

"God With Us"



And they will call Him  
Immanuel -  
"God With Us"  
Matthew 1:23

A monthly newsletter from Immanuel Lutheran Church and School

# Immanuel Messenger

From Pastor Vrudny

February, 2016

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

*We, the people of Immanuel Lutheran Church, in joyful response to all that our gracious God has done for us, seek to glorify God by bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people.*

**We have GOOD NEWS! Jesus is ALIVE and LOVES YOU!**



## Immanuel Lutheran School

*Where Faith & Education Meet*

A **Child** nurtured in a **Christian** Lutheran setting will be **Prepared** to live a **Joyful**, productive, God-pleasing **Life**.

*Quality Christian education open to all children  
Preschool through Grade 8*



*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven ... a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance ..."*  
Ecclesiastes 3

From some people's perspective the **Season of Lent** is rather drab

and depressing. Some churches do not recognize Lent as anything special. But from very early New Testament times, this season has been one of the most important for God's people. Why is this 40-day period of penitential reflection and meditation so vital for the Lord's Church? {remember, you & I are His living 'Church'} It's because our life still swirls around the **reality of sin** – that which separates us from God. To pretend that life is *only* "happy, happy, happy" is to deny the reality of sin & evil; and eventually people get tired of 'pretend', and they will not respect or believe a church that tries

to ignore reality. No, we can't pretend trouble away! We have to be able to face it squarely; and with a real weapon endure it and defeat it.

The focus God has given to His Church, therefore, is his own weapon and champion: Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Even the Good News of God's promised and accomplished free gift of eternal life in Christ does not erase the reality of our sin this side of heaven. In fact, acknowledging Jesus affirms that we're still surrounded by sin and



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Contact information for Pastor Vrudny: [pastorvrudny@gmail.com](mailto:pastorvrudny@gmail.com) or  
Cell: 612-390-4935 ☪ Home: 218-547-4720

## Joy—Good Medicine

*A joyful heart is good medicine; a crushed spirit dries up the bones. – Proverbs 17:22*



After just recovering from a terrible winter cold and flu, I was thinking about the verse above. Did you ever think about what God has in his medicine cabinet? NOTHING! Imagine that! We would never need "Part B" for our drug coverage—and we wouldn't be penalized if we didn't want it. Well, God's Word tells us that a joyful heart is good medicine. And it's a free GIFT! So... how do we get that joy when we don't feel good? Or when we are living in conflict? Or when we are lonely?

Well, one way is to experience the beauty and goodness all around us. God's creation is full of sights, sounds, smells, and things to touch. Read Psalm 104 sometime! Imagine God inviting us to take it all in with him—riding with him on the clouds in his chariot – or on the wings of the wind! We were created to reflect, rejoice and celebrate His goodness!

Another way to get joy is to recognize that God gives us the gift of joy! In Hebrews it tells us that Jesus was able to accomplish all he did for the "joy that was set before him." We have that same joy waiting for us! When we want good medicine, we can reach for the joy that brings us to the Giver of Joy, our Heavenly Father! There will be times when we all need "good medicine". It's my prayer that we can encourage each other along the way with Holy Spirit joy (it is a spiritual fruit, you know). And I say a joyful HALLELUJAH to that!

## Opportunities For Worship



- ✦ **Sunday Worship**—We worship God each Sunday at 9:00 AM and celebrate The Lord's Supper the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month. Remember to invite your family member, your new neighbor or a friend to worship with you. They are welcome, wanted and needed!
- ✦ **Lutheran Hour Ministries**—Lutheran Hour Ministries can be heard on Sunday mornings at 6:05 AM on WCCO 830, 12:30 PM on KDHL 920, or 5 PM Sundays on KTIG 102.7.
- ✦ **The Lutheran Hour Ministries** has expanded into additional markets. The Lutheran Hour is now available: online, MP3, Podcast, Sirius XM Satellite Radio. For local broadcast information visit [www.lutheranhour.org](http://www.lutheranhour.org)
- ✦ **College Students**—Students don't leave home without Him! Connect with your Campus Church now or contact: [www.lcmscampus.org](http://www.lcmscampus.org).

