

**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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**MAY 2024**



### PARISH PRAYER LIST

*Harry Aanden, Jessie Beckman, Shawn Bendickson, Becky Dahl, Ron Dahl, Perry Grundyson, Denise Halland, Kurt Halverson, Diane Hamre, Sherry Jensrud, Nathan Kearns, Rosie Keller, Cindy (Wastweet) Kiester, Ann (Wastweet) Kukowski, Violet Lee, Donna Lisburg, Julia (Pantaleo) Madoll, Gwen Meyer, Randy Moen, Marilyn Natwick, Keith Olson, David Pinske, Franklyn Preisler, Susan Ruud, Anita Slater, Charles Svalen, Gina Tiokasin, and Orv Turner.*

*Prayers and condolences to family and friends of the following:*

- *Barb Miller (Sundal) who died Monday, April 22. Her funeral will be Saturday, May 4, 1:00pm at Sundal.*
- *Harald Thompson (Our Savior's) who died Wednesday, April 24. Funeral was held on Sunday, April 28, at Our Savior's.*
- *Eileen Tommervik (Immanuel) who died Wednesday, April 24. Her funeral will be held at Immanuel Lutheran on Monday, May 6, at 11:00 a.m. Visitation at Anderson Family Funeral Home, Mahnomen, on Sunday, May 5, from 3-5pm with prayer service at 4:30pm.*

**Family Play Dates** hosted in Gary are growing! We are adding a free, community meal for families and whoever would like to eat during each night of Family Play Date. The "play" part of the evening will still be open from 4-6pm, with the meal served at 5:30pm. Bible stories are read, crafts are made, games are played by the kiddos, and an opportunity to chat for the adults. On evenings of good weather, we will be at the Gary Community Park (across from the bank) and during bad weather we will meet inside Gary Lutheran Church. ALL kiddos and their grown-ups are welcome to come to Family Play Dates!

♥ HAPPY ♥  
*Mothers Day*

## Linktree:

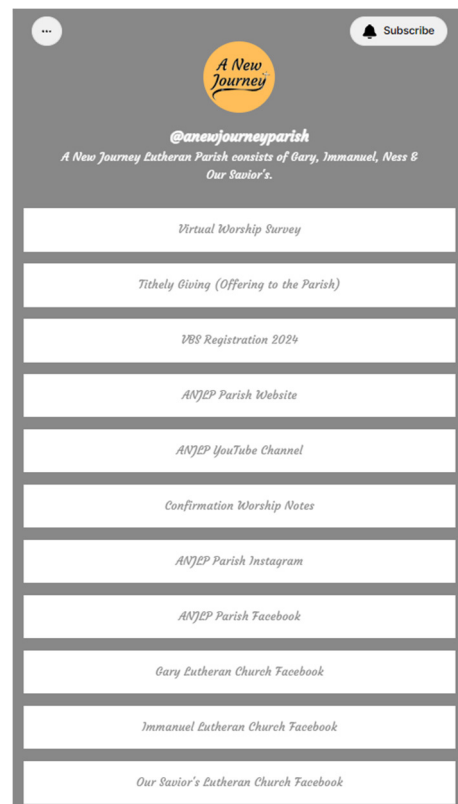
ANJLP uses a service called Linktree to keep all of our online links in one place. If you open this one service (using the QR code or the web address), you can then easily click through to our parish website, YouTube, Facebook pages for the parish and individual congregations, and our Tithely parish giving option. We also can use it to link registration forms or surveys. Currently we have the Virtual Worship survey and summer VBS registration forms linked. This is a (free) one-stop shop for our community to be able to easily find important communications.

To access Linktree on your phone or tablet, open the built-in camera app. Point the camera at the QR code. Tap the banner that appears on your screen. The Linktree page will open. Scroll down to find the page you need. You can also type this address into your web browser on your computer or phone:



[www.linktr.ee/anejourneyparish](http://www.linktr.ee/anejourneyparish)

A helpful tip would be to save or bookmark the Linktree, so you can easily access it. If you would like help to save this link on your phone or tablet, please ask staff for help!



## Taping Ministry: Your Input Needed

In addition to weekly in-person worship throughout the parish, the taping ministry also provides a worship option. The taping ministry records, edits, and produces the virtual worship accessible on YouTube or Garden Valley.

