

## **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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# MAY 2025



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

- *Violet Lee, Gary, who passed away March 29; and*
- *Ruth Mandt, McIntosh, who passed away April 9.*

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS NOTIFICATION** **May 18<sup>th</sup> after worship in each church sanctuary**

We will vote at each congregation on new options for the future. The Zoom session on May 7<sup>th</sup> will offer insight into prospective partnerships. Please mark your calendar and make a plan to be at worship on Sunday, May 18.

## ***“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.***

During our season of Lent, a pastor in our Synod shared an idea for a reverse Easter egg hunt. Our parish staff created Easter ‘bags’ to share with homebound, elderly, and nursing home residents. Members of the parish and our parish staff shared these bags filled with shaker eggs, jelly beans, candy, stickers, and a Jelly Bean Prayer bookmark. Some even had a ‘little Jesus’! Remembering those members of our parish that we do not see regularly is a great way to remind them (and us!) that they are important and loved! Way to share the joy of Easter!

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

As I write this, we just celebrated Easter. Christ is Risen, Alleluia! We often color Easter eggs and go on Easter egg hunts at this time of year.

Many years ago, Emperor Alexander III (Czar of Russia) commissioned Peter Carl Faberge to create a spectacularly extravagant Easter gift to cheer up his young wife. He wanted an egg that was very beautiful and one that had a surprise inside. Faberge made a lovely enameled egg for the Czar's wife that was painted with wonderful designs and pictures and decorated with gold, silver, and jewels. The first egg he made had a golden yolk, and inside the yolk was a golden hen, and inside the hen was a tiny diamond crown, and hidden inside the crown was a tiny ruby egg. The Czar's wife was so pleased with the gift that the jeweler, Faberge, continued to make one Easter egg for the Czar's wife every year. Most of these eggs have been saved and are in a collection. They are the most famous of all Easter eggs.

Do you know why we decorate eggs to celebrate Easter? An egg is a symbol of new life. A gift. Baby chicks, baby ducks, and other types of birds hatch out of eggs.

Easter is all about new life. Jesus died on the cross, and when three women went to his tomb, he was not there. Two angels in dazzling white clothes told them that Jesus was no longer dead. He was alive!

We remember what Jesus said. We, like the women at the tomb, believe that Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus is risen. Jesus is present as we gather in his name. Jesus is present as we share the bread and wine in Holy Communion. His words, "this is my body, this is my blood," strengthen us and keep us in his grace. We are strengthened as we remember and believe his words. Because Jesus died on the cross and then rose, each one of us is given new life. "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" God wonders. "Through the living Jesus, I give you the gift of life. Why would you think that I would offer you anything less?"

Easter eggs remind us of the new life that is possible. Each time you see an egg, let it be a reminder of God's love for you. Christ is Risen, Alleluia!

Your sister in Christ,  
Rachel

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

*You shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord. –Leviticus 19:18b*

*And who is my neighbor? –Luke 10:29b*

Hi Friends,

Going for a walk and driving around each congregation, I wondered who lives around us. How about you? Think of all the homes, area schools, shops, and farms around each of our congregations. Now, ask, how do we connect with these neighbors? Does our congregation understand their lives? Their issues, joys, opportunities, and challenges? How can we love them as ourselves? ANJLP, you all have so much love to share in Ness, Gary, McIntosh, Bejou, and beyond!

Though God has filled the world with neighbors to love, we have a special opportunity and responsibility with neighbors near us. They form our immediate community. Many congregations narrowly define “community” or “neighbor” as people who are already part of the church, but God calls us to broaden our vision. I like the definition of a neighbor: anyone who isn’t me or us.

Let’s meet our neighbors and invite them on these dates and beyond!

- **May 3<sup>rd</sup>: Mother/Daughter Banquet in Bejou. See details inside.**
- **May 4<sup>th</sup>: We have a Ness listening session immediately following worship** as we renew our energy and perspective for what the future of ministry looks like in this location.
- **May 7<sup>th</sup> Zoom session regarding future partnership possibilities with other area congregations.** The church councils and congregational members from all churches are welcome to participate in this session, which will discuss all options available for future partnership possibilities. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://cord.zoom.us/j/92141269041>  
Meeting ID: 921 4126 9041  
This meeting will be recorded for councils to review at future meetings.
- **May 11<sup>th</sup>: Mother’s Day**, as we give thanks for our families and remember that at church, we become family to one another in Christ. No one is alone any longer. We show up for one another in powerful ways.
- **May 18: Following worship, there will be a congregational vote on an alternative to the current ANJLP arrangement.** For the past two months, we have been discussing the current parish arrangement. The consensus is that there are better ways to serve the congregations involved. We will vote on proposed new arrangements that best serve each congregation.

**Feedback so far:** Starting May 1<sup>st</sup>, the greeting table will provide a summary of each congregation's feedback. If you have feedback you would like to add and were unable to attend a listening session, please contact Rachel or me to set up a one-on-one session.

