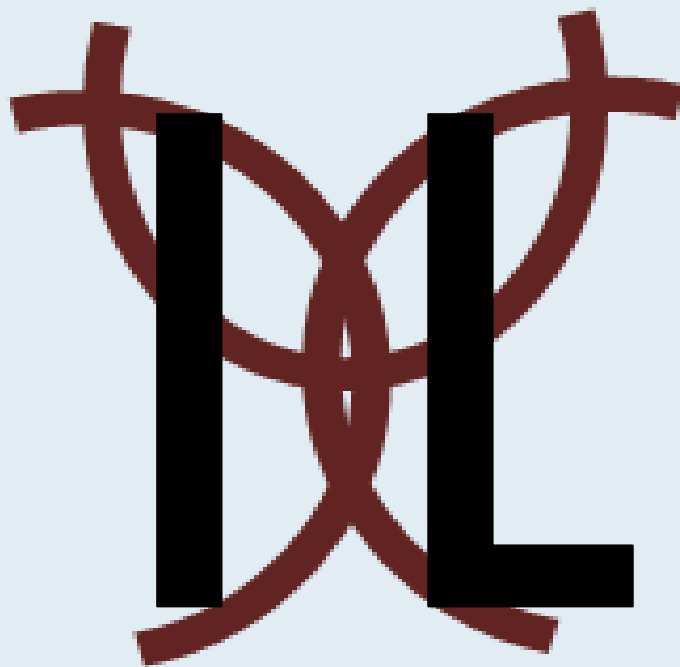


# **IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2024**



**1002 Powell Avenue  
Erie PA 16505  
814-833-4062**

# CELEBRATING A NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNINGS!!



## *In This Issue*

- ◆ From The Pastor's Desk
- ◆ Poinsettia & Local Hunger Appeal Donors
- ◆ Deck the Halls in the Sanctuary
- ◆ Property Committee-Rental Update
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- ◆ Worship Leaders for December
- ◆ Celebrations of Life & Love
- ◆ December Calendar & Events
- ◆ Church Council & Staff

## Grace & Peace : From the Pastor's Desk



But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

Happy New Year! As I was pondering what to write about this month, my friend shared something called, The Charles Shulz Philosophy with me. You'll remember Charles Shulz is the creator of the comic strip "Peanuts" and this is something to consider going into the new year. You don't have to actually answer the questions, just read this and you'll get the point.

And I quote:

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America pageant.
4. Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.
6. Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

How did you do? The point is, none of us (or I would say few of us) remember the headliners of yesterday. These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their field. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish... achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
4. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.

Easier? The lesson: The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money... or the most awards. They simply are the ones who care the most. I hope this brought a kind thought to mind, and you remember how the importance of building relationships not only with people, but also with God. Especially with God, because when we put God first everything else falls into place.

May you have a blessed New Year and may all your struggles be met with God at your side. As always, if you'd like to discuss this or anything please feel free to phone me. I'm at the church on Tuesdays from 1-3p.m. and Thursdays from 9a.m. – 2p.m. (814-833-4062) Or feel free to call my cell phone anytime (724-557-2386). Please leave a message if no one answers.

I'd like to thank all who made the Christmas Eve services as beautiful as they were, it takes a lot of people to make a special worship service and I appreciate each and every one of you.

Also, I'd like to thank all who wished Bill and myself a merry Christmas either by word, card or a gift. If you haven't received a snow scraper (that we gave away for Christmas presents) and you would like one, please let us know and we'll get one to you.

*Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Karen*

You can find Pastor  
Karen's  
latest sermons in print on  
our webpage here

<http://www.ilc-erie.org/>

**Twenty-five poinsettias were donated to beautify our Altar for Christmas and \$250.00 was received for the Meals on Wheels appeal. Thank you for your support of our annual Christmas & Hunger Appeal!**



**Poinsettias Were Given To The Glory Of God By:**

**John C. Botwright:** in memory of Phyllis Botwright and Michael Botwright

**Wally & Barb Coughlin:** in honor of Dennis & Cara Coughlin and Greg & Kristin Coughlin. In memory of George, Jo-Ann & Eric Popplewell, & Dan, Sally & Pat Coughlin

