

# Immanuel Lutheran News

Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA ~ 403 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.*

## October 2026

**From the Desk of Pastor Nate ...**

As autumn dawns, the peace of Christ dwell with you richly!

This time of year, I always feel pressure to get the last of the outdoor projects done before the snow flies. There is still time – but not a lot! Just like there is still time to read John's gospel ... even if you haven't yet started this year (what a segue!). This month, we read John 20:1-31. As I said last month, this is the central story of scripture! So, even if you don't read all of John this year, at least read these 31 verses! Pay attention to several things as you do.

In John 20:1-18, Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb on Easter morning. But at first, all she sees is that the stone has been rolled away. She fears that someone has stolen Jesus' body. So she runs to tell the disciples. Peter and the so called, "beloved disciple" run to the tomb. They go inside and see the grave clothes where Jesus' body had been laid. They are beginning to believe that something amazing has happened, but that belief doesn't seem fully formed just yet.

Meanwhile, Mary weeps outside the tomb. And as she does, the risen Jesus appears to her. Her eyes are kept from seeing who this really is until her name is spoken. When she recognizes him, she goes to embrace him, but Jesus says she cannot hold him, because he needs to ascend. In other words, Jesus didn't rise from death to resume his earthly work, but to complete it. A new era is beginning. And Mary is the first to witness Jesus in his resurrected form.

In John 20:19-23, it is Easter evening. And Jesus' disciples are gathered in a locked room. Suddenly, Jesus appears. And he shares a word of peace with them. He shows them his wounds to show that he really died, and that he isn't just a vision or a ghost. And as he breathes the Holy Spirit on them, he also entrusts to them something we call, "The office of the keys." They are empowered to forgive and retain sin. As I have said in recent sermons on Matthew's gospel, forgiveness is to be a HUGE part of this emerging church.

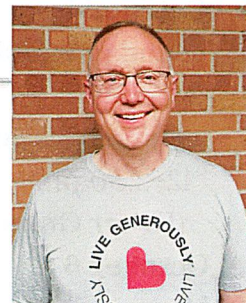
But Thomas is not with them. And in John 20:24-31, Thomas tells his fellow disciples that he will not believe unless he sees the risen Jesus – and touches his wounds, too. Thomas wants to know that Jesus didn't just SEEM to die. He wants to know that Jesus actually lived, died, and rose again. So one week later, in the same room, Jesus shows up again and helps Thomas to see and believe. Then Jesus says something to us – to us who have not seen and yet believe based on the witness of those who have come before us. He says that our faith is blessed.

Finally, John tells us that Jesus did many more signs in his life. But these have been written that we might believe and have life in his name. It would be a lovely end to the gospel. But we have one more chapter to read and discuss. See you next month for that!

Humbly in Christ,

Pastor Nate

Pastor Nate



# *Good things ahead....*

## **October 4**

Sunday Worship (Schedule Below)

## **October 5**

9 am - ICW Block Cutting

12-3:30 pm - Fellowship Hall in Use  
(Foster Grandparent Meeting)

## **October 6**

9 am - Staff Meeting

6 pm - Fellowship Hall in Use  
(Wadena Concert Association Meeting)

## **October 7**

12 pm - Rotary (#3 N.Overland)

Worship Wednesday (Schedule Below)

7:30 pm - Youth Council Meeting

## **October 8**

1 pm - MAC/NAPS

2:30 pm - WDC Food Pack

## **October 11**

Sunday Worship (Schedule Below)

Following Worship -

ILC 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Potluck & Presentation

## **October 13**

9 am - Staff Meeting

1:30 pm - ICW Bible Study

## **October 14 - No Worship Wednesday**

12 pm - Rotary (Catered)

## **October 15**

10:30 am - Catholic Charities Frozen  
Meal Distribution

## **October 18 - 85+ Recognition**

Sunday Worship (Schedule Below)

Following Worship - 85+ Reception

Following 85+ Reception -

ILC Council Meeting (Friendship Room)

## **October 19**

9 am - ICW Quilting

6:30 pm - Fellowship Hall in Use (PEO Meeting)

## **October 20**

9 am - ICW Quilting

9 am - Staff Meeting

5:30 pm - Dinner Club @ The Uptown

## **October 21**

12 pm - Rotary (#1 G.Kluenenberg)

Worship Wednesday (Schedule Below)

## **October 25**

Sunday Worship (Schedule Below)

