



Immanuel Lutheran Church

Quarter I, 2020

9 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. Sunday Services



Message by Pastor Eugene DeVries



Bible Study:

6:30p Mondays

Confirmation:

4:15p on Wednesday

Choir:

7:30p.m. on Mondays

Everyone Welcome!

Director: Kim Schmeling

Walking in the Darkest Valley

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Psalm 23:4 KJV

How many people carry this verse in their back pocket? Not literally, but in a figurative sense. How many Christians think, "I'll have to remember that verse when I get close to death." And it is a great verse. We need not fear death because our Savior God is with us. And he leads us to the gates of everlasting life. The last verse of the psalm sums up our certainty of God's promise. "Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

But if we simply bookmark this psalm for later use, we'll miss out on the greater part of its comfort. The valley of the shadow of death is not something we enter only during the sunset years of our life. In fact, we've always been walking in it. From the time we were born, through our teenage years, and into adulthood the shadow of death has been closer to us than our own shadow. Only by the grace of God have we not had to think about it very much.

But there are plenty of times when life forces us to think more seriously about the shadow of death. New parents have to hear all kinds of warnings regarding their newborns. Close calls on the highway make us realize how quickly life can end. Most of us, however, first feel the chill of the shadow of death in a doctor's office. And that chill follows us out the door. It keeps us awake, shivering in the dark. It saps our strength like a heavy weight hanging around our neck.

But really, what has changed? From before we felt the chill of the shadow of death until after, what changed? We always knew we were going to die. We always knew that Jesus would never leave us. But somehow now it seems more real. And that's when we need to revisit those words, "I will fear no evil." In other words, nothing bad is going to happen to us. We may have to deal with sickness, or weakness, or pain but nothing bad is going to happen to us. We may close our eyes in the sleep of death, but nothing bad is going to happen to us.

We have this confidence because Jesus experienced something that we never will. He experienced the absence of God. This is difficult to rationalize because Jesus is God. But as our Savior Jesus experienced all the bad things that our sins deserve. The full force of God's anger over sin and all the suffering of hell itself was laid upon Jesus. God turned his back on his one and only Son and so Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

This makes us certain that our shepherd is with us. He comforts us with his unfailing love. He guides us with his faithful word. And he will never, ever leave us; even in the valley of the shadow of death.

Pastor DeVries

Sunday School

Teachers:

Cindy Wendorff—Grades 4 to 8

Deb Plamann—Grades 1 to 3

Eileen Prieve—Kindergarten

Ashley Brehmer—Preschool

Miranda Heine—Preschool

Amanda Krajsa—Preschool

Music & Opening Devotion:

Chrissy Forcier

and Barbara DeVries

Sunday School is at
9 a.m. Sunday mornings.

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."



2020 Church Board Officers:

- Chairman: Rodney Schmeling
- Vice-Chair: Lynn Mackedanz
- Secretary: Mike Brekke
- Treasurer: Bruce Trick
- Financial Secretary: Brian Gauer
- Delegate: Jeff Hoff
- Trustees: Matt Forcier
Chris Plamann
Chris Wersal
- Elders: Kurt Leske
Steven Plamann
Jason Horrmann
- Finance Committee: Matt Dahl
Jim Radunz
Andy Weber
- Cemetery Board: Chuck Nisse
Matt Brehmer
Dale Kohls

**Next Voter's/Congregational Meeting is
Tuesday, April 21 at 7 p.m.**

Everyone Welcome!

The **Quarterly Voter's/Congregational meeting** was held on January 21, 2020. Current membership is 244 members and 205 communicant members.

