

## May Pastor's Letter:

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Pastor Jonathan's Contact Information:

Phone: [218-686-8836](tel:218-686-8836)

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Dear friends in Christ,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we move into May, the lectionary has us reflecting on the comforting image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In John 10:11, Jesus declares, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." This profound statement reveals the depth of Jesus' love and care for each one of us.

The Good Shepherd teaches us valuable lessons about daily living. He demonstrates the importance of selflessness and sacrificial love. Just as a shepherd lays down his life for his sheep, Jesus sacrificed himself for our salvation. In our daily lives, this teaches us to prioritize the needs of others above our own, showing compassion, kindness, and love. This is a key to the good life.

The Good Shepherd also teaches us about trust and guidance. Jesus knows his sheep, and his sheep know him. He leads them to safety and provides for their needs. Similarly, in our lives, we can trust Jesus to guide us along the right path, to protect us from harm, and to provide for all our needs.

And what spoke loudest to me this time was how the Good Shepherd teaches us about unity and community. Jesus speaks of bringing together his sheep into one flock with one shepherd. In our daily lives, this reminds us of the importance of unity within our families, communities, and the larger creation. We are called to love one another, support one another, and live in harmony, just as the Good Shepherd desires.

Let us strive to follow the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, in our daily lives, showing selflessness, trust, and unity. May his love and guidance continue to inspire and sustain us.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jonathan

**IMMANUEL TREASURER'S REPORT**

Balance 3/1/24 **\$ 5,788.34**

**INCOME:**

Offerings-Sunday	\$ 4,095.25
Offerings-VANCO	1,155.00
Thrivent Choice	154.00
Ebenezer	174.95
Foster Child	48.00
Immanuel WELCA	250.00
Bethany Lutheran	<u>4,850.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$10,727.20</b>

**EXPENSES:**

Pastor Salary	\$3,927.30
Pastor Benefits	1,515.79
Ebenezer (Bethany's Share)	1,212.50
Church Employees	758.00
VANCO Fee	16.65
World Vision (foster child)	20.00
Pulpit Supply	200.00

Church Utilities:

Ottertail Power	150.38
Garden Valley	40.74
Red Lake Co. Coop (fuel)	556.20
City water/sewage/garbage	91.00

Parsonage Utilities:

Ottertail Power	146.93
City water/sewage/garbage	138.00
Garden Valley	<u>97.58</u>

**Total Expenses** **\$ 8,871.07**

Ending Balance 3/31/24 **\$ 7,644.47**

*Debbie DuChamp, Treasurer*



**CONGRATS!**

Immanuel and Ebenezer Parish  
Congratulate the 2024 graduates.

**Sydney Fougner, Darian Newland,  
& Iver Harstad**

**EBENEZER TREASURER'S REPORT**

Beginning Balance 3/01/24 **\$ 5,711.42**

**INCOME:**

Offerings	\$ 4,103.00
Bethany	1,212.50
Donation (April-Bank)	100.00
Thrivent Choice	<u>25.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 5,440.50</b>

**EXPENSES:**

Pastor Salary	\$ 1,308.00
Pastor Mileage	162.50
Pastor Housing	250.00
Pension	255.25
Immanuel	174.95
Electricity	227.00
North Star Insurance	<u>1,773.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 4,150.70</b>

Ending Balance 3/31/24 **\$ 7,001.22**

*Gelene Lundeen, Treasurer*



**Happy Birthday to You!!**



Ross Artt	May 1
Stacey Fougner	May 3
Mary Beth Westlake	May 6
Connie Hughes	May 8
Linda Olson	May 12
Tiana Banasau	May 15
Don Hagen	May 16
Amy Erickson	May 19
Hunter Lundeen	May 19
Isaac Eskeli	May 21
Sheena Lee	May 22
Gary Anderson	May 23
Josh Brekkestran	May 24
Andrew Fougner	May 24
Todd Willett	May 25
Wade Westlake	May 26
Mary Torgerson	May 27
Katie Lundeen	May 27
Elizabeth Winkelman	May 29
Matthew Konickson	May 29
Ashley Hamm	May 30

