

Annual Report

*Freed by God's grace to be wholly devoted to
Jesus and our neighbor in love.*

2025





OFFICE HOURS:

Monday—Friday
8:30 am—3:30 pm

CONTACT US:

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President.....Margie Anderson
Vice President.....Matt Greenwaldt
(Becomes President in 2026)

Secretary.....Kayla Carpenter
Treasurer.....Bryan Greenwaldt
Financial Secretary.....Jane Bagstad
Financial Vice-Secretary.....Gail Kluenenberg
(Becomes Financial Secretary in 2026)

Committee Chairpersons:

Congregational Life.....Diane Breitling
Finance.....Dean Krogstad
Outreach/Evangelism.....Vacant
Parish Education.....Meagan Ferris
Property Management.....Steph Drange
Worship & Music.....Anne Oldakowski
Youth.....Katie Johnson

President.....Diane Teigland
Secretary.....Deb Andrews
Treasurer.....Jil Fiemeyer
Mission Growth.....Jane Bagstad
Mission Action.....Audrey Brandt Loer
Mission Community.....Gail Kluenenberg

Sanctuary Choir.....Deb Haraldson
Sanctuary Choir Accompanist.....Suzanne Leigh
Church Organists.....Allen Moe
Church Pianists.....Allen Moe, Suzanne Leigh,
Anne Oldakowski, Hanna Sievert,
Matthew Greenwaldt, Deb Haraldson

Please bring this report with you to the
Annual Meeting on Wednesday, January 28, 2026.

ANNUAL REPORT—2025

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

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

January 28, 2026 at 6:30 pm

1. CALL TO ORDER	President, Margie Anderson
2. OPENING DEVOTIONS	Pastor Nate Loer
3. OFFICER'S REPORTS	
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8. OLD BUSINESS	
9. NEW BUSINESS	
Presentation and Adoption of 2026 Budget.....	pg. 24
Nominating Committee Report: Election & Appointments.....	pg. 25
10. NEW PRESIDENT TAKES OFFICE	Matt Greenwaldt
Other Business	
Adjournment	
11. CLOSING PRAYER.....	Pastor Nate Loer

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 2024 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

President Mike Brunsberg called the 2024 Annual Meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Pastor Nate Loer welcomed everyone and gave an opening devotion by reading the letter included in the Annual Report from Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA.

OFFICERS REPORTS: The 2024 Annual Meeting minutes and reports including Council President, Treasurer, Financial Review for 2024 were presented as written in the Annual Report. A motion was made by Dean Krogstad and seconded by Diane Breitling to accept the reports. Motion Carried.

ROSTERED STAFF REPORTS: Pastor Nate thanked Mike Brunsberg for his service and leadership over the past year. He also thanked the outgoing council members, current staff members, musicians, choir members and director, Wednesday worship team and the congregation for the privilege of serving as pastor. Warner Luoma thanked Pastor Nate and Elana Seibert for their work with Parish Education. A motion was made to accept the rostered reports by Deb Haraldson and seconded by Les Breitling. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: The annual reports for Worship and Music, Finance, Congregational Life, Outreach/ Evangelism, Property Management and Youth were presented for review. There was no Parish Education report. A motion was made by Rick Johnson and seconded by Karen Leverington to accept the Committee Reports. Motion carried.

OTHER REPORTS: The reports from Immanuel Church Women, Women's Financials, Lutheran Men's Ministry, Memorial and Endowment Funds were presented for review. Pastor Nate briefly related where gifts had been made and the need for additional ideas for future gifts. A motion was made to accept the reports by Margie Anderson and seconded by Les Breitling. Motion Carried.

SYNOD REPORT: The letter from Bishop Tesch was presented. Briefly discussed was the work of the Synod and the Jeremiah 29 project which is a three year endeavor. Anyone from Immanuel interested in being on the Steering Committee for this project is encouraged to contact Pastor Nate.

OLD BUSINESS: President Mike Brunsberg thanked Pam Nelson for her work on completing the church directory which was recently published and distributed to church members. Pam Nelson thanked the members who had assisted with this project.

NEW BUSINESS: The church budget for 2025 was presented by Bryan Greenwaldt for discussion. Bryan thanked the congregation for their generous giving as well as Pastor Nate, church council and staff for their fiscal responsibility. After some discussion a motion was made by Warner Luoma and seconded by Les Breitling to amend the line item for Parish Education from \$2,500 to \$3,500. Motion carried. A second motion was made to approve the 2025 budget as amended by Warner Luoma and seconded by Joanne Link. Motion carried.

The report from the Nominating Committee was reviewed with the following names added for Financial Vice Secretary, Gail Kluenenberg, and Norm Gallant for the Nominating Committee. The chair of the Outreach Committee remains open. Motion was made by Amy Greenwaldt and seconded by Jane Erckenbrack to accept the slate of officers and close the nominations Motion carried.

Margie Anderson assumed the office of the president of the congregation and thanked Mike Brunsberg for his leadership during the past year. A motion was made by Shirley Hartjen and seconded by Gerald Leverington to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm with a closing prayer and the Lord's Prayer led by Pastor Nate.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanne Olson, Secretary

