



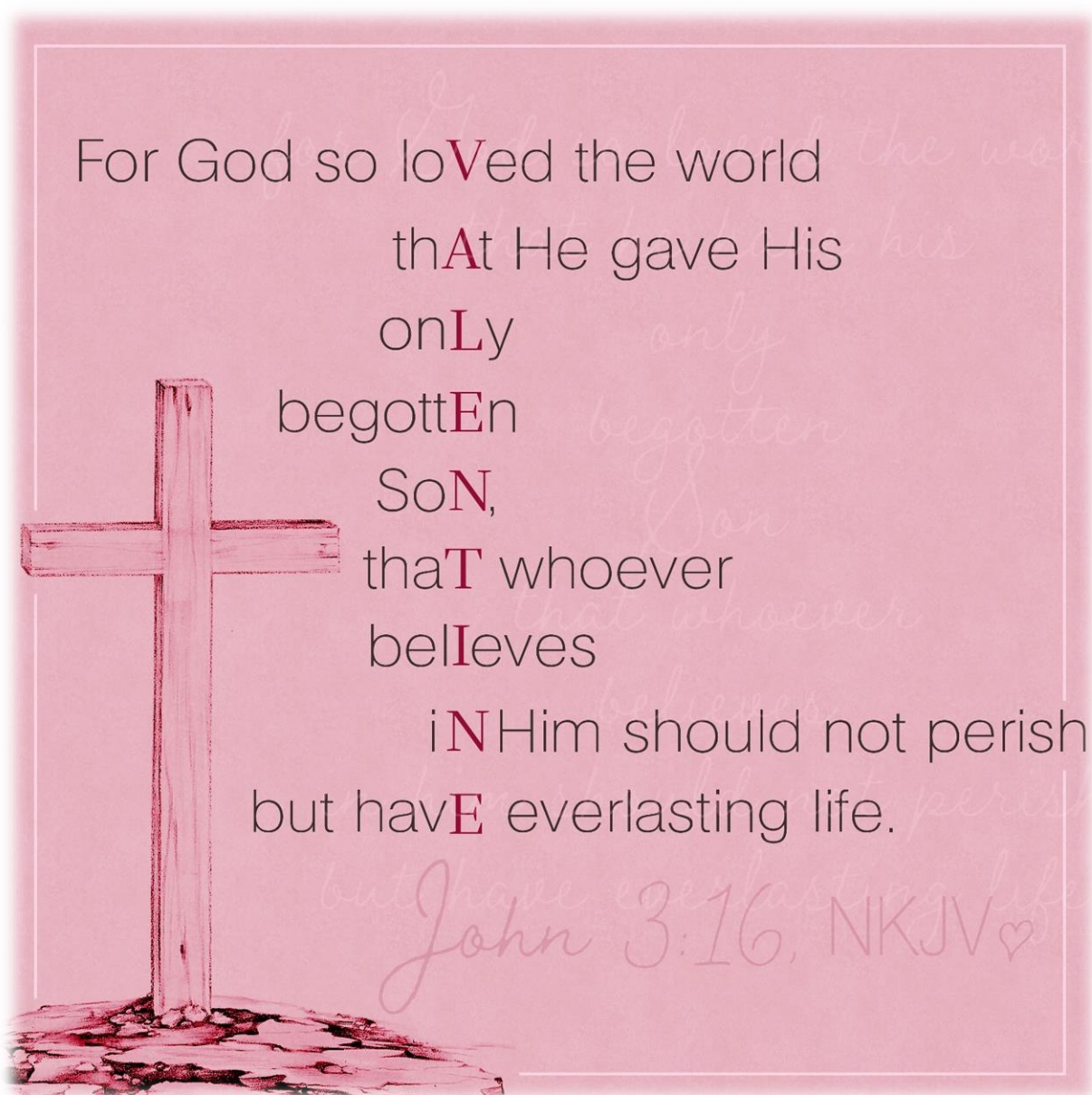
Immanuel's Story

February 2024

Gather & Grow & Go

Volume 39

Issue 2



For God so lo**V**ed the world

th**A**t He gave His

on**L**y

begott**E**n

So**N**,

tha**T** whoever

bel**I**eves

i**N** Him should not perish
but hav**E** everlasting life.

