

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.*

April 2026



From the Desk of Pastor Nate...

Christ is Risen! Hallelujah!! These are the words we will proclaim to one another on Easter morning – and throughout the 7-week season of Easter. It is a joy to share them with you now as we flip our calendars from March to April.

It is also a joy to commend to you the Gospel of John. This month, our time focuses on John 9:1-10:42. Here are a few thoughts about the words you will encounter in this section of John.

In John 9:1-41, we hear the story of a man born blind. And as I said when I preached on this story March 15, pay attention in this story of how the man born blind grows in his “seeing” of who Jesus is, while the religious leaders grow more and more blind. By the end of the story, the man born blind can literally see – and he can plainly see that Jesus is the Son of God and worthy of praise and worship. May we be given eyes of faith to see Jesus as God’s Son and the Savior of the world, too.

In John 10:1-42, Jesus gives a lengthy series of teachings, including more “I am” teachings. He says “I am the gate” – and anyone can enter the kingdom of God by way of him. Later, he says, “I am the good shepherd,” and reveals that he lays down his life for us. Despite these beautiful and inclusive teachings, some think that he must have a demon. And when they ask him to tell them plainly whether he is the Messiah, he tells them that he has already told them plainly and they didn’t believe. And when he reiterates that God is his Father, they are ready to stone him for blasphemy. But since it isn’t his time to die, he escapes from them and goes back to the wilderness, across the Jordan to the place where John the Baptist had been preaching earlier in the story. And many came to that place and believed in him (vs. 42)

I hope you enjoy reading these sections from John. I hope you find Christ revealed in these verses and experience your faith blossoming through this incredible testimony about Jesus!

And again, a blessed Easter to you!!

Humbly in Christ,

Pastor Nate

Pastor Nate

The council met on Sunday, March 8, 2026. Next meeting: April 12, 2026 @ 10:45 am

Committee Reports:

Congregational Life: Diane Breitling– Lenten Wednesday Evening Soup suppers have been going great, serving approximately 90 each evening. We enjoyed helping the Youth with their soup supper and the Potato Bake/Bingo event. We did not meet this past month.

Outreach Evangelism: Rick Johnson– Seven members attended, we reviewed our jobs. Back Packs, Christmas/ Giving Tree, Greeting after Church. Planning training for greeting.

Youth and Education: Meagan Ferris– The Baked Potato Bar and Bingo event was a wonderful success, bringing together members of all ages for an evening of fellowship and fun. Thank you to everyone who volunteered in the kitchen, served food, cleaned up, and helped organize and lead Bingo. Your time and teamwork made the event welcoming and enjoyable for all. The Youth Takeover during Lent provided a meaningful and fun opportunity for our young members to participate in leading various parts of the service. It was a joy to see them share their gifts and grow in confidence. Looking ahead, Palm Sunday will be celebrated on March 29th. The Youth will be serving a Pancake Breakfast that morning. In addition, we are planning to host an Easter Egg Hunt between services. More details will be shared soon. Our final Wednesday Worship service will be held on April 29th. As we conclude the season, we plan to continue our tradition of assembling and delivering May Day/Spring baskets in the final weeks.

Property Management: Jeff Morlock– Jeff is connecting with Steph to get projects updated. Window project is moving forward.

Worship and Music: Margie Anderson– Did not meet

Other Reports

Immanuel Church Women: Diane Teigland –The ICW will be hosting the MN Northwest Synod Conference 6 of the Women of ELCA Spring Gathering here on April 14th. All women are welcome.

LEAD PASTOR UPDATE– Pastor’s Report – March 2026 – February/Early–March Highlights 1. Early Risers Class on John continues to go well. 2. Soup Tuesdays wrapped up on February 17. 3. Ash Wednesday was well attended and a very poignant service as usual. It was meaningful to burn palm branches with my confirmation students in preparation for that service. 4. Lenten Wednesdays are underway – so grateful for all the people who make these Wednesdays possible. Have four 5th graders and their parents participating in the communion milestone class.