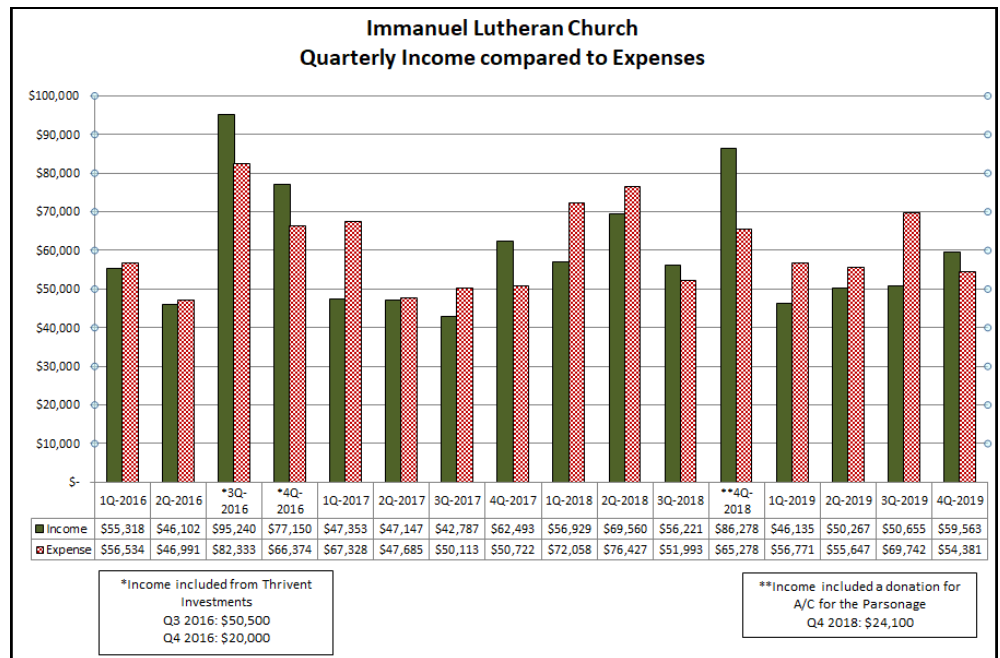
The **Trustees** reported a new electronic card was replaced in the organ.

The **School Board** noted the basketball season started with Sue Schlueter volunteering as coach again. Summer care for preschool thru 6th grade will be starting the second week in June running through August 14, 2020.

The **Cemetery Board** reported 3 total burials for the 2019 year. Donna and Dave Telecky will once again mow the cemeteries this summer.

New Business: The LIMA commitment for 2020 was set at \$16,000 and the Mission commitment set for \$18,000.

The results of the poll "Should the voters authorize the school board to conduct a fundraising campaign for building a new school" was reviewed and voted on by the members present with 20 yes and 5 no. The vote was NOT to go ahead with a new school at this time, only a vote in favor of starting a fundraising campaign towards a new school.



Ladies Aid

2020 Officers:

- President: Marilyn Rusch
- VP/Secretary: Wendy Hellwig
- Treasurer: MaryAnn Dettman

Next Meeting:

- March 3, 2019 at 7p.m.
- April 7, 2019 at 7 p.m.

Immanuel Ladies Aid is a service organization currently with 12 active members and three honorary or retired members. Meetings are opportunities for devotion, fellowship and service projects for the congregation and community.

Ladies Aid takes care of the Church Guest Book and Church Library as well as Greeting Card Sales. We purchase church altar flowers for holidays. We also provide flowers for the meeting room altar in season. We tend to the Memorabilia Case in the church basement. We keep our shut in church members in our prayers and provide

them with seasonal gifts and visits. We make an annual mission contribution as well as donations to LWMS and MLC Ladies Auxiliary. We are in our fourth year of sponsorship of an MLC student providing her with cards of encouragement and gifts to support college personal needs. Also, monthly activities are planned from serving supper on Ash Wednesday to guest speakers to tours to area businesses. We invite anyone interested to join us in 2020.

Fellowship Committee

Next Meeting:

Sunday, February 16 at 2p

Everyone welcome to attend.

Chair: Pastor DeVries
Secretary: Barb DeVries
Treasurer: Julie Thompson

Advent Pot-Luck was on Sunday, December 8 after church in the basement. We had approximately 65 people attend.

New Member Welcome for the 2019 members was on January 19th. We welcome Emily Paulson and Amanda Krajsa.

Quarter 1, 2020 Birthdays will be celebrated February 16. Cake/Coffee served in the church basement. Everyone welcome!

The No Talent, Talent Show and Chili Cook Off is scheduled for February 23. If interested in participating, please contact Barb DeVries for the Chili Cook Off and sign up on the sheet in the entryway of church to share your Talents.

