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Monday - Thursday

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM



*The  
Image*

# Immanuel Lutheran Church

August 2024

## Created to Be

*I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made!*

*~Psalm 139*

I'm writing this newsletter article two days after returning from the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering. Let me tell you, I am still tired! Yet, I am returning like I hoped I would, with a renewed sense of hope and purpose for the church. Worshiping alongside 16,000 people will do that for you! The Youth Gathering is the largest gathering of any sort in the ELCA. One night at Mass Gathering, our house band led us in the song, "Come Let It Shine." Everyone held up their flashlights on their phones, lighting up the whole arena. We sang together.... "Let it shine" as we reminded each other of the theme slogan of the day, "You are seen." We truly knew that night that we were not alone. We could tangibly see it, feel it, and hear it.

That message and experience is exactly what our youth today need. (And what all of us need!) Our youth need to know that they are not alone in their faith. There are tens of thousands of Lutheran teens out there living out their faith journeys, just here in the US alone! They need to know that they are not alone in the struggles that they go through. God is always with them! They need to know that if they get lost along the way, they will be found. And they need to know that their lives matter. That we can make a difference together! I think that is what they find in each other and in God at the Gathering.

It's those experiences that make teens want to be a part of the Church. As Bishop Eaton says, "you are not the church of the future, you are the church right now!" As youth experience what it means to be a part of a living, breathing, and active faith that engages with the world- they invest in it.

Thank you for all of your support in getting our group to the Gathering. We can't wait to share more of our amazing experiences with you at church in September! Don't miss it!

In the light of Christ,

Pastor Jamie

## THE REV. MARTIN R. HALOM ELECTED BISHOP OF THE NORTHWEST SYNOD OF WISCONSIN – ELCA

The Rev. Martin R. Halom was elected June 8, 2024, to a six-year term as bishop of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) at the synod's assembly June 7-8 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

*“Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.” This refrain, from the song, Christ Be Our Light, will be my guiding principle. In all that I do, in all that I say, Christ will be the central purpose.*

Halom was elected on the fourth ballot receiving 241 votes of 354 votes cast. The Rev. Karen Behling, currently serving Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Chippewa Falls received 57 votes and the Rev. Diane House, currently the Director of Evangelical Mission for the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, received 56 votes.

The bishop-elect is pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in Bloomer, Wisconsin. He has served that congregation since 2012. Prior to that, he was campus pastor at University Lutheran Church, East Lansing, Michigan (2003-2012); associate pastor, American Lutheran Church, Rantoul, Illinois. (1999-2003); youth and family ministries director, Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota (1995-1997), youth ministry associate, Lutherdale Bible Camp, Elkhorn, Wisconsin (1994-1995), and program associate at Green Lake Bible Camp, Spicer, Minnesota (1993-1994).



Halom earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa and a Masters of Divinity at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn. He and his wife, the Rev. Melinda Halom, have three grown sons, Nicholas, Jaden, and Dylan. His installation as bishop will be September 15, 2024, at Hope Lutheran, Eau Claire at 3:00 p.m.

The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin is one of 65 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The synod is comprised of 192 congregations, over 73,000 members, and over 300 clergy and rostered leaders.

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Praise in the Park continues through August! Services are at 10 AM at Phoenix Park. In the event of inclement weather, services are held at the Brewing Projekt.



<sup>1</sup>Ferrell, Bernadette. "Christ, Be Our Light." *The Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, published by Augsburg Fortress, 2006, p. 715



# How You Can Compost

Many of us do not think about where our trash goes and the ever growing landfill. For most of us, our trash goes to the 7 Mile Landfill which recently went through an expansion and is projected for another expansion within 10 years. A DNR audit revealed that nearly 40% of landfill waste could be composted including food scraps and some paper products. Composting can and does make a big difference in reducing landfill space and reducing methane gas created by the landfill.

If you are thinking of composting, below are two options:

1. Home Composting: If you are interested in composting at home, bins and kitchen pails are available through Eau Claire County Office of Recycling and Sustainability. You can order online at <https://eauclairecounty-compost.square.site/> or contact Regan Watts at 715-839-2756.
2. Subscribe to Curbside Composting: If you would like to compost, but prefer not to have a compost bin on your property, you can use the trash hauler, EarthBound Environmental Solutions, <https://www.earthboundenviro.com/>. They offer trash hauling, recycling and compost pick up.

