

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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JUNE/JULY 2024



PARISH PRAYER LIST

Harry Aanden, Jessie Beckman, Shawn Bendickson, Becky Dahl, Ron Dahl, Perry Grundyson, Denise Halland, Kurt Halverson, Diane Hamre, Sherry Jensrud, Rosie Keller, Cindy (Wastweet) Kiester, Ann (Wastweet) Kukowski, Violet Lee, Donna Lisburg, Julia (Pantaleo) Madoll, Gwen Meyer, Randy Moen, Marilyn Natwick, Keith Olson, Lois Ostenaar, David Pinske, Franklyn Preisler, Susan Ruud, Anita Slater, Charles Svalen, Gina Tiokasin, and Orv Turner. Prayers and condolences to the family and friends of Milo Aanenson who passed away Wednesday, May 15. His funeral was held May 22 at Sundal.

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!

Vacation Bible School: There will be three opportunities for families to attend VBS this summer. ANY child is welcome at any and all events. Pre-school through 6th graders will be students and any youth or adult can come and help. Speaking of helpers, we are in need of teachers, snack leaders, and more at each location. Please reach out to Katie or Rachel if you'd like to volunteer. Pre-registration is required, and it can be found by clicking on the link in our linktree: www.linktr.ee/anewjourneyparish or scanning the code on the poster. The three opportunities are:

Monday-Wednesday, July 15-17, hosted at Immanuel Lutheran. Monday and Tuesday from 1-4pm. Wednesday from 3-6pm with a meal and Worship to follow. The students will be singing in Worship.

Sunday-Thursday, July 28-August 1, hosted at Gary Lutheran. 6-8pm nightly. The students will be singing in Worship at the Park that following Wed, Aug 7th at 6pm.

Wednesday, August 14, hosted at Our Savior's Lutheran. 1-5pm, with a meal and Worship to follow. The students will be singing in Worship that evening.

“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 the 2023-24 school year wraps to a close, let us take this time to lift up in prayer the many young people in our Parish who are celebrating big milestones.

In April and May, six confirmation students celebrated their Affirmation of Baptism during worship services at Gary and Immanuel Lutheran Churches. Tayten Abraham, Shilo Krueger, Rylin Rischmiller, Aly Flakne, Don Turner, and Floyd Turner completed two years of learning Scripture, catechism, and doctrine, and then chose to affirm the promises made to them in their baptisms. They were a wonderful confirmation class to teach, and we wish them well and keep them held in prayer as they continue in their faith journeys. A very big thanks is extended to the adults who gave of their time and talents to be their mentors this year: Mary Nell, Rachel, Linda, Darrell, and Jon. A trusted adult is one of the most important factors in a young person's life. Thank you for being that for these youth.

In May, we wrapped six seniors in our love and support, literally, as we wrapped them with quilts made by our devoted quilters from Immanuel and Ness/Sundal/Gary area quilters. Please keep these graduating seniors, and all who are making this transition to adulthood, in your continued prayers: Cassidy Abraham, Chloe Abraham, Branson Flakne, Cody Henriksen, Somer Sorensen, and Gene Tadych. A special quilt was gifted to the family of Cody Prestegord, as we wish we could have wrapped him in a senior quilt as well.

Please keep in your support and prayers, all of the young adults in our Parish who have just graduated from college (or will be soon). This list is not comprehensive, so please let us know if you know of someone who is celebrating a high school or college graduation so that we may send them a greeting. Congrats to: Madison Abraham, Titan Engen, Bridget Roggenbuck, Abby Lende and Riley Ramstorf.



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR RENÉ L. MEHLBERG...

Dear Beloved Children of God:

Can you believe summer is just around the corner? School has ended. Fields are being planted. Fishing boats and pontoons are out. Trips to the lake have begun.

What will your summer look like? For those who work the land in big and small ways, this is your busy time. For families and many others, the school year is done and summer is an opportunity for seasonal work, travel, camps, much more, and hopefully some rest.

