

Immanuel Lutheran News

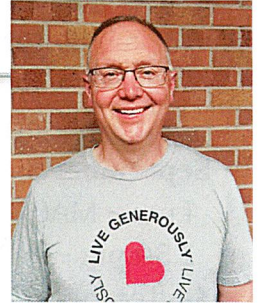
Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA ~ 403 2nd St SE - PO Box 69 ~ Wadena, Minnesota 56482

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

September 2026

From the Desk of Pastor Nate ...

Grace and peace to you, dear friends, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Wow! It is time to say farewell to summer and welcome fall. Like most, I'm ambivalent about this. There is so much to love about summer. And there are always lots of unfinished items on our to-do lists this time of year. But I am overjoyed to return to our program year schedule. I am particularly excited to get back to Worship Wednesdays and my confirmation classroom.



I'm also excited to keep commending John's Gospel to you. Even if you haven't read any of it so far this year, you have time to "get after it" and read John in 2026! The verses I'm commending to you this month are John 18:1-19:42. This is not light reading! These verses cover Jesus' arrest, trial, death, and burial. Let me draw a few things of note to your attention.

In John 18:1-12, Jesus leaves the upper room and moves to the Garden of Gethsemane. Almost immediately, Judas appears with the group who is prepared to seize Jesus by force. But in John's Gospel, Jesus is in complete control of everything. It is no kiss that betrays Jesus. Jesus takes charge. He asks who they are looking for. When they say they are looking for Jesus, he says, "I am!" This should remind us of the name God utters to Moses through the burning bush! And when Jesus utters these words, all of this legion of power falls down as though dead. They have no power. Nevertheless, Jesus gives himself willingly, because it is his mission to do so.

In John 18:13-27, Jesus speaks truthfully and courageously to Annas even while Peter denies even knowing Jesus. And in 18:28-19:16a, the scene shifts to Pilate's headquarters. During this interaction, Jesus speaks calmly and truthfully. Pilate tries to show his power but fails. It is clear from the story that Jesus will die. But not because he ran into people more powerful than he is. He dies because it is his destiny.

In John 19:16b-37, the crucifixion unfolds simply. They take him to the place of the skull and crucify him with two criminals. Notice how Jesus remains in control even as he hangs dying. He arranges for the care of his mother. John wants us to know that every action is a fulfillment of scripture. And when his earthly end comes, he obediently gives up his spirit.

Finally, in John 19:38-42, we see that two secret disciples of Jesus, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea, make sure Jesus gets a proper burial.

The stage is now set for the most extraordinary story every told. Tune in next month as we see it begin to unfold!

Humbly in Christ,

Pastor Nate
Pastor Nate

Good things ahead....

September 1

9 am - Staff Meeting

September 2

12 pm - Rotary (#1 G.Kluenenberg)

7 pm - Youth Council Meeting

7 pm - Sanctuary Choir

September 3

1 pm - MAC/NAPS

2:30 pm - WDC Food Pack

September 6

Sunday Worship (See Schedule Below)

September 7 - Labor Day

Office Closed

September 8

9 am - Staff Meeting

1:30 pm - ICW Bible Study

September 9

12 pm - Rotary (Catered)

6:30 pm - Youth & Family Planning Meeting

7 pm - Sanctuary Choir

September 10

6 pm - Northstar Round Table Meeting

September 13

Sunday Worship (See Schedule Below)

10:45 am - ILC Council Meeting

September 14

9 am - ICW Block Cutting

12-3:30 pm - Fellowship Hall in Use

September 15

9 am - Staff Meeting

September 16

Worship Wednesday (Schedule Below)

September 17

10:30 am - Catholic Charities Frozen

Meals Distribution

September 20

Sunday Worship (See Schedule Below)

During Worship - Backpack Blessings &
Bible Presentations

Following Worship - God's Work Our Hands

September 21

9 am - ICW Quilting

6:30 pm - PEO Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

September 22

9 am - ICW Quilting

9 am - Staff Meeting

11 am - Dementia Caregiver Support Group
(Friendship Room)

