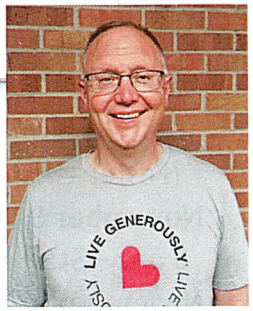
Immanuel Lutheran News

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.



November 2026

From the Desk of Pastor Nate ...

Nearly November greetings to you in the name of God Almighty: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

November is a month to give thanks. Here at Immanuel, it is a month where we will challenge you to consider your financial giving for 2027. And by the end of this month, the season of Advent will have begun as we mark time in anticipation of Christmas and remind ourselves of the promise Christ makes to come among us once again.

I hope it's also a month to continue to engage with John's gospel. This month, we read John 21:1-25, the final verses of the book. Here are some thoughts about those final verses.

In John 21:1-14, John tells us another resurrection story. In this story, the disciples return to their roots and go fishing. But despite fishing all night, they caught nothing. In the morning, Jesus stood on the beach, but they didn't know it was him (compare this to Mary Magdalene supposing him to be the gardener at first in John 20). This "stranger" knows they have caught no fish. And he tells them to try fishing on the other side of the boat. And when they do, they suddenly catch so many fish that they cannot bring the net in. They instantly recognize that this can be no stranger. It must be Jesus. The risen Lord Jesus stands before them. And he comes with abundance.

In John 21:15-25, the story shifts a bit. They are now ashore and they have finished sharing breakfast together. And the metaphor shifts from fish to sheep. Jesus asks Peter three times, "Do you love me?" There must be some significance between this moment and Peter's threefold denial of knowing Jesus earlier in the story. And the way Jesus talks to Peter after calling him to "feed his sheep" suggests something about Peter's future fate as a martyr. And when Peter asks about the so-called "beloved disciple," Jesus' answer seems to suggest that he will live a long life. And, in fact, tradition teaches us that Peter was martyred for his faith and John (the beloved disciple) lived out a long life and was not martyred for his faith.

Finally, in the last few verses of this gospel, the author returns to a final word about all the other things that Jesus did that haven't been written in this book. This seems to me to be a reference to the works that Jesus does through the Holy Spirit at work in his followers. In other words, we carry on the work of Jesus even if it never ends up in a book!

Next month, we will move to the Johannine Epistles to close out the year. Blessings on your month until then!

Humbly in Christ,

Pastor Nate

Pastor Nate

Good things ahead....

November 1 - All Saints' Sunday
Sunday Worship *(Schedule Below)*
November 2
9 am - ICW Block Cutting
12-3:30 pm - Fellowship Hall in Use
(Foster Grandparent Meeting)
November 3
9 am - Staff Meeting
November 4
12 pm - Rotary *(#2 D.Haraldson)*
Worship Wednesday *(Schedule Below)*
7:00 pm - Youth Council Meeting
November 5
1 pm - MAC/NAPS
2:30 pm - WDC Food Pack
November 8
Sunday Worship *(Schedule Below)*
November 10
9 am - Staff Meeting
1:30 pm - ICW Bible Study
November 11
12 pm - Rotary *(Catered)*
Worship Wednesday *(Schedule Below)*
November 12
6 pm - Northstar Round Table
November 14
9 am - Thanksgiving Dinner Prep
November 15
Sunday Worship (Schedule Below)
Following Worship - ILC Council Meeting
Following Worship - Thank You
Thanksgiving Dinner
November 16
9 am - ICW Quilting
November 17
9 am - ICW Quilting
9 am - Staff Meeting
5:30 pm - Dinner Club @ 21 Social House
November 18
12 pm - Rotary *(#3 N.Overland)*
Worship Wednesday *(Schedule Below)*
November 19
10:30 am - Catholic Charities Frozen
Meal Distribution
November 21
3 pm - Fellowship Hall in Use (AA Round Robin)
November 22
Sunday Worship (Schedule Below)
Following Worship - *Linger Longer*
4-6 pm - A Day in the Park *(Black's Grove)*
November 23
2 pm Book Club *(Friendship Room)*
November 24
9 am - Staff Meeting
11 am - Dementia Caregiver Support Group
(Friendship Room)
12-6pm - Blood Drive
November 25
12 pm - Rotary *(Catered)*
NO Worship Wednesday
November 26 - Thanksgiving Day
OFFICE CLOSED
November 27
OFFICE CLOSED
2 pm - Advent Hymn Sing @ St. Ann's
November 29
Sunday Worship (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

