

# IMMANUEL ECHO

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

  
**IMMANUEL BAPTIST**  
"GOD WITH US" CHURCH

## AT A GLANCE

### THOUGHTS & MORE

Have you ever heard something – and instantly been convicted by the Holy Spirit? Happened to me this morning on the way to work, the DJ was asking, “Do you go home at the end of the day and feel like ‘What did I accomplish today?’ Maybe feeling unfulfilled, thinking, ‘am I doing life right?’” She came across these verses:

**(Galatians 5:22-23)**

**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.**

She went on to ask, “Are we even considering this as we go about our day? Are we eating these fruits? Sharing them? Planting them?”

I have a sign in my office that says, “Throw kindness around like confetti!”

What would our hours, days, years, or lives look like if we intentionally threw around the Fruit of the Spirit to make everyone’s day better?

Against such there is no law means that the Fruit of the Spirit corresponds perfectly with God’s law. The law was meant to limit, restrain, deter, or prohibit certain behaviors and wrongheadedness; however, no prohibition is needed against these virtues.

There is no law against loving others or experiencing and spreading joy. God wants us to cultivate and to grow strong in sharing this Spirit-produced fruit.

– Lori

## HELPFUL INFO

**ibcminot.org**  
1615 2nd St SE  
Minot, ND 58701  
701-839-3694



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SCAN ME

### Sunday

9 am - Fellowship  
9:15 am - Sun. School  
10:30 am - Worship

### Wednesday

11:30 am - Soup Kitchen  
5:45 pm - Wed. Meal  
6:15 pm - K-5 & Middle School Start  
6:30 pm - HS & Adult Start

## February Highlights

- 2/8 Super BOWL Party 5 p.m. to End of Game
- 2/12 Giving Hearts Day (due to church 12 p.m.)
- 2/18 Ash Wednesday Service - 6:30 p.m.
- 2/22 Chili/Soup Cook Off



## MINISTRY TEAM

### Pastor

Brian Keithline

### Pianist

Dawn Bergeron

### Youth Director

Brittany Lohan

### Office Manager

Lori Stauffer

### Visitation Minister

Karen Anderson

### Nursery

Emily Stauffer/Alice Galeas

### Technology

Position Open



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## Karen's Corner

**Wow!** I cannot believe January is over, and it didn't seem like it was over 3 months long! Yay!!

Looking forward to February, we will begin the month with **Craft Day on Saturday, February 7**. We start the day at **10 a.m.** Then we enjoy a potluck lunch at noon and probably snacks during the day. We usually finish up around 2 p.m. but sometimes we do go a bit longer. Come join us! You can bring your own craft or project to work on or come for just the lunch, snacks, and fellowship. I know there will be some "gamers" ready for a little friendly competition with a board game, dominoes, or a deck of cards. We'd love to have you join us!

On **Sunday, February 15**, the Minot Brass Band is holding a concert at the Ann Nicole Hall on the MSU campus. I'm not sure of the time yet, but I will keep you posted on that. This is a free concert and it's always such a delight!

On **Friday, February 27**, I will be hosting **lunch and Fun Day at 12:30 p.m.** at the church. Please join us for a delicious homemade lunch and some fun and fellowship after that. It's a great way to spend a winter afternoon!

If you'd ever like to meet or get together for coffee (Diet Coke) and a visit, please give me a call and we'll set something up!

Please take care especially during these colder winter days!

Blessings to you!  
– **Karen**

*"Yes, my soul, finds rest in God; my hope comes from Him." Ps 62:5*





### Evening Women Fellowship

We will not be meeting again until possibly March. We pray that 2026 will be filled with joy & happiness! Stay safe & warm. – Thanks, **Wanda**

### Upcoming Meetings

**CE Meeting - February 1<sup>st</sup>** Following Worship  
**Trustee Board - Tue., February 10<sup>th</sup>** @ 5:30 pm  
**Diaconate Board - Tue., February 10<sup>th</sup>** 7 pm  
**Youth Director Search Committee - TBA**

### STEWARDSHIP

As shared at our Annual Business Meeting on Jan. 25, the Board of Trustees, along with the Pastor and Treasurer, are working to review and to improve our bookkeeping processes and are seeking the help of a CPA to be the best stewards of our resources going forward to accomplish all of our ministry and missional goals.

If you did not get an e-mailed Pastoral Letter about this process, please contact Pastor Brian. Thank you.

### UPDATES

#### Church of Hope Quilt Raffle

The results from the drawings were:

- Large Star Quilt: won by Cinda Pitluck of Pierre, SD
- Smaller Quilt: won by Deloris Williams of Huron, SD

Thank you to all who purchased tickets. A total of \$3,415 was raised to help with this women's prison ministry. – Beryl

#### Craft Day Addition!

A mending station will be added to  
**Craft Day on both February 7 & March 7**  
 I will sew on buttons, sew up seams, repair rips,  
 and other simple mending.  
 Please no Zipper replacement. — Beryl

*Bring your favorite soup or chili*



**Chili & Soup**  
**COOK OFF**

Let's beat the winter chill together!