Joint Outdoor Service with Zion, Grace, St. Peter and Immanuel is scheduled for July 19 at 10:30 a.m. at the McLeod County Fairgrounds.

Thrivent Policy Members

Mark your calendars!

Thrivent Coordinator:

Julie Thompson

Register on line:

www.Thrivent.com

Do you have a Thrivent Policy?

If so, are you aware of the programs at no cost to you that could benefit the church and/or the school?

“**Choice Dollars**” can be designated to the church or school at no cost to you.

“**Action Teams**” when approved, provides \$250 of seed money to be use towards an event, again at no cost to you.

Events that Actions Teams have been applied and approved for:

- ILS Basketball Tournament
- Lenten Supper

2019 Total for Choice Dollars was \$2,400 (2018 = \$3,195)

2019 Total for Thrivent Action Teams was \$4,750 (2018 = \$4,500)



Dear Members of Immanuel—Please find enclosed a check (\$1,000) in my dad's name/memorial, Gerald Bunkowske. Immanuel, Acoma always meant a lot to him because it was his 1st call out of DMLC--and where he met his wife, my mom. Christian education also always meant much to my parents and they sacrificed throughout their lives so that their children would receive a strong Christian education. We pray that your members continue to support the treasure they hold in the form of the school. Christian day schools are not only feeders for our churches but an excellent training for future leaders in our synod. And public schools are not religion-free... They "preach" humanism to our youth. Continue to hold God's Word/teachings dear! Ruth Huebner

Gerald Bunkowske taught at ILS from 1950 to 1953

Ladies Executive Board

2020 Officers:

President: MaryAnn Dettman

VP: Janel Radunz

Secretary/Treasurer: Wanda Gauer

Directors: JoAnn Kallemeyn, Brittany Clark, Sharon Smith

Semi-Annual Meeting:

July 17, 2020 at 7 p.m.

The reporter for LWMS is now Julie Thompson with the help of Eileen Prieve.

Counting of the kitchen was completed.

Spring cleaning is scheduled for Saturday, April 4 at 9 a.m. We will be cleaning the up-stairs of the church. Please

consider an hour of your time to assist. Men are encouraged to help too.

The Ladies groups of the church will NOT be serving a supper prior to the Lenten Services. However, two other groups will. Please watch the calendar/bulletin.

Holiday Services

Ash Wednesday	February 26 at 2 p.m. Zion February 26— <i>Supper Served by Ladies Aid starting at 6 p.m.</i> February 26 at 7 p.m. Immanuel
Lenten Service	March 4 at 2 p.m. Zion and 7 p.m. Immanuel (<i>no supper served</i>) March 11 at 2 p.m. Zion and 7 p.m. Immanuel March 11— <i>Supper Served by the Fellowship Committee starting at 6 p.m.</i> March 18 at 2 p.m. Zion and 7 p.m. Immanuel (<i>no supper served</i>) March 25 at 2 p.m. Zion and 7 p.m. Immanuel (<i>no supper served</i>) April 1 at 2 p.m. Zion and 7 p.m. Immanuel (<i>no supper served</i>)
Palm Sunday	April 5 at 10 a.m.
Mandy Thursday	April 9 at 7 p.m. Joint Service at Immanuel
Good Friday	April 10 at 9 a.m. at Zion with Communion April 10 at 7 p.m. at Immanuel
Easter Sunrise Service	April 12 at 6:30 a.m. at Immanuel
Easter Morning Breakfast	April 12 following the Sunrise Service (approx. 7:30 a.m.) <i>Serving until 9:30 a.m. by our Ladies' Aid</i>
Easter Sunday Morning Service	April 12 at 8:45 at Zion April 12 at 10 a.m. at Immanuel



LWMS—Spring Rally in Athens, GA



Share Your 2020 Vision for Missions
June 25-28, 2020
Lutheran Women's Missionary Society
57th Annual Convention



Classic Center, Athens, Georgia
Hosted by the Southern Hills Circuit

For more information go to: www.lwms.org

To register for the conference on line

There are conference fees, as noted on the above website, however, if you want to ride the motor coach to the conference, see the information on the table in the entryway which is over and above the conference fees.