Following Worship - Linger Longer

11 am - Confirmation Worship Service

5-7 pm - Fellowship Hall in Use (Boy Scouts)

## **October 26**

2 pm Book Club (Friendship Room)

## **October 27**

9 am - Staff Meeting

11 am - Dementia Caregiver Support Group  
(Friendship Room)

## **October 28**

12 pm - Rotary (Catered)

Worship Wednesday (Schedule Below)

## **October 31**

4:30-6 pm - Trunk or Treat

Meal will be served 4:30-6 pm

### **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**

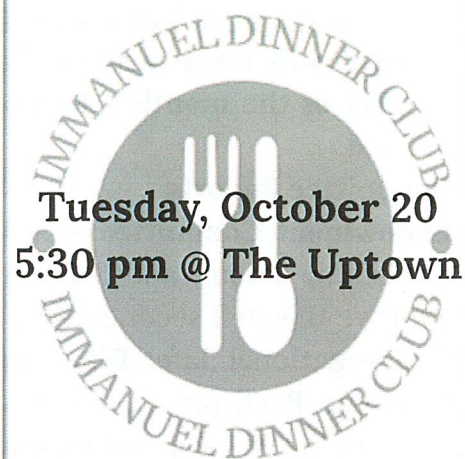
- 4:30 pm - Congregational Supper
- 6:00 pm - Worship
- 6:45-7:30 pm - Education & Confirmation
- 7:00 pm - Sanctuary Choir

## Worship Wednesday October Menu

|                      |                                                                   |                                                                                   |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oct 7 <sup>th</sup>  | → Oodles of Noodles<br>Noodle Bar<br>with white and<br>red sauces |  |
| Oct 14 <sup>th</sup> | → MEA break                                                       |  |
| Oct 21 <sup>st</sup> | → Hot Ham and<br>Cheese Sandwiches                                |  |
| Oct 28 <sup>th</sup> | → Meatballs and<br>Mashed Potatoes                                |  |

# Book Club

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26 @ 2:00 PM  
FRIENDSHIP ROOM  
EVERYONE WELCOME!



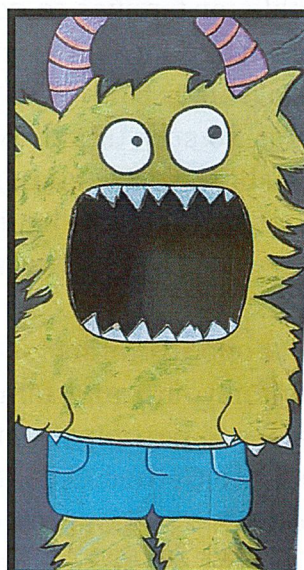
### WDC WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM

Our next pack of the year is  
Thursday, October 8 @ 2:30pm  
in the elementary cafeteria.  
Enter in the main office on Colfax.



### 85+ Immanuel Member Recognition

Join us for worship on Sunday, October 4 @ 9:30  
am as we would like to honor and recognize our  
members for their many years of dedication to  
the church! Immanuel Church Women will  
provide muffins & fruit to be served following  
worship in the Fellowship Hall.



## Feed Me!!

Please Donate candy  
or prizes for our Trunk  
or Treat event!  
Donations can be fed  
to the monster in the  
concourse through  
October 29!



## Confirmation Sunday October 25 - 9:30 am

10TH GRADERS PREPARING TO  
AFFIRM THIER FAITH

Brayden Anderson ~ Britta Ferris  
~ Haydyn Fink ~

Coltyn Fore ~ Landon Grangruth  
~ Nathan Jacobsen ~

Lane Kaufman ~ Logan Krell  
~ Kendra Leeseberg ~

Levi Nelson ~ Brynn Rach  
Cole Sundby ~ Jaxon White

## Women's Discipleship

Blockcutting - Monday, October 5 @ 9am  
Monday, November 2 @ 9am

Bible Study - Tuesday, October 13 @ 1:30pm  
(Fall Gather pg.#30)

Tuesday, November 10 @ 1:30pm  
(Fall Gather pg.#38)

Quilting - October 19 & 20 @ 9am-2pm

## **Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2026**

**Council will meet next on October 18th at 10:45am – this is a change from the normal second Sunday of the month – Motion was made to move the date by Rick, seconded by Dean – Motion carried.**

### **Committee Reports**

**Endowment Committee** – Agreed to give \$4,000 to Building fund for new air conditioning in the Friendship Room, and \$250 to Community Outreach Furniture warehouse. Diane B. Motioned to approve this, Jeff seconded the motion, Motion carried.

