



*the church*

# MESSENGER

Monthly Newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church January 2014



Disciples of Jesus gathered together to embrace, encourage and extend our faith, hope and

Love in Christ

- Pastor:** Rev. KD Taylor.....(715) 695-3511
- Congregational President:** Jim Tocko .....(715) 695-3308
- Administrative Assistant:** Jennifer Susedik.....(715) 695-3511
- Music/Chancel Choir Director:** Jeanette Tobiason .....(715) 985-2215
- Custodian:** Ronnette Nelson.....(715) 695-3511
- Sunday School Director:** Tera Gullicksrud .....(715) 695-3901
- Creative Beginnings Early Learning Center** .....(715) 695-3954
- Director:** Keri Whitwam
- Administrative Assistant:** Michelle Peaslee
- Teachers:** Terri Bjorgo
- Dusti Miland
- Assistant Teacher:** Samatha Tetzlaff

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

PO Box 98

Strum, WI 54770

[www.immanuel-strum.com](http://www.immanuel-strum.com)

# January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's  Office Closed CBELC Close	2	3  Pastor's Sabbath	4
5  9:00 Worship/Holy Communion 10:00 Sunday School	6	7  Text Study	8  6:30-8 Confirmation	9  9-Noon Quilters 3-5 Food Distr/City Hall	10  Pastor's Sabbath	11  Family Service 5pm / Dinner  10-Noon Daughters of the King (office)
12  9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School	13	14  Text Study  6:00 Endowment Committee 7:00 Church Council	15  9:00 Martha Circle 1:30 Hope Circle Joan Brenengen@ church 6:30-8 Confirmation	16	17  Pastor's Sabbath	18
19  9:00 Worship/Holy Communion 10:00 Sunday School	20	21  Text Study  9-11:00 Food Pantry	22  6:30-8 Confirmation	23  9-Noon Quilters	24  Pastor's Sabbath	25
26 Guest Pastor 9:00 Worship 10:00 S.School **Annual Cong Mtg Silent Pledge Day	27	28  Text Study	29  6:30-8 Confirmation	30	31  Pastor's Sabbath	



*“Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries”*

**1 Corinthians 4:1**

Happy New Year Greetings!

It is very normal to review the past year and to set new goals for the coming year. Who among us would not like to lose ‘x’ number of pounds, to be completely debt-free, to kick a bad habit, or other worthy goals? The problem is that we often take extremes until we reach those goals, and then we revert back to the old ways, which usually reverses all of the hard-earned gain.

I believe it is important to shift towards more of a lifestyle change, rather than mere temporary fixes. But, how?

At the church office we are trying hard to discover new ways to serve you better, and yet to be better stewards of the resources given by our members. This past year we have tried to trim down unnecessary expenses and we are still looking at ways to cut more overhead. Last year we converted the light fixtures to save energy and installed some timers for lights to cut down on unnecessary usage. We have created our own curriculum for Sunday School to trim the costs involved with those yearly expenses. We have cancelled extraneous subscriptions and made use of resources that we already own.

This year we are hoping to continue responsible stewarding by asking people who have computers to shift towards an online newsletter to save on printing costs and postage. This would save us thousands of dollars per year. We currently are leasing a mass printer, which in the end would purchase a small but brand new car! Is this really the best use of funds? We are in the process of revamping the church website to make this transition easier to use, and informative for our members.

In light of what we are trying to accomplish, a smaller version of the newsletter can be available for those who don't own computers.

Secondly, we are asking for people to consider online giving instead of using the envelopes. This would save approximately one thousand dollars a year, the cost of printing the envelopes. Banks, the cable-company, magazine subscriptions, pharmacy supplies, and insurance payments are some of the many companies that are shifting towards online communications and records.

Maybe it is time for us as a church to make this shift as well?

Change is always challenging. It is our prayer that our members will prayerfully consider helping with these initiatives. We feel called to steward God's resources to move towards a leaner and more efficient organization. This can allow for what is truly important, that energies can be used for the mission of the Gospel, to do the work for which God has called us to participate.

