



Sunday, September 7th, 2025
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Pepin, WI
13th Sunday after Pentecost

As you enter, you are invited into a time to silently reflect and center for worship

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

GATHERING HYMN

ACS 1000 *"God's Work, Our Hands"*

GREETING

P/ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

R/ And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name. **By your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**
Amen.

WORD

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

PSALM

Psalm 1

¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

² **Their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves
that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

⁴ **It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶ **For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

GOSPEL:

Luke 14:25-33

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete

it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

P/ The Gospel of the Lord

R/ Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P/ Lord, in your mercy

R/ Hear our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN:

ELW 685 "Take My Life that I May Be"

OFFERING PRAYER:

Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. **Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to
the Lord, our God.

It is right to offer our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

ELW 466 "In the Singing, In the Silence"

ELW 542 "O Living Bread from Heaven"

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER :

Lord God, **you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

ELW 729 "The Church of Christ in Every Age"

DISMISSAL

P/ Go in peace. Live by the Spirit

R/Thanks be to God.

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Thompson

Office Number: (715) 442-3213

Musician: Barb Bunk

Pastor Number(call/text): (715) 309-9640

Announcements

I-ELCW Pie Sales ~ Saturday, September 13th 9 AM – until gone

Special Congregational Meeting ~ Sunday, September 28th @ 9 AM
Vote on Use of Parish House (*In-Person attendance is required to vote.*)

Faith Adventures and Confirmation Begins ~ Wed, Oct 1st 3:30 - 5:00
Register on-line at: immanuelpepin.org

Questions About Congregational Meeting September 7, Vote Sept 28 By Rev. Charlie Bunk on behalf of the Immanuel Church Council

1. Why have we called for a Congregational Meeting on September 7?

The council has called for a congregational meeting because we are short on income to cover our expenses over the last two years. We have an average shortfall of about \$2700 per month in 2025. We have been able to make our payroll and cover all our expenses thanks to a large amount in our “Rainy Day” fund. This source of income will be completely gone by December of 2025 unless trends change. This has led us to explore other ways to put our monthly expenses in harmony with our income which is provided by your offerings and occasional IELCW fundraising events.

2. Why are we considering the use of the Parish House?

Pastor Andrew Thompson and Savannah thought together about their life and employment when he was called to be our pastor in 2024. Savannah sought employment in her field of social work and accepted a position as the lead Social Worker at Benedictine Living Community in Red Wing, Minnesota. This led them to consider living in Red Wing rather than the parish house which our congregation offered to them. Andrew has been faithful in making the commute to Pepin and is looking for meaningful ways to interact to get to know community members and congregational members better.

This means that for this time the Parish House is being used for some children’s activities, for the monthly outdoor worship in summer, for storage of youth ministry supplies, and for the backpack program providing children’s lunches to selective recipients at the Pepin School.

3. Is the Parish House restricted to by the donor (Marshall) for youth activities of the congregation?

While the congregation first made the request to Marshall to use the parish house for youth activities, he did not stipulate this when he decided to offer the house to Immanuel Lutheran church. Leaders remember him saying that the house should be used by Immanuel for whatever supports the overall mission of the congregation.

4. What are the options for use of the parish house?

- a. The first option is the sale of the parish house. A real estate person gave us an estimate that the house could be offered for sale at a value of \$350,000. Given the current real estate market it would probably sell within 3 months. We could put the proceeds into a fund which would offer us the interest to use to support our ministry, or we could put the money into an unrestricted fund.
- b. The second option is to offer the parish house for rent. Pat Sandstrom has looked at other rentals in Pepin. She feels that we could expect \$1300 rent per month for the main house and \$500 per month for the office if we make about \$5000 of improvements. We would lose the property tax exception so we would probably need to pay about \$4500 per year in taxes until the property would be vacated to receive the next pastor. The renters would cover the cost of utilities, but we would pay about \$2000 per year in improvements and renovations. This option would mean that the possibility would remain that we could offer the home to the next prospective pastor.
- c. The third option is to continue to hold the parish house for current activities. We extend an invitation to all our members to look at the house to envision other activities and groups which might appreciate the house and expand our vision of outreach to the Pepin community. This option means that we would continue to pay the \$3000 per year in utilities and maintenance with possible window replacement in the future.

We will discuss these at the information meeting of the congregation on September 7 with a congregational vote on September 28.

5. What other measures to increase income or decrease expenses are being considered?

We have begun to offer black ink bulletins with a small number of newsletter sheets in color on Sunday mornings and the use of the screen above the pulpit for announcements and hymn verses. This saves about \$800 per year in copier costs and diminishes the amount of paper waste for recycling.

We have considered asking Sabylund Lutheran to help finance the Youth and Family leadership position. We appreciate very much Angie Vetsch for her leadership and vision she has shared with us since she began in 2022. We have deepened our cooperation with Sabylund, Pepin United Methodist parish, and Lund Covenant through our Wednesday Faith Adventures program and Vacation Bible School.

Four leader households of the church council have pledged to support Angie Vetsch's ministry through \$2000 gifts with will assure her position as part of our outreach through December of this year. Our hands are outstretched to you, our members and supporters, as we prayerfully consider our ministry in Pepin and beyond.

Yours in Christ, Rev. Charles Bunk