

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

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JULY 2023



- **Vacation Bible School:** There will be three opportunities for VBS in the Parish this summer. All locations/events will be similar in theme, but families are welcome to any or ALL of them! Children pre-school through 6th grade are welcome to attend, and 7-12th graders (and adults!) can be helpers. This year's theme is God's New Creation, and we'll be learning about and taking an offering for ELCA World Hunger. The three VBS opportunities will be:
 - *Monday-Wednesday, July 17-19 hosted at Immanuel.* Monday and Tuesday from 1-4pm, and Wednesday from 4-6pm with families invited to stay for Ladies Aid Supper and Wednesday Night Worship. During that worship service, the VBS kids will sing and share what they learned.
 - *Sunday - Thursday, July 30 - August 3 hosted at Gary.* 6-8pm nightly.
 - *Thursday, August 10 hosted at Our Savior's.* 10am-3pm.

Please watch for more information to be sent out / in bulletins. Help is needed at all three locations to make these wonderful events for families! Pre-registration is appreciated. Please reach out to Staff for more info/to sign up!

- **Youth Group:** There will be NO Youth Group event in July, as many of our youth are attending Bible Camp this month. All youth 7-12th grade are invited and encouraged to come and help with Vacation Bible School at any of the 3 locations/times. Please reach out to Katie if you'd like to help/teach VBS!
- **Text-em-all** has been an amazing tool for notifying all of you of things going on in the parish. Things you might not be aware of. It has also been a wonderful way to have many people pray. Pray for those hurting. Pray for those in the hospital. Pray for those who have lost a loved one. And praying for so much more!

As we strive to be the best staff we can be and serve you, we have created some questions that will be asked at each prayer request. These questions are meant for our education and information and shared only if it is pertinent to the prayer request. We will also use the answers to care for you and/or the person we are

praying for. When you ask to have a prayer request sent out, Rachel will respond with these Standard Questions. (Rachel will remind you that they are standard.)

1. Is there contact information for the person or family?
2. Would they like a visit?
3. Which church are they a member of, or related to? Which community are they part of?
4. Do we have permission for the text-em-all? Would you like it in the bulletin as well, or verbally prayed on Sunday?

That's it - just these questions. Your prayer request will be sent out regardless of the answers, because ultimately the prayer is the most important thing in that moment.

■ Receive Newsletter by Email?

In a world with so much paper, knowing that many are trying to have less in their lives, ANJLP would love to add more people to our email newsletter list. This could mean less paper for you, while also stewarding our resources a bit better and using the cost savings for different ministries of youth, outreach, or helping a neighbor in need.

If you would like to be added to a newsletter email list, please send an email to anewjourneyparish@gmail.com or fill out a Connect Card in the weekly bulletin.

For those of you who already receive the email newsletter, please add anewjourneyparish@gmail.com to your contacts, as we began sending them from this new email address in June, and there were a few who did not receive them.

Please know all who wish to receive a hard copy newsletter mailed to them will continue to receive that. Thank-you for your consideration!

“Good Gossip”

We don't share the GOOD things we do as much as we share gossip, so each month we'll lift up some good ministry being done in and throughout the Parish.

In May, 78 school kits were sent off to our neighbors in need through Lutheran World Relief (LWR). Thank you also to Teresa Werpy for delivering the kits to Fargo.

Thanks to the efforts of members of Gary, Ness, Sundal and Gary Community members for donations of the school kit items. The school kits were assembled after worship at Ness Lutheran Church. We also gave away school kits to Sunday School students at the beginning of this school year.

LWR was founded by Lutherans in the United States at the end of World War II, grounded in Lutheran theology and building on decades of experience. LWR tackles global poverty by helping people adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being. They envision a future where all people, in every corner of the world, can live full, dignified lives.

LWR has a number of different ministries that churches participate in, the most common are the quilts and kits, including school, baby, or personal hygiene.

You can find out more about Lutheran World Relief and their work in the world at <https://lwr.org/>.

Thank you to all who donated, assembled, and delivered the kits helping our neighbors in need.

And, if YOU have an idea for an upcoming “Good Gossip” column, let Katie or Pastor René know. We’d love to hear from you on what’s happening in your neighborhood.

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR RENÉ L. MEHLBERG...

Dear Beloved Children of God:

“A Future with Hope” is our summer preaching series. You may wonder, “What does this mean?” Well, it means that for most of the summer, we are following a different set of readings than usual with each Sunday having a specific theme. Each week will build on the previous while also standing alone.

The series uses imagery of a growing tree. It’s adapted for us as we watch the progression of fields, gardens, and even baby animals grow this summer, as we also focus on our growth as the people of God: who we are and what we are called to do and be.