-Immanuel Green Team

## Multicultural Festival 2024

### Save the date!!!

Sunday August 25, 2024  
11am-6pm

Phoenix Park, 300 Riverfront Terrace, Eau Claire, WI  
Food-Vendors/Cultural booths-Music-  
Performances



Presented By:  
JONAH, Welcoming  
New Neighbors,  
Visit Eau Claire, Eau  
Claire Hmong  
Association

### Important Announcement!

Kim and Suzi Sturz are no longer working at Immanuel. We thank God for their 27 years of service to the church! We are grateful for their dedication and hard work. You can show your appreciation for them by sending a card to their home. Contact the church office if you need their address.

## Octogenarian/Nonagenarian/Centenarian Brunch!

All Immanuel members age 80 and above are cordially invited to Immanuel's first summer brunch! The meal will be prepared and served by the Middle School youth participating in Summer Stretch. Our Caring Ministry Coordinator, Michael Rehak, has arranged for some amazing entertainment. You won't want to miss this fun event!

Wednesday, August 7, 10:30 AM

Call the church office as soon as possible, 715-832-7832, to make your reservation or to arrange transportation.



Camp Create is excited to be welcoming back our two-year-old friends this September! We offer two class sections - on either Monday & Wednesday or Tuesday & Thursday, with up to 10 children in each section. We are looking forward to another great year of playing, learning & growing in God's love. We do have limited openings remaining, so please spread the word about our program!

## Summer Stretch

This Middle School Ministry, full of fun & service, will happen the week of August 5 from 9 am - 4 pm. We will end our week with a fun-filled day at Valley Fair! Talk to Alyssa if you have questions or haven't registered.

You're Invited to join  
**Parent & Play**  
when: August 5  
Time: 9:30-11:00  
where: Meadowview Elementary

Join our Facebook Group to get updates on weather, share stories, advice and connection with us other Immanuel parents!

SCAN ME

**SAVE THE DATE**

**As we prepare to turn the calendar to September,  
here are a few highlights to watch for:**

**September 4 - Choir practice resumes @ 7:00 PM**

**September 5 - Create A World preschool classes starts**

**September 8 - ELCA Youth Gathering highlights,  
Backpack blessing**

**September 9 - Camp Create classes start  
H3 resumes at 6:30 PM**

**September 10 - H3 resumes at 9:30 AM**

**September 11 - Confirmation Orientation**

**6:30 PM - Grades 6-8**

**7:30 PM - Grade 9**

**September 15 - Journey of Faith classes start;  
ABC Milestone blessing**

**September 18 - WoW resumes**

**5:15 PM - Fellowship/Meal**

**6:00 PM - Worship**

**6:30-7:30 PM - Learning (ages 3 - grade 12)**

# August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Material Witness Quilting Noon- 4 PM	2	3
4 9 AM Worship	5 Summer Stretch	6 Summer Stretch	7 10:30 AM Seniors Brunch  Summer Stretch	8 Summer Stretch  Material Witness Quilting Noon- 4 PM	9	10
11 9 AM Worship	12	13	14	15 Material Witness Quilting Noon- 4 PM	16	17
17 9 AM Worship	19	20 7 PM Council	21	22 Material Witness Quilting Noon- 4 PM	23	24
25 9 AM Worship	26	27	28	29 Material Witness Quilting Noon- 4 PM	30	31

# REFLECTIONS FROM THE ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

After spending a year preparing, and six years waiting for it to happen again, our team has returned from the ELCA Youth Gathering! Our team of 16 youth and 4 adults -- plus Laura Ramlow, who traveled with us and served as our Synod Champion, had an amazing experience! We were thankful to experience very little in the way of travel issues, while many others were dealing with weather on the way there & the internet issue on the way back!