**Rick & Brenda Durst:** in memory of Harold & Margaret Durst, and Harold & Reva Baker

**Rick Kuntz:** In memory of Carolyn R. Kuntz

**Dave & Cindy Eckman:** in memory of Dick & Pearl Young, Jeanette & Lou Tuve and Donald Eckman

**Sally Leubin, Lisa, Matthew, Kyle, Alex, Amanda, Osiris, Atlas:** in memory of John Leubin

**Diane McGranor:** in honor of son, John McGranor, and daughter, Susan McGranor

**David & Hannah Mays:** in memory of Wilbur & Dora Mays and Charles & Anne Reed

**Bill & Debbie Redditt:** in memory of Samuel, Alice, Carolyn, & Jeannine Kuntz and Jane Andrews and Thomas Redditt

**Tom & Judy Stewart:** in honor of our grandchildren - Paige, Sydney, Ethan Madelyn, Addison



**Donations for Meals on Wheels Were Given by:**

**Tim Botwright:** In memory of Karen Botwright

**Bob & Donna Dorler:** in honor of Ronan, Taylor, Evelyn and Grace Dorler, Pastor Karen and Bill Kostur. In memory of Lawrence, Ruth, Charlotte and Pat Dorler, Domenic and Lucille Gambatese, George and Pat Roth, Christine Dorler

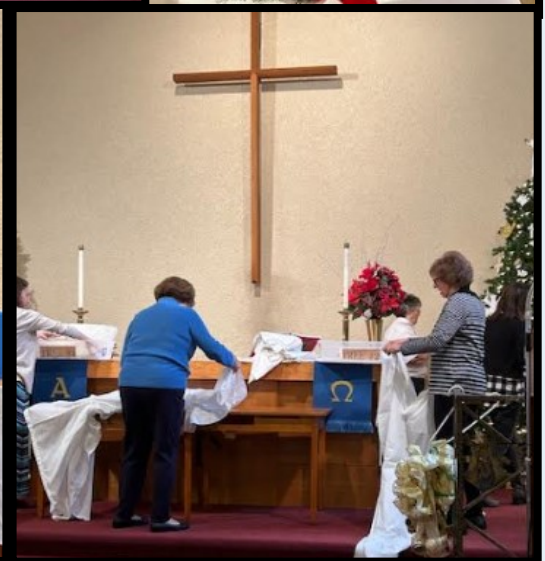
**Cindy & Larry Geddes:** in memory of our Daughter Michelle Geddes Willey and parents Bob & Betsy Case.

**Pastor Karen and Bill Kostur:** in memory of their parents

**Carol McCray:** in memory of parents - Marie and James McCray

## DECK THE HALLS!

December 3rd was a busy day! A congregational meeting was held after service to approve the 2024 budget and afterwards we decorated the sanctuary while others enjoyed the coffee hour, hosted by the Eckmans. Our photographer, Bill Kostur, happened to catch us in the action. Thank you to all who helped deck the halls!



## Property Committee Updates

The Powell Avenue rental house renovations were completed by December and the unit was advertised by Coldwell Banker for rent. The unit was rented at year end, to be occupied February 1st. During the past five months, volunteers cleaned and painted the entire unit, fixed minor repairs and helped gut the bathroom for renovation. Debbie & Bill Redditt selected and purchased the kitchen cabinets, lighting, paint, flooring and bath fixtures, hand delivering most. In the spring, the outside of the house will need to be washed and the front landing painted. We are looking for volunteers to do those tasks. The unit should require very little maintenance going forward and will provide a steady revenue for our church operations.



Living Room



Master Bedroom



Second Bedroom



## Who will take the trophy this year?

Dust off your cookbooks, get out those recipes and locate your crock pots!

The Fellowship, Outreach & Growth Committee announces it's time to have some fun at the Annual Soup Off!

The date has been set.

**FEBRUARY 4, 2024**  
**AFTER SERVICE**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**We need soup makers and soup tasters to make this a successful event!**

Last year entries included: Velveeta Cheeseburger Soup, Chessy Tortellini Kielbasa Spinach Soup, Bow Tie Sausage Soup, Slow Cooker Beef Bourguignon, Chicken & Wild Rice Soup, Dave's Seafood Soup, and Lentil Soup.