I fully realize there has been much change over the past few years within each congregation and especially in the formation of this new parish. It can be hard to hold onto hope when so much has changed, when so much is still being figured out. When there is still much hard work in coming together, listening, sharing, learning, and trying new and different things. It can be hard to hope when you’re not sure what the future will hold. We are living into our new reality together, finding (and sometimes fumbling) our way as we go along. Those are the days to remember that God’s grace, mercy, love, peace, and forgiveness is with us always as we then remember to extend those gifts to one another.

As we continue living into the reality and possibilities of ANJLP and into our “A Future with Hope” individually as people and churches, and collectively as communities and the parish, I remind us that we seek to follow **God’s** plans for us, not the plans **we** believe God has for us. Sometimes they are the same, but probably

not as often as we think. How can we know the difference? By getting still, quiet, carefully listening, and being open to feeling (and following) that wild Holy Spirit at work.

The Holy Spirit has and will continue to lead us to places and possibilities outside our comfort zone and definitely beyond the walls of our buildings. It has been wonderful seeing so many of you out and about at the community events throughout our parish so far and look forward to more to come. And please, if there is something you'd like me to know about or attend, let me know! I will do my best to be there.

Blessings and prayers for you always~

Pastor René

A MESSAGE FROM KATIE DEMARAIS, SAM...

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age’”

~Matthew 28:18-20

On Saturday, June 3, our Northwestern Minnesota Synod met in Assembly to worship, learn, discern, and do the ‘work’ of our Church. Pr. René and I, along with Peggy Hanson and Jenny Lien representing Gary Lutheran, and Mary Nell Preisler and Susie Steinmetz representing Immanuel, attended the Synod Assembly. It was a wonderful day. I am a self-proclaimed ‘Church Nerd’ as I LOVE Synod Assemblies. I have only missed one Synod Assembly since I was 16 (and that was only because my mother wouldn’t let me skip my Senior Prom)! I feel very strongly about the importance of gathering together as ministers and lay people, having a voice present to represent our congregations, and be ACTIVE in the larger Church. I highly encourage you to volunteer to attend on behalf of your congregation next year to attend Synod Assembly or the Great Synod Get Together.

This year at the Synod Assembly, our theme was “Telling the Old, Old Story... for the Love of God’s World.” We heard from our Synod Staff, a rep from our Churchwide Office who shared much of what Young Adults are doing in our larger Church, and from Dr. Kara Powell, a leading teacher and researcher on children and youth in church life. I was especially taken with Dr. Powell’s idea of “Growing Younger.” (We named our third yearly goal of our new parish ‘Growing Younger’ before we knew this was a thing!) How to better invite, include, and engage children, youth, and families in our congregations is a goal of all of our congregations, and I look forward to reading Dr. Powell's book of the same name as we begin to develop our own Growing Younger strategy in the coming year and beyond. Let me know if you'd like to read it, too.

One of Bishop Bill Tesch's reports was concerning the growing use and success of Synodically Authorized Ministers, of which I am one. With the decline of rostered ministers comes an increase in vacancies in congregations. One way to fill those vacancies and further the mission of spreading the Gospel is through the use of home-grown, trained and supervised SAMs. The Synod and the whole ELCA is looking at this as a potential new model of ministry, but one that comes from a very OLD model: in the New Testament, this is how most churches worked. With a local 'deacon/SAM' leading the congregation under the advisement of a 'bishop/Pastor' who oversaw many deacons over a large area. Does this sound familiar to how our Parish is currently organized? The Synod is very interested in how it is working in our Parish. If you'd like to talk about this, the positives and negatives, I'd love to chat!

Your Sibling in Christ, Katie DeMarais, SAM

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Brady Bauer, Jessie Beckman, Shawn Bendickson, Ron Dahl, Denise Halland, David & Diane Hamre, Cindy (Wastweet) Kiester, Ann (Wastweet) Kukowski, Pat Larson, Violet Lee, Donna Lisburg, Julia (Pantaleo) Madoll, Gwen Meyer, Marla (Johnson) Miller, Kathy Motteberg, Marilyn Natwick, Todd Scheff, and Anita Slater. Prayers for the family and friends of Trisha Nelson, daughter-in-law of Wally and Edna Nelson of Sundal, who died Saturday, June 3, from cancer. Prayers also for Elijah (grandson of Donna Lisburg of Gary) who is hospitalized in Minneapolis and had surgery after being burned badly in an accident during a bonfire.

***A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL ROGGENBUCK...
ANJLP Worship Life Coordinator***

June! I can't believe how wonderful June was! Busy. Full of life. So many opportunities to spread the Gospel. Matthew 16:15 *He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."* The many opportunities to learn from others and then share what you learn were really boundless in June. The Housewarming get together at Pastor René's started off the month, quickly followed by Breakfast on the Farm, Gary Days and McIntosh Market in the middle of the month! The Immanuel auction and Gary Lutheran Rummage sale rounded out the month. Not only did we have these great opportunities to be together as children of God, but we also enjoyed 3 Wednesday worship services.