2024 ANNUAL MEETING ATTENDEES

Aldeen, Carol	Krogstad, Dean
Aldeen, Dave	Lageson, Roger
Anderson, Allan	Larson, Peggy
Anderson, Margie	Leverington, Gerald
Bagstad, Jane	Leverington, Karen
Brandt Loer, Audrey	Loeffen, Jack
Breid, Marlys	Loer, Nate
Breitling, Diane	Luoma, Warner
Breitling, Les	Lynk, Joanne
Brunsberg, Jennifer	Miller, Liz
Brunsberg, Mike	Macklem, Gordy
Carlstrom, Douglas	Macklem, Gwen
Carlstrom, Ellen	Martin, Dennis
Carpenter, Kayla	Martin, Eileen
Erckenbrack, Jane	Nelson, Pam
Fiskum, Iona	Oldakowski, Anne
Greenwaldt, Amy	Oldakowski, Greg
Greenwaldt, Bryan	Olson, Dennis
Greenwaldt, Matthew	Olson, Jeanne Johnson
Haraldson, Deb	Olson, Terry
Hartjen, Shirley	Pate, Ann
Hillesland, Jan	Pate, John
Johnson, Rachel	Senn, David
Johnson, Rick	Winkelman, Karen
Johnson, Sue	Winkelman, Myron
Kloss, David	
Kluenenberg, Gail	

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Members of Immanuel,

It has been an honor to serve as Immanuel's president this past year. Thank you for putting your trust in me. It has been a year of learning how our church works.

I've worked with a great team of committee chairs. Each has given their all. We've had serious moments along with light-hearted times.

A highlight of this year has been the remodeling of our building. Many improvements have been made with more happening in 2026. I am excited to see the end result. Another highlight for me was participating in a private adult baptism. The adult had requested this and to me it was truly a God moment!

A special thank-you to Pastor Nate for his friendship and leadership of our church. He spends endless time making sure all aspects of the church keep running smoothly. He is truly a servant of God. We are blessed to have him as our leader.

Finally, all the best to Matt Greenwaldt as he takes over the presidency for 2026. He will do great things!

Sincerely,

Margie Ander-

Margie Anderson



CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

DECEMBER 31, 2025

Consolidated Balance Sheet							
December 31 <u>2025</u>							
ASSETS		As of Dec 31, 2022		As of Dec 31, 2023		As of Dec 31, 2024	
		As of Dec 31, 2025					
	CURRENT ASSETS						
	General Funds - Checking (WSB)	\$65,058	\$107,263	\$110,207	\$76,899		
	Restricted/Designated Funds - (WSB)	\$48,944	\$57,375	\$55,195	\$41,502		
	Building Fund (WSB)	\$17,021	\$22,009	\$28,136	\$20,736		
	Memorial Funds (MCF)	\$20,727	\$11,079	\$11,904	\$17,731		
	Youth Account (MIF/MCF)	\$62,072	\$62,241	\$51,517	\$15,167		
	Total Current Assets	<u>\$213,822</u>	<u>\$259,966</u>	<u>\$256,958</u>	<u>\$172,036</u>		
	OTHER ASSETS						
	Mission Endowment Fund	\$305,277	\$452,931	\$522,772	\$658,250		
	Total Other Assets	<u>\$305,277</u>	<u>\$452,931</u>	<u>\$522,772</u>	<u>\$658,250</u>		
	FIXED ASSETS						
	Church Building (Insured Value; Assessed = \$890,500)	\$4,546,000	\$4,546,000	\$4,546,000	\$6,639,749		
	Land (Assessed Value)	\$33,500	\$33,500	\$33,500	\$46,700		
	Furnishings/Equipment (Insured Value)	\$682,000	\$682,000	\$682,000	\$995,962		
	Total Fixed Assets	<u>\$5,261,500</u>	<u>\$5,261,500</u>	<u>\$5,261,500</u>	<u>\$7,682,411</u>		
	TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$5,780,599</u>	<u>\$5,974,398</u>	<u>\$6,041,230</u>	<u>\$8,512,697</u>		
	LIABILITIES						
	CURRENT LIABILITIES						
	Payroll Liabilities	\$1,183	\$5,905	\$2,077	\$2,129		
	TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$1,183</u>	<u>\$5,905</u>	<u>\$2,077</u>	<u>\$2,129</u>		
	NET WORTH	<u>\$5,779,416</u>	<u>\$5,968,492</u>	<u>\$6,039,153</u>	<u>\$8,510,568</u>		
	TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH	<u>\$5,780,599</u>	<u>\$5,974,398</u>	<u>\$6,041,230</u>	<u>\$8,512,697</u>		
WSB: Wadena State Bank, MCF: Mid Central Federal Savings Bank, MIF: Mission Investment Fund - ELCA							
*a Church Mutual assesses for property value changes every three years							



2025 FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE REVIEW CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the financial records of the congregation have been reviewed, findings submitted to the Church Council, and that a proper accounting of all randomly reviewed activities has been found, and in conformity with religious organization non-profit accounting.

Sincerely,
Financial Review Committee
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wadena, MN

Signed: Paul Drange



Signed: Keith Nelson



REPORT OF THE LEAD PASTOR

Dear beloved of God at Immanuel: Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to God for another year of ministry and service to Immanuel as Lead Pastor. It is hard to believe that over 13 years have passed since I was first called to this congregation. And what a joy to reflect back on another fruitful year of ministry.

I love preaching and 2025 was another year full of opportunities to preach on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, at funerals, and at weddings. I also cherish the calling to preside at Holy Communion and to preside at baptisms, too. I look forward to more opportunities to express God's love, mercy, forgiveness, and calling in 2026.

I also feel honored to walk alongside so many of you to provide counsel and spiritual care. So often in 2025, I had the privilege of being a listening ear (ears that wear hearing aids these days!), a prayer partner, a bearer of hope in the midst of your joys and struggles. I wish life wasn't so full of grief and turmoil, but insofar as it is, I know 2026 will provide more opportunities for me to be available to you for pastoral care.

Teaching is important to me as well. And once again, the Lord provided multiple avenues for teaching in 2025. I led an "Early Risers" class on the book of Acts last spring and led a monthly Women's Bible study throughout the year as well. I got to teach confirmation all year and worked with Elana to teach a Communion Milestone class during Lent. I know that God will provide more chances to teach in 2026.

