

**A New Journey Lutheran Parish**

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Ness Lutheran Church  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
Sundal Lutheran Church  
Gary Lutheran Church  
PO Box 96  
Gary, MN 56545

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**Address Service Requested**



**APRIL 2022**



- ***Check the enclosed calendar & worship schedule carefully for April events. Please note that we have added events for the first two weeks in May.***
- ***First Communion Class: Each of our congregations have a different traditional 'age' of offering First Communion, so we are opening this class up to any student, as long as their family feels they are old enough to understand.***
  - *Class is set for Sunday, April 3, 1-4 pm. Hosted at Immanuel in Bejou. Katie will do instruction, and folks will help students to make/bake Communion bread to freeze to use for their First Communion.*
  - *That service can take place either on Maundy Thursday (at Gary Lutheran 7pm) or on Easter at their home congregation. Families' choice. We will make it feel special that day even if they have received Holy Communion before, as we will use the bread they baked and wine (or juice if preferred), and be up at the altar with their families.*
  - *Please contact Katie for more information or to sign up.*
- ***Men's Breakfast: Men's Breakfast Gathering at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 26, at the Bendickson General Store in Bejou. We hope to have a good turnout of parish men to gather for a fellowship time.***
- ***Joint parish council meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel on Wed., April 20.***
- ***A pamphlet introducing the Parish Staff is enclosed for your info.***
- ***Youth Group: Thanks to all who came to the Youth Group field trip at Warp Zone! We had a blast! April's Youth Group (hosted at Immanuel, Bejou. 5-7pm) is going to be one you won't want to miss. We are going to have a paint project night, and hydrodip baseball caps. Red Barn 94 will lead this project. A \$10 donation to offset some of the cost of the project is encouraged, but not required. RSVP will be required, no later than Sunday, April 17, to Katie (218-820-8287 call/text). Youth Group is open to all 6-12th graders, and friends are welcome!***

- *We have scheduled another Beer & Hymns event at the Lean-To in Bejou on Friday, April 22, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The MOOS Band will begin at 7:30 p.m. This is an all-ages show, open to anyone, and hosted by A New Journey Lutheran Parish.*
  - *MOOS stands for the Men of Our Savior's church in Moorhead. Their music is an eclectic blend of bluegrass, acoustic folk, and gospel. Two guitars, acoustic bass and mandolin or banjo and four voices combine to perform traditional hymns, old-time gospel and contemporary favorites. Their performances mix songs, story-telling and humor for an entertaining program.*
  - *There will be pizza and a keg of Root Beer to be enjoyed compliments of the Immanuel Ladies' Aid. Other beverages can be purchased. A free will offering will be gathered for future ministry opportunities.*
  - *There is teleconference BINGO at the Lean-To from 6- 7pm, and all are welcome to come early to try their luck before the Beer & Hymns event.*
- *In addition to viewing taped worship services on YouTube and GVTV, you may now also tune in to Arvig's Channel 14 at noon each Sunday.*
- *New Joint Parish Text Prayer Chain and Announcements: We as a joint parish have invested in a new way to quickly get the word out to folks about weather-related cancellations, events, and prayer requests. If you sign up, you will receive text message notifications from our new automated system. The service is free for you, and you may opt-out at any time. Messages will be sent sparingly, and you will be able to respond to the message, but you will not have to see everyone's responses, unlike a traditional group text. If you would like to be added to our joint parish text prayer chain and announcement group, please text Rachel at 701-741-0976. This is a great way to get the word out quickly and widely, so that we can lift up our church family members in prayer during times of need and more efficiently spread the word about closures, etc.*
- *Parish Prayer Concerns List: The parish staff are working on updating our prayer concerns list; so, if you would like for you or a loved one to be added to the list because of any prayer concerns, including a long-term illness, recovery, or stay in a nursing home, please contact Pastor Keith or Katie.*

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*A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KEITH ZEH...*

*“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When Jesus had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”  
John 20:21-22*

Ruach (pronounced roo-akh) is the Hebrew word for spirit, breath, or wind. This word, translated as “breathed” in John 20:22, is also found in Genesis 2:7: “Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.”

