

A New Journey Lutheran Parish

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

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OCTOBER 2024



A New Journey Lutheran Parish

Gary, Immanuel, Ness, &
Our Savior's Lutheran Churches

PRAYER LIST: *Jessie Beckman, Shawn Bendickson, Melinda Bolen, Sharon Bronske, Becky Dahl, Ron Dahl, Jayden Gensburger, Eric Grieve, Denise Halland, Kurt Halvorson, Diane Hamre, Jesse Hickman, Sherry Jensrud, Gerald Johnson, Rosie Keller, Mark Larson, Violet Lee, Donna Lisburg, Julia (Pantaleo) Madoll, Gwen Meyer, Roger Narum, Keith Olson, Lois Ostenaar, Franklyn Preisler, Susan Ruud, Anita Slater, Lily Thronson, Gina Tiokasin, Orv Turner, Jerry Winkler and Tiffany Winter.*

WOW Opportunity!

The next Worship Outside the Walls (WOW) outing is to see Kate Bowler, who is speaking at the Avalon Events Center in Fargo, Thursday, October 10 from 7-9pm.

In-person tickets are \$25 (+\$0.63 service fee). Tickets are general admission. Purchase tickets on your own and contact Pastor René or Rachel if interested in carpooling. You can also livestream via Zoom. Cost is \$15 (+\$0.35 service fee).

For more information or to purchase tickets go to

<https://www.humanitiesnd.org/kate>.

******* YOUTH NEWS in the YOUTH CORNER! *******

(This is a separate section to find all the youth news throughout the parish! Yes, some of this info is also elsewhere in the newsletter.)

Confirmation: grades 7-8 (or above if you haven't attended before):

Classes will be 1st & 3rd Wednesdays from 6-8pm at Immanuel. The third Wednesday will include worship starting at 7pm.

- *Oct. 2: 6:00pm orientation at Immanuel, then heading to First Lutheran in Mahnomon to hear motivational speaker Ben Hylden, Park River, ND*
- *Oct. 16: 6:00pm class with 7:00pm worship at Immanuel*

Invitation is open for any student to participate, who hasn't yet. Contact Pastor René or simply show up.

Gary Sunday School: *Started Sunday, Sept. 15, and each Sunday at 9:30am at Gary Church, unless noted. Youth pre-school-6th grade. Teresa Werpy is the contact.*

Gary Play Dates: *Looking for volunteers to help lead this once-a-month opportunity or re-envision what can be done for the Gary area youth. Play dates have been 4-6pm, often on a Thursday. Contact Pastor René if interested.*

NWMN Synod Middle School Youth Gatherings: *(Fri-Sat 22-23 OR Sat-Sun Nov 23-24)*

This is an optional activity for middle school youth (grades 6-8) to participate in. Youth will gather with others throughout the Synod for an overnight at Luther Crest in Alexandria, choosing which dates work best. This opportunity is open for youth in those grades, as well as their friends. Depending on interest and dates available, parent/guardian transportation/chaperoning may be needed because of staffing changes. More information to come! Reach out to Pastor René if interested.

WEM Community Youth Ministry: *For the past year, a group of Win-e-Mac (WEM) parents and volunteers have started a youth group for WEM students in grades 7-12. Feel free to participate and follow them on Facebook for more information.*

- *Sat. Oct 5 starting at 2:00pm: Pick Up & Party*
- *Wed. Oct 16: Christian Concert - Stephan Stanley at WEM school from 7:00-9:00pm; tickets required.*

“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.

Thank you, Katie!

Katie completed her covenant with ANJLP on August 31. On September 18, we celebrated her and blessed her as she began as a full-time student at Luther Seminary. Katie will graduate with a Master of Arts in Leadership and Innovation.

At her blessing service, Katie shared that 20 years ago Pastor Bill Beyer first took her to Luther Seminary. He, and many others, saw gifts in her that God's world needs, including her ability to share God's love and promises with others. Over the years, she has used these gifts in many ways. Even before she was commissioned a SAM (Synod Authorized Minister), she shared her gifts of teaching, preaching, leading, and many others as a lay leader. Lay leaders play a crucial role in the church. Katie recognizes this and wants to continue lifting up and supporting others

in those roles. This could be you! Lay leaders may be needed to continue some programming previously done by Katie.

The impact Katie has on our lives is not gossip at all. It is good news of great joy that we should all proclaim! We are thankful for the many ways seen and unseen that Katie has been part of ministry and leadership before, during, and after ANJLP officially formed.

Katie and her family are still members of Gary Lutheran, part of ANJLP. We hope to see her and them around. We pray for Katie, her family, and us in this season of transition and change. And if you haven't shared your thanks with Katie, please do so!



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR RENÉ L. MEHLBERG...