Finally, I always love encouraging generosity. And once again, it was a year full of generosity. It was certainly a financially healthy year for the congregation, especially our building fund. So many of you made second-mile gifts to help fund many of our capital projects here at Immanuel. And we were also so generous with others, too. We continue to be generous in mission support to the Northwestern Minnesota Synod and to the Churchwide ELCA. We give generously to Luther Crest Bible Camp, Meals on Wheels, WDC Backpacks for Kids, our Giving Tree Project, and we sent lots of quilts and kits to Lutheran World Relief, too. And besides all that, our Endowment Fund gave \$22,000 to various projects and ministry in our community and region. All thanks to your generosity. May God challenge us in 2026 to generously support Immanuel's mission both inside and outside the walls of our building.

In the year ahead, I hope God will guide us and bless us as we seek to be his people in 2026.

In Christ's humble service,

Pastor Nate

Nate Loer, Lead Pastor

- 2025 PAROCHIAL REPORT -

	Baptized	Confirmed
Membership – December 31, 2024	789	550
Additions:		
By Baptism (Child):	3	0
By Baptism (Adult):	1	1
By Affirmation of Faith:	3	3
By Transfer from ELCA Congregation:	5	4
By Transfer from Other Lutheran Congregation:	4	2
By Transfer from Non-Lutheran Congregation:	3	3
Statistical Adjustment:	0	0
Total Members Received	19	13
Baptized Members Confirmed:	1	2
Total with Additions:	809	565
Removals:		
By Death:	10	10
By Transfer to Other ELCA:	1	1
By Transfer to Other Lutheran Congregation:	0	0
By Transfer to Other Non-Lutheran Congregations:	0	0
Statistical Adjustment	0	0
Total Members Removed	11	11
MEMBERSHIP – DECEMBER 31, 2025		798
		554

Average Worship Sunday Attendance 2016–2025

<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u> ¹	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
200	188	181	204	n/a	87	91	102	99	102

Average Weekly Worship Attendance 2016–2025

<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u> ¹	<u>2021</u> ²	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
224	222	201	208	n/a	108	137	143	142	154

¹ Calculating worship attendance in 2020 is nearly impossible and not terribly relevant to compare with other years.

² Resumed taking worship attendance June of 2021

- 2025 ONLINE VIEWERSHIP -

2025 YouTube Views:	Total Views – 5950 Avg. Weekly Views – 114	Sunday Views—4335 Avg. Sunday Views – 83
2024 YouTube Views:	Total Views – 6124 Avg. Weekly Views – 118	Sunday Views—4110 Avg. Sunday Views – 78
2023 Facebook/YouTube Views:	Total Views – 6,424 Avg. Weekly Views – 124	Sunday Views – 4,857 Avg. Sunday Views – 92

SPECIAL BUILDING PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS & PLEDGES

In gratitude to God, acknowledging the previous generosity that allows us to spend up to \$50,000 of general fund money and up to \$30,000 of previously-donated building fund money, we acknowledge and give thanks to God for these special gifts to our building projects in the past 6 months, as well as those donations promised in the 2026 fiscal year.

Diane Anderson in memory of Jerry Anderson & in honor of our Immanuel family

Gloria Anderson in memory of Ken Anderson

Wayne & Carol Aspengren as a gift to the congregation

Jane Bagstad & Terry Olson as a gift to the congregation

Marlys Breid in memory of Jerry Breid

Les & Diane Breitling as a gift to the congregation

Mike & Jennifer Brunsberg as a gift to the congregation

Sharon Boline in memory of Don Boline

Marilyn Broding as a gift to the congregation

Gladys Chase in memory of Charlie Chase

Iona Fiskum as a gift to the congregation

Lois Hallermann in memory of Thomas Lund & in honor of her grandchildren

The late Shirley Hamre in memory of Byron Hamre

Lyle & Deb Haraldson as a gift to the congregation

Jan Hillesland in honor of our Immanuel family

Linda Hoffman as a gift to the congregation

Bea Iken as a gift to the congregation

Immanuel Endowment Fund as a gift to the congregation

Gail Kluenenberg as a gift to the congregation

Maynard & Ardella Krause as a gift to the congregation

Roger Lageson as a gift to the congregation

Jack Loeffen in memory of Judy Loeffen

Joanne Lynk as a gift to the congregation

Dennis & Eileen Martin in memory of Leroy & Elaine Morvig and Merlin & Doris Martin

Marilyn & Luther Nervig as a gift to the congregation
Ron Noon in memory of **Gretchen & Ben Noon**
Chris Olson as a gift to the congregation & in memory of **Shirley Hamre**
Dennis & Jeanne Olson in memory of **Elmer & Doris Olson**
Jim & Nina Overland in honor **Pastor Nate Loer** and Family
John & Ann Pate in memory of **Leroy & Marion Sorenson**
Jeff & Cindy Pederson as a gift to the congregation
Randy & Peggy Riedel as a gift to the congregation
Kent & Shanneen Schmidt as a gift to the congregation
 David Senn in memory of **Carleen Senn**
Susan Thompson in memory of **Joseph & Gladys Thompson**
Luke & Jess VanHavermaet as a gift to the congregation
 Betty White in memory of **Shirley Hamre**
Mary Kay Wohlert in memory of **Tim Wohlert**
Iona Wood & Keith Wood as a gift to the congregation

At the request of the families,
memorial money was used for sanctuary projects in memory of:
 Bill Adams
 Bob Grendahl

Additional Thanks:
Stephanie Drange for all her work coordinating these projects
Loren and Logan Meyer for donating materials and time to
 reattach the pews

To date, we have received \$41,995 in gifts and pledges!
Thank you!!