These Wednesday nights looked a little bit different than a 'traditional' Wednesday worship. What I DO know is that we left refreshed and energized with the love of Christ in our hearts and on our lips! Now, as we look into July, we see Vacation Bible School scheduled and children attending Bible Camp. I can't wait to

see what You do as a child of God, sharing his love for you as you live your best life!

Blessings,

Rachel Roggenbuck, ANJLP Worship Life Coordinator

Minutes - A New Journey Parish Council Meeting

(7:30 p.m. on June 12, 2023, at Immanuel Lutheran, Bejou, MN)

Council members present: Jim Steinmetz, Karen Carlsrud, Stacey Knudson, Peggy Hanson, Teresa Werpy, Mary Preisler and Wanda Stordahl. Others in attendance: Pastor René Mehlberg, Katie DeMarais, Rachel Roggenbuck, Mike Nelson, Jill Nelson and Sue Gunderson.

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Steinmetz followed by devotions led by Mary Preisler.

Secretary's report: Minutes were distributed. Motion was made by Stacey, seconded by Teresa and carried, to approve the minutes of the parish council meeting held May 15, 2023.

Treasurer's report: Jill Nelson distributed and reviewed the financial reports. A motion was made by Wanda, seconded by Mary and carried, to approve the treasurer's report as presented. A motion was made by Mary, seconded by Peggy and carried, to approve moving Katie DeMarais from a contracted position to a Parish employee. Katie was a contracted employee in order to meet financial guidelines for student loan forgiveness, which is now complete. This change, which was known when the 2023 Parish budget was made, has no additional financial impact on the Parish budget.

Staff report: Pastor René thanked everyone for all they do. She reported on the Synod Assembly and the Mission Developer Retreat she attended. She provided information about grant writing opportunities; and the summer schedule.

Katie reviewed Gary Days events and reminded everyone about the worship service at Gary Pines.

Rachel reported that she is still working on the Tithely option for giving, as well as the policy for use of the parish audio-visual equipment. She also indicated that she met with the Synod about becoming a Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM) in order for her to help ANJLP as needed. She stated that the Parish would

need to provide the Synod with a letter supporting or calling her to that position and list budgeted dollars needed to support that position. Discussion followed. Pastor René, Katie and Rachel will work on putting together a dollar amount and job descriptions that parish council members can bring to their congregational councils for approval prior to the Parish Council acting on Rachel's request.

New Business: Everyone was reminded that there will be one community ecumenical worship service on Sunday, July 2, 10:00am at the Mahnommen County Fair.

A question was raised as to who pays the cost for pulpit supply. It was noted that the individual congregation will pay the cost if they elect to have a worship service outside the scheduled worship services on the monthly calendar.

The next ANJLP Council meeting was scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Monday, July 10, 2023, at Immanuel Lutheran, Bejou. A motion was made by Stacey, seconded by Mary and carried, to adjourn. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Sue Gunderson, Parish Secretary

News from Gary Lutheran...

- Anyone wanting to help with Vacation Bible School in Gary on July 30-August 3, should please call Katie.
- Thanks to all who donated, volunteered and supported the Gary Days Meatball Supper. About \$1,600 was raised.

Altar Guild, Usher/Greeters and Janitor Assignments

- Gary Lutheran Church Ushers/Greeters, including any midweek services in their timeframe. (NOTE: Please plug in lamp prior to service & unplug after services.):
 - July 2-9: Byron & Lori Thronson (No Worship in Sanctuary July 2)
 - July 16-23: Gerald & LaVon Olson (July 23 Worship is at 7 pm)
 - July 30-Aug. 6: Lynn & Diane Thordal (No Worship in Sanctuary July 30)
- Gary Lutheran Altar Guild for July: Betty Stueness

News from Our Savior's...

Our Savior's Council Meeting Minutes – June 11, 2023

Council Members present-Wanda Stordahl, Stacey Knudson, Marilyn Graff, Kristi Skeie, Jane Aakhus, Gordie Ostenaar, and Cindy Ostenaar. Others in attendance-Pastor René Mehlberg, David Stordahl, Rachel Roggenbuck and Anita Roy.

Wanda Stordahl called the meeting to order. Pastor René Mehlberg opened up with devotions.

Gordie Ostenaar made a motion to accept the May meeting minutes, 2nd it by Stacey Knudson. Stacey Knudson made a motion to approve the minutes of the special congregation meeting that was held on May 21, 2023, 2nd it by Kristi Skeie.

