

2025 IMMANUEL STAFF AND COUNCIL

Staff

Lead Pastor..... Nate Loer
Youth & Family
Spiritual Gifts Coordinator.....Elana Seibert
Administrative Secretary.....Tracy Church
Custodian.....Ellen & Doug Carlstrom
Bookkeeper.....Jil Fiemeyer
Choir Director.....Deb Haraldson

Council

President..... Margie Anderson
Vice President.....Matt Greenwaldt
SecretaryKayla Carpenter
TreasurerBryan Greenwaldt
Financial Secretary..... Jane Bagstad
Financial Vice-Secretary..... Gail Klunenberg
Congregational Life..... Diane Breitling
EducationMeagan Ferris
Finance..... Dean Krogstad
Outreach.....Vacant
Property Management.....Steph Drange
Worship and MusicAnne Oldakowski
Youth.....Katie Johnson

Immanuel Lutheran Church Office 218-631-2738

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
403 SE 2ND ST
PO BOX 69
WADENA, MN 56482



Immanuel Lutheran News

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
403 2ND ST SE—PO BOX 69
WADENA, MINNESOTA 56482

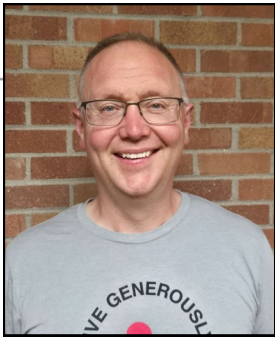


*Called and united through the Gospel of
Jesus Christ, our mission is to proclaim
and respond to God's presence among us.*

December 2025

From the Desk of Pastor Nate...

December greetings to you all in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. As you prepare for the seasons of Advent and Christmas, take time to finish the book of Acts and the story of the early Church. We have a lot of ground to cover (21:27-28:31), so I can only comment on a few sections. But let me offer a few thoughts on some key passages.



In Acts 21:27 and following, Paul's accusers are angry because his preaching about Jesus has hurt their standing in the community. They begin beating him to death until the Roman soldiers stop them and allow Paul to speak. After telling his story of revelation about Jesus, he finally appeals to his Roman Citizenship in order to get the due process he is owed. In Acts 23:1 and following, a Jewish Council is assembled and Paul begins to defend himself. When that process breaks down, the Romans Tribune brings him to safety. And the Lord reveals to him that he will preach one day in Rome (Acts 23:11).

Forty assassins form a team to try and kill Paul in jail, so the Roman soldiers sneak him out of town and he is brought to Antipatris. He appears before Governor Felix and the high priest comes to accuse Paul. Rather than rule on Paul's case, he keeps Paul in jail for TWO YEARS, sending for him often in hopes of receiving a bribe. After two years, Felix is succeeded by Festus, and Paul remains in jail.

Paul appears before various Roman authorities and keeps pleading his case. But nothing changes. So finally, he appeals to the emperor. And so, in Acts 27:1 and following, Paul and some other prisoners are placed on a ship and they begin their journey to Rome. In the midst of a violent storm, an angel reassures Paul that no one on the ship will die. In a dramatic scene in Acts 27:27-44, Paul warns them that they must follow his instructions if they want to live. They break bread together and when the ship runs aground, they are all brought safely to land on the island of Malta – where they remain for three months.

Finally, in Acts 28:16, they arrive in Rome. Paul is allowed to stay by himself with just one guard. While Paul waits for his hearing with the Emperor, Paul preaches in the synagogue. Some believe. Others are offended. And then the book ends in a very open-ended way. We aren't told what happens to Paul – only that he preaches for two years, unhindered and with boldness.

In the same way, the story of the church is open ended. The continued proclamation is the important part. Where will God lead us? Where will we find success? Troubles? Who knows. But let us share the good news of Jesus in word and deed everyday – with boldness!