**Are you hungry now?  
What soup will you make?**



The Christian Ed Committee continues the collection of new or gently used hats, mittens, gloves, headbands and scarves until the end of January.

**Have you helped decorate the tree?**

Last year we collected 212 pieces, so let's be sure to break that record!

The items will be donated to Bethesda Lutheran Services and Bethany Outreach Center.



# Social Ministry Updates

## Community Shelter Bus Pass collection

The social ministry committee is excited to announce just over \$250 was collected to purchase weekly bus passes for the Community Shelter to aid those needing transportation to job interviews or the job itself. A weekly bus pass costs \$7.50 and the committee will be able to purchase at least 35 bus passes. Thank you to all who supported this ministry!



## **\$OUPER BOWL COLLECTION**



**February 11th**

The Social Ministry Committee will be collecting donations on Sunday, February 11th, for the Holy Trinity Soup & Pasta Kitchen.

Large soup pots will be placed at both doors of the sanctuary before and after service for collection.

*A special thank you note from Inter Church Ministries.*

*Immanuel collected \$665 to purchase coats, delivered by Debbie Madurski.*



*Immanuel Lutheran  
I. C. M. would like to say thank you for supporting our Coats for Kids Campaign. We received 400 coats which were distributed through United Way, Bethany Outreach, Eric Mission, Mens Shelter and the Islamic Community Center. The donations have already made an impact. Please share with the congregation.*

*Sincerely,  
Carol Davis  
I. C. M. Coordinator*





# Worship & Music

In the news...



## New Member Class



**Wednesday  
January 17th & 24th  
6 PM**

**Pastor Karen will be hosting a new member class in January. Visitors, please contact Pastor if interested.**

## **COFFEE HOUR 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH. JANUARY 7, 2024**

Join your Immanuel family and stop by the lounge after church service.  
The Eckman's will be hosting.



For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders,  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

(Isaiah 9:6)



Please join us for  
worship each Sunday at  
9:30 a.m.

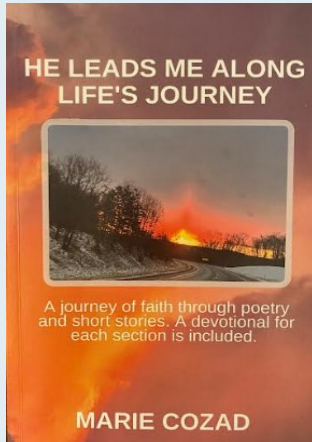
# Christian Education & More

**Bible Study with Pastor Karen**  
**“He Leads Me Along Life’s Journey”**

**Thursdays**

**6 PM**

**Beginning January 11th**



Join Pastor Karen for Bible Study, beginning Thursday, January 11th, from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, for 5 weeks. Pastor Karen will continue the discussion on the book, “He Leads Me Along Life’s Journey,” By Marie Cozad. Pastor will supply the book.



**January 2024**

**9-14 - Quilting/Crafting Retreat:** Come and join us for a fun-filled weekend (optional Thursday arrival) of quilting/crafting/reading/relaxing/creating. It's a great time of fun and fellowship that's very popular with quilters, scrapbookers, and other crafters. (Registration Required)

**19-21 - Winter Retreat:** for 4th-12th graders (campers will be divided by age groups and stay in cabin with cabin leaders from the summer staff). GAGA ball in the snow, Bible study, the bouldering room, songs, worship, friends, indoor and outdoor games, lots of your summer camp favorites, and fun in the wonderful winter weather! (Registration Required)

**For more information and to register visit:**  
<https://www.lutherlyn.com/events-retreats/>

**Coming Soon!**



**CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING**

**JANUARY 21, 2024**

**To conduct business to review and accept the 2023 Annual Report and elect delegates to the synod.**

**All committees: Reports are due in office by January 15th.**

**Immanuel Lutheran is still in need of additional Church Council members!**



**To learn more about joining the Church Council, please contact our newly elected president, Bob Dorler**



**Email: [dorlerr@yahoo.com](mailto:dorlerr@yahoo.com)**

**Phone: (814) 833-2719**

# THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!



Thank You!

November 7, 2023

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
1002 Powell Ave  
Erie, PA 16505-3441

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent generous gift of \$210.50 to Lutheran World Relief's Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund!