John 3:16, NKJV ♥

Pastor's Perspective

Well, it happened again this morning. I arrived at church and didn't have my church keys on my set of keys. So, back home I go to fetch them.

And then, on recent days, upon returning home, I did not have my house key on my key chain. So, I go to where we hide our extra key to let myself in.

So what gives? What is going on? Daughter Elizabeth, wife Jill, and I have been swapping vehicles for various reasons and therefore swapping sets of keys. And sometimes we end up with the wrong set of keys.

As you know, it's important to have the right key at the right time. And the same is true for our lives of faith. In this sense, the "key" to our faith is the cross.

We now will be entering the season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 14.

Lent is a season when we are "guided to the cross" which will be our theme for our Wednesday evening worship services. Throughout the 40 days of this special time of year, we are drawn to the cross to live in forgiveness, hope, love, peace, trust and perseverance. Each week, the services will reveal Jesus and his cross to give us solid examples for us in how to live our lives for and through our crucified Lord and Savior.

Themes include:

- Guided to the Cross to Forgiveness
- Guided to the Cross to Hope
- Guided to the Cross to Love
- Guided to the Cross to Peace
- Guided to the Cross to Trust
- Guided to the Cross to Perseverance



Please come each Wednesday evening for soup supper (except on Ash Wednesday) at 6pm, followed by Worship at 6:45pm and reflect upon the "keys" of our faith.

Blessings – Pastor Paul

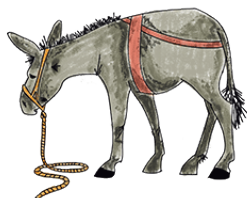
SCRIPTURE READINGS

February

February 4	Psalm 147:1-11; Mark 1:29-39
February 11	Psalm 50:1-6; Mark 9:2-9
February 18	Psalm 25:1-10; Mark 1:9-15
February 25	Psalm 22:23-31; Mark 8:31-38



Be the Donkey



Corrie ten Boom, a devout Christian who helped shelter hundreds of Jewish people from Nazis during World War II, was asked how she stayed humble despite her fame.

“When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments onto the road and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?” she replied. “If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in his glory, I give him all the praise and all the honor.”

Jesus told his followers they’d need to carry (or “take up”) their cross. But how well do you carry your Savior? How do you bring him into a world that desperately needs the good news of the gospel?



SPECIAL THANKS to Dee Dee Frahm!! We regret to inform you that Dee Dee has resigned as Bell Choir Director and we thank her for all of her dedicated work in that ministry.



- 2 David Merta, Carol Pundt
- 4 Kara Maucieri, Nick Perpich
- 5 Wyatt Holmes, Colten Perpich
- 6 Anabel Duerr, Casidy Duer
- 8 Carolyn Mogen
- 9 Marsha Larson
- 13 Rich Aulie, DeeDee Frahm, Tom Jann,
Karen Palmer
- 14 Josh Maucieri
- 16 Gayle Hanes, LaVonne Kompelien,
Pastor Paul
- 17 Bill Bongs, Kellen Klein, Helen Oman
- 18 Paula Kovatovich
- 19 Kasen Nixon
- 20 Beryl Foote, Brian Marquardt
- 21 Kim Marquardt
- 22 Chelsey Bonsante, Andrew Kayfes,
Rick Koop, Claudia Peterson
- 23 Terri Wisniak
- 24 Sylvia Graff, Darlene McNally,
John Rinde
- 25 Lynne Johnson
- 26 Merlin Beseman, Johnna Johnson,
Dale Klungness
- 27 Nancy Evans, Melva Panitzke
- 28 Ted Abear, Barb Hakes, Dennis
Henrichs, Katharine Kimball

Funerals

Janice Eileen Moritz
Beverly Ann Horner

- 14 Bill & Jody Bunio (1989)
- 17 Gary & Sandi Erickson (1974)
- 20 Merlin & Marion Beseman (1954)
- 21 Greg & Kay Jarvela (1969)