5:30 pm - Dinner Club @ 4 Seas Buffet

September 23

12 pm - Rotary (#2 D.Haraldson)

Worship Wednesday (Schedule Below)

During Worship - Backpack Blessings &
Bible Presentations

September 27

Sunday Worship (See Schedule Below)

During Worship - Staples Area Men's Chorus
Performing

Following Worship - Linger Longer

September 28

2 pm Book Club (Friendship Room)

September 29

9 am - Staff Meeting

September 30

12 pm - Rotary (Catered)

Worship Wednesday (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

Worship Wednesday

KICKOFF • SEPTEMBER 16!

EVENING SCHEDULE

- Supper • 4:30-5:45 PM
- Worship • 6:00 PM
- Education • 6:45-7:30 PM

MENU

- Sept 16 • Grilled Burgers
- Sept 23 • Sub Sandwiches
- Sept 30 • Taco Bar

SAVE THE DATES

- BACKPACK BLESSING & BIBLE DISTRIBUTION
- Sunday, Sept 20 • 9:30 AM
- Wednesday, Sept 23 • 6:00 PM

GOD'S WORK

Our Hands

SEPTEMBER 20

FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Join us after worship on September 20th to assemble school kits for Lutheran World Relief! Donations for the school kits can be dropped off in the church concourse. Here is a list of what we are looking for:

- 70-sheet notebooks
- Boxes of 16-24 crayons
- Pencil sharpeners
- 30 cm rulers
- Blunt scissors
- Unsharpened pencils
- Black or blue ballpoint pens
- 2 ½ inch erasers

Financial gifts are also welcome. Checks can be written to Immanuel with "LWR School Kits" in the memo line.



Women's September/October Ministry

Blockcutting ~ Monday, September 14 @ 9am
Monday, October 5 @ 9am

Bible Study ~ Tuesday, September 8 @ 1:30pm
(March, April, May Gather pg.#37)
Tuesday, October 13 @ 1:30pm

Quilting ~ September 21 & 22 @ 9am-2pm
October 19 & 20 @ 9am-2pm



WDC

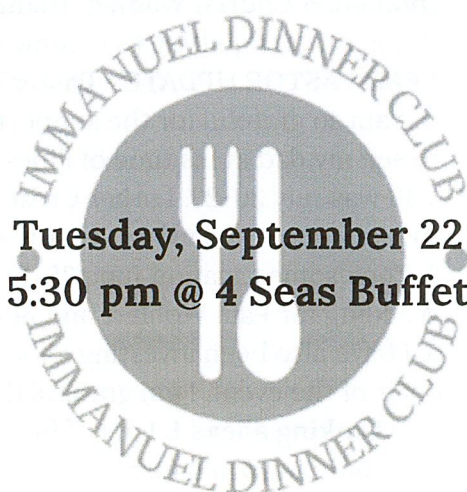
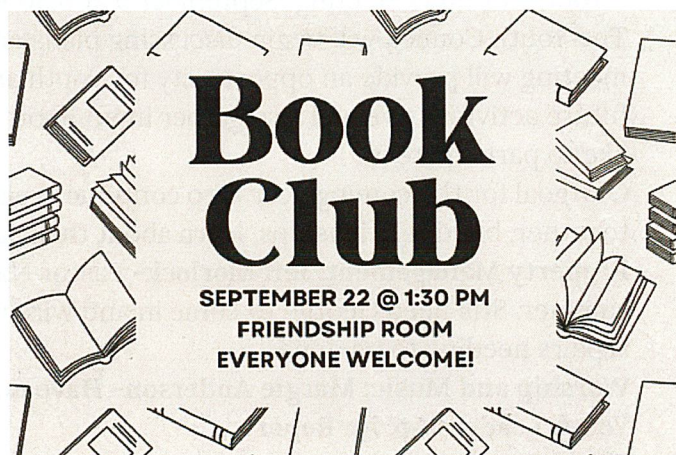
WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM

The WDC weekend Backpack Program distributes weekend food to kids in need every week at the WDC Elementary and High School. Come join us for our monthly packs as we prepare bags for the month. Our first pack of the year is Thursday, September 3 @ 2:30pm in the elementary cafeteria. Enter in the main office on Colfax.