## Electronic Giving

Immanuel offers electronic giving as a way to automate your church offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

**Electronic giving can be set up any way you choose. It could be a one-time offering or any number of times over the course of a year.**

If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year. And, when travel or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

If you are interested in electronic giving please speak with Immanuel's financial secretary Cindy Arlt or you can contact her at [carlt@qvtel.com](mailto:carlt@qvtel.com)

## Immanuel Lutheran Church April 14, 2024

### Immanuel Church Council:

Call to Order - President Lisa Thompson

Attendance: Jonathan Dodson \_x\_, Anne Traxler \_x\_, Andrea Eskeli \_x\_, Lisa Thompson \_x\_, Cindy Arlt \_x\_, Debbie DuChamp \_x\_, Isaac Eskeli \_\_, Mikayla Cervantes \_\_, Bec Willett \_x\_

Prayer: [Jonathan Dodson](#)

Secretary's Report: Church Secretary

Treasurer's Report: Church Treasurer \$7644

### Committee Reports:

**Stewardship Committee - (Lisa Thompson and Anne Traxler)**

**Education Committee - (Cindy Arlt and Mikayla Cervantes)**

**Building Committee - (Debbie Duchamp and Isaac Eskeli)**

**Worship Committee - (Bec Willett and Andrea Eskeli)**

### Old Business:

1. Update on information for the sidewalk fundraiser.
  - The breakfast was a big Success over \$4,000 taken in for the meal itself.
  - Thrivent funds paid for all of the food.
  - Redeemer is the host for the financial so checks to Immanuel need to be cashed and written to Redeemer.
  - With the addition of the bake sale, silent auction, and additional Thrivent Funds, the project should be fully funded.
  - Peggy will be sending Thank You's as well as putting it in the paper
  - Big Thank You to the Lions club. We couldn't have done it without them.
  - The sidewalk project will cost about \$8,000
  - We are hoping the sidewalk will be complete towards the end of June.

### New Business:

1. VBS will be at Bethany July 7-11, in the evening. The theme will be Christmas in July.

### Pastor Jonathan's Report:

See joint meeting minutes

Next Council Meeting: June 9th after church with flexibility

Adjournment - The Lord's Prayer

Motion to adjourn: Debbie DuChamp, Second by Cindy Arlt

*Andrea Eskeli, Secretary*

*VBS 2024 -  
SAVE THE DATE!*

Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held July 7<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> at Bethany Lutheran Church in Red Lake Falls – Hosted by Immanuel Lutheran Church. The theme is “A Christmas Celebration, there is nothing wrong with a Christmas song in the summer.”

A planning meeting will be scheduled soon to include Sunday School Teachers, volunteers from all three Churches and Pastor Dodson.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
**April 14, 2024**

**Immanuel and Ebenezer Church Joint Council:**

Call to Order - President Lisa Thompson

Attendance: Jonathan Dodson \_x\_, Anne Traxler \_x\_, Leanne Stolaas \_x\_, Lisa Thompson \_x\_, Cindy Arlt \_x\_, Monte Haugen \_x\_, Debbie DuChamp \_x\_, Andrea Eskeli \_x\_, Harlan Lundeen \_x\_, Bec Willett \_x\_, Gelene Lundeen \_x\_, Kevin Wilde \_x\_, Hogan Lundeen \_x\_, Greg Hilgeman \_x\_, Vince Lundeen \_x\_, April Lundeen \_x\_

Prayer: [Jonathan Dodson](#)

Secretary's Report: Church Secretary  
Hogan Lundeen read the minutes from the last meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Church Treasurer

Old Business:

None

New Business:

1. Workman's comp on Pastor Jonathan
  - a. The premium will be around \$300 per year
2. Restructuring Joint Council Meetings
  - a. We currently have a joint council meeting in April, one in October to set the schedule, a joint budget in November, and one three church meeting.
  - b. Is it possible to have one joint meeting since the calendar is taken care of by committees at the 3 churches meeting.
  - c. Is it possible to just bring Bethany in to set the calendar in the fall
  - d. We could put joint council and joint budget together
  - e. Ebenezer will begin the process of changing their constitution for no April joint meeting.