Baptisms

Sierra Marie Zugschwert
Hayden Edward Holmvig
George Wyatt Souhrada

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

December 31	9:00	102
January 7	9:00	108
	10:30	66
	Total	174
January 14	9:00	100
	10:30	20
	Total	120
January 21	9:00	88
	10:30	45
	Total	133
January 28	9:00	82
	10:30	57
	Total	139

Happy New Year 2024

For anyone who has not picked up their 2024 Offering Envelopes, they are now in their respective mailboxes. If you do not know your mailbox number there is a "Mailbox Listing" hanging up next to the mailboxes. You can also stop in the office Monday - Thursday and anyone of us will be more than happy to assist you.

All funds go into the General Account unless otherwise indicated - Milestone Ministry, Quilters, Youth, Sunday School, Major Capital (Building Fund), MWAM, Campership Funds, Malawi, and Good Sam, are just a few of the different funds you may choose to give to. Make sure you indicate this on your envelope and/or check.

Your Financial Treasurer, Deb Eatros

General Operating Budget Report

	<u>Dec-23</u>	<u>Dec-22</u>	<u>YTD 2023</u>	<u>YTD 2022</u>
Budget	38,309	35,077	459,712	420,891
General Fund Giving	47,048	39,042	409,215	415,914
General Fund Expense	36,187	35,843	426,833	378,135
Net Income	10,861	3,199	-17,618	37,779

Major Capital Improvement Fund

12/31/2023

December 1, 2023	Balance:		\$50,405.22
	Deposits:	\$2,773.94	
	Reserve:	\$250.00	\$3,023.94
	Withdrawals:		
December 31, 2023	Ending Balance:		\$53,429.16

From Family Ministry Coordinator, Jill DeCent

I always find myself in such a “Fog” after December. All the planning and anticipation, along with all the joyful and exciting events happening come to a screeching halt-it’s done and over with for another year. This is the season I find myself always searching for Jesus the most, and leaning into his goodness and joy, to avoid seasonal sadness. I believe we all experience a bit of season sadness around this time of the year, so it truly is a great opportunity to re-connect with God both personally, and as a family.

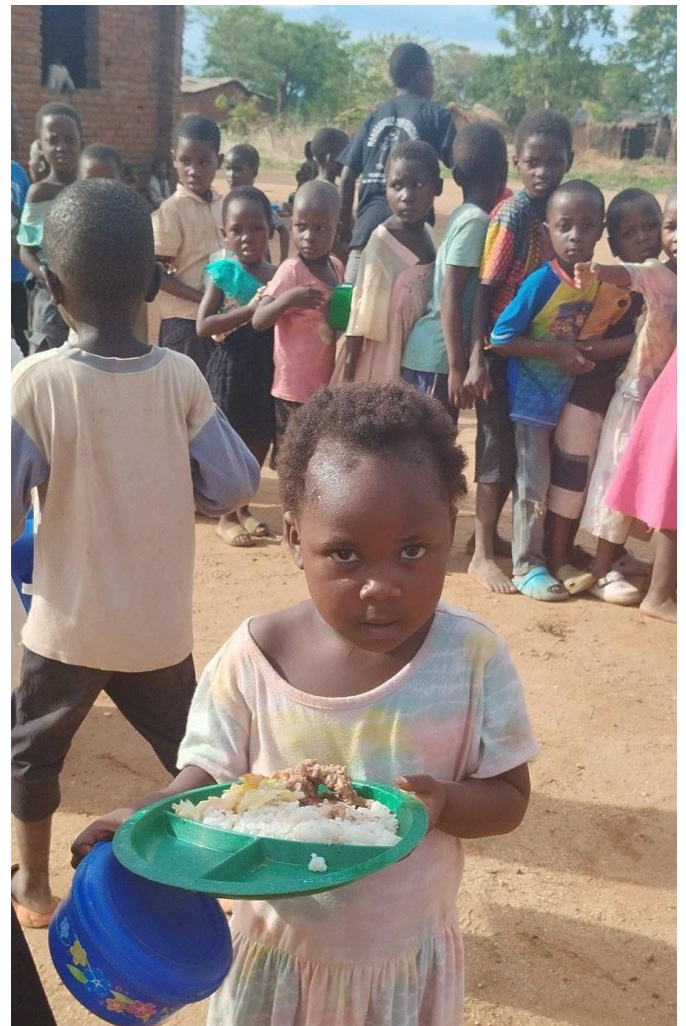
In much prayer and guided thought, it was decided to transition the Nursery to the new Sunday School room space, and the Sunday School room space to the new Nursery. The best and optimal space we have for children should be used most by children, which guided the switch. Currently, our church Nursery attendance is low, although it is staffed each Sunday. Our nursery staff are a wonderful group of young ladies, eager to provide care for our youngest children of Immanuel, so feel free to connect and utilize this wonderful service! Mom and/or Dad can enjoy the church service, while their little’s have a blast playing and learning in the nursery-what’s not to love? Our Sunday School children were welcomed back on Sunday, January 7th, with some exciting new curriculum, that will allow them to learn through the same bible scriptures/stories that the whole congregation is learning.