Thank You, Endowment Fund!

Your Endowment Fund continues to do great things! We recently made a \$4,000.00 gift to the congregation to cover the new mini-split air conditioner in the Friendship Room. We made a \$250.00 gift to the Community Outreach Furniture Ministry which has re-booted in recent months. Also, we have set aside \$2,500.00 to assist Immanuel families with any economic challenges you might be facing these days. Talk to Pastor Nate for more information. If you want to be part of "cool" projects and vital ministries like these, make a gift to the Endowment Fund. Gifts of any size make an impact.



Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – August 9, 2026

Council will meet next on September 13th, 2026 @ 10:45am

Committee Reports

Congregational Life: Diane Breitling- Did not meet. Our next meeting is August 16th. We are organizing a Welcome Back Picnic on August 19th at 5:00 pm at Tapley Park. There will be yard games to play and lots of fellowship to be had. We will serve hot dogs and request the congregation to provide sides and desserts.

Outreach: Rick Johnson-Have not met yet, meeting coming up soon!

Youth and Education: Meagan Ferris

We had a very successful Vacation Bible School this summer with the help of the wonderful Luther Crest counselors. The counselors brought great energy, enthusiasm, and creativity to the week, and the children had a fantastic time learning, worshiping, playing, and building community together. We are very grateful for the partnership with Luther Crest and for everyone from our congregation who helped make VBS such a meaningful experience for our youth and families.

Our Ministry in Motion Facebook posts have been very well received this summer. These posts have given us an opportunity to highlight the many ways our youth are living out their faith and staying active throughout the summer. We have been able to share stories and pictures of youth participating in mission trips, camps, service opportunities, outdoor adventures, and other activities. It has been a great way to celebrate our young people and help the congregation see the many ways God is working through them. We are looking forward to the Pie & Ice Cream Social on August 13th. Our youth and their families have volunteered to help serve at the event. This is a great opportunity for our youth to be involved in a church event, serve alongside their families, and connect with members of the congregation. We appreciate everyone who has volunteered to help make the evening a success.

We will begin looking ahead to the upcoming year with two important meetings:

- Youth Council Meeting: September 2 at 7:00 PM

- Youth & Family Meeting: September 9 at 6:30 PM

The Youth Council will begin discussing plans and ideas for the coming year, while the Youth & Family meeting will provide an opportunity for youth and families to share their thoughts, interests, and ideas for future activities. We will also gather input about future service and mission projects that our youth would like to participate in.

Our goal for the coming year is to continue creating opportunities for our youth and families to worship together, build relationships, learn about their faith, and put that faith into action through service.

Property Management: Jeff Morlock- Pastor Nate reports that many projects have been completed this summer. Still need George to come in and wire in the sanctuary for the TV – there are also some gutter repairs needing to be done.

Worship and Music: Margie Anderson- Have not met yet, meeting scheduled for the end of the month.

Youth Leadership: No Report

Other Reports

Immanuel Church Women: Diane Teigland

Diane reports quilting to resume in August and they are collecting school supplies in the concourse.