Jesus enters a locked room where his disciples are huddled in fear and uncertainty about the future and what to do. He brings them a peace that passes all understanding, animates them with the life-giving breath of God, and commissions them through the power of the Holy Spirit to continue Jesus’ work and grow forward as a community for God’s mission.

On Sunday, April 24, our five congregations will have an opportunity to catch their breath by catching God’s breath in worship, followed by refreshments and conversation. We’ll gather for one 8:30 a.m. worship service hosted by Immanuel in Bejou. Pastor Rebel Hurd, our Synod’s Director for Evangelical Mission, will be our guest preacher. She will also facilitate an after-worship conversation. During this conversation we’ll hear from one another about how things are going, what we have been learning along the way, and about our hopes for the future. This significant conversation will also help determine future direction for the continuing mission development of the New Journey Lutheran Parish.

More information and encouragement will be provided, including alternate ways to worship that Sunday morning for those unable to attend the one worship service scheduled. Until then, save the date on your calendars, and pray in the days to come this prayer written by Christine Sine:

**Spirit of God, may we breathe in and hold your love within us;  
May we breathe out and share it with the world.  
Spirit of God, may we breathe in and hold your peace within us;  
May we breathe out and share it with the world.  
Spirit of God, may we breathe in and hold your life within us;  
May we breathe out and share it with the world.**

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## *A MESSAGE FROM KATIE DEMARAIS, SAM*

Signs of Spring are popping up all around: melting snow, warming rays of sun, a patch of green poking out, and mud. Here are the days of wiping up muddy floors from what we, our pets, and our kids track in the door.

I think the muddiness of Spring is to remind us that with change, good things come, but change also brings something annoying, something uncomfortable, something messy. Life is like that too, especially our lives after we choose to follow Jesus. So many wonderful things await us, and we can feel the warm rays of His love on our faces. But with discipleship, sometimes comes things that are annoying, uncomfortable, and at times, messy. Sometimes following Jesus will lead us down muddy paths, but we are promised that the sun will come out again and those paths will dry up and feel solid under our feet once more.

Change in our congregations is like this as well. There are great things that await as we transition from one season to another: new brothers and sisters, new ministry opportunities, and new faithful experiences. There will be muddiness as well, as we experience at times. There will be times when it feels like we are forever washing the floors for the amount of mud. But, summer is promised, and we know it will arrive. If we can make it through the seasonal transition we seem to be in, then we can enjoy the growth that happens during the summer season. When our bodies and souls can relax a bit, confident that our good planning and planting work is growing and in need of less-stressful tending from us.

As I feel the first signs of Spring in nature, I feel the first signs of Spring in our congregations as well. We have made it through a hard Winter of pandemic, transition, and change, and now signs of Spring are here: baptisms, confirmations, weddings, first communions, new members, and sanctuaries steadily filling with our neighbors. There will still be mud at times, but if we have learned anything from our baptismal promises, it's that we all can be washed clean (including our kids, our pets, our feet, our floors, and most of all, us).

Where have you seen these signs of Spring, either in nature or in congregations? Share with me!

Your Faithful Washer of Floors,  
Katie DeMarais, SAM

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## *Minutes - New Journey Parish Council*

March 16, 2022

President Mike Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members present - Pastor Keith, Becky Olson, Harry Aanden, Mike Nelson, Karen Carlsrud, Marilyn Graff, Peggy Hanson, Jenny Hanson, Jim Steinmetz and Stacey Knutson. Guest - Rachel Roggenbuck.

Opening prayer and devotions by Mike Nelson.

Secretary's report: Minutes from the February 16, 2022, were passed out for review. M/S/P Jim S/Marilyn G.