## Opportunity For Bible Study

*Great discussions! Wonderful discoveries! Good friendships! Everyone welcome, wanted and needed!*

**Sunday Morning Bible Study:** Fill up your coffee cup and join a group right after Sunday Worship from 10:30—11:30, in the Fellowship Hall. Your input is valued. You will be blessed and be a blessing to us!

**Youth Study:** 5th—12th Graders meet by the Church Library after church each Sunday—except during summer months.

**Men's Bible Study** each Thursday morning at 8:30 am in the back of the sanctuary. All men are encouraged and invited to attend for the lively, informative discussion!



**Women's Bible Study** every Thursday morning at 8:30 am, meeting now at the church library. We would love to have you join us as we share God's Word and fellowship with one another.

**E-DiBS** will electronically deliver to you a daily Bible study where we will go book by book, verse by verse and have a short explanation and application for better understanding. Sign up by contacting the Church office by phone, email or in person. This service is free

because of a generous donation. For more information visit: [www.e-dibs.org](http://www.e-dibs.org).

## Opportunity For Supporting Our Church & School



**Will You Help?** Stop by the bulletin board in the entry hall to read ways to help support our church. Immanuel receives many small to medium sized bills during the month. Some larger bills have been divided into smaller amounts in order to encourage members to "chip in". The Board of Stewardship would like to thank those who have helped already and would like to ask the rest of the congregation, "Will You Help, too?"

**Do you have a Thrivent product?** Do you have Choice Dollars to direct? You could use you Choice Dollars to support our Lutheran School or Congregation.

The Thrivent Choice® program is a charitable grant program that allows members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes a portion of its charitable grant funds each year. Eligible benefit members can help direct Thrivent Choice Dollars to thousands of nonprofit organizations, including congregations.

You may be eligible for dollars to support your congregation, your Lutheran school, or another nonprofit. Your dollars are based on insur-

ance premiums or contract values. Funds granted to you, if not used, have expiration dates-so stay current on funds you may have and assign them.

If you are an eligible member, please consider our Lutheran School or Immanuel Congregation when directing Choice Dollars.

To learn more about Thrivent Choice, visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice). Or call Thrivent at 800-847-4836, and say "Thrivent Choice" when prompted. It's helpful to know your account number, but not necessary.

As of August 31, 2015 only 7 people out of 22 have directed their dollars. So far \$1093 dollars have been directed. Last year the total was \$2386. Think about the needs you know of for the school or church, or another nonprofit, and how these dollars could help.

Karen Sellner, one of your volunteer congregational coordinators for Thrivent.



**The church needs paper towels and coffee.**

Continued from page 1

tempted by it. We still fall into sins; which means we continually – daily - return to our constant need for forgiveness, which we don't deserve, and which required so high a price, paid on the cross – the cross of Lent.

In holding high our Lenten Season, we are not trying to take away our joy as Christians. Rather, we are preserving our real joy in the Savior Jesus, as based in the reality of our continued need of Him. In a way, more than at other times of the year, we are "given permission" to humbly & silently come before the Lord's altar with sorrow and contrition, and receive His forgiveness and peace.

The Lord's reality is reflected in Ecclesiastes 3. Our life is not always filled with the feelings of "praise & thanksgiving", or the desire to laugh or dance. We also have our times when the road is long and our burdens are heavy, and we join Jesus Himself in earthly tears. We know that a light heart or a smiling face is not the whole story of the Christian's life. The season of Lent recognizes the fact that there is more

real joy in times of repentance & forgiveness than there is in those times of happy praise and laughter. The Christian learns to balance and appreciate everything in its season.

A mother was once asked that if she could re-live any moment of her son's

*"Would it surprise you to hear that our Heavenly Father's greatest joy is not in watching us succeed and be happy in praise & thanksgiving, but in hearing our confession, and in saving us by His mercy, and in showing us His strong care and compassion in our troubles?"*

life with all its feeling, which kind of moment would she choose? Would it be one when she was so proud that he had won an important event, or was rewarded for a spectacular achievement? No. The mother thought that the moment she would enjoy most again was when her son had failed in some way, and had come sorrowful and crying to her arms for forgiveness and comfort.

Would it surprise you to hear that our Heavenly Father's greatest joy is not in

watching us succeed and be happy in praise & thanksgiving, but in hearing our confession, and in saving us by His mercy, and in showing us His strong care and compassion in our troubles? Since our fall into sin, God's glory and delight is in showing us mercy!

