

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church



September 2024

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

Rev. John Kuziej - Interim Pastor

Immanuel Church Office: 715-362-5910

Emergency-Cell Phone: 906-932-4165

Email: johnckuziej2@gmail.com

Office Hours: Tuesday 10:00 am — Noon
and by appointment

Kari Britton - Administrative Assistant

immanuelsecretary2015@gmail.com

Office Phone: 715-362-5910

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 am — Noon

Sheree Vanden Heuvel - Financial Secretary

finimmanuel@gmail.com

Cell Phone: 715-360-3176

Member of the ELCA Churchwide elca.org &
the Northern Great Lakes Synod nglsynod.org



Visit us on our Website @
Immanuelrhinelander.org

"Inspired by God's grace to love and serve all"

Message from Interim Pastor John Kuziej

A member of the congregation gave me many reasons why she was not able to attend church regularly. She thought I was checking up on her. This was a telephone conversation, and it was hard for me to get a word in edgewise. Her church attendance was not the purpose of my call. She assumed it was since why else the pastor would be calling her? It is too bad when people figure pastors are truant officers.

This member of the church was on my list of calls to make because she was a teacher. I served two small congregations, yet I counted over ten members employed by the school district either as teachers, administrators, bus drivers, or other support staff. It was August and school would be starting soon. I wanted to get their perspectives on prayer. I planned a special Sunday to bless schoolteachers and staff. A big part of the service was to pray for them. I wanted to know their concerns and aspirations. I wanted to listen to them since teachers have a great responsibility. They must know their subject matter well. They must be attentive to their students, responding to warning signs of troubles in their lives. At that Sunday service of prayer, I wanted to be as specific as possible with the petitions. It is true that God knows the needs of teachers even before we pray, but it is a good thing to pray publicly so members of the congregation will be supportive and encouraging.

Some congregations will pray for the school kids as they get ready for the start of a new school year. Included in the service would be the blessing of the backpacks. Kids of all ages would be invited to come to the Sunday service with their backpacks. A prayer would be said asking for a good year of learning, respect for teachers and classmates, and the happiness when participating in sports or other school activities. Kids would receive a Bible verse on a tag to tie on the backpack. It would be a verse emphasizing respect for others. For example, from Ephesians, “Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear”. Another appropriate verse is “be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.”

Whether we have children in school or not, we must support the local school. We may grumble about paying property taxes but remember those tax dollars represent community support for the school to offer an education to prepare students for their future, a future where they will do their best to make the community and world a better place. Be cheerful to teachers and thank them for their vital service. Attend school activities—sporting events, music concerts, dramas, and marvel at the abilities and talents of those involved. If you are able, support fundraisers for student activities. Over the years as a pastor, confirmation students and younger kids would come running to me with their order blanks. I have bought cookie dough, pizzas, pasties, and cookies. I have ordered knick-knack things I did not need, but I bought to show my support. We can work together and show appreciation for teachers and staff, and cheerfully encourage students to live their Christian faith at school. Just think of what living the Ten Commandments would do to bless the learning environment at school: no harmful words that bully, protect one another’s good name and reputation, and willingly offer a helping hand. I know there is no public prayer at school but as someone has joked, there is plenty of silent prayer before a difficult test! But teachers and students can pray daily, “Dear God, help me to represent you and your care for others this day.”

I am glad to see our church is collecting items for school kits for children unable to afford basic supplies around the world. There is nothing as precious as a good education—learning to read and think about what they may do to make their communities and countries places of justice and peace. An important way to fight poverty is an education. I pray that students at home or elsewhere in the world be taught what is right and true. I pray that precious minds are not poisoned by propaganda that demeans others and encourages violence. The prophet Isaiah wrote of God as a teacher for humanity: “Let us go to the house of the God of Jacob that God may teach us his ways, and that we may walk in his paths...nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”

The start of a new school year is a sign that Fall is soon here. As you notice school busses on the road again say a little prayer for the students and teachers to have a wonderful and blessed day of both learning and care for one another.

Help Wanted -Now Hiring!!

Does spending time with youth in the church sound exciting? Or do you enjoy refreshing your memory on bible stories you heard as a kid or learning new stories? Crafting, games, conversation and fun... Faith Explorers is where it is at.

After many years our current FE teachers are nearing “retirement” and are in need of teachers for the fall when classes resume.

On the job training is offered, scheduling is flexible accommodating to your personal preference.

Please contact Sarah Willoughby or Becky Eades for more details.



CONFIRMATION CLASSES WILL BEGIN

ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH AT 6PM.

