

Immanuel Lutheran News

Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA ~ 403 2nd St SE - PO Box 69 ~ Wadena, Minnesota 56482

Called and united through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, our mission is to proclaim and respond to God's presence among us.

August 2026

From the Desk of Pastor Nate ...

Late-summer greetings to you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Thank you, dear friends, for your words of comfort and for your prayers for me and my family during my father's illness and death. Our hearts are full of grief as we ponder all that we've lost in my dad's earthly death. But those same hearts are full of joy when we feel the mutual consolation of you and so many others. And as we consider the gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus.

This Jesus is made known in his Word. And we continue to encounter this Word and this Christ in the gospel of John this month. In August, we explore John 16:4b-17:26. These are the final verses of the so-called "Farewell Discourses" in John's gospel, the final words that Jesus will speak to his disciples before his arrest and crucifixion.

In John 16:4b-33, Jesus shares this teaching with his first disciples and also to the early church reading these words that his departure from them (i.e., his death and resurrection) are a purposeful act to make way for the "Advocate" to come among them. This Holy Spirit will strengthen his followers to bear the presence of Christ and share his love and his teachings with the world. As the early church (and us!) reads these words, these promises have already begun to come true. The Holy Spirit has come. We do speak on behalf of Jesus and share his love with the world. We are not overcome by sorrow and struggle, but persevere. All of this is made possible by Jesus' death and departure.

In John 17:1-26, the final words we hear from Jesus in this context are an incredibly long prayer between Jesus and the Father. And we get to "listen in."

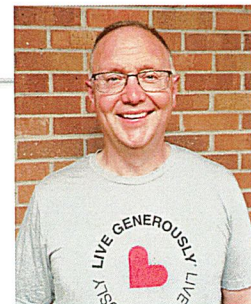
As you experience this prayer, notice these themes. Notice the relationship between Jesus and Father. Notice how Jesus prays that we could carry on his work. Notice the themes of the hatred the world will feel toward us as followers. Notice as well that despite this Jesus doesn't pray that his followers would be spared this hatred. Instead, he prays that we would remain united with each other and with Jesus. This prayer is so rich with powerful imagery. It looks powerfully to the future for those who will share Jesus' love. And to those who will come to believe because of that fearless, persistent witness.

Next month, the scene in John's gospel will shift to Jesus' arrest and crucifixion. For now, savor the way Jesus prays for you and your fellow believers. Life is not easy. Being a follower of Christ isn't easy. It requires humility, patience, strength, and perseverance. May you be blessed with such gifts that Christ's love would flow through you to your neighbors near and far.

Humbly in Christ,

Pastor Nate

Pastor Nate



Good things ahead....

August 2

Sunday Worship (*See Schedule Below*)

August 3

9 am - ICW Block Cutting

August 4

August 5

9 am - Staff Meeting

12 pm - Rotary (*Catered*)

August 6

1 pm - MAC/NAPS

August 9

Sunday Worship (*See Schedule Below*)

10:45 am - ILC Council Meeting

August 12

9 am - Staff Meeting

August 13

11-7pm Rotary Corn & Chicken Feed &
Immanuel Youth Pie & Ice Cream Social

6 pm - Northstar Round Table Meeting

August 16

Sunday Worship (*See Schedule Below*)

August 17

9 am - ICW Quilting

August 18

9 am - ICW Quilting

5:30 pm - Dinner Club @ Wet Woody's

August 19

9 am - Staff Meeting

12 pm - Rotary (#3 N.Overland)

5 pm "Welcome Back" Picnic @ Tapley

August 20

10:30 am - Catholic Charities Frozen
Meals Distribution

August 23

Sunday Worship (*See Schedule Below*)

Linger Longer - following worship

August 25

11 am - Dementia Caregiver Support
Group (*Friendship Room*)

9 am - Staff Meeting

August 26

12 pm - Rotary (*Catered*)

August 30

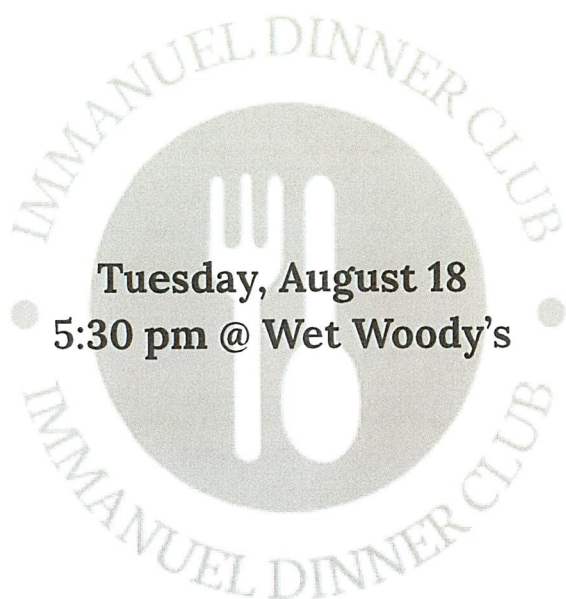
Sunday Worship (*See Schedule Below*)