Please prepare your schedule now so that you can join us on Wednesday evenings for some 'real' time of penitential reflection. We will meditate on some aspects of the Parables of Jesus and see how they speak of Him and His saving work for us. And then we will be fully prepared to celebrate Easter in real and heartfelt joy!

--- pastor vrudny

**THANK YOU** for your Christmas blessings to our family! Your kind cards, words of encouragement and gifts were very generous and we are blessed to be here as part of this family of faith. May the Lord, who has brought us together, continue to strengthen us to work & live together for the good of His Kingdom! Our love in Christ to you, **Pastor, Bonnie, & Eve.**

### Prayer Corner

#### Health Concerns & Other Issues:

- ✚ Kristin Anderson (daughter of Linda Daniel)
- ✚ Marie Bakker
- ✚ Liz Dahn (Recuperating at home)
- ✚ Clark (Skip) Daniel
- ✚ Linda Daniel
- ✚ Jim Eklund (Golden Living Room 116)
- ✚ Ron Geiser (Husband of Sis Geiser)
- ✚ Mary Jensen (shoulder surgery, friend of school)
- ✚ Delores Kastning (mother of Wayne & Pat)
- ✚ Trevor Lindahl
- ✚ Jim Loewen
- ✚ Carla Morgenstern (friend of Darin & Corina Bronczyk)



- ✚ Deborah Peterson (Mike Keske's sister)
- ✚ Randy Schmidtke
- ✚ Leroy Strand (Chemo treatments)
- ✚ The family of Ron Sugar (pancreatic/liver cancer, Morgan Schmidtke's teacher)
- ✚ Charlie Thompson (back surgery)
- ✚ Becky Whalen (mother of Cindy Schmidtke, accident)

**Prayers of Comfort:** For the families who have had loved ones who have passed away.

**Missions:** Immanuel Lutheran School; Bethany and Victor Herron—Missionaries to Central Asia (Carol Gustafson's daughter)

### From the Congregation President

We had our annual meeting. All of the Boards and Committees submitted their annual reports summarizing their activities. If you would like a copy of the reports, please contact our church office and a copy will be sent to you.

We adopted an updated "Marriage Policy" and a "Funeral Policy." Both are affirming what we have had in place for quite some time. However with the changes in what is acceptable in the secular world, we felt it appropriate to restate what we believe and practice.

Our new officers were installed and we will be working on our goals for 2016 at our next Council meeting. We would



appreciate any thoughts you may have about what our focus or emphasis should be in the coming year or perhaps there are some changes that you feel should be made. Whatever you think, please contact me or any of our Officers or Elders and tell us what you think. Your input and comments are valuable to us.

Thank you for your support and prayers.

In His and your service,

Tim Duin

### LWML Update

To all LWML LADIES:

Please note that this month's LWML meeting (actually our first of 2016) will be held on a less than 'usual' date. February is a very busy month this year, with Lenten services beginning—as well as our congregation's commitment at the Walker food shelf every Tuesday. If you can help out at the food shelf, be sure to sign up in the office or at least check to find out if more help is needed on any February Tuesday.

While you're at it, be sure to mark your calendar for those Lenten services on Wednesday. The second Wednesday, February 17th, LWML will be serving the meal before services.

As for our meeting date, we will be meeting at church on Thurs-

day, February 18th, at 10:00 – shortly after the women's Thursday morning Bible study. We will hold our business meeting at that time and then carpool or caravan over to Joann Loewen's home for a noon meal. Please join us. It would be extremely helpful for Joann's preparations if we could get a head count for that day. Either let me or Joann know your intentions.

Thanks!

Meg Duin



Remember—ALL Immanuel women are already members of LWML! We invite you to attend the meetings. You are all welcome, wanted and needed!

### Men of Immanuel



The Men of Immanuel will meet Saturday, February 13 at 8 am in the fellowship hall at church. There will be a devotion, short meeting, fellowship and a great breakfast served by Ed Thue and Dick Kruger.