**Congregational Life: Diane Breitling** – Congregational Life met on August 16th. We planned the Welcome Back picnic, which was very successful serving approximately 70 members. We planned suppers for Worship Wednesday through Oct 28th. For God's Work Our Hands on September 20th, we will provide snacks. For Immanuel's 90th Anniversary on October 11th, there will be a potluck with our committee supplying a variety of hot dishes. We will ask the congregation to bring in sides. We will also order a cake. For Halloween, we'll serve hot dogs to the hungry trick and treaters and others.

**Outreach: Rick Johnson** – Committee met for a short meeting, trying to get more people involved.

**Youth and Education: Meagan Ferris** – We kicked off the year with a Youth & Family Meeting on September 9th! The goal was to gather ideas, hear from our youth and families, and brainstorm ways we can make this a fun, meaningful, and faith-filled year together. Some ideas include bringing back Nerf Wars, having a bonfire at Black's Grove, going to Holst Acres in Staples, and making cards for the Cancer Center at Astera. We also created a Youth & Family Survey for families to share their interests, ideas, skills, and ways they may be willing to help throughout the year. The survey will help us plan activities that our youth and families are actually excited about and interested in.

We will also have surveys available for families to complete at our first Wednesday Worship gathering so we can continue gathering input and ideas. We already have some fun dates on the calendar!

**October 4th – Youth Activity November 22nd – Youth Activity**

More details will be coming soon, so stay tuned! We are excited to have some opportunities for our youth to have fun, build relationships, serve, and grow together. Our Wednesday Worship theme for this year is: Gather • Grow • Go. This theme will guide our Wednesday evenings as we gather together in fellowship and worship, grow in our faith and relationships, and go out into the world to live out our faith and serve others. We are excited for another year of Wednesday nights filled with good food, fellowship, worship, learning, and opportunities for our youth to be involved! Our hope for this year is to create regular opportunities for youth and families to have fun together, serve our community, support shared fundraising goals, and participate in the life of our church. We are looking forward to seeing where this year takes us as we Gather, Grow & Go!

**Property Management: Jeff Morlock** – Still waiting on estimate for building gutters – there have been many delays due to storms all around the area – and still working on getting the cables up front run through for the TV.

**Worship and Music: Margie Anderson** – Met 08/24/26 – Discussed upcoming events. 09/27/26 Staples Men's Choir will be here. 10/11/26 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our church with pot luck dinner. 10/25/26 Confirmation with 13 Confirmands – discussed the possibility of 2 services 9:30 and 11:00. Christmas program coming up, unsure of dates at this time. Next meeting will be October 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Youth Leadership: No Report**

**Other Reports – Immanuel Church Women: Diane Teigland**

The Conference 6 Fall Gathering of the NW Synod of Women of the ELCA will be held Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, at the Trinity in Detroit Lakes. All women are invited to attend, please let Diane know if you'll be attending.

**LEAD PASTOR UPDATE - Pastor's Report – September 2026 August/Early September Highlights - 1.**

The mad sprint to fall has gone well ... and we're ready! **2.** Worship Wednesdays are in full swing starting September 16. **3.** I expect to have 23 kids in my confirmation classroom this year; I expect to have 11 young people affirming their faith in grades 10 and 11. **4.** Backpacks for Kids had our first food pack on September 3. **5.** Pastoral Acts (It's always an honor to serve families in grief) -Funeral for Sharon Podratz August 28 -Graveside service for Larry Edwards on September 12. **Looking ahead 1.** I'm taking some vacation in early October, including Sunday, October 4. **2.** Staples Area Men's Chorus will be sharing music in worship September 27. **3.** Next Food pack is October 8. **4.** 90th Anniversary Sunday is October 11. **5.** Recognition for members 85 and older is October 18. **6.** Confirmation Sunday is October 25. We will have a special service at 11am.

**OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD: Financial Secretary Report: Gail Klunenberberg**

The total of general offerings counted and deposited for August 2026 were: **General** \$26,635.25

**Building** \$65.00 **Endowment** \$1300.00 **Youth** \$2416.50 **This does not include direct deposits.**

**Treasurer's Report: Bryan Greenwalddt - Refer to table below.**

**Finance Committee: Dean Krogstad - Did not meet.**

**Other Business: 1.** Immanuel's 90th Anniversary is October 11th 2026 – There will be a get together after service that day. Pastor Nate ordered pens to commemorate this, along with paper sleeves for coffee cups. **2.** God's Work Our Hands Sunday September 20th – we will put together school kits. Dean mentioned that he spoke with Dan Kovar at the City of Wadena, he did not have any projects he needed help with at this time. **3.** Del Moen with the Wadena Youth Connections joined us to share information on the new youth center that opened in Wadena. They are working closely with WDC school to spread the word about this. There are plans in the works to have music events possibly twice monthly including a DJ. Planning to teach some life skills such as cooking, sewing, basic car maintenance, and balancing checkbooks. They are currently raising money to hire at least a half-time director, this would be a paid position.

Respectfully, Becky Crooker – Secretary

**August 2026 Financial Report**

|                                        |              |  |                                          |             |
|----------------------------------------|--------------|--|------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Total General Contributions</b>     | \$35,917.25  |  | <b>Restricted Fund Contributions</b>     | \$80.00     |
| <b>Total General Expenses</b>          | \$25,644.68  |  | <b>Restricted Fund Expenses</b>          | \$0.00      |
| <b>General Fund Balance 8/31/2026</b>  | (\$4,500.00) |  | <b>Restricted Fund Balance 8/31/2026</b> | \$62,816.83 |
|                                        |              |  |                                          |             |
| <b>Building Fund Contributions</b>     | \$464.00     |  |                                          |             |
| <b>Building Fund Expenses</b>          | \$20,000.00  |  |                                          |             |
| <b>Building Fund Balance 8/31/2026</b> | \$5,535.68   |  |                                          |             |

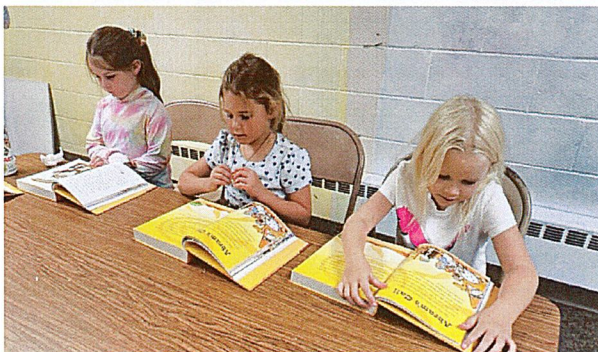
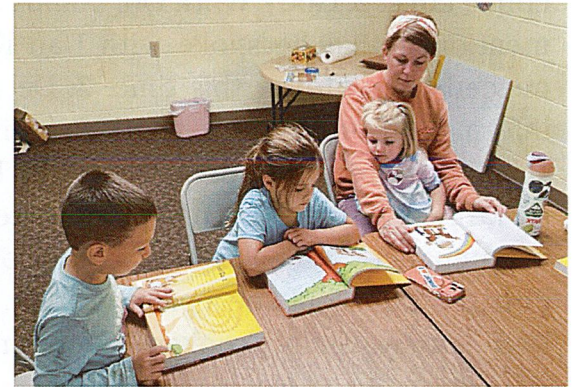
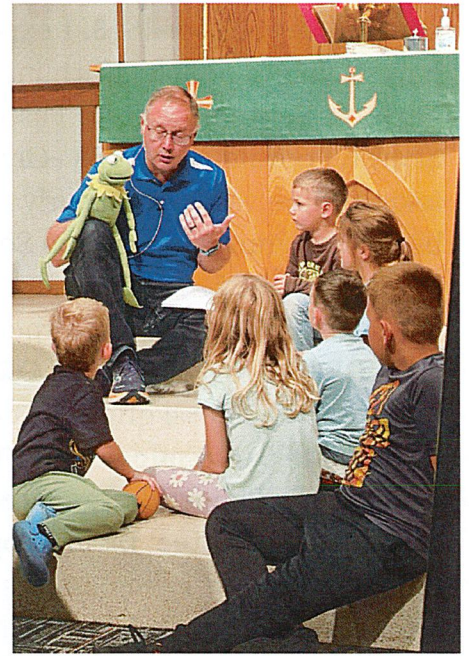
## *Good things happening...*

### **Our first Worship Wednesday of the year!**

What a great night of Gather, Grow & Go! We gathered around the table, grew together in faith, and were reminded that we are called to go out and share God's love wherever we are.