Sunday Worship Schedule

- 8:30 am - Coffee & Conversation
- 9:30 am - Worship (YouTube LIVE)
- 9:30 am - Radio Broadcast
KWAD 920 AM or 101.7 FM



Worship Wednesday schedule to begin
September 16th! Watch for details in the
Sunday bulletin and September newsletter.



**Tuesday, August 18
5:30 pm @ Wet Woody's**



**ILC Youth
Pie & Ice Cream Social**

**Thursday, August 13
Shifts from 10am - 8pm**

**Youth & Adult help needed!
Sign up today!**



Dear Immanuel Family,

My thanks to Pastor Nate and to all of you for your prayers and support during my recent cancer concerns.

Thankfully, my surgery was very successful, and I required no chemo or radiation. The only follow-up is to be on task with my medical care and to take one tiny yellow pill every day for five years!

Thanks be to God! ~ Donna Grendahl

So many things to look forward to starting again in September!!

Youth Council - Sept. 2

Youth Parent Meeting - Sept 9

Sanctuary Choir

Women's Bible Study

WDC Food Pack

Worship Wednesdays - Sept 16

Book Club

Look for more specific dates in upcoming bulletins and the September newsletter.



Women's August Ministry

Blockcutting ~ Monday, August 3 @ 9 am

Quilting ~ August 17 & 18 @ 9am-2pm



"Welcome Back" Picnic

Congregational Life is planning a

"Welcome Back" picnic at Tapley

Park on Wednesday, August 19th @

5 pm. Please join us for food and

fellowship as we celebrate the

start of Worship Wednesdays this fall!!



A Special Thank You

"Thanks to everyone for stopping over, sending cards, phone calls, and gifts during my cancer treatments. Special thank you to Pastor Nate for visiting me in the hospital. Thank you to everyone for taking care of Keith at church. I should be back to church soon!" Sincerely, Iona Wood

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – June 14, 2026

Call To Order and Welcome: Matthew Greenwaldt Meetings Devotion given by: Cindy Becker via Pastor Nate.

Council will meet next on August 9th, 2026 @ 10:45am

A motion was made by Dean and seconded by Margie to accept the meeting minutes of May 2026, motion carried.

Committee Reports

Endowment Committee: Cindy Becker

Congregational Life: Diane Breitling - Did not meet.

Outreach: Rick Johnson - Ten people attended the outreach meeting on May 17th, it turned out very well.

Youth and Education: Meagan Ferris · Throughout the summer, we will be launching a weekly online engagement post each Wednesday to help keep congregation members connected and engaged. · We will also begin Ministry in Motion Mondays, highlighting how our youth and families are living out God's work through service, fellowship, family activities, and enjoying God's creation throughout the summer. · Luther Crest Counselors will join us during worship on July 19 to introduce themselves and share about VBS. Vacation Bible School: Mountain Movers will be held July 20–23. Everyone is invited to attend the closing worship program on July 23 at 2:30 PM. · If you have not yet registered for VBS, please contact Elana as soon as possible. · Looking ahead to fall, we are seeking volunteers to teach during our Wednesday Worship nights. Teaching responsibilities can be shared with another person to alternate weeks. Please let us know if you are interested in serving. A Youth Council Meeting is scheduled for September 2 at 7:00 PM. A Youth & Family Meeting will be held on September 9 at 6:30 PM. Both meetings will provide opportunities to share ideas and help plan youth and family ministry for the upcoming year. Please contact Meagan or Elana if you have ideas for service projects, mission opportunities, or other ministry activities.

Property Management:

Pastor Nate reports no damage to the building from the hail earlier in the week. The roof may still need to be inspected, but the building seems to have fared well.

Worship and Music: Margie Anderson - Did not meet.

Youth Leadership: No Report

Other Reports

Immanuel Church Women: Diane Teigland

Diane reports there were 88 quilts and 16 baby care packages shipped out. This is an amazing task, as these get shipped out twice per year! Great job!!

