

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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Fertile, MN
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APRIL 2025



PRAYER LIST: *Mindy Aguilar, Jessie Beckman, Shawn Bendickson, Ron Dahl, Jayden Gensburger, Stephanie Gilbertson, Eric Grieve, Denise Halland, Diane Hamre, Jesse Hickman, Rosie Keller, Mae Knowles, Jesse Koch, Christopher Larson, Mark Larson, Violet Lee, Donna Lisburg, Julia (Pantaleo) Madoll, Gwen Meyer, Shaun Moritz, Roger Narum, Keith Olson, Lois Ostenaar, Susan Ruud, Todd Scheff, Anita Slater, Lily Thronson, Shirley Valen, and Tiffany Winter. We pray for these individuals, along with their family and friends.*

WELCOME---INTERIM PASTOR:

Hello! My name is Pastor Tiffany Sundeen, of Fargo, and I am thrilled to partner with you all for the next 12 weeks. I married Batman, Bruce Wayne Sundeen, and became a first-time mom to Jacob at the same time. Jacob is 35 now! We have two incredible daughters. Rachel is 21 and is a certified pharmacy technician at Sanford, and Skylar is studying Archeology/ Anthropology at NDSU. We have a Weimaraner named Wilbur and a lively home filled with volunteering at the local shelter, hiking and biking, along with playing and watching games. I enjoy playing the piano and flute and am finishing my doctorate of ministry through United Lutheran Seminary. My focus is facilitating conversations as we move towards clarification and collective goals regarding a New Journey Parish. Let our journey together begin!

Peace, Pastor Tiffany

P.S. You can reach me at (701) 261-8157 and pastortiffanysundeen@gmail.com.

PULPIT SUPPLY:

With the hiring of Pastor Tiffany Sundeen, the services of Mary Jo Vik as pulpit supply are no longer needed.

The Calling of Easter

“...live a life worthy of the calling” -Ephesians 4:1

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!

I am looking forward to celebrating my first Easter with all of you. I look forward to the traditions and expectations, sharing the joys, and hearing the Good News that Christ has Died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again!

Our journey together started with a Lenten journey of discernment. Who are we as individual congregations, and who are we together as God’s people and as a parish? Witnessing your relationships this past month, I’ve learned that:

Easter hope lives in Ness through faithful bi-monthly worship and song.

Easter hope lives at Our Savior’s through quilting and coffee time.

Easter hope lives in Gary, as both grief and love were expressed for a sister in Christ who died.

Easter hope lives in Immanuel, where a town of 82 people love one another by serving a meal together for a father-son banquet.

This only describes moments or glimpses of life. When we remember the whole story, we trust that God breathes new life into our lungs and transforms our lives for the calling of Easter. This calling brings us from death into new life where it seems impossible.

Look at the ground right now. The grass looks like it needs urgent attention. The trees have bare branches. There’s no sign of flowers like tulips or daffodils. The lilacs and hydrangeas still aren’t offering their scent. The Easter lilies remain underground. Yet, we trust that new life will come.

Easter life walks with us in steps of hope and unconditional love into the future, no matter what obstacles, changes, disruptions, or celebrations come. Easter walking focuses on living, hoping, and trusting that something bigger than all of us is guiding us through the season and ultimately leading us to everlasting life.

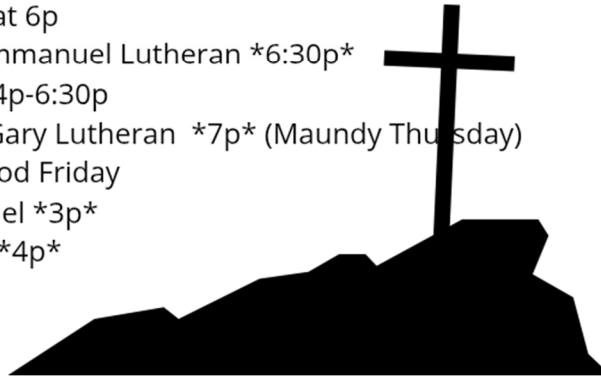
May God bless our Easter walk together and whatever paths it takes us on.