MILESTONE REPORT

BAPTIZED AT IMMANUEL IN 2025

Jace Daniel VanHavermaet ~ March 16, 2025

Jessica Ann Wolden ~ June 23, 2025

Jordi Rae Nelson ~ July 13, 2025

Cohen John Lohmiller ~ September 21, 2025

DEATHS FROM IMMANUEL IN 2025

Edna Mae Hunnicutt ~ January 17, 2025

Charles Richard Chase ~ March 6, 2025

William Frederick Adams ~ March 12, 2025

Dale Wallace Dobson ~ March 18, 2025

Leona Hope Johnson ~ April 10, 2025

Dale Eugene Miller ~ May 12, 2025

Clifford "Cliff" Clausen ~ August 19, 2025

Gary Einar Johnson ~ August 24, 2025

Shirley Arleen Hamre ~ September 15, 2025

Scott Alan McKellep ~ December 19, 2025

CONFIRMED AT IMMANUEL ~ OCTOBER 26, 2025

MaKayla Case

Addison Wegscheid

REPORT OF THE WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE

We continue to be thankful to everyone who plays a part in our worship services and all the behind-the-scenes work that is done throughout the year to make those services meaningful.

Services are offered year-round on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am and on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm from September through May. We provided in-person services and streaming options to meet the needs of all members of our congregation. YouTube live streaming and broadcasting on KWAD 920 AM have been so beneficial for many of our members and for outreach to our community.

We held a wonderful All Music Sunday on May 4. This event included many members of our congregation, and we thank them for sharing their talents with us. We'd also like to thank our members that share their talents throughout the year in our special music slots during services.

We have worked with the Building Committee this year to assist them with the upgrades needed to our sanctuary, including pew renovations, painting, carpet, lighting, and in researching a new TV. We purchased an LED TV to replace our worship projector, which will be installed once the final painting is completed in front of the sanctuary. This will be a good upgrade, with better settings for brightness and improved picture quality due to advances in technology. We also continue to maintain and tune several pianos throughout our church.

For our Advent season, we were fortunate to have the Sanctuary Choir present "One Small Child," a Christmas musical arranged by Benjamin Harlan. The youth of Immanuel also presented the Christmas story through narration, costumes, and songs.

I would like to thank our committee members for another terrific year: Pastor Nate Loer, Jean Beck, Mitchell Ganske, Amy Greenwaldt, Matthew Greenwaldt, Deb Haraldson, Suzanne Moe, and Pam Nelson.

Worship & Music Chair,

Anne Oldakowski

Anne Oldakowski



REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Immanuel's Finance Committee is responsible for serving the congregation by developing a budget that reflects the congregation's needs and wishes and providing for our church staff. With the wonderful generosity of the congregation and the fiscal responsibility of the staff, the Finance Committee feels the congregation is in a great position to make a slight increase in our giving for 2026 and remain competitive in staff wages.

Thank you to all members of our congregation for your generosity of gifts and talents as we go into the new year spreading God's word.

Committee Members: Jane Bagstad, Greg Baron, Sara Grabe, Bryan Greenwaldt, Kyle Lehmkuhl, Kent Schmidt

Staff: Pastor Nate Loer, Jil Fiemeyer

Dean Krogstad

Dean Krogstad
Finance Committee Chair

REPORT OF THE CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

Congregational Life Committee has had a busy and fun-filled year! It's always a joy to have fellowship with others in our congregation. No matter your age, young or old, there's something for you to do to get to know others and grow your faith. Food is always involved! Join us for Coffee & Conversation each Sunday morning beginning at 8:30. Come Wednesday evenings during the school year and join us for supper beginning at 4:30. Then attend the worship service at 6:00 and catch the excitement of the youth in our congregation for the love of God!

Other events that the Congregational Life Committee hosts include Lenten Soup Suppers, helping the Youth with the Baked Potato Bar and Christmas party, potlucks for New Member Sunday and Music Sunday, preparing snacks and lunches for VBS, serving a warm meal on Halloween, continuing with the Giving Tree Project and setting up a collection box for the Wadena Food Shelf.

I have the honor to serve as the Chair of the Congregational Life Committee, but all of our members have amazing talents. They are the reason we are able to do so much!

Committee Members: Margie Anderson, Jane Bagstad, Diane Breitling, Steph Drange, Meagan Ferris, Sue Johnson, Gail Kluenenberg, Peggy Larson, Mary Kay Wohlert, and Elana Siebert (staff liaison)

Diane Breitling

Diane Breitling
Congregational Life Chair

REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee remained active and engaged throughout 2025, focusing on nurturing the spiritual growth of children and youth while strengthening fellowship, service, and community connection at Immanuel. Committee members this year included Meagan Ferris, Sara Ross, Elana Seibert, Sierra Rach, Bobbi Wegscheid, Hanna Sievert, Marsha Kaufman, and Lindsey Meech.

Worship Wednesdays & Faith Formation

One of the committee's primary goals was enhancing Worship Wednesdays. Efforts included reimagining classroom spaces, refreshing the Youth Room, and incorporating large-motor and interactive activities to better meet the needs of children and youth. A new Wednesday theme, "Fuel Your Faith," emphasized food, fellowship, worship, and faith-building activities. The committee also worked to recruit and welcome new teachers and substitutes to sustain this growing ministry.

Service Projects & Youth Engagement

Service opportunities were intentionally woven throughout the year. Youth participated in projects such as:

- Creating May Day baskets for congregation members and neighbors
- Decorating Palm Sunday and Thanksgiving placemats
- Planning and launching Service Project Sundays

These projects allowed youth to live out their faith through hands-on service and community outreach.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

A major highlight of the year was planning and hosting Luther Crest Day Camp VBS, held July 20–24. The Education and Youth Committees worked collaboratively to support costs and logistics, hosted a VBS Kickoff Potluck, and welcomed counselors into the congregation.