Humbly in Christ,

Pastor Nate

Pastor Nate

GENERAL FUND	
10/5/2025	5091
10/12/2025	2336
10/19/2025	4332
10/26/2025	2263
Electronic Giving	550
Direct Deposit	8709
TOTAL GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS	23281
EXPENSES	
Benevolences	880
Programs	1373
Staff including taxes and benefits	24639
Operations	127
Building Expenses	2280
TOTAL EXPENSES	29299
Gain/Loss	-6018
General Fund Register Balance as of 10/31/2025	8934

RESTRICTED				
	Balance 10/1/2025	Gifts & Additions	Payments	Balance 10/30/2025
Backpacks for Kids	\$10,292	\$50		\$10,342
Bell/Carillon	\$250			\$250
Cooking Matters (Ministerial Association)	\$127			\$127
Congregational Life	\$2,000			\$2,000
Easter Giving Blitz	\$100			\$100
Good Samaritan	\$622		\$200	\$422
General Reserve Funds	\$10,849			\$10,849
Giving Tree	-\$2,408	\$100		-\$2,308
Global Mission	\$2,235			\$2,235
Library Fund	\$125			\$125
Luther Crest Scholarships	\$472			\$472
Lutheran World Relief	\$1,219			\$1,219
Medical Mission	\$5,000			\$5,000
Organ Fund	\$557			\$557
Parish Nursing	\$487			\$487
Piano Fund	\$538			\$538
Soup Tuesday	\$620		\$600	\$20
Scholarship Fund	\$8,070			\$8,070
School Kits	\$1,275			\$1,275
Sunday School	\$792			\$792
Thrivent Micro Grant	\$1,016			\$1,016
VBS	-\$299			-\$299
Wadena Fire Victims	\$9,743		\$935	\$8,808
Wadena Food Shelf/Food Shelf	\$862	\$319	\$1,000	\$181
Wadena Ministerial	\$200		\$200	\$0
Wednesday Night Supper	\$318		\$382	-\$64
Worship and Music	\$3,484	\$225	\$279	\$3,430
YAGM	\$7,116			\$7,116
Restricted Fund Register Balance	\$65,662	693.55	3,596.70	\$62,759

BUILDING FUND		
Building Fund Balance	10/1/2025	60909
Deposits & Interest		5514
Payments		0
Building Fund Register Balance	10/30/2025	66423

FINANCIAL UPDATE



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATES

The council met on Sunday, November 9, 2025. President Margie Anderson called the meeting to order.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee: Fridge discussion as it was on the leg and couldn’t be repaired any more. Was roughly 20 years old. Committee voted to replace it with a new fridge, so we didn’t risk losing any food. (upcoming Thanksgiving meal for example).
Congregational Life: Diane Breitling– We had a meeting on November 5th to plan Wednesday evening meals until Christmas. We have been serving approximately 80 to 90 meals each Wednesday. Last week we saw a dip in the numbers, serving 50. Maybe families were getting ready for deer hunting?? We served 120 meals on Halloween. Parents are so appreciative that we are feeding their families on these evenings.

Outreach Evangelism: *Vacant*– Did not meet.

Parish Education: Meagan Ferris– The Education Committee met on October 29th. Our recent PJs in the Pews on October 12th was a wonderful success. We snuggled in for a showing of *Mr. Magorium’s Wonder Emporium* and enjoyed popcorn together. It was a great day of fellowship and fun for all who attended. The Youth Room also received a small but exciting update. We rearranged some furniture and added a double basketball hoop and a ping pong table. We would like to remind families to have a conversation with their children about respecting the space and one another. Please help us encourage youth to clean up and return items to where they belong, especially before worship. Looking ahead, we will soon begin creating placemats for the Thank You Thanksgiving meal and preparing for the dinner on November 16th. This is always a meaningful opportunity for our young people to show gratitude and serve our church family. We also spent time discussing the Youth Christmas Program. This year’s program will be directed by Marsha Kaufmann and Hanna Seivert. Performances will take place on Sunday, December 14th and Wednesday, December 17th. The program will include narration, animals and music, and we are excited for our youth to share the Christmas story with the congregation. Thank you for your continued support of the Education Ministry and the faith formation of our young people.