Peace,
Pastors Tiffany and Rachel

Lenten Services

Theme: Examinations of the Cross

- ~~March 12 at Gary Lutheran,~~
 - ~~soup & sandwiches at 6pm~~
- ~~March 19 at Immanuel Lutheran,~~
 - ~~supper 4p-6:30p~~
- ~~March 26 at Our Savior's~~
 - ~~supper at 6p~~
- April 2 at Ness Lutheran *7p*
 - supper at 6p
- April 9 at Gary Lutheran *7p*
 - supper at 6p
- April 16 at Immanuel Lutheran *6:30p*
 - supper 4p-6:30p
- April 17 at Gary Lutheran *7p* (Maundy Thursday)
- April 18 Good Friday
 - Immanuel *3p*
 - Sundal *4p*



A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL ROGGENBUCK, SAM...

On the third Sunday in Lent Jesus told this parable from Luke the 13th chapter: 6 “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. 7 So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ 8 He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”

Apparently, it was common to plant fruit trees among the grape vines. So this fig tree was planted and at some point in its third year, the man noticed that the fig tree was not bearing fruit. He called to his gardener wanting the gardener to cut the tree down right now. It is taking up space and soil and moisture.

Why should the tree remain standing? Why should it keep taking up space using up the goodness of the soil if it is serving no purpose? What is the point of having a tree that should bear fruit but doesn't bear any? The owner has a right to be disappointed and angry at that useless tree. It's no wonder he wants it destroyed. As

we listen to this story, can we insert ourselves here? Asking ourselves these or similar questions: Am I bearing fruit? I keep sucking up the nutrients of the soil in which I've been planted and when am I going to show some kind of fruit to match the years I've been standing in God's garden and all the opportunities I have been given?

Fruit trees take time to mature and bear fruit, reminding us that our actions to share the love and promises of Jesus can take time to bear fruit. Stay the course, keep caring for your church and each other.

Even tho we are left to ponder the generosity, the patience, and the grace of the gardener. We know now that Jesus wasn't simply telling a story about a fig tree but he was talking about God and the way he forgives us even though we don't deserve such generosity and kindness. Perhaps we can imagine Jesus bending down to care for us, to irrigate the waters of life so we can grow closer to God and bear fruit that God longs to see.

Your sister in Christ,
Rachel Roggenbuck, SAM

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR TIFFANY SUNDEEN (INTERIM)...

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the warm welcome as we continue our Lenten Journey together as ANJLP. We will take this journey of discernment together. Our time together will last until May 31st. Each congregation will have a plan for the road ahead by that time.

When we journey, we need and have baggage. Some of those bags are brand new and ready for a new adventure. Like a two-year-old with their own Spiderman rolling backpack bag with spinning wheels. Some of the bags have been through many journeys. Some journeys went smoothly, some rough, and some were canceled.

Well-traveled friends of mine recently went on a journey to a warm location. She fell and got pretty banged up and broke her hip. Halfway through, he ended up with a serious lung infection. This was NOT part of the plan. But they persevered and will eventually use those bags again.

Some of our bags are torn and worn out, and we aren't quite sure if we can go on one more trip. My mom is moving in this direction. She doesn't want to drive and loves being at home.

What does your baggage look like?

ANJLP has been at this holy experiment for three years, and the feedback so far is that a decision needs to be reached about the journey forward. This means we need YOUR voice and involvement as we plan for the next stretch of ministry. Each congregation has people with all sorts of bags. Some are ready to get on the bus. Some have felt pains along the way but are looking to heal and get moving. Another congregation may feel worn out and unsure if they want to go on the next leg of the ministry journey.

Pastor Rachel and I will have formal listening sessions at each church in April and informal gatherings for smaller group reflections. These will be listed in Sunday bulletins. The ANJLP Council began the conversation, and we continue with all of you. If each church continues, people need to be present and involved. As our grandmas or grandpas told us, “Actions speak louder than words.”

So, ready to prepare for the next stretch? We need you and look forward to seeing you for the listening sessions.

Peace,

Pastor Tiffany with Pastor Rachel and ANJLP

April Listening Sessions

Please join us for a 40-minute feedback conversation. Your input matters!