Parish Treasurer's Report: A copy thru February passed out for review. M/S/P - Harry A/Jim S.

Old Business: Prayer chain update from Rachel - seems to be going ok. More numbers will be added as they are received. This list will be also used as a reminder for upcoming events.

Mike read a couple of thank you's received from members.

Video Taping - update from Rachel - taping at the morning service - no more Wednesday taping sessions. Working with Arvig. M/S/P - Becky O/JimS - to fund the group texts - broadcasting from the Parish fund - about \$100/month.

New Business: Update from Pastor Keith - staff report handout discussed briefly. Discussion on services this summer. It was also mentioned starting in June/July/August - no Wednesday service. Discussion held that indicated some would still like a monthly Wednesday night worship. More to follow. Handout on the MOOS Band from Moorhead - with a possible another beer/hymn evening planned for in the future. Info on the call process handed out for review. More to follow on this process in April.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 20 at 6:30 pm at Bejou.

Closing prayer by Mike Nelson. President Mike called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm. M/S/P - Jim S/Becky O.

We all joined hands for the Lord's Prayer.

Karen Carlsrud, Secretary - Parish Council

NOTE: The Parish Council also decided to have a joint worship service at Immanuel on Sunday, April 24, at 8:30 a.m. followed by conversation about our future plans.

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*Interim Pastor and Staff Reporting to New Journey Parish Council  
March 16, 2022*

Sampling of Accomplishments and Learnings:

- Created logo, established parish newsletter and weekly Sunday bulletin
- Started development of parish webpage
- Timely announcements and prayer requests through text messaging and landlines
- Broadcasting of weekly worship services that average 60 views a week
- Published parish staff pamphlet introducing staff and information on how to connect to learn more about the parish and the ministries we share together
- Annual reports from our five-congregation for 2021 reported generous support for ministry by providing a combined offering of \$180,624.18, as well as reporting a combined total of over \$745,000 deposited in CDs, Thrivent, MIF, estate and various savings accounts.

Recent Acts of the Holy Spirit:

- Baptisms recently - 4 @ ILC - 1 @ Gary - 1 @ OS April 3rd
- New member reception - 4 this past month (2 @ ILC / 2 @ Gary)
- Sunday School start up at ILC with 8 kids on average attending
- Confirmation ministry with 8 active students
- Youth Events – cookie baking, Valentine's Day escape room, field trip to the Warp Zone

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*A 4-year old boy brought me gifts (at my workplace) he had made himself: a painted wooden cactus, 3 drawings, and a 'wishing stone' engraved with the words "One Day At a Time." He also included a goodie bag that he assembled himself. It included a sucker, some crackers, a fruit bar, and a seasoning packet from a package of Ramen noodles! Children reflect God's love naturally, and without hesitation. It brightened my day!*

*~The song "Give Heaven Some Hell" by Hardy. Look it up if you haven't heard it, and get ready to cry, especially if you have some loved ones up in heaven.*

*~Our guest preacher, Jeanne Rains, shared how she saw God in the faces of the newly baptized (and older baptized) as she placed the cross on people's foreheads as a part of Worship and asked folks to do the same.*

*~I heard God in the laughter of the teens who gathered for Youth Group to play games and have some fun. It was the first Youth Group in a long time that really resonated with the students. God was there playing Mario Kart and Wii Bowling that day.*

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### **Miscellaneous Information:**

- Condolences to the family and friends of Doug Munson, Gary, who passed away March 15.
- 7th Annual Women's Wisdom Day will be held on *Saturday, April 9th at 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon at St. Ann's Church, Waubun.* The Ladies Aid Society invites the adult women of our local parishes for a day of fun, fellowship and reflection. The theme this year is "Whispers of God's Love." *I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. Isaiah 43:1.* The speaker this year is JoAnne Riegert of St. Ann's, Waubun. Cost \$10 for brunch. For reservations, please contact Carol Bettels, (218) 473-2577, by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Limited seating.



