

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

MARCH-APRIL, 2025



<i>Sun</i>	<i>March 2</i>	9:00 am	<i>Adult Bible Study and Sunday School</i>
		10:00 am	<i>Divine Service with Holy Communion</i>
<i>Wed</i>	<i>March 5</i>	7:00 pm	<i>Ash Wednesday Service</i>
<i>Sun</i>	9	9:00 am	<i>Adult Bible Study and Sunday School</i>
		10:00 am	<i>Divine Service with Holy Communion</i>
<i>Wed</i>	12	7:00 pm	<i>Midweek Lenten Service</i>
<i>Sun</i>	16	9:00 am	<i>Adult Bible Study and Sunday School</i>
		10:00 am	<i>Divine Service with Holy Communion</i>
<i>Wed</i>	19	7:00 pm	<i>Midweek Lenten Service</i>
<i>Sun</i>	23	9:00 am	<i>Adult Bible Study and Sunday School</i>
		10:00 am	<i>Divine Service with Holy Communion</i>
<i>Wed</i>	26	7:00 pm	<i>Midweek Lenten Service</i>
<i>Sun</i>	30	9:00 am	<i>Adult Bible Study and Sunday School</i>
		10:00 am	<i>Divine Service with Holy Communion</i>
<i>Wed</i>	April 2	7:00 pm	<i>Midweek Lenten Service</i>
<i>Sun</i>	6	9:00 am	<i>Adult Bible Study and Sunday School</i>
		10:00 am	<i>Divine Service with Holy Communion</i>
<i>Wed</i>	9	7:00 pm	<i>Midweek Lenten Service</i>
<i>Sun</i>	13	9:00 am	<i>Adult Bible Study and Sunday School</i>
		10:00 am	<i>Divine Service with Holy Communion</i>
<i>Thurs</i>	17	7:00 pm	<i>Maundy Thursday Service</i>
<i>Fri</i>	18	7:00 pm	<i>Good Friday Service</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	20	8:30 am	<i>Easter Breakfast</i>
		10:00 am	<i>Divine Service with Holy Communion</i>

From the Pastor's Pen ...

Dear Saints of Immanuel,

It is good and right that disciples of Jesus walk circumspectly and are aware of what is going on in the world, and especially in our own country. "Lutheran" charities have been disparaged in the "news" recently, so I share this letter from LCMS President Harrison to dispel any confusion. Because the Divine Service and the Bible study are not the venue for this, I commend this for your reading below. +*Pastor*.

Dear Saints of the LCMS,

Grace and peace in Jesus!

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might that He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. (Eph. 1:15–23)

As many of you are aware, General Mike Flynn (retired) publicly took to task Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) and several other Lutheran social ministry agencies for receiving large federal grants for work with immigrants. That got the attention of Elon Musk and the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). I was surprised at the dollar amounts involved. The post on X accused LIRS and the other agencies bearing the name Lutheran of "money laundering." I am writing to provide you with some facts about this complex and confusing situation.

The LCMS is a law-abiding and patriotic church body. We don't invite or support illegal immigration. We don't say much to or about the government. We don't have government contracts. Not one. We leave issues of government to our 1.8 million members and 5,700 active pastors, who act in the civil realm according to their Christian consciences as good citizens. We have spoken as a body to certain issues. The Bible and reason teach us that the unborn have the God-given right to life (Luke 1:39–45). The government has no right to infringe upon religious freedom, including the free exercise of religion. "Thoughts are tax free!" said Martin Luther. All our people are trained from Sunday school and catechism class, and every Sunday sermon, to be good citizens and advocate for just laws, punishment for evildoers and mercy for those in need. Specific views on the details of how the government is involved in this are left to the individual as a citizen.

The LCMS uses legal means to fight for First Amendment rights when those rights are under attack. We have suffered formal legal action and much more as we have watched as DEI philosophy (formally rejected by our church body along with white supremacy) has pervaded nearly every aspect of government activity, even as the U.S. government has burgeoned beyond all ethical and rational propriety, in effect stealing the future from our children. We've been inundated with government attacks on those First Amendment rights. This subjects us to anxiety in the workplace, fear and lack of promotion in the military, and constant attacks at public schools and universities for merely following the Bible and sound reason on matters of sex. Our children are subjected to coercion at public schools. Millions of fellow

Lutheran saints around the globe are chagrined at U.S. embassies and programs preoccupied with LGBTQ issues in their many different countries, as this program has been carried out globally.