Our team was amazing - they handled all the walking (over 10 miles a day) and the heat ("feels like" temp of over 100) with positive attitudes and a can-do spirit. We let them know ahead of time that this would be a trip where they would need to be willing to step outside their comfort zone and try new things, and they did! The programming we experienced was top notch. On our Interactive Learning day we were able to explore booths and activities of many ELCA ministry partners and learn more about all the ways the ELCA is making a difference throughout the world. For Accompaniment Day, we got to hop on a bus with two other groups and head to a city park where we helped to clean up trash and put a fresh coat of paint on some of the posts and benches there. During our Synod Day we explored the city with a Goosechase Scavenger Hunt, then worshiped with about 1700 others from Wisconsin and the UP. Each day ended with a Mass Gathering in Smoothie King Arena, where we heard from speakers who shared stories of hope, resilience, and confidence all while encouraging each of us to be true to the person God created each of us to be. The musicians were incredibly talented, as well as fun and engaging! Worshiping in a space with over 16,000 other Lutherans - mainly teenagers - is a feeling that cannot be described, only experienced. In our free time we were able to explore the city of New Orleans, and we were sure to try many new and local foods such as fried alligator, oysters and gumbo. And, of course, we took a trip to Cafe du Monde for beignets! While we were out in the city we heard from several people how thankful they were that the Gathering was in town, and how they could really see us making a big impact in our short amount of time. I'm so thankful for each and every member of our team who was willing to try something new and experience this event alongside me!

~Alyssa Engedal



Congratulations to  
**Neil Hanson!**

Neil is the lucky winner of our

**Pushing the Envelope  
Fundraiser Drawing**

Thanks to Neil and all who participated and helped us reach our goal!

My name is Alizah. I am going to be a junior this coming year. Being able to hear all of the amazing guest speakers from the ELCA Youth Gathering was really inspiring and it was awesome to hear how other people found and experienced God.

New Orleans was very fun and I had a great time there. Every new food I tried, every new place we visited was a good experience for me. The trip was full of music and original New Orleans food. Overall the trip was very eventful and I'm so glad I was a part of it. - Elijah Drier

My name is Rylie Hansen and I had a very good time at the 2024 New Orleans ELCA Youth Gathering. I met a lot of new people from a lot of states, and I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to experience this!

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During my trip to New Orleans, I learned a lot about people's lives and what they all went through, and I liked how they shared their life stories in front of thousands of people. The best part of my trip was at the Smoothie King Center, because everyone got to sing and dance together, plus my church group got to be on stage which was very nerve racking but was worth it! I also enjoyed the scavenger hunt because I got to walk around the town and see many cool things. Last but not least I enjoyed trying new things, for example my group and I all tried alligator and it was surprisingly good, like many people say it tastes like chicken and they were right but it was good! -Hailey Rassbach

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My trip to New Orleans was so unique. It's hard to pick just one favorite part about my trip. I adored listening to live music on the streets while just simply walking. But my absolute favorite part was mass gathering, listening to generations of different stories of faith from speakers. I loved listening to them all but my favorite speakers were Austin Channing Brown and Sally Azar. Mass gathering held at smoothie king arena was very enjoyable from speakers, to music, dancing, and just making 16,000 friends along the way. Thank you for your generous donations because without them I would not have had this wonderful experience.

-- Lila Ramlow

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My name is Gabriel Ramlow, I am a student who went to the New Orleans ELCA Youth Gathering. The overall experience of the trip was exceptional. The music, dancing and new introductions to food were all great! I looked forward to trying new things and creating new connections with the people who also came on the trip! My friends and I created new and amazing memories to share. Thank you for your support in helping us all go to the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering.

