

2026 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.....Amy Greenwaldt
 Choir Director.....Deb Haraldson
 Accompanist.....Suzanne Leigh

Council

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

Immanuel Lutheran Church Office 218-631-2738



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

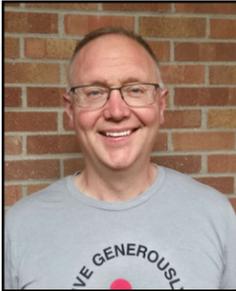
Immanuel Lutheran News

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.*

March 2026



From the Desk of Pastor Nate...

Grace and peace to you, dear friends in Christ. And a blessed March to you all. Lent began on February 18 with Ash Wednesday, and I hope you will connect with us in worship during these days of preparation for Easter.

I also hope that you will engage in John's gospel this month. This month, we focus on John 6:1-8:59. Here are some thoughts about a few of the stories you will encounter in this section.

In John 6:1-15, Jesus crosses over to the other side of the sea of Galilee and performs a miracle by feeding 5,000 people with 5 loaves and 2 fish. It is another story of abundance that points to Jesus' power. So much so, that he can sense they want to make him their king. But since this is neither Jesus' time, nor his mission, he retreats from them.

A little while later in John 6:35-71, Jesus begins a series of teachings on how Jesus offers something greater than earthly food and drink. In fact, he is so connected to the Father that those who eat his flesh and drink his blood are one with him and the Father. This teaching is so offensive that many turn from following him. But Peter confesses that Jesus is the one with the words of eternal life and will continue to follow Jesus. Among these verses are also the first hint of Jesus being betrayed sometime in the future.

In John 7:53-8:11, a woman caught in the act of adultery is brought before Jesus. It's clear from the text that the crowd doesn't really care about her – they just want to trap Jesus. Jesus will neither let himself be trapped nor allow this woman to be some sort of object. Instead, Jesus uses the moment to set her free. He simply says, "let the one without sin cast the first stone" and they all drop their stones and leave. This is an important marker of Jesus' ministry. Whenever he is presented with such a moment, he will not protect himself. He will use the moment to humanize the person before him and find a way to set them free – even if that is a costly move for Jesus.

Finally, in John 8:31-59, Jesus begins another lengthy set of teachings about how his Word sets them free. Those listening object: aren't they free already? Jesus begins talking about how sin keeps them from being free. As the dialog continues, Jesus establishes his superiority to all the ancestors, including Abraham and all the prophets. This enrages the religious leaders, of course, and they pick up stones to kill him. But since it was not yet Jesus' time to die, he hid himself from them.

I hope you enjoy reading these sections from John. Keep reading, trusting, and growing in faith!

Humbly in Christ,

Pastor Nate

Pastor Nate

The council met on Sunday, February 15, 2026. President Matthew Greenwaldt called the meeting to order.

Next meeting: March 8, 2026 @ 10:45 am

Committee Reports:

Endowment Committee: No report.

Congregational Life: Diane Breittling- Met on February 7th. We will host a farewell party for Jill Fiemeyer on Feb 8th. We spoke about the Lenten suppers beginning on Feb 25th at 5:30. We are looking for people interested in making soup, providing desserts and helping in the kitchen. Crackers, bread, peanut butter and cheese whiz will be provided. Sign-up sheets are in the hallway by Pastor Nate and Elana's office. We will serve refreshments following the Maundy Thursday afternoon service. On March 1st, we will help the Youth with their Baked Potato Bar and Bingo event as needed. **Worship Wednesday Suppers-**We have been consistently serving approximately 75. It is such a joy to serve the families of our church! The Worship Wednesday suppers will continue after Easter through the month of April. Potluck ideas-think about possible dates. **VBS-July 20th-23rd-**We will serve snacks and lunch.

Outreach Evangelism: Rick Johnson- Plans to meet soon to organize, hopes to meet a total of four times per year. Discussed backpacks and how quickly that has been going with the help of the Elks. Rick spoke about greeting everyone who comes to church on Sundays and how important this is to make people feel welcome. He also discussed visiting with new people at church.