Summer with ANJLP includes some worship schedule adjustments, so please read carefully. We're once again including a list of community events throughout our mission field. Apologies for any missed; we did our best. It's a reminder of the many things happening throughout our vast mission field; many on the same day. It's also an invitation to check them out. Hope to see many of you out and about! Please invite me to join you!

Summer will also include: Vacation Bible School throughout the parish (three opportunities to participate); youth heading to Bible Camp; a summer Family Fun event; and in August, Branson Gospel singer Chuck Crain. That night will also include a parish-wide fundraiser. Watch for more information to come.

We are in year two, while still living into our new reality, as ANJLP **together**. Not everything will be perfect. We continue to learn, wonder, stumble, and try again. As our Triune God extends grace, love, mercy, and forgiveness to us, we must extend that to one another (and sometimes ourselves) as we go forth fully and boldly living into ANJLP's why and what of *“Sharing the hope that we find in Christ and the roadmap for a happy and healthy life to spread the love and promises of God to our neighbors, our communities, and our congregations.”*

May we all feel, sense, and follow the Holy Spirit leading and guiding us in this wild, wonderful adventure!

Blessings and prayers for a great summer! See you around!

Pastor René

A MESSAGE FROM KATIE DEMARAIS, SAM...

“These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.”

Psalm 104:27-28

On May 17-18, members of our staff and Parish representatives joined with our Brothers and Sisters in Christ in the Northwestern Minnesota Synod to worship, do the business of the Church, and deepen relationships during the 2024 Synod Assembly. This is the first Assembly that has been fully back in-person since before the pandemic, and I, for one, have missed this gathering! Synod Assembly is one of my favorite parts of the Church year, and this year was no exception.

The theme was Good Soil, and we heard in Worship from our thematic speaker, Pr. Jon Anderson, how we are all planted here in these places and congregations, and we are truly in Good Soil. We studied the parable of the sower, and people brought soil and water from all over our NWMN Synod, including some from Bejou.

An especially meaningful part of this year’s Assembly was during Worship on Saturday morning. All 40+ Synod Authorized Ministers were commissioned for ministry together, blessed with cross necklaces, and prayed over by our representatives and the whole assembly. Both Rachel and I were previously blessed to have our own commissionings in our Parish, but many SAMs have not, and so we were all commissioned again together. What a blessed day.

I highly encourage all of our congregations to send two voting representatives to Synod Assembly next year (May 30-June 1, 2025), as it will be the next Bishop Election. Not just for that important reason, but Assembly is just a really great experience to learn how connected we are to the wider Church and each other as siblings in Christ.

Your sister in Christ, Katie

A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL ROGGENBUCK, SAM...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Jesus tells a parable of scattering seeds on the ground, that it grows and yields a crop that is to be harvested, and a story of a mustard seed, a seed so small that it is known as one of the smaller seeds on earth, and yet when it is sown it grows and becomes great enough that it might cause shelter for creatures of the earth. We are those seeds, scattered on the ground, to grow where we land. Just as seeds don’t

seem like they will change anything, they change what the field or garden looks like. So, too, can the bounty through our harvest be shown by the love we share with one another, sharing these parables and our own stories with one another.

As the mustard seed grows into a strong plant giving shelter to all those in need, we, too, grow strong so that we are a shelter for others. I know I have been a recipient of this shelter on more than one occasion for the pain and joy experiences in my own life. It's summer and we will be out and about laughing, enjoying the sunshine, and doing summer activities, let us use this time to be a shelter for others, encouraging one another and loving one another. Check out the many opportunities in the coming months to help, enjoy and love.

Serving alongside you,
Rachel Roggenbuck, SAM

Minutes - A New Journey Parish Council Meeting

(6:30 p.m. on May 13, 2024, at Immanuel Lutheran, Bejou, MN)

Council members present: Mary Nell Preisler, Jimmy Steinmetz and Marilyn Graf. (Others attending: Bonnie Werpy, Sue Gunderson, Katie DeMarais, Rachel Roggenbuck, and Pastor René). There was not a quorum.