Will you help us?

Prayerfully. Together in Christ.

*Pastor Ken*

**Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting of Immanuel Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, after service.

**Annual Reports**

All reports to be included in the Annual Report should be turned in by Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>.  
Thank You!



## STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S EARTH

We don't often think of how important the rivers and streams are to the people of the world. Look around us. How many of our towns and cities were established along a waterway?

Rivers and lakes were the lifeline of human history. People settled, farmed, traded, traveled along and built their towns and cities close to water. Yet rivers and lakes only represent 1/2 percent of the fresh water on the earth. Few lands are untouched by the power of a stream. Rivers and streams create their own path and on their meanderings they collect rain, snow melt, and run off as they head to the oceans and seas. As they follow their path they often cut new valleys and deposit sediment.

The foundations of the homes of the small town of Beaver located by the Minnesota Whitewater State Park are under six feet of sediment deposited there by the Whitewater River over the last 100 years. The flow of most major rivers are restricted by dams and reservoirs, some so much so that their waters often don't reach the mouth of the river. These waters provide transportation, irrigation, drinking water, electricity, industrial production, as well as recreational uses.

No river carries more water than the second longest river in the world, the Amazon. (What is the longest river in the world? ) The Amazon has an average daily discharge of 4.5trillion gallons.

All that being said, most of the earth's fresh water is ground water, precipitation that seeps down to fill the voids in the layers of sand, gravel, and permeable rock called aquifers. Our use of groundwater has increased drastically over the years to the point that it is not being replaced fast enough to satisfy our needs.

We are going to have to become more efficient in our water use especially in light of the prediction that water usage is going to double in the next 20 years.

***Jim Tocko***



### **In Memory of Jerald & Lillian Moltzau**

*Youth Fund*

Pastor Kurt Jacobson

### **In Memory of Glenn Haukeness**

*General Fund*

The Eau Claire Morning Rotary

### **In Memory of Edsel Semingson**

*General Fund*

*West Beef Cemetery*

Elmen Semingson

### **In Memory of Palmer & Ann Indrebo, Rosemary Schmidt, Clarence Brye, Hannah Brye and Beatrice Johnson**

*General Fund*

Bob Indrebo

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Church Council  
November 7, 2013

Members present: Jim Tocko, Marie Murrell, Michelle Peaslee, Kris Husby, Dan Bjerke, Howard Hanson and Pastor Ken. David Berge from the Property Committee was present.  
Meeting was called to order by Jim Tocko at 7:00 p.m.

September and October Financials were reviewed. Husby made a motion to approve Treasurer's Report, Hanson second. Motion carried.

Minutes of the October Council Meeting were reviewed. Murrell made a motion to accept the Secretary's Report, second by Peaslee, motion carried.

**Property Report:** Stair railing to be closed the week of November 6<sup>th</sup> to meet safety requirement for pre-school. Entrance and halls to the Education Building will be painted. Pricing to replace windows in the Education Building will be presented at the Semi-Annual Meeting.

**Ministry Updates:** Discussion on Stewardship Sunday, Sunday, January 26 2014. Husby made a motion, seconded by Hanson that Council President Tocko will put letter together that will be sent to members of Immanuel, outlining the financial needs and how the members can help keep Immanuel financially sound. Tocko made a motion to include Memorials given to Immanuel on church member Giving Statements, second by Peaslee. Motion carried. Pastor proposed salary increases for staff. Murrell made a motion to approve salary increases, second by Tocko, motion carried. Husby made a motion to present Pastor Housing Allowance on the Semi-Annual Meeting Agenda, second by Murrell, motion carried.  
A grant is being sought to fund a student to update and maintain the ILC website.  
Thanksgiving and Christmas services dates and times were reviewed.

**Old Business:** Discussion regarding the miscommunication regarding the service where the third grade students received their Bibles. Pastor will make sure events like this in the future will be better communicated to the members of Immanuel. Ushers to put bulletin on bench for Acolytes each service.