Your input is needed as ANJLP wants to know the reach the ministry is having within and beyond its mission field. We'd love to hear the stories of the difference this ministry makes. This information will help guide future decision making in regards to the ministry.

A survey is included in this newsletter, available at each church, or can be completed online through Linktree at [www.linktr.ee/anejourneyparish](http://www.linktr.ee/anejourneyparish) (or scan the QR code to take you to the link). Forms can be filled out by those outside the parish. **One form per person, please.**

Please complete surveys by May 26 and contact Pastor René with any questions.

# ***“Good Gossip”***

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

As many of you know, our parish records weekly worship and broadcasts it on a local community channel on Sunday mornings and it is available 24/7 on our YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/@anewjourneylutheranparish](http://www.youtube.com/@anewjourneylutheranparish). Recently our recording staff took a much-needed break but they are back and you can once again enjoy new services each week.

While on break, we discovered some of the impact these services have on people in our communities and on those far away. We heard stories like these: when my husband was ill, we could not worship in person, but we were able to worship virtually, it really got us through. And there was an entire year we could not attend church in person, virtual worship kept us connected to our church family. These stories are the tip of the iceberg.

Virtual worship is part of our WOW ministry (Worship Outside the Walls), meeting YOU where YOU are and ensuring you have the opportunity to continue to worship with your church family. We have a survey that we would love to have you fill out - 1 per person - to ensure we have the biggest picture with the most details as we strive to continue to share this very meaningful ministry. We appreciate your support! Questions? Ask Rachel, Katie or Pastor René!

Check out the survey at [www.linktr.ee/anewjourneyparish](http://www.linktr.ee/anewjourneyparish).

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## ***MESSAGE FROM PASTOR RENÉ L. MEHLBERG...***

*“Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!”*

Dear Beloved Children of God:

While Easter Sunday may seem so long, long ago, we are still in the Easter season. The season lasts 50 days and 7 Sundays. It seems as if each Sunday the excitement of the response, “He is Risen Indeed!” gets less and less, and the volume lower and lower.

Each Sunday is considered a little Easter. A time to remember God's love poured out for us through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. To remember that Jesus defeated death so that one day we will all live. It is the promise we hold onto when death takes a loved one in this life.

But the cycle of death and resurrection isn't just with our lives and bodies that will one day come. It is all around us. Death and resurrection can also describe parts

of creation or other parts of our lives: our dreams, our plans, our reality. Perhaps you have heard, “Sometimes something needs to die for something new to grow.” That doesn’t mean it is easy. We often look at Easter as the joyous celebration of people gathering around food and Easter baskets. We forget the very first Easter was not like that at all. There was fear and doubt; hiding, wandering, and disbelief. Perhaps not very different from what we go through when things decay and die around us.

Richard Holloway wrote, “Belief in the resurrection means that I must commit myself to the possibility of transformation.” Transformation, which means change, can take a lot of courage. Naming your fears and doubts, setting them aside to move forward. To have open hearts to break through our fears and doubts; open minds to see the possibilities around us. As Diana Butler Bass writes, “Only open hearts and open minds can open doors.”

A New Journey Lutheran Parish is in a resurrection and transformation process as we come together to live into our mission of “Spreading God’s love and promises to our churches, our communities, and our neighbors.” At the last parish council meeting, I shared the following questions with them.

- 1) What are your fears and your doubts of your church and this parish?
- 2) Where have you seen resurrection or transformation with your church or the parish?
- 3) What is one idea to open hearts, open minds, open doors that your church or the parish could try in the next 3-6 months (July-October)?

There were a few ideas shared. But I’d love/we’d love to hear your thoughts as well! Share with me, other staff, or a parish council member. What are you seeing and feeling? What ministry do you see possible to grow, continue, or start?

May God’s grace, love, and mercy be upon you~ Pastor René

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

I am thankful for a wonderful year of Confirmation. I am so proud of these students as they affirm their baptisms and have greatly enjoyed getting to know them over the last few years. Our Confirmation class this year included four students from Immanuel (Floyd, Don, Rylin, and Aly) and four students from Gary (Tayten, Shilo, Emily, and Tenley). Tayten and Shilo affirmed their baptisms at Gary Lutheran on April 21, and Floyd, Don, Rylin and Aly will have their confirmation Sunday on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Please come and support them!