Gary/Ness:	Sunday, April 6 th	9:30 am	Fellowship Hall
	Tuesday, April 15 th	Noon	Café
		6pm	To be determined
Immanuel:	Sunday, April 13 th	7:30 am	Fellowship Hall
	Tuesday, April 29 th	Noon	Café
		6 pm	Church
Our Savior's:	Sunday, April 13 th	11:30am	Fellowship Hall
	Tuesday, April 8 th	Noon	Cenex
		6pm	Cenex

Minutes - A New Journey Parish Council Meeting

(6:30 p.m. on March 10, 2025, at Immanuel Lutheran, Bejou, MN)

Present: Teresa Werpy, Bonnie Werpy, Jim Steinmetz, Mary Preisler, Stacey Knudson, Anita Roy, Karen Carlsrud, Mike Hagy, Rachel Roggenbuck, Pr. Tiffany Sundeen, Sue Steinmetz, Sue Gunderson, Pastor Al Brooks (Wild Rice Parish, Twin Valley) and Pastor John Ragan (Kingo Lutheran Church, Fosston).

Jim Steinmetz called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and Pr. Tiffany led devotions.

Pr. John and Pr. Al introduced themselves and indicated their willingness to provide some vice pastor type coverage as needed to help our parish. They also reviewed ideas on how area pastors and SAMs could help cover pulpit services in our parish along with other churches in the area. Following their presentation and discussion, they left the meeting.

Secretary's report was distributed. Mary made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2025, parish council meeting, seconded by Teresa and carried. Treasurer's report was distributed. It was noted that Pr. Tiffany's salary will be the same as Pr. René's and she will also be paid a housing allowance due to her commuting costs. Stacey made a motion to accept the financial report, second by Bonnie and carried.

Old Business:

- Our Savior's Parish Council Members for 2025 include: 2 people from Our Savior's council or their substitute.

New Business:

- ANJLP Council Officers for 2025: A motion was made by Karen, seconded by Mary and approved to keep the same officers as last year. They are:
 - President Jim Steinmetz
 - Vice President Teresa Werpy
 - Treasurer Jill Nelson
 - Sue Gunderson will serve as Parish Secretary
- It was reported that Pr. Tiffany Sundeen was hired for a 3-month period on an interim basis to fill the void left by Pr. René's resignation. A motion was made by Mary, seconded by Teresa and carried, to approve the hiring of Pr. Tiffany Sundeen on a 3-month interim basis.
- Anita will order palm branches for each congregation.
- Congregational events were reviewed, including: Immanuel Father/Son Banquet at 5pm on Sunday, March 23; Gary's Lenten service; Sunday School will sing at Gary on Palm Sunday; Ladies' Night Out on March 25 at the Deuce in Erskine

Staff Reports:

- Rachel reviewed the following: worship schedule, including Easter; funerals and visitation coverage; updates to job description
- Pr. Tiffany presented questions for council members to consider and answer about the future of the parish and congregations. These are questions that are important for all congregations and their members to consider.

Instead of waiting until the current 3-year parish agreement ends in October to decide if the Parish will continue as is, it is the goal of the Parish to discuss that within each congregation and make that decision in May.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held April 14, 2025, at 6:30pm at Immanuel. Meeting adjourned. The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Sue Gunderson, Parish Secretary

News from Our Savior’s...

March 2025 Our Savior's Council Meeting Highlights

- Council members present were Wanda Stordahl, Dave Stordahl, Jane Aakhus, Stacey Knudson, Kristi Skeie and Gordie Ostenaar (by phone). Others present were Pastor Tiffany Sundeen and Anita Roy.
- Election of Officers: Wanda and Stacey will be co-presidents; Dave—treasurer; Anita—secretary of the Council; parish reps—decided on month to month basis
- Minutes of the annual meeting and the January and February financial reports were approved.
- There are still a few things that need to get done with the sale of the parsonage.
- Big Sky Fellowship has been approved to use the church for their home school program starting in the fall of 2025.
- Kristi will organize and put together plans for the Memorial Day lunch.
- Stacey is working on a letter to members as we figure out what we want for the future of our church.
- For our Lenten service on March 26th, we will be serving a meal starting at 5:30 followed by church at 7:00 p.m.
- Pastor Tiffany gave her report and an update about how her time with us will be spent.

News from Gary Lutheran...

Gary 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.)
 - **April 6** (8:30am-with communion); **April 9** Lenten service (7pm-no communion); **April 13** (8:30am-no communion); & **April 17** Maundy Thursday (7pm-with communion): Byron & Lori Thronson
 - **April 20** (7am-with communion) & **April 27** (10:30am-no communion): Gene & Bonnie Werpy
- Gary Lutheran Altar Guild for April: Jenny Lien and Peggy Hanson

NOTE: The Sunday School will sing at 8:30am worship on Palm Sunday, April 13.

News from Immanuel...