The LCMS loves all people. We believe “the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7). We are sinners loved by Christ. And Christ bids us, “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 19:19). When our congregations, pastors and people come into contact with individuals who are not legally in the U.S., particularly when such individuals find themselves in our churches, we welcome them. We tell them about Jesus’ forgiveness. We also always urge and often assist them in doing the right thing, that is, becoming legal residents. The LCMS is officially pro-immigrant. Our church was founded by German immigrants.

The LCMS is no longer part of LIRS. At its inception, LIRS assisted with the resettlement of many Europeans suffering the devastation of WWII. We still have many people in our church who were children in the late 1940s and early 1950s, who were resettled in the U.S. by LIRS in partnership with our local congregations. They are eternally grateful. That partnership happened again in a remarkable way in the 1970s with many southeast Asians in the wake of the Vietnam War. LIRS was at one time officially related to a number of American Lutheran church bodies, with specific board positions reserved for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and LCMS representatives. As the ELCA wandered away from the clear biblical teachings on sexual morality, this and other intersections of the ELCA and the LCMS (such as Lutheran Disaster Response, institutional chaplaincy, military chaplaincy, Lutheran World Relief and so on) became ever more challenging. As LIRS secularized, it hired a non-Christian, Hindu person to serve as president and CEO. The agency reorganized to become fully independent of its former partner church bodies. This diminished Lutheran identity is reflected in its new name, Global Refuge. For the past five years, the LCMS has provided no funding to LIRS and has provided no official representation on the board.

The post-WWII push within the LCMS toward one Lutheran church body in America that precipitated the disastrous events of the Concordia Seminary Walkout in 1974 brought the LCMS into the Lutheran Council USA, and into various cooperative agencies. Lutheran World Relief likewise became and remains a rebranded independent entity apart from the LCMS. Like LIRS, it does charitable work as a government contractor. There is no specifically Christian content, no sharing of the blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins.

More than a decade ago, I was part of an LCMS delegation that attended what would be our last Committee on Lutheran Cooperation meeting at the ELCA headquarters in Chicago. The ELCA bishop prayed, avoiding “Father” and “Son” in his prayer. I told him that we would no longer meet. Among other things, including the ELCA’s teachings and statements on sexuality, I told him, “I’m no longer sure we are praying to the same God.” It is difficult enough to carry out what we call “cooperation in externals” (for instance, doing mercy work together without church fellowship for the benefit of people in need) when we no longer agree on what the Gospel is. It is impossible when we can’t even agree on what the Law is.

The LCMS grants special status to certain agencies as Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs). Like LIRS, we have no ownership of, governing authority over or hand in the financial management of such agencies. They are independently audited. Some of the organizations on the list circulated by Flynn for public scrutiny are LCMS RSOs and at the same time retain affiliation with the ELCA. Because of the public uproar over Flynn’s post, many of our LCMS people are asking for a review of these RSOs. Rightly so. We are following up on these concerns. To maintain RSO status in the LCMS, an agency must agree to “[respect] and ... not act contrary to the doctrine and practice of the Synod.” In short, our RSOs are not to give themselves over to ELCA doctrine and practice.

Let me just note (and this is NOT an official position of the LCMS): I’m personally pleased with DOGE. The federal government is bloated beyond all rational limits. It can’t fund its activities without accumulating debt. And it’s failing in its basic tasks. Christians believe the government should protect its citizens, maintain just laws, prosper marriage and family, and punish criminals. I think the government is failing across the board. The bigger government becomes, the

more it meddles in what should not be its business at all, such as promoting faddish, unscientific philosophies of sex and family to the detriment of those who in good conscience cannot agree — and never will agree no matter the coercion.