David Stordahl was present to go over the financial report. Gordie Ostenaar made a motion, 2nd it by Cindy to transfer \$14,650.00 from the Memorial Fund and \$3,882.58 out of the Inactive Fund into a Thrivent money market fund. Motion made to accept the financial report by Marilyn Graff and 2nd it by Gordie Ostenaar.

Stacey Knudson and Anita Roy gave an update on the work needing to be done at the parsonage.

Memorial Day Dinner was a success and we were able to donate \$100.00 to McIntosh Friends for Veterans. We plan to do it again next year, along with rolls in the morning for the Veterans.

Ideas were presented for the Wednesday, June 28th service and the Sunday, July 20th service.

Stacey Knudson and Wanda Stordahl will be on the committee for the sale of the parsonage.

Pastor René Mehlberg gave her report along with the parish report.

Gordie Ostenaar made a motion to adjourn and 2nd it by Stacey Knudson. Closed with Lord's Prayer. No meeting in July.

News from Immanuel...

Summary of May 17, 2023, Immanuel Council Meeting Minutes

Council members present: Jim Steinmetz, Peggy Gunderson, Becky Olson, Duane Gunderson, Darrell Lende, Terry McCollum, Gloria Steinbrenner and Mary Preisler. Also present: Pastor René Mehlberg, Katie DeMarais and Rachel Roggenbuck.

Pastor's report: Basically, the same information presented at the parish council meeting was reviewed; and everyone was reminded that the July 2 worship will be a 10:00 a.m. community ecumenical service at the Mahnommen County Fair.

Katie's report: Anyone interested in helping with VBS at Immanuel, should contact Rachel.

Rachel's report: Rachel indicated that she met with the Synod about becoming a Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM) in order for her to help ANJLP as needed. The Council members support her becoming a SAM.

Additional Immanuel Info:

- Ladies' Aid will hold their monthly supper on Wednesday, July 19, serving from 4:00-6:30 p.m. and the meal cost is a free will offering. Servers are Becky Olson, Cindy Large and Sara Miller. (Note: This is the last day of VBS at Immanuel from 4-6 p.m. Following Ladies' Aid supper, there will be a worship service at 7 p.m. & Immanuel Council meeting at 8 p.m.)
- Despite the rainy weather, Immanuel's auction/bake sale was another success. We want to thank all those who worked so hard to make it happen, to those who donated items for the auction, for the bake sale, and everyone attending. Winners of the raffle are as follows: Dewey Johnson (\$5,000), Carter Nelson (\$2,500) and Sierra Altringer (\$1,000). Congratulations!

Vacation Bible School

Bible stories, snacks, crafts, games, and more! For children in pre-school - 6th grade, and 7-12th can be helpers.

All are welcome at any of the three opportunities for VBS this summer:

**Mon-Wed, July 17-19: 1-4pm (Wed 4-6pm)
hosted @ Immanuel**

**Sun-Thurs, July 30-Aug 3:
6-8pm hosted @ Gary**

**Thurs, Aug 10: 10am-3pm
hosted @ Our Savior's**



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, July 25
6:30pm
Peachy's Pub, 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, July 27

Come anytime between **4-6pm**

At the playground of the old
Gary School

Ministers:

Members of the Congregations

Pastor René Mehlberg (218) 308-7898
pastor.rene.mehlberg@gmail.com

**Synodically
Authorized
Minister (SAM)**

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

**Worship Life
Coordinator:**

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

ANJLP Secretary:

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

**Gary/Ness
Secretary:**

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

**Our Savior's
Secretary:**

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

Parish Website:

anewjourneyparish.org

Find Us Online:

linktr.ee/anewjourneyparish

JULY 2023 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

WORSHIP	IMMANUEL (Bejou)	OUR SAVIOR'S (McIntosh)	GARY	NESS	SUNDAL
Sunday, July 2 10 am – One Community Ecumenical Wor- ship at Mahnomen Fair					
Sunday, July 9 (green)	8:30 am – Worship With Communion	10:30 am-- Worship with Communion		8:30 am – Worship	
Wed., July 12 <i>7 pm WORSHIP AT GARY PINES</i>					
Sunday, July 16 (green)	8:30 am – Worship with Communion	10:30 am – Worship with Communion	8:30 am – Worship with Communion		10:30 am – Worship with Communion
Wed., July 19 (green)	7:00 pm – Worship				
Sunday, July 23 (green)	8:30 am -- Worship	10:30 am - Worship	7 pm – Worship with Communion	10:30 am – Worship with Communion	
Wed., July 26		7:00 pm - Worship			
Sunday, July 30 10:30 am-Parish- wide Worship at Lion's Park in McIntosh (OS)					