The kindness and love you show your neighbors in Christ is truly transformational. Quilts and kits are both practical and comforting. Wherever they are in the world and whatever challenges they face, the families who receive them can truly feel the love and care that quilters and kit makers put into them.

In colder regions of Tanzania, quilts are actually helping children grow! Researchers recently discovered that many children in these regions did not have adequate bedding and were using too many calories to keep their bodies warm — taking away valuable energy they need to grow. For children who are already hungry or malnourished, this can create long-term problems with their physical growth and mental development. But, wrapped in a warm and cozy quilt, they can sleep soundly and grow up healthy.

And that is just one example of how your generosity helps. Whether a quilt or kit reaches a family in a refugee camp, a new mother in an urban slum or a child in a remote village, your kindness brings comfort and hope to people when they need it most.

I am so grateful for the love you are bestowing on our neighbors around the world.

Thank you,

  
Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard  
President and CEO

P.S. God bless you and your generous spirit.

To the members of Immanuel Lutheran Church -  
Thank you so much for renting your basement meeting space to us. Every week many women gather here to share our recovery from alcoholism and addiction. We laugh, cry, share our stories and support. We recently had a bit of money over our regular group donations, and we voted to donate it in turn to your church - as a gesture of thanks for sharing your space and giving us a safe place to be every week. We hope this money can be a blessing to your congregation.

Sincerely,

Sarah G., Treasurer of the Friday Night Lovely Ladies AA Group, on behalf of our members



**HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
643 West 17<sup>th</sup> Street + Phone: (814) 452-3518  
Erie, PA 16502-1698 holytrinityerie@yahoo.com  
Mr. Roland D. King, Pastoral Assistant  
The Rev. Dr. Gary L. Harbaugh, Pastor Emeritus

October 29, 2023

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
1002 Powell Ave.  
Erie, PA 16505

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you so much for providing dinner on Thursday for our neighbors in Little Italy. The end of the month is a challenging time for them. They have probably run out of food stamps and they have not yet received their government assistance checks. The nourishing meal you served them and your reaching out to them fed their bodies and their spirits.

Jesus said, whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, you do it for me. Thank you for serving Jesus and also for being his presence to others.

With thankfulness for your partnership in the Gospel,

Ron King, Pastoral Assistant and the Members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

**Ron King is asking for volunteers to help at the pasta kitchen in January & February as he will be unable to serve at times. Please consider to volunteer if you can!**

**Erie Conference Epiphany Service  
with Burning of the Greens  
Saturday, January 6, 2024, 6:00 p.m.  
at Faith Lutheran Church, 5414 East Lake Road, Erie**



***“Arise, shine, for your light has come!”***

The congregations of the Erie Lutheran Conference will celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord together with a candlelight Eucharist with Pastor Jay Mitchell (Luther Memorial) preaching, followed by an outdoor burning of the Christmas greens.

The Scandinavian custom of an Epiphany burning of the greens was introduced to Faith Lutheran by Pastor David Laakso; it has become a beloved local tradition. You are welcome to bring the Christmas trees and greens from your congregation or home to add to the bonfire; just give us a heads up first.

Refreshments and fellowship will follow in the social hall. Be sure to dress warm for the bonfire; you may also watch from the comfort of the social hall if you prefer. A simple house blessing liturgy will be available for you to take and use at home this Epiphany season.

All are welcome!

For more information, call 814-899-9653 or e-mail [faithlepastor@gmail.com](mailto:faithlepastor@gmail.com).





*Please remember the members of Immanuel who are "shut in," or having some health challenges and cannot make it to service, you may want to offer them a ride, give them a friendly call, send them a card.*

*The current Shut-In Mailing List is available in the office.*

**KEEP IN PRAYER:**

Ron Madurski  
Janet Griffin  
Ann Niemann family (daughter of Chuck & Agnes Peterson)  
Stacy VanDyke family  
Eric Adkins and family  
Julia – Cindy Geddes' Niece  
Janice Kreger  
MaryAnn Long and Russ Long  
Penney Maloney  
Denise Arnold and her sister, Lana Huhn  
The Botwright family  
Connie Cooper  
Jim and Lorraine Hornaman  
Kyle Husted  
Carol and Gordon Ketchel  
Patrick Lewis–friend of Sandy Kocur,  
Sandy's cousin - Scott Farr  
Sandy's close friend's son-in-law, John  
Bishop Michael Lozano  
Diane McGranor  
Carole Rickrode  
Bob and Sharon Roemer  
All of our members & friends who are grieving;  
Who are in nursing homes;  
All who are ill at home