Property Management: Steph Drange– Projects are coming along nicely. So far the parking lot is done, sanctuary carpet is done, Pews done, pew pads are with the quilters. Painting is 75% done. Lights in the sanctuary are done. Still in the contractor's books for winter/ spring is the kitchen projects, windows, stucco and TV bracket and install.

Worship and Music: Anne Oldakowski– Meeting Nov. 10

Youth Leadership: Katie Johnson– No report.

Other Reports

Immanuel Church Women: Diane Teigland –Circle bible study. There is 2 more quilting days before needing to ship.
LEAD PASTOR UPDATE– PASTOR NATE—October/Early November Highlights
1. Backpacks for kids had Third Food Pack on November 6. We packed about 25% more than usual in case the SNAP funding issue creates a greater need. We are currently distributing around 90 bags/week. Worship Wednesdays continue to go well. Averaging 90+ at meals and in worship.
3. Reformation/Confirmation Sunday was October 26. Makayla and Addison did a great job preparing for the day and it was a very special Sunday for everyone.
4. All Saints Sunday was November 2. Always humbling to light those candles and remember our loved ones.
5. I enjoyed being part of Trunk or Treat on October 31. My puppet Rusty and I had fun pretending to be Immanuel employees giving out free samples “Costco style.” It’s a great way to serve our community.
6. Pastoral Acts: Funeral for Gisela Moench at Karvonen’s on October 17. Gary Johnson’s funeral here at Immanuel on October 18.
Coming Up
1. Getting Through the Holidays November 20 4:30–6pm (Please help spread the word, especially among those who have lost a loved one in the last year)
2. Giving Tree launches November 16 – Gift wrapping days December 15/16
3. Stewardship Campaign finishes November 23 (Wear your “Live Generously” shirts!)
4. Next Backpacks Food pack in December 4.
5. Choir Sunday is December 14 – they are preparing a Christmas cantata for us.
6. Youth Christmas Program is December 17 – we will live stream this, too!

OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD: Financial Secretary Report: Reported by Jane Bagstad

The total of Sunday general offerings counted and deposited was \$14,985.55. This does not include direct deposits.

Treasurer’s Report: *Bryan Greenwaldt*

GENERAL FUND: \$8,934 (10/31/2025)

Total General Contributions: \$23,281 (10/31/2025)

Total Expenses: \$29,299

Building Fund Register Balance \$60,909 (10/1/2025)

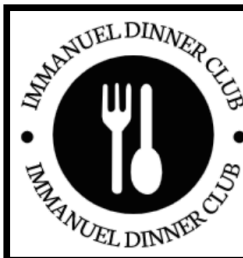
Restricted Fund Balance \$62,759 (10/302025)

Finance Committee: Dean Krogstad- Working on budget and Stewardship Campaign.

Our Vision and Mission—Other Business:

Nominating committee (Erik Osberg and Norm Gallant elected at the Annual Meeting). Any interest from outgoing council members that would also like to serve on this committee? The meeting ended with the Lord’s Prayer and was adjourned. A motion was made by Steph Drange and seconded by Meagan Ferris to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully,
Kayla Carpenter Secretary



Dinner Club will meet
Tuesday, December 16
@ 5:30 pm – Pizza Ranch

Worship Wednesday SCHEDULE

November 26 – No Worship Wednesday
December 17 – Youth Christmas Program 6pm
(Also streaming on YouTube)
December 24 – No Worship Wednesday
(See Christmas Eve Worship Schedule)
December 31 – No Worship Wednesday
January 7 – Worship Wednesday Resumes
(Dinner 4:30-5:45 ~ Worship 6:00 ~ Education 6:45-7:30)

Women's Ministry



Monday, December 1st @ 10:00 am ~ Join the quilters for a
"Christmas Coffee Get-Together" in the Fellowship Hall.
Everyone is welcome! Bring a treat to share if you would like!