Please note: It takes roughly \$20K to keep a building operating without repairs and upkeep, and \$18K for pulpit supplies each Sunday. Those do not include other costs involved in each congregation's annual budget. This is not to discourage us but to make us aware of the realities, as keeping our doors open involves a financial commitment from each member.

“Finished, not Failed” material at the Zoom Meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup>, so that all congregations know what is considered during Holy Closure. It is a year-long process.

That said, pray for the Holy Spirit to guide this discernment process and help all understand how each congregation is called to engage... how YOU are called to engage. God's Mission and Vision, coupled with people's involvement and passion, are crucial to going forward and thriving. There are opportunities around us in each community.

\* “It's within our power to become good neighbors, to care for the people around us and to be cared for by the people around us,” write Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon in *The Art of Neighboring* (2012, Baker Books, p. 22), a handy guide for a church to start a neighboring movement. “There is a different way to live, and we are finding it the best way to live.”

Let's meet people where they are and invite them to our congregations. As spring and summer unfold, let's commit to finding more ways to be stewards of our community, engaging our neighbors, especially those closest to our congregation. May we learn together how God is speaking to us.

Peace,  
Pastor Tiffany

*\*Theme of neighbor borrowed from Copyright © 2019, Rev. Robert Blezard. Reprinted by permission. Pastor Blezard works as content editor for [www.stewardshipoflife.org](http://www.stewardshipoflife.org) and as an assistant to the bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod. He blogs at [www.thestewardshipguy.com](http://www.thestewardshipguy.com).*

# **ZOOM MEETING for FUTURE POSSIBILITIES**

Resourcing Rural Congregations

Leadership Meeting

**Invitation:** On Wednesday, May 7, 2025, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM, you are invited to attend a Zoom gathering with synod staff and area congregational leaders to assess ministerial needs and brainstorm possible strategies to achieve our churches' mission goals. The presentation will provide information about the SAM ministry, Ecumenical partnerships, Holy Closure resources, congregational-led worship resources, and the financial needs to support Sunday worship leadership.

**Topic:** Resourcing Rural Congregations Leader Meeting

**Time:** May 7, 2025, 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

**Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://cord.zoom.us/j/92141269041>

**Meeting ID:** 921 4126 9041

This meeting will be recorded for councils to review at future meetings.

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

(6:30 p.m. on April 14, 2025, at Immanuel Lutheran, Bejou, MN)

Present: Teresa Werpy, Bonnie Werpy, Jim Steinmetz, Mary Preisler, Jane Aakhus, Marilyn Graff, Karen Carlsrud, Mike Hagy, Rachel Roggenbuck, Pr. Tiffany Sundeen, Sue Steinmetz, and Sue Gunderson.

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

Secretary's report was distributed. Mary made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2025, parish council meeting, seconded by Bonnie and carried. Treasurer's report was distributed. Teresa made a motion to accept the financial report, second by Jane and carried.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- A motion was made by Teresa, seconded by Marilyn and approved to let each church decide how they want to use the money they collect from donations received from Lenten meals.
- An update was given on parish partnership conversations held during the recent listening sessions, and following discussion, a decision was made to hold individual

informational meetings at each congregation on Sunday, May 18, so that a final decision on the future of the Parish can be made by the Parish council before the end of May.

- ELCA Mission Support forms were distributed to each congregation to complete and submit back to the Synod.

#### Staff Reports:

- Rachel and Pr. Tiffany reviewed activities they have been involved with since the last council meeting.

#### Congregational events were reviewed, including:

- Immanuel Auction & Raffle on Saturday, June 21, at 10am.
- Maundy Thursday soup and sandwich meal at 6pm prior to 7pm worship at Gary Lutheran.
- There will be no Sunday School at Gary in May.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held Monday, May 19, 2025, at 6:30pm at Immanuel. Meeting adjourned. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Sue Gunderson, Parish Secretary

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

**Note:** Graduating seniors were presented with quilts on Sunday, April 27.

#### **April 2025 Our Savior's Council Meeting Highlights**

- Those present were: Wanda Stordahl, Dave Stordahl, Stacey Knudson, Jane Aakhus, Marilyn Graff, Gordie Ostenaa (via Phone), Anita Roy and Pastor Tiffany Sundeen
- Financial reports were reviewed and approved.
- Parsonage sale update was given.
- A fee of \$75.00 was set for the Big Sky Fellowship home school group for use of the church during the 2025-26 school year.
- Smeby's completed the furnace repair in January and it appears to be working good.
- Due to Memorial Day weekend, there will be no worship service at Our Savior's on Sunday, May 25.
- Anita will pick up Easter flowers
- Anita will set up a table to try sell the rest of the Hugo's books at the craft/vendor show on May 10<sup>th</sup> at the McIntosh Community Center.
- Pastor Tiffany gave her report and provided an update about the parish listening sessions.



## *News from Gary Lutheran...*

**Note:** We are happy to report that on Maundy Thursday, April 17, Gavin Werpy, son of Aaron & Kayla Werpy, received his First Communion at Gary Lutheran.



