

The Church Messenger

STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S EARTH

By Jim Tocko



With all the rain we had this spring and early summer, you wouldn't think that there would be a shortage. While we seemed to have an abundance, the western part of the country was experiencing a drought. We don't think of conserving water until it becomes critical.

Little do we realize that 70% of the world's fresh water is locked in ice. Most of the rest is in aquifers that are not being replenished as quickly as they are being drained. The severed icebergs may float for years before releasing their stores of fresh water into the sea; eventually evaporating, condensing, and recycling back to earth as precipitation.

Two thirds of our water is used to grow food, and 30% of the food raised is wasted. With 83 million more people on earth each year, the demand for water will keep increasing unless we change how we use it. People in the U.S. rank going to the beach or lake as their number one outdoor activity. In Florida, 3000 gallons of water are used to water the grass for each game played. US swimming pools lose 150 billion gallons to evaporation each year. Some new developments do not allow grass except on their community golf course which uses recycled treated waste water for irrigation.

While millions of the world's poorest subsist on fewer than five gallons of water per day, the average American uses 100 gallons of water at home each day. Forty-six percent of the earth's population do not have water piped to their homes. Like everything else, we won't start to conserve until the price goes up.

Enjoy what is left of the summer.



Worship Schedule

9 AM — Sunday Worship

10 AM — Coffee Hour (pending volunteer availability)*

5 PM (2nd Saturday of each month) — Family Service, “kid-friendly” dinner served afterward.

*If you would like to host or sponsor a coffee hour, please call Michelle or Ronnette at the office (715) 695-3511.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Message from the Pastor 2
- Financials 3
- Council Minutes 4
- Worship Schedule 5
- Calendar 6
- Memorials 7
- Birthdays 8
- VBS 8
- Daughters of the King 9
- Contact Information 10



To make an online donation, scan this QR code with your smartphone to be taken to our donation page.

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KEN

Grace and peace to you. Really.

If you are like me, you may be reading the papers, watching the news, or surfing the news articles on the internet and wondering to yourself: What is going on in our world?

We read of passenger airplanes that are blown out of the sky by pro-Russian separatists, girls who are being stolen from their families and used for who knows what, an escalating war between Palestine and the state of Israel. There are economic sanctions, wealth disparities, hunger, oppression, gangs, mafia, and cartels, and now thousands of children fleeing for their lives and stuck on the border with nowhere to go.

There have been droughts, floods, tornados, sinkholes, hurricanes, record highs, and record lows. The devastation for the people affected from these disasters is overwhelming.

We hear of ISIS (Islamic State in Iraq and Syria) who are now persecuting Christians who have for centuries lived in their towns since the time of the early apostles. ISIS is demanding that these Christians either convert to Islam, pay a heavy tax, leave, or be executed. ISIS is so extreme that even Al Qaeda has distanced itself from this growing terror organization. And every day, there's always more...

If you are an end-of-the-world type, these scenarios do not bode well for the future of the world....Yet, Martin Luther held the view that even if he knew for certain that the world would end tomorrow, he would plant a tree. What does that look like?

*Through the Gospel, the Holy Spirit calls and gathers a people from all nations to worship and witness to the God of peace. The called and gathered are sinners, forgiven and righteous on the account of Jesus...In publicly gathering to proclaim and celebrate God's Gospel of peace, the Church (**that's you and me folks, us together**) uniquely contributes to earthly peace. Its most valuable mission for peace is **to keep alive news of God's resolve for peace**, declaring that all are responsible to God for earthly peace and announcing forgiveness, healing, and hope in the name of Jesus Christ. In praying for peace in the world, in interceding for all who suffer from war and injustice and for those in authority, the Church acts for peace. (From ELCA Social Statement on Peace: Aug. 20, 1995)*

We are called to gather together. We are called to proclaim. We are called to be a witness to the world of what God has accomplished in the death and resurrection of his only Son, Jesus Christ, and what new life in Jesus Christ can do for each of us, and the world.

