



NORTH IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PELICAN RAPIDS, MINNESOTA • 218-863-5447
DECEMBER 2019

Pastor Ethan Fearing (320) 874-0104 Cell
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Email: ethanfearing@yahoo.com

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43303 County Hwy 21, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572
Email: nilchurch@yahoo.com

Council President Sandie Strandlien (218) 863-6416
29342 180th Ave S, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

Council Vice President Brian Johnson (218) 863-2204
14067 State Hwy 108, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

Council Secretary

Squares President Lee Follingstad (218) 354-2367
406 11th St NE, Barnesville, MN 56514

Custodian: Steve Strandlien (701) 730-4423 cell
29342 180th Ave S, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572 (218) 863-6416 home

Treasurer: Julie Ann Holt (218) 863-5226
14391 430th St, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

MISSION STATEMENT

As members of North Immanuel Lutheran Church and in recognition of the gift of grace we have received through Jesus Christ, our Mission is:

- To develop a personal and Spiritual relationship with Jesus Christ, our Lord,
- To provide an environment for the continuing Education and further teachings of all ages,
- To reach out to welcome all to grow with us in faith through worship and serving others in our community and throughout the world.

CEMETERY BOARD OFFICERS

Chairman—David Aas (218) 863-5455
Treasurer—Judy Johnson (218) 863-2204
Secretary—Bill Osborne (218) 863-7913

PEACE ON EARTH

To the LORD's beloved at North Immanuel,

On a crisp, clear morning 100 years ago, thousands of British, Belgian and French soldiers put down their rifles, stepped out of their trenches, and spent Christmas mingling with their German enemies along the Western front. In the hundred years since, the event has been seen as a kind of miracle, a rare moment of peace just a few months into a war that would eventually claim over 15 million lives. But what actually happened on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day of 1914?

Pope Benedict XV, who took office that September, had originally called for a Christmas truce, an idea that was officially rejected. Yet it seems the sheer misery of daily life in the cold, wet, dull trenches was enough to motivate troops to initiate the truce on their own — which means that it's hard to pin down exactly what happened. A huge range of differing oral accounts, diary entries and letters home from those who took part make it virtually impossible to speak of a “typical” Christmas truce as it took place across the Western front. To this day historians continue to disagree over the specifics: no one knows where it began or how it spread, or if, by some curious festive magic, it broke out simultaneously across the trenches. Nevertheless, some two-thirds of troops — about 100,000 people — are believed to have participated in the legendary truce.

Most accounts suggest the truce began with carol singing from the trenches on Christmas Eve, “a beautiful moonlit night, frost on the ground, white almost everywhere”, as Pvt. Albert Moren of the Second Queens Regiment recalled. Graham Williams of the Fifth London Rifle Brigade described it in even greater detail: “First the Germans would sing one of their carols and then we would sing one of ours, until when we started up ‘O Come, All Ye Faithful’ the Germans immediately joined in singing the same hymn to the Latin words *Adeste Fideles*. And I thought, well, this is really a most extraordinary thing – two nations both singing the same carol in the middle of a war.”

The next morning, in some places, German soldiers emerged from their trenches, calling out “Merry Christmas” in English. Allied soldiers came out warily to greet them. In others, Germans held up signs reading “You no shoot, we no shoot.” Over the course of the day, troops exchanged gifts of cigarettes, food, buttons and hats. The Christmas truce also allowed both sides to finally bury their dead comrades, whose bodies had lain for weeks on “no man’s land,” the ground between opposing trenches.

The truce was widespread but not universal. Evidence suggests that in many places firing continued — and in at least two a truce was attempted but soldiers attempting to fraternize were shot by opposing forces.

And of course, it was only ever a truce, not peace. Hostilities returned, in some places later that day and in others not until after New Year’s Day. “I remember the silence, the eerie sound of silence,” one veteran from the Fifth Battalion the Black Watch, Alfred Anderson, later recalled to *The Observer*. “It was a short peace in a terrible war.” As the Great War resumed, it wreaked such destruction and devastation that soldiers became hardened to the brutality of the war. While there were occasional moments of peace throughout the rest of World War I, they never again came on the scale of the Christmas truce in 1914.