Youth & Family Events

The committee supported several fellowship and enrichment opportunities, including:

- A Lauren Daigle concert trip for youth and adults
- PJs in the Pews (Jesus, Jammies & Joy) movie event
- Updates to the Youth Room, including new games and activity spaces

Communication & Welcome Efforts

The committee developed a Welcome Board and explored creating a "Snapshot of Immanuel" to help new families and visitors learn more about the church's ministries and opportunities. Ongoing communication through bulletins and social media helped promote events and encourage participation.

Children's Christmas Program

The Worship Wednesday Children's Christmas Program was a joyful culmination of the year. Children shared the Christmas story through narration, costumes, piano solos, and group songs. Following the program, families enjoyed Christmas Bingo, hot chocolate, and cookie decorating, creating a warm atmosphere of celebration and fellowship. The program was well attended and widely appreciated, highlighting the talents, teamwork, and faith of our children.

Looking Ahead

The Education Committee is excited to continue expanding youth service opportunities, strengthening Worship Wednesdays, and creating welcoming, faith-filled experiences for children and families in the coming year.

With Gratitude

The Education Committee extends heartfelt thanks to:

Our dedicated teachers, substitutes, and volunteers who faithfully serve week after week
Youth and families for their enthusiasm, participation, and support
Luthercrest counselors and host families for enriching our VBS experience
Marsha Kaufman for directing the Christmas program
Elana Seibert, Anna Fiemeyer, Peggy Larson, and all who helped organize events, service projects, and fellowship opportunities

Your time, creativity, and commitment make a lasting impact on the faith formation of our children and youth. Thank you for supporting and strengthening the Education Ministry at Immanuel.



Meagan Ferris
Education Committee Chair

REPORT OF THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Youth Leadership Team works diligently to plan events and fundraising opportunities that support and engage the youth of Immanuel. The team meets on the first Wednesday of each month in the Teen Vibe Room and is supported by Elana Seibert, Youth and Family Education Coordinator, along with the Youth Committee Chair.

Youth Leadership Team members serving in 2025 are Samuel Church, Noah Drange, Britta Ferris, Anna Fiemeyer, and Isabelle Lehmkuhl.

Throughout the year, the youth were actively involved in many meaningful activities. In February, we held our annual ice skating event at the Hegarty Ice Rink, which was enjoyed by both youth and adults, followed by a baked potato bar after worship. In March, the youth led a Lenten worship service, prepared and served supper, and participated in a successful ski trip to Andes Tower Hills. A special thank-you to David Kloss for organizing the trip—everyone had a great time.

April included hosting a Palm Sunday Brunch with the help of wonderful youth and adult volunteers, as well as filling Easter eggs for the Easter egg hunt following worship on Easter Sunday. In July, the youth assisted Luther Crest staff with Vacation Bible School. August brought our annual Pie and Ice Cream Social at the Rotary Corn and Chicken Feed.

In October, the youth hosted PJs in the Pews and are looking forward to hosting another one soon. They also participated in Trunk-or-Treat by decorating vehicles and handing out candy in the church parking lot alongside members of the congregation and the Congregational Life Committee. In November, youth and adult volunteers worked both Saturday and Sunday at the Thank-You Thanksgiving Meal, once again helping make the event a great success.

Thank you to all the youth and families who volunteered their time this year, and thank you to the congregation of Immanuel for your continued support of our youth ministry. We look forward to the events and opportunities ahead in 2026.

Katie Johnson

Katie Johnson
Youth Committee Chair

Youth Financials 2025			
Youth Account Activities	MCF (Mid-Central)	MIF	Total
Beginning Balance 1/1/25	\$26,495.64	\$27,034.59	\$53,530.23
Add: Contributions/Interest/Activities	\$11,031.35	\$162.11	\$11,193.46
Transfer to Mission Investment	\$0.00		\$0.00
Minus: Youth Expenditures	\$22,359.59	\$0.00	\$22,359.59
Ending Balance 12/31/25	\$15,167.40	\$27,196.70	\$42,364.10

REPORT OF THE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

It's been a busy year! Thank you for your support and flexibility during the past year of construction. As you most likely know, the sanctuary has new carpet and the parking lot is striped and appears to function in a way we need as a congregation. With any construction project, there are many moving pieces. Yet to come are the kitchen, the windows, and the front wall of the sanctuary. Turns out, it is difficult to paint such a space. Again, thank you for your generosity. I feel truly blessed to be part of this congregation, and I appreciate your willingness to use and enjoy this space we call church.

Steph Drange

Steph Drange

REPORT OF THE IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH MEN IN MISSION

Our balance to start 2025 was \$1,370.00.

We ended the year with a balance of \$1,370.00.

Doug Carlstrom

Doug Carlstrom



REPORT OF THE IMMANUEL CHURCH WOMEN

The ICW met for Circle meetings and Bible study each month led by Pastor Nate Loer.

The NW Synod of the Women of the ELCA held spring and fall gatherings in Conference 6. The annual convention was held in September in Alexandria.

Quilt blocks were cut and quilts were assembled and shipped to Lutheran World Relief. Three quilts were donated to the Empty Stocking Fund. Also assembled and shipped to LWR were baby care kits, school kits, and personal care kits.

Funeral lunches were served by three funeral serving groups. In May, gifts were given to high school graduates from Immanuel. In the fall, a brunch was hosted for the congregation honoring members who are age 85 and older.

President: Diane Teigland

Secretary: Deb Andrews

Treasurer: Jil Fiemeyer

Mission Growth: Jane Bagstad

Mission Action: Audrey Brandt Loer

Mission Community: Gail Kluenenberg

Thank you to all of the volunteers who played a part in what was accomplished.

