

Immanuel Lutheran Church

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Rev. Michael J. Markwell, Pastor
600 South Lincoln Road
Escanaba, MI 49829
906 / 786-6771
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www.ImmanuelEscanaba.org

Greetings,

A dollar a day can make a difference.

A dollar a day provides our children with opportunities to learn about God in a unique and safe environment. This winter we kicked off our new children's ministry that meets on Friday nights. From 5pm to 7pm the last Friday of the month, they have a place where they meet other kids their age, eat a meal together, and learn about God. In February our theme was "Jesus is the Light of the world". After a lesson that Pastor Mike gave on how the light of Christ is always with us, one of the children went home and was able to articulate that concept back to their parents.

A dollar a day helps us to care for our building and grounds. Our building continues to provide space not only for our own ministries but for community groups as well. The building spent two weeks serving as a homeless shelter through Hope at the Inn. In the middle of February when overnight lows got as low at -15° F, we were able to provide people with a warm place to sleep in our building and a hot meal to eat.

A dollar a day provides ways for people to connect with God through worship. Whether it is new music, worship supplies, or fees and licenses for our music, we provide a way for people to connect with God through our worship. Over the last few years, we have seen a steady increase in the number of people who connect to our worship through our video stream as well. Whether they are traveling, have moved away, stayed home during the pandemic, or could not make it to church because of mobility issues we have over a dozen people each week that connect with our worship through our video streaming in addition to those who come in person.

These wonderful opportunities for us to fulfill our mission are funded through the generosity of the members and supporters of Immanuel Lutheran Church. Immanuel continues to take strides so that your financial contribution has the greatest impact possible. At times, it can seem like an insurmountable task to make a contribution to the ministry. The feeding of 5000 is a miraculous story of generosity in the Gospel of John:

"Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 9 "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" John 6:7-9

The boy with two fish and five small loaves brings forward what he had to offer. He knew that his amount alone would not be enough to feed the crowd, but he faithfully brought what he had before God. We can be the boy, bringing forward whatever we have, even if we feel that it might be insignificant. God can make an impact with even a dollar a day.

Thank you for the contributions you have made to Immanuel in the past both financial and through your time and talents. This year we are challenging every household to consider giving at least a dollar a day. It might not seem like much but a dollar a day adds up. A dollar a day will allow us to continue to serve Immanuel Lutheran Church, Escanaba, and the world. If you can give more than a dollar a day whether that's 2, 3, 4, or \$5 a day we invite you to do so. If you have not given regularly in the past, we invite you to start with \$1 a day, \$7 a week, \$30 a month or \$365 a year, however you want to look at it. Your financial support continues to make a difference.

For your convenience we have a few ways to give electronically. There is a kiosk in the gathering area of the church when you walk in. You can also give electronically on our website <https://www.immanuelescanaba.org/on-line-offering/>. Through either method you can make a onetime donation or set up recurring payments. Included with this letter you will find a Goal Card. This year we are asking that you fill out this goal card for your own accountability. Place this card in your wallet, on your refrigerator, or in your checkbook, wherever it will serve as a reminder to you for your goal of generosity towards God's ministry at Immanuel.

I thank you for your prayerful consideration as we embark on our stewardship campaign,

Pastor Mike Markwell

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Thank you for the ways that you have supported Immanuel over the past year through the giving of your times and talents as well as financial support. Through your support we have been able to continue to provide ministry in so many ways to the community.

Through your support, we provided our children with opportunities to learn about God in a unique and safe environment. This winter we kicked off our new children's ministry that meets on Friday nights. From 5pm to 7pm the last Friday of the month, they have a place where they can come, meet other kids their age, eat a meal together, and learn about God. In February our theme was "Jesus is the Light of the world". After a lesson that Pastor Mike gave on how the light of Christ is always with us, one of the children went home and was able to articulate that concept back to their parents.

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It is through generosity of supporters like you that all this and so much more is possible. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus tells the story of the widow with here two mites:

"He looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on." Luke 21:1-4

It is not the size of the offering that the women gave. But rather that it was a sacrifice and of significance to her.

We thank you for the financial support that you have provided in the past. We are truly appreciative of your generosity towards God's ministry through Immanuel. As we enter this season of stewardship, we invite you to consider increasing your giving to Immanuel. If you are

not yet giving based on a percentage of your income, I encourage you to find a percentage that is appropriate for you and your household. If you are giving based on a percentage, I invite you to consider increasing that gift by one percentage point. For example, if you were giving 3% increase that to 4% or from 5% to 6%.

Your continued generosity is appreciated. It is through your generosity that we can continue to provide and grow the ministry that we provide in the community. Included with this letter you will find a Goal Card. This year we are asking that you fill out this goal card for your own accountability. Place this card in your wallet, on your refrigerator, or in your checkbook, wherever it will serve as a reminder to you for your goal of generosity towards God's ministry at Immanuel.

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In the story of Jesus feeding the 5000 in the Gospel of John, one of the parts of the story I enjoy is that the boy who gave of his fish and bread was able to see what God could do through his faithful stewardship immediately. We don't always get to see the immediate results of our own stewardship, but sometimes we do. In some cases, the effects of our own stewardship will be felt long after we leave this earth. In many ways Immanuel still reaps the benefits of its stewards who have passed on long ago.

We thank you for the financial support that you have provided in the past. We are truly appreciative of your generosity towards God's ministry through Immanuel. I invite you to consider different ways that you could give to Immanuel in the future. Have you considered the church for a legacy gift in your estate planning? Have you considered making an additional gift

towards special projects? We hope to be offering a workshop through Thrivent Financial in the future about ways to set up these types of gifts.

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