

**A New Journey Lutheran Parish**

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

Non-Profit  
US Postage  
Paid  
Fertile, MN  
Permit 27

**Address Service Requested**

**NOVEMBER 2022**



**Notice of Special Congregational Meetings:** Special meetings of the congregational membership at Gary, Immanuel, Ness and Our Savior's will be held in association with worship services on Sunday, November 13, to vote on the Call Committee's recommendation to call a Pastor that they are confident will be a good fit in our Parish. *Please attend so you can cast your ballot.*

- *The Call Committee interviewed two pastoral candidates. Based on those interviews, one of the candidates was invited to a meet and greet with council members from each congregation, as well as the parish council and staff. As a result, the Call Committee recommends the parish move forward, and the parish council agreed to bring this decision forward to a parish vote. A brief description will be given on November 13 prior to voting.*
- *Our Youth Group is taking orders for DIY Gingerbread House kits to raise funds for the upcoming Youth Gathering (& other events). To pre-order a kit for \$10, contact a Confirmation student or Katie by November 16.*
- *A McIntosh Community Thanksgiving Service will be held at Our Savior's on Wednesday, November 23, at 7:00 p.m. A meal will be served at 6:00 p.m. with a free will donation. Everyone is welcome!*
- *Retired Pastor Darrell Morton, of Fertile, will be our guest preacher at the joint worship service on Sunday, November 27, at Our Savior's. At 9:30 a.m., there will be a fellowship coffee hour (dessert potluck) prior to the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Please plan to attend!*
- *Anyone wishing to view the recording of Sundal's October 16 celebration can see it on our parish website at [anewjourneyparish.org](http://anewjourneyparish.org).*

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

***“I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it.” (Philippians 1:3-6)***

Thanks be to God for these words from the Apostle Paul. I’ve been searching for words to express the deep gratitude and thanksgiving I feel in my heart for all of you as I write this newsletter article. November will be my last month of sharing this incredible journey with you. During my time serving as your interim pastor, I have been so richly blessed and moved by your faith, hope and love.

The call process for A New Journey Lutheran Parish is unfolding. Discernment and decision lie just ahead, with congregations casting parish votes for a call to be sent and accepted. Although it is not yet known what will come of these things, this I do know beyond a shadow of a doubt: you’ve got this, and most importantly, God in Christ Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit has got YOU!

In prayer, wonderment, hope and trust, you’ll move forward, embodying the vision claimed and named in your parish agreement: “Our vision is to re-discover the vitality that we have in Christ, knowing that every person matters, and has something to offer and giftedness to share. Purposefully empowering people to use those God-given gifts for sharing the love of God will renew congregations and communities.” I am so proud of you, and I’m filled with hope and excitement for your future. I thank God for you, your remarkable staff, dedicated leadership, and the ongoing accompaniment of Pastor Rebel Hurd, our synod’s Director for Evangelical Mission. In her passionate and caring calling, she will be your contact person at the Synod going forward.

As for me, in this final month I will work closely with the staff in preparing for December. This will include arranging for on-call urgent pastoral care coverage, a few guest preachers, and planning with staff for joyous Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services. You will continually be in my prayers each day this month and into your future.

**Dear Lord Jesus, as your beloved ones continue the journey, guide them. Knowing how change can bring excitement as well as anxiety, help them to move forward with courage and confidence. Help them see how gifted they truly are, and what a difference they can make in your kingdom work. Empower them with bold faith and hope to embrace the challenges of loving service in new and invigorating ways as they lean into your promised future. Amen!**

In Christ, Pastor Keith Zeh

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

***“Each of us should become a Christ to the other. And as we are Christs to one another, the result is that Christ fills us all and we become a truly Christian community.”***

(Martin Luther. The Freedom of a Christian. 84)

We as Lutheran Christian congregations celebrate Reformation Day on October 31 every year. We remember and celebrate Martin Luther’s posting of his 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenburg Castle Church. Luther was upset by many practices of the medieval Catholic Church. His goal though was to reform the Church, not to create a new one. He felt that religions, congregations, and indeed individual people, should always be reforming. We should always be looking inward to discern if we are following God’s Word and God’s way, creating change when it is needed, and striving to be the best Christians we can be, in order to carry out God’s mission.