This year we made our way through favorite Old & New Testament stories and we worshiped together on Wednesdays. The students completed sermon notes

throughout the year, and I would like to share a few of their most poignant takeaways: “Continuing to see Jesus in everyday life.” “We are all on a journey.” “You can just lay all your sins on Jesus.” “Slow down and remember God is around.” “Love is the best gift.” “Listening to God can lead you in unexpected places.” Pretty insightful, huh? I should’ve made them get up and share a sermon!

All the students also completed a project over the 40 days of Lent, and we joined them during Lenten Worships: “I Saw God Today.” This was to encourage us all to always look for God in the small, unexpected places in their lives, outside of the church doors, whether in music, movies, or even memes. They were matched up with mentors, and I’d like to thank those mentors for giving of their time and talents: Jon Large, Darrell Lende, Linda Lende, Mary Nell Preisler, and Rachel Roggenbuck. Thank you!

My hope is that these students continue to find God in the everyday, since that is where God meets us, all of us. I can see great things in all of your futures, and I hope you continue to grow in your faith, ask questions, and listen to God’s call in your lives. I hope you continue to come to worship, to spend time with your mentor, and to remember that we as your church family are here for you. We are called to pray for each other, care for each other, and to be a listening ear when you need one.

Your sister in Christ, Katie

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***A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL ROGGENBUCK, SAM...***

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our history as A New Journey Lutheran Parish is relatively short. But, oh so full. Full of life. Full of love. Full of people. When we spent time dreaming of what we could be - together - we identified the gifts that are already here. I think it is very easy to forget about the things we already have in this busyness of life. Our objective: "God has already provided all we need to do what God needs us to do." We are unique. We are small congregations taking on this monumental calling. Because of our small size - towns, congregations, and membership - we know almost everyone in our communities and can name almost every person in our towns. We know the needs of our neighbors and because we can name these things, we can meet the needs of all those that we meet both spiritually and physically. You have started this work together. Every person has something to offer! I know I am thankful for each of you that has shared your gifts when needed! We are stronger because of you. We will continue - continue to love each other and our neighbors, in church and out of church, at WOW (Worship Outside the Walls) events and at community events.

We are equipped to do the work that God has set before us. Help where you can. We are making a difference.

Check out the schedule for summer worship virtually or live, help spread the word of Vacation Bible School opportunities, join us for a Family Fun Event in July and the Chuck Crain Gospel Concert in August.

Joyfully serving alongside you,  
Rachel Roggenbuck, SAM

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

(6:30 p.m. on April 15, 2024, at Immanuel Lutheran, Bejou, MN)

Council members present: Jim Steinmetz, Mary Preisler, Wanda Stordahl, Jane Aakhus, Karen Carlsrud and Teresa Werpy. Others attending: Pastor René Mehlberg, Katie DeMarais, Rachel Roggenbuck, Bonnie Werpy and Sue Gunderson.

Jim called the meeting to order and Pastor René led devotions.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the March 11, 2024, meeting were distributed and reviewed. Motion by Mary, second by Wanda and carried, to approve minutes of the March 11, 2024, meeting as presented.

Treasurer's Report: In Jill's absence, there was no report provided.

### Staff Reports:

Katie covered the following:

- Confirmation schedule for Gary (April 21) and Immanuel (May 19). Plans for Confirmation in the fall will be worked on this summer so if you know of any 7<sup>th</sup> grade and older students, please pass that information along to Katie.
- Plans are also being made for VBS (Vacation Bible School) as follows: July 15-17 at Immanuel; July 28-Aug. 1 (6-8pm) at Gary; and August 14 (1-5pm) at Our Savior's.
- Summer youth play dates at Gary will include community meals.

Rachel covered the following:

- A Worship Outside the Walls (WOW) meeting was scheduled but did not happen as no one attended. A Family Fun Event will be scheduled in July; and on August 22, Immanuel will host Gospel Singer Chuck Crain, which may be an opportunity for parish fundraising.
- The Mentor Farmers Market held each Saturday from 8-noon during the summer is considering having a food "vendor" each week and it may be a good fundraiser for the parish or church to consider.

Pastor René covered the following:

- She is still planning to have one-on-one conversations with all parish council members.
- Summer worship schedule for Gary and Ness will be:
  - Gary worship: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 9:00am (exception for June 16<sup>th</sup>, Gary Days Community worship 10:00am at the Park)
  - Ness worship: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 9:00am
- Pastor René and Rachel are working together on the parish caring ministry and would appreciate everyone letting them know if there is anyone who needs their attention.