I'm sure that General Flynn meant well with his muckraking, but he misses the mark in two ways. First, though I do not agree philosophically with every operational aspect of LIRS, if there is something legally amiss, the blame falls squarely upon the federal government. LIRS — and even our own LCMS RSOs — simply does what the government asks and pays for them to do.

During his first term, President Trump and the First Lady visited one of the LCMS RSOs currently under scrutiny. The president wanted to ensure that the institution would be a place to deliver outstanding care to unaccompanied minors. That agency has been quietly doing this work since that visit. They take the work with profound seriousness and love. They did not and do not deserve the broad brush of disdain brought upon them.

Second, our immigration laws are a mess. I can safely say our LCMS people are all for removing criminal bad actors from this country. Caesar "beareth not the sword in vain" says St. Paul (Rom. 13:4). There are indeed millions who have broken federal immigration law. That is wrong. It is also true that millions have been enticed and encouraged to enter illegally into this country by contradictory American voices at all levels: federal, state and local. I cannot but be sympathetic to their plight. At the same time, a well-regulated border, sound immigration policy, and welcoming space for persecuted refugees are all fundamental parts of a God-pleasing answer to the question: Who will contribute to this marvelous and blessed American experiment?

Blessings to you all.

In Christ,

Pastor Matthew C. Harrison

President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

St. Louis

From the Elders... Dan Muecke

As the newest elder at Immanuel, I am blessed that my writing for the newsletter is for the Lenten and Easter seasons. I have decided to concentrate on the joy of Easter in this message.

Bible quote

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask of the Father in my name, He may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you love one another." [John 15:16-17]

Jesus speaks these words to His disciples while He is teaching them during the Last Supper. First, and perhaps, foremost, are His words telling His disciples and us that He has chosen us. We belong to Jesus because He wants us to be His, not because we have made some decision that we ought to follow Him.

At the time of this teaching, the disciples did not know the terrible sorrow and grief they would shortly feel, nor could they imagine the indescribable joy they would have on Easter when they saw their resurrected Lord alive. During the Lenten season, we recreate some of that sorrow, but we can truly share with them the joy of Easter.

Easter is a uniquely Christian celebration. Our God is the only God that made the sacrifice necessary for our sins to be forgiven and be able to live with Him forever. In all other religions, you reach paradise based on your own merit. But, as a Christian, we celebrate our salvation and promise of everlasting life because of Jesus Christ and His sacrifice. Further, by His resurrection, the Father assures us that all has been accomplished for our salvation. We are saved because of Jesus, not our works.

This is a joy that the world simply cannot understand. It is a joy that Christ expects us to share so that everyone can have the same joy and salvation. Easter is more than a day, or even a season in the church year. Easter and Christ's resurrection are the ground for our faith and the guarantee of God's promises to us.

May you celebrate this Easter knowing that you are saved and will one day live in heaven with Jesus and all the company of heaven forever.

In His service,

Dan Muecke

SOLE HOPE

UPDATE

The Sole Hope cutting party was postponed twice due to snow before finally getting to meet and get things done. God has plans for these little shoes and we need to be diligent in getting them to Africa.

Here is what Claire Flaherty said, “We are still cutting jeans! At this point we have 30 shoes cut, but we are not done.

We had a nice gathering of individuals to cut shoes for Sole Hope. We enjoyed lunch and then got to work.

Some people took additional jeans home to work on, so we do not have a final number, yet. We know we will need a minimum of \$1050 for the shoes cut thus far. I will update that number when we have completed the cutting.

Thank you for the donations you have contributed. We are excited by what we can do together.

In the service of our Lord,

Claire Flaherty

The next **Dine and Discuss** gathering will feature the following 4 stories with Christian themes: Come to Pastor and Karen’s house on **May 10 at 4pm** having read the stories. Come with an appetite for good food and good discussion.

1. The Scarlet Ibis, by James Hurst
2. The Gardener, by Rudyard Kipling
3. Master and Man, by Leo Tolstoy
4. Parker’s Back, by Flannery O’Connor. See the sign-up sheet for further descriptions and a handout. Contact Karen Colageo with questions.

ACTIVITIES



March 5th from 5:00 – 6:30pm

Ash Wednesday Soup Supper in the fellowship hall.