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22**  
 IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE

### Chili & Soup Cookoff - Feb. 22

**Let's spice up this month** – or at least **warm up from the winter chill** – with some delicious chili and soup in our annual cook off.

Chefs, prepare your tastiest pot of chili or soup. And for the rest of us ... ready those spoons. The Cook Off will be here before you know it!

Join us on Sunday, Feb. 22 after the worship service.



IMMANUEL MISSIONS  
Local & global work

# & IBC YOUTH UPDATE

## IBC Youth

Hello! **Happy February.** This month, our youth will continue to learn about the negative habits and harmful things that try to tug us away from our faith – and about how Jesus helps us to follow his teachings. We will finish watching *Jesus Revolution* as part of this study and then examine some personal testimonies from people who strayed away from their faith in God, but ultimately came back to find Him. Think back to how God has guided you throughout your own life – that in itself is the power of testimony!

We all know that life is “a learning experience,” but we have to teach our youth (and children) that sometimes, life circumstances might try to pull you in the wrong direction. Thankfully, Jesus’ love and power is so much stronger!

**A HUGE thank you** goes out to everyone who helped with – and stayed for – the Annual Business Meeting Youth Luncheon. I hope that all of you enjoyed the pulled pork, homemade potatoes, and special treats. We served 57 plates.

**Super Bowl Sunday (Feb. 8)** is right around the corner. The church will be hosting a Super **Bowl** Party. We’ll watch the game, of course, and have finger foods and other card/board/trivia games available. **You DO NOT have to be a football fan to attend.** A card table will be set up in the back and a movie will be playing in the youth room. Everyone is invited for this casual, fun time to hang out together. Plus, you are welcome to bring your favorite treat in a “**bowl**” to share – if you wish, it’s not mandatory. We want to have a variety of football snacks!

Many of you have seen the **Fill My Church** poster hanging in the church. Our goal is to complete the poster with your help – and *more details will be coming.*

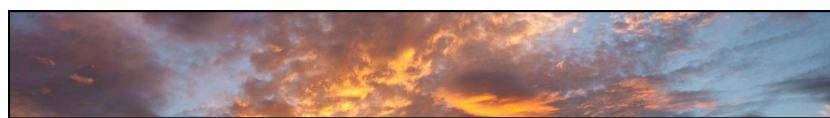
**February 14** the church will hold a “**Date Day**” fundraiser. We have half-day or full day slots. If interested in helping or in signing up a child(ren), please reach out to me, Brittany Lohan at 803-305-9851.

Be on the lookout later for some custom church magnets to share IBC’s love in a visual way. They are being created by a local Veteran here in Minot as a fundraiser for IBC Youth.

Thank you (ahead of time) for supporting the events and fundraisers we have coming up this year. – **Brittany**







## THE BOILER ROOM OF THE CHURCH

*The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective” (James 5:16).*

The name might not sound familiar, but his bearded profile remains — to this day — highly identifiable. That’s right, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, considered the “Prince of Preachers,” also sported one of the most distinguished “Baptist beards” in history.

Facial features aside, it was his preaching that drew massive and diverse crowds in 19th-century London. Spurgeon wasn’t just a powerful voice in the pulpit — he was a prolific author, a faithful pastor, and a man deeply shaped by prayer. I’ve never studied much of his life in depth, but there’s one story about him that has always stayed with me.

One day, while showing visiting pastors around his church, Spurgeon surprised them by leading them away from the sanctuary — and down into the basement. As they headed downstairs, he dropped a clue as to their destination — he wanted to show them his “boiler room.” (After living in North Dakota for three years, I can appreciate the importance of a boiler room — although it’s not the first place you show visitors — unless they’re freezing!)

Spurgeon led them to a room filled with people praying and as he opened the door, he simply said: “Gentlemen, this is the boiler room of the church.” In other words, this is where the real power comes from — not the stage, not the sermons, not the crowd, but THROUGH prayer. That image is as convicting as it is clarifying.

In Spurgeon’s time, steam power was the energy behind everything — and this prayer-filled room was the real “powerhouse” or “boiler room” of the church. Spurgeon said with a smile to his guests, “This is our boiler room. And the secret to our success as a church is ... my people pray for me.” Yes, even pastors need someone to pray for them as they devote their lives to helping others.



“If a church is to be what it ought to be for the purposes of God, we must train it in the holy art of prayer.”