PLEASE CONTACT ALLIE JOHNSON FOR MORE INFORMATION.

alliejohnson77@gmail.com



July 24, 2024

*"I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith."
2 Timothy 4:7*

Rev. Devon William Barrix, age 81, passed away peacefully on July 21, 2024, in the Palliative Care Unit at Aspirus Hospital Wausau after suffering a massive hemorrhagic stroke. Devon grew up on a farm in Wisconsin and graduated from Mauston High School. He worked 39 years in the healthcare field both as a Lab Manager in Madison, as a Hospital Administrator at Columbus Community Hospital, and as CEO of the HMO of Wisconsin.

After he and his wife JoAnne joined Trinity Lutheran in Rhinelander, Wisconsin, Devon attended the Northern Great Lakes Synod Lay School and decided to go to Luther Seminary. Ordained on August 28, 2005, he accepted a call to serve the people of Bethany Lutheran, Perkins, and Faith Lutheran, Rock in Michigan. Devon served as pastor in those two congregations until 2010 when health issues again forced him to retire.

He and JoAnne returned to northern Wisconsin where they joined Immanuel Lutheran in Rhinelander, and he served several months as interim pastor there. He also helped teach in the synod's Lay School and remained an active member of Immanuel.

Devon enjoyed the Corvette club, boating on Lake Winnebago, and riding a Harley motorcycle. Throughout his lifetime, he demonstrated his love of God, family, and friends, and his many career paths touched countless people.

Devon is survived by his wife JoAnne, brother Tom Barrix, son David (Kay) Barrix, granddaughters Ashley Upton (Jeff) and Emily White (Henry), great-grandson Jayden Journigan and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Gary Barrix (Linda) and Jimmy Barrix (Karen), sister-in-law Boots (Roberta) Barrix and his son Curtis.

A Memorial Visitation will be held Friday, August 2, 2024, 9am to 11am CDT at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 21 West Timber Dr, Rhinelander, WI 54501. Devon's Memorial Service will follow the visitation at 11am CDT at Immanuel Lutheran. A fellowship meal will follow the funeral service.

To read the full obituary and express your condolences to the family of Rev. Devon Barrix, go to: www.carlsonfh.com.

Blessed be the memory of Rev. Devon Barrix.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop, Northern Great Lakes Synod

Dear Immanuel,

Words cannot express how much all of your kind words, cards, tears and hugs have meant to me. As many of you saw from the picture boards, Devon and I had a great life and a lot of fun. Although I find this to be comforting, I also feel that a huge part of me has been suddenly ripped away. I am grateful to know that I have the support of my Immanuel family.

I have received many generous contributions in his memory. Devon had several passions. He has volunteered at the food pantry for years, he was a voracious reader, he loved his dogs and of course, Immanuel. I have decided to give your gifts to the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry, the Rhinelander Library, the Oneida County Animal Shelter, and Immanuel.

Thank you so much for all that you have done for both of us.

Blessings,
JoAnne Barrix

Our deepest condolences to the family of Catherine (Kate) Bessey who passed away on August 3. Cards of condolence may be sent to Kate's children, Glenn, Linda and Kim, at Bessey's Meat Market, 1102 S. Oneida Avenue, Rhinelander or to Kate's sister, Janice Lambele, 78 Edgewater Homes, Rhinelander.



Pastoral Visits

Immanuel Lutheran Church has welcomed Pastor John Kuziej as our Administrative Interim Pastor. He is happy to schedule visits with home-bound individuals and is also available for hospital visits. Please feel free to contact him if you have these needs. He has office hours at Immanuel on Tuesdays from 10:00 am until noon and is also available by appointment.

Newsletter Available Electronically

If you would rather read the newsletter electronically, you can access a copy on our website @ immanuelrhinelander.org/newsletter

OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday &
Thursday
9:00 am-NOON



THE TUESDAY MORNING CREW MEETS EVERY TUESDAY MORNING TO PERFORM ODD JOBS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN OUR CHURCH. PLEASE REACH OUT TO JOHN PLAUTZ IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP! 715-367-3762
jeplautz@hotmail.com



Happy 
Birthday
to you!  

**Happy 95th
Birthday
Luann
Robins!!**





Several members of Immanuel celebrated the 95th birthday of long-time member Luann Robins! We wish Luann a very happy birthday and a blessed 95th year!

Donate your old eyeglasses, sunglasses and more!

“I was listening to a news report about a great need in poor countries. People need glasses, and the story was about the reading glasses that you can buy cheaply in the drug store. The story told about a woman from Bangladesh who raised cattle. She was enabled to increase her income when she got a pair of reading glasses. She was able to plant crops for the market. She could see what she was doing when she weeded her garden plots. She was able to see the seeds and keep them straight. And the improved vision helped her with record keeping.”