Mary Nell called the meeting to order and Pastor René led devotions. Jimmy came during devotions.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the April 15, 2024, meeting were distributed and reviewed.

Treasurer's Report: In Jill's absence, there was no report provided. (Note: Financial reports from Jill were emailed to all council members following this May 13 meeting.)

Staff Reports:

Pastor René covered the following:

- Shared that ministry staff will be attending NWMN Synod Assembly at Concordia College this Friday & Saturday. Katie & Rachel and all SAMs will be commissioned as part of Saturday morning worship
- Virtual Worship Survey continues through May 26. If you know of people outside the parish who watch, please encourage them or help them complete a survey.
- Two baccalaureate services to be part of: Win-E-Mac on Wednesday, May 15, 7:00pm at WEM School; NCE: Sunday, May 19 at 5:00pm at Gary Lutheran.
- Pastor will be on vacation Sunday, June 23 (afternoon) - Thursday, June 27 & TBD in July

Katie covered the following:

- School year youth programming of confirmation and Senior Quilts wrapping up. Preparing for VBS with 3 opportunities for youth to participate throughout the parish.

Rachel covered her items under old and new business.

Old Business

- Chuck Crain has given permission for a raffle and dinner to be held as a parish fundraiser prior to his concert at Immanuel on Thursday, August 22. His payment is a love offering and hotel room. There was no further discussion or planning at this time.

New Business

- Mahanomen County Fair is interested in Community Worship on Sunday, July 7. Rachel is the lead with this. Gary and Our Savior's is to ask their council/members if they want their own worship on that date as well and let Rachel know by May 20.
- There will be a combined June/July Newsletter so asked about July 7 worship preference.

The next ANJLP Council meeting will be held Monday, June 17, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Sue Gunderson, Parish Secretary

News from Our Savior's...

May 5, 2024 Council Meeting

-Council members present were Jane Aakhus, Marilyn Graff, Kristi Skeie, Dave Stordahl & Wanda Stordahl, Gordie Ostenaar. Others in attendance were Pastor René Mehlberg, Rachel Roggenbuck, Cindy Ostenaar and Anita Roy.

-Meeting called to order by President Wanda Stordahl. Devotions were given by Pastor René Mehlberg.

-March minutes approved.

-Dave gave the Financial Report for February and March. Marilyn Graff motion to approve financial report and 2nd it by Gordie Ostenaar. Motion by Marilyn Graff and 2nd it by Kristi Skeie to transfer \$8,000.00 out of Thrivent and into the checking account.

-Parsonage discussion was held. Jane Aakhus made a motion and 2nd it by Marilyn Graff to table the parsonage items until the June 2024 meeting.

-Kristi went over everything for Memorial Day fundraiser. Motion was made by Jane and 2nd it by Dave to also give \$50.00 of the Memorial Day dinner to Friends for Veterans.

-VBS will be August 14th from 1-5:00 pm with program to follow.

-June 30th Worship will be at the McIntosh Lion's Park unless it's raining, then it will be at Our Savior's Church with lunch to follow.

- Dave gave an update on raffle regulations.

- Pastor René gave her report and updated us about her involvement in the WEM Youth Group.

-Meeting adjourned by Jane Aakhus and 2nd it by Marilyn Graff.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

News from Gary Lutheran...

May 19, 2024, Gary Lutheran Church Council Meeting Highlights

Members Present: Bonnie Werpy, Lori Thronson, Gene Werpy, Joe Heisler, Teresa Werpy, Gene Hanson. Also attending: Pastor René Mehlberg

March Secretary report read and approved.

Treasurer's report: Total income for January through April was \$27,292.81 and the total expenses for January through April were \$28,619.11. Report approved.

Old Business

- The sound system is in and working.