Diane Teigland

Diane Teigland, President



ICW FINANCIALS

ICW 2025 Women Financials

Income/Loss Report

REVENUE		LOCAL	
Circles	\$517.00	Conference 6	\$0.00
Funeral Income	\$2,004.58	Christmas Flowers - Shut In's	\$0.00
ICW Offering	\$0.00	Christmas Gifts - Staff	\$375.00
Misc. Income	\$0.00	Cluster 9 & Synodical Offering	\$0.00
ThankOffering	\$0.00	Sunshine and Sympathy	\$0.00
Quilting Donation	\$200.00	Postage	\$0.00
Wadena Rotary	\$6,247.50	Sales Tax	\$575.85
Conf. 6 Mtg. Reimburse	\$0.00	Misc. Expenses	\$50.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$8,969.08	TOTAL LOCAL CHURCH	\$1,000.85
WORLD WIDE			
EXPENDITURES			
COMMUNITY			
Community Outreach	\$0.00	Children's Grief Connection	\$0.00
Empty Stocking Fund	\$0.00	Quilting	\$609.82
Friendly Rider Passes	\$0.00	Quilt Shipping	\$0.00
Wadena Food Shelf	\$0.00	WELCA	\$386.54
TOTAL COMMUNITY	\$0.00	WELCA - Katie's Fund	\$0.00
		WELCA ThankOffering	\$0.00
KITCHEN		TOTAL WORLD WIDE	\$996.36
Equal Exchange Coffee	\$0.00		
Garbage Bill	\$0.00	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$5,116.63
Gas Bill	\$0.00		
Groceries - Funeral	\$14.95		
Groceries - Rotary	\$2,488.50	TOTAL REVENUE	\$8,969.08
Groceries - Pantry	\$475.77	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,116.63
Misc. Expenses	\$53.69	NET CASH RECEIVED	\$3,852.45
TOTAL KITCHEN	\$3,032.91		
LOCAL			
85 & Over Party	\$12.00	Beginning Balance (1/1/25)	\$7,469.51
Sunday Fellowship	\$0.00	Revenue (1/1/25-12/31/25)	\$8,969.08
LWR Kits	\$0.00	Expenses (1/1/25-12/31/25)	\$5,116.63
Luther Crest Camperships	\$0.00	Ending Balance (12/31/25)	\$11,321.96
Immanuel Lutheran Youth	\$0.00		
Senior Honor Banquet	\$74.51		
ICW Supplies	\$0.00		
TOTAL LOCAL	\$86.51		

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEMORIALS RECEIVED IN 2025

Gifts were made to various funds in 2025 in memory of the following individuals:

- ◊ Jerry Anderson
- ◊ Ken Anderson
- ◊ Paul Brunsberg
- ◊ Lynette Chase
- ◊ Bruce Erdahl
- ◊ Karen Erkenbrack
- ◊ Lillie Forseth
- ◊ Norma Forseth
- ◊ Sanfield Forseth
- ◊ Sigvald Forseth
- ◊ Henry (Hank) Greenwaldt
- ◊ Bob Grendahl
- ◊ Joe Hallermann
- ◊ Byron Hamre
- ◊ Janette Hanson
- ◊ George Hendrickson
- ◊ Gail Libby Johnson
- ◊ Merle Johnson
- ◊ Nancy Montan King
- ◊ Steven Kluenenberg
- ◊ Tom Kolden
- ◊ Doris Lageson
- ◊ Aaron Larson
- ◊ Jim Lawton
- ◊ Adele Leeseberg
- ◊ Jim & Darlene Forseth Leinen
- ◊ Casper Nervig
- ◊ Nora Nervig
- ◊ Gretchen Noon
- ◊ Nancy Nordquist
- ◊ Johanna Olson
- ◊ Roger Olson
- ◊ Carole Peterson
- ◊ Char Schloeder
- ◊ Elinor Wiskow
- ◊ Timothy Wohlert

REPORT OF THE ENDOWMENT FUND

The Mission Endowment Fund was established in 1996 as a depository for memorials, honorariums, planned gifts, IRA direct distributions, and as a beneficiary of estates. The purpose of the Fund is to enhance and extend the mission of Immanuel Lutheran Church apart from the general operation of the congregation. Gifts to the Endowment Fund are invested, not spent. Only the interest is used to further the church's mission. From our income, a minimum of 51% will be used for outreach, such as a grant to mission work, ELCA seminaries or colleges or new congregational development. A maximum of 20% will be used for Immanuel's capital improvements, debt reduction or building program. A maximum of 29% may be used for emergency needs such as building repair or replacement of essential equipment.

This year, we received total gifts of \$136,400 into the fund, including the gift of 120 acres of North Dakota Farmland, which we sold for \$130,000 (Those monies are currently invested with Ameriprise). We made disbursements totaling \$22,180.

You can be part of this exciting ministry by making a gift of any size to the Endowment Fund in 2025. The congregation is also encouraged to provide ideas and requests for ministry grants.