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## *News from Gary Parish...*

**Confirmation:** Madison Stueness will be confirmed at Gary Lutheran on Sunday, May 1, at 10:30 a.m.

**Senior Quilts:** Quilts will be presented to graduating Seniors as follows:

- Gary Lutheran—10:30 a.m., Sunday, May 1
- Ness Lutheran—10:30 a.m., Sunday, May 8

**Quilters:** Thank you to all our Gary Quilters (Karen Carlsrud, Audrey Felske, Shirley Motteberg, Edna Nelson, Kay Oakland, LouAnn Sirjord, Shirley Valen and Kathy TeHennepe). One hundred of their quilts were delivered to 14 places in Fargo. Thanks also to Alden Anderson who delivered the quilts. The quilters meet at Gary Lutheran the second Wednesday of each month at 12:30 p.m. All are welcome.

### **Altar Guild, Usher/Greeters and Janitor Assignments**

- Gary Lutheran Church Ushers/Greeters:
  - April 3: Dennis Jacobson & Jay Gunderson
  - April 10 & 17: Aaron & Kayla Werpy
  - April 24 & May 1: Randy & LeAnn Moen
  - May 8 & 15: Linda & Leonard Engen
- Gary Lutheran Altar Guild: Jenny Hanson & Peggy Hanson
- Sundal Lutheran Church Ushers/Janitors/Altar Guild for March:
  - Wally & Edna Nelson
- Ness Lutheran Church: None

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## *News from Immanuel...*

### **Summary of March 16, 2022, Council Meeting Minutes**

Council members present: Becky Olson, Joyce Bendickson, Duane Gunderson, Peggy Gunderson, Terry McCollum, Gloria Steinbrenner, Darrell Lende, Jim Steinmetz, and Delane Schaumburg. Others in attendance, Pastor Keith Zeh, Katie DeMarais and Rachel Roggenbuck..

- Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were given.
- Beer & Hymns event will be held at 7:00 p.m. on April 22 at the Lean-To.
- Confirmation service will be held in May at Immanuel.
- Quilts will be presented to our graduating seniors on Mother's Day, May 8.
- A First Communion class will be held at Immanuel on Sunday, April 3.
- Immanuel's annual auction will be held at 10:00 a.m. on June 25. Raffle tickets are available to sell.
- Jim indicated Breakfast on the Farm is June 18.
- There will be joint parish service at Immanuel at 8:30 a.m. on April 24. Rolls and coffee will be served following the service.

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### **Additional Immanuel Info:**

- Immanuel's Father/Son Banquet is scheduled for Saturday, April 23, at 5:30 p.m.
- Ladies' Aid will hold their monthly supper on Wednesday, April 20, serving from 4-6:30 p.m. and the meal cost is \$5. Servers are Sue Steinmetz, Linda Lende and Donna Radtke. Please note that evening there is Confirmation at 6:00 p.m. a Joint Parish Council meeting at 6:30 p.m., and Immanuel's Council Meeting at 8:00 p.m.
- Quilts will be presented to Immanuel's graduating Seniors during our 8:30 a.m. worship on Sunday, May 8.
- Mark Your Calendars!! Immanuel's Annual Auction is scheduled for Saturday, June 25, at 10:00 a.m. Please contact Jim Steinmetz, Terry McCollum and Darrell Lende if you have items to donate. We are also selling tickets for the raffle of a 2022 Polaris Ranger.
- The Immanuel quilters are busy this time of year, so if anyone has cotton fabric they wish to donate for their quilts, please contact Peggy Gunderson.

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## *News from Our Savior's...*

### **March 2022 Council Meeting Minutes**

Meeting opened with devotions.

It was discussed what we want the future to look like for our churches moving forward.

Wanda provided update on the parsonage timeline.

Copy machine has been fixed and seems to be working good again.