New Business

- Double oven can't be used because it can't be converted with the new gas system as you can't have 2 different gas supplies. (Propane and Natural)
Motion made and seconded to look into selling it.
- Motion made and seconded for Gary Lutheran Bible Camper fund to support Gary students for \$200 this year. This is in addition to the parish covering half of the registration cost up to \$300. Families are responsible for \$80 and transportation.
- **Volunteers are needed to work at the Snack Shack and the Gary Meatball Supper during Gary Days. Contact Lori or sign-up on the sheets in the Fellowship Hall.**

- There will be a parish fundraiser at Immanuel on August 22 on the night Chuck Crain will perform. The fundraiser may be a meal and raffles before the concert.
- Lori will talk to Bryan about the furnace situation of if it's fully functioning so the heat can be turned down lower next winter when the church is not being used.
- Decided no church at Gary on July 7. Parish worship will be at the Mahnomen County Fair.

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.):
 - June 2: Curt and Candy Robertson
 - June 16: Gary Days Worship at the Park
 - June 30-July 7: No worship in Gary either day
 - July 21: David & Audrey Hanson
 - August 4: Aaron & Kayla Werpy
- Gary Lutheran Altar Guild for June: Kristi Engen and La Von Olson
- Gary Lutheran Altar Guild for July: TBD

News from Immanuel...

Summary of May 15, 2024, Immanuel Council Meeting

Council members present: Jimmy Steinmetz, Duane Gunderson, Delane Schaumburg, Rachel Roggenbuck, Becky Olson, Mary Nell Preisler, Darrell Lende, Gloria Steinbrenner, and Peggy Gunderson. Others attending: Katie DeMarais.

- Secretary's report was given and approved.
- Treasurer's report was given and approved.

Staff report:

- Rachel, Katie, Susie Steinmetz and Pastor René will be attending the Synod Assembly at Concordia College.
- 2 Baccalaureate services will be attended by staff.
- Chuck Crain will be here Thursday, August 22, to perform at Immanuel. He performs old time gospel.

- Mahnomen Fair worship service will be July 7th at 10:00am. No service at Immanuel that morning.
- June/July newsletters will be combined.

Old Business:

- Tickets are available to sell for raffle at our auction. Please provide Darrell with pictures of items that will be sold at auction.
- Reminder: June 15 is Breakfast on the Farm at Steinmetz Farm.
- The need for a street light near the east parking lot was discussed.
- Darrell will check on something for the ceiling in the dining room so it doesn't echo.

New Business:

- Discussed having activities for kids to do at the auction (kickball, sidewalk chalk, etc)
- Bottom of dumpster has rusted out, so Jimmy will look into this.

Additional Immanuel Info:

- Ladies' Aid suppers with free will offering will be held from 4-6:30pm (followed by 7pm worship and 8pm council meeting) as follows:
 - Wed., June 19, servers are Geraldine Dahl, Judy Cantwell and Theresa McCollum
 - Wed., July 17, servers are Becky Olson, Cindy Large and Sara Miller
- Immanuel's auction will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 22. Raffle tickets for cash prizes are being sold, along with lunch and bake sale.
- Jim and Susie Steinmetz are hosting the annual Breakfast on the Farm on Saturday, June 15, from 8-11am, serving pancakes, ham, strawberries and ice cream.



Meatball Supper



Gary Days: Saturday, June 15
Serving from 4:30-6:30pm
Gary Lutheran Church

Free Will Offering!
Homemade meatballs, mashed potatoes,
gravy, corn, and desserts.
Take meals to go or sit and enjoy!

GOOD NEWS FELLOWSHIP & GARY LUTHERAN CHURCH HOST

Gary Days Community Worship

Sunday, June 16 ~ 10:00 am

GARY COMMUNITY PARK
111 MAIN ST (ACROSS FROM THE BANK)

Scripture. Music. Fellowship

**BRING A CHAIR
& BIBLE IF ABLE**



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



Wednesday Night Worship

hosted at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bejou

Summer Schedule:
June 19
July 17 (including VBS)
August 21

Ladies Aid Supper served from 4:00-6:30pm
Worship at 7pm

YOU are welcome at 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, June 25 ~ 6:30pm

Rhombus Pizza, Mentor

Tuesday, July 23 ~ 6:30pm

Peachy's Pub, Bejou

OUTDOOR COMMUNITY

WORSHIP Service!