**We pray for those in the military:**

Scott Case– Navy, (C. Geddes nephew)  
Christopher Peterson – Navy (Grandson of the late Agnes & Chuck Peterson – serving stateside now per an update from Ann Neimann).

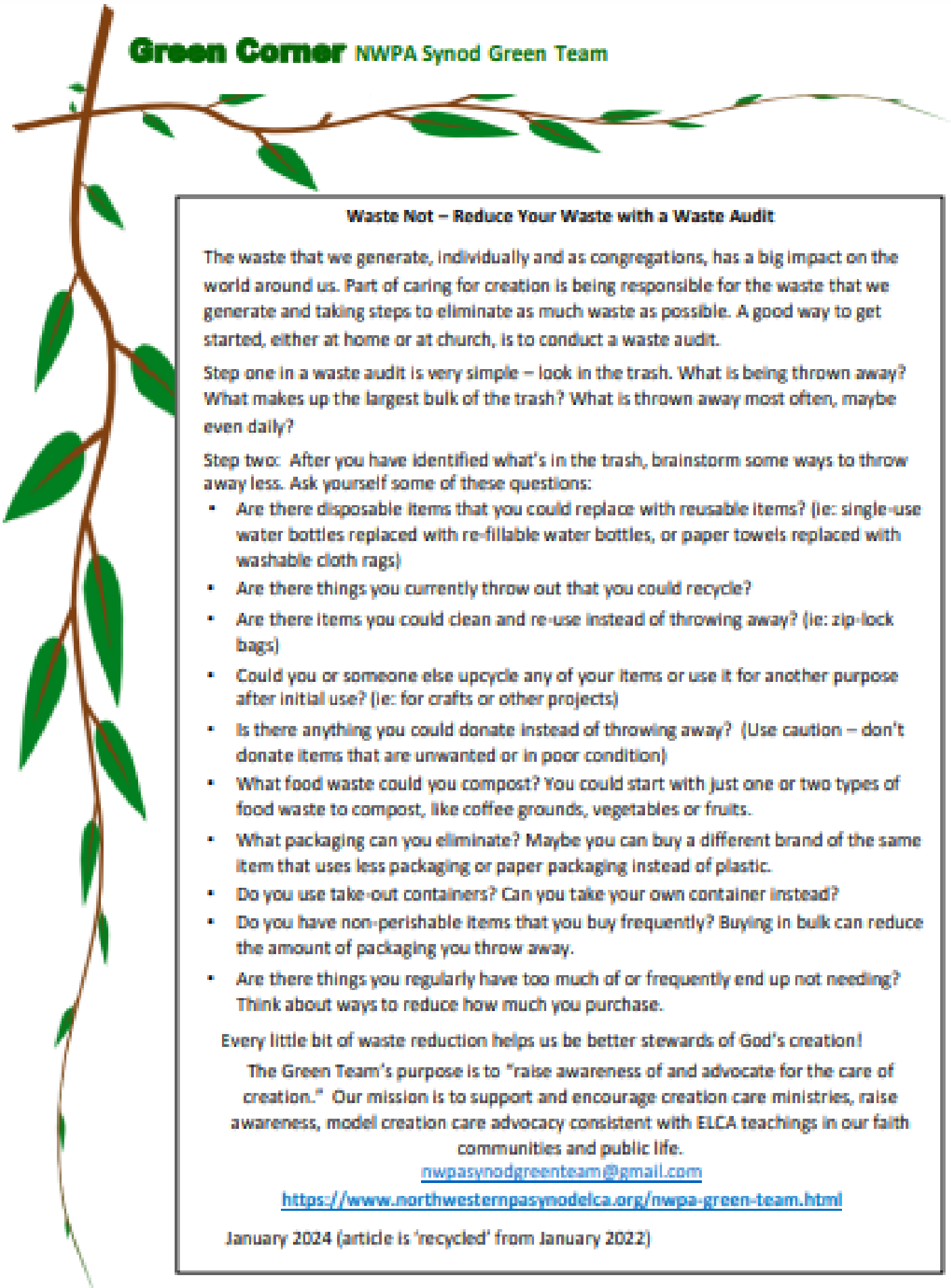
***If you are sick or in the hospital, please notify the church office.***