Come and enjoy a bowl of soup before going to the Ash Wednesday service.

April 13th Egg dyeing after church in the fellowship hall.

Bring your own eggs and join us as we dye eggs for Easter.

A light lunch will be provided.



April 20th Easter Breakfast from 8:00 – 9:30am

Join us as we enjoy a hot breakfast, rejoicing the Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus!

You are always welcome to join the **Quilt Group on the first Saturday of each month**. They meet at 9am and break around noontime.



Be looking in your bulletin each week for other Activity announcements such as the **Men's Bible breakfast which will be held at 9am on Saturday, March 15th this month.**

Have an idea for an activity?

Contact Debbie Holman with your idea. 603 – 440 – 9522

Outreach

Much Thanks to everyone who donated jeans and money to Soul Hope. And a special thanks to

Claire Flaherty for organizing and running this outreach.

Here at Immanuel, we have organizations we collect for all year.

These organizations include:

Families in Transition

Liberty House

Caregivers

Baskets for these organizations are in the hall between the sanctuary and the fellowship hall, with a list of what is needed by that organization.

Each of these organizations caters to different needs.

During the months of **March and April**, we will be concentrating on **Families in Transition**. Here is how you can help:

For the next two months, we will be **collecting Hygiene Items and Cleaning Products**.

These items include:

Soap	Toilet Paper
Shampoo and Conditioner	Diapers - all sizes
Deodorant	Cleaning Supplies
Toothpaste and Toothbrushes	Laundry Soap
Disposable Razors	Trash Bags
Shaving Cream	Disinfecting Wipes

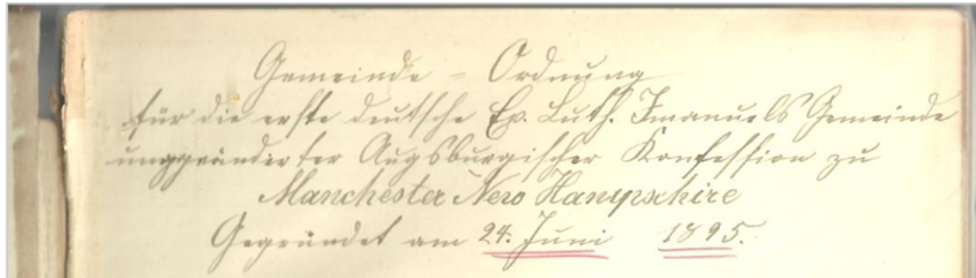
Thank you in advance for your help. The collection basket is near the coat rack in the narthex.

Immanuel's Heritage:

April 8, 2025 is the 100th Anniversary of Immanuel's English Name

Manchester is a city of immigrants who often chose foreign language names for churches. Immanuel was one of several German language churches, including Presbyterian, Catholic, and other denominations. The other Lutheran church in Manchester was Swedish.

“Der Deutsche Evangelisch Lutherischen Immanuels Gemeinde” – “the German Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel Congregation” — was founded on June 24, 1895. Immanuel was the first German language congregation for Lutherans in New Hampshire. Immanuel's German-speaking members primarily came from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, both recent immigrants and descendants of families who had settled in Manchester during the 1800s.



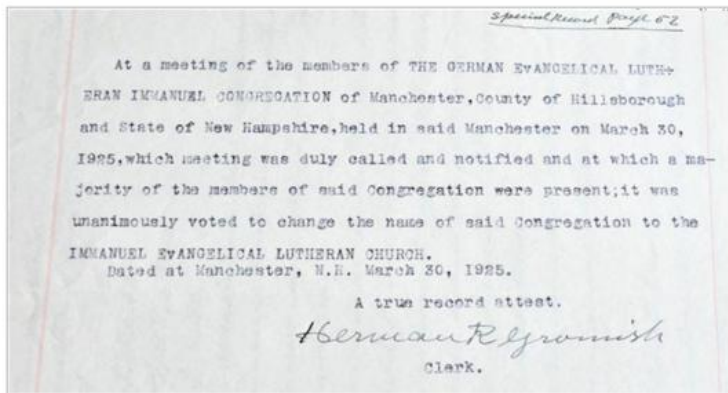
Selecting German as the church's primary language united this congregation. Bilingual ministers were hired from the graduates of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Concordia seminaries. German was used for the Sunday morning Divine Service, Sunday school, and congregational meetings. In order to establish the church with the synod, an organizational document was written in 1895 and a church constitution and bylaws followed in 1896, all written in German.