Today, more than a century later, the truce has been remembered as a testament to the power of hope and humanity in a truly dark hour of history. And though the Christmas Truce may have been a one-off in the conflict, the fact that it remains so widely commemorated speaks to the fact that at its heart it symbolizes a very human desire for peace, no matter how fleeting. Such peace is our Christmas gift from God, wrapped in humanity when He came to us as Jesus Christ. This peace was announced by angels on the very first Christmas:

“In the same region [where Jesus was born,] there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the LORD appeared to them, and the glory of the LORD shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. But the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this

day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.’

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!’

“When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.’ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.”

Peace commenced by human beings is fragile, but God gave us perfect peace by dying on the cross to forgive our sins. Three days later, he rose again, defeating death and sealing His promise of everlasting life in His heavenly Paradise. That is the LORD’s Christmas gift to you. Despite the struggles and troubles of this life, may that give you peace this holiday season!

By grace, through faith, in Jesus Christ alone,
Pastor Ethan Fearing

It is North Immanuel’s turn to serve at the Welcome Place on Tuesday, December 17th. Please contact Jane Knorr if you can help.



The Sunday School kids will be singing songs during worship on **December 22nd**. There will be a potluck meal after worship.

Christmas Eve worship will be at **4:00 p.m.** on Tuesday, December 24th.

WORSHIP
SCHEDULE
FOR
Christmas



Christmas Concert

Wednesday, December 4
7:00 p.m.

Featuring

The Granders

A Beautiful Blend
of
Vocal & Acoustic
Gospel & Classic
Christmas Music

Fellowship Supper Served

before the concert

~Homemade~

Soups, Breads

& Christmas Sweets

Serving from

5:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

Free-will offering proceeds

for Shop with a Hero.

Everyone Welcome!

Invite your Friends, Family

& Neighbors.



North Immanuel Lutheran Church
2713 County Highway 30,
Pelican Rapids, MN
Pastor Ethan Fearing
320-874-0104



Shop with a Hero

Fergus Falls Police Department and Fergus Falls Fire Department have received a community grant from the Walmart Foundation to participate in the 2019 “Shop with a Hero” program. Officers from Otter Tail County Sheriff’s Office, Fergus Falls Police Department, MN State Patrol, MN DNR and Ringdahl EMS will take children shopping on Thursday, December 12th.

The grants provide gift cards for children in need and a shop event with a local “Hero”. We receive our child referrals from local schools, churches and other youth organizations. Once we receive the referral, we send a letter to the family and child indicating that they have been nominated to “Shop with a Hero” and the family brings a “wish list” for items that the children can purchase for family members. (We also try to make sure the child gets something to) The family must have transportation to the designated shop date. Once at the store, each child is paired with a “Hero” and they shop together while the family waits. All gifts are wrapped and are taken home that evening. We also provide a photo with the child and their “Hero”. Any donated funds will be used to purchase gift cards for more children to attend. If you have a referral for a child to participate or would like to make a donation, please contact Shannon Riggle at (218) 332-5538 or sriggle@co.ottertail.mn.us or drop off at Fergus Falls Police Department, 122 W. Junius Ave, Fergus Falls. Our goal is to obtain \$5,000 in grants/donations to assist 100 children this Christmas season.

Church Finances

Minnesota National Bank

Beginning Balance 10/01/2019 \$ 2,745.83

Income:

Member/Loose Offering \$ 4,701.84

Savings \$ 5,000.00

Total Income \$ 9,701.84

Expenses:

Budgeted \$ 8,101.46

Ending Balance 10/31/2019

Minnesota National Bank \$ 4,346.21

10/6/2019 \$ 970.00

10/13/2019 \$ 901.00

10/20/2019 \$ 995.00

10/27/2019 \$ 853.00

Mail \$ 950.00

Loose Coin \$ 32.84



The last Sunday of every month is Spare Change Sunday.