And gather we will, with the help of God. Beginning September 21, we will be adding a second service on Sundays at 11:15. Additionally, there are other opportunities to gather and pray together, to hear God's Holy Word spoken together, and to sing hymns, on Mondays at 9am, Wednesdays at noon, Thursdays at 7pm, and Saturdays at 9pm. Lots of opportunities to gather, and many different options...

We wonder what we can do to bring peace to the world? We are called to gather, to hear God's Word, and to pray. Come and see.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.*

Pastor Ken

FINANCIALS - JUNE 2014

June 1 - June 7

General Fund Contributions	\$5,161.00
Expenses	\$2,603.24
Net Income (Loss)	\$2,557.76

June 8 - June 14

General Fund Contributions	\$3,075.00
Expenses	\$875.23
Net Income (Loss)	\$2,199.77

June 15 - June 21

General Fund Contributions	\$2,279.00
Expenses	\$5,395.20
Net Income (Loss)	(\$3,116.20)

June 22 - June 28

General Fund Contributions	\$1,407.00
Expenses	\$1,592.17
Net Income (Loss)	(\$185.17)

June 29 - June 30

General Fund Contributions	\$1,710.46
Expenses	\$5,173.23
Net Income (Loss)	(\$3,462.77)

Loan Balance (due Aug 1)

\$5,050.00

General Fund Balance \$1,341.13

Stained Glass Bal. Due \$930.00

Percent of Monthly Budget Allowance

General Fund Contributions	98.7%
Other Contributions	88.8%
Ministry Expenses	45.4%
Benevolences	50.0%
Office Expenses ¹	131.1%
Property Expenses	19.0%
General Expense	97.4%
Utilities Expense	97.0%
Pastor Expenses ²	108.3%
Payroll Expenses	97.8%

¹Exceeded budget due to payment on offering envelopes of \$796.45.

²Exceeded budget due to May and June mileage reimbursement being paid in June.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

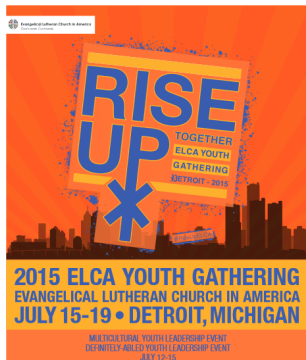
Attention Church Women

The bus trip is planned for Wednesday, September 10 to Chanhassen Dinner Theatre to see "Hello Dolly" - a wonderful Broadway play returning after a 20-year absence. The cost will be \$85.00 and includes bus, show, lunch, bus driver tip, and bus treats.

We need to know by Monday, August 4 if you plan to go. (The theatre and bus company want their deposits on that day at the latest.) Sign up today! Or call the church office at (715) 695-3511. Sign up sheets are located at both entrances.

Also, please do not forget the regularly scheduled meeting of W/ELCA on August 6, 2014, at 1:30 p.m. August's meeting is for the election of officers.

Thank you,
Jeanette Berg



The ELCA Youth Gathering for high school-age youth takes place every three years and is about faith formation, worship, study, fellowship, service and play.

It is an opportunity for youth to engage with peers from across the United States and the world who share a common commitment and faith in Christ. The next Gathering will be held July 15-19, 2015, in Detroit, Michigan.

The Gathering is a five-day event that begins on a Wednesday evening and ends with a service of communion the following Sunday morning. The opening night sets the stage for the days ahead in which young people may have an encounter with Jesus that energizes their faith and helps them discover their call to serve in the world — locally and globally.

On the days between Wednesday and Sunday, young people rotate through a variety of service learning experiences in the surrounding community. They explore and strengthen their faith by studying God's word, serving their neighbor, sharing bread and wine in worship, participating in lively faith discussions and broadening their experience of God's world and diverse communities through travel.