LEAD PASTOR UPDATE - Pastor's Report – August 2026- June, July, and Early August Highlights

1. I am so grateful for the support of this congregation as I have spent a lot of time traveling back and forth to see my dad in his time of illness, hospice care and death. I have felt so much love and care in this time. 2. VBS was July 20-23. Luther Crest did an amazing job and so did the Immanuel team who was here every day to make sure the Luther Crest team had what they needed and that there was food here for everyone, too! 3. Took some vacation June 28-July 5 and July 11-18. And some bereavement time July 22-25. 4. Pastoral Acts-Wedding for Paul Wohler and Becky Blanchard on August 1. Burial for Jim Overland in Fertile, MN August 8. 5. I have also been investing a lot of time in the Rotary Corn and Chicken Feed, which is August 13. I am the chair of the event. I am grateful that Immanuel lets me use some of my time to invest in the community this way. **Looking ahead** 1. Lots of fall planning to do. We get rolling in earnest September 16 with Wednesday programming again (parent meeting September 9) 2. Next WDC Backpacks food pack in September 10 3. God's Work our Hands Sunday is September 20.

Financial Secretary Report: Gail Kluenenberg - The total of general offerings counted and deposited for June and July 2026 were: **General** \$32,679.29 **Building** \$100.00 **Endowment** \$100.00 **Memorial** \$10.00 **Youth** \$0 This does not include direct deposits.

Treasurer's Report: Bryan Greenwaldt - **General Fund Contributions:** \$19,936.00

General Fund Total Expenses: \$41,566.51 **General Fund Register Balance** 07/31/26: \$(9,491.31)

Building Fund Deposits: \$449.00 **Building Fund Withdrawals:** \$20,000.00

Building Fund Register Balance: 07/31/26 \$5,262.59

Restricted Fund Contributions: \$50.00 **Restricted Fund Expenses:**

Restricted Fund Balance 07/31/26: \$62,736.83

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

Other Business:

·Immanuel's 90th Anniversary is October 18th 2026 – discussion was held on what should be done to acknowledge this milestone. Ideas that were brought up included customized coffee cup sleeves, customized pens, possible pot-luck after service, digitalizing old photos from the archives to put together a slide show, Interviews with longest running Immanuel members, possible previous Pastor interviews. Meagan will discuss more with Pastor Nate about possibly making the interviews something done by the youth as a service project. Pastor Nate is going to discuss with the coffee crew.

·Memorial Account money for building projects. Pastor Nate proposed that we clean up some of the memorial accounts and utilize those dollars towards different building projects. In total he proposed we utilize \$10,000, which leaves a remaining balance of \$7,823. Margie motioned to pass this proposal, and it was seconded by Bryan. Motion passed.

·God's Work Our Hands Sunday. This has been scheduled for September 20th. Currently, it is planned that school kits will be put together. Additionally, if anyone has any more project ideas, they are to speak with Pastor Nate. A good way to begin thinking about a project is finding a core group of people (5-6) that are willing to do the project at hand, and it should be something that can easily be done in a couple hours on a Sunday. It was discussed that possibly reaching out to the Activities Director at Fair Oaks Lodge, the City of Wadena, and Share-a-Home, were all ideas that were discussed.

Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer – Motion to adjourn made by Meagan and seconded by Margie, Motion carried. Respectfully, Becky Crooker – Secretary

July 2026 Financial Report

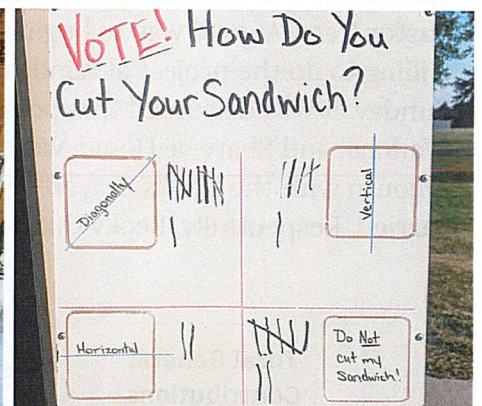
Total General Contributions	\$19,936.00		Restricted Fund Contributions	\$50.00
Total General Expenses	\$41,566.51		Restricted Fund Expenses	\$0.00
General Fund Balance 7/31/2026	(\$9,491.31)		Restricted Fund Balance 7/31/2026	\$62,736.83
Building Fund Contributions	\$449.00			
Building Fund Expenses	\$20,000.00			
Building Fund Balance 7/31/2026	\$5,262.59			

Good things happening...