North Immanuel Cemetery dues are now due with the new fiscal year for 2019-2020. Dues are \$10.00 per member of NI Church. May mail them to

Judy Johnson, Treasurer or leave at mailbox
14067 State Hwy 108 at the Church
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

Thank you if you already got your dues in.

Sincerely, NI Cemetery Board



Birthdays are a good time to reflect on the blessings that you have been given by God. Here are our members who have birthdays in December so we can help each other celebrate.

Nicholas Hovland	12/03
Lynnzee Johnson	12/04
Jay Roste	12/04
David Fouquette	12/04
David Ishaug	12/06
Tilda Haugan	12/08
Peyton Christianson	12/08
David Dunham	12/12
Nolan Dunham	12/12
Dawn Shulstad	12/12
Celeste Torgerson	12/14
Bree Anderson	12/15
Jerald Lynnes	12/19
Josh Lynnes	12/20
Timothy Klovstad	12/21
William Wells Jr.	12/22
Barbara Le Claire	12/22
Steven Strandlien	12/26
Mary Thompson	12/26

This list is not yet complete. If you have a birthday in December and your name is not here, or if the date we have is incorrect, please call it to Kara so we can update our records. May your birthday be a blessed one!



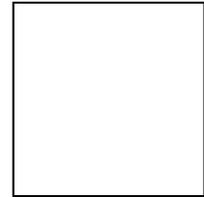
North Immanuel is Online:

<http://www.facebook.com/NorthImmanuelLutheranChurch>
<http://www.nilchurch.org/>

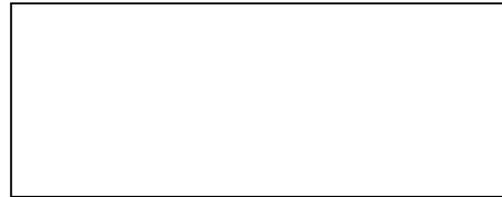


NORTH IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PO BOX 438
PELICAN RAPIDS, MN 56572-0438

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



SHARING
THE NEWS
WITH...



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DECEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT No SS 10:00 a.m. WS/HC</p>	<p>2 PDO</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 5:15-6:45 p.m. Fellowship Supper 7:00 p.m. Christmas Concert with the Granders</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Pr. Ethan-visitations</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 a.m. SS 10:00 a.m. WS</p>	<p>9 PDO</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Pr. Ethan-visitations</p>	<p>12 FULL MOON</p>	<p>13 Pr. Ethan-visitations</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 a.m. SS 10:00 a.m. WS/HC</p>	<p>16 PDO</p>	<p>17 NILC serves at the Welcome Place</p>	<p>18 Pr. Ethan-visitations 3RD QUARTER MOON</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Pr. Ethan-visitations Deadline for January S&F and Calendar</p>	<p>21 WINTER BEGINS</p>
<p>22 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 a.m. SS 10:00 a.m. WS & SS kids singing and Potluck meal</p>	<p>23 PDO</p>	<p>24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 p.m. WS</p>	<p>25 CHRISTMAS DAY</p>	<p>26 NEW MOON</p>	<p>27 Pr. Ethan-visitations</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 No SS 10:00 a.m. WS</p>	<p>30 PDO</p>	<p>31 NEW YEAR'S EVE</p>		<p>Ushers: Paul & Tammy Nord (1, 8, & 15); Philip & Robbie Shulstad (22 & 29)</p>	<p>***If you are unable to serve, it is your responsibility to find a replacement.***</p>	

KEY: PTS=Pastors' Text Study; PDO=Pastor's Day Off; LL=Luther League; POH=Pastor's Office Hours; SS=Sunday School; HC=Holy Communion; WS=Worship Service; Conf.-Confirmation; WBS=Women's Bible Study