Immanuel has decided to do an eyeglasses, sunglasses, cellphone, hearing aids and tablets ministry. Please drop off any of these items in the Lion's containers as provided. Thank you for this consideration. Any questions please contact Dianne Syms.





Check out the recap video of NGLS participants at the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer!

Nearly 100 youth and adult leaders from the Northern Great Lakes Synod attended the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July. THANK YOU to everyone who supported this faith-forming event. The ELCA Gathering staff have a variety of resources available to congregations, including a digital Gathering Remix curriculum under the theme of "Created to Be." The Remix includes 10+ lessons featuring Mass Gathering recordings, exclusive interviews, discussion guides, and more, to enrich discussions with middle and high school groups.





**ELCA NATIONAL
YOUTH GATHERING
IN NEW ORLEANS
JULY 2024**



**COME TO OUR
ICE CREAM
SOCIAL AFTER
WORSHIP ON
SEPTEMBER
15TH TO HEAR
FROM OUR 5
YOUTH WHO
ATTENDED!**



Helping To Build A Hunger-Free Community



RAFP

627 Coon Street
Rhinelander, WI

Thank you to our August Food Pantry crew for sharing the love of Christ through serving! Volunteering is a great way to show the love of Christ to those in our community. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Darlene Machtan. Immanuel volunteers the 2nd Saturday of each month from 8:45 am—11:30 am.





THE ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING was held in New Orleans in July.



COME TO OUR ICE CREAM SOCIAL after worship on September 15th to hear all about it!



Did You Know?...

Even though we at Immanuel talk about and practice stewardship of our gifts throughout the year, the fall of the year is when we tend to turn more of our focus on use of our time and money. We have a few events and ideas that are coming in September.

First, the Council decided that for **God's Work, Our Hands**, we would like to provide an extra meal for the NATH house. Pastor John is determining what dates are open and we would like members of the congregation to participate in providing a meal. This would be in addition to the meals on the 4th Wednesday of the month that Immanuel already provides.

Second, we will be taking a special collection for **Answer the Call** on September 8th. The Northern Great Lakes Synod is number one in providing financial assistance to seminarians and pastors that have incurred large educational loans. We are hoping that this incentive may draw someone to answer our call .

Next, we are excited that we will be having an **ice cream social** on September 15th. The youth that went to New Orleans will be providing a program about how the gathering has inspired and influenced them. Keep in mind that these kids are our future leaders.

Finally, as we did last year, we are planning a **Church clean-up and spruce-up** for September 22nd. We have had some dedicated gardeners working to improve the outside appearance of our church and they could always use some help. Bring your pruning shears and weeding gloves. Or, if that isn't your thing, the kitchen could use a good cleaning and some of the store rooms are in need of help as well.

We are having a busy month before the snow flies. Please try to participate in whatever way you are able.

....This is Stewardship!

By JoAnne Barrix

Ice Cream Social Set for September 15

We are having our annual ice cream social on Sunday, Sept. 15, following worship that morning at about 10 am. It's never too early for ice cream!

We'll have the ice cream (and a variety of it), but we need toppings: strawberries, other berries, whipped topping, nuts, chocolate syrup, etc. If you can bring something, please let Cory Dellenbach or Jackie Waldorf know!

Also, during the ice cream social we'll hear from our 5 youth that attended the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer on their experiences in New Orleans and at the event.





NATH - Frederick Place

Northwoods Alliance for Temporary Housing

"I was a stranger and you invited me in..." – Matthew 25:35 NIV

NATH is committed to ending and preventing homelessness. This corporation exists to provide safe housing and basic needs to families and individuals who are experiencing homelessness.

NATH MEALS

Our ministry groups have been providing the monthly NATH (Northwoods Alliance for Temporary Housing) meals and this has been working well.

Please consider signing your group up to provide a meal in 2024!

To volunteer, please sign-up on the sheet in the narthex or you can call Sue Larsen at 715-362-2544.

Thank you for your cooperation in this ministry!

NAMI Northern Lakes

NAMI Northern Lakes is a group of Northwoods volunteers that provides support, education and advocacy in Forest, Vilas and Oneida Counties, on behalf of individuals and families affected by mental illness. All NAMI programs are free. Donations are welcome.

Don't suffer in silence. We can help each other, with compassion and knowledge.

24/7 Free Crisis Counselors

Text "HOPELINE" to 741741

A Kind Voice

1-800-876-2399

10 am to 11 pm every day.

Iris Place

1-920-815-3217

24/7

Mental Health Crisis Line

988

Warm Line

1-414-777-4729

7 pm to 11 pm Wed.-Mon.