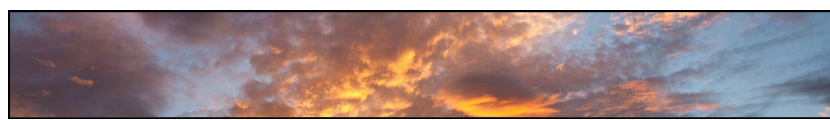
— C.H. Spurgeon

And prayer is the powerhouse that helps all of us! The true strength of the church has never been its programs, its personalities, or its platforms — it has always been its prayer and its unity. When the church is united in prayer, God moves throughout the church and its community. When unity breaks down, the power wanes and fades.

And yet, how easily we lose sight of that.

We can become divided over the smallest things — watery Country Time lemonade, weak coffee, the temperature in the room, the music volume, a seat that feels “claimed,” or a comment that felt overlooked. Small irritations can even become big offenses, and before we know it, we’re more passionate about preferences than prayer, more focused on comfort than Christ, and more concerned with our experience than our mission. The enemy doesn’t need to destroy the church if he can distract it.

Continued ...



## THE BOILER ROOM OF THE CHURCH



He just needs to keep us offended, divided, and focused on things that don't matter eternally.

Spurgeon's boiler room reminds us what the church is supposed to be built on: not complaints, but intercession; not division, but unity; not preferences, but prayer. Because spiritual power flows where hearts are united and where knees are bent.

May we be a church that knows where its power truly comes from — not the pulpit, not the programs, not the polished areas — but instead, in the prayer room (the “boiler room”). And may we protect unity as fiercely as we pursue prayer, remembering that what truly sustains the church isn't what happens in the sanctuary, but it's what happens in the boiler room.

And maybe it's time for me to grow a full beard. It seems to work for hockey — sometimes.

Blessings,

*Pastor Brian*

## Prayer Journal Card

Use this sample prayer card to help organize your thoughts and prayers as we go throughout this month.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Prayer Request:

God, I'm thankful for:

2026



# February

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> 9:00 am Coffee 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship <b>CE Meeting</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 11:30 SK 5:45 Family Supper 6:15 K-5 <sup>th</sup> & Middle School Start 6:30 HS & Adult Start	<b>5</b> 9am Brunch Bunch Parker	<b>6</b> <b>10:00 BS</b>	<b>7</b> 10-2 pm Craft/Quilt/ Potluck
<b>8</b> 9:00 am Coffee 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 5pm Super Bowl Party!	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 5:30 pm Trustees Meeting 7pm Diaconate Meeting	<b>11</b> 11:30 SK 5:45 Family Supper 6:15 K-5 <sup>th</sup> & Middle School Start 6:30 HS & Adult Start	<b>12</b> Giving Hearts Day 9am Brunch Bunch Homesteaders	<b>13</b> <b>10:00 BS</b>	<b>14</b> Happy Valentine's Day IBCY Parent's Day 11am - out Childcare Fundraiser 10pm
<b>15</b> 9:00 am Coffee 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 4 pm Senior Sts. Brass Band	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 11:30 SK 6:30 Ash Wednesday Service	<b>19</b> 9am Brunch Bunch Parker	<b>20</b> <b>10:00 BS</b> Newsletter Deadline	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00 am Coffee 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Chili/Soup Cook off! following Worship!	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 11:30 SK 5:45 Family Supper 6:15 K-5 <sup>th</sup> & Middle School Start 6:30 HS & Adult Start	<b>26</b> 9am Brunch Bunch Homesteaders Fellowship Hall Reserved for Sheila Loween Rakness Celebration of Life	<b>27</b> <b>10:00 BS</b> 12:30 Senior Saints Lunch & Games	<b>28</b>

1 John 4:16

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.



**IMMANUEL CELEBRATES**  
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## February Birthday's

*Happy Birthday*

**3<sup>rd</sup>** Ron Hornberger  
**6<sup>th</sup>** Phyllis Harmon  
**12<sup>th</sup>** Ardis Loock  
**18<sup>th</sup>** Steve Bovee  
**21<sup>st</sup>** Lindsey Anderson  
**23<sup>rd</sup>** Gabe Hegstad



**25<sup>th</sup>** Diana Schwaiger  
**27<sup>th</sup>** Jean Eaton  
Nancy Fry  
**28<sup>th</sup>** Brad Schimke  
**29<sup>th</sup>** Elmo Carlson

*Happy Anniversary*

**February 6<sup>th</sup>**

Ron & Beryl Hornberger

**February 14<sup>th</sup>**

Jerry & Laurel Schlag

*next month*

- **America for Christ Offering**
- **3/11 Spring Break - No Wed. Nite**
- **Camp Bentley Sunday**
- **3/29 - Palm Sunday**

### January Serving Committee

Monica Loween, Tania Novak,  
Diana Schwaiger, Deb Sisco

## *The Immanuel Echo*

Immanuel Baptist Church  
1615 2nd St. SE  
Minot, ND 58701-6314



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