

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 Klunenberg
Financial Vice-SecretaryRandy Riedel
Congregational Life.....Diane Breitling
Education.....Meagan Ferris
FinanceDean Krogstad
Outreach.....Rick Johnson
Property ManagementJeff 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
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WADENA, MINNESOTA 56482

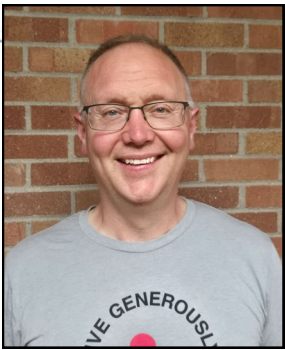


*Called and united through the Gospel of
Jesus Christ, our mission is to proclaim
and respond to God's presence among us.*

February 2026

From the Desk of Pastor Nate...

Dear beloved of God in Christ Jesus: nearly-February blessings to you!
Last month, as 2026 began, I challenged you to read the Gospel of John and the Johannine epistles as well (AKA 1, 2, & 3 John ... the books right before Jude and Revelation!). This month, in order to keep pace, you'll need to read a big chunk of John. John 1:19–John 5:47. Let me make a few comments about some of the stories you'll encounter in this section.



In John 2:1-12, Jesus attends a wedding and they run out of wine. Miraculously, he turns over a hundred gallons of water into wine. In this first “sign” Jesus demonstrates that he is the promised one and with him there is an abundance! And while the steward doesn't seem to notice this miracle, Jesus disciples are drawn into faith!

In John 2:13-22, Jesus cleanses the temple in Jerusalem. As he does so, he demonstrates his authority over the temple. When they ask him where he gets the authority to do this, he tells them to destroy the temple and it will be rebuilt in 3 days. But John tells us Jesus isn't talking about a building. He's talking about his own body. Here Jesus gives the first hint about his death and resurrection and how it will usher in an entirely new way of worshiping God.

In John 3:1-21, Jesus encounters a pharisee named Nicodemus, who comes to Jesus at night. He can sense that Jesus is something special, but he's not sure exactly how. As Jesus teaches about being born again from above, about the eternal life found in him, Nicodemus can't quite come to following along. He leaves still in darkness – much like the literal darkness around this night-time encounter.

In John 4:4-42, we hear another story of an encounter with Jesus – this time by a woman from Samaria. She doesn't understand Jesus' teachings about life-giving water and never being thirsty again. At least not at first. But her story is different than Nicodemus' story and soon she comes to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, and she goes and tells others about him. The first missionary in John's gospel is a Samaritan woman! This story of Jesus will be full of all kinds of surprises like this.

Throughout the rest of the stories you read, notice how Jesus does most of his ministry away from Jerusalem, away from the power centers of the day. Notice as well as Jesus continues to tell us about who he is and how some embrace him while others struggle to believe.

Keep reading, studying, and growing, my friends. God's peace to you in the midst of this world's overwhelming chaos!!

Humbly in Christ,

Pastor Nate

Pastor Nate

GENERAL FUND	
12/7/2025	\$8,116
12/14/2025	\$30,560
12/21/2025	\$2,877
12/24/2025	\$4,140
12/28/2025	\$7,221
12/30/2025	\$525
12/31/2025	\$1,050
Electronic Giving	\$675
Direct Deposit	\$8,329
TOTAL GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$63,493
EXPENSES	
Benevolences*	\$21,590
Programs	\$2,492
Staff including taxes and benefits	\$26,394
Operations	\$1,678
Building Expenses	\$12,010
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$64,164
Gain/Loss	-\$671
General Fund Register Balance as of 12/31/2025	\$76,899

FINANCIAL UPDATE



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATES

The council met on Sunday, January 11, 2026. President Margie Anderson called the meeting to order.

Next meeting: February 15, 2026

Committee Reports:

Endowment Committee: No report.

Congregational Life: Diane Breitling– Congregational Life Committee did not meet. We continue to keep busy with the Wednesday evening suppers. We are looking forward to the Lenten Soup suppers and will be asking the congregation for help in making soups for the Lenten season.

Outreach Evangelism: Vacant– Did not meet.

Parish Education: Meagan Ferris– The Education Committee met on January 7th. We are planning to coordinate a Wednesday evening service project with the Youth as a gesture of appreciation and a New Year’s greeting to the congregation during the Annual Meeting. The committee is also seeking ideas for meaningful service projects in which youth may participate on Wednesday evenings during the supper hour, prior to worship. Please send ideas or suggestions to Meagan Ferris or Elana Seibert. In addition, the committee is exploring the development of a consistent family communication system to better engage families and effectively share information regarding activities and service projects. Aubree Ferris and Kendall Grangruth will be attending the Winter Retreat at Luther Crest on February 6 –7. The committee is grateful for their willingness to represent our congregation and participate in this faith-building opportunity. We wish them a safe and meaningful retreat filled with learning, fellowship, and spiritual growth. Looking ahead to the summer, Luther Crest will once again be leading Day Camp. Dates will be shared as they are confirmed, and the committee will be seeking host families. Additional details will be provided as they become available.