***If you would like home communion or a copy of our newsletter, please contact the office.***

**Member Update:** Sharon Roemer is now a resident of Fairview Manor.

**Mailing address:** 900 Manchester Road, Fairview, PA 16415

Your prayers & cards are appreciated.



## Green Corner NWPAsynod Green Team

### Waste Not – Reduce Your Waste with a Waste Audit

The waste that we generate, individually and as congregations, has a big impact on the world around us. Part of caring for creation is being responsible for the waste that we generate and taking steps to eliminate as much waste as possible. A good way to get started, either at home or at church, is to conduct a waste audit.

Step one in a waste audit is very simple – look in the trash. What is being thrown away? What makes up the largest bulk of the trash? What is thrown away most often, maybe even daily?

Step two: After you have identified what's in the trash, brainstorm some ways to throw away less. Ask yourself some of these questions:

- Are there disposable items that you could replace with reusable items? (ie: single-use water bottles replaced with re-fillable water bottles, or paper towels replaced with washable cloth rags)
- Are there things you currently throw out that you could recycle?
- Are there items you could clean and re-use instead of throwing away? (ie: zip-lock bags)
- Could you or someone else upcycle any of your items or use it for another purpose after initial use? (ie: for crafts or other projects)
- Is there anything you could donate instead of throwing away? (Use caution – don't donate items that are unwanted or in poor condition)
- What food waste could you compost? You could start with just one or two types of food waste to compost, like coffee grounds, vegetables or fruits.
- What packaging can you eliminate? Maybe you can buy a different brand of the same item that uses less packaging or paper packaging instead of plastic.
- Do you use take-out containers? Can you take your own container instead?
- Do you have non-perishable items that you buy frequently? Buying in bulk can reduce the amount of packaging you throw away.
- Are there things you regularly have too much of or frequently end up not needing? Think about ways to reduce how much you purchase.

Every little bit of waste reduction helps us be better stewards of God's creation!

The Green Team's purpose is to "raise awareness of and advocate for the care of creation." Our mission is to support and encourage creation care ministries, raise awareness, model creation care advocacy consistent with ELCA teachings in our faith communities and public life.

[nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com](mailto:nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com)

<https://www.northwesternpasynodelca.org/nwpa-green-team.html>

January 2024 (article is 'recycled' from January 2022)

Date	Presider	Assistant	Lector
1/7/24 9:30 AM	Kostur	Debbie Redditt	Bill Redditt
1/14/24 9:30 AM	Kostur	Bob Dorler	Bob Dorler
1/21/24 9:30 AM	Kostur	Anita Byrne	Debbie Madurski
1/28/24 9:30AM	Kostur	Stan Holsopple	Bob Dorler



**Altar Guild:** Judy Stewart & Donna Dorler

**Counters:** Debbie & Bill Redditt

**Ushers:** Ushers as assigned by B. Dorler

If you are unable to fulfill your commitment –  
please find an alternate & notify the church office.

**You can also listen via speaker in our  
Nursery or Kindergarten Rooms.**



If you would like to  
volunteer to Lector,  
please email or call  
the church office.



Lectors:

Remember to adjust  
microphone towards  
you & speak into it  
for all to hear!

# Celebrations of January Life and Love

## Birthdays

January

1 Steve Holsopple  
11 Kim Paternosh  
18 Mike Lee  
19 Jack Botwright  
25 Corrine Glover  
    Debbie Redditt  
26 Judy Sierota



## Wedding Anniversaries

No January Weddings!

### Capital Campaign - Boiler:

Funds for the boiler campaign currently show **\$28,163.48** toward our goal of \$58,803.



### Pennies for Poverty

collection is an ongoing effort in support of the Women of the ELCA – donations welcome in the Donation Center canister.