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

Women's Discipleship

Block Cutting - Monday, November 2 @ 9am
Monday, December 7 @ 9am
Bible Study - Tuesday, November 10 @ 1:30pm
(Fall Gather pg.#38)
Tuesday, December 8 @ 1:30pm
(Fall Gather pg.#46)
Quilting - November 16 & 17 @ 9am-2pm
NO Quilting in December

Book Club

"PILGRIM AT TINKOR CREEK"
BY ANNIE DILLARD
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23 @ 2:00 PM
FRIENDSHIP ROOM
EVERYONE WELCOME!

WDC WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM

Our next pack of the year is Thursday, November 5 @ 2:30pm in the elementary cafeteria. Enter in the main office on Colfax.

Thank You Thanksgiving Meal

PREP DAY November 14 • 9:00am
MEAL DAY November 15 • following worship

Youth and families: help is needed BOTH days!
Other volunteers are welcome either day.

MONETARY DONATIONS
Donations are welcome to help fund the meal.

PLUCK THE TURKEY
COMING SOON!
Watch the bulletin board for turkey feathers with food items to donate.

A DAY IN THE PARK

Blacks Grove • Wadena

Sunday, November 22
4–6 p.m.

Fire • S'mores • Yard Games
Dress warmly & bring a lawn chair
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Worship Wednesday

November 4
Chicken Patty on a Bun

November 11
Baked Potato Bar

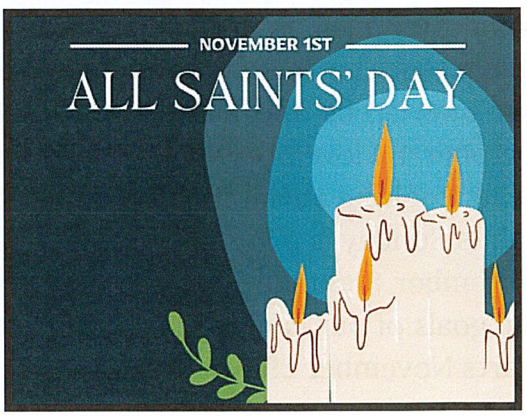
November 18
Meatball Subs

IMMANUEL DINNER CLUB

Tuesday, November 17
5:30 pm @
21 Social House

ILC GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree became part of Immanuel in 1993 and continues to exhibit the unwavering generosity of our congregation! This generosity keeps this mission going strong with gifts going to Share-A-Home residents and families through Wadena Social Services. Watch for the Giving Tree to be filled with tags mid-November. Please consider taking a tag from the Giving Tree and sharing with those in need in our community!



Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – October 18, 2026

Council will meet next on November 15th at 10:45am – this is a change from the normal second Sunday of the month. A motion was made by Dean and seconded by Bryan to accept the meeting minutes of 2026, motion carried.

Committee Reports

Congregational Life: Diane Breitling - Congregational Life did not meet, but things are going well, very busy!

Outreach: Rick Johnson - Did not meet, will be meeting in November.

Youth and Education: Meagan Ferris - The Education and Youth committees have had a busy and fun start to the fall! **Youth Fellowship:** We had a blast at Holst Acres in Staples at the beginning of October, enjoying an evening of laser tag and fellowship with our youth! **90th Anniversary:** A big thank you to Britta and Ben for interviewing Immanuel members about their memories of growing up at Immanuel. We appreciate their help in capturing these special stories and memories for our church's 90th Anniversary celebration! **Trunk or Treat:** We are looking forward to participating in Trunk or Treat on October 31st for Halloween! **November Youth & Family Outing:** We are planning a youth and family outing at Black's Grove in November. Stay tuned for more information!
Thank You Thanksgiving Meal: We will be preparing and serving the Thank You Thanksgiving meal on November 14th and 15th. Please watch for sign-up sheets if you are interested in helping with preparation or serving.