Block Cutting ~ NO BLOCK CUTTING December
Monday, January 5th @ 9:00 am

Bible Study ~ Tuesday, December 9 @ 1:30 pm
Tuesday, January 13th @ 1:30 pm

Quilting ~ NO QUILTING December
January 19th & 20th @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

We invite members & friends to give a
poinsettia plant to help decorate the chancel.
Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the
church office to indicate whether the plant is in
honor or in memory of a loved one.
The cost is \$18 per plant.
The deadline is Monday, December 15.
*Poinsettia plants may be picked up after the
5:30 worship service on December 24.*



Please consider
taking a tag from the
Immanuel Giving Tree
and sharing with those in need.
**Gifts need to be returned by
12:00 pm Thursday, December 11.**
**Gift Wrapping will be
Monday, December 15 from
4:30-7:00 pm**
(pizza will be served)
**Tuesday, December 16 from
8:30-12:00pm**



What's Happening

December 1

10 am – ICW Christmas Coffee Get-Together
12-3:30 pm – Fellowship Hall in Use

December 2

9 am – Staff Meeting

December 3

Wednesday Discipleship Schedule (see below)
7:30 pm – ILC Youth Council Meeting

December 4

9 am – Decorating the church
1 pm – MAC/NAPS
2:30 pm – Backpack Food Pack (elementary)

December 7

Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
2 pm – PEO (Fellowship Hall)

December 9

9 am – Staff Meeting
1:30 pm – ICW Bible Study

December 10

12 pm – Rotary (#2 D.Haraldson)
Wednesday Discipleship Schedule (see below)

December 11

6 pm – Northstar Round Table Meeting

December 14

Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
Sanctuary Christmas Concert During Worship

December 15

NO QUILTING
4:30 pm – Giving Tree Gift Wrapping

Sunday Worship Schedule

- 8:30 am – Coffee Fellowship
- 9:30 am – Worship
(LIVE on YouTube)
- 9:30 am – Radio Broadcast 920
AM or 101.7 FM



Worship Wednesdays Schedule

- 4:30-5:45 pm – Dinner in Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 pm – Worship
- 6:45-7:30 pm – Education/Confirmation
- 7:00 pm – Sanctuary Choir Practice
All are welcome!

December 16

NO QUILTING

8:30 am – Giving Tree Gift Wrapping
5:30 pm – Dinner Club – Pizza Ranch

December 17

12 pm – Rotary (Catered)
Wednesday Discipleship Schedule (see below)
6 pm – Youth Christmas Program During Worship
(will also be livestreamed)

December 18

10:30 am – Catholic Charities Frozen
Meal Distribution

December 21

Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
10:45 am – ILC Council Meeting

December 23

9 am – Staff Meeting
11 am – Dementia Caregiver Support Group
(Fellowship Hall)

December 24 – Christmas Eve

OFFICE CLOSED

3:30 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
(Will be livestreamed)

5:30 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
(Communion Served)

December 25 – Christmas Day

OFFICE CLOSED

December 28

Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)

December 30

9 am – Staff Meeting
***Please have all 2025 contributions to the church
office by 12:00 pm***

January 1 – New Years Day

OFFICE CLOSED



Backpacks for Kids

OUR DECEMBER PACK IS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4 @ 2:30
PM IN THE ELEMENTARY CAFETERIA. OUR JANUARY PACK
IS ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 8 @ 2:30 PM SAME
LOCATION. PLEASE ENTER THE SCHOOL THROUGH THE
OFFICE DOORS (COLFAX AVENUE). COME HELP US
PREPARE WEEKEND FOOD FOR KIDS IN NEED!

BOOKCLUB **Will not meet in December**

"The Tattooist of Auschwitz" By Heather Morris

Monday, January 26

Friendship Room @ 2:00 pm

Anyone is welcome to attend!!

(4th Monday of each month -Sept-May)