LEAD PASTOR UPDATE – Pastor's Report – June 2026 May/Early June Highlights

1. Led a hospitality team training on May 17 2. Participated in WDC Baccalaureate on May 20 3. Wrapped up our backpacks for kids school year May 21 4. Pastoral Acts-Funeral for Audrey Stearns on June 6 at Karvonen Funeral Home -Wedding for Michaela Roemmich and Ethan Merrill also on June 6 -Presided at the funeral of Marion Moe (Allen's mom) on June 8 in Wannaska, MN. 5. I have been taking some personal time each week to go up to Grand Forks to visit my parents who are experiencing some health issues and life transitions **Looking ahead 1.** VBS Week is July 20-23 2. Microsoft is phasing out its Publisher program, so we are working to go through all of our archives to reformat those files, so we don't lose the data and reimagine ways to do our bulletins and newsletters and other file 3. Still working on taking some vacation Sundays these next few months 4. Lots of planning for fall continues - only 12 weeks away!

OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD:

Financial Secretary Report: The total of general offerings counted and deposited for May 2026 were: **General** \$23,770.94 **Building** \$20.00 **Endowment** \$45.00 This does not include direct deposits.

Treasurer's Report: Bryan Greenwaldt

General Fund Contributions: \$32,354.94 **General Fund Total Expenses:** \$44,235

General Fund Register Balance 05/31/26: \$46,647.37 **Building Fund Deposits:** \$419.00

Building Fund Register Balance 05/31/26: \$24,354.00

Restricted Fund Contributions: \$100.00 **Restricted Fund Balance 05/31/26:** \$62,487.16

Finance Committee: Dean Krogstad - Didn't meet

Other Business: Pastor Nate met with new Rep from the Lutheran World Relief. Synod Assembly Report: A virtual meeting with held the last Saturday in May. Cindy, Matt, and Nate were i attendance. A primary keynote was Ministry in a Digital world. Immanuel's 90th Anniversary is October 18th, 2026: Ideas were brainstormed on how to celebrate this upcoming milestone for the Church. It's the 90th, not 100 – so a booklet probably doesn't have to be made. But we should do something to celebrate. Discussed possibly having cake after worship that Sunday. Gathering old photos to create a slideshow to share. Maybe this could be something that Congregational Life helps with, possible Potluck that day. Another idea that was shared was a month of trivia leading up to the celebration. This could be something that youth do as a type of service project – interviewing members and asking them about their memories of Immanuel. Linger Longer Update: Thanks all around to everyone who was able to help that day! It was determined that a minimum of 3 people are needed to make things run smoothly. It was a great turnout! Very well received by the congregation. The next linger longer event will be June 28th, 2026 directly after service! Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer – Motion to adjourn made by Bryan and seconded by Margie, Motion carried. **Respectfully, Becky Crooker – Secretary**

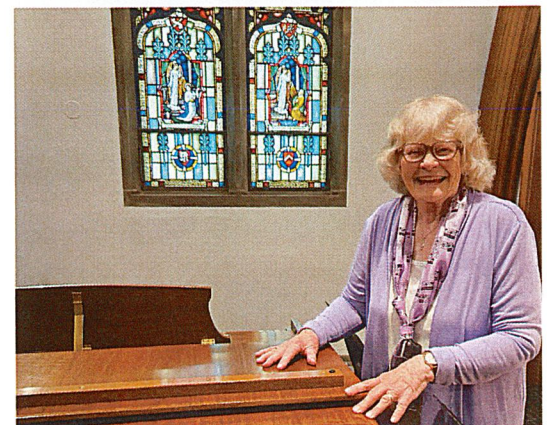
June 2026 Financial Report

Total General Contributions	\$31,177.29		Restricted Fund Contributions	\$200.00
Total General Expenses	\$88,098.08		Restricted Fund Expenses	\$0.00
General Fund Balance 6/30/2026	\$9,126.66		Restricted Fund Balance 6/30/2026	\$62,686.83
Building Fund Contributions	\$449.00			
Building Fund Expenses	\$20,000.00			
Building Fund Balance 6/30/2026	\$4,809.15			

Good things happening...

What a beautiful and uplifting All Music Sunday May 10th! We were blessed by the many talents shared through choir performances, duets, piano, and a variety of instruments. It was truly special to hear so many joyful voices and musical gifts praising God together. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated and helped make the service so meaningful. A special shoutout to Deb for all of her hard work, organization, and preparation that made this wonderful event possible. We are so grateful for the time and talent shared by our church family!

Sanctuary Choir will start again in September! The choir practices Wednesdays at 7:00 pm (during Worship Wednesday schedule) and performs in church on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month and special occasions. All who would like to sing are welcome!! If you are unable to join the choir, remember that we welcome any special music participants for worship on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday of each month! Special music sign-up is located next to the church office.



Good things happening...