Property Management: Jeff Morlock - Still waiting on gutters.

Worship and Music: Margie Anderson - Did not meet, will meet again November 19th

Youth Leadership: No Report

Other Reports

Immanuel Church Women: Diane Teigland - Sponsored the 85 and older reception, a big thank you to Gail for all the work she put in to make that happen!

LEAD PASTOR UPDATE - Pastor's Report – October 2026 - September/Early October Highlights

1. I have been enjoying getting back into the confirmation classroom. I have 25 students this year, which is great. **2**. I have been working with 13 kids who are affirming their faith. **3.** The Staples Area Men's Chorus was here on September 27 and the music was such a great addition to our service! **4**. We had a second backpacks food pack on October 8. Great volunteer support for this program, including 4 individuals and members of the Elks Club who take turns helping me put bags in lockers each week. **5.** Immanuel hosted the funeral for Renee Current on October 10. As usual, we were very good hosts and Immanuel should be proud that we open our doors for such important events for families in their times of grief. **6.** The 90th anniversary celebration went well. Many thanks to the youth for interviewing several Immanuel members on video. And to the congregational life team for hosting a wonderful meal. Be thinking about how you want your 100th anniversary celebration to go and get a group together to start planning! **7.** 85 and older recognition was today. Always important to recognize our matriarchs and patriarchs of faith. **8.** I took a few days off in early October, including Sunday October 4. I love preaching and leading worship, but it's always good to get away for a bit and clear my head. **Looking ahead 1.** Confirmation Sunday is October 25. We will have a special service at 11am **2.** All Saints Sunday is November 1. **3.** Our fall stewardship campaign launches November 4 (Wednesday) and November 8 (Sunday). We're using the theme "Live Generously" again, because it really fits well with the goals of our campaign. **4.** Next Backpacks Food Pack is November 5. **5.** If you can believe it, Advent starts November 29!

OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD:

Financial Secretary Report: Gail Kluenenberg

The total of general offerings counted and deposited for September 2026 were:

General $20,218.36 **Building** $3,125.00 **Endowment** $125.00 This does not include direct deposits.

Treasurer's Report: Bryan Greenwaldt - Refer to table below

Finance Committee: Dean Krogstad - Committee met 09/28/26 to plan the 2026 Stewardship Campaign.

Other Business:

· Confirmation will be October 25th at 11:00am – looking for people to serve treats afterwards – it sounds like Audrey and Elana will both be present.

· The Sunday puppet show was discussed, the counsel understands that they are missed on Sundays – however, the puppets must adhere to their union contracts and will only be appearing Wednesday night's until further notice. Please join us Wednesday's at 6:00pm to see what that bunch is up to!

Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer – Motion to adjourn made by Bryan and seconded by Cindy, Motion carried.

Respectfully,

Becky Crooker – Secretary

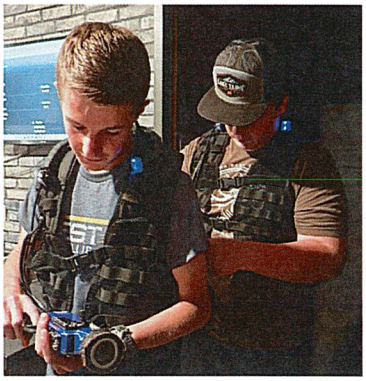
September 2026 Financial Report

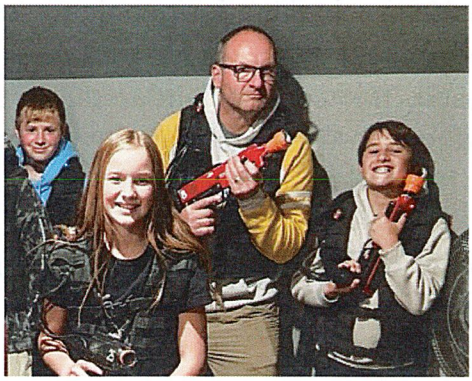
Total General Contributions	$29,255.36		**Restricted Fund Contributions**	$325.00
Total General Expenses	$43,146.16		**Restricted Fund Expenses**	$1,000.00
General Fund Balance 8/31/2026	($17,276.66)		**Restricted Fund Balance 8/31/2026**	$61,827.20
Building Fund Contributions	$3,524.00			
Building Fund Expenses	$0.00			
Building Fund Balance 8/31/2026	$9,279.37			

Good things happening...