**New Business:** Creative Beginnings presented Immanuel with a check towards general fund debt. Creative Beginnings will also be paying Immanuel an additional \$100.00 per month in rent.  
Next Council meeting is set for Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kris Husby

**Members Present:** Michelle Peaslee, Dan Berke, Howard Hanson Jim Tocko. Kris Husby and Marie Murrell were excused.

**Meeting called** to order by Jim Tocko at 7p.m.  
Devotions by Jim Tocko “*On Humility*” by Thomas Merton.

**November Minutes:** Reviewed. Adjustment to read that \$1000 was paid to ILC from CBELC as an increase in their contribution to building and operating expenses.  
Motion-Hanson; 2<sup>nd</sup> Bjerke; motion carried.

**Financial Report:** Peaslee is organizing and clarifying the reports for easier access and understanding. Still work in progress. Financial report accepted. Motion: Tocko 2<sup>nd</sup>: Hanson; motion carried.

**Property Report:** New Railing system almost complete. A team is ready to paint the hallways and entranceway as soon as the colors are chosen. 3 floor-tiles in the main hallway are loose and presently covered by a mat- this needs addressing ASAP.

**Ministry Reports:**

**Stewardship:** Jan 26 Silent Pledge Sunday; pledge card to be mailed with giving statements. Discussion about a shift towards percentage giving rather than set amounts. Will re-address in Jan meeting.

**Staff:** Raises approved for Jeannette Tobiason and Michelle Peaslee in addition to Jennifer Susedik and Ronnette Nelson. Sunday School Director now shared between Tera Gullicksrud and Sherry Bjerke and reflected in a split of same pay. Bonuses for staff were addressed and approved.

**Old Business:** Review of bylaws completed. Tocko and Pastor to collate changes for congregational availability in January.

**New Business:**

**Newsletter:** In an effort to move towards being ‘green’, and to become better stewards of the church’s finances, the Newsletter will be posted online beginning in January; a limited number of copies available in Narthex at beginning of the month; copies mailed only to shut-ins unless otherwise requested.  
Financial secretary to calculate potential savings. Motion: Tocko; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bjerke. Motion carried.

**Closing Prayer:** Luke 1: Magnificat and prayer by Pastor.

**Motion by Tocko for adjournment.** 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bjerke. Motion Carried. 8:45

Respectfully submitted.

Rev KD Taylor

## Matters of Money



### Dec 01

General Contributions	\$3,446.00
Expenses	<u>\$1,553.18</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$1,892.82

### Dec 08

General Contributions	\$3,148.00
Expenses	<u>\$702.26</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$2,445.74

### Dec 15

General Contributions	\$4,076.25
Expenses	<u>\$5,569.37</u>
Net Income (Loss)	(\$1,493.12)

### Dec 22

General Contributions	\$2,805.00
Expenses	<u>\$1,790.23</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$1,014.77

Christmas Eve 5pm	\$1,413.00
Christmas Eve 9pm	\$1,813.00
Christmas Day	\$1,675.00

### Dec 29

General Contributions	\$2,153.00
Expenses	<u>\$9,726.29</u> (includes \$3,200 for Stained Glass Windows)
Net Income (Loss)	(\$7,573.29)

<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$20,529.25</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$19,341.33</b>

December Budget 2013	
Budgeted Contributions	\$16,975.00
Budgeted Expenses	\$15,999.00

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
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*January*



**THE CHURCH MESSENGER**  
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Immanuel Lutheran Church  
109 Elm Street, PO Box 98  
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Join us on Facebook  
[www.immanuel-strum.com](http://www.immanuel-strum.com)  
[ilc@trilwest.net](mailto:ilc@trilwest.net)  
Please join us for Sunday Worship  
9:00 a.m.  
Pastor: Rev. K.D. Taylor  
Our Mission: Embrace, Encourage, Extend,  
Faith, Hope and Love in Christ