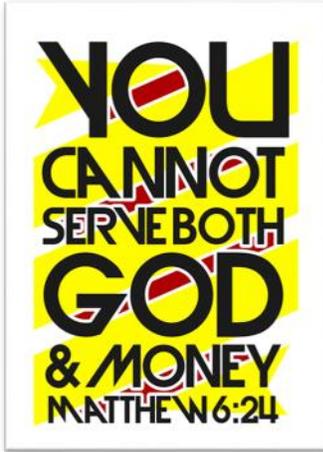
The coffee will be on please come and join us.

## Stewardship

### Whom or What Do We Serve?

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "You cannot serve both God and Money" (Matthew 6:24). Either God or money will be our master.

Unfortunately, we may be devoted to our money and the things it can buy and not even realize it. Will anyone actually say, "I serve money"? No, serving money is a subtle problem. The love of money pushes God to the periphery. When that happens, our time, energy, and commitment are focused on worldly things. The Apostle Paul wrote, "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money have wandered from



the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs" (1 Timothy 6:10).

There is a story about a pastor who boarded a bus and handed the driver a \$10 dollar bill for his fare. The driver counted out change for a 20 instead of a 10. Thus, he gave the pastor \$10 too much. At first the pastor thought to himself, "My, how God does provide!" While riding along, he rationalized how he needed the money more than the bus company, but then his conscience began to be troubled. As he stepped off the bus, the pastor held out the change to the driver and said, "Here, you made a mistake and gave me too much money." The driver smiled and said, "It really wasn't a mistake. I was

in your church last Sunday and heard you preach about the love of money. When I saw you getting on the bus, I decided to see whether you really meant what you said."

All of us have faced similar situations where we have received too much change or been given something that doesn't belong to us. How did you respond? Through God's grace, we have been given the faith to do what is right. When we spend time in God's Word and Sacraments, He works in us and through us to keep our hearts close to Him, and we can withstand the temptations that money causes. When we handle our money faithfully, God receives the glory.

**Blessings on your stewardship journey!**

## Finances

### General Offerings:

December Offerings = \$11,108.04  
 Total Expenses = \$12,129.71  
 Shortage = \$1,021.67

### Building Fund (Mortgage Payment)

November Offerings = \$1,250.00  
 Mortgage Payment = \$2,227.63  
 Shortage = \$977.63

It was necessary to transfer \$1900 from the Steward account to the general fund to meet mid-month expenses. Steward balance was \$27,827.70 Dec. 31.

### School Finances:

12/1/15-12/31/15 income = \$20,528.87  
 12/1/15-12/31/15 expense = \$16,732.27  
 Actual income & expense – loan amounts removed)  
 Lines of credit balance owed as of 1/4/15 = \$38,920



**The Endowment Fund** for Immanuel Lutheran Church and School has been set up at the First National Bank in Walker. If you are interested in contributing to this fund, serving on the governing board for this fund, or want more information, stop in the office.

## Board of Education

**Thank You:** Thank you all for your continued support for the school through our Annual Fund Drive "Touching Lives Forever" as well as volunteering your time and talents. A big thank you to those who came out and enjoyed a meal or ice cream treat at the DQ in Walker on January 19th. There was a lot of good fellowship and good food enjoyed by all who came! Thank you for supporting our school.

**Finances:** The Board continues to look at our budget and finances in an effort to make sure we are doing everything we can to reduce our budget deficit. We ask for your prayers for the school, as well as your continued support.

**Thrivent Action Team:** The school has been utilizing the Thrivent Action Team

funds for various events and fundraisers. These funds have allowed us to maximize how much we make at our fundraisers, as



well as providing funds for events, advertising expenses, supplies, etc. that would have been paid out of our budget. If you are interested in applying for Action Team

funds for a school event, please contact Pat Kastning or Karen Sellner.

### Upcoming Events:

- ♥ Bible Bowl on February 20th (Saturday). It is a fun event and is an opportunity to help for a few hours and possibly learn new Bible facts in the process! Contact Janna Kietzman if you would like to volunteer for a few hours.
- ♥ Beef Stew/Chili Cook-Off/Silent Auction on March 20th (Sunday). Reserve that date for an evening of good food, fun and music plus the opportunity to purchase some great auction items!

## Opportunities to Help the School

**RECYCLING:** Immanuel School can now recycle your old cell phones. Just drop them at the office or deposit them with the ink jet cartridges.

