

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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JUNE 2022



- *Enclosed for your information is the final report of the Practicing Resurrection Team.*
- ***IMPORTANT:** Following worship on Sunday, June 26, each of the five congregations will hold a special congregational meeting to act on important parish matters. More information to come.*
- *Pastor Keith has now set the following office hours schedule for June:*
 - *Tuesdays at Immanuel...10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*
 - *Wednesdays at Our Savior's...1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.*
 - *Thursdays at Gary...10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*
 - *Evening appointments can also be scheduled for each of these days.*
- *All are welcome to attend the first opportunities of our summer outdoor Wednesday Night Worships! These will be held two Wednesdays a month, hosted by various congregations and in various community locations!*

The first one will be hosted by Gary Lutheran and held at the Gary Community Park (across the street from the Gary State Bank) at 7 pm on Wed., June 1. We will have fun music, scripture reading, and the Good News proclaimed. Bring a lawn chair if you can. [Rain site Gary Lutheran Church]

The second Wednesday Night Worship will be hosted at Immanuel Lutheran Church on Wed., June 15. Ladies Aid will have their monthly supper from 4-6pm that evening as well. Come eat, spend time visiting, and then worship outdoors at 7 pm! [Rain site indoors]

July's opportunities will be July 13 in McIntosh and July 20 in Bejou.
- *The parish is invited to Bridget Roggenbuck's graduation open house on Sunday, June 19, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at 15670 290th St SE, Mentor.*
- *There will be a 4th of July Worship service to be hosted at Immanuel Lutheran Church on Sunday, July 3, at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome!*
- *Volunteers are needed to work with Rachel in planning summer events.*

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KEITH ZEH...

One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The ill man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am making my way someone else steps down ahead of me." Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

John 5:2-9

Near the Temple in Jerusalem was a special pool of water called Beth-zatha that had healing properties. It was said that every now and then an angel would stir the water, the water would begin to bubble, and the first one in the water would be healed. There was a man who had been on his mat for thirty-eight years, waiting for such a miraculous occurrence. A long time to sit waiting, watching, and hoping, convinced that life will bubble up outside of him, over there, in that magic pool of water.

During all those years he was living an "as soon as" life. "As soon as the water bubbles, then I will get up off my mat. As soon as I get to the water, my life will be better. As soon as I get into the water, my problems will be fixed." The "As soon as" puts life on hold. The pause button has been pushed. One sits on their mat, self-imprisoned by the circumstances of their life. The imprisonment is so great that when Jesus asks the man, "Do you want to be made well?" the man doesn't even say, "YES!" Instead, he names his circumstances. "I have no one to put me in the water. When the water bubbles others get there first. They take cuts."

Now, I'm not suggesting that the circumstances of our lives are irrelevant or have no effect. They do affect us sometimes profoundly. That said, we are more than the circumstances of our lives. Life is not to be found outside our various situations or circumstances, but within them. Notice that Jesus does not help the man get into the water. He comes to him on his mat, the same mat and situation the man so wants to escape. Jesus comes alongside and speaks words of life and resurrection. "Stand up, take your mat and walk." It's worth noting that the man does not leave his mat behind. It goes with him. His circumstances are real. The difference is, he now carries them. They no longer carry him.

Jesus doesn't change our outer circumstances. Jesus changes us. He calls us into a new way of being, seeing, acting, speaking, and thinking. When we stand and rise to that new life, we discover the circumstances don't hold the same power over us. That doesn't necessarily make life easy or mean we no longer must deal with these circumstances of life. It means that we can now engage them, trusting (having

faith) in the power, promise and presence of our risen Lord Jesus. The life Jesus offers does not happen “as soon as” It happens in this place, at this time and in these circumstances which we find ourselves.

Dear Lord Jesus, you have come alongside us in the midst of our circumstances and situations we find ourselves, calling us to take up our mats and walk where you lead - to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Keith Zeh

A MESSAGE FROM KATIE DEMARAIS, SAM

“So that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

1 Peter 1:7

The word that has been rolling around in my brain lately is “Authenticity.” I’m not talking about authentic translations of the Bible or certificates validating memorabilia. I’m talking about living an authentic life, especially when it comes to your faith.