Motor Coach Info: Mindy Kramer has reserved a motor coach and driver from Hart Travel & Charter Service. Together we have established the following schedule and estimate the cost to be \$555-\$705 with two people in a room. The lower cost will be most accurate if we have 30 people in our group and the higher cost if we have closer to 20 people on the bus. NOTE: If you are willing to share your room with more than one other person, the cost will decrease. And if you want to have a room to yourself with no roommate the cost will be higher. In order to secure the proper number of hotel rooms for the group, please complete the Registration (right lower portion) of this letter **and mail it with your deposit of \$200 by April 1.** Your check should be made out to Hart Travel and put LWMS in the memo. Once all reservations are received we will know how many total people are going and we can determine the exact cost per person.

Association of Immanuel Lutheran School

School Board Officers:

Ryan Bushman
 Tim Utsch
 Jeremiah Clark
 Jay Mackedanz

Next Meeting
 April 5, 2020

PTF



Officers:

President: Patti Schaefer
 VP: Rebecca Plocher
 Secretary: Sarah Henschke
 Treasurer: Eileen Prieve

Meetings:

Second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

For 2019, **fundraising activities** ranged from a Spaghetti Supper (\$2,196), Orange Spectacular (\$4,300), Cash Wise Brat Stand (\$284) and Silent Action (\$3,384) to help support the ILS Basketball Tournament and the Summer Care Program.

Christian Education Week will be March 2 thru March 6 with a variety of activities planned.

The **school year book** is made with pictures throughout the school year. The PTF purchased 1 copy for all families. The

2019—2020 year book is being made by a photography committee made up of the students.

A **toy drive** will be held to collect toys for Summer Care Program.

Immanuel Lutheran School and Children of Grace Preschool



Immanuel Lutheran School and Children of Grace Preschool
 20917 Walden Ave. Hutchinson, MN 55350



Principal: Brian Gephart
 Grades 4 to 8

Teacher: Kristi Utsch
 Grades K– 3

Teacher: Mallory Eckstrand
 Pre-School

School Board Officers:

Ryan Bushman
 Tim Utsch
 Jeremiah Clark
 Jay Mackedanz

Greetings from Immanuel Lutheran School and Children of Grace Preschool. 1st quarter for the church in reality starts the 3rd quarter for school. As we start of new calendar year, we are midway through the school year and running on all cylinders. “Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a Light for my path,” has been the focus of our school year as we remind ourselves the importance of God’s word in our daily lives.

We are in the middle of basketball season now. We have a coed B team and a coed A team. So far, we are winless

but with hard work we look forward to the first win of the season. We also look forward to our basketball tournament Feb. 8th, MLC’s basketball tournament Feb. 21-24, and Great Plains Lutheran High School tournament March 7th.

We always look forward to March. Not only does it bring promise of warmer weather, it also brings some fun to the classroom with Christian Education Week (March 2 to March 6). We bring in different presenters to show us some different kinds of topics and learning from the area. We also get to

have a more relaxed schedule and even maybe get to watch a movie at school. This year, we will end the week at the Techno Center in Dassel.

New this year! We will be hosting a music concert instead of visiting all of the area WELS churches. It’ll be April 26th at 4pm with a spaghetti dinner to follow at 5:30pm.

Thank you for all of your prayers and support! We also thank God for his amazing blessings and for all of the hard work our students give.

Brian Gephart, Principal

BoxTops – This is changing to digital. For us to get credit, you will need to download the Box tops for Education App on your smart phone, search Immanuel Lutheran School, Hutchinson and scan your receipt. We’ve had negative feedback on this already...not sure how this will go yet. We still can send in our accumulated clipped out box tops, until November 1st. Keep in mind, we pay all shipping and handling costs. We’ll first add up what we have by October 25th and decide if it’s worth sending in.



Cash Wise More Rewards - Sign up at <https://www.morerewards.com/>. Designate Immanuel Lutheran School, Hutchinson MN . You can also download the app, MORE Rewards on your smart phone.

Ink cartridges - Empty cartridges from computer printers; can be sent in anytime, no shipping charges!

Loaves4Learning – UPC’s found on Country Hearth and Village Hearth products. (Breads). There is a minimum submission to send in and also we’re responsible for shipping and handling costs. We’re not able to submit anything yet, have not met the minimum.