**On-Line Search:** Immanuel School has signed up as a charity on [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com). Every time you use this search engine, they donate 1 cent to our school. Please choose Immanuel Lutheran School as your charity when it asks you, "Who do you "Goodsearch" for?"

**Amazon Smile:** Take advantage of the Amazon Smile Program with your Amazon orders and help the school! Simple. Anyone who signs up for Amazon Smile and chooses the school for their charity will automatically contribute 0.5% if their purchase of most items to the school! You can sign up at: <http://smile.amazon.com>



**Scrip Orders:** The school's scrip program is a great way for parents, grandparents, family and friends to help pay for tuition! 50% of each scrip order's profit may be designated toward a student's tuition. Many retailers participate in the gift card program and also offer ScripNow, where certificates can be downloaded from your account through orders placed online at [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com). Scrip packets are available by the office. New order deadline: 10th of each month. Contact Kelly Schmidtke (547-1080) with any questions.



The Immanuel School children singing during the worship service on January 24 for National Lutheran School Week.

## “War Room” - Movie Night

### Movie Night!

Our church will be featuring  
**“War Room”,**  
**the movie, on Friday evening,**  
**February 12th at 6:30 pm.**  
**(No charge.)**

This is for our entire congregation,  
 although it may be most appropriate for those  
 6th grade and older.

Plan on bringing a family, friend, or neighbor!

This is a wonderful movie about  
 the power of prayer!



## Veteran's Bracelet Fundraiser

*For anyone interested in supporting our military and local community:*

The Hackensack American Legion Auxiliary has “The American Veteran” wrist story bracelet available for \$5.00 each. The 12 wood tiles include the US Flag, Liberty, US Army, Freedom Bell, MIA-POW, Navy, I Support Veterans, Marines, I support America’s Veterans, Air Force, Strength and U. S. Coast Guard.

Each tile is separated by two beads with durable stretch string construction.

Please contact Nancy Albrecht, 675-5211 if you are interested in a bracelet.

Proceeds from the bracelets support veterans, active military and community.



## Secret Servant

Thank you **Ed Thue** for bringing in the large supply of garbage bags and napkins. You are appreciated for ALL you do—and for being such an encouragement to many!

Also thank you to secret servant helper for the school, **Richard Schmidt** and wife who brought in a large supply of kleenex and toilet paper. We are grateful for your contribution!



*Yes, God is keeping track of the “good deeds” you do in private. However, if you see someone doing something “in secret”, let the church office know so we can all say thank you! The smallest thing you do is GREATLY appreciated! YOU are appreciated!*

## Walker Area Pregnancy Support Center

### LIFE. Something beautiful.

The Walker Area Pregnancy Support Center exists to provide physical and spiritual life affirming choices for women and families facing an unplanned pregnancy.

**Please be in prayer** for women (and men) making the toughest decision of their lives...and one that will affect them for the rest of their lives, no matter what they choose. Pray for them to come to know and trust God with their future and their child's life.

**Spring Fundraiser Banquet:** This year the Banquet will be on Tuesday, April 19th. Our speaker this year will be Tracie Rademacher. Please save the date now—and be ready to invite friends. This is always a night of inspiration and encouragement. If you have never hosted a table, this would be a perfect opportunity! Please call the office for more information: 218-547-5433!

#### Other Prayer Requests:

- ♥ Please be in prayer for our Center as we begin discussions to see if we should be open more hours including some evening hours in order to better serve our demographic area.
- ♥ Please be in prayer for those who would step up to be Mentors in our new program - "Mentors for Moms" which would work something like the Kinship program but based on the scripture: Titus 2:3-6
- ♥ Please pray for our new "Relationship Educational and Leadership" outreach curriculum, (Teaching the skills and Strategies to Build Healthy Connections) which will be



available in the new year for public settings as well as homeschool settings and youth groups.

**Needs:** We are in need of winter clothing sizes 12m-2T.

**Abortion Recovery:** Recently shocking videos have been released about Planned Parenthood selling fetal body parts. If you or someone close to you have an abortion experience in their past, these videos may bring up unexpected feelings of sorrow, confusion, grief, anger or shock. These feelings are normal after being reminded of a traumatic event. If you believe you or someone you know is experiencing unwanted emotions associated with a past abortion, please stop in or give us a call. We offer abortion recovery support and help with healing after abortion. A 10 week study, Forgiven & Set Free will begin soon. Please call for more information.