Dear Beloved Children of God:

Fall is in the air as we soak in the lingering warm days. The school year is well underway with sports and other events filling the calendar. Some fall festivals and meals have been held with more to come. It's hard to imagine but MEA weekend is just around the corner. For me, fall officially starts when college hockey begins and for the Badger Women that was Friday, September 27! GO RED!

Fall is a season of change engaging all of our senses. We see crops being harvested, the leaves changing color to then fall to the ground. We hear the sounds of machinery and crunching leaves. The air and campfires smell different in fall. Be it pumpkin spice, apple, or something else, fall flavors are here for the taste buds to enjoy. Even the temperatures feel different as the sun makes it way further from us.

As fall is a season of change, what does that mean for us at ANJLP, who also find ourselves changing, evolving as well?

First, in August, the Parish Council approved Rachel increasing her time from 13 to 25 hours a week for the rest of the year. We are taking these 4 months to see how ministry goes, what the needs are, and what resources are available to plan for 2025.

Second, as Rachel and I take on new roles and responsibilities once covered by Katie (see Good Gossip article), remember we are all learning together. We come with experience and yet, it's a unique reality we're living into. We are doing our best. Please reach out with questions or kind suggestions as we make our way together.

As we live into the "what's next?" for us as a parish, who voted "Yes" to come together to share God's love and promises in our churches, our communities, and throughout the parish, remember we need one another to make that possible. I ask for your prayers and patience, love and grace as we continue to live into this holy, messy work the Holy Spirit is up to in each church, our communities, and the parish. May "The Prayer of Good Courage" guide us on this journey.

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

~from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship book, page 304

Prayers and blessings for you all!

Pastor René

A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL ROGGENBUCK, SAM...

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Bit by bit the seasons change from summer into fall. We are settling into school schedules and harvest is continuing. We share the experiences we have with one another...the leaves that are beautiful, the games won or lost and how we are doing with the harvest. When we share these experiences, most likely we are using our imagination to visualize what the person is telling us. When we do this, we are lifting one another up, being the disciples Jesus calls us to be. We are learning to be disciples bit by bit.

A family was seated at the dinner table; everyone was enjoying each other with pleasant conversation. Among those participating was a six-year-old who was giving a running commentary on the subject of dinosaurs. He was drawing a picture as he talked of meat-eaters, plant-eaters and other interesting details he had learned at school. All the while, he continued to draw his picture. When he had finished, he showed the picture to each person. Everyone praised the picture with its two dinosaurs against a detailed scenic background. The young artist received the compliments with dignity and pleasure and then said calmly: "And there is a lake that doesn't show." 'A lake that doesn't show.' The child has eyes for the invisible.

He lives in his imagination. Imagination can be a source of strength and energy for our daily struggles.

Recently in the Gospel, Jesus used a child as an object lesson. He explained to his disciples that the true measure of status in the kingdom of God is to be like a child. To ask questions, to use our imaginations and to be trusting. Jesus is introducing huge changes that define how we, his followers, will live in the world. He is helping us understand that when the focus of our lives is on serving the helpless and weak, we will no longer need to strive for position and influence. He is helping us to become disciples bit by bit. So, the next time you are quiet, instead of supporting or encouraging, or you are dominating a conversation, I encourage you to stretch yourselves bit by bit, by speaking up sooner and also being quiet sooner. We are disciples of Jesus and he is showing us the way, bit by bit.

Your sister in Christ,
Rachel Roggenbuck, SAM

Minutes - A New Journey Parish Council Meeting
(6:30 p.m. on September 9, 2024, at Immanuel Lutheran, Bejou, MN)

Council members present: Mary Nell Preisler, Jimmy Steinmetz, Teresa Werpy, Karen Carlsrud, Marilyn Graff, Stacey Knudson and Jill Nelson. Others attending: Sue Gunderson, Katie DeMarais, Rachel Roggenbuck, Pastor René Mehlberg and Synod SAM Coordinator Kathy Levenhagen.

Teresa called the meeting to order and Pastor René led devotions after introductions. (Jimmy arrived during devotions.)

Synod SAM Coordinator Kathy Levenhagen reported that she was at Immanuel for Katie's exit interview and to review Katie's covenant specifications in place for a year after Katie leaves our Parish.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the August 12, 2024, meeting were distributed. A motion was made by Marilyn, seconded by Mary, and carried to approve the minutes as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Following Jill's distribution and review of the current financial reports, a motion was made by Marilyn, seconded by Teresa, and carried to approve the financial reports as presented. Jill reported on new Minnesota tax laws which will impact the parish staff.

Old Business:

- The Chuck Crain concert and meal were successful. The parish raised \$1,428 from the meal and donations to Chuck Crain were \$1,231. A motion was made by Mary, and seconded by Marilyn, to have Chuck return next year. He is available on Thursday, August 21, 2025.