School Mall – Like to online shop? Shop through www.schoolmall.com Search for Immanuel Lutheran School, Hutchinson MN.

AmazonSmile – is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization, Immanuel Lutheran School, Hutchinson MN.



*This is new! **CocaCola Gives** – Go to www.cocacola.com/give go to donate to school, search for Immanuel Lutheran School, Hutchinson MN, sign up, and enter codes. Codes are found on coke product bottle tops and inside cartons/boxes. You can also bring the codes to school and we can enter them! Checks are distributed to the school quarterly.

Scrip – Purchase gift cards from participating retailers. (A percent of the gift card goes to the school) To order scrip gift cards, contact Karen Kohls (Immanuel) kohls@hutchtel.net 320-444-0170 or Teresa Ross (Grace) taross316@gmail.com 320-305-9262

Schwans – *They do not do fundraisers any more.*

G.I.L.L.

Leaders: Pastor DeVries,
Pastor Tobison, Teresa Ross

Meetings: 2nd & 3rd Sun-
day of the month at 6:30 at
Grace.

G.I.L.L. stand for “Grace and
Immanuel Luther League”.
We serve the youth (4th to
12th grade) of our two con-
gregations through Bible
Study and fellowship activi-
ties.

In 2019 GILL decided to meet twice a month, on the second and third Sundays of each month at 6:30 at Grace. We started out the year with a Bible Study on how to defend Christian faith in an unbelieving world. We also studied how Christians react to the story of Santa Claus and other cultural mythology. On Friday, December 20 we con-

ducted our annual lock-in event at Grace. About a dozen young people attended. This school year we are inviting GILL families to help plan and schedule events. If your family would like to be in charge of planning a GILL event, please talk to Pastor DeVries.





Rationale

The school has been the focus of Immanuel's ministry for 100 years. It's not the only thing we do. But it has been the main focus of our time, talents, and treasure. We have received significant blessings from this effort. Our children have received a strong foundation in Christian teaching. Many have gone on to excel in high school and college. Many have become spiritual leaders in our congregation. New families joining our congregation in the past few years have mentioned the school as their main reason for joining Immanuel.

In order for the school to continue its ministry, it needs a functional facility. The current building has served us well but falls short in several areas: having enough space for current and future class sizes, restroom facilities, storage space, recreation and physical education space, office space, and access control. In addition, though the current building is maintained, it has the appearance of age. This puts off families who are comparing us to the public school system.

Challenges

- The tuition model makes it difficult for some families to choose Christian education.
- Continued growth in class size may require adding staff, which puts additional stress on the budget.
- New facilities require significant capital expenditure. A significantly larger building would cost more to operate, offsetting potential maintenance savings.

Advantages

- Our sister church Grace joined us supporting the school directly. We have potential partners in St. Paul, Litchfield and St. John's, Glencoe. Several families from St. Paul are already sending students.
- Both Immanuel and Grace own our property and buildings outright. We have no significant debt.
- We have time to plan and set goals and milestones. Beginning now will make a new building possible down the road.
- We have a significant number of non-WELS students. We are the only Lutheran elementary school in the area.

Actions

- Immanuel and Grace incorporate stewardship emphasis into their yearly worship plans. Look at the blessings God has given through this ministry.
- School hosts a planning giving seminar to talk about designated gifts. Invite Immanuel, Grace, Zion, St. Peter, St. Paul. This seminar helps people understand the options for planned giving through their estate. Attendance does not obligate anyone to support the school. But that option is available.
- Engage Jeff Davis from Cornerstone Consulting Ministry for a free initial consultation.
- Submit Antioch grant application. (Deadlines in July and October.)
- Establish an Endowment Fund to support the ongoing needs of the school.

