

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**  
**WEEKLY CALENDAR and ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
*December 24, 2023*

Office hours this week: Dec 26<sup>th</sup> through Dec. 29th 8:00 am -12:00 noon

Sunday December 24: Divine Service (w/Communion) 9:30 am  
Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols 5:00 pm

Monday, December 25: Christmas Day worship (w/Communion) 9:30 am  
Christmas break/no school at ILS/resumes Jan. 2

Sunday, December 31: Divine Service 8:00 am & 10:15 am

**RALLY FOR RICK** – Save the date for the Rick Arguto fundraiser **on Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, from noon to 4:00 pm** in the Immanuel Lutheran Church Christian Life Center. Enjoy live musical performances, lunch, desserts, and a silent auction as we raise funds to assist with medical costs, health care equipment, modifications to their home, the loss of wages, and other expenses as a result of Rick’s battle with ALS.

ALS, often called Lou Gehrig’s Disease, has no cure at this time and has an annual out-of-pocket cost of over \$250,000, according to the ALS Association.

Watch for more information on ways that you can give monetary donations, donations of items/services for the silent auction, and the event schedule.

Let’s shower Rick and Pam with God’s love through our support during this difficult time.

**THANK YOU** to all who attended the last Advent supper on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Your generous support was appreciated. Immanuel Board of Christian Education.

**MAN UP! MEN'S RETREAT** at Camp Omega March 15 – 16, 2024 -- Men from churches in the LCMS Minnesota South District are invited to attend a 24-hour retreat where faith will be strengthened, and spirits renewed by God’s Word. This year's speaker, Rev. Dr. Rich Carter, will be speaking on the theme: "My Life Matters?! Freedom in Christ for Service with the Neighbor." At this retreat, there will be time for fellowship and recreational opportunities. Cost includes three meals and lodging. For more information, call 507-633-2253 or go to the Camp Omega website: <https://campomega.org/event/manup/>

**Charitable contributions** for 2023 must be received before January 1, 2024 to be on your giving statement for this year for any charitable giving deductions for 2023. Checks that are mailed and postmarked in 2023 will still be deductible even if received at church in January. For your contribution to be on your statement of giving, it must be in a giving envelope, a check with your name on it, or through our website with Vanco’s e-giving service. Gifts made through Thrivent (Choice Dollars or their e-giving platform) are not direct gifts to Immanuel and therefore not on your statement of giving.

**We have good news!** Our general fund is (\$76,142.57). We have reduced the deficit by almost \$20,000 since October! We are headed in the right direction! When we look at that number, it may look like there is a mountain in front of us. It may seem like a burden, too much to handle. But through God's Grace and Mercy we are reminded that he moves mountains and carries our burdens. "Therefore, the Lord waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him." Isaiah 30:8. If the Lord places it on your heart this month, we would encourage you to give. These costs go towards Pastor & staff salaries, utility bills, repairs, upkeep and so much more. Let us show God our thankfulness through this month's gift.

**We are still looking for a person to be Chairman of the congregation.** I know there is someone out there saying, "Why hasn't anyone asked me to be Chairman?" If you are that person, call me at 507-534-2115 or the church office at 507-534-3700. If you know that person and they are afraid to call, you call with their name at the same numbers. Butch Mussell

**New Directories** are available in the Resource room to account for the address and membership changes over the past year.