Immanuel Youth Laser Tag!

Our Immanuel Youth had a blast getting together for some fellowship, fun, and friendly competition at Holst Acres in Staples! There was plenty of laughter, teamwork, strategy, and, of course, a little bit of camaraderie along the way! We love getting our youth together outside of church to build friendships, make memories, and simply enjoy being together. God With Us — in worship, in service, and even during a little laser tag! A big thank you to Holst Acres for a fun night!







LIVING GENEROUSLY

A Note about our "LIVE GENEROUSLY" Stewardship Campaign...

Our finance committee has set the dates of our fall stewardship campaign. We will hear from several speakers on Wednesdays and Sundays beginning on Wednesday, November 4 on the theme of "Generous Living". It will build to wonderful commitment days on November 18/22. Look for a letter to hit your mailboxes soon with more details. If you would like one of Thrivent's newest "Live Generously" t-shirts, we will have lots of them available during our campaign. Thanks for being open to God's call to "LIVE GENEROUSLY"!

Advent/Christmas Hymn Sing

NOVEMBER 27, 2026 2:00 PM
ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER 6, 2026 2:00 PM
FORMER UCC CHURCH

DECEMBER 27, 2026 2:00 PM
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Come sing along, celebrate together, and feel the warmth of the season. Everyone's welcome to bring your friends and family.

Good things happening....

Immanuel is Turning 90!!

We had a wonderful celebration on October 11, including a potluck and celebratory program. But we wanted to take one more month to celebrate part of Immanuel's history. This month, we look at some highlights from the last 15 years.

In 2012, work on the major organ upgrade was completed. Allen Moe updated the old 8-rank, 25-stop Schlicker Organ (dedicated in 1962) to a 21-Rank, 77-stop organ. This beautiful instrument is a vital part of our worship gatherings. A dedication concert was held in the spring featuring Christopher Stroh. That same year, Rev. Nathan W. Loer (AKA "Pastor Nate") was called as Lead Pastor. He began his ministry on July 1.

In 2013, Immanuel hosted a hymn festival featuring David Cherwein in February and held its final Smorgasbord in October. On October 20, Immanuel held it's first "Praise Service," a service that continued for many years until the COVID-19 Pandemic disrupted just about everything.

In 2015, Immanuel said farewell to Christie Meier, longtime servant and staff member of Immanuel. Most recently, Christie had been serving as an Associate in Ministry. She moved with her family to the Sioux Falls, SD area and she eventually began serving a congregation, in Tea, SD, where she still serves as a Deacon today. In September, Young Chung became an Interim Ministry Associate with Immanual. She was in her final year of pastoral study and was able to assist us with preaching and teaching, along with musical leadership during her 6 months on staff. In June of 2016, Rev. Megan Clapp was called as Associate Pastor.

In March of 2020, the COVID-19 Pandemic went global. Immanuel adapted its ministry, including producing weekly radio programs in-house using old and new recordings and sending them digitally to the radio station for broadcast on Sundays. Immanuel pulled back from in-person worship and developed a weekly livestream, first on Facebook Live, then migrating to YouTube. This weekly ministry continues today. In February of 2021, weekly in-person worship resumed in full.

In 2022, Pastor Megan Clapp resigned her call to accept a call to Trinity Lutheran in Detroit Lakes as their senior pastor. "Worship Wednesdays" resumed with a focus on weekly congregational meals, weekly worship, and education for all grades. This program grows each year through the present day.

In 2025, Immanuel began several renovation projects in the church building, including the sanctuary and kitchen and many of the old windows in the building were replaced. A new 100" TV was installed in the sanctuary replacing the projector and screen.

And in 2026, Immanuel celebrating their 90th anniversary, giving thanks to God for nine decades of ministry in Wadena!





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 Kluenenberg
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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