5. We packed 400 bags of weekend food for the backpacks program on March 4. **Looking ahead** – 1. Jim Overland’s funeral services will be at Immanuel on Saturday, March 14 at 11am. 2. Matt, Cindy, my wife Audrey and I will be attending the Northwestern Minnesota Synod’s Get Together in Bemidji on Saturday, March 21. This is basically synod assembly part 1. 3. Holy week includes Maundy Thursday (April 2) services at 2pm and 6:30pm; Good Friday services on April 3 at 6:30pm (the choir is preparing anthems for that evening); and Easter services at 8:30 and 10am. 4. Our next food pack is April 9 at 2:30pm in the elementary cafeteria. I hope this will be the final food pack of the year.

OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD: Financial Secretary Report: Reported by Gail Klunenberg—The total of general offerings counted and deposited for February 2026 were \$28,238.61. This does not include direct deposits.

Treasurer’s Report: Bryan Greenwaldt– As of February 28, 2026, The **General Fund** balance was **\$84,328**; **Restricted Funds** balance was **\$61,567**; and the **Building Fund** was **\$21,809**.

Finance Committee: Dean Krogstad– Did not meet.

Our Vision and Mission—Other Business: Visioning Document Review – We discussed several possible projects for 2026.

Adjourn with the Lord’s Prayer – Motion to adjourn made by Margie, seconded by Cindy B. Motion carried.

Respectfully, Becky Crooker – Secretary

FINANCIAL UPDATE



GENERAL FUND	
2/1/2026	\$9,678
2/8/2026	\$10,608
2/15/2026	\$3,611
2/22/2026	\$3,757
Electronic Giving	\$425
Direct Deposit	\$8,737
TOTAL GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$36,816
EXPENSES	
Benevolences	\$2,290
Programs	\$2,473
Staff including taxes and benefits	\$25,740
Operations	\$708
Building Expenses	\$7,007
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$38,218
Gain/Loss	-\$1,402
General Fund Register Balance as of 2/28/26	\$84,328

RESTRICTED				
	Balance 2/1/26	Gifts & Additions	Payments	Balance 2/28/26
Backpacks for Kids	\$ 6,842	\$ 50		\$ 6,892
Bell/Carillon	\$ 250	\$ -		\$ 250
Cooking Matters (Ministerial Association)	\$ 127	\$ -		\$ 127
Congregational Life	\$ 2,000	\$ -		\$ 2,000
Easter Giving Blitz	\$ 100	\$ -		\$ 100
Good Samaritan	\$ 1,172	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 672
General Reserve Funds	\$ 10,849	\$ -		\$ 10,849
Giving Tree	\$ 1,402	\$ 504		\$ 1,906
Global Mission	\$ 3,465	\$ 30		\$ 3,495
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
Wednesday Night Supper	\$ (64)	\$ -		\$ (64)
Worship and Music	\$ 3,430	\$ -		\$ 3,430
YAGM	\$ 7,116	\$ -		\$ 7,116
Restricted Fund Register Balance	\$ 61,483	\$ 584	\$ 500	\$ 61,567

BUILDING FUND	
Building Fund Balance 2/1/2026	\$ 21,250
Deposits & Interest	\$ 559
Payments	\$ -
Building Fund Register Balance 2/28/2026	\$ 21,809



Dinner Club will meet
Tuesday, April 21
5:30 pm- The Pirates Den
(Verndale)

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!

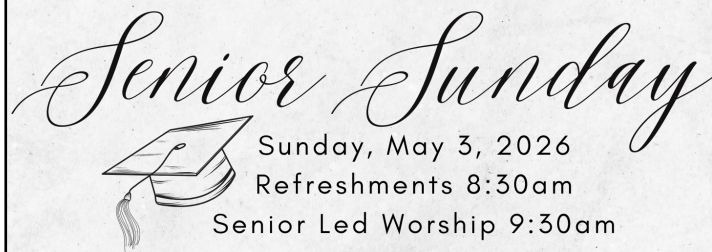


"All Music Sunday"

~ May 10th ~ 9:30 am Worship ~

We are looking for soloists and ensembles of all ages to share your musical talents for this special worship service! **A sign up sheet is located on the bulletin board next to the office. The earlier you sign up, the better to get the service organized! Questions?