Our ILC Youth were welcomed back for regular programming on January 3rd, with Confirmation. Lent season will be here before we know it, and with that, our Confirmation students will be seeking Faith Mentors. Would you be interested in mentoring a youth on Wednesdays during Lent? A list is being compiled, so any youth who need a faith mentor can be paired with someone on the list. Please complete the connection card with interest or contact Jill DeCent to be placed on the list.

We’re excited to send a group of 15 students to Camp Shamineau, located in Motley, MN. Students will spend the weekend of January 12th at Camp, engaging in activities and plenty of Chapel time. This is such a special opportunity for adults and youth to connect on a deeper lever, as well as youth connecting with God on a deeper level. Did I mention the food at camp is excellent?! This trip is fully funded by both the generous giving of member of the congregation, as well as fundraising done by the youth-praise be to God!

Watch for details on our upcoming Family Night, on Wednesday, January 31st.

Manna for Malawi



The Christmas meal served more than any other year. Some brought dishes for leftovers to bring home. Thank you to all that donated toward this special meal that was close to Susan Bushard's heart. There are more pictures and videos on the Malawi Orphan Care Project Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/malawiorphans>.

Please take a minute next time you're in church to see the new digital frame that Marian Segersten has on the Malawi bookshelf. She has loaded many pictures already. If you have pictures related to the Malawi Project, email them to msegersten.939@photoshareframe.com.

We are so excited that the Chikoti family will be visiting during our event this year. Our event is scheduled for August 18, 2024 at the Bridge Tavern from 2 to 6pm. The band will be Rumble Seat, a John Mellencamp tribute band. We will be meeting on February 11th at the Bridge Tavern after the Annual Meeting. Join us if you would like to help plan this year's event.

February 18th is our MWAM to raise funds for the Chikoti's travel. Hope to see you there.

Please consider a donation to the Silent Auction that is held at the event each year. If you do a craft during these long winter months or have a new item you could donate, it will be appreciated.

February 2024

Worship Service Schedule

Altar Guild for February: Deb Eatros & Barb Moe	
Churchyard Worship Scripture: Psalm 147:1-11 / Mark 1:29-39	
Sunday, February 4th - 9:00am	Sunday, February 4th - 10:30am
Greeters: Marian Segersten Ushers: Jim & Ardelle Patrick Lector: Jack Schubert Communion Servers: Nancy Evans Offering Counters: Jody Bunio & Paula Traylor Tech : Tim Bongs	Greeters: TBD Ushers: TBD Lector: Becky Pakarinen Communion Servers: Deb Koop Nursery: Korinna Nixon
Traditional Worship Scripture: Psalm 50:1-6 / Mark 9:2-9	
ONE SERVICE ONLY Sunday, February 11th - 10:00am ANNUAL MEETING	
Greeters: David & Carol Pundt Ushers: Joe & Darlene McNally Lector: Jeanne Kurtz Communion Servers: Peter Nordell Offering Counters: Pam Ballard & Marian Freese Tech: Jack Schubert & Terri Wisniak Nursery: Hannah Pakarinen	
	