Pastor Jonathan's Report:

1. Reflections on new life in our parish.
  - a. Pastor Jonathan opened up to discuss the hopes and dreams for our parish and asked to discuss any concerns. There were no concerns at this time other than being considerate of Pastor Jonathan's well being and respecting his time.
  - b. Pastor Jonathan spoke on how it is exciting to have new life in our parish. People are energized and worshipping.
  - c. Allen has been great to work with.

d. The students are doing great. I am constantly rethinking confirmation because it is always growing and changing. We are picking up a lot of youth.

e. Pastor Jonathan is the new Dean of our conference.

f. It is an exciting time to be in the church, we are smaller so we are more nimble.

g. Oklee Parish has a Pastor leaving in May, we hurt for them.

h. Make sure you are refreshing yourself.

i. Any talented parishoners please step in, we welcome you to perform your talents with us.

j. Pastor Jonathan is trying to do things that recharge him, he has a theological retreat, and his children keep him refreshed.

Next Council Meeting: October 15th 7:00pm

Adjournment- The Lord's Prayer

Vincent Lundeen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Hogan Lundeen seconded the motion.

*Andrea Eskeli, Secretary*

**IMMANUEL BUILDING FUND**

*Beginning Balance 12/31/23*                      **\$ 5,088.35**

INCOME:

January Coffee Fellowship                      84.00

February Coffee Fellowship                      133.00

March Coffee Fellowship                      140.00

Interest on Checking Acct. (Jan – Mar)      3.27

**Total Income**                                      **\$ 360.27**

EXPENSES:

No Expenses    0.00

**Total Expenses**                                      **\$ 0.00**

*Ending Balance 3/31/24*                      **\$ 5,448.62**

*Scharlene Fox, Treasurer*

**Ebenezer / Immanuel  
Joint Council at Immanuel  
4-14-24**

**Present from Ebenezer:** April Lundeen, Leann Stolass, Greg Hilgeman, Monte Haugen, Harlen Lundeen, Hogan Lundeen, Kevin Wilde, Vincent Lundeen, Pastor Jon, Gelene Lundeen (Treasurer)

**Present from Immanuel:** Lisa Thompson, Andrea Eskeli, Debbie DuChamp, Anne Traxler, Bek Willet, Cindy Arlt  
Absent: Mikayla Cervantes, Isaac Eskeli

Hogan Lundeen read last joint meetings minutes.

**New Business:** Opened with talk of having workman's comp for Pastor Jon. Moved on to discuss joint service layout. Will need to involve Bethany. Discussed eliminating certain Joint meetings if deemed unnecessary even though Pastor Jon likes to meet with everyone. Ebenezer added that it is a 3 year process to change layout of meeting for joint council. Joint council is typically in October and budget meeting is in November. There was talk of combining the two meetings together on a day in October.

Pastor Jon voiced his fear of missing important details of 3 congregations, so he asked for support and reminders in making sure he is not missing any needs of the congregations. He added that he really enjoys working with Allen. He also said that he is the new dean of our conference. Also, the conformation class is growing in size.

Leann mentioned that she didn't want Pastor Jon to wear himself too thin with juggling 3 congregations. Allen has been very helpful in lightening the load at times. Pastor Jon has also been meeting with other Pastors from the area.

Next joint meeting is on Tuesday October 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at Ebenezer.

Vincent made a motion to adjourn, Harlen seconded, motion passed.

*Hogan Lundeen, Secretary*

**Ebenezer Council Meeting  
4-14-24**

**Present:** Greg Hilgeman, Harlen Lundeen, Monte Haugen, Leann Stolass, April Lundeen, Vincent Lundeen, Hogan Lundeen, Kevin Wilde, Pastor Jon, Gelene Lundeen (Treasurer)

Hogan Lundeen read last meeting minutes. Leann made motion to approve minutes as read. Vincent seconded. Moton passed.

Gelene gave treasurer report. She moved 10,000 to the farm account. Greg made a motion to approve. Harlen seconded. Motion passed.

