

**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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**OCTOBER 2022**



- *The two old Parishes (Immanuel/Our Savior's and Gary/Rindal) will be dissolved as of October 31 and the new A New Journey Lutheran Parish (Gary, Immanuel, Ness & Our Savior's) will go into effect November 1. Pastor Keith Zeh will continue to be with us in some capacity until a new Pastor Mission Developer is hired.*
- *Along with Rachel Roggenbuck's primary focus of working with our Parish as Organist and Worship Life Coordinator, she has been selected to serve, alongside Bishop Bill, on the NWMN Synod FACES of Leadership. As part of that new role, she will also coordinate our Synod's ELCA Coaches. We congratulate her on this selection and wish her well in this additional role as she represents our Parish while working with the Synod.*
- *All are welcome and encouraged to come to Sundal on October 16 for worship followed by a time of food and fellowship. There will be special music and a time of celebration for Sundal's long and rich history.*
- *SUNDAY SCHOOL: Third grade Sunday School students from each congregation will receive Bibles during worship services on Sunday, October 30. If you have an older student who has not yet received their Bible, please contact Katie or Pastor Keith so those students can also receive Bibles that day.*
- *CONFIRMATION: Confirmation classes have started. Toward the end of this newsletter, see information about a November Youth Gathering in Alexandria.*
- *Pastor Keith's office hours for October are as follows:*
  - *Tuesdays at Gary...10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*
  - *Wednesdays at Our Savior's...10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*
  - *Thursdays at Immanuel...10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*
  - *Visits at a church office or one's home can be scheduled for other dates and times.*

## ***A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KEITH ZEH...***

***“So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith.” Galatians 6:9-10***

It always seems that in the time between the then and the now, there is always a delay that requires patience. This can be an irritating reality for many people, myself included, when there is an expectation of instant fruition of plans made or outcomes from work that has been done.

Some of the most delicious vine-ripened tomatoes were served at the Our Savior’s meatball dinner. The wait for the ripening needed to produce such scrumptious tomatoes was worth it. There’s no comparison between a vine-ripened tomato, which was allowed to grow slowly, and a tomato that was picked prematurely. If you pick too soon, you miss the flavor.

Reaping is always in a different season than sowing. But while you’re waiting, God is working. When you’re waiting for the fulfillment of the efforts or money or energy that you’ve put into something, you may think nothing is happening. While that seed is hidden in the ground, it is slowly germinating. And when that seed bursts with God’s blessing on it, it will continue growing and growing. One day a little shoot will stick up out of the ground, and then you will see that it’s working. But until then, we need to trust that God is working — even when we can’t see the fruit of our labor. Plants take time to grow. There’s no such thing as instant maturity. No farmer goes out, plants the seed in the ground, comes back an hour later, digs it up, and expects it to have grown. You’ve just got to let it be. Leave it covered, and let God grow it in God’s time.

In the book of Romans, Chapter 5 (from the Message by Dr. Eugene Peterson), the Apostle Paul writes that there’s more to come! Then he points to “passionate patience” and how it provides an alert expectancy for a harvest to come. A harvesting where we won’t be able to find enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit!

**Dear Lord Jesus, may the seeds being planted for congregational and parish vitality continue to germinate and grow into a bountiful harvest. May the Holy Spirit develop a “passionate patience,” keeping us alert for whatever God will do next. Amen!**

Your Servant in Christ,  
Pastor Keith Zeh

## ***A MESSAGE FROM KATIE DEMARAIS, SAM...***

***“I think it’s fair to wonder if by joining others, we are losing a little sense of self.”*** (The Practice)

This is not a Bible verse, but I heard this great line in a TV show the other day, and it struck me as familiar to a few of the comments that I read in our recent survey responses. (If you haven’t gotten to read the survey responses, there are copies now at all the congregations, on our website, or I’d be happy to get you one if you ask. There are some great ideas shared in them.) First off, I want to thank you for being so honest and candid in those surveys. We cannot address conflicts if we do not first voice them. Secondly, I wonder if more folks in our congregations who have joined together in this New Journey feel this way. I know I have felt this way at times, in other situations of folks joining together, such as sports teams, friend groups, and even school districts. This feeling that while there are great benefits to joining more folks together to share resources, ideas, manpower, and more, but that there is a sense of loss of self. Even if it is only imagined, the feeling of it is still real to many of us. Maybe that is only human nature, and it’s okay to feel this emotion. It’s only natural to want to preserve a sense of self or that of the community you have worked so hard to create or preserve.