2026 Immanuel Lutheran VBS
hosted by Luther Crest ~ June 20th - 23rd
"Mountain Movers"

A huge shout out to the outstanding counselors from Luther Crest ~ Brita, Martin, Quinn, & Aidan ~ for providing 4 fun-filled days for 25 kids here at Immanuel! The days flew by with worship, bible "dive", games, songs, and arts & crafts. Oh! And food! What a joy it was to hear the voices and laughter of children all around the church!

Each day focused on a bible verse and theme:
"Community" - Daniel 3:1-30

We are not alone in our faith - community helps us move mountains!

"Courage" - Esther 4:1-17

Sometimes our faith requires us to be brave and use our power to help others when it's scary - courage moves mountains!

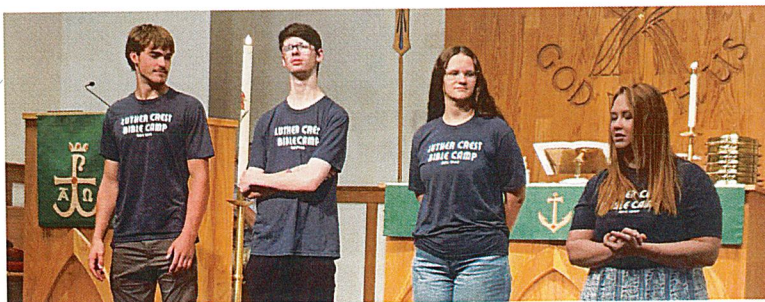
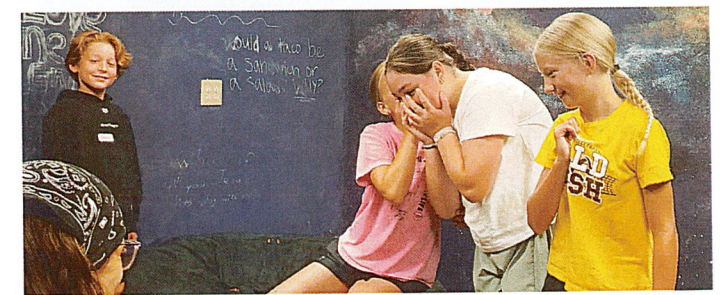
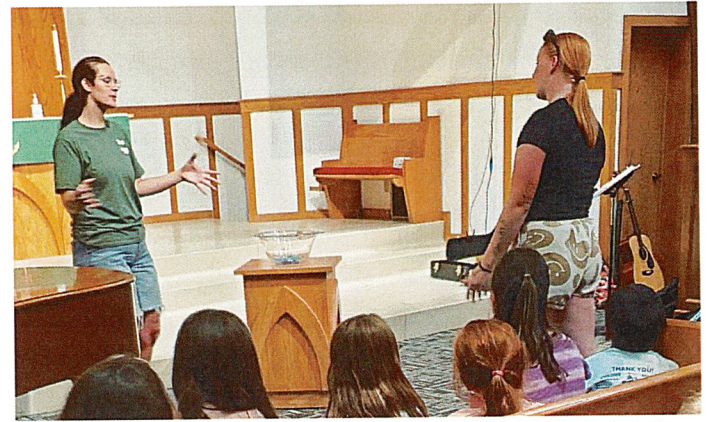
"Faith" - Matthew 2:13-23

We can have faith that god is with us and looking out for us even in hard times - faith moves mountains!

"Love" - John 13:1-15, 34-35

Loving and serving our neighbors is powerful - love moves mountains!

"Thank you" so very much to Keith & Heidi Nelson and Kent & Shaneen Schmidt for hosting our counselors! And a sincere "thank you" to our ladies in the kitchen: Jane Bagstad, Diane Breitling, Sue Johnson, Gail Klunenberg, Peggy Larson, Heidi Nelson, & Mary Kay Wohlert. Thank you for the great desserts brought in! Last but not least, Meagan Ferris and Elana Seibert for getting everything organized!



2026 IMMANUEL STAFF AND COUNCIL

Staff

Lead Pastor.....Nate Loer
Youth, Family, &
Spiritual Gifts Coordinator.....Elana Seibert
Administrative Secretary.....Tracy Church
Custodians.....Ellen & Doug Carlstrom
Bookkeeper.....Amy Greenwaldt
Choir Director.....Deb Haraldson
Accompanist.....Suzanne Leigh

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Office 218-631-2738

Council

President.....Matt Greenwaldt
Vice President.....Cindy Becker
Secretary.....Becky Crooker
Treasurer.....Bryan Greenwaldt
Financial Secretary.....Gail Klunenbergl
Financial Vice-Secretary.....Randy Riedel
Congregational Life.....Diane Breitling
Education.....Meagan Ferris
Finance.....Dean Krogstad
Outreach.....Rick Johnson
Property Management.....Jeff Morlock
Worship & Music.....Margie Anderson



August 2026

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