#### Old Business:

- Immanuel will hold an 8:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 26, of Memorial Day weekend.
- Everyone was reminded of the fifth Sunday joint worship services. Our Savior's plans to have worship in the McIntosh Park on June 30. September 29 will be at Gary with Gary and Ness hosting; and Immanuel will host December 29.
- The taped worship services resumed on Easter Sunday on Garden Valley TV and on YouTube. A virtual worship survey was completed by each council member and surveys will be sent to members with the May newsletter to gather input regarding virtual worship.
- Our Tithely QR code is now available for use in contributing to the parish only, not individual congregations.

#### New Business:

- Summer Camp scholarships, which are part of the parish budget, were discussed, including several camp options for families to consider sending their child/children to. A motion was made by Karen, and seconded by Teresa, and carried, to pay 50%, not to exceed \$300, of the summer camp registration fee per child/one per year in 2024.
- Upcoming events include: June 15 Breakfast on the Farm at Steinmetz farm; June 22 Immanuel auction; and June 14-16 Gary Days.

The next ANJLP Council meeting will be held Monday, May 13, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel. Wanda made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Teresa and carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Sue Gunderson, Parish Secretary



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

- Our Savior's Council did not meet in April.
- Our Savior's will provide a meal at the McIntosh Community Center immediately following the 10:30 a.m. Memorial Day service on Monday, May 27.

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## *News from Gary Lutheran...*

**NOTE:** May 5 is the last day of Sunday School at Gary Lutheran.

### **Update from the FUNdraising & Fellowship Committee:**

Auto Pay Giving: Thank you to all who give to Gary Lutheran through auto-pay (ACH). A big thank you to all who recently signed up or have increased their donation. The prayer, hope, and goal is to fully fund the GLC budget through ACH giving by the end of 2024. If interested or need more information, stop at Ultima Bank-Gary or talk with Mike Nelson.

Gary Days, June 14-15: Your Help Needed! Gary Days is a great opportunity for the community to come together. In addition to the Saturday Night Meatball Dinner, we're taking on the Snack Shack during the Friday Night Movie and Saturday. These are great fundraising opportunities for the church, and your help is needed to make it a success! More information with sign-up sheets are on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board. This includes Snack Shack shift times and help with the meatball dinner (for workers or donations).

No Gary Lutheran Rummage Sale: There will not be a church rummage sale this year. We are considering serving food during the Citywide Rummage Sale later in the summer, and working with Encore. Stay tuned for more information to come.

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

- Gary Lutheran Church Ushers/Greeters, including any midweek services in their timeframe. (NOTE: Please check to make sure the red Christ Candle gets extinguished after each service.):
  - May 5-12: Joe & Carrie Heisler
  - May 19-26: Byron & Lori Thronson
- Gary Lutheran Altar Guild for May: Karla Tommervik and Renee Olson

# *News from Immanuel...*

## Summary of April 17, 2024, Immanuel Council Meeting

Council members present: Jimmy Steinmetz, Delane Schaumburg, Cindy Large, Jon Large, Rachel Roggenbuck, Terry McCollum, Mary Nell Preisler, Darrell Lende, Gloria Steinbrenner. Others attending: Pastor René Mehlberg.

- Secretary's report was given and approved.
- No treasurer's report. CD's were renewed.
- The new copier is here and is working well. Thanks to Duane Gunderson for his leadership.
- Rachel has finished Lay Ministry School and expressed her thanks for the support, especially financial, making it possible.
- Chuck Crain concert will be at ILC on Thursday, August 22. Connecting with him for possible parish fundraisers with this.
- Looking for a date for the summer parishwide Family Fun event.
- VBS will be July 15-17.
- Senior Quilt Sunday will be May 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Raffle tickets are here. Contact Darrell for tickets.
- Motion made to give Eileen Tommervik \$500 for help with costs related to her medical care.

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## Additional Immanuel Info:

- Mother & Daughter Brunch is at 11:00am on Saturday, May 11.
- Ladies' Aid supper on Wednesday, May 15, serving from 4-6:30 p.m. Meal cost is a free will offering. Servers are Candace Kulzer, Susan Bendickson and Sherry Pederson. (Note: Confirmation at 6:00 p.m., worship service at 7 p.m. & Immanuel Council meeting at 8 p.m.)