I want you to know as a representative of the staff that you have called to work for you and with you, that we as the new Parish are not trying to strip any one or any congregation of their sense of self, their history, or their personal values or beliefs. Quite the contrary. As we join together in the new Parish, we want to lift up, value, and cultivate everyone’s individual gifts and talents, identities, and congregational strengths. We have written so in our shared Capacity Plan, written by our shared Practicing Resurrection team (also available in congregations, online, or by request): "God has already provided all we need to do what God needs us to do." Our objective in this resurrection process is re-discovering the hope that we have in Christ. We know that every person has something to offer and gifts to share, because we are all Children of God. Through this revitalization process, we are going to be purposefully recognizing and naming the gifts and talents of those in our midst, empowering people to use those gifts for good, and utilizing those gifts to spread the love of God and create positive change in our communities.

As we move forward into this New Journey, I ask you to help us hold fast to this plan and to stay true to our individual and congregational sense of selves. To recognize and name in others their gifts, to empower them to use those gifts for God’s Mission, and to call out times if and when it feels as if we are in danger of losing our sense of self, individually or congregationally. We need ALL of the

different voices, gifts, talents, and ways of doing ministry that are present in our Parish to make this the most effective ministry we can. Let us be individually united in God's Mission.

Your Servant in Christ,  
Katie DeMarais, SAM

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### ***News from A NEW JOURNEY LUTHERAN PARISH...***

- The Call Committee met for the first time on August 10 for an orientation. Since that time, a survey was collected from congregational members, and preparations were made for entering the interview phase of the call process. The first interview was held by a Zoom meeting on September 22.
- Wednesday Night Worship will continue the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Immanuel (in conjunction with Confirmation Class, but is open to ALL!). Other worship opportunities can be scheduled by contacting Rachel.
- Sunday School started at Gary and at Our Savior's on September 11 and meets every Sunday at both locations. Sunday School started at Immanuel on September 18 and meets on the first and third Sundays of each month.
- Confirmation Classes are being held every other Wednesday from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Immanuel. On the first Wednesday of the month, they will have a two-hour class. On the third Wednesday of the month, they will complete lessons from 6-7:00 p.m. and then attend Worship from 7-8:00 p.m. Both hours are a part of Confirmation Class. ***We need one mentor for each of the ten students to begin meeting with students later this fall and throughout the school year. Let Katie know if you'd like to volunteer (one session a month)!***
- Website and social media are fully converted under the new Parish name. Please like/follow our Parish Facebook page, individual congregation's FB, and our Parish Instagram. Our website has an up-to-date calendar easily accessible. Bookmark it or put it on the homepage of your phone or computer to easily check the calendar!
- Mail to A New Journal Lutheran Parish should be addressed to PO Box 308, McIntosh, MN 56556 and our New Parish email address is: [anewjourneyparish@gmail.com](mailto:anewjourneyparish@gmail.com). Note: Any offering or correspondence to an individual congregation can continue to be sent to that respective address.

*Minutes - A New Journey Parish Council Meeting at Immanuel*  
(September 7, 2022)

President Mike Nelson called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m. at Bejou. Members present: Pastor Keith, Becky Olson, Mike Nelson, Harry Aanden, Karen Carlsrud, guest Jill Nelson, Marilyn Graff, Jim Steinmetz, Kristi Skeie and guest Rachel Roggenbuck.

Devotions by Mike.

M/S/P - Marilyn/Jim - to approve the secretary's report from July 13, 2022, meeting.  
M/S/P - Jim/Kristi - to approve the Treasurer's report through August - we are close to budget.

Staff report - None.

Old business - Articles of Incorporation - info updated for the 4 churches involved. Jill will take care of this as well as getting necessary state/federal numbers - effective Nov. 1, 2022.

Honorians were mailed out from the money received from the Go For It Grant.  
New business - the worksheet for the Ministry Site Profile reviewed and completed - yes/no questions.

2023 budget - discussion held on percentages. M/S/P- Jim/Marilyn - the percentages will stay the same for 2023 and be reviewed for the 2024 budget.

Next meeting will be in October - date yet to be determined.

M/S/P - Harry/Becky - to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Karen Carlsrud  
Secretary - ANJP Council

# *Minutes - A New Journey Special Parish Council Meeting at Immanuel (September 9, 2022)*

A special ANJP meeting was held on Friday, September 9, 2022, for the purpose of approving our Ministry Site Profile (MSP).

A motion to approve by Karen Carlsrud, with a second from Becky Olson. All members voted for its approval.

The MSP will be forwarded to Pastor Rebel at the Synod for them to begin the process of making a specialized call.