I enjoyed the trip a lot. I learned more about my faith in aspects other than church and learned more about the world from hearing the speakers' stories. I had a great experience in New Orleans because of the community. Everyone was so kind and welcoming, they have a rich culture that was awesome to see. I think the best part of the trip was spending time with everyone around the city and at the mass gatherings. -Emma Calkins

The trip was so much fun, I loved walking around the city and seeing all the sights. The mass gatherings were so much fun! I loved listening to the speakers and singing along to the music. And getting on the jumbotron was pretty cool. Overall this trip was worth going on and I can't wait for the next one.  
-Rylan Lutteke

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I went into this trip as "just" a chaperone. Since I had two of my kids going, I thought I could help out. Wow, did this beat my expectations! What an amazing experience. The evening gatherings, event speakers, music at the event, and the Immanuel kids that attended. Instead of just going as a chaperone, I feel very blessed that I got to attend. Thank you for allowing me to attend this amazing event, and it will be something I cherish forever. - Chad Drier

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My name is Kyelie Engedal. I had a very good time at the Gathering this year. This was my first time attending a youth gathering, and lots of things happened. But one of my favorite things was getting to hear all the singers and band players. We did lots of activities including eating food, LOTS of walking, and lots of new friends! Thank you to all who donated. It was such a fun and memorable trip!

Dear Immanuel - I attended the ELCA youth gathering this year, and it was a very fun experience. I got to meet lots of incredible people and got to have lots of amazing food. The culture in New Orleans is so cool with all the jazz bands in the streets to the beignets and oysters that they serve for food here. The gatherings were also very interesting getting to hear all different kinds of people's stories. Overall, it was a great experience for me and I had so much fun in New Orleans and I can't wait for Minneapolis 2027!  
- Isaac Jacobson

Hi, I'm Kaelyn Hansen. I am 18 yrs old and attended North High school. The trip this year was an amazing opportunity to grow in my faith and explore a new city with God by my side. The Mass Gatherings were my favorite part, being able to dance and sing with 15,000 other Lutherans and learn more about different topics for the speakers. While walking wasn't the most fun part, being able to explore the city on foot and seeing all the local art, music, and people definitely was. Thank you to the church and congregation for helping with the fundraising and for letting us be able to experience this opportunity.

I had so much fun on the youth gathering trip to New Orleans! My favorite part was walking the streets of the city learning more about its history and shopping at the gift shops. We got to try lots of new things and had lots of fun singing and trying to get on the Jumbotron screen with new friends we made throughout the trip. It was so fun getting to know other kids and adults from around the country and I think overall the youth gathering was a great experience!  
-Alexis Drier

It has been 6 long years since young people have been able to attend an ELCA Youth Gathering. After years of preparation, fundraising, conversation, and prayer, we were finally able to come together for several days of faith-forming activities under the theme Created To Be. The VERY hot days in New Orleans were packed with serving the community, hearing stories, experiencing the culture, food, and music, and learning some of the history of this incredible city. Evenings were spent with 16,000 Lutheran friends singing and dancing to inspiring worship music, hearing powerful stories from across the globe, and being reminded that we have been created by God to be:

- Brave: We are not alone
- Authentic: We are Seen
- Free: We are Loved
- Disruptive: We are Called
- Disciples: Sent into the world to love our neighbor!

Participants contributed around 32,000 hours of volunteer work in the community, and raised nearly \$100,000 during the Youth Gathering (which will be matched!) for the 'Generation Zero Hunger' ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

I feel so lucky to have spent the week with Immanuel's youth and adults – the laughter, spirit, willingness to try new things, collective exhaustion, and every joy-filled moment on the big screen created some special friendships that I am so grateful for. Thank you, Immanuel friends, for your generosity and support of youth ministry and helping this group create once-in-a-lifetime memories!

~ Laura Ramlow

I think the trip was meaningful because I learned so many things I never knew. For instance, one of the speakers, Austin, spoke about her journey as a black woman and how she found God. We also spoke to many locals that shared their stories. One woman homed many neighbors that lost their houses after Hurricane Katrina and at night they would celebrate and pray. Seeing everyone come together and worship in New Orleans was truly a once in a lifetime experience! -Ella Glynn

I am very thankful that I was able to come on this trip. After it I got closer to God. The scavenger hunt and the swamp tour were really fun and eye opening. -Gavin Fiskars

Thank you so much for supporting us on this amazing trip. My favorite parts were shopping, trying all of the new foods, going to the convention center and learning about all of the different cultures. I also loved just walking around the city and seeing all of the tall buildings. The best part was helping paint park benches and picking up garbage to make the park really nice for everyone to enjoy. I also loved singing and worshipping with a huge group of people. -Rowan Tarpenning