When the question "Why work so hard to gather so many young people in one place?" pops up, the response is really quite simple.

We were meant to be together, and we are a church that believes God is calling us into the world — together. So every now and then, we gather young people and adults together to share their unique stories and to experience the larger story that makes up the ELCA; we gather to be inspired, encouraged, strengthened, connected and sent out to do God's work in the world — together!

If you are interested in having your high-school age youth attend the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering, please contact Michelle or Ronnette in the church office at: (715) 695-3511, or email: ilc@triwest.net. Fundraising needs to start soon!

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

Members present: Jim Tocko, Michelle Peaslee, Pastor Ken Taylor, Marie Murrell, Howard Hanson

Members absent: Dan Bjerke (excused)

Guests: Tom Wagener, Building Committee; Sara Heck, Daughters of the King

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Opening prayer lead by Pastor Ken.

Tom Wagener discussed the Education wing window wall replacement. Cost of replacing the window panels is estimated at \$350 per 4' x 6' panel. Volunteer labor would be utilized for installation of the panels. Total cost for complete replacement of the panels above and below the education wing windows is estimated at \$21,000.

Sara Heck discussed the first Daughters of the King-Ruth Chapter Service Project, "Little Things Make a Difference." They are asking people to collect toiletries for people who come to the Community Table in Eau Claire. A poster and collection bin will be placed in the Narthex to collect any items members of the congregation decide to share.

April minutes were approved.

The April financial report was presented by Michelle and approved.

Pastor Ken presented the ministry report. Visitations are going well. He is currently spending 50% of his week visiting members of the congregation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Tocko

June 10, 2014

Meeting opened at 7pm

Present: Dan Bjerke (excused), Howard Hanson, Marie Murrell, Michelle Peaslee, Pastor Ken Taylor, Jim Tocko.

May minutes approved.

May budget report approved. Notes: Monthly expenses average \$16,000. Our average giving in the latter part of last year did not meet our expenses. If each person attending the Sunday service were to increase their giving by \$2.50 per week, we would be able to meet our expenses. Pastor Ken and Michelle will commission a Stewardship Committee.

Pastor's Report: A contact/information card will be designed to be placed in each pew. 100 year anniversary of Immanuel Church will be celebrated in 2016. Planning of the events will have to be initiated soon.

Discussion of the future of Immanuel Lutheran Church closed the meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 8:15 approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Tocko

MAY 2014

JUNE 2014

AUGUST SCHEDULE

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



Greeters

- August 3 Jim Tocko & Michelle Peaslee
- August 10 Curt & Lois Bloom
- August 17 Ron & Char Myhers
- August 24 Dave & Colleen Berge
- August 31 Jim & Judy Foss



Readers

- August 3 McKenna Taylor
- August 10 Jodie Semingson
- August 17 Char Myhers
- August 24 Colleen Berge
- August 31 Joyce Russell



Acolytes

- August 3 Tom Myren
- August 10 Zach Olson
- August 17 Ryan Johnson
- August 24 Meghan Hering
- August 31 Aubrey Lasher



Communion Helpers

- August 3 Paul & Ruth Eide
- August 17 Dennis & Maxine Ulberg



Altar Guild

- August 3 Phyllis Olson-Skovbroten
- August 17 Kris Husby
- Robes Wyllis Olson
- Flowers Phyllis Olson-Skovbroten



Ushers

- *Ralph Kisor, Wayne Larson, Alex Larson, Shane Larson, Dale Olsen, David Bjorklund.

