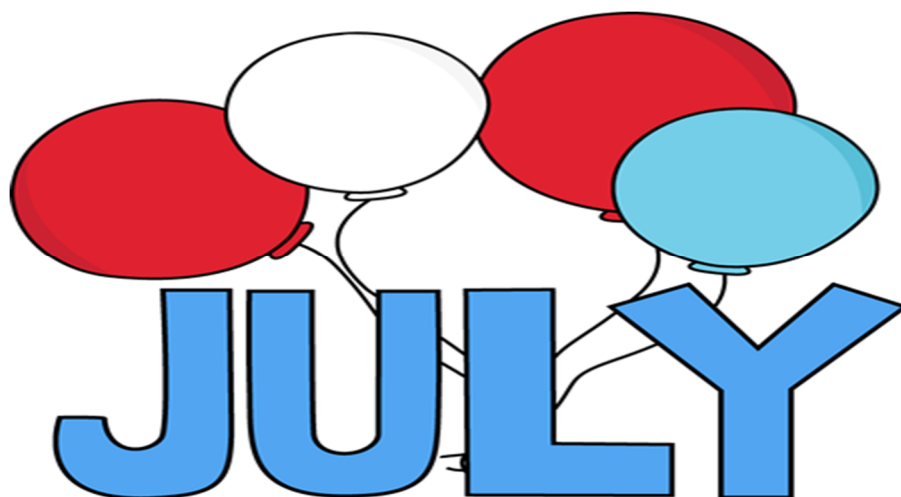


IMMANUEL SPEAKS  
JULY 2024



Dearest Friends in Christ,

In a few days we will celebrate the 248<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our country's independence. Now as we celebrate this event I would like to ask you a question. Who is the freest person in the world? Now I think many of us would say it would be us, the American citizen. We have so many freedoms; we can do just about anything within reason. As Americans we have: freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, freedom to bear arms, freedom to assemble, the right to equal justice, the right to own private property and the list goes on and on.

However, I believe the answer isn't Americans. Rather the answer is Christians. Now, some people might say that Christians are not free, that we have to live by a certain set of laws and do the right things to please God or to get to heaven. However, that is not the case. We do not have to do anything for our salvation, there are no points to earn or score sheet in heaven to see if we have done enough. In fact, when it comes to our salvation we find that we are powerless. The apostle Paul in Romans chapter three tells us that we cannot earn our way into heaven, that "All have sinned fallen short of the glory of God." Later in Romans chapter six Paul would put it this way, "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life." There is nothing we can do for our salvation because we are sinners. However, the good news is that God in divine mercy has given us freedom! God has redeemed us and set us free.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through his life, death, and resurrection has given us freedom from sin, death, the devil, and those forces that seek to keep us from God so that we might have live with him both now and forever. Because of his work and love shown through his life, crucifixion, and resurrection we are free; free from sin, death, and the devil and will live eternally.

Luther would put it this way in his explanation to the 2<sup>nd</sup> article of the creed; "We believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and delivered me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death, in order that I may be wholly His own, and live under him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true." There is nothing we can do or that we have to do. Dead in sin, through Christ we have freedom! Dead in sin, through Christ we know live as God's chosen and beloved!

And just as we have our freedoms in this country such as the right to bear arms, free speech and many others, we as Christians have been freed by God to be his own and to be who we are created to be. We remember God's original command to Adam and Eve as he called them to be fruitful and multiply, and to be stewards, partners with God in caring for all of creation. We are freed from all that separates us from relationship with God, and we are freed to care for God's creation and the world around us.

Martin Luther would write in *The Freedom of a Christian*, "We are perfectly free lords of all subject to none, and yet at the same time dutiful servants of all, subject to all." This is the freedom God has given us as he has rescued us from sin; called and claimed us as his own for all eternity. This is the freedom that God has given us as he sends us as his beloved people into the world so that others might know the love of God. We are freed from all that separates us from relationship with God, and we are freed to join in God's mission for all of his creation!