**30 JUNE
2024**

Location: Lion's Park, McIntosh

(Roholt Park, NE 2nd St. Off HWY 2)

Rain Site: Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Worship at 10:30am

Fellowship and Lunch to follow

YOU are welcome here!



Hosted by: Our Savior's Lutheran Church &
A New Journey Lutheran Parish

*A New
Journey*
Lutheran Parish



A NEW JOURNEY LUTHERAN PARISH

FAMILY FUN Event!

SUNDAY  STARTS
JULY 21 AT 5PM

Immanuel Lutheran Church
400 Roosevelt Ave, Bejou MN

FOOD, FUN, & FELLOWSHIP. COME AS YOU ARE.
BRING A LAWN CHAIR FOR YOUR COMFORT.
ALL PARISH AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE INVITED!

The illustration at the bottom shows a picnic scene on a grassy field. On the left is a wooden picnic table with two blue napkins. In the center is a red charcoal grill with a hamburger and a hot dog cooking. On the right is a small round table with two glasses of red drinks and a basket of bread. The background features a line of green trees.

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**

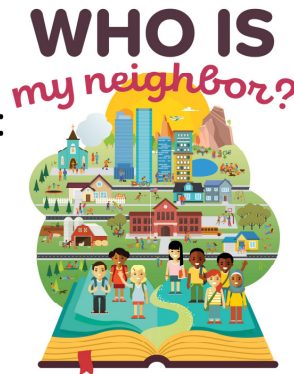
**Sun-Thurs, July 28-Aug 1: 6-8pm
hosted @ Gary Lutheran**

**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
Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM)	Katie DeMarais (218) 820-8287 or demarais.katie@gmail.com
SAM	Rachel Roggenbuck (701) 741-0976 or athomerachel@gmail.com
ANJLP Secretary:	Sue Gunderson (218) 280-8678 or immanuel@gvtel.com
Gary/Ness Sec.:	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

JUNE 2024 WORSHIP SCHEDULE (denotes Holy Communion)**

WORSHIP	IMMANUEL	OUR SAVIOR'S	GARY	NESS	SUNDAL
Sunday, June 2 (green)	8:30am–Worship** (PR)	10:30am–Worship** (PR)	9:00am–Worship** (KD)		
Sunday, June 9 (green)	8:30 am – Worship (KD)	10:30 am – Worship (KD) followed by Council Meeting		9:00am – Worship** (PR)	
Sunday, June 16— FATHER'S DAY (green)	8:30am–Worship** (RR)	10:30am–Worship** (RR)	10:00am—Worship at Gary Park (KD & PR)		
Wednesday, June 19 (green)	4-6:30pm-Supper 7pm-Worship** followed by Council Meeting				
Sunday, June 23 (KD off) (green)	8:30 am – Worship (RR)	10:30am–Worship (RR)		9:00 am – Worship (PR)	10:30am— Worship** (PR)
Sunday, June 30 (green)		10:30am—Worship at McIntosh Park with a meal to follow			

Summer worship schedule for Gary and Ness:

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

Ness worship: 2nd & 4th Sundays at 9:00am

JULY 2024 WORSHIP SCHEDULE (denotes Holy Communion)**

WORSHIP	IMMANUEL	OUR SAVIOR'S	GARY	NESS	SUNDAL
Sunday, July 7 10am Community Worship at Mahnommen County Fair					
Sunday, July 14 (PR off) (green)	8:30 am – Worship (RR)	10:30 am – Worship (RR) followed by Council Meeting		9:00am – Worship** (KD)	10:30am— Worship** (KD)
Wednesday, July 17 (green)	4-6:30pm-Supper 7pm-Worship** followed by Council Meeting				
Sunday, July 21 (KD off) (green)	8:30 am – Worship** (RR)	10:30am—Worship** (RR)	9:00am—Worship** (PR) followed by Council Meeting		
Sunday, July 28 (green)	8:30 am – Worship (PR)	10:30am—Worship (PR)		9:00am – Worship (KD)	