Karen Carlsrud, Secretary - ANJP Council

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## *News from Gary Parish...*

- Sunday School started on a weekly basis at Gary Lutheran on Sunday, September 11, at 9:30 a.m. All pre-kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> 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.
- Be sure to check out the “spiritual information table” at Gary Lutheran. Please read and enjoy.
- Anniyah Love Bennefeld, daughter of Izaah Bennefeld and Sophia Hagen was baptized at Gary Lutheran on September 17, 2022. Blessings to you Anniyah!

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

- Gary Lutheran Church Ushers/Greeters (NOTE: Please plug in lamp prior to service & unplug after services.):
  - Oct. 2: Gary & Kathy TeHennepe
  - Oct. 9 & 16: Kelly & Kristi Engen
  - Oct. 23 & 30: Aaron & Kayla Werpy
- Gary Lutheran Altar Guild for October: Kim Jenson & Bindy Thronson
- Sundal Lutheran Church Ushers/Janitors/Altar Guild for October:
  - Steve & Elaine Ostgarden
- Ness Lutheran Church: None

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

## **Our Savior's Council Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2022**

Meeting called to order. Secretary's report was given. Tanya motioned to accept it and Beth 2<sup>nd</sup> it.

Stacey will follow up and call Ken Kassa to see if he can come fix the lights in the parsonage. Gordie will check on getting someone to check on the sound system. Tanya made a motion and Gordie 2<sup>nd</sup> it to get two new garage doors if they need to be replaced and Svalen's insurance doesn't cover it.

The meal we served for the July 13<sup>th</sup> service cost us roughly \$1,200.00.

VBS was held in August and we had 11 kids attend it.

We received a memorial in memory of Pastor Gordon Syverson. Beth made a motion to use it towards a new sound system, Stacey 2<sup>nd</sup> it.

Council meetings will be moved to the second Sunday after church moving forward. The next one will be Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> following church services.

Gordie made a motion to give Noel Thompson \$200.00 towards gas money, Tanya 2<sup>nd</sup> it.

Motion by Gordie to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> it by Tanya.

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

- Our Savior's Sunday School started on September 11th at 9:30-10:15 a.m. and will be held every Sunday in October. If anyone is interested in joining Sunday School, please call Our Savior's Church to get signed up at 218-563-3495.
- Quilting meets every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.

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### **PARISH PRAYER LIST**

*Diane Altringer, Alroy Aune, Brady Bauer, Shawn Bendickson, Susan Bendickson, Ron Dahl, Sara (Tommervik) Friesen, Alex Gullingsrud, Becky Halland, David Johnson, Sam Knutson, Ann (Wastweet) Kukowski, Violet Lee, Donna Lisburg, Marla (Johnson) Miller, Marilyn Natwick, Larry Ose, Jr., Franklyn Preisler, Stacey Prestegord, Bruce Solberg, Gerald Swanson, Jean Uhler, and LouAnn (Gorder) Vandeberg*



## *News from Immanuel...*

### **Summary of September 21, 2022, Immanuel Council Meeting Minutes**

Council members present: Duane Gunderson, Peggy Gunderson, Gloria Steinbrenner, Delane Schaumburg, Cindy Large, and Jon Large. Others in attendance: Pastor Keith Zeh, Katie DeMarais and Rachel Roggenbuck.

Treasurer's report was provided.

Katie reported on Confirmation, the need for mentors for each confirmand, and the Synod's Middle School event scheduled in Alexandria in November.

Old business included:

- Status of projects were reviewed as follows: sidewalks completed, parking lot paving completed, water softener replaced, church siding cleaned, and the curbing & rocks around church are complete.
- We received pricing on lutefisk but will make the final decision at the October council meeting on whether or not to go ahead depending on an adequate number of people to work at preparing and serving the meal.

New business included:

- Due to the 16% increase in our 2023 church insurance premium, it was decided to get quotes from a couple other insurance companies.
- For liability purposes, background checks will be conducted on all Parish employees; and during Sunday School and Confirmation classes, classroom doors must have windows in them or be kept open.
- The Call Committee will hold its first interview by a Zoom meeting on September 22 at Immanuel.

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### **Additional Immanuel Info:**

- Ladies' Aid will hold their monthly supper on Wednesday, October 19, serving from 4-6:30 p.m. and the meal cost is \$5. Servers are Peggy Gunderson, Delane Schaumberg and Melissa Bendickson. (Note: Confirmation at 6 p.m., worship service at 7 p.m. & Immanuel Council meeting at 8 p.m.)