I strive to do that in my daily life; how about you? I try to act the same way in the sanctuary on a Sunday morning that I do out in the community, yes, even on a Friday night. That doesn’t mean that I ‘act’ at all. I am who I am, and if I strive to be anything at all, that is non-hypocritical. One of the worst criticisms that I have ever heard of Christians is that they act ‘holier-than-thou’ on a Sunday, while spending the rest of their week sinning. That is actually true, we do spend our entire week sinning. That is why we need the confession and forgiveness found in Worship, so that we can begin each week anew, washed clean in the blood of Jesus. I will be the first person to admit that I am 100% Sinner, and I believe as our Lutheran faith teaches, I am also 100% Saint. I know I cannot earn my own salvation, but only believe in the gift of the resurrection, and say ‘sorry’ when I do make mistakes and try again. That is the reality in which I live, I believe, and the message I hope my life and my actions share, both in the pulpit and out of it.

That is my wish for our ministry together, that it strives to be Authentic. One of the goals that we have set for our Parish, the first one actually, is called Worshipping Without Walls, and its focus is creating more worship and fellowship opportunities outside the walls of any of our congregations. We hope to bring the Word of God to folks who cannot or choose not to enter into a sanctuary. We worship in parks, by lakesides, parking lots, and in barrooms. We meet for fellowship at area convenience stores, cafes, school parks, and bar & grills. These are not 'traditional' worship spaces, but they are spaces in which folks traditionally reside.

Even when meeting in non-traditional spaces, we are sharing the same Gospel message, that God loves everyone hearing and believing in the Word proclaimed. We are just shouting that message a little wider, to reach ears sometimes out of the reach of the pulpit. We are admitting our sinner/saint reality, and offering the hope that can be found in God's forgiveness, death, and resurrection. That is authenticity. We are not changing the Good News for either audience; we are not trying to be edgy or disruptive or putting on any kind of act. We are being the Church, wherever we happen to be. We are following the example of Jesus and his ministry of meeting people where they are. We are still meeting in our sanctuaries for worship and renewal, to be filled with forgiveness, hope, and energy to get back to the work of ministry.

I hope that folks see our faith and God's love come shining through our authentic lives and our actions, and think, 'wow, I've got to see what faith in Jesus could mean for me.' That is my hope and my prayer.

Your Servant in Christ, Katie

I Saw God Today

~ I saw God when we were all together in the Practicing Resurrection wrap up, in the ideas and the coming together, creating one out of many. ~ Julie Gevik

~ I saw God in the smiles of the ladies and girls gathered together for the Mother/Daughter Banquet at Immanuel. Almost 100 moms, grandmas, friends, and little girls gathered for a meal, devotions, songs, and more.

~ I saw God in the laughs of the youth gathered for Youth Group, painting hats, eating snacks, and playing games. God was also shining through Wanda and Jared Olson who led the painting.

~ I saw God in the faces of Immanuel graduating seniors warmed by the quilts presented to them and the smiles on the quilters who made the quilts with love.

~ I see God in those who enjoy fellowship at Immanuel prior to each Sunday service; and the ladies working in the kitchen and those enjoying the Ladies' Aid suppers each month.

Minutes - A New Journey Parish Council Meeting at Our Savior's

May 11, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Mike at 7:05 pm. Members present: Pastor Keith, SAM Katie, Becky Olson, Harry Aanden, Mike Nelson, Karen Carlsrud, Marilyn Graff, Gordy Ostenaar, Peggy Hanson, Jim Steinmetz, Myron Stene. Guests - Rachel Roggenbuck, Wanda Stordahl, Kristi Skeie, Tanya Hamre.

Devotions and prayer by Mike.

Secretary's report from April 20, 2022, read by Katie. M/S/P - Jim/Marilyn.
Parish Treasurer's report reviewed by Mike. M/S/P - Jim/Myron

Old business: Rachel reported the parish wide message and prayer chain working good - 104 numbers so far. Need more people to sign up. The Go For It Grant "Plan" tabled. It was mentioned the Beer/Hymns event went well - collected \$301.

New business: Reviewed the summer service scheduling plan. When there is only one service, the time will be 9:30 am. M/S/PO - Becky/Gordy.

