Johnson’s ideas about how to make congregations more youth friendly. The annual report is where you can read the complete summary of what our youth and family programming looked like in 2017. But upon reflecting what are the “new endings” we created this past year and have we become more youth friendly? A couple things come to mind.

Johnson says...

Give youth opportunities to learn and then perform tasks that are valued within the congregation. Involve youth in meaningful ways beyond their contribution as workers.

We changed our confirmation expectations in grades 7 & 8 to include participation in worship opportunities. Not just acolyting, but all roles needed in worship. We also provided service team leaders with a list of all 7-12 youth so they can be asked to participate, not just their parents.

Have you noticed their participation?

Have you told them how important it is to see them participating in worship?

Look for opportunities to affirm youth. Send them the message that they are special and essential to you and to the congregation.

For those of you who have done this, **they noticed!**

How about their participation outside of

Immanuel, have you acknowledged something you saw they did in school or the community?

3. Nurture meaningful relationships with youth. Each youth in your congregation should have at least five adults who show interest in them personally and provide a wise, caring and consistent presence in their lives.

Our confirmation mentor program assures us that our middle school youth have a confirmation guide and a mentor. That is two, can we do more?

What about high school youth?

There was a great deal of positive feedback about the Christmas program. I heard many times, “It was so nice to see all generations involved!” This kind of activity checks all the youth friendly boxes above. Being more “multigenerational” is a philosophy more than just a string of activities. So as we enter a new year I pray we continue to make our youth and family programming meaningful to not just youth but bring together all generations. Sue

Director of Ministries with Children, Youth & Families
Immanuel Lutheran Church
suev200@gmail.com

Upcoming January Events!

14 **Caramel Roll Sunday**- National Youth Gathering Fundraiser



26-28 **Camp Onomia**- Elementary "Winter Chill" Camp (Register by 1/22)



28 **Parent Sunday**- **CAMP DAY!** Come and find out about Camp Onomia Summer Programming



28 **Ringling Bells or Singing 10:15**



Small-Group Leaders

Small Group Leader Training Tuesday, January 30th at 6:30 pm

According to David Stark and Patrick Keifert in their book, *Launch and Lead Your Own Small Group*, their definition of a small group is: “A Small Group is an intentional face-to-face gathering varying in size and meeting regularly together to accomplish an agreed-upon Christian purpose.”

There are small groups that exist in our church already, anywhere from Bible study groups to quilters, pie bakers, and BeFrienders. There are many others as well but this past year we put into place some stated goals to help accomplish our mission and one of those goals was to grow small groups. There are a variety of small groups. There are service groups, skills –development groups, social action groups, enrichment and education groups, self-help groups, support groups, learning groups, social groups, and leisure and recreation activities groups. This list is not exhaustive but is a wide-range of groups that already exist in our church or give some possibilities for the kinds of groups that are needed.

There are many small group leaders already within our church and those who are potential leaders. A small group leader according to Stark and Keifert, once again, is this: “A small group leader is someone who is committed to guiding and managing the group toward the purpose the members have agreed upon.”

Because we want to raise up successful small groups that will have a positive effect upon its members it’s important to have leaders who are passionate about the small group they wish to lead and with the tools that they need to feel confident about leading a small group. This is why we are offering a Small Group Leader Training session
Tuesday, January 30th at 6:30 pm at Immanuel

If you have, or someone you know, has a passion or an interest in starting a small group, come to the leadership training. Some ideas of some of the small groups that have arisen in other churches have been book clubs, support group for parents of toddlers, support group for parents of teenagers, support group for those experiencing grief, a cooking group, a writers group, a motorcycle group, a runners group, a craft group, a diners group for single persons, to name several.

If you are interested in starting a small group please sign up at the church office, call the church office, or email Pastor Paul. †



National Youth Gathering Update!!!

Happy New Year from our NYG youth and chaperones! December was a busy month for us with the Cookie Walk which was a huge success thanks to many of you who either donated or bought cookies or both. A special thank you to our Grandma’s who started Grandma’s Candy Corner. What a wonderful addition to the Cookie Walk.