- **Sunday School:** Sunday School at Immanuel is held the first and third Sunday each month at 9:30 a.m. for children through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Please contact Rachel or Bridget Roggenbuck if you have kids to enroll. (Note: Sunday School will be held at 9:00 a.m. on October 2 due to 10 a.m. worship service followed by 11 a.m. Fall Festival at Immanuel.)
- On Sunday, September 18, during a private service, Hadley Dahl, daughter of Cody and Samantha Deschene, was baptized at Immanuel. Blessings to you Hadley!

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## ~~~YOUTH GATHERING NOTICE~~~

In November, our Parish will be taking a group of Middle Schoolers to the Youth Gathering in Alexandria. More info will be shared soon and handed out at Sunday School and Confirmation Class. Here is some initial information to help you plan. Participants: grades 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. Adult to Youth Ratio: 1 Adult to 5 Youth.

Volunteers will be needed to chaperone. Contact Katie if you are interested in your student attending. Cost per person \$150 Early Bird (includes housing, food, and programming). Options are being discussed about ways to reduce that cost for families, such as a fundraiser and/or the Parish/Congregations offering scholarships. More info will be shared as it becomes available.

Northwestern Minnesota Synod's 2022 Middle School Youth Gathering

# Who is my Neighbor?

Luke 10:22-37

**Save the Date**

November 18-19/19-20, 2022

@Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria



Northwestern Minnesota Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.



## 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, October 13**

Come anytime between **4-6pm**  
At the playground of the old Gary School



## Wednesday Night Worship

Wednesday, October 19 ~ 7:00pm  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Ladies Aid Supper served from 4-6:30pm  
Confirmation Class 6pm

All are welcome to the Wednesday Night Worship!  
The Word proclaimed! Music sang!  
Fellowship shared!



## 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, October 25**  
**6:30pm**  
**Stump's Bar & Grill, Bejou**



## Youth Group

Open to all 6-12 Graders.  
All are welcome.

Come help lead games for the Gary Community Halloween Carnival. We'll carve pumpkins & have treats following the Carnival back at Gary Lutheran Church!

**Sunday, October 30**  
**3:00-5:30pm**  
**Gary Legion Hall / Gary Lutheran**

<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 Life Coordinator:</b>	<b>Rachel Roggenbuck (701) 741-0976 or <a href="mailto:athomerachel@gmail.com">athomerachel@gmail.com</a></b>
<b>Parish Secretary: Gary Parish</b>	<b>Sue Gunderson (218) 280-8678 or <a href="mailto:immanuel@gvtel.com">immanuel@gvtel.com</a></b>
<b>Secretary: Our Savior's</b>	<b>Julie Gevik (218) 280-3356 or <a href="mailto:garyrindaloffice@gmail.com">garyrindaloffice@gmail.com</a></b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Anita Roy (218) 849-3791 or <a href="mailto:oursaviors@gvtel.com">oursaviors@gvtel.com</a></b>
<b>Parish Website:</b>	<b><a href="http://anewjourneyparish.org">anewjourneyparish.org</a></b>

## OCTOBER 2022 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

WORSHIP *Communion	IMMANUEL (Bejou)	OUR SAVIOR'S (McIntosh)	GARY	NESS	SUNDAL
<b>Sunday, Oct. 2*</b>	9:00 am- Sunday School 10:00 am - Worship (KZ) followed by Fall Festival	9:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am-Worship with Baptism (KD)	9:30 am-Sunday School		8:30 am-Worship (KD)
<b>Sunday, Oct. 9</b>	8:30 am- Worship (KD)	9:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am-Worship (KD) followed by Council Meeting	8:30 am-Worship (KZ) 9:30 am-Sunday School	10:30 am-Worship (KZ)	
<b>Sunday, Oct. 16*</b>	8:30 am – Worship (KZ) 9:30 am-Sunday School	9:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship (KD)	8:30 am – Worship (KD) 9:30 am-Sunday School		10:30 am – Worship (KD) followed by Potluck Celebration
<b>Wed., Oct. 19</b>	6:00 pm-Confirmation Class 7:00 pm-Worship (KD)				
<b>Sunday, Oct. 23</b>	8:30 am-Worship (Rachel)	9:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship (Rachel)	8:30 am-Worship (Mike) 9:30 am-Sunday School	10:30 am-Worship (Mike)	
<b>Sunday, Oct. 30 (3<sup>rd</sup> Graders will receive Bibles)</b>	8:30 am – Worship (KZ) 9:30 am-Sunday School	9:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship (KZ)	8:30 am-Worship (KD) 9:30 am-Sunday School		10:30 am-Worship (KD)