It was stated the Parish staff is working on a letter that will be mailed to all members describing how the roles of each contribute to our overall mission as a new parish. This letter will help clarify some of the potential questions coming...before they are asked.

Discussion held for each congregation to let the Parish council know that they want to be able to bring a new "One Parish Agreement" to home congregation for a vote. The first deadline for vote - June 15th. Then the New Journey Council would rework and revise the "interim" Joint Parish Agreement currently in place into a ONE Parish Agreement among all interested congregations in order to get that proposed agreement to congregations in time to meet the second deadline of June 26th - to dissolve old Parishes and join in A New Journey Lutheran Parish (one parish rather than 2 combined). M/S/P - Gordy/Jim.

The next meeting - June 15th at 8 pm - Bejou.

We held hands for the Lord's Prayer - meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Karen Carlsrud, Secretary

News from Gary Parish...

- Condolences to the friends and families of Julia Mae Gullingsrud who passed away May 5.
- Gary Lutheran's annual summer rummage sale needs a coordinator. Additional information will be provided when a date has been set. In the meantime, please contact Katie about drop off donations.

Sunday School:

- It is time to start thinking about Sunday School, which will start on a weekly basis at Gary Lutheran on Sunday, September 11, at 9:30 a.m. All pre-kindergarten through 6th grade children are welcome. To sign up your children, to volunteer to help, or if you have questions, please contact Teresa Werpy at 701-361-6290.

Altar Guild, Usher/Greeters and Janitor Assignments

- Gary Lutheran Church Ushers/Greeters:
 - June 5 & 12: Gerald & LaVon Olson
 - June 19 & 26: Berdean & Audrey Felske
 - July 3 & 10: Lynn & Diane Thordal
- Gary Lutheran Altar Guild: Kristi Engen & LaVon Olson
- Sundal Lutheran Church Ushers/Janitors/Altar Guild for June:
 - Kathy Motteberg
- Ness Lutheran Church: None

News from Our Savior's...

May 2022 Council Meeting Minutes

Pastor Keith opened with devotions.

David gave the financial report. Gordie motioned to accept it and Marilyn 2nd it. The Secretary's report was read and approved by Marilyn and Wanda.

We need two people to be on the signature card at Thrivent. Tanya and Kristi volunteered to be the ones on it.

Please note that there will be no in-house worship at Our Savior's on Sunday, June 5. Instead, Pastor Keith will lead a non-denominational worship service at 11:00 a.m.

on the front lawn of the old McIntosh School in conjunction with the All-School Reunion. Please bring your own chair.

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.

Kristi made a motion to adjourn and 2nd by Marilyn.

Additional Our Savior's Info:

- Condolences to the family and friends of Lorraine Lee who passed away May 4.
- Kristi Skeie and Katie are planning to have a one-day VBS camp sometime in August. Additional information will be provided when a date has been selected.

News from Immanuel...

Summary of May 18, 2022, Immanuel Council Meeting Minutes

Council members present: Duane Gunderson, Becky Olson, Peggy Gunderson, Darrell Lende, Jim Steinmetz, Cindy Large. Others in attendance: Rachel Roggenbuck.

- Treasurer's reports were given.
- A new water softener will be purchased and installed in the near future.
- A cement border will be poured around the church where the border rock is.
- Arrangements are being made to have the bell tower painted.
- We discussed putting a sidewalk on the east side of the church but it was decided not to move forward at this time.

Additional Immanuel Info:

- There is an 83rd birthday celebration planned for Howard "Scoop" Steinmetz from 2-5 p.m. on Saturday, June 11, at the Lean To in Bejou. All are welcome. No gifts please!
- **Confirmation:** Grace Dahl, daughter of Brian and Hailey Dahl, was confirmed at Immanuel Lutheran on Sunday, May 22.

- Ladies' Aid will hold their monthly supper on Wednesday, June 15, serving from 4-6:00 p.m. and the meal cost is \$5. Servers are Geraldine Dahl, Jody Dahl and Theresa McCollum.
- Breakfast on the Farm (home of Jimmy and Susie Steinmetz – 2326 170th St., Mahanomen) is scheduled for Saturday, June 18, from 8-11:00 a.m.
- New members will be welcomed at Immanuel during worship at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 19. If you haven't already done so, please contact Pastor Keith or Katie if you wish to become Immanuel members.
- 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.
- If anyone has cotton fabric they wish to donate for quilting, or would like to join our quilting group, please contact Peggy Gunderson.