Contact Deb Haraldson at 218-640-1777.



Sunday, May 3, 2026

Refreshments 8:30am

Senior Led Worship 9:30am

WELCA CONFERENCE 6 SPRING GATHERING

The ICW will be hosting the Conference 6 Spring Gathering right here at Immanuel! The date of the conference is Tuesday, April 14, 2026. ALL women are invited and encouraged to attend. Cost is \$15.00. To register, contact Deb Andrews by Friday, April 3. If you are able to help in ANY way, please let Diane Teigland know.



Holy Week Services

Maundy 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.)

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Block Cutting - Monday, April 6 @ 9:30 am

Monday, May 4 @ 9:30 am

Bible Study - Tuesday, April 14 @ 1:30 pm

(March/April/May Gather pg.12)

Tuesday, May 12 @ 1:30 pm

(March/April/May Gather pg.24)

Quilting - April 20 & 21 @ 9-2 pm

May 18 & 19 @ 9-2 pm



Host a Luther Crest Counselor During VBS Week!!

We are excited to welcome counselors from Luther Crest to lead our Vacation Bible School from July 19-23. To make their visit possible, we're looking for members of the congregation who would be willing to host one or two counselors in their home for the week. Hosts are asked to provide a place to sleep as well as breakfast and dinner during their stay. Hosting is a simple but meaningful way to support this ministry and extend hospitality to the young leaders serving our children. If you are interested in hosting—or would like to learn more about what it involves—please contact the church office. Thank you for helping us make this meaningful week possible for our kids! We're grateful for the many ways this congregation supports VBS!

What's Happening

April 1

12 pm - Rotary (#3 N.Overland)

5:30 pm - ILC Youth Council Meeting

April 2

2 pm - Maundy Thursday Service

6:30 pm - Maundy Thursday Service (YouTube Live)

(Holy Communion Milestone & Stripping of the Altar)

April 3

6:30 pm - Good Friday Service (YouTube Live)

April 5

8:30 - Easter Worship Service (YouTube Live)

10:00 - Easter Worship Service

(Easter Egg hunt to follow both services)

April 6

CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED

9 am - ICW Block Cutting

12 -3:30 pm - Fellowship Hall In-Use

April 7

9 am - Staff Meeting

April 8

12 pm - Rotary (catered)

Worship Wednesday Schedule (see below)

April 9

1 pm - MAC/NAPS

2:30 pm - Backpack Food Pack

6 pm - Northstar Round Table

April 12

8 am - Early Risers (Friendship Room or Zoom)

Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)

10:45 am - ILC Council Meeting

Sunday Worship Schedule

• 8:30 am - Coffee Fellowship

• 9:30 am - Worship

(LIVE on YouTube)

• 9:30 am - Radio Broadcast

920 AM or 101.7 FM

Worship Wednesday Schedule (April 8-29)

• 4:30 pm - Congregational Supper

• 6:00 pm - Worship

• 6:45-7:30 pm - Confirmation/Education

• 7:00 pm - Sanctuary Choir Practice



Backpacks for Kids



OUR NEXT PACK IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 9 @ 2:30 PM IN THE ELEMETARY CAFETERIA. WE HOPE TO PACK 500+ BAGS AND MAKE THIS OUR FINAL PACK FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR. PLEASE ENTER THE SCHOOL THROUGH THE OFFICE DOORS (COLFAX AVENUE). COME HELP US PREPARE WEEKEND FOOD FOR KIDS IN NEED!

BOOKCLUB

"The Reading List" by Sara Nisha Adams

Monday, April 27

Friendship Room @ 2:00 pm

Anyone is welcome to attend!!

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