Solstice Warm Line

1-608-244-5077

24/7



National Alliance on Mental Illness

September 2024

Immanuel Lutheran Church 715-362-5910
21 W Timber Drive, Rhinelander

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:00 am Worship Communion Worship Leader: Rev. John Kuziej	7:00 pm AA & Al-Anon	OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON PASTOR JOHN OFFICE HOURS 10:00 am—NOON 8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group	1:00 pm— 3:00 pm Quilting 10:00 am WELCA <i>Bible Study (2nd Wednesday of the month)</i> 6:00 pm Council	OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON 10:30—NOON MEMORY CAFÉ	8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group 7:00 pm AA	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:00 am Worship Worship Leader: Matthew Johnson	7:00 pm AA & Al-Anon	OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON 10:00 am PASTOR JOHN Milestone Nursing Home Service 8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group 5:00 pm Stewardship	1:00 pm— 3:00 pm Quilting 10:00 am WELCA <i>Bible Study (2nd Wednesday of the month)</i> 6:00 pm Council	OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON 10:30—NOON MEMORY CAFÉ	8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group 7:00 pm AA <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Newsletter Articles Due!!! </div>	8:45 am— 11:30 am Food Pantry 6—8PM AA BIG GROUP MEETING OR NEXT SATURDAY
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00 am Worship Communion Worship Leader: Rev. Paul Heykes ICE CREAM SOCIAL FOLLOWING WORSHIP!!	7:00 pm AA & Al-Anon	OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON 10:00 am PASTOR JOHN Friendly Village Nursing Home Service 8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group	1:00 pm— 3:00 pm Quilting 6pm CONFIRMATION CLASS	OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON 10:30—NOON MEMORY CAFÉ	8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group 7:00 pm AA	6—8PM AA BIG GROUP MEETING OR LAST SATURDAY
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00 am Worship Worship Leader: Rev. John Kuziej	7:00 pm AA & Al-Anon	OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON 10:00 am PASTOR JOHN Rennes Nursing Home Service 8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group	1:00 pm— 3:00 pm Quilting 4:30 pm Meal @ Frederick Place	OFFICE HOURS 9:00 am—NOON 10:30—NOON MEMORY CAFÉ	8:45—10:45 am Closed Support Group 7:00 pm AA	
29						
9:00 am Worship Worship Leader: Rev. John Kuziej		THE TUESDAY MORNING CREW MEETS EVERY TUESDAY TO DO ODD JOBS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN OUR CHURCH. PLEASE REACH OUT TO JOHN PLAUTZ IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP! 715-367-3762 jeplautz@hotmail.com				

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

July 2024

GENERAL FUND:

Beginning Balance	\$43,989.41
Offerings	\$12,346.11
Expenses	(\$ 7,047.37)
Ending Balance	\$49,288.15

BENEVOLENCE:

July Offering	\$ 1,939.29
2024 Pledge	\$19,000.00
YTD Remittance	\$10,998.34

BUILDING FUND:

Beginning Balance	\$41,642.08
Offerings	\$ 856.10
Expenses	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$42,498.18

The INCOME exceeded the EXPENSES by \$5,298.74 this month.

CD=\$60,000.00



9/1	David Dart	9/24	Otto Schoeneck
9/6	Sheree Kral	9/24	Jessica Scholtes
9/8	John Plautz	9/25	Roxine Zunker
9/9	Johanna Dellenbach	9/26	Elizabeth Eades
9/9	Peggy Johnson	9/27	Darlene Machtan
9/17	Alex Fortier	9/28	Jeffery Parsons
9/19	Buddy Meek	9/28	Scott Scholtes
9/20	Kari Britton	9/29	Romelle Ewert
9/22	Greg Hargraves	9/30	Heather Morrison
9/24	Linda Gary	9/30	Mike Piasecki



IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council did not meet in the month of July—No minutes

*May Your Day
Be Special!*

If you were omitted or listed in error from our birthday or anniversary list, please contact the church office at 715-362-5910. Thank you!

9/2	Tina & Jerry Schmitz
9/6	Kari & Eric Britton
9/7	Terry & MJ Strong
9/8	Dianne & Michael Syms
9/19	Sheree & Bryan Kral
9/22	Jean & Quentin Milz
9/19	Kristine & John Mladucky
9/28	Joseph & Stephanie Patrone

IMMANUEL'S MESSENGER

21 West Timber Drive
Rhineland, WI 54501

Electronic Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Rhineland, WI
PERMIT NO. 194

Join us for in-person worship Sundays at 9:00 am or join online. All Are Welcome!

1) Through YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYfWH9caWNuzOxf9T9JgecQ>
(or search Immanuel Rhineland) on YouTube.

2) Through our website:

www.immanuelrhineland.org/worship
(you'll also find the bulletin and lessons here).

3) Through our phone app.

Just click on the "worship" button at the bottom of the screen.

The live stream will begin at about 8:55 am.