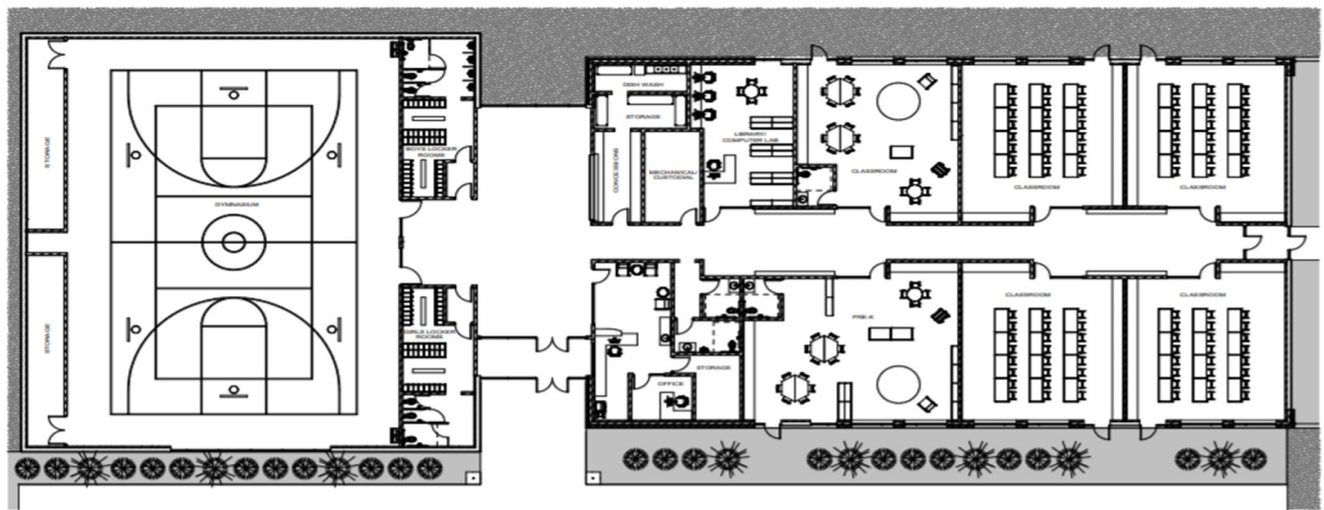
Cost: \$2,000,000

Goals

- 1) Support community needs - (preschool, daycare, gym space)
- 2) Increase community awareness with a new building and available gym space - (sports camps, tournaments, open gyms)
- 3) Become a better-fitted outreach arm of Immanuel and Grace (look attractive, look like a school)
- 4) Update and have a modernized building to better support students learning and have adequate workspace.
- 5) Have enough room to grow and support growth
- 6) Eliminate renting sports facilities

The big question is how can we do all this? How can we take on such a big project when we're already struggling? In 1 Samuel 14, God's people faced a similar situation. Their enemies were camped all around them. And every night their army got smaller as soldiers deserted and ran away. In other words, they were stuck. They didn't dare attack. And they couldn't just walk away. One day, Jonathan decided to try something. He and his armor bearer decided to go over to the enemy outpost. And Jonathan said, "Perhaps the Lord will act on our behalf. Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few." He didn't have a command from God or a promise of success. But his faith moved him to try something a little risky and see what God would provide.

Our school ministry feels stuck. We feel afraid to take on such a big project as building a new school. But we can't just walk away. Yet God is still able to do great things, whether by many or by few. Let's step forward in faith and see if the Lord will act on our behalf. He has richly blessed our efforts up to now. Those who have attended our school in the past continue to reap a harvest of righteousness and peace, the blessings that come from faith. Our school gives us the chance to share God's Word every day. It lets us equip our children for a bright future in this life and the life to come. Previous generations had less than we do. But they stepped forward in faith so that our church steeple could be seen for miles around. Perhaps God will let us be the generation that does the same thing for the school. Lift up your eyes to the hills; where does our help come from? Our help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.



At the October 2019 Voter's meeting Mr. Gephart asked if the school board could begin a fundraising campaign for building a new school. This decision would allow the school board to move forward with the process of asking for support and commitments to a future building project. The school board recognizes that this is a big project that requires a long term view of our ministry. The voters assembly asked for more time and would reconsider the question at the annual meeting in January. The voters of Grace gave a similar response.

During the discussion the question came up whether women would be allowed to vote on this issue. This project is a big step for our congregations. And it's right to take into account the voices and opinions of all our church members. However, there is a distinction between voicing an opinion and making an authoritative decision. Our church believes and teaches that God has called men to exercise authoritative leadership in the church. Men are called by God to exercise Christ-like headship. The head makes decisions for the good of the body. Typically we make decisions by taking a vote among the voting members. Because of what God says in the Bible, our constitution says that voting members are "male communicant members who have reached the age of 18 and have been accepted by the voters' assembly." So we can't just let everyone vote without violating our constitution and the word of God.