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### **A New Journey's recorded Worship broadcasts are back!**

But, we need your input!  
If you Worship with us online through  
Facebook/YouTube or on TV,  
please fill out this survey and let us know  
what this ministry means to you  
or someone you know.



### *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, May 21st  
6:30pm  
Erickson's Smokehouse, Fertile**

# FAMILY PLAYDATES

For any kiddos & their grown-ups.  
Come anytime between 4-6pm.  
Free community meal from 5:30-6pm.

## SUMMER SCHEDULE

Thursday, May 9  
Thursday, June 20  
Thursday, July 18  
Wednesday, August 7

FREE PLAY, CRAFTS & GAMES | KID-FRIENDLY BIBLE STORIES | HEALTHY, SAFE FAMILY TIME

Location: Gary Community Park (across from bank)  
Rain Site: Gary Lutheran Church



HOSTS: A NEW JOURNEY LUTHERAN PARISH & GARY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
QUESTIONS? EMAIL US: ANEWJOURNEYPARISH@GMAIL.COM OR SCAN



## A New Journey Lutheran Parish Vacation Bible School

Bible stories, snacks, crafts, games, and more!  
For children in pre-k-6th grade. (7-12th can be helpers.) All are welcome at any of the 3 opportunities for VBS this summer:

**Mon-Wed, July 15-17: 1-4pm Mon-Tues & 3-6pm Wed w/ Meal & Worship to follow hosted @ Immanuel, Bejou**

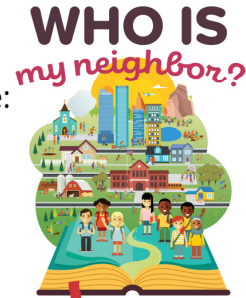
**Sun-Thurs, July 28-Aug 1: 6-8pm hosted @ Gary Lutheran**

**Wed, Aug 14: 1-5pm (Meal & Worship to follow) hosted @ Our Savior's, McIntosh**

Registration  
Required  
Scan QR Code:



ELCA World Hunger Evangelical Lutheran Church in America God's work. Our hands.



Questions?  
Contact Staff:  
anewjourney  
parish@  
gmail.com



### Ministers:

**Members of the Congregations**  
**Pastor René Mehlberg (218) 308-7898**  
[pastor.rene.mehlberg@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.rene.mehlberg@gmail.com)

### Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM)

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

### SAM

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

### ANJLP Secretary:

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

### Gary/Ness Sec.:

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

### Our Savior's Secretary:

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

### Parish Website:

[anewjourneyparish.org](http://anewjourneyparish.org)

**MAY 2024 WORSHIP SCHEDULE (\*\* denotes Holy Communion)**

<b>WORSHIP</b>	<b>IMMANUEL</b>	<b>OUR SAVIOR'S</b>	<b>GARY</b>	<b>NESS</b>	<b>SUNDAL</b>
<b>Sunday, May 5</b> (white)	8:30am–Worship** (KD)	10:30am–Worship** (PR) followed by Council Meeting	8:30am–Worship** (PR) 9:30am-Last Day of Sunday School	10:30 am – Worship** (KD)	
<b>Sunday, May 12</b> <b>Mother's Day</b> (white)	8:30 am – Worship (PR)	10:30 am – Worship (PR)	10:30 am – Worship (KD) with presentation of Senior Quilts		9:00 am – Worship** (KD)
<b>Wed., May 15</b> (white)	4-6:30pm-Supper 6pm-Confirmation 7pm-Worship** followed by Council Meeting				
<b>Sunday, May 19</b> <b>Day of Pentecost</b> (red)	8:30am–Worship** (KD) with Confirmation & presentation of Senior Quilt	10:30am–Worship** (KD)	10:30am–Worship** (PR) followed by Council Meeting	8:30 am – Worship (PR)	
<b>Sunday, May 26</b> <b>Memorial Day</b> <b>Weekend</b> (white)	8:30 am – Worship (PR)				

***Summer worship schedule for Gary and Ness starting June 2<sup>nd</sup>:***

***Gary worship: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 9:00am (exception for June 16<sup>th</sup>, Gary Days Community worship 10:00am at the Park)***

***Ness worship: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 9:00am***