Parish Education: Meagan Ferris- The Education and Youth Committees met on February 4th. Our Youth successfully completed their Valentine service project for the residents of Humphrey Manor. They assembled and delivered 150 goody bags during Wednesday Worship, sharing smiles and meaningful connections with residents. It was a wonderful example of service in action and a great reflection of our church's heart for community outreach. Congregational Life and the Youth will be hosting a Bingo Night and Baked Potato Bar on March 1st. Dinner will include a baked potato bar with toppings. Bingo will follow, and there will be prizes! This is a fun, intergenerational event designed to build connection and fellowship within our church family. Our Youth will be leading the Lenten Service on March 4th. This "Youth Takeover" is a special opportunity for them to share their gifts in worship leadership, including readings, music, and other service elements. The Youth will be preparing and serving a Palm Sunday Breakfast on March 29th. They will also be filling eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 5th. The last Worship Wednesday will be April 29th for the season. During the final weeks, we plan to once again make and deliver May Day baskets as a spring outreach project to share encouragement and joy in our community. We are planning to host Vacation Bible School again this summer from July 19-23, with counselors from Luther Crest leading the program. Congregational Life will provide lunch and snacks for the week. We will be looking for congregation members willing to host the counselors during VBS week. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Elana or Meagan Ferris. These upcoming events provide wonderful opportunities for fellowship, service, and faith formation across all ages of our congregation.

Property Management: Jeff Morlock- No report.

Worship and Music: Margie Anderson- Our committee met on February 2, 2026. We welcomed new members Margie Anderson, Karen Leverington, and Rachel Johnson. Wednesday evening services are using the With One Voice hymnal. Lent-Ash Wednesday is February 18th. Service begins at 6:30 pm. Lenten soup suppers begin on February 25th. Lenten services at 6:30 using the Holden Evening Prayer. Pastor Nate is looking for short personal stories to share on the topic "Does Faith Really Matter?". Palm Sunday is March 29th. Tracy orders the palms. Maundy Thursday is on April 2nd with services at 2:00 and 6:30 pm. Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the 2:00 pm service. Good Friday Service is April 3rd at 6:30 pm. Easter Sunday services will be on April 5th at 8:30 and 10:00 am. Other-The front of the church (including peak at 28') is in the process of being painted by Josh Olson. Still on the list is to purchase a damper for the grand piano. Anne Oldakowski has volunteered to take minutes of our meetings and distribute them via email. Next meeting will be on April 13th at 5:00 pm.

Youth Leadership: Vacant

Other Reports

Immanuel Church Women: Diane Teigland -No Report

LEAD PASTOR UPDATE- PASTOR NATE-Late January-Mid-February Highlights 1. Early Risers Class on John has been going well. The Hybrid format works really well in our newly designed "Smart Room." 2. Funeral Services for Cora Steffens were January 19 here at Immanuel. Blessed be her memory. 3. Soup Tuesdays have been well attended and have been full of great fellowship. 4. The annual meeting was straightforward and well attended 5. We packed another 375 bags of weekend food for the backpacks program on February 4. **Looking ahead** 1. Immanuel Staff Chili (final soup Tuesday) is being served February 17 2. Ash Wednesday is February 18. 6:30pm service. And then we will have our 5 weeks of 5:30 supper/6:30 evenings prayer beginning February 25. We are still looking for 2-3 more speakers to share briefly on the theme, "Why this Faith Stuff Matters." Let me or Elana know if you have a story to share. 3. Communion milestone classes start on February 25. Right now, we have 4 students signed up. They will celebrate first communion on Maundy Thursday (April 2) 4. Our next food pack is March 5 at 2:30pm in the elementary cafeteria.

OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD: Financial Secretary Report: Reported by Gail Klunenber-The total of general offerings counted and deposited for January 2026 were \$29,345.25. This does not include direct deposits.

Treasurer's Report: Bryan Greenwaldt- Bryan discussed the General Fund and Expenses

Discussed all the different Restricted Accounts and how they are funded - each one is funded by designated gifts. Bryan noted that it had been brought up at past meetings questions on the Memorial Account and the Youth Account - as of today the balances are as follows: Memorial Account: \$17,791.33 - Youth Account: \$38,893.00.

GENERAL FUND: \$86,846 (1/31/2026)

Total General Contributions: \$36,551.00 (1/31/2026)

Total Expenses: \$32,380.00 (benevolences includes budgeted payments. Building includes Property Ins. Payment)

Building Fund Register Balance \$21,250.00 (1/31/2026)

Restricted Fund Balance \$61,483.00 (1/31/2026)

Finance Committee: Dean Krogstad- No Report

Our Vision and Mission-Other Business: It was recommended by Pastor Nate that the council discuss the Resolution concerning online banking procedures. The group discussed that Amy Greenwaldt should be allowed online banking access VIEW ONLY to Immanuel's Mid-Central Bank Accounts. It was further discussed that Amy should be allowed to make changes to ACH contributions as directed by our donors in writing. Both Matthew and Bryan abstained from voting, but a motion was made by Rick Johnson and seconded by Cindy Becker. The motion carried. Resolution was signed by Vice President Cindy Becker, and Secretary Becky Crooker. Pastor Nate discussed the Visioning Summary- he asked that the council go over the list and come back to the March meeting to discuss further. Cindy asked about the number of views on YouTube and the number of listeners on the radio each week. The YouTube views were mentioned in the Annual Report and it is hard to determine the number of listeners on the radio station each week. Rick Johnson asked if there was a way of getting phone numbers for the new members to update the directory. Some members rely heavily on that directory, and it would be nice to have updated numbers. Diane B. asked if the online directory is up to date, Pastor Nate says that it is. Any member can get a log in for the site if they give an email address, they can get a log in and password to utilize it. Council will discuss again at March meeting.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Meagan made a motion to adjourn and Jeff Morlock seconded that. Motion carried.