The month of January brings us to payment #2 that is due, more information received from the Synod regarding items we need and should be bringing with us, possibly meetings with our bus mates (from Trinity in Princeton & Milaca) and further work on fundraising. We look next to planning the Heart to Heart dinner in February which will be here before we know it. We hope you will join us at the dinner and continue to support these kids on their faith journey and enjoy some entertainment and a delicious meal at the same time.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for this group as we stay busy working towards the Gathering in June.

Blessings, Pastor Paul Brown & Steph Collins



The following people have signed up to provide Altar Flowers for January.

- Jan. 7—Dale & Judy Mueller
- 14—Ken & Pat Gustafson
- 21—Tom & Charlotte Meinz
- 28—Connie Blockhus

Payment of \$20 can be left at the church office. Please be sure to mark your payment for Altar Flowers. †

Altar flower providers: If you are going to take the flowers home following worship, please leave the empty vases on the cabinet in front of the office window.

AED TRAINING

When: February 18th
 Where: Immanuel Fellowship Hall
 Time: 11:15-12:15



IMMANUEL'S RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

Through December 31, 2017

* * * * *

Total Worship Attendance.....1,083
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Total Current Actual Income\$35,795.96
 Simply Giving Income..... 2,967.57
 Special December Offering..... 5,545.00
 Total December Income\$44,308.53

2016 Monthly Budget Expense.....\$25,597.00
 Income Overage.....\$18,711.53



JOY Luncheon

We are in need of volunteers to carry on our traditional JOY luncheon in the new year. The target date for the next one would be February 14, 2018. One of our members would like to donate beets and 6 pounds of ground turkey. Please consider getting 4 to 5 people to make this happen. Contact the church office if you are interested. †

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 • **Have you ever wished to explore your**
 • **relationship with Christ? On March 1-4 and**
 • **March 8-11 two members of our**
 • **congregation will be participating in a Via de**
 • **Cristo weekend and would love to sponsor**
 • **members of Immanuel. If you are**
 • **interested please see Pastor Paul for more**
 • **details.**
 •

• **Purpose of Via de Cristo**
 • Via de Cristo is based on the fundamentals of
 • Christianity, concentrating on the person and
 • teachings of Jesus Christ. The focus is not on Via de
 • Cristo itself, but on the local church. The
 • objective of the movement is to inspire, challenge
 • and equip local church members for Christian
 • action in their homes, churches and communities.

• **What happens on a Via de Cristo weekend?**
 • A Via de Cristo weekend is three days in length,
 • beginning on Thursday evening and ending the
 • following Sunday evening. The participants live,
 • study, worship and commune together daily.
 • Fourteen talks are given, nine by lay people and five
 • by clergy. Following each talk, small round
 • table discussions focus on the main points of the
 • talk and a poster is drawn. The talks, in an
 • overlapping fashion, present the Christian life,
 • based on the person and teachings of Jesus
 • Christ. The titles of these talks indicate their
 • content: Via de Cristo gives those attending a living
 • understanding of basic Christian truths. There is
 • music and singing, food and fellowship, a time
 • for laughter and for prayer.

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With gratitude . . .

This thank you was received before Elaine's passing:
 Thank you to all our dear friends at Immanuel for so much
 love and prayers and concerns. You are so very special to
 us. A special thank you to my Circle. The basket of
 flowers is spectacular beyond anything I have seen. Still
 looks nice. When I am gone, I will take so many memories
 with me and hope you will have a little corner of your
 heart for me too. My writing is shaky but I am doing very
 well at my daughter's. I pray that God will bless and keep
 you in His grace.
 Curt and Elaine Legwold †

I wish to thank the Pie Bakers I worked with over the
 years. A great group.
 Our goal was pies every Thursday, 16 weeks plus each year.
 We did it ! Continue on.
 With gratitude, Wilma Heinks. †

The staff and students of WOW Kids (Worship on
 Wednesday Kids) would like to thank the Rumelva Lodge,
 Sons of Norway for their generous donation of snacks and
 juice for our afterschool program. †

Dear Friends of the Princeton Pantry, Thank you for
 your donation of 91 items for the months of September
 through October. We appreciate your thoughtfulness. The
 Pantry would not exist if it weren't for thoughtful people
 like you. Thanks again! The Princeton Pantry Board of
 Directors. †