Gavin (middle) is shown here with Rachel (l) & Pr. Tiffany (r)

### **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.)
  - **May 4** (8:30am-with communion); **May 11** (8:30am-no communion): Ray & Stacy Gunderson
  - **May 18** (8:30am-with communion) & **May 25** (10:30am-no communion): Errol & Deb Miller
- Gary Lutheran Altar Guild for May: Karla Tommervik and Renee Olson

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## *News from Immanuel...*

### **April 16, 2025, Immanuel Council Meeting Highlights**

Council members present: 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 and Sue Steinmetz.

Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were provided and approved. It was noted that the new speaker was purchased using furnishing funds.



## Staff Report:

- Update on recent listening sessions.

## Other Business:

- Raffle tickets are now available for sale.

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## Additional Immanuel Info:

- Immanuel's Mother and Daughter Banquet is scheduled for Saturday morning, May 3, at 11:00 a.m. Please see the notice below for more information. All are welcome!
- Immanuel's graduating seniors will be presented quilts during 8:30am worship on Sunday, May 18.
- Immanuel's auction is scheduled for Saturday, June 21. Food and bake sale starts at 9am and auction starts at 10am. If anyone has bigger items they want to donate and wants them picked up, please contact Jim Steinmetz (218-766-6125), Darrell Lende (612-963-2873) or Terry McCollum (218-280-9754). We are also now selling \$5 raffle tickets for a drawing that day. Prizes are as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> prize is \$5,000; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize is \$2,500 and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize is \$1,000.
- Ladies' Aid supper with free will offering will be held at Immanuel from 4-6:00pm (6:30pm worship and 7:30pm council meeting) on Wednesday, May 21. Servers are Candace Kulzer, Susan Bendickson and Sherry Pederson.



## *News from Sundal...*

- Worship with communion will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 18.

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## *Other Area Activities...*

### **Baccalaureate Services:**

- NCE at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 4, at Zion Lutheran Church in Twin Valley
- Win-E-Mac at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14, at the School
- Fertile-Beltrami at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21, in the new gym at School in Fertile
- Services at Mahnomen and Fosston have not yet been set.

### **Memorial Day Dinner:** (Sponsored by St. Olaf Preservation Association)

Date & Time: Monday, May 26 11:30am-1:00pm

Location: St. Olaf's Church on Hwy 29 between Mahnomen and Twin Valley

Menu: Scalloped Potatoes, Assorted Salads, Dessert and Beverage

Free Will Donation

**Mother's Day Madness:** A craft/vendor show on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 10am-4pm at the McIntosh Community Center.



<b>Ministers:</b>	<b>Members of the Congregations</b>
<b>Interim</b>	<b>Pastor Tiffany Sundeen (701) 261-8157</b> <a href="mailto:pastortiffanysundeen@gmail.com">pastortiffanysundeen@gmail.com</a>
<b>Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM)</b>	<b>Rachel Roggenbuck (701) 741-0976 or</b> <a href="mailto:athomerachel@gmail.com">athomerachel@gmail.com</a>
<b>ANJLP Secretary:</b>	<b>Sue Gunderson (218) 280-8678 or</b> <a href="mailto:immanuel@gvtel.com">immanuel@gvtel.com</a>
<b>Gary/Ness Sec.:</b>	<b>Julie Gevik (218) 280-3356 or</b> <a href="mailto:garyrindaloffice@gmail.com">garyrindaloffice@gmail.com</a>
<b>Our Savior's Secretary:</b>	<b>Anita Roy (218) 849-3791 or</b> <a href="mailto:oursaviors@gvtel.com">oursaviors@gvtel.com</a>
<b>Parish Website:</b>	<b><a href="http://anewjourneyparish.org">anewjourneyparish.org</a></b>
<b>Find Us Online:</b>	<b><a href="https://linktr.ee/anewjourneyparish">linktr.ee/anewjourneyparish</a></b>

**MAY 2025 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 4</b> (white)	8:30 am – Worship** (RR)	10:30am–Worship ** (RR)	8:30 am – Worship** (TS) followed by Council Meeting	10:30 am – Worship** (TS) followed by Listening Session	
<b>Sunday, May 11</b> <b>Mother's Day</b> (white)	8:30 am – Worship (TS)	10:30am–Worship (TS)	8:30am-Worship (RR)	10:30 am – Worship (RR) with baptism	
<b>Sunday, May 18</b> (white) <b>WITH</b> <b>CONGREGATIONAL</b> <b>MEETINGS &amp; VOTE</b>	8:30 am – Worship** (RR) with graduate quilt presentations	10:30am–Worship ** (RR)	10:30 am–Worship** (TS)	8:30 am – Worship** (TS)	10:30 am— Worship** (KD) (no congregational meeting)
<b>Wed., May 21</b> (white)	6:30 pm–Worship** (TS&RR) followed by 7:30pm Council Mtg				
<b>Sunday, May 25</b> (white)	8:30 am – Worship (TS&RR)		10:30 am-Worship (RR)		