February 14th, Ash Wednesday Worship - 6:45pm	
Greeters: YOUTH Ushers: YOUTH Lector: YOUTH Communion Servers: Deb Koop Offering Counters: Erinn Hoyt & Darlene McNally Tech: Tim Bongs	
	
Contemporary Worship with Wing and a Prayer Scripture: Psalm 25:1-10 / Mark 1:9-15	
Sunday, February 18th - 9:00am	Sunday, February 18th - 10:30am
Greeters: Ron & Carolyn Mogen Ushers: Marian Freese Lector: Nancy Evans Communion Servers: Kevin Martini Offering Counters: Erinn Hoyt & Darlene McNally Tech: Tim Bongs & David Pundt	Greeters: Bob & Pat Neros Ushers: Deb Eatros & Sally Oren Lector: John Klopffleisch Communion Servers: Bonnie LaPierre Nursery: Kirsten Nixon

Ushers and Greeters: Please arrive 30 minutes before the worship service.

Nursery Volunteers: Please arrive at 10:15am on Sundays.

Communion Servers: Please see Pastor Paul 10 minutes prior to worship service if you have questions.

~ Please note ~

If you cannot serve on the date you are scheduled, be sure to find a replacement for yourself and let your Captain know of your replacement. Thank You!

February 21st, Wednesday Lenten Worship - 6:45pm

Greeters: YOUTH
Ushers: YOUTH
Lector: YOUTH
Communion Servers: Kevin Martini
Offering Counters: Deb Koop & Sue Schubert
Tech: Tim Bongs



Blended Worship
Scripture: Psalm 22:23-31 / Mark 8:31-38

Sunday, February 25th - 9:00am

Greeters: Joe & Lori Ostrowski
Ushers: Denny & LuAnn Henrichs
Lector: Glenda Langton
Communion Servers: Bonnie Goshey
Offering Counters: Deb Koop & Sue Schubert
Tech: Dave Peterson & Jack Schubert

Sunday, February 25th - 10:30am

Greeters: YOUTH
Ushers: YOUTH
Lector: Pam Klopfleisch
Communion Servers: Jerry DeCent
Nursery: Kallie Nixon

February 28th, Wednesday Lenten Worship - 6:45pm

Greeters: YOUTH
Ushers: YOUTH
Lector: YOUTH
Communion Servers: Peter Nordell
Offering Counters: Deb Eatros & Sally Oren
Tech:



Meal with a Mission



To Benefit: Mission 4 Malawi

Hosted by: Terrie Wisniak



Sunday, February 18th, 10:00am to 12:00pm



Have A Blessed Day!
Sally Oren
Members Ministry
Coordinator

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

6:30 p.m.

Attendees:

() Jerry Decent, Box 50	(x) Kevin Martini, Box 213
(x) Nancy Evans, Box 61	(x) Pastor Paul Mattson
(x) Bonnie Goshey, Box 36	(x) Tom Nixon, Box 07
() Deb Koop, Box 114	(x) Peter Nordell, Box 222
(x) Bonnie LaPierre, Box 119	(x) David Pundt, Box 295

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA - motion by Peter, second by Nancy to approve the agenda. All members voting aye.

READING OF THE VISION STATEMENT & MISSION STATEMENT

A vibrant, diverse, and healthy community of faith where lives are changed by God's love, given in Jesus Christ; Where people of all ages are invited and challenged to become followers of Jesus Christ in their daily lives; Where real people experience healing, help, hope and harmony.

Immanuel Lutheran Church is a community of Christians who welcome all people to GATHER in worship, to GROW in God's Word and grace, and to GO forward in faith to serve others in Jesus' name. We gather in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

CELEBRATING THE JOYS OF IMMANUEL - the youth camp retreat was a success. Christmas service had good attendance and the candles were powerful. Positive comments were received regarding Immanuel's hospitality during funeral services. The children's ministry space issues have been addressed for now. Great gathering at the parsonage for staff and council.