*Wednesday
Night Worship*

Wednesday, June 1 ~ 7:00pm
Gary Community Park
(across from the Gary State Bank)

The first of our bi-weekly, summer, outdoor
Wednesday Night Worship!
The Word proclaimed! Music sang!
Fellowship shared! Bring a lawnchair!

*Wednesday
Night Worship*

Wednesday, June 15 ~ 7:00pm
Immanuel Lutheran Church

All are welcome to the bi-weekly, summer,
outdoor Wednesday Night Worship!

The Word proclaimed! Music sang!
Fellowship shared! Bring a lawnchair!

Couples Fellowship Night



If you are married, dating, or somewhere in-between, all are welcome to attend a Couples Fellowship Night: delicious desserts, fun fellowship, & relaxation around a bon-fire.

Wed. June 8 ~ 7:00pm

**Terry & Theresa McCollum home
1468 170th Ave. Bejou**



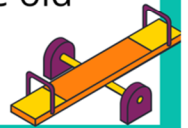
Family Playdate

All are welcome to attend a monthly family playdate! As the kids play, the adults can chat, have some snacks, and/or relax.

Thursday, June 16

Come anytime between **4-6pm**

At the playground of the old Gary School



Youth Group



Open to all 6-12 Graders.

Bring a friend & a chair!

All are welcome to attend the Outdoor Movie Night in celebration of Gary Days.

The movie will be shown at the Gary Community Park (by the bank).

The movie will begin at dark!

Snacks will be available to purchase.

Friday, June 17 ~ about 9pm

Gary Community Park, Gary

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, June 21

6:30pm

Moran's Supperclub, Winger

**Ministers:
Interim Pastor:**

**Synodically
Authorized
Minister (SAM)**

**Worship Life
Coordinator:**

**Parish Secretary:
Gary Parish
Secretary:
Our Savior's
Secretary:
Parish Website:**

**Members of the Congregations
Pastor Keith Zeh (218) 790-1764 or
pastorkeithzeh@gmail.com**

**Katie DeMarais (218) 820-8287 or
demarais.katie@gmail.com**

**Rachel Roggenbuck (701) 741-0976 or
athomerachel@gmail.com**

Sue Gunderson (218) 280-8678 or immanuel@gvtel.com

Julie Gevik (218) 280-3356 or garyrindaloffice@gmail.com

**Anita Roy (218) 849-3791 or oursaviors@gvtel.com
anewjourneyparish.org**

JUNE 2022 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

WORSHIP *Communion	IMMANUEL (Bejou)	OUR SAVIOR'S (McIntosh)	GARY	NESS	SUNDAL
Wed., June 1			7:00 pm-Joint Worship at Gary Community Park		
Sunday, June 5*	8:30 am- Worship (KZ)	11:00 am-Worship at Old McIntosh School Front Lawn as part of All School Reunion (bring your own chair) (KZ)	10:30 am-Worship (KD)	8:30 am-Worship (KD)	
Sunday, June 12	8:30 am-Worship (KD)	10:30 am-Worship (KD)	8:30 am-Worship (KZ)		10:30 a.m.-Worship (KZ)
Wed., June 15	7:00 pm-Joint Worship				
Sunday, June 19* Father's Day	8:30 am – Worship with Welcoming of New Members (KZ)	10:30 a.m. – Worship (KZ)	10:00 am – Gary Days Community Worship at Gary Park (KD)		
Sunday, June 26 FOLLOWED BY SPECIAL MEMBER MEETING AT EACH CONGREGATION	8:30 am-Worship (Pulpit Supply)	10:30 a.m. – Worship (Pulpit Supply)	10:30 a.m.-Worship (Pulpit Supply)	10:30 am-Worship (KZ)	8:30 am-Worship (KZ)
Sunday, July 3 4 th of July Weekend	9:30 am- Parish-Wide 4 th of July Weekend Worship Service (KZ)				