BEGINNING BALANCE (1/1/25)

Wadena State Bank: (includes \$65,000 CD).....	\$69283.79
Mission Investment Fund:.....	\$252480.04
Ameriprise.....	\$201007.97
Total:	\$522771.80

INCOME:

Interest (MIF & WSB).....	\$14138.65
Donations to the Endowment Fund.....	\$136,400
Ameriprise Interest/Value Increase.....	\$7119.64
Total Income:	\$157658.29

DISBURSEMENTS:

Immanuel Building Fund (Shortening of pews).....	\$4000
People's Church.....	\$2000
Lutheran Campus Ministry of Bemidji.....	\$1000
Crossroads Lutheran Campus Ministry (Moorhead).....	\$1000
Luther Crest Bible Camp ("Blazers" Counsellor in Training Program)	\$5000
Empty Stocking.....	\$1500
NWMN Synod Seminary Debt Relief Fund.....	\$5000
Gemini Fund (Astera Health Foundation providing support to cancer patients)	\$2500
Thomas Aljets (Attorney in ND related to the farmland gift)	\$180
Total Disbursements:	\$22180

ENDING BALANCE (12/31/25)

Wadena State Bank: (includes CD valued at \$69186.52)	\$75,190.32
Mission Investment Fund.....	\$244932.16
Ameriprise.....	\$338127.61
Total:	\$658250.09

2025 Endowment Committee members: Deb Andrews, Les Breitling, Liz Miller, Luther Nervig, Jeff Pederson

Ex Officio: Pastor Nate Loer and Matt Greenwaldt



On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

-- Matthew 2:11

Dear Beloved in Christ of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod,

When the Magi first saw the child Jesus, their first instinct was to *pay him homage*. The word translated “homage” comes from the Greek *proskynēō*—from *pros* (“toward”) and *kyneō* (“to kiss”). Their worship was literally a *kiss toward* Jesus—a gesture of love, humility, and devotion.

That image captures what we long to be about in Northwestern Minnesota. Our vision—to be “a people wholly devoted to Jesus and our neighbor in love”—is another way of saying that we want everything we do together to be a kiss toward Jesus: a homage to the gentle One who heals, forgives, and sends us out in love.

This past year, our shared ministry offered many such kisses toward Christ:

- We **welcomed 15 new Synod Authorized Ministers**, ensuring that Word and Sacrament continue to touch lives in every corner of our synod.
- We **entrusted 14 new candidates for ordination**, nurturing leaders who will teach and serve in the spirit of Jesus’ humble strength.
- We **walked with congregations in transition and conflict**, showing that reconciliation itself can be an act of homage.
- We **sparked renewal** in rural congregations through our *Rural Revival Journey*, breathing hope and fresh imagination into places where Christ’s light still shines bright.
- And through *Jeremiah 29* and *F.A.C.E.S. of Leadership*, we are **equipping 41 leaders** to guide their communities toward deeper devotion—a daily kiss toward Jesus.

Friends, thank you. Your prayers, offerings, and faithful witness make these stories possible. Every kindness shared in Jesus’ name, every act of generosity, is another kiss toward the Savior we adore.

And in a time when Jesus’ name is sometimes used to divide us from one another or demean vulnerable neighbors, let us be clear about the One we worship. We pay homage not to a Lord of domination or fear, but to the humble Christ who welcomes the stranger, lifts the poor, blesses our most vulnerable siblings and honors the image of God in every person. The world has seen that kind of power come and go. The Magi journeyed far to worship a *different* kind of king—the one who reigns through mercy, not might.

As this year draws to a close, I invite you to join me in one more act of homage—a gift that becomes a kiss toward Jesus. Your congregation’s support and your personal generosity sustain ministries that bear Christ’s love to every corner of Northwestern Minnesota.

May our every gift, and every act of love, be a kiss toward the One who reigns from a manger and calls us to follow him in humility, justice, and joy.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Tesch".