Respectfully,

Becky Crooker - Secretary

FINANCIAL UPDATE



GENERAL FUND	
1/4/2026	\$17,576
1/11/2026	\$4,216
1/18/2026	\$2,774
1/25/2026	\$2,766
Electronic Giving	\$525
Direct Deposit	\$8,694
TOTAL GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$36,551
EXPENSES	
Benevolences	\$0
Programs	\$1,446
Staff including taxes and benefits	\$26,058
Operations	\$708
Building Expenses	\$4,168
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$32,380
Gain/Loss	\$4,171
General Fund Register Balance as of 1/31/26	\$86,846

RESTRICTED				
	Balance 1/1/26	Gifts & Additions	Payments	Balance 1/31/26
Backpacks for Kids	\$6,842			\$6,842
Bell/Carillon	\$250			\$250
Cooking Matters (Ministerial Association)	\$127			\$127
Congregational Life	\$2,000			\$2,000
Easter Giving Blitz	\$100			\$100
Good Samaritan	\$1,157	\$15		\$1,172
General Reserve Funds	\$10,849			\$10,849
Giving Tree	-\$596	\$1,998		\$1,402
Global Mission	\$3,465			\$3,465
Library Fund	\$125			\$125
Luther Crest Scholarships	\$472			\$472
Lutheran World Relief	\$1,319			\$1,319
Medical Mission	\$4,000			\$4,000
Organ Fund	\$557			\$557
Parish Nursing	\$487			\$487
Piano Fund	\$288			\$288
Soup Tuesday	\$20			\$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	\$6,486			\$6,486
Wadena Food Shelf/Food Shelf	\$186			\$186
Wadena Ministerial	\$0			\$0
Wednesday Night Supper	-\$64			-\$64
Worship and Music	\$3,430			\$3,430
YAGM	\$7,116			\$7,116
Restricted Fund Register Balance	\$59,470	2,013.00	0.00	\$61,483

BUILDING FUND		
Building Fund Balance	1/1/2026	19586
Deposits & Interest		1664
Payments		0
Building Fund Register Balance	1/31/2026	21250



Dinner Club will meet
Tuesday, March 17
5:30 pm – Iron Corral



**BINGO and
BAKED POTATO BAR**
Sunday, March 1, 2026
Following Worship!

A freewill offering will be collected.
Hosted By: Congregational Life & The Youth of Immanuel

Sign up to help!!!
Prep: Friday, February 27 at 4:00!

Lenten Wednesdays Continue

March 4, 11, 18, 25

Communion Milestone Class @ 5:00 pm
Soup Supper @ 5:30 pm
Holden Evening Prayer @ 6:30 pm
Sanctuary Choir Practice @ 7:15 pm

Sign-ups are posted by Pastor Nate's office for making desserts, helping in the kitchen, and assisting with Lent and Holy Week worship!



Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, March 29
8:00-9:30 am Palm Sunday Breakfast
(Served by Immanuel Youth)
9:30 am Worship Service (YouTube LIVE)

Maunder Thursday, April 2
2:00 pm Worship Service
(Fellowship to follow worship)
6:30 pm Worship Service (YouTube LIVE)
(Holy Communion Milestone and Stripping of the Altar)

Good Friday, April 3
6:30 pm Worship Service (YouTube LIVE)

Easter Sunday, April 5
8:30 am Worship Service (YouTube LIVE)
10:00 am Worship Service
(Special music by the Sanctuary Choir and Easter egg hunt following both services for children-6th grade.)

YOUTH LENT TAKEOVER
MARCH 4, 2026

SIGN UP BY ELANA'S OFFICE TO SERVE CHILI, HELP IN THE KITCHEN, AND PARTICIPATE IN WORSHIP

Easter Flower Sign-up
Located by the Church Office
Deadline to Sign Up ~ March 23

Lilies ~ \$19.00
Begonias ~ \$23.95
Kalanchoe ~ \$23.95

Immanuel Youth Care Package Collection

The Immanuel Youth will be collecting new or gently used items for the Visitation Room at Wadena County Human Services. Requested items include: games, toys, activities, crafts, markers & crayons, coloring books, and board games. This project is planned to run through the season of Lent! Items can be dropped off at the church between now and April 8th. The youth will organize and distribute donations as a service project April 8th.