### LITTLE FREE PANTRY AT IMMANUEL

**IF IN NEED – TAKE SOMETHING  
IF YOU CAN SHARE - LEAVE SOMETHING**

Feel free to bring items to church office & we will make sure they get in the pantry for you.



# January 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <b>Happy New Year!</b>	2 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	3 Tops 9:00 am Quilters 9:30 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	4 Church Choir 7:15 pm	5 AA 7:00 pm	6
7 9:30 am Worship Quarter Sunday Undecorate Church Coffee Hour Sunday School	8 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm	9 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	10 Tops 9:00 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	11 Bible Study 6:00pm Church Choir 7:15 pm	12 AA 7:00 pm	13
14 9:30 am Worship Sunday School	15 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm	16 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	17 Tops 9:00 am New Member Class 6:00 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	18 Bible Study 6:00pm Church Choir 7:15 pm	19 AA 7:00 pm	20
21 9:30 am Worship Congregational meeting Sunday School	22 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm	23 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	24 Tops 9:00 am New Member Class 6:00 pm AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	25 Bible Study 6:00pm Church Choir 7:15 pm	26 AA 7:00 pm	27
28 9:30 am Worship Sunday School	29 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm	<b>30</b> AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	31 Tops 9:00 am AA Mtg. 7:30pm			



**Immanuel**  
 Church Office  
 814-833-4062  
 Pastoral Hours:  
 Tuesday  
 1:00—3:00  
 Thursday  
 9:00am—2:00 pm.  
 Office Hours  
 By appointment

[immluthch@verizon.net](mailto:immluthch@verizon.net)

### Staff

Pastor Karen Kostur 814-833-4062  
 or Emergency #: 724-557-2386  
 Pastor's Office Hours – Tuesday 1:00-  
 2:00 Thursday, 9:00am-2:00pm

Church Caretaker: Wally Coughlin  
 Organist/Music Director: Bryan Timm  
 Admin. Ofc.: Vacant

### Sunday School

Coord: Anita Byrne & Janice Kreger  
 Teachers: Anita Byrne & Pastor  
 Kostur

### 2024 Congregation & Church Council Officers

Pres: Bob Dorler 814-833-2719  
 VP: Rick Kuntz 814-572-3719  
 Sec.: Mary Hauser 814-397-7552  
 Fin. Sec.: C. Geddes 814-734-1286  
 Treasurer: Bill Redditt 814-833-9756

### Additional Council Members

Sally Leubin, Dave Mays

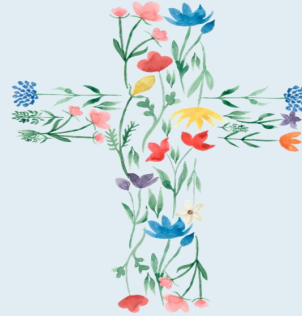


2023 Council Members

Installation of Council Members and Officers  
 January 21, 2024

## Church Council Committees

*We invite all members of Immanuel to join any of these committees  
 and/or offer your gifts where you can – many hands make light work!!  
 Council usually meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month*



Check out our website and "FRIEND" us on [Facebook](#)  
 Did you miss church? Need to keep updated and want easy access to the  
 church calendar, newsletter or annual report?  
 Check out our website <http://www.ilc-erie.org/>

**WATCH FOR US ON FACEBOOK, GOERIE.COM, ERIE  
 NEWS NOW AND IN PRINT IN THE  
 ERIE TIMES NEWS**

### Fellowship, Outreach & Growth

Council liaisons: Sally Leubin  
**COFFEE HOUR 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF THE MONTH**  
**ONGOING COLLECTION FOR LITTLE FREE PANTRY**  
**SOUP COOK BOOKLET AVAILABLE**

### Finance

Council liaison: George Pfeiffer  
**ANNUAL AUDIT 2021 & 2022**

### Property

Council liaison: Bob Dorler Committee Chair: vacant  
**FACILITY MAINTENANCE**  
**RENTAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**  
**ONGOING BOILER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

### Stewardship

Council liaison: Cindy Geddes

### Social Ministry Committee

Committee chair: Debbie Madurski

### Worship & Music

Council liaison: Debbie Redditt Chair: Sue Pfeiffer