

Gathering of the Offering is back to the passing of the collection plates rather than the grey baskets at the entrances. The gathering of financial gifts is an important example to the children of how we show our gratitude to God by returning a portion of our treasure so God's work can continue in our church. – *Board of Elders*

No Monday morning Bible study this week. It will resume on February 26th. – *Judy Schwantz*

Members of Immanuel, do you want to be informed of happenings at Immanuel Lutheran Church & School? There are email groups that you can sign up for to get this information. The weekly bulletin is sent out to the ILCS news group (via Google groups). The monthly council minutes, board reports & financial statements are sent out to the same group. Pastor may have other information that he sends out also. The School has a different group that information is sent out to weekly, such as the INN newsletter. If you would like to receive this information via email, please contact the office at 534-2108 to let them know which group(s) you would like to be on & give them your email address. Stay connected, learn more!!

PEM New Start (Widows & Widowers)

There is a new fellowship group (not connected with Immanuel) starting in the PEM area for widows and widowers. This is a fun opportunity to build community, enjoy a cup of coffee, and connect with others! The first meeting is Monday, March 4th at Jazz Shepard in Elgin at 10:00am. Contact Bob Moore with any questions. 507-206-8655

Bell Tower Restoration Project - The Trustees have signed a contract with Krause Construction for restoration and repair work on the bell tower to begin in the Spring of 2024 in the amount of \$27,845. Similar to the stained-glass window project, we are trying to raise the funds before the project begins so we do not have to borrow the money to pay for the repairs.

This restoration project work includes the following:

1. **Louvers** – Replace the existing wooden louvers on all four sides with new fabricated white aluminum louvers, wrap the existing wood frame in aluminum. Add a cross in the arch of each louver. A more permanent fix and no maintenance.
2. **Tuck pointing and caulking** – The concrete cap at the very top of the bell tower has cracks in it allowing water to get in. This will be filled to prevent further damage.
3. **Walls inside the bell tower** – Install metal plates to brace the East and South walls in place so it doesn't separate and collapse.
4. **Roof** – The roof membrane has a tear that will be repaired to prevent any additional leaking.

The Church Council has established a Special Project Fund for donations, memorials, and other contributions to help pay for the bell tower restoration project.