I know that I have spoken greatly about us being made new or in a time of creative transition lately. I am going to do it again, because I fully agree with Luther on this point. We are created and empowered by God to be a creation capable and in need of constant reforming. Of waking up each day, setting aside the sin that had a hold on us yesterday, confessing and receiving God’s forgiveness, so that we can be reformed, ready to be Christ’s light in the world today. We were re-formed in our baptisms, and we are re-formed daily when we strive to live in God’s love for us.

We have an opportunity right now to enter into a time of reformation for our microcosm of our Church. As congregations and a united parish, November 1 is the official start date of our newly formed bond. We chose to share in ministry: the mission field, the workload, the staff, the resources, and the gifts/talents of our collective communities. Now we have an exciting opportunity to shape what we want that ministry to look like in practice. While doing so, let us look to this quote from Luther, to see Christ in each other and be Christs to each other, so that Christ fills us and leads our Christian community. Through prayer, let us discern where God is calling us. Through conversation, let us share our ideas. Through worship and praise, let us thank God for this opportunity. Through ministry, let us spread the Word of God far and wide, for that is our sacred mission.

Your Servant in Christ,  
Katie DeMarais, SAM

**A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL ROGGENBUCK**

***Worship Life Coordinator***

Oh, my goodness, what a journey this past year+ has been! We have learned so much about ourselves, as well as a whole. Our worship experience is evolving. As a result of participating in Practicing Resurrection, we are continuing to reach for a goal of worshipping outside our walls. This can literally be Beer and Hymns or Worship in the Park, or it can be inside our walls with a more contemporary worship style. A New Journey Lutheran Parish is growing as a faith community and is reaching people inside our area, as well as outside.

We will be meeting in November to see what interest there may be for a Worship Team. This team will work alongside me, our new pastor, and Katie to shape worship on Sunday mornings, as well as brainstorming and organizing these occasions to see what we, as a parish, would like in worship, as well as what differences each church may like. Our goal is to reach more people in our parish and surrounding communities through music, fellowship and spoken word. If you are interested, meet me on Wednesday, November 9, at 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel.

I am excited to see what we can do together!

In Peace,

Rachel

Worship Life Coordinator – ANJLP

\*\*\*\*\*

**PARISH PRAYER LIST**

***Diane Altringer, Alroy Aune, Brady Bauer, Jessie Beckman, Shawn Bendickson, Susan Bendickson, Craig Burslie, Ron Dahl, Sara (Tommervik) Friesen, Alex Gullingsrud, Becky Halland, David Johnson, Ann (Wastweet) Kukowski, Violet Lee, Donna Lisburg, Marla (Johnson) Miller, Marilyn Natwick, Larry Ose, Jr., Franklyn Preisler, Stacey Prestegord, Jean Uhler, and LouAnn (Gorder) Vandenberg. The families and friends of Sam Knutson and Melba Gevik.***

\*\*\*\*\*

# *Minutes - A New Journey Parish Council Meeting at Immanuel*

(October 12, 2022)

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Nelson at 7:20 pm at Bejou. Members present: Becky Olson, Mike Nelson, Karen Carlsrud, Jill Nelson, Peggy Hanson, Jim Steinmetz, SAM Katie DeMarais, Anita Roy, Kristi Skeie - Guest: Rachel Roggenbuck.

Devotions by Mike Nelson.

Approve secretary's reports from September 7 & 9, 2022 - M/S/P - Becky/Jim.

Treasurer report - Jill reviewed handouts of the report thru September. M/S/P - Jim/Kristi.

Staff report - Katie stated there will be one service Sunday, November 27, at our Savior's/McIntosh at 10:30 am - coffee/goodies at 9:30 am.

Old Business: Update on formally establishing a new parish. Articles of Incorporation were reviewed. M/S/P - Becky/Jim - to approve the Articles of Incorporation for A New Journey Lutheran Parish.

Katie stated she thought 10 students would be attending the Middle School Youth Group at Alexandria November 19 & 20 at a cost of \$150/each - students and chaperones. M/S/P - Jim/Jill to pay \$50 for each student attending and the full amount for adults.

New business: Discussion on the meet and greet event held earlier - went well.

Contract for Pastor Keith starting November 1 was discussed. M/S/P - Kristi/Becky to approve the ongoing contract at two thirds( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the current amount until our call has been determined. His contract would expire approximately one month before the new minister starts.