Thank you for assisting with Worship in August

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled date, please contact a substitute and let the church office know by the Wednesday prior.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 9 AM Worship 10 AM Coffee Hour: Daughters of the King		<h1>August 2014</h1>			1	2
3 9 AM Worship/Holy Communion 10 AM Daughters of the King Junior Chapter Interest Meeting	4 6:30 PM CBELC Board Meeting	5 Text Study	6 1:30 PM WELCA Election of Officers 1:45 PM Nursing Home Service	7	8	9 5 PM Family Service 5:30 PM Family Service Dinner
10 9 AM Worship 10 AM Coffee Hour 3:30—8 PM VBS	11 3:30—8 PM VBS	12 Text Study 3:30—8 PM VBS 7 PM Council Meeting	13 3:30—8 PM VBS	14 3-5 PM Feed My People; Village Hall 3:30—8 PM VBS 7:30 PM Daughters of the King Meeting	15	16
17 9 AM Worship/Holy Communion 10 AM Fair Trade Coffee Sales and Fellowship Brunch	18	19 Text Study 9—11 AM Food Pantry; Fellowship Hall	20 1:30 PM Hope Circle @ the Park 3:30 PM Junior Daughters of the King	21	22	23
24 9 AM Worship 10 AM Coffee Hour 1 PM Canoe Trip— Independence	25	26 Text Study	27 3:30 PM Junior Daughters of the King	28	29	30



MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF PALMER & ANN INDREBO

Window Fund

Robert Indrebo

IN MEMORY OF BERDELLA BERG

West Beef River Cemetery

Douglas & Vicky McManus

IN MEMORY OF JEANETTE EIDE

Window Fund

Omar & Ruth Engen

General Fund

Maxine & Dennis Ulberg

Ron & Cheryl Austin

Clarice Bergerson

Ron & Linda Krienke

Joan Brenengen

Dale & Mary Pederson

Frances Eide

Arnie Zimmerman

Bill & Linda Stelzer

Bud & Debra Fiedler

Loyal Monson

Yvonne & Clark Williams

Paul & Ruth Eide

Ron & Sharon Germann

Ardell & Jean Schroeder

Arlin & LaVonne Loga

Ruby Spangberg

Darlene Stuber

Joan Tonn

Window Fund

Wilmer & Joan Guenther

Dean & Doris Anderson

Omar & Ruth Engen

Alton Gunem

Tom & Gloria Wagener

Dale & Linda Franson

Jeanette Berg

Dale & Charlene Olsen

Dave & Colleen Berge

Anonymous Donations

IN MEMORY OF JEANETTE EIDE (CONTINUED)

Youth Group

Matt & Ronnette Nelson

Sunday School

Ellen Marie & Lyle Heck

Music/Choir Fund

Mildred Finstad

WELCA - Quilting

Howard & Ramona Hanson

West Beef River Cemetery

Helen Anderson

Diane & Chuck Thronson

Edith Olson

Marion Thronson

IN MEMORY OF ORLIN RONGSTAD

(IN HONOR OF ON FATHER'S DAY)

Chapel Fund

Dennis & Carol Sather

IN MEMORY OF CURTISS D PETERSEN

West Beef River Cemetery

Cindy Petersen & Family

IN MEMORY OF LUCILLE OLSON

General Fund

Jewel & Norma Berge

IN MEMORY OF HELEN RANNEY

West Beef River Cemetery

Ruth Gullicksrud

IN MEMORY OF DOLORES MUELLER

Window Fund

Dave & Marlys Bjorklund

IN MEMORY OF MARY BIRCHLER

Window Fund

Ron & Char Myhers

MEMORIAL FUNDS—Immanuel Lutheran Church Funds: Building, Chapel, Creative Beginnings, Daughters of the King, Endowment, General, Library, Music, Sunday School, Window, and Youth. Cemetery Funds: Hamlin, St. Paul's (Strum), and West Beef River.

When writing a check, please make the check payable to the individual memorial fund.

BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST 2014

Tocko, Jim 08/01
 Guenther, Edwin 08/02
 Olson, Deborah 08/02
 Hink, Brittany 08/03
 Davidson, Arlan 08/04
 Hulberg, Dorothy 08/04
 Koxlien, Terrance 08/04
 Kornack, Belinda 08/05
 Anderson, Suzanne 08/06
 Gunderson, Jean 08/06
 Kunes, Judy 08/06
 Hanson, Ashlyn 08/07
 Anderson, Rachael 08/08
 Olson, Wayne 08/08
 Simpson, Theodore 08/08
 Austin, Grant 08/09
 Back, Fredrick 08/11
 Franzwa, Kacie 08/11
 Rindal, Marie 08/11
 Koxlien, Pamela 08/12

Larson, Shane 08/12
 Windjue, Jeanine 08/12
 Anderson, Helen 08/13
 Olson, Jonathan 08/13
 Boehne, Dean 08/14
 Brion, Sydney 08/14
 Koxlien, Rowan 08/15
 Rindal, Jaxon 08/15
 McLean, Cole 08/16
 Skoug, Janet 08/16
 Franson, Karen 08/17
 Thurston, Gerald 08/17
 Larson, Alex 08/18
 Peaslee, Michelle 08/18
 Prudlick, Debra 08/18
 Gullicksrud, Megan 08/21
 Hering, Brian 08/21
 Sather, Carol 08/21
 Gullicksrud, Ruth 08/23
 Myhers, Paul 08/24
 Olson, Hannah 08/25

Ashwell, Courtney 08/27
 Bandoli, Kellie 08/27
 Franson, Eric 08/27
 Heck, Sara 08/27
 Wiedrich, Lucas 08/27
 Salava, David 08/28
 Hanson, Paula 08/29
 McLean, Megan 08/31
 Schifelbein, Timothy 08/31



*"May you have all the joy your heart can hold,
 All the smiles a day can bring,
 All the blessings a life can unfold.
 May you have God's best in everything."*



Happy Summer -- We hope all of the Kids of Immanuel are having a great summer vacation. What better way to enjoy the final month of summer than with the 2014 Vacation Bible School Program. Immanuel Lutheran is once again partnering with Luther Park to bring the Christian Education program to the young people of our congregation. The theme for this year's Luther Park VBS is **Running the Race**, which is based on Hebrews 12:1-3.

For those who are not familiar with the Luther Park VBS program, it is a Christ-centered camp held at Immanuel Lutheran, for children entering grades 1-6 this coming fall. The week is fueled by the Luther Park VBS Camp Team - a group of caring, committed young adults who are trained to lead through a unique blend of talents. VBS Kids will have the opportunity to explore and expand their faith through music, worship, Bible studies, crafts, recreation, fun and fellowship with the VBS Camp Team and other VBS Campers.

Vacation Bible School will begin Sunday, August 10 at 3:30 pm, with a Kick-Off Meal and Official Registration. We encourage parents to attend with their child/children for the first hour or so. VBS will be held Sunday, August 10 – Thursday, August 14 from 3:30pm-8:00pm. Dinner will be served each night. We will be looking for volunteers to supply, cook and serve meals during this week (*more info to come.*)

Thursday, August 14, there will be a short Program where the children will show off what they've learned followed by an Ice Cream Social.

This year we are inviting the children of the Eleva Lutheran Church to join us at VBS, sharing the gifts that the VBS Camp Team has to offer. There will be a small registration fee for each child to attend VBS. Once we have an idea how many children will be attending, we can safely determine the cost. (However, we will not turn away any child that wants to attend VBS.) There will also be t-shirts available to purchase.

We ask that parents to email ilcsundayschool@yahoo.com or call the Immanuel Office at 715-695-3511 **BY AUGUST 1**, to let us know the number of children in your family that plan on attending VBS along with their ages. Official Registration will take place on Sunday, August 10.

Please follow the ILC Sunday School Facebook page for more information.

Thank you!
 Tera & Sherry

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Greetings, from your Daughters of the King, Ruth Chapter!

Ruth Chapter has been busy! On July 6, we worked with the Social Concerns Committee, serving at the Community Table in Eau Claire. It poured rain on the way there, but cleared up by the time we were finished. We will most certainly do this again, as we had a great time!