**Teal's Market:** Keep those Teal's Market Receipts coming in. We get a 1% donation for each one we turn in.

**"LIKE" us on Facebook:** Please find us on Facebook for ministry updates and then be sure to "Like" us.

**Prayer Partner:** If you would like your email to be included in our list of Monthly prayer calendars (and impromptu prayer concerns throughout the month) please email: walkerpssc@arvig.net.

**Location:** The pregnancy center is located at 507 Front Street in Walker. Hours: Monday through Thursday, 11 AM to 4PM. Our phone is: 218-547-LIFE (5433). Our mailing address: P O BOX 1527, Walker, MN 56484—and our email is: walkerpssc@arvig.net.

Your continued prayers and support are greatly appreciated!

## Lutheran Island Camp

Our Junior Counselor program is changing in 2016. Teens 14 years of age and older are invited to participate as junior counselors and as teen servants. All junior Counselors and Teen Servants are asked to sign up for one of the Christ Serve Leadership Training Programs held in June. Junior Counselors focus their volunteer time on program support and may help at camp or in our off-camp Day Camp program. Servants with a Task support camp by helping with the Horse Outreach Program, maintenance and lawn care, and the waterfront. April 1st is the deadline to apply.

Go to [www.islandcamp.org](http://www.islandcamp.org) for more information.



### February Celebrations

### Anniversaries

2/8 Gordy & Liz Dahn (58 years)

2/21 Brad & Angie Thompson (12 years)



### Birthday

2/2 Helen Paulsen

2/2 Aiden Salvhus (6)

2/2 Dominic Schmidtke (5)

2/4 Kristina Harder (18)

2/4 Lilly Schmidtke (6)

2/9 Sis Geiser

2/9 Don Taschner

2/12 Clark Daniel

2/13 Jim Loewen

2/18 Warren Anderson

2/19 George Johnson (86)

2/25 Matthew Salvhus (16)



### LENT starts with Ash Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Plan on coming to Immanuel for a Lenten Meal beginning at 6 pm and stay for worship at 7 pm. The first Lenten supper will be served by the



LWML with all donations of funds going to the LWML.

Immanuel School is planning on all the other Wednesday night suppers with all donations going to the Scholarship Fund of the School.

*Wednesdays—6 for Supper  
Wednesdays—7 for Worship*

Friday, February 12

Movie Night  
War Room  
6:30 PM

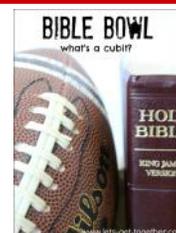


Tuesday, February 16

Family Night  
6 pm



February 20  
Immanuel School  
Bible Bowl



We want to include YOU!  
Please let the office know your special days so we can celebrate with you!

**Love  
Love  
Love**

Passionate love and a cough cannot be concealed.

Daily Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries By Pastor Ken Klaus, Speaker Emeritus of **The Lutheran Hour**
**"How the Grinch Tried to Steal Christmas from Wadena, Minnesota"**

January 14, 2016

*And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this Child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. Luke 2:16-20*

Most of you have seen the TV show, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.

Many of you may not be aware of the story which this devo has dubbed, "How the Grinch Tried to Steal Christmas from Wadena, Minnesota." That story begins with a large plaster Nativity set which had for many years been set up in the city park by the town council. Then the Grinch showed up in the form of a threatened lawsuit. The Grinch said, "No public group can put up a religious symbol in a public place." With reluctance the city fathers sold the crèche to a group of ministers who moved the display onto private property.

It seemed as if the Grinch had won.

If so, the Grinch underestimated the people of Wadena, Minnesota. Those folks thought the Grinch can steal a public Nativity, but he can't steal mine. Soon Nativities started to show up where Nativities had never been before. They appeared on front lawns and in storefront windows. From all over the country they showed up on the "Wadena Nativity Display" Facebook page, which the community set up. Although



nobody did a Nativity head count, it almost seemed as if there were more nativities than there were people in this small town.

But the folks in Whoville ... I mean Wadena ... were still not done yet.

A son of the community, a man who had moved away years before, did a study of the community's laws. He realized that the Nativity-less city park didn't have to stay that way. Wadena's bylaws allowed for individual residents to rent the town band shell for a day.