Pastor Jon gave pastors report. Lenten services went well. Next joint service will be at the end of June at Bethany. There will be a meal served. Pastor Jon also shared he will be gone for a youth gathering in July. He also shared that more students have joined the conformation classes. Also, he is excited to announce that two babies will join the congregation this year at Ebenezer.

**Old business:** Opened with talk of what to pay Allen for when he fills in with Pastoral duties. Leann made a motion to pay \$250 flat rate. Harlen seconded and the motion carried.  
No new business.

Next meeting will be June 23<sup>rd</sup> after 10:30 service at Ebenezer.

Greg made a motion to adjourn meeting. Harlen seconded and motion passed.

*Hogan Lundeen, Secretary*

**EBENEZER WELCA**  
**April 17, 2024**

Ebenezer WELCA met at the church on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer reported a balance of \$3,201.21, which was approved for audit. Old Business: None. New Business: Motion by Sue, second by Gayle, to donate the free will collection from our Lent supper towards the expenses for those attending the National Youth Gathering. We collected \$357, expenses were \$63.48, and we rounded it up to \$400 for the donation. Motion carried. The Spring Conference is Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, at Redeemer. The Lutheran World Relief pickup date is May 4<sup>th</sup>, 8:00-12:00, in TRF. Motion by Gayle, second by Sue, to replace the outdoor flower pots and for the purchase of outdoor flowers. Motion carried. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

*Sue Haugen, Secretary*

Next Meeting: Wed., May 15<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m.  
Offering: \$40  
May Altar/Usher/Cleaners: Robbie and April

**Why go to Church?**

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to Church every Sunday.

He wrote "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time, I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column.

Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: "I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to Church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are down to nothing, God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible & receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

IF YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN ALL, YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL!

B.I.B.L.E. simply means: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!

*Shared by Anne Traxlor*

Did you know that our Synod has a person who offers assistance with Legacy Giving? If you love your church and would like help setting up some sort of legacy, call Keith Pearson at 773-380-2483 or email him at [Keith.Pearson@ELCA.org](mailto:Keith.Pearson@ELCA.org). He can help you look at wills, trusts, charitable gift annuities, qualified charitable distributions from your IRA and more.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
<h1>May 2024</h1>				<u>Ushers at Imm. -</u> Norman Brenna & Dean Koskela  <u>Ushers at Eben.</u> Robbie & April Lundeen	<u>Adult Coffee Fellowship:</u> (*chairman) *Lowell Art, Linda Olson & Connie Hughes	<u>Alter Committee at Imm.:</u> Shar Fox  <u>Alter Committee at Eben.:</u> April Lundeen
			 6:00 pm Confirmation @ Bethany  <b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	Lutheran World Relief Pick Up 8:00 am to 12:00 pm  <b>4</b>
9:00 am Worship at Immanuel w/HC 10:15 am Sunday School at Immanuel 10:30 am Worship at Ebenezer w/HC <b>12:00 pm Mother / Daughter Tea @ Immanuel</b> 7:00 pm Worship at Bethany w/HC  <b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	9 am Quilting at Immanuel  <b>7</b>	6:00 pm Confirmation @ Immanuel  <b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
9:00 am Worship at Ebenezer 10:30 am Worship at Bethany No Service at Immanuel   <b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	9 am Quilting at Immanuel  <b>14</b>	10:00 am WELCA at Ebenezer  <b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
9:00 am Worship at Immanuel w/HC <b>Honoring the Graduates at Immanuel Service</b> Coffee Fellowship after Worship 10:30 am Worship at Bethany w/HC 7:00 pm Worship at Ebenezer w/HC  <b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	9 am Quilting at Immanuel  <b>21</b>	6:00 pm Joint Confirmation @ Bethany  <b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
9 am Worship at Ebenezer 10:30 am Worship at Bethany (SAM Allen) 10:30 am Worship at Immanuel (Pastor)  <b>26</b>	 <b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

Immanuel/Ebenezer Lutheran Churches  
P.O. Box 98  
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*May 2024*  
*Rejoice Newsletter*