My friends as we celebrate our Independence Day, and give God thanks for all of the wonderful liberties that we have; let us also take time daily to give him thanks for the greatest Independence Day that happened two thousand plus years ago in the life, death, and resurrection of our savior who has freed us from all that separates us from life with him. Let us give thanks that God has freed us to be who we are called to be; disciples sharing his love and caring for his creation.

Happy Independence Day,

Pastor Joel

June 11, 2024

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### 1. Pastoral Acts

- 29 pastoral visits

-1 baptism: Chase Theo Bergo

### 2. Worship

-Clara City Care center

-Led worship on May 22<sup>nd</sup> & June 5<sup>th</sup>

-Vacation, Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>

-Addisyn Pederson will lead worship; with my recorded sermon.

### 3. Education/Youth

-VBS

-Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>. Meal at 5pm? VBS from 6-8/8:30?

-If interested in helping, please let the office know!

-VBS parade float for Prairie Fest parade (July 13<sup>th</sup>); let office know if interested in helping/being on the float.

-Youth Gathering

-Youth Gathering meeting May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8pm

-We are ready to go! July 14<sup>th</sup> can't come quick enough!

### 4. Mission & Outreach

- June 2<sup>nd</sup> meal was a hit once again; served right around 200.

-Will talk with LuAnn about July meal; as we have taken July off and have done music, pie, & ice cream at the care center on Prairie Fest weekend.

-Pie & Ice cream social & music @ Care Center, Sunday, July, 14<sup>th</sup>. Time TBD.

### 5. Continuing Education/Pastoral Self-Care

-Faith+lead (Luther Seminary) courses

-vacation June 27<sup>th</sup>-July 5<sup>th</sup>

-I will be leading worship on the 30<sup>th</sup> and am available should an emergency arise.

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2024 7:00 P.M.**

Present: Andrea Prekker, Terry Noble, Katherine Schwitters, Gabby Rognlie, Addisyn Pederson, Jane Niemeyer

Absent: Derek Rand, Cheryl Colby, Randy Grussing, Laurie Dieken, Pastor Joel

Meeting was called to order.

Reports: Treasurer’s Report: M/S/P to accept report.  
Secretary’s Report: M/S/P to accept report.  
Committee Reports: No reports.  
Pastor’s Reports: Reviewed.

Old Business: None

New Business: Money Counters:  
July – Cheryl Colby, Derek Rand  
August – Randy Grussing, Laurie Dieken  
September – Andrea Prekker, Gabby Rognlie

Noisy Offering: For next quarter will go to Food For Kids.  
M/s/P to send \$250.00 donation to Prairie Fest.

Next Church Council Meeting is August 13, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Niemeyer  
Church Council Secretary

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**IMMANUEL SPONSORED ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND DANCE AT THE CLARA CITY CARE CENTER**  
**JULY 14, 2024**

We will be sponsoring an ice cream social and dance at the Clara City Care Center on Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, starting at 2:00 p.m. “Custom Made”, a band that plays 60’s and 70’s music will be playing. Pie, ice cream and lemonade will be served. The music will be from 2:00-4:00 p.m. and at 4:00 p.m., pie and ice cream will be served! Everyone is welcome! **Many volunteers are needed to put on this event! If you can help, please talk to LuAnn Kruger, Pastor Joel or Kathy in the church office.** If you like pie and ice cream, and good music, please come and enjoy the afternoon!



# Immanuel is going to the ELCA Youth Gathering

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

**CREATED**

**TO BE** MYLE  
the table Young Adult Gathering

Every three years, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) holds their annual youth gathering. In a few short weeks, the gathering will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana or as it is often affectionately called "The Big Easy".

This is an amazing time to worship with approximately 30,000 other youth and adults and learn and grow in our faith. There will be times of service, fellowship, and worship throughout the week we are in New Orleans.

On behalf of the youth and other chaperones and parents, I would like to thank the members of Immanuel and to the endowment committee for your support in helping us attend the gathering!