We loved seeing our church family of all ages come together for a meal, worship, learning, and fellowship. These Wednesday nights are such a special way to pause in the middle of a busy week and reconnect with God and one another.

A big thank-you to everyone who helped make our first night such a success! We can't wait to see where God takes us this year as we Gather. Grow. Go.

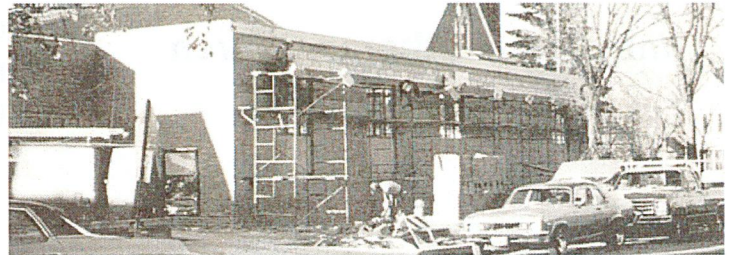
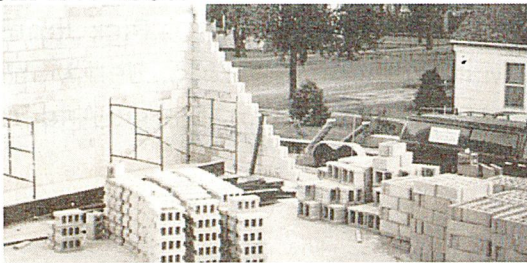


## *Good things happening...*

### **Immanuel is Turning 90!!**

On October 11, we celebrate 90 years of mission and ministry at Immanuel! Join us after worship for a potluck. **The Congregational Life Team will provide hotdishes and a special cake. Please bring a side dish to share.** In the meantime, we continue to dedicate some newsletter real estate to celebrating excerpts of Immanuel's history. This month, we focus on Immanuel's fifth decade, 1976-1986, the middle years of Immanuel.

Immanuel's fifth decade began with a pastoral change. Pastor Ovrebo, who had served Immanuel since 1967, resigned in June of 1976. In October of the same year Pastor Kurt Wied was installed as Immanuel's seventh pastor. During Pastor Weid's tenure, Immanuel became a teaching parish by entering the internship program of Luther Seminary. Immanuel would be served by eight interns from 1977-1985.



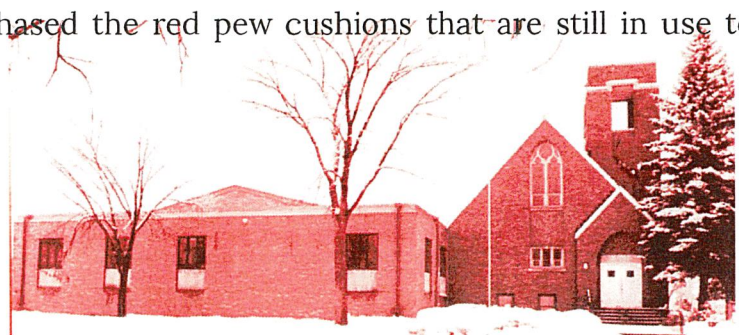
A big change to Immanuel's building took place during this decade. The Fellowship Hall, concourse and offices expansion began in 1979 and was completed in 1980. Dedication was held on April 20, 1980. This new addition allowed the rebirth of an old Immanuel tradition. In 1982, the congregation provided a smorgasbord to the community, a practice that had been a part of the congregation's life in its early years.



In the spring of 1983, Pastor Wied resigned to accept a call to serve a congregation in Germany. Pastor Charles Lane began his service in the congregation in 1984. In 1984 and 1985 the congregation moved from the internship program to calling a full-time Associate Pastor. Pastor Loren Davis was Immanuel's first Associate Pastor, beginning in the summer of 1985. Also in 1985, the original basement of Immanuel was remodeled to enhance its use as an educational facility.

This decade also included the addition of pew cushions to Immanuel's sanctuary, a gift from Helen Skei Windels. Helen was a pharmacist at Moore & Yetter Drug (formerly Skei Drug). She tired of sitting in the wooden pews. So, she purchased the red pew cushions that are still in use today! Helen died in 1995 at the age of 83.

Many of these notes are indebted to Pastor Lane's compilation of Immanuel's history published most recently in the 75th anniversary booklet.



# 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 Klunenberg  
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



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