March 19, 2025, Immanuel Council Meeting Highlights

Council members present: Terry McCollum, Jon Large, Duane Gunderson, Mary Nell Preisler, Cindy Large, Jim Steinmetz, Darrell Lende, Joyce Bendickson, Rachel Roggenbuck, Gloria Steinbrenner, Peggy Gunderson, Becky Olson and Delane Schaumburg. Also present: Pastor Tiffany.

Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were provided and approved.

Staff Report:

- 3 funerals
- Split services between Rachel and Pastor Tiffany.
- Listening dates for feedback and questions were discussed.
- Reverse egg hunt.
- Rachel will be ordering speakers.

Other Business:

- It was decided to change Immanuel's Wednesday night worship time following Ladies Aid suppers from 7:00pm to 6:30 pm. (**Note:** The Council meeting will also be moved up from 8:00pm to 7:30pm.)
- Immanuel's annual auction date was set for June 21, 2025, starting at 10:00 a.m. Raffle cash prizes (same as last year) with tickets sold at \$5.00 each.

Additional Immanuel Info:

- A bridal shower for Emily Bendickson, Bejou, will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 5, at the LeanTo in Bejou. She is registered at Amazon/Target.
- A bridal shower for Alyssa Olson, daughter of Becky & Scott Olson of Bejou, will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 12, at Immanuel. Please wear blue and join us as we celebrate. Alyssa is registered at theknot.com/alyssaevanwelter.
- Immanuel’s Mother and Daughter Banquet is scheduled for Saturday morning, May 3. Watch for more information.
- Ladies’ Aid supper with free will offering will be held at Immanuel from 4-6:30pm (6:30pm Lenten worship and 7:30pm council meeting) on Wednesday, April 16. Servers are Susie Steinmetz, Linda Lende and Donna Radtke.

News from Sundal...

- Sundal Lutheran’s new email address is: SundalLutheran@gmail.com. Their new website is at Sundallutheranchurch.wordpress.com.

Other Community Activities...

NWMN ELCA Spring Gathering:

On Saturday, April 26, the Northwestern Minnesota Synod Women of the ELCA is holding their Spring Gathering from 8:30-11:45am at Kingo Lutheran Church in Fosston. Their guest speaker is Josie Johnson (daughter of Sundal members Wally & Edna Nelson) who will share her story of overcoming disability after a life changing farm accident as a child. Please check out the posting at each congregation for more info. If interested in attending with a group from ANJLP, contact Rachel for possible ridesharing opportunities.

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, April 22~ 6:30p

Peachy's Pub

Bejou

Ministers:	Members of the Congregations
Interim	Pastor Tiffany Sundeen (701) 261-8157 pastortiffanysundeen@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

APRIL 2025 WORSHIP SCHEDULE (denotes Holy Communion)**

WORSHIP	IMMANUEL	OUR SAVIOR'S	GARY	NESS	SUNDAL
Wed., April 2 (purple)				6:00pm—Supper 7:00pm—Lenten Worship (TS&RR)	4:00 pm – Lenten Worship (KD)
Sunday, April 6 (purple)	8:30 am – Worship** (RR)	10:30am—Worship ** (RR)	8:30 am – Worship** (TS) 9:30am-Sunday School	10:30 am – Worship** (TS)	
Wed., April 9 (purple)			6:00pm-Supper 7:00pm-Lenten Worship (TS&RR)		
PALM SUNDAY, April 13 (purple)	8:30 am – Worship (TS)	10:30am—Worship (TS) followed by Council Meeting	8:30am-Worship (RR) 9:30am-Sunday School		10:30 am – Worship** (KD)
Wed., April 16 (purple)	6:30 pm—Lenten Worship** (TS&RR) followed by 7:30pm Council Mtg				
MAUNDY THURSDAY April 17 (purple)			7:00pm-Worship** (TS&RR)		
GOOD FRIDAY, April 18 (no color)	3:00 pm—Worship (TS&RR)				4:00 pm – Worship (KD)
EASTER SUNDAY, April 20 (white)	8:30 am – Worship** (RR)	10:30am—Worship ** (RR)	7:00am-Worship** (TS)	9:00 am-Worship** (TS)	
Sunday, April 27 (white)	8:30 am – Worship (TS&RR)	10:30am—Worship (TS)	9:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am-Worship (RR)		

NOTE: ALSO, PLEASE REFER TO DATES FOR APRIL LISTENING SESSIONS IN PR. TIFFANY'S MESSAGE.