Soooooooo ... the bandshell got booked by community members. Every day the people who made those reservations came in and set up a *great, big* Nativity, and every night they took it down and delivered it to the folks who were scheduled to set it up the next day.

Mayor Deiss, who has "eight or nine" Nativities set up in his own home, has said, "I'm really proud of my town. I'm hoping we lit a little spark and the rest of the nation will catch on."

This is why I'm sharing this *grinchy* story with you.

We can do something or else we can let the Grinch try to steal Christmas from us and our town next year. We've got over 300 days to decide what we're going to do.

**THE PRAYER:** Dear Lord, there are always those who wish to silence the story of the Savior who was born to rescue us from our sins. May we be equally ready to proclaim the story of Him who died and rose to win salvation for us. In Jesus' Name I ask it. Amen.

## Board of Elders Update

We are happy to welcome Vern Black as the Board's newest Elder as of January 1, 2016.

Occasionally we have access to quality faith-based movies, and we are pleased to have one now. We will be showing the movie, "War Room" on February 12 at 6:30 in our fellowship room. This movie was in our theaters throughout the United States just over the past couple of months! The point of this movie is to proclaim the power of prayer. We would like this to be an opportunity for our congregation to consider this movie night as a community outreach. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please invite family, friends, and neighbors. There is no



charge. Let's fill our fellowship hall! We thank God for Mike Schmidtke for setting our "Immanuel Theater".

As a reminder, our Board of Elders is in place to assist our Pastor with spiritual matters in our congregation, the supervision of public worship, church discipline, and the church publication.

Our Elders are: Dick Kruger, Joel Vinkemeier, Glenn Bakeberg, Mike Schmidtke, Randy Fabian, and Vern Black. If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact any of them at any time.

Dick Kruger



**Those who love in the Lord never see each other for the last time.**



Immanuel Lutheran School  
Is hosting the Annual  
**LUTHERAN SCHOOL  
BIBLE BOWL**  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2016**  
**9:30 - 12:00**

Join us in welcoming families from our MN North District Lutheran Schools as teams of 4th - 8th grade students gather together to compete in 6 rounds of questioning.  
If you would like to help us with this event please call:  
547-4139



The Preschool & Pre-Kindergarten classes learned about China

We just finished celebrating National Lutheran Schools Week along with over 157,000 students in Lutheran schools across the country. The theme for the week was, "Life Together in Christ", based on the Bible verse from 1 Cor. 1:9, "God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

Lutheran Schools demonstrate life together every school day. Students, staff, parents, congregation members and other ministry partners gather in the name of the one who brings us together, Jesus. We give thanks to God and celebrate the opportunities that we have been given to share Jesus with a parent's most precious possession: their children. We continue to intentionally integrate the Christian faith in all subject areas and we regularly empower our students to witness about their faith in Jesus to others.

We are thankful for our life together with all of you and the support you show us in all of your wonderful ways. Continue to keep Immanuel School in your prayers and help us tell others about the good things that are happening at our school so that we can share the message of Christ's love and forgiveness to more students on a daily basis.

\* Look for photos of NLSW in the March newsletter.

**Dates to Remember**

- February 2 Preschool/Pre-K Dad's Night
- February 15 No School
- February 16 Family Night 6:00
- February 20 Bible Bowl
- March 20 Beef Stew/Chili Cook-off/silent auction



Eating with chopsticks takes great concentration



The students made flame blowing dragons for their visit to China



The Kindergarten—3rd grade students are working on snowman art



Enjoying God's gift of snow during recess

The 4th—8th grade students are reading Bible passages in Religion class



The 4th—8th grade students get a little silly and unwind after putting their heart and soul into the Christmas musical

Immanuel Lutheran Church and School

4656 State 200 NW  
Walker, MN 56484

Join us for worship on Sundays at 9

**Forwarding Service Requested**

Immanuel Messenger  
February, 2016



And they will call Him  
Immanuel  
"God With Us"

Immanuel  
Lutheran Church  
The Missouri Synod

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**218.547.3156**

School/Fax:  
**218.547.4139**

Church Website:  
[ImmanuelLutheranWalker.org](http://ImmanuelLutheranWalker.org)  
School Website  
[ImmanuelLutheranWalker.com](http://ImmanuelLutheranWalker.com)

Join Us for Worship!