I ask for your prayers for those who are attending: Andrea & Kylie Prekker, Cammie & Brin Holmquist, Addisyn & Emersyn Pederson, Cheryl & Leia Colby, Michele & Mia Shubert, Andy Rand, Brielle Niesen, Gavin, and myself.

Pastor Joel

Gracious God, we give thanks to you for, our youth and chaperones, and for the faith communities represented this week at the ELCA Youth Gathering. Nurture the faith of young people as they encounter new experiences and people. Break down dividing walls as they behold the great communion of saints that walk with each other. Grant them safety as they travel, and may their time in New Orleans bless them and lead them to be a blessing in their lives. In Jesus' name way pray. Amen.

*I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. PSALM 139:14*

*New Orleans*  
July 16-20, 2024

**MYLE**

Multicultural Youth Leadership  
Event of the ELCA  
July 13-16, 2024

**the table**

An ELCA Gathering of Youth  
with Disabilities  
JULY 13-16, 2024

**Young Adult Gathering**

A new ELCA Gathering for Young Adults  
JULY 16-20, 2024

[elca.org/gathering](http://elca.org/gathering)  
**#ELCAYG2024**

 [fb.com/youthgathering](https://fb.com/youthgathering)     [@elcagathering](https://@elcagathering)



# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CLARA CITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



## JULY 28TH-31ST

## 5:30PM-7:30PM

Light Supper 5:00PM-5:30PM



SCAN ME



SCAN ME

Register by scanning  
the QR codes provided  
or by going to  
Immanuel Lutheran  
Church facebook page.

Register by July 12th to ensure all  
materials for your child.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL/TEXT LUANN AT 320-905-4195

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR MONTH OF JULY**

Sunday, July 7      PowerPoint/Acolyte: Addison McNeil  
Lay Reader:            Michele Shubert  
Altar Guild:            Judy Gosseling

Sunday, July 14      PowerPoint/Acolyte: Kresson Bratsch  
Lay Reader:            Annette Rosen  
Altar Guild:            LuAnn Kruger

Sunday, July 21      PowerPoint/Acolyte: Leia Colby  
Lay Reader:            Duane Dieken  
Altar Guild:            Nancy Gosseling

Sunday, July 28      PowerPoint/Acolyte: Kailani Hanson  
Lay Reader:            Judi Boike  
Altar Guild:            Ken & Jan Beyerl

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**COFEE FOR GALS**

The women of Immanuel will meet on Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. All ages are welcome.  
Come for fun, fellowship, laughter and of course, treats! All women of Immanuel are invited!!

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**NAPHTALI TRIBE UP FOR MONTH OF AUGUST**

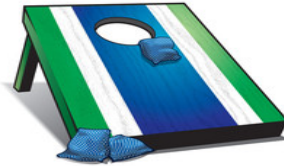
Below we have printed the Tribe Membership for August 2024. The chairperson will be calling or texting you in the near future, asking you to help serve Immanuel in some way. Start thinking about what you can volunteer to help with! If everyone takes one job, the “needs” list will be filled.

- Cody and Trista Rand Family - Tribe Leaders
- Dan and Traci Miller
- Marvin and Judi Boike
- Jim and Lori Schmaedeka
- Josh and Cindy VanDerPol
- Steve and Tammy Tammen
- Janice Mittag
- Bryce Orwick
- Jerry Bond
- Norman and Linda Andresen

**OPEN RADIO BROADCASTS FOR 2024**

We have a few radio broadcasts open for sponsorship for 2024. If you would like to sponsor any of these, please contact the church office at 847-2138, or talk to Pastor Joel or Kathy. The cost is \$100.00 for each broadcast. Thank you for continuing to support this ministry outreach. The open radio broadcasts are: October 27, and December 1 and 29.