In contrast, there was also the matter of meeting the English requirements of the City of Manchester and the State of New Hampshire. In 1904 the congregation built its first house of worship on Conant Street, and on December 15, 1904 the congregation was legally incorporated with the State of New Hampshire as “The German Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel Congregation,” with the English translation of the German name of the church in the English incorporating document prepared by the State. This translation did not eliminate the German name.

Having a physical address was helpful for becoming known in the city. Manchester's directories and maps used a variety of English translations of foreign church names. Immanuel can be found as “German Lutheran Emanuel Church,” “German Evangelical Lutheran Emanuel Church,” “German Lutheran Church,” “Immanuel Lutheran Church,” “German Church—Conant-Green Sts.,” and “First German Church—Conant-Green Sts.,” confused with another denomination's First German Church also located on Conant Street but not at Green Street. Even today, some older local residents remember Immanuel as “the German church.”

The transition to English occurred slowly. During July 1895-October 1921, German was the exclusive language of worship. Then starting October 16, 1921, separate weekly German and English services were conducted. As long as needed, the annual budgets, bulletins, and newsletters were prepared in both languages. Church leaders shortened the name to fit advertising space, abbreviating or omitting both “German” and “Evangelical.”

After a unanimous vote, the congregation legally changed its name to the English “Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church.” This was certified under the laws of the State of New Hampshire on April 8, 1925. It is still our legal name, though we say “Immanuel Lutheran Church.”



The use of German continued, with each pastor shepherding the move toward more English as the congregation changed. On December 5, 1927, the first congregational meeting minutes were written in English. In 1932 a church committee translated the church’s constitution into English.

In January 1944, during World War II, the German-speaking members of the congregation requested that German be discontinued for regular church services. Since then English has been the primary language used at Immanuel.

-- submitted by Gail Cherochak, unofficial historian



March and April

Happy Birthday!

March

- 1 Kevin Stanton
- 1 Jaedon Stanton
- 2 Sebastian Heyman
- 3 Steve Holman
- 9 Cynthia Grenier
- 9 Bob Schmidt
- 15 Julie Meyer
- 22 Beth Freshour
- 23 Ed Flaherty

April

- 5 Jennifer Kazakis
- 7 Helgard Kirsch
- 12 John Klingler
- 18 Madison Blakeman
- 19 Linnea Holz
- 20 Debbie Holman
- 20 Verna Garvin
- 25 Tom Tighe
- 26 Julie Roderick

Wedding Anniversaries

March

none

April

- 6 Kevin and Renee Stanton
- 10 Michael and Kate Kosa
- 18 Heino and Hendrika Heyman