But again, this is a big project. And since our leaders want to make a good decision for the good of the entire body, it makes sense to hear the voices and opinions of everyone in our church. We can do that without violating our constitution or the Bible, by taking a straw poll. This will be a vote that is not authoritative but informative. It will help the voters make their decision at the Annual Meeting on January 21st. The poll will consist of one question: **"Should the voters allow the school board to conduct a fundraising campaign for building a new school?"** The answers will be "Yes" or "No." The poll will be anonymous and each communicant member will get one response.



From the Opinion poll, a total of 75 responses were received. The results of the Opinion poll were: 47 yes and 28 no.

Grace also did a similar poll with 40 people responding. The results were: 28 yes and 12 no.

During the January 2020 Annual Voter's meeting there were 25 men in attendance and the question **"Should the voters allow the school board to conduct a fundraising campaign for building a new school?"** was put to a vote. The results were: 20 yes and 5 no.

As we think about the future, it's useful to remember how hard the people before us had to work to start and run a school. They gave their best efforts to build a place where children could learn and grow. Over the years, our church as a whole and each of our families have received great blessings from having a school. Now we have a new generation coming up. If each of our 92 "giving units" could manage an extra \$100 per month, we could raise well over \$300 thousand in three years. Our sister church Grace is considering this same question and will vote at their April 2020 Voter's meeting.

We will pass these results to Grace as they intend to vote in April. If Grace also votes Yes on the vote, the school will move forward on the fundraising campaign. This vote was NOT to go ahead with a new school at this time, only a vote in favor of starting a fundraising campaign towards a new school.



Immanuel Lutheran Church
20882 Walden Ave.
Hutchinson, MN 55350

Pastor Eugene DeVries
Phone: 320-587-4857
Email: eugene.mark.devries@gmail.com

Find us on the Web: www.immanuelhutch.com



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hutchinson MN

Church Secretary: Julie Thompson

Phone: 320-583-6007

Email: juliethompson@mchsi.com



Sunday Services are broadcasted on
Mondays at 10 a.m. and Sundays at 9 p.m.

NuTelecom—Channel 10 or Mediacom—Channel 107.3

- Altar Guild:** February: Karen Plath
March: Wendy Hellwig
April: Betty Henke and Donna Telecky
- Ushers:** February: Bruce Trick, Jon Hoff, Don Dettman, Andy Weber, Dylan Weber, Travis Gauer, Nolan Hoff, Justin Black
March: Kori Leske, Jay Mackedanz, Steve Wendorff, Mike Yerks, Craig Kohls, Carl Horrmann, Tom Schlueter, Lucas Plamann
April: Jeremy Prieve, Mike Thompson, Joshua Prieve, Alex Prieve, Kyle Podratz, Chuck Nisse, Brad Duesterhoeft

Altar Guild

The following months are available for 2020: **August and September**. If you are interested in volunteering for one of these months or would like to work with a partner, please contact Julie Thompson. Thank you.

Weather Closings



Winter weather will soon be with us again. On Sundays with questionable weather, worship cancellations will be announced on KDUZ -1260 AM radio. During the week, Pastor's policy is this: if Hutchinson Public Schools are closed for the day, evening events at both Immanuel and Zion will also be postponed on that day.

Address Changes

And if anyone has an update to their address and/or phone, please let Julie Thompson know at juliethompson@mchsi.com or Church Box #75.

We Welcome



Mariah Mathern, daughter to Danielle Olson and Dustin Mathern

May the Lord bless Mariah as she begins her life of faith.

We Welcome Miranda Heine as a new member to our congregation.

She transferred her membership from Calvary Lutheran, Glenwood.

Congratulations to:



Congratulations to the following on their **Engagement!**

Janice Schmeling and Ken Sietsema

Janet Hoff and Todd Asplin

Congratulations to the following on celebrating their **Wedding Anniversary!**

Jason and Jean Horrmann—20 years

Steve and Deb Plamann—40 years