Annual Pie & Ice Cream Social!

What a sweet day at the Rotary Corn & Chicken Feed! Our amazing youth and their families served up a delicious variety of homemade pies, all topped with a scoop of ice cream! We are so grateful to everyone who stopped by, enjoyed a slice (or two!), and supported our youth program. The money raised from this fundraiser helps provide opportunities for our youth throughout the year, including summer camp, the National Youth Gathering, VBS, and many other youth events and activities. A HUGE thank-you to all of our youth, families, servers, and everyone who helped make the evening a success! Your support helps our young people grow in faith, serve others, and make memories together. (Courtesy of Meagan Ferris)



Welcome Back Picnic!

We had a wonderful evening of food, fellowship, and fun at our Welcome Back Picnic at Tapley Park! A big thank-you to the Congregational Life Committee for providing the hot dogs, beans, and lemonade, and to everyone who brought a side or dessert to share. We enjoyed great conversation, and delicious food. Thank you to everyone who came out and helped us kick off another year together. We're so grateful for our church family! (Courtesy of Meagan Ferris)

Good things happening...

Immanuel is Turning 90!!

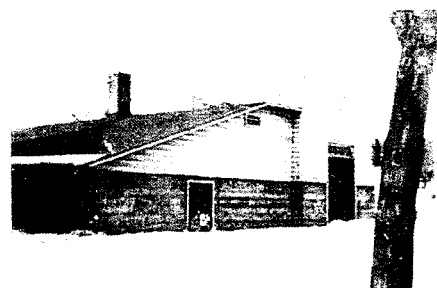
In October 2026, Immanuel celebrates 90 years as a congregation. We hope that you will join us on October 11 for a special day of rejoicing and giving thanks to God. In the meantime, we want to dedicate some newsletter real estate to celebrating excerpts of Immanuel's history.

This month, we focus on the early years of Immanuel.

Immanuel English Lutheran Church came into being in 1936, shortly after another Immanuel Lutheran Church, which had previously been Emmanuel Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church, ceased to exist. The old congregation sold the new congregation land on Deerwood Avenue and First Street Northeast for \$1.00.

In its first four years, Immanuel was part of a multi-point parish, served by Pastor Joseph Langemo, and then by Pastor Daniel Halvorsen.

In 1937, after worshiping in the too-small building on Deerwood Avenue, and in Equity Hall, the congregation bought land on the current site in SE Wadena, and built a structure, which is the basement of the current sanctuary. Plans were to quickly add the main floor.



Immanuel's basement church building, circa 1938

Pastor Orville Wold was installed in 1940, and was the first pastor to serve only Immanuel. During Pastor Wold's five years as Immanuel's pastor, the congregation grew significantly.

By 1945, when he left, average worship attendance was 125 per week. However, the arrival of World War II put congregational building plans on hold, so the congregation continued to worship in the basement.



Immanuel's newly built sanctuary addition, circa 1950

Immanuel's next pastor, Peter Thompson, was installed in October, 1945. The war was over, and everything seemed in place to build the long awaited sanctuary. Unfortunately, the post-war building boom drove supplies down and prices so high that building was still impossible.

Finally, in 1950, the ten-year dream of the congregation became reality. The sanctuary was constructed. The 1950 sanctuary had the same footprint as the current sanctuary, except that the front wall was where the communion rail is today.

These notes are from Pastor Lane's compilation of Immanuel's history first published in the 75th anniversary booklet.

2026 IMMANUEL STAFF AND COUNCIL

Staff

Lead Pastor.....Nate Loer
Youth, Family, &
Spiritual Gifts Coordinator.....Elana Seibert
Administrative Secretary.....Tracy Church
Custodians.....Ellen & Doug Carlstrom
Bookkeeper.....Amy Greenwaldt
Choir Director.....Deb Haraldson
Accompanist.....Suzanne Leigh

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Office 218-631-2738

Council

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



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