Bp. Bill Tesch
Bishop of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA

Immanuel Lutheran Church 2026 Budget						
	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget	% Change from 2025
CASH INFLOWS						
General Contributions	\$385,000	\$404,593	\$400,000	\$407,591	\$412,000	3.0%
Other Contributions	\$15,000	\$11,897	\$15,000	\$5,611	\$15,000	0.0% ^a
Bldg. Fund Contributions	\$9,000	\$6,073	\$5,000	\$42,373	\$12,000	140.0%
Interest-General Funds	\$75	\$97	\$85	\$89	\$100	17.6%
Total Cash Inflows	\$409,075	\$422,660	\$420,085	\$455,664	\$439,100	4.5%
Mission Contributions	\$18,000	\$22,882	\$18,000	\$33,338	\$20,000	11.1%
Good Samaritan Contributions	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$1,000	100.0%
Total Restricted In	\$18,500	\$22,882	\$18,500	\$33,338	\$21,000	13.5%
BENEVOLENCE						
NW Minn. Synod	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$31,000	\$31,000	\$32,000	3.2%
Lutheran Social Services	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,700	2.8%
Radio/TV Ministry	\$5,500	\$6,260	\$5,800	\$5,720	\$5,800	0.0%
Luther Crest	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,600	1.5%
Total Benevolence	\$45,500	\$46,260	\$46,900	\$46,820	\$48,100	2.6%
Mission Causes	\$18,000	\$28,575	\$18,000	\$26,380	\$20,000	11.1%
Good Samaritan Causes	\$2,500	\$150	\$2,500	\$0	\$1,000	-60.0%
Total Restricted Out	\$20,500	\$28,725	\$20,500	\$26,380	\$21,000	2.4%
PROGRAMS						
Congregational Life	\$4,000	\$4,049	\$4,000	\$4,980	\$5,000	25.0%
Finance	\$1,200	\$1,193	\$1,200	\$1,334	\$1,200	0.0%
Outreach	\$3,500	\$2,375	\$3,500	\$3,932	\$3,500	0.0%
Parish Education	\$3,500	\$1,312	\$3,500	\$2,772	\$3,500	0.0%
Worship & Music	\$4,500	\$4,556	\$4,500	\$3,718	\$4,500	0.0%
Youth	\$7,000	\$7,020	\$7,000	\$7,020	\$5,000	-28.6%
Total Programs	\$23,700	\$20,505	\$23,700	\$23,756	\$22,700	-4.2%
STAFF						
Senior Pastor Compensation	\$75,280	\$75,280	\$79,796	\$79,818	\$82,190	3.0%
Senior Pastor Pension	\$9,556	\$9,556	\$10,129	\$10,081	\$10,433	3.0%
Senior Pastor Medical/Disability	\$38,196	\$38,196	\$37,862	\$37,862	\$40,347	6.6%
Senior Pastor Social Security	\$4,353	\$4,353	\$4,614	\$4,592	\$4,753	3.0%
Administrative Secretary	\$34,398	\$34,398	\$35,774	\$35,774	\$36,847	3.0%
Custodian	\$21,963	\$21,963	\$22,841	\$22,768	\$23,526	3.0%
Bookkeeper	\$7,018	\$7,018	\$7,299	\$7,299	\$8,500	16.5% ^b
Worship Accompanist	\$9,085	\$7,633	\$9,448	\$7,783	\$8,500	-10.0% ^c
Choir Accompanist	\$2,939	\$2,939	\$3,057	\$3,047	\$3,149	3.0%
Choir Director	\$4,526	\$4,526	\$4,707	\$4,692	\$4,848	3.0%
Youth & Family Coordinator	\$44,100	\$44,100	\$45,864	\$45,864	\$47,240	3.0%
Lay Staff Pension	\$7,850	\$7,850	\$8,164	\$8,138	\$8,409	3.0%
Lay Staff Social Security/PFML	\$9,734	\$9,734	\$9,868	\$9,618	\$10,938	10.8% ^d
Lay Staff Medical/Disability	\$18,469	\$22,448	\$16,955	\$16,955	\$18,780	10.8%
Lay Staff Workers Comp	\$3,675	\$2,511	\$3,000	\$2,436	\$3,100	3.3%
Honorariums	\$1,000	\$790	\$1,000	\$888	\$1,000	0.0%
Total Staff	\$292,141	\$293,295	\$300,378	\$297,616	\$312,560	4.1%
MISC. OPERATIONS						
Office/Admin Expense	\$12,000	\$14,355	\$12,000	\$16,898	\$17,000	41.7%
Equipment	\$3,500	\$4,224	\$3,500	\$3,301	\$3,500	0.0%
Professional Exp.	\$3,500	\$2,667	\$2,500	\$941	\$2,000	-20.0%
Staff Continuing Education	\$700	\$0	\$700	\$623	\$700	0.0%
Training/Develop/Conferences	\$2,500	\$600	\$2,500	\$1,029	\$1,000	-60.0%
Total Misc. Operations	\$22,200	\$21,846	\$21,200	\$22,792	\$24,200	14.2%
BUILDING EXPENSES						
Property Mgmt.	\$10,000	\$4,207	\$12,000	\$12,336	\$8,000	-33.3%
Capital Improvements	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$71,700	\$50,000	900.0%
Utilities	\$14,000	\$13,151	\$14,000	\$13,151	\$14,000	0.0%
Heat	\$8,000	\$4,167	\$7,000	\$4,545	\$6,000	-14.3%
Insurance	\$8,000	\$9,778	\$9,000	\$10,923	\$11,000	22.2%
Total Bldg. Expenses	\$45,000	\$31,303	\$47,000	\$112,654	\$89,000	89.4%
TO/FROM:BUILDING FUND	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$50,000	-\$20,000	
Total Cash Outflows	\$428,541	\$413,209	\$439,178	\$453,639	\$476,560	8.5%
Net change for the year	(\$19,466)	\$9,451	(\$19,093)	\$2,024	(\$37,460)	96.2%

^a Other Contributions include: Radio fund, Thrivent choice, Joyful Noise, Holiday worship offering, and social media ministry.

^b Bookkeeper compensation reflects negotiated compensation to Amy Greenwaldt, our new bookkeeper effective in 2026.

^c Service musicians will receive a 3% pay increase. One Sunday service allows a decrease from previous budgets.

^d This line items now includes payments to the State of Minnesota for the Paid Family Medical Leave premiums

Additional income/expenditures are directed by activities of the ICW, Youth, Bldg. Fund, Mission Endowment, and certain Memorial/Designated Giving.

2025 Finance Committee: Jane Bagstad, Greg Baron, Sara Grabe, Bryan Greenwaldt, Dean Krogstad (Chair), Kyle Lehmkuhl, Kent Schmidt

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following underlined names have been nominated as ILC Council officers and committee chairpersons and will serve if elected. The names bolded are the continuing ILC Council officers and chairpersons. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

2026 CHURCH COUNCIL

President (1 Year).....	Matthew Greenwaldt
Vice President (1 Year).....	
Secretary (1 Year).....	<u>Becky Crooker</u>
Treasurer (2 Years).....	Bryan Greenwaldt
Financial Secretary (1 Year)	<u>Gail Kluenenberg</u>
Financial Vice Secretary (1 year).....	
Congregational Life (2 Years).....	<u>Diane Breitling</u>
Education Committee (2 Years).....	<u>Meagan Ferris</u>
Finance Committee (2 Years).....	Dean Krogstad
Outreach Committee (1 Year).....	
Property Committee (2 Years).....	<u>Jeff Morlock</u>
Worship and Music (2 Years).....	
Youth Leadership (2 Years).....	

Delegates to Synod Assembly:.....Matthew Greenwaldt
(May 30, 2026 VIRTUAL)

Mission Endowment Deb Andrews (3 year term)
..... Jeff Pederson (3 year term)
Luther Nervig to January 2027
Les Breitling to January 2028
Liz Miller to January 2028

Financial Review Committee:.....Ben Henle
.....Luke VanHavermaet

Nominating Committee

2025 Nominating Committee: Norm Gallant & Erik Osberg