DEVOTIONS: skipped this month will resume next month (chapter 7): Deb Koop next month: Bonnie LaPierre the following month

PRAYERS

Gracious God, open our eyes to see the things that you are already doing in our midst. Surround us with your living presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit and help us to bless those things that you are doing among us in Jesus' name. Tonight, we pray for.... We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS ON THE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 2023

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND DISCUSSION motion by Nancy, second by Kevin to approve the financial statement, all members voting aye. Council requests confirmation of past action regarding the usage of ERC funds to be discussed at a future meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel committee reports they need to post for a cleaning position.

Malawi committee will meet next month

2. BUDGET COMMITTEE - Nancy presented the proposed 2024 budget. Motion by Kevin, second by David to forward the proposed budget to be presented at the annual financial meeting February 4th, all members voting aye.

3. COLUMBARIUM -nothing to report this month

4. WAGES - at the special council meeting on Tuesday, January 9, the council approved the ILC staff wages for 2024 as recommended by the personnel and finance committees.

NEW BUSINESS....

1. EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK -please read through for discussion next month

2. ANNUAL MEETING - Motion by Peter, second by David to set the annual meeting date for February 11th with coffee at 9:30, one church service at 10:00 followed by the meeting at 11:00

3. COMPUTERS FOR DEBBIE AND DEB - the council authorized them to proceed with getting quotes

4. PASTOR PURSUIT NEXT STEPS - the council asked David to work with the committee to present the next steps and call for volunteers at the annual meeting.

5. INTERNAL AUDIT - Bonnie L will communicate with John Klopfeisch to conduct the internal audit.

6. ELECTION of OFFICERS - Motion by Nancy, second by David to have Tom as president, Kevin as vice president and Deb as secretary, all members voting aye.

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS FOR MARCH

Copy assignments and place in the Ministry Coordinator office mailbox.

2024.	9am.	10:30am
March 3	Kevin.	Jerry
March 6	Kevin	
March 10	Peter	David
March 13	Kevin	
March 17	New	Bonnie L
March 20	Kevin	
March 24	New	Deb Koop
March 28	Peter	
March 31	Vacant	Tom

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting is set for February 20, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bonnie Goshey

Spirit of Christmas Bazaar

We are already in the planning stages for this year's Bazaar after a very successful November 2023 Bazaar. We cleared \$11,431 after all expenses were subtracted and \$11,400 was distributed among groups and organizations. That distribution was a blessing and gave us thankfulness for what we had accomplished. These included 5 areas within Immanuel and 11 areas for community needs.

The Tri-Chairs, or sometimes known as the Bizarre Babes, will again chair the 2024 Bazaar. We are looking for an individual who is enthusiastic about the Bazaar and would love to join us as this will be our last year to chair. We will be training you as we work together. This individual will recruit one or two other people to share in that responsibility for the following year. We have found that having three chair people has lessened the work load especially if someone is unavailable.

We have absolutely wonderful subcommittee chairs who have taken charge of their specialized area, and this has made our Bazaar one of the best in the area. We thank all of you for your dedication and commitment to those areas. We pray that there is someone who answers that "tap on the shoulder" to make this commitment to chair along with us.

Looking ahead, we have a Meal With a Mission scheduled for April 14. Proceeds from this meal will pay for advertising and other expenses. Some individuals are needed to organize and plan this meal. Please contact anyone of the Tri-Chairs to let us know that You are that person. A Thrivent member of Immanuel will register for a \$250 debit card to help with the meal expenses.

The Bazaar has been a wonderful mission program for many years and has been successful in gifting many organizations that have been in a financial need. Please prayerfully consider filling one of the above mentioned areas so that Immanuel's Bazaar can continue to be a success in our service and endeavors to helping others in need.

Nancy Nyvold 612-804-4917
Karen DeBoer 763-442-0755
Judy Kirchoff 218-820-2802



PHOTOS
Compliments of Marian Segersten



Winter Wipeout at Camp Shamineau