Property Management: Pastor Nate– Painter lead sounds promising. Mark has some good ideas for the TV bracket and back door.

Worship and Music: Anne Oldakowski– They met Jan 5, 2026. Wednesday evening schedule started up this past week. Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season begin Feb 18 and plans are being made for Wednesday evenings during Lent. We continue to work on the lectors, ushers, and communion servers as well as choosing hymns and seeing sign-ups for special music slots. Still needing a new chair for our committee as well as seeking out new committee members and additional streaming assistance. Next Meeting is Feb 2.

Youth Leadership: Katie Johnson– No report.

Other Reports

Immanuel Church Women: Diane Teigland –No Report

LEAD PASTOR UPDATE– PASTOR NATE—Late December/Early January Highlights 1. We had a very meaningful Advent and Christmas here at Immanuel 2. Christmas Eve services were well attended. We accommodated about 30 people in the Fellowship Hall at the 3:30 service. The new closed circuit system worked great 3. Funeral Services for Scott McKellep were December 27 at Karvonen Funeral Home. Always an honor to be present with families in their time of grief 4. Worship Wednesdays are back underway. It was packed again here this past week. So great to see everyone again 5. Packed 375 bags of weekend food for the backpacks program on January 8 Looking ahead 1. Early Risers Class on John’s gospel and epistles started this morning. We continue for 12 weeks each Sunday at 8am. 2. Unlike last year, Lent comes a little quicker this year. Ash Wednesday is February 18. I am looking for 5 speakers on Wednesday to share briefly on the theme, “Why this Faith Stuff Matters.” Let me know if you have a story to share. 3. Soup Tuesdays are underway and continue on Tuesdays 12-1pm through February 17 4. The Annual Report is nearing completion. 5. Our next food pack is February 4 at 2:30

OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD: Financial Secretary Report: Reported by Jane Bagstad

The total of Sunday general offerings counted and deposited was \$57,169. This does not include direct deposits.

Treasurer’s Report: Bryan Greenwaldt

GENERAL FUND: \$76,899 (12/31/2025)

Total General Contributions: \$63,493 (12/31/2025)

Total Expenses: \$64,164 (benevolences includes budgeted payments. Building includes Property Ins. Payment)

Building Fund Register Balance \$20,736 (12/31/2025)

Restricted Fund Balance \$59,470 (12/31/2025)

Finance Committee: Dean Krogstad- Didn’t meet.

Our Vision and Mission—Other Business: Bookkeeper position and farewell to Jil. The Committee made the motion to hire Amy Greenwaldt as the new bookkeeper and adjust pay to \$8,500. Motion was Made by Dean Krogstad and seconded by Anne Oldakowski, Motion passed. (Matthew and Bryan abstained) This brought up discussion on the current policy for paying bills/ check policy. The Committee discussed and feels the current policy is fine. There are multiple check points and people involved with verifying payments. Farewell for Jil will be February 8, more details to follow. Annual meeting discussion on meal, Supper will be at 5:30 pm and meeting at 6:30 pm on Wednesday January 28 and a back up date of Sunday February 1 @ 10:45 am. The nominating committee is still working to gather new committee members. Acknowledged outgoing council members, Margie, Kayla, Jane, Anne, Steph and Katie.


The meeting ended with the Lord’s Prayer and was adjourned. A motion was made by Meagen Ferris and seconded by Dean Krogstad to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully,

Kayla Carpenter Secretary

RESTRICTED				
	Balance 12/1/2025	Gifts & Additions	Payments	Balance 12/31/2025
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	\$422	\$735		\$1,157
General Reserve Funds	\$10,849			\$10,849
Giving Tree	\$1,171	\$725	\$2,492	-\$596
Global Mission	\$2,265	\$1,200		\$3,465
Library Fund	\$125			\$125
Luther Crest Scholarships	\$472			\$472
Lutheran World Relief	\$1,219	\$100		\$1,319
Medical Mission	\$5,000		\$1,000	\$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	\$181	\$5		\$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	\$60,197	2,765.00	3,491.82	\$59,470

BUILDING FUND		
Building Fund Balance	12/1/2025	20232
Deposits & Interest		504
Payments		0
Building Fund Register Balance	12/31/2025	20736



Dinner Club will meet
Monday, February 16
5:30 pm – El Mariachi

Ash Wednesday is February 18
Worship @ 6:30 pm
Lenten Wednesdays begin Feb 25
Soup Supper @ 5:30 pm
Holden Evening Prayer @ 6:30 pm

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

Immanuel Youth Care Package Collection
The Immanuel Youth are seeking donations to help assemble care packages for the nearly 150 residents of Humphrey Manor. This project is designed to help our youth experience the joy and importance of serving others. Requested items include cozy socks, hard candy, granola or cereal bars, gum, and mini notebooks. Please turn in all donated items to the **church office by February 4**, as the youth will assemble the care packages during the Wednesday Worship supper. Delivery to Humphrey Manor is planned for **February 11**.