- Plans for Katie’s send-off event on September 18 at Immanuel were discussed. The Council expressed their thanks to Katie for all her hard work and dedication to the Parish.

New Business:

- Pastor René distributed and reviewed a list of updated staff duties/responsibilities. Some of those listed still need to be addressed. (Katie reported on the funds used for youth activities.)
- Roles of the Parish Council and Parish Budget Committee as they relate to the 2025 budget were discussed. Jill indicated she has the 2025 staff salary information for the Budget Committee when they meet September 25. As recommended by Pastor René, the Council agreed to have a meeting in November with full Church Council members for the purpose of reviewing and approving the proposed 2025 budget. The 2025 parish budget will be approved at each congregational annual meeting in January 2025.

Staff Reports:

Pastor René covered the following:

- She will be helping with Wednesday Release Time classes at Grace Lutheran Church in Erskine for WEM School students.
- She and Rachel will be attending a Theological Conference in Warroad September 15-17.

Rachel covered the following:

- She is participating in a worship class by Zoom.
- She is putting together a list of third graders who should be getting their Bibles.

After Katie left the council meeting, discussion was held on a gift for Katie from the Parish. A motion was made by Stacey, seconded by Marilyn, and carried to give Katie a \$500 gas card from the gas station in Gary.

The next ANJLP Council meeting will be held Monday, October 14, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel.

A motion was made by Stacey, seconded by Marilyn, and carried, to adjourn.

The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Sue Gunderson, Parish Secretary

News from Our Savior’s...

September 8, 2024, Our Savior’s Council Meeting Highlights

- August minutes approved.
- There was no financial report provided.
- The parsonage committee is preparing to sell the parsonage.
- Too early to make plans for Thanksgiving Eve service.

- We are waiting to hear from another company about the elevator.
- Discussion on a gift for Katie from the congregation.
- Update provided on September 22 fall dinner. A Thrivent gift card will be used to purchase food.
- Sue Lee and Pam Aanenson will be contacted to see if they will lead worship on September 22nd since Rachel won't be with us that day.
- Rachel gave an update on the Chuck Crain concert. It was a very successful fundraiser and she thanked everyone for all their help. Rachel gave an update about her and Pastor Rene's duties now that Katie's no longer with us.
- Pastor Rene gave her report and is now going to be helping teach release time at Grace Church for the Win-E-Mac school kids. An update regarding the parish budget committee and parish budget was also given by Pastor Rene.
- The Hugo's Hugs coupon book fundraiser will start November 1.

Additional Our Savior's Information

Our Savior's Church had a busy weekend on September 21st and 22nd. On the 21st we participated in the Fall Festival event by hosting a booth with baked goodies and beautiful craft items. It was such a fun event and we did great as one of our fundraisers. On September 22nd we hosted our annual Fall dinner which consisted of meatballs, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, pickles, dinner rolls and pie. This event was well attended and was very successful.

A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped with our fundraisers!!! Your participation is greatly appreciated! These events do not just happen, it takes many people helping to make it a reality. Thank you again for your help....

News from Gary Lutheran...

September 8, 2024, Gary Council Meeting Highlights

- Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were given and approved. The total income from January to August was 47,542.85. The total expenses were 51,132.74. As of August 31, we have 20,789.72.
- It was noted that by the end of the year we will be short money to sponsor our Compassion child. It was suggested that information be put in the bulletin and possibly have a special offering in church to replenish this account.
- Katie agreed to purchase the car she has been using from Gary Lutheran for \$5,900. She will check our insurance policy to see if they will cover replacing the chipped windshield.

- Jill also informed the council that it is MN state law that we provide sick leave for employees. Julie Gevik would qualify for this and would earn about 4 or 5 hours a year. The Council agreed to allow Julie to carry over to the next year any unused sick leave.
- Pastor René informed us of the celebration for Katie on Wednesday, September 18 at 6 pm at Immanuel. Pastor René discussed the duties that she and Rachel would be doing after Katie leaves. Rachel will be doing more caring ministry, social media, and 3rd grade bibles. Pastor René will be in charge of confirmation. If the confirmation students were only from Gary and she had the idea of having Wednesday night worship and a meal with confirmation students once a month in Gary.
- Pastor René discussed the parish budget. She would like to have a meeting of the joint parish council and the councils from each congregation sometime in November.
- We are working on selling the double oven in the kitchen.
- Discussion held on holding a cash raffle and requesting a Thrivent grant to help with the cost of tickets and permit. 200 tickets will be sold at \$100 each. First prize will be \$4000, 1 at \$2000 and 4 prizes of \$1000 each.
- A Thrivent grant will also be written for supplies for our Fall dinner and for a meat raffle.
- Teresa would also like to use a Thrivent grant for Sunday School supplies...3 marker boards for classrooms and some new bibles. She also said our fire extinguishers were outdated.
- The last Sunday of September is a 5th Sunday. We will have a joint parish worship in Gary on September 29, the fifth Sunday of the month, at 9 o'clock with Soup and Sandwiches after worship. Gary will provide soup and cake or bars and Ness will be asked to bring sandwiches.
- Teresa and Pastor René have been cleaning unused items in the church. There are several old electronic items that people can take or they will be recycled. Bonnie will take the fleece blankets to possibly a homeless mission.
- Linda Engen has ideas and will most likely be in charge of the Harvest Brunch/Fall Dinner.