2023 tentative budget: The tentative budget is set at \$184,000 - not knowing the pastoral part yet. M/S/P - Jim/Kristi - President Mike will talk with Sundal about their portion of funds remaining - see if it will be ok to leave their share as credit balance and for November and December will get pastoral assistance from ANJLP. The balance at the end of October will be rolled into a new account for ANJLP.

Next meeting - no date was set - wait and see.

No further business President Mike called for a motion to adjourn. M/S/P - Becky/Kristi to adjourn at 8:25 pm. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Karen Carlsrud  
Secretary – ANJLP

\*\*\*\*\*

***Minutes - A New Journey Parish Council Meeting at Immanuel***  
(October 19, 2022)

President Mike Nelson called the special meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Members present: Becky Olson, Karen Carlsrud, Jill Nelson, Jim Steinmetz, Mike Nelson, Anita Roy, Kristi Skeie, and Teresa Werpy for Peggy Hanson.

Opening prayer by Mike Nelson.

Discussion held on calling Pastor. M/S/P - Becky/Anita - the parish votes to call Pastor as Pastor/Mission Developer for A New Journey Lutheran Parish.

President Mike explained that each congregation will have to vote on this issue as well. Special meetings will be scheduled before each service at the 4 churches on November 13th. Appropriate notice will be given of the November 13 meetings.

M/S/P - Becky/Jim to adjourn at 6:55 pm

Karen Carlsrud, Secretary - A New Journey Lutheran Parish

## *News from Gary Parish...*

- Gary Lutheran's Harvest Lunch is set for Sunday, November 20. To make this a successful event, donations and help are needed: ~3 turkeys ~24 boxes turkey stove top stuffing ~70 lbs of red potatoes ~12 cans jellied cranberries ~3 large cans or many small cans of green beans ~assorted desserts & **HELP PREPPING & SERVING!**
- Julie Gevik sends thanks to all of you for the outpouring of love, kindness, and support given and shown to her these past and continuing weeks with the loss of Gerald "pa" Swanson, her mother-in-law Melba Gevik, aunt-in-law Ann Johnson, and friends. God bless you all!

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

- Gary Lutheran Church Ushers/Greeters (NOTE: Please plug in lamp prior to service & unplug after services.):
  - Nov. 6 & 13: Randy & LeAnn Moen
  - Nov. 20 & 27: Rhonda Bennefeld family
- Gary Lutheran Altar Guild for November: Terri Sirjord & Shirley Moe
- Sundal Lutheran Church Ushers/Janitors/Altar Guild for November:
  - Harry & Penny Aanden
- Ness Lutheran Church: None



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

### **Our Savior's Council Meeting Minutes – October 9, 2022**

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

Wanda gave an update about the parsonage from Bryce. Stacey sent Kristi an update about the electrical work at the parsonage. The meal we served for the July 13<sup>th</sup> service cost us roughly \$1200.00.

Gordie gave an update about the tv's and other technology items. We have to figure out what we want then he can get some quotes for us. Then after that we can go from there.

Anita will follow up on the sound system update with the company out of Bemidji. Kristi gave an update about the community Thanksgiving service. Katie also asked if Our Savior's would be interested in hosting the one joint worship service on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. Council agreed that Our Savior's could host it.

There's been a request to get the old hearse out of the garage at Carol Anne's old house. Wanda will talk to Bruce about this.

Wanda made a motion to get Garden Valley over here to give us an estimate on security cameras, 2<sup>nd</sup> it by Beth.

Gordie made a motion to give Kalli Roy \$50.00 for the youth gathering in Alexandria, 2<sup>nd</sup> it by Wanda.

Beth made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> it by Wanda. Next meeting will be following church on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

- A decision has been made to pause Sunday School at Our Savior's until further notice; however, we encourage you to watch for upcoming information that may include fun family-friendly events. In the meantime, if you have an interest in having your child attend Sunday School, please contact Anita at 218-849-3791.
- Quilters meet every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.

## *News from Immanuel...*

### **Summary of October 19, 2022, Immanuel Council Meeting Minutes**

Council members present: Jim Steinmetz, Peggy Gunderson, Becky Olson, Gloria Steinbrenner, Delane Schaumburg, and Jon Large. Others in attendance: Katie DeMarais, Rachel Roggenbuck and Susie Steinmetz.

Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were provided.

It was decided to have our lutefisk & meatball supper on Saturday, December 3, from 4-7 p.m. at a cost of \$20 per person.

The parish call committee is recommending we call a pastor and a vote of the Immanuel membership to approve that call will be taken at a special membership meeting on Sunday, November 13.

Ladies' Aid has offered to pay for Immanuel's confirmation students to attend the upcoming Youth Gathering in Alexandria.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Additional Immanuel Info:**

- Ladies' Aid will hold their monthly supper on Wednesday, November 16, serving from 4-6:30 p.m. and the meal cost is \$5. Servers are Joyce Demere, Sheryl Dahl and Kari Ann Keller. (Note: Confirmation and Parish Council Meeting at 6 p.m., worship service at 7 p.m. & Immanuel Council meeting at 8 p.m.)
- **Mark Your Calendar & Pass the Word:** Immanuel's Lutefisk & Meatball Supper will be held Saturday, December 3, from 4-7 p.m. In order for it to be a successful event, we will need everyone's help with lefse making, other preparations and serving!

A NEW JOURNEY LUTHERAN PARISH YOUTH GROUP

## Gingerbread House Kit Fundraiser



DIY Gingerbread House Kits for Pre-Order  
Cost: \$10 per kit

Kits will include everything needed to assemble and decorate one gingerbread house: graham crackers, icing, sprinkles, & candy.

Orders taken until November 16.

Kits will be packaged and ready for pick-up / delivery on December 7.  
Contact a Confirmation Student or Katie to order.

MONEY RAISED IS TO SUPPORT THE YOUTH GOING TO THE UPCOMING YOUTH GATHERING. ANY SURPLUS WILL SUPPORT FUTURE YOUTH EVENTS.

## Wednesday Night Worship

Wednesday, November 16~ 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!

## Harvest Lunch

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20  
11:30AM - 1:00PM

GARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Menu:

- Turkey Gravy
- Mashed Potatoes
- Stuffing
- Green Beans
- Cranberries
- Desserts

Free Will Donation. All are welcome.

Dine in or carry out available.

Join us for Worship at 10:30am.

Gary Lutheran Church: 202 Thorpe St. Gary, MN

## 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, November 22

6:30pm

Erickson's Smokehouse, Fertile

**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](mailto:pastorkeithzeh@gmail.com)

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

**Rachel Roggenbuck (701) 741-0976 or**  
[athomerachel@gmail.com](mailto:athomerachel@gmail.com)

**Sue Gunderson (218) 280-8678 or** [immanuel@gvtel.com](mailto:immanuel@gvtel.com)

**Julie Gevik (218) 280-3356 or** [garyrindaloffice@gmail.com](mailto:garyrindaloffice@gmail.com)

**Anita Roy (218) 849-3791 or** [oursaviors@gvtel.com](mailto:oursaviors@gvtel.com)  
[anewjourneyparish.org](http://anewjourneyparish.org)

## NOVEMBER 2022 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

WORSHIP *Communion	IMMANUEL (Bejou)	OUR SAVIOR'S (McIntosh)	GARY	NESS	SUNDAL
<b>Sunday, Nov. 6*</b> (white)	8:30 am- Worship 9:30 am-Sunday School	10:30 am-Worship	9:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am-Worship		8:30 am-Worship
<b>Sunday, Nov. 13</b> <b>WITH CONGREGA-</b> <b>TIONAL MEETINGS</b> (green)	8:30 am- Worship	10:30 am-Worship followed by Council Meeting	9:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am-Worship	8:30 am-Worship	
<b>Wed., Nov. 16</b>	6:00 pm-Confirmation 7:00 pm-Worship				
<b>Sunday, Nov. 20*</b> (white)	8:30 am – Worship 9:30 am-Sunday School	10:30 am – Worship	9:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship followed by Harvest Lunch	8:30 am-Worship	
<b>Wed., Nov. 23</b>		6:00 pm-Our Savior's will host meal prior to Worship 7:00 pm-Community Worship Service at Our Savior's			
<b>Sunday, Nov. 27</b> (blue)		9:30 am-Fellowship Coffee Hour (dessert potluck) 10:30 am – Joint Worship with Pastor Darrell Morton	9:30 am-Sunday School		