The "Little Things Can Make A Difference" Toiletry Drive has been a great success, thanks to the generosity of the Congregation. We will be sorting it out on Sunday, July 27, and then deliver it to the Community Table on Monday, July 28. Thank you to all who participated. We hope to make this an annual event.



In our monthly DOK meeting, we have been reading and discussing the book: Creating a Life with God, The Call of Ancient Prayer Practices, by Daniel Wolpert. We are looking into how we will help celebrate the Centennial of the Brick Church Building of ILC next year. Our prayer list has been active now since March, and we've already seen wonders. We've also been discussing other ways we can be of service to and to help strengthen the spiritual life of Immanuel Lutheran, our Community, and the World.

One way is by hosting an Interest meeting for a new Junior Daughters Chapter on Sunday, August 3rd, after the 9:00 Service, in the Fellowship Hall (aka multipurpose room). The Order of The Daughters of the King is a religious Order for women and girls in the Lutheran, Episcopalian, Anglican, and Roman Catholic Churches. The mission of the Order is the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of the church. Members work towards these goals by following a Rule of Life. They also take vows of daily Prayer and Service through which they have a special opportunity to grow in Christian faith and commitment. Meetings are a special time to get together to fellowship, study, study the Bible, and have fun. Membership in the Junior Daughters is open to all baptized girls and young women ages 7-21. At the Interest meeting, refreshments will be provided and we welcome your questions and thoughts. Please call the Church Office (715) 695-3511 if you would like to attend, or if you need more information. We look forward to beginning this new and exciting ministry at ILC, and we look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Watch for SOCTOBERFEST news, beginning in mid-August!
With colder months quickly approaching, it's important that we help provide our less fortunate brothers and sisters withSOCKS!!!!
All month long in October, we'll be collecting new adult pairs of socks. Then, we'll distribute them with a celebration at the end of Octobermore to be revealed later.

As you can see, your Ruth Chapter DOK has been very busy! Our monthly meetings are the 2nd Thursdays @ 7:30pm, following the Evening Vespers Service. We meet in the Church Office. If you are interested in the National Preparation Studies, Sara Heck has a weekly Open House at her home on the other Thursday nights @ 7:30pm, also after the Vespers Service. (you can call ahead, if you would like to reserve a space 715-695-3229).

The Holy Spirit is surely working among us. It is wonderful to see!

for His sake
Sara Heck
President, Ruth Chapter DOK

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Strum, Wisconsin! We are a church family of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, who as disciples of Christ, are gathered together to *embrace, encourage, and extend faith, hope, and love in Christ*. Embrace, encourage, and extend: these three descriptive words sum up the mission of our congregation in following the command of Christ to love one another. Through worship, education, fellowship, and service, we share that love for each other and our community so that lives may be enriched and faith strengthened. Immanuel Lutheran Church is a congregation that is steeped in history while also engaging the context of the village of Strum, the community as a whole, and the world. Come and see! There is a place for you!

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Pastor Rev. K D Taylor
 Administrator Michelle Peaslee
 Custodian Ronnette Nelson
 Organist/Music Director Jeanette Tobiason
 Sunday School Directors Tera Gullicksrud & Sherry Bjerke

Creative Beginnings Early Learning Center

Director Keri Whitwam
 Lead Teacher—Forest Friends Room..... Theresa Bjorgo
 Lead Teacher—Lily Pad Room Samantha Tetzlaff
 Lead Teacher—Monkey Room Dusti Miland
 Assistant Ronnette Nelson

Council Members

President Jim Tocko
 Secretary Kris Husby
 Treasurer Michelle Peaslee
 Member-at-large Dan Bjerke
 Member-at-large Howard Hanson
 Member-at-large Marie Murrell

ILC Office (715) 695-3511
 CBELC Office (715) 695-3954

Dial-up Service (715) 695-3906

www.immanuel-strum.com