Upcoming Youth Service Project
The Immanuel Youth will also be collecting **new or gently used items** for the Visitation Room at **Wadena County Human Services**. Needed items include games, toys, activities, crafts, markers and crayons, coloring books, and board books. This project is planned for the **end of February or beginning of March**, with more details to be shared soon.

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

Soup Tuesday
February 10, 17
Serving begins @ NOON
A free-will offering will go to support the Giving Tree Fund.



Women's Ministry
Block Cutting - Monday, February 2 @ 9 am
Monday, March 2 @ 9 am
Bible Study - Tuesday, February 10 @ 1:30 pm
(Sep-Oct-Nov Gather, pg #37)
Tuesday, March 10 @ 1:30 pm
(First Study in newest Gather)
Quilting - February 16 & 17 @ 9 am - 2 pm
March 16 & 17 @ 9 am - 2 pm



Communion Milestone Class

All students 5th grade and older who haven't received instruction in Holy Communion are welcome to join us on Wednesdays in Lent for instruction. Students and at least one parent/guardian can join us downstairs in the choir room February 25 & March 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 5-5:45 pm We will recognize students during the Maundy Thursday service, April 2 @ 6:30 pm. Talk to Pastor Nate or Elana Seibert.

ICE SKATING FOR ALL!

FELLOWSHIP • FOOD • FUN
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

ALL AGES WELCOME!

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

4-7 PM

SKATES AVAILABLE!

JOIN US AT THE HOME OF
PAT AND TRACY HEGARTY
44330 215TH AVE STAPLES, MN

What's Happening

February 1
8-8:45 am – Early Risers
Sunday Worship Schedule (*see below*)

February 2
9 am – ICW Block Cutting
12 pm – Fellowship Hall in Use

February 3
9 am – Staff Meeting
12-6 pm – American Red Cross Blood Drive

February 4
12 pm – Rotary (#2 D Haraldson)
Wednesday Discipleship Schedule (*see below*)
7:30 pm – ILC Youth Council Meeting

February 5
1 pm – MAC/NAPS
2:30 pm – Backpack Food Pack

February 8
8-8:45 am – Early Risers
Sunday Worship Schedule (*see below*)

February 10
9 am – Staff Meeting
12-1 pm – Soup Tuesday
1:30 pm – ICW Bible Study

February 11
12 pm – Rotary (*catered*)
Wednesday Discipleship Schedule (*see below*)

February 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 920 AM or 101.7 FM

Worship Wednesdays Schedule

- 4:30-5:45 pm – Dinner in Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 pm – Worship
- 6:45-7:30 pm – Education/Confirmation
- 7:00 pm – Sanctuary Choir Practice

All are welcome!



February 15
8-8:45 am – Early Risers
Sunday Worship Schedule (*see below*)
10:45 am – ILC Council Meeting

February 16 – President's Day
OFFICE CLOSED
9 am – ICW Quilting

February 17
9 am – ICW Quilting
9 am – Staff Meeting
12-1 pm – Soup Tuesday
5:30 pm – Dinner Club @ El Mariachi

February 18
12 pm – Rotary (#3 N Overland)
6:30 pm – Ash Wednesday Service
Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion
7:15 pm – Sanctuary Choir Practice


February 19
10:30 am – Catholic Charities Frozen Meal Distribution

February 22
8-8:45 am – Early Risers
Sunday Worship Schedule (*see below*)

February 23
2 pm – Book Club (*Friendship Room*)


February 24
9 am – Staff Meeting
11 am – Dementia Care Giver Support Group
(*Friendship Room – all are welcome!*)

February 25
12 pm – Rotary (*catered*)
Wednesday Lent Schedule
5:30 pm – Soup Supper
6:30 pm – Holden Evening Prayer
7:15 pm – Sanctuary Choir Practice



Backpacks for Kids

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

"The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife" By Onna Johnston
Monday, February 23
Friendship Room @ 2:00 pm
Anyone is welcome to attend!!
(4th Monday of each month -Sept-May)