Baptismal Birthdays

March

- 4 Roseann Helwig
- 9 Claire Flaherty
- 29 Angela Klingler
- 30 Alan Neubert

April

- 3 Debbie Holman
- 24 John Klingler



Date	Ushers	Greeter	Lector	Communion Assistant	Acolyte	Altar Care
Sun 2-Mar	Clive Reide Jr. Donna Houle	Cynthia Grenier	Dan Muecke	Doug Gootee	Ava Stewart	Beth Rousselle Rosemarie Kehoe
Ash Wed Mar 5	TBD TBD	Beth Rousselle	Christine Tighe	Tom Tighe	Russell Bergquist	Dr. B. Rosemarie Kehoe
Sun 9-Mar	Howard Helwig Donna Houle	Claire Flaherty	Rita Hennessy	Tom Tighe	Russell Bergquist	Dr. B. Marina Kirsch
Wed Mar 12	Marina Kirsch TBD	Beth Rousselle	Marina Kirsch	TBD	Russell Bergquist	Dr. B. Marina Kirsch
16-Mar	Tom Tighe Kent Freshour	Beth Rousselle	Steve Holman	Dan Muecke	Russell Bergquist	Rita Hennessy Renee Stanton
Wed Mar 19	TBD TBD	Christine Tighe	Christine Tighe	Tom Tighe	Russell Bergquist	Dr. B TBA
23-Mar	John Coburn April Phelps	Cynthia Grenier	Angela Klingler	Kent Freshour	Russell Bergquist	Angela Klingler Jacine Robinson
Wed Mar 26	TBD TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	Russell Bergquist	Dr. B. TBA
30-Mar	TBD Dan Muecke	April Phelps	Claire Flaherty	Dan Blakeman	Ryden Meyer	
Wed Apr 2	TBD TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	Russell Bergquist	Dr. B. TBA
6-Apr	Kent Freshour Clive Reide Jr.	Tom Tighe	Ken Koehlert	Doug Gootee	Russell Bergquist	
Wed Apr 9	TBD TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	Russell Bergquist	Dr. B. TBA

Holy Week

Palm Sunday 13-Apr	Steve Holman Dan Muecke	Christine Tighe	Doug Gootee	Tom Tighe	Jaedon Stanton	
Maundy Thurs Apr 17	TBD TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	Russell D. Bergquist	Dr. B. TBA
Good Friday Apr 18	TBD TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	Russell D. Bergquist	Dr. B. TBA
Easter Sunday 20-Apr	Marina Kirsch Helgard Kirsch	Beth Rousselle	Josh Barry	Dan Muecke	Ava Stewart Ryden Meyer	
27-Apr	Tom Tighe Steve Holman	Clive Reide, Jr.	Christine Tighe	Kent Freshour	Ava Stewart Ryden Meyer	

God's Servants in March and April



Invitation to Divine Service at Immanuel

We celebrate a single Divine Service at 10am. We continue to offer audio recordings sent out by email after the service. If you'd like to be added to this list email secretary@immanuel-mnh.org

Sunday – Divine Service with Holy Communion preceded by Bible Study and Refreshments.

- 9:00 a.m. Bible Study Breakfast and Sunday School. Sunday School breaks for Summer on June 16 and resumes in September 8.
- 10:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

The area in the left rear of the sanctuary where the pews are marked with blue tape is reserved for people who are mindful of illness. If you sit in these pews, it is required that you wear a mask. All other areas of the church are mask optional.

The Divine Service is printed in the bulletin. Songs are sung from the hymnal.

Anyone new to Immanuel should read the Communion Statement:

We joyfully celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. We believe that we receive Christ's body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. As we receive this sacrament, we also give public confession to our unity in the Christian faith. We therefore invite all communicant members of any congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod to commune. Guests are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. As it was with the very first disciples of Jesus, our practice is to receive instruction in the Faith leading to Holy Communion. If you would like to join our instruction class, Pastor would love to instruct you.

Divine Service Recordings

Those who request it receive the weekly Sunday bulletin and announcements through e-mail to support their worship needs at home. Immanuel members may also participate in the service with the attached bulletin and MP3 audio file sent in an email to the entire congregation. Audio recordings of the sermons will continue to be posted on Immanuel's website. Pastor and our media team members attempt to post these recordings in a timely manner for your Sunday worship at home. We hope these recordings are a blessing to you.

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utheranManchester/](http://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranManchester/)

Pastor
Rev. Don Colageo

Minister of Music
Rev. Dr. William H. Bergquist

Administrative Assistant
Marcia Newell

Elders
Doug Gootee
Ray Brown
Tom Tighe
Edward Flaherty
Rev. Dan Muecke

Church Council
Congregational Chairman
Christopher Robinson

**Congregational
Vice Chairman**
Richard Malaby

Treasurer
John Klingler

Financial Secretary
Ken Koehlert

**Congregational Recording
Secretary**
Vacant

Board of Christian Education
Rev. Dr. Wm. Bergquist

Board of Activities
Debbie Holman

Board of Preschool
Bonnie Bell

Board of Property
Don Bell

Board of Evangelism
Vacant

Board of Stewardship
Vacant