Thank you for supporting meaningful opportunities for our youth to serve others in our community!

HELP WANTED!!!

Youth Lent Takeover – March 4— Youth are needed to help lead worship and work in the kitchen. Adults are especially needed in the kitchen to support our youth and keep things running smoothly. You do not need to have a youth involved to volunteer—everyone is welcome to serve! Palm Sunday Breakfast Prep – March 28 Prep work: Saturday, March 28 at 9:00 AM. Many hands make light work! Sign up on the bulletin board outside Elana's office. Palm Sunday Breakfast – March 29 Adult volunteers are needed to oversee and run the breakfast. Shifts begin at 7:00 AM. Meal served 8:30-9:00 AM; clean-up begins as guests finish eating and continues after worship if needed. If you are willing to serve, please contact me or sign up on the bulletin board outside my office. Thank you for helping make these events a success! Contact Elana Seibert, Volunteer, Youth & Family Coordinator

Women's Ministry

Block Cutting - Monday, March 2 @ 9 am
Monday, April 6 @ 9 am

Bible Study - Tuesday, March 10 @ 1:30 pm
(Dec/Jan/Feb Gather pg.38)
Tuesday, April 14 @ 1:30 pm
(March/April/May Gather)

Quilting - March 16 & 17 @ 9 am - 2 pm
April 20 & 21 @ 9 am - 2 pm

**WANTED
EASTER CANDY DONATIONS**

The youth are looking for donations of individually wrapped candy or small prizes for our Easter Morning Egg Hunts. Candy and prizes can be dropped off in the church office by March 31. Thank you for your support!



**THE CLOCKS
spring forward
MARCH 8**

What's Happening

- March 1
8-8:45 am – Early Risers
Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
- March 2
9 am – ICW Block Cutting
12-3:30 pm – Foster Grandparents Meeting
6:30 pm – PEO Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- March 3
9 am – Staff Meeting
- March 4
12 pm – Rotary (#1 G.Kluenenberg)
Wednesday Lent Schedule (see below)
Youth Lent Take-over
Youth will play bells during worship service!!
7:30 pm – ILC Youth Council Meeting
- March 5
1 pm – MAC/NAPS
2:30 pm – WDC Backpack Food Pack
- March 8 – Daylight Savings Time
8-8:45 am – Early Risers
Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
2 pm – Senior Piano Recital
Grant Nelson & Lydia Oldakowski
- March 10
9 am – Staff Meeting
1:30 pm – ICW Bible Study
- March 11
12 pm – Rotary (Catered)
Wednesday Lent Schedule (see below)
- March 12
6 pm – Northstar Round Table

Sunday Worship Schedule

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



Wednesday Lent Schedule

- 5:00 pm – Communion Milestone Class
- 5:30 pm – Soup Supper
- 6:30 pm – Holden Evening Prayer Service
- 7:15 pm – Sanctuary Choir Practice

- March 15
8-8:45 am – Early Risers
Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
10:45 am – ILC Council Meeting (Friendship Room)
3 pm – Cub Scouts (Fellowship Hall)
- March 16
9 am – ICW Quilting
- March 17
9 am – ICW Quilting
9 am – Staff Meeting
5:30 pm – Dinner Club @ Iron Corral
- March 18
12 pm – Rotary (#2 D.Haraldson)
Wednesday Lent Schedule (see below)
- March 19
10:30 am – Catholic Charities Frozen Meal Distribution
- March 22
8-8:45 am – Early Risers
Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)
- March 23
2 pm – Book Club (Friendship Room)
- March 24
9 am – Staff Meeting
11 am – Dementia Care Giver Support Group
(Friendship Room – all are welcome!)
- March 25
12 pm – Rotary (Catered)
Wednesday Lent Schedule (see below)
- March 29
8:00-9:30 am Palm Sunday Breakfast
(Served by Immanuel Youth)
9:30 am Worship Service (YouTube LIVE)
- March 31
9 am – Staff Meeting

Backpacks for Kids

OUR NEXT PACK IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 5 @ 2:30 PM IN THE ELEMETARY CAFETERIA. OUR APRIL PACK IS ON THURSDAY, APRIL 9 @ 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

We are going to do something a little different this month! Please bring in your favorite poem to share with the group!

Monday, March 23
Friendship Room @ 2:00 pm
Anyone is welcome to attend!