For the week of Holy Week, we will have a Good Friday service at 7:00 pm. Easter Sunday we will have two services one at 7:00 am and one at 10:30 am. There will be breakfast served following the 7:00 am Easter service. We will host Lenten services again on April 6<sup>th</sup> We will be giving our Lenten offering to help the people of Ukraine.

Discussed Text Them All option--on pause for now.

Anita is looking for readers on Sunday mornings to help read the scripture lessons. If you are willing to help read, please contact her at the office at 563-3495.

Meeting adjourned.

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### **Additional Our Savior's Information:**

- There will be an open house 90th birthday party for Lorraine Rustad on Saturday, April 9th, at 2:00 pm at Our Savior's Church. Everyone is welcome to come celebrate with Lorraine! No gifts please and note that there will be a program at 2:00 p.m. Lorraine's family will also be sharing special music during church on Sunday, April 10th, at Our Savior's.
- Our Savior's will be hosting two worship services on Easter Sunday, April 17, as follows:
  - 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Worship followed by Breakfast
  - 10:30 a.m. Worship

## *Lenten & Holy Week Information*



“Roads that Jesus Traveled” has been our Lenten series. We have traveled with him on the roads to the Wilderness, Galilee, Capernaum, Samaria, and Jericho. We’ll travel these roads Jesus walked for us then and is traveling with us now on the roads we’re traveling today.

Each Wednesday during Lent, we hit the road and traveled to each congregation for an hour of fellowship and worship starting at 7:00 p.m. During this hour we worship, grew in our relationship as Jesus’ disciples, and ate dessert. Our final Lenten service is: Wednesday, April 6, at Our Savior’s - “Road to Jericho”

- ***Palm Sunday, April 10***
  - 8:30 a.m. – *Worship at Gary (KZ)*
  - 8:30 a.m. – *Worship at Immanuel (KD)*
  - 10:30 a.m. – *Worship at Sundal (KZ)*
  - 10:30 a.m. – *Worship at Our Savior’s (KD)*
- ***Maundy Thursday, April 14--Communion***
  - 7:00 p.m. – *Worship at Gary (KD)*
- ***Good Friday, April 15***
  - 3:00 p.m. – *Worship at Immanuel (KZ)*
  - 7:00 p.m. – *Worship at Our Savior’s (KZ)*
- ***Easter Sunday, April 17--Communion***
  - 7:00 a.m. – *Sunrise Worship at Our Savior’s followed by Breakfast (KZ)*
  - 7:00 a.m. – *Sunrise Worship at Gary (KD)*
  - 8:30 a.m. – *Worship at Immanuel (KZ)*
  - 9:00 a.m. – *Worship at Ness (KD)*
  - 10:30 a.m. – *Worship at Sundal (KD)*
  - 10:30 a.m. – *Worship at Our Savior’s (KZ)*

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**April 24 Joint Festival Worship Guest Preacher**  
**Pastor Rebel Hurd**  
**Director for Evangelical Mission**  
**Northwestern Minnesota Synod**



Pastor Rebel is a believer in the promise, a lover of people, and an equipper of leaders. She is a graduate of St. Cloud State University (B.S. in Social Work and Psychology) and Luther Seminary (M.Div.).

Her first career in social work led to her becoming the founding Mission Developer and later Head Pastor of Church on the Street, an ELCA congregation with those struggling with homelessness and poverty in Sioux Falls, SD. Rebel is an ELCA Coach for Mission Development and Redevelopment and has coached pastors and developers across the country.

Rebel is married to her husband of 27 years, Jeff, and they have three young adult daughters; Maisie, Autumn, and Darby. All three are pursuing higher education and come home to be loved (and fed) often. Rebel loves to garden, listen to audiobooks, and go on walks with Jeff and their two Dachshunds. Rebel and her family reside in Moorhead.

# FIRST COMMUNION

1ST COMMUNION CLASS  
SUNDAY, APRIL 3  
1-4PM

IMMANUEL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
IN BEJOU



## Youth Group



Open to all 6-12 Graders.