You are welcome, wanted and needed!

God's  
Valentine  
to  
YOU!



John 3:16

For God so loved the world  
that He gave  
His only  
begotten  
Son,  
That whosoever  
believeth in Him  
should not perish,  
but have everlasting life.

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Whatever you do, work heartily as for the Lord, and not for man. Colossians 3:23



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## Servants in the Lord's House for February

Altar Duty: Nancy Albrecht

Greeters:

2/7 Mike & Lavonne Keske  
2/14 Jim & Linda Kolar  
2/21 Dick & Pam Kruger  
2/28 Jim & Joann Loewen

Acolytes:

2/7 Mark Salvhus  
2/14 Matthew Salvhus  
2/21 Jeffrey Schmidtke  
2/28 Jessica Schmidtke

Fellowship Servers:

2/7 Barb Vinkemeier  
2/14 Phyllis Eklund & Lori Reeve  
2/21 Karen Sellner & Marilyn Black  
2/28 Marie Bakker

Ushers:

2/7 Darrin Bronczyk & Mike Keske  
2/14 Tim Duin & Jack Hopen  
2/21 Tim Duin & Jack Hopen  
2/28 Rick Schmidtke & Mike Schmidtke

Elder: 2/7 & 2/14 Mike Schmidtke & 2/21 & 2/28 Vern Black



A huge **THANK YOU** to all who continue to serve our congregation! Bless you!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> Council Agenda Due <b>10 am</b> Elders Meet <b>7 pm</b> Board of Ed.	<b>2</b> <b>6-7pm</b> Dad's Night Preschool & Pre-K Food shelf 11am-3 pm	<b>3</b> <b>3 pm</b> Confirm.	<b>4</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Men's Bible Study <b>8:30 am</b> Women's Bible Study	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i> <b>9 am</b> Worship w/Communion <b>10 am</b> Fellowship <b>10:30</b> Sunday School <b>10:30</b> Bible Study	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:30 am Circuit Pastor's at Menahga Food shelf 11am-3 pm <b>6 pm</b> PTL <b>7 pm</b> Council Meeting	<b>10</b> <b>ASH WEDNESDAY Scrip Deadline</b>  <b>3:00 pm</b> Confirmation <b>6 pm</b> Supper <b>7 pm</b> Worship	<b>11</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Men's Bible Study <b>8:30 am</b> Women's Bible Study	<b>12</b> <b>6:30 pm</b> Movie Night @ Immanuel featuring "War Room" <b>Open to all – Invite a friend!</b>	<b>13</b> <b>8 am</b> Men of Immanuel Breakfast
<b>14</b> <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent</i> <b>9 am</b> Worship <b>10 am</b> Fellowship <b>10:30</b> Sunday School <b>10:30</b> Bible Study   <b>Valentine's Day</b>	<b>15</b> <i>President's Day</i> <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>  <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>16</b> <b>6 pm</b> Family Night Food shelf 11am-3 pm	<b>17</b> <b>3:00 pm</b> Confirmation <b>6 pm</b> Supper <b>7 pm</b> Worship	<b>18</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Men's Bible Study <b>8:30 am</b> Women's Bible Study <b>10:00 am</b> LWML followed by meal at Loewen's	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>8am</b> School Bible Bowl here
<b>21</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent</i> <b>9 am</b> Worship w/Communion <b>10 am</b> Fellowship <b>10:30</b> Sunday School <b>10:30</b> Bible Study <b>6:00 pm</b> Youth Group meet at church	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Food shelf 3:30-7 pm	<b>24</b> <b>3:00 pm</b> Confirmation <b>6 pm</b> Supper <b>7 pm</b> Worship	<b>25</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Men's Bible Study <b>8:30 am</b> Women's Bible Study	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</i> <b>9 am</b> Worship <b>10 am</b> Fellowship <b>10:30</b> Sunday School <b>10:30</b> Bible Study	<b>29</b>	<b>March 1</b>	<b>March 2</b> <b>3:00 pm</b> Confirmation <b>6 pm</b> Supper <b>7 pm</b> Worship	<b>March 3</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Men's Bible Study <b>8:30 am</b> Women's Bible Study	<b>March 4</b>	<b>March 5</b>