Additional Gary News

LWF School & Baby Kits Update: Gary Lutheran is no longer collecting supplies or assembling school or baby kits for LWF and hasn't for a few years. Remaining supplies have been donated to local schools and agencies. Thank you to everyone donating items in the past. Please continue sharing your generosity with others in your area.

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.):
 - Oct. 6 (8:30am) & 13 (8:30am): Stacy & Kathy Stene
 - Oct. 20 (10:30am) & 27 (10:30am): Jay Gunderson and Wayne Bekkerus
 - Gary Lutheran Altar Guild for October: Kim Jenson and Bindy Thronson
- *****

News from Immanuel...

September 18, 2024, Immanuel Council Meeting

A brief council meeting was held and a decision was made to schedule our Lutefisk/Meatball supper for Saturday, December 7.

Additional Immanuel Info:

Ladies’ Aid supper with free will offering will be held at Immanuel from 4-6:30pm (with 6:00pm Confirmation, 7:00pm worship and 8pm council meeting) on Wednesday, October 16. Servers are Peggy Gunderson, Delane Schaumburg and Melissa Bendickson.

Fall Festival

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6
11:00AM - 1:00PM
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH, BEJOU

MEAL
CRAFT & BAKE SALE
ADULT & KIDDIE CAKE WALK
FISH POND
SILENT AUCTION

Free Will Donation. All are welcome.
Join us for Worship at 10:00am.



**KATE
BOWLER**

**Worship Outside the
Walls Parish Outing**

Thurs, Oct 10. 7pm
Avalon Event Center, Fargo

**CONTACT PR. RENE OR
RACHEL FOR MORE INFO**

Tickets are \$25, and can be ordered
online: www.humanitiesnd.org
We will ride share as needed.

**Wednesday
Night Worship**
hosted at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bejou

Wednesday, October 16

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

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, October 22 ~ 6:30pm

Gary Cafe - Gary

Rachel will need to know what you
may order by Friday, October 20
watch for more information

Area Activities:

- “Finding Faith in the Field”--First Lutheran Church, Mahnomen , Wednesday, October 2, at 7pm. Hear story of Ben Hylden, Park River, ND, who survived a terrible car accident at age 16 and given a 5% chance of living. He surpassed doctors’ expectations and began a remarkable journey of faith, and endured many hardships in life which taught him what truly matters the most.
- Oct. 16—Stephan Stanley Concert 7pm at WEM School, Erskine
- Oct. 19—McIntosh Haunted Marketplace
- Oct. 27—Gary’s Halloween Event
- Oct. 27—Fall Festival (meatball dinner, craft & bake sale) 11am-1pm at Zion Lutheran Church, Twin Valley

Ministers:

Members of the Congregations

Pastor René Mehlberg (218) 308-7898

pastor.rene.mehlberg@gmail.com

Synodically

Authorized

Minister (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

Find Us Online:

linktr.ee/anewjourneyparish

OCTOBER 2024 WORSHIP SCHEDULE (denotes Holy Communion)**

WORSHIP	IMMANUEL	OUR SAVIOR'S	GARY	NESS	SUNDAL
Sunday, Oct. 6 (green)	10:00am-Worship (RR) followed by Fall Festival	10:30am-Worship** (PR)	8:30am—Worship** (PR) 9:30am-Sunday School		
Sunday, Oct. 13 (green)	8:30am-Worship (RR)	10:30am-Worship (PR) followed by Council Meeting	8:30am—Worship (PR) 9:30am-Sunday School	10:30am – Worship** (RR)	
Wed., Oct. 16 (green)	4-6:30pm-Supper 6pm-Confirmation 7pm-Worship** followed by Council Meeting				
Sunday, Oct. 20 (green)	8:30 am – Worship** (PR)	10:30am-Worship** (PR)	9:30am-Sunday School 10:30am-Worship ** (RR)		9:00am-Worship** (RR)
Reformation Sunday, Oct. 27 (red)	8:30am-Worship (RR)	10:30am-Worship (RR)	9:30am-Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship (PR)	8:30am-Worship (PR)	