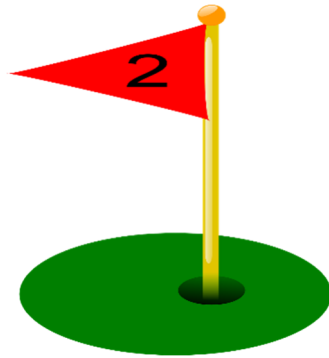
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**SUMMER BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT IN JULY**

Bean Bag Tournaments will continue into the month of July. We will meet on Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m., at the North Legacy Park (park by the Clara City Care Center). All ages and skills are welcome! If you don't play, cheerleaders are needed. Treats will be served after the games. Please bring your own lawn chairs.

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**LMM 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

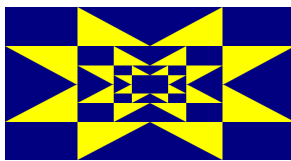
Lutheran Men in Mission 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, July 19, 2024. It is a best ball tournament. We will gather at the Redwood Falls Golf Club at 2:30 p.m. for registration. If you are interested in going, please talk to Pastor Joel for all the details. Our registration deadline is July 15<sup>th</sup>.

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**IMMANUEL'S NEXTREX CHALLENGE**

Immanuel is signed up as a participant of the NextTrex Challenge! What is it, you ask? If we can save 1000 pounds of plastic before May, 2025, Trex will give us a bench for our courtyard made from this plastic. Trex is a composite material most often used for decking, etc. A list of specifics is in the back of church, but mostly it is plastic with a little stretch; which includes store grocery bags, wrapping of beverage bottles, toilet paper wrapping, bread bags, softener salt bags, film wrap from shipping products, etc. It takes a lot of this plastic to equal a pound, but it can be done. Two large white boxes are located in church for placement of your donations. One is in the library, off of the sanctuary, and the other is in the lower level of the parish hall, right below the steps. Plastic will be collected, weighed and reported to the Trex company and dropped at one of their many locations in Willmar. Hope you will all participate!!





**GREEN LAKE BIBLE CAMP QUILT AUCTION**  
**SATURDAY, JULY 27<sup>TH</sup>, 12:00 P.M.**

The Green Lake Bible Camp Quilt Auction is starting on Friday, July 26 at 3:00 p.m. The Immanuel Lutheran Quilting Group has donated a quilt for this auction! You will be able to review the quilts, have a hotdish supper and attend a beachfront concert. On Saturday, July 27, the quilt auction starts at 12:00 noon. You will be able to bid on-line also. A silent auction will also be held. A pull pork lunch will be served, along with other goodies. Check out the GLBC website for all the details.

**NO COMMUNITY MEAL THE MONTH OF JULY**

There will be no Community Meal the month of July. A Pie and Ice Cream Social/Dance will be held at the Clara City Care Center on Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>. See the newsletter article for all the details. We will resume our Community Meal in August.

# July

# 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Office Closed	5	6
7 9:00 Worship /Communion 10:00 Fellowship Hour	8	9	10 6:30 Bean Bag Tournament	11	12	13
14 4:00 Youth leave for ELCA YG in New Orleans 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Fellowship Hour 2:00-4:00 Pie & Ice Cream Social/Dance at CCCC	15 Youth at ELCA YG in New Orleans	16 Youth at ELCA YG in New Orleans	17 Youth at ELCA YG in New Orleans	18 Youth at ELCA YG in New Orleans	19 Youth at ELCA YG in New Orleans LMM Golf Tournament in Redwood Falls	20 Youth at ELCA YG in New Orleans
21 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Fellowship Hour 6:00 Youth return from ELCA YG in New Orleans	22	23	24 2:00-3:30 Coffee for Gals 6:30 Bean Bag Tournament	25	26	27 12:00 GLBC Quilt Auction
28 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Fellowship Hour 5:00 VBS Supper 5:30-7:30 VBS	29 5:00 Vacation Bible School Supper 5:30-7:30 VBS	30 5:00-Vacation Bible School Supper 5:30-7:30 VBS	31 5:00 Vacation Bible School Supper 5:30-7:30 VBS			