All are welcome. Bring a friend!  
This month, we are going to do a hat painting (hydrodip) party!

A \$10 donation to cover costs is encouraged, but not required!

Need to RSVP to Katie by April 17!

**Sunday, April 24 ~ 5:00-7:00pm**  
**Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bejou**

## Men's Breakfast

All men are welcome!  
We will gather for food, fellowship,  
and Bible Study.

**Tuesday, April 26**

**7:00am**

**Bendickson's General Store  
& Cafe, Bejou**



## Church Ladies' Night Out



All ladies are welcome! Bring a friend!  
Each month we will gather at a local  
restaurant for food, fellowship,  
and fun.

**Tuesday, April 26**

**6:30pm**

**Stump's Bar & Grill, Bejou**

<b>Ministers:</b>	<b>Members of the Congregations</b>
<b>Interim Pastor:</b>	<b>Pastor Keith Zeh (218) 790-1764 or <a href="mailto:pastorkeithzeh@gmail.com">pastorkeithzeh@gmail.com</a></b>
<b>Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM)</b>	<b>Katie DeMarais (218) 820-8287 or <a href="mailto:demarais.katie@gmail.com">demarais.katie@gmail.com</a></b>
<b>Worship Coordinator:</b>	<b>Rachel Roggenbuck (701) 741-0976 or <a href="mailto:athomerachel@gmail.com">athomerachel@gmail.com</a></b>
<b>Parish Secretary:</b>	<b>Sue Gunderson (218) 280-8678 or <a href="mailto:immanuel@gvtel.com">immanuel@gvtel.com</a></b>
<b>Gary Parish Secretary:</b>	<b>Julie Gevik (218) 280-3356 or <a href="mailto:garyrindaloffice@gmail.com">garyrindaloffice@gmail.com</a></b>
<b>Our Savior's Secretary:</b>	<b>Anita Roy (218) 849-3791 or <a href="mailto:oursaviors@gvtel.com">oursaviors@gvtel.com</a></b>

## APRIL/MAY 2022 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

WORSHIP *Communion	IMMANUEL (Bejou)	OUR SAVIOR'S (McIntosh)	GARY	NESS	SUNDAL
<b>Sunday, April 3*</b>	8:30 am- Worship (KZ) 9:30 am- Sunday School	10:30 am- Worship with Baptism (KZ)		10:30 am-Worship (KD)	8:30 am-Worship (KD)
<b>Wed., April 6 Lenten Service</b>		7 pm- Lenten Worship			
<b>Palm Sunday, April 10</b>	8:30 am-Worship (KD)	10:30 am-Worship (KD)	8:30 am-Worship (KZ)		10:30 am-Worship (KZ)
<b>Maundy Thursday, April 14*</b>			7 pm-Worship (KD)		
<b>Good Friday, April 15</b>	3:00 pm-Worship (KZ)	7 pm-Worship (KZ)			
<b>Easter Sunday, April 17*</b>	8:30 am-Worship (KZ)	7 am-Sunrise Worship & Breakfast (KZ) 10:30 am-Worship (KZ)	7 am-Sunrise Worship (KD)	9:00 am-Worship (KD)	10:30 am-Worship (KD)
<b>Sunday, April 24</b>	8:30 am- Joint Festival Worship (Guest Preacher Rebel Hurd) followed by conversation, rolls & coffee 9:30 am- Sunday School				
<b>Sunday, May 1*</b>	8:30 am-Worship (KZ) 9:30 am- Sunday School	10:30 am-Worship (KZ)	10:30 am-Worship with Confirmation & Senior Quilt Presentation (KD)		8:30 am-Worship (KD)
<b>Sunday, May 8 Mother's Day</b>	8:30 am-Worship with Senior Quilt Presentation (KD)	10:30 am-Worship (KD)	8:30 am-Worship (KZ)	10:30 am-Worship Senior Quilt Presentation (KZ)	



