

## 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



May 2026

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



### From the Desk of Pastor Nate ...

Continued Easter, hope and joy to you in the name of the risen Jesus. May our hearts continue to rejoice – Hallelujah – in the resurrection of Christ.

And, may our hearts be drawn into scripture. I'm happy to commend another section of John's gospel to you this month: John 11:1-12:50. Here are some "pastoral musings" on the stories you will experience in these verses.

The towering story from this section is the raising of Lazarus. Jesus learns about Lazarus' illness, but takes his time heading to Bethany, so that by the time he gets there Lazarus has already been dead for four days. His body has already begun to decompose. And yet, Jesus demonstrates his power over death by raising Lazarus from death. This moment foreshadows Jesus even more remarkable resurrection that is yet to come.

And yet, not everyone is impressed. The raising of Lazarus doesn't inspire the religious leaders to follow Jesus. It heightens their fear of how Rome will not like this ... and so they deepen their plot to kill him.

When you read John 11:55-12:11 and the dinner Jesus shares with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, pay attention to the foreshadowing about Jesus' betrayal, death, and burial. Notice how they want to kill Lazarus, too. He is a living testimony of Jesus' power over death and they'd like to "get rid" of the evidence – before it creates such a sea of followers that Rome will destroy them.

In John 12:12-19, Jesus enters Jerusalem to the waving of palm branches and shouts of Hosanna. And in John 12:20-36, Jesus shares a huge concentration of teachings about his death, and the fruit that will come from his suffering and death for future believers, including those reading these words from John (us, too!)

Finally, in John 12:37-50, Jesus offers an epilogue to his public ministry by reminding his listeners that he has come to save – but in a way that has been hard for many to understand. However, he concludes this section by saying once again that his true mission, in complete harmony with the will of the Father, is about to unfold: his suffering and death.

As you dig into these verses, I trust that your faith will be strengthened. And again, continued Easter greetings to you all!!

Humbly in Christ,

Pastor Nate

Pastor Nate

GENERAL FUND	
3/1/2026	\$ 3,544
3/8/2026	\$ 2,417
3/15/2026	\$ 3,566
3/22/2026	\$ 6,828
3/29/2026	\$ 4,434
Electronic Giving	\$ 700
Direct Deposit	\$ 8,737
<b>TOTAL GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 30,226</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Benevolences	\$ 11,190
Programs	\$ 986
Staff including taxes and benefits	\$ 25,977
Operations	\$ 1,650
Building Expenses	\$ 1,384
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 41,186</b>
<b>Gain/Loss</b>	<b>\$ (10,960)</b>
<b>Register Balance as of 3/31/26</b>	<b>\$ 73,622</b>

# FINANCIAL UPDATE



RESTRICTED					
	Balance 3/1/26	Gifts & Additions	Payments	Balance 3/31/26	Notes
Backpacks for kids	\$ 6,892	\$ 50		\$ 6,942	
Bell/Carillon Maintenance	\$ 250	\$ -		\$ 250	
Congregational Life	\$ 2,000	\$ 37	\$ 235	\$ 1,802	
Cooking Matters	\$ 127	\$ -		\$ 127	
Easter Giving Blitz 2023	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ -	b
G Samaritan Fund	\$ 671	\$ 100		\$ 771	
General Reserve Funds	\$ 10,849	\$ -		\$ 10,849	
Giving Tree	\$ 1,906	\$ 856		\$ 2,762	
Global Mission	\$ 3,495	\$ 30		\$ 3,525	
Library Fund Reserve	\$ 125	\$ -		\$ 125	
Luther Crest Scholarships	\$ 472	\$ -	\$ 472	\$ -	a
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	
Scholarship fund	\$ 8,070	\$ -		\$ 8,070	
Soup Tuesday	\$ 20	\$ -	\$ 20	\$ -	c
Sunday School Kits	\$ 1,275	\$ -		\$ 1,275	
Sunday School Offering	\$ 792	\$ -	\$ 792	\$ -	
Thrivent Micro Grants	\$ 1,016	\$ -		\$ 1,016	
VBS	\$ (299)	\$ 299		\$ -	a
Wadena Fire Victims	\$ 6,487	\$ -		\$ 6,487	
Wadena Food Shelf	\$ 186	\$ -		\$ 186	
Wednesday Night Faith Formation Food	\$ 37	\$ -	\$ 37	\$ -	d
Wednesday Offering	\$ (102)	\$ 102		\$ -	a
Worship & Music	\$ 3,430	\$ -		\$ 3,430	
YAGM	\$ 7,116	\$ -		\$ 7,116	
<b>Total Temporary Restricted</b>	<b>\$ 61,567</b>	<b>\$ 1,473</b>	<b>\$ 1,655</b>	<b>\$ 61,385</b>	

BUILDING FUND	
<b>Building Fund Balance 3/1/2026</b>	<b>\$ 21,769</b>
Deposits & Interest	\$ 524
Payments	\$ -
<b>Building Fund Register 3/31/2026</b>	<b>\$ 22,293</b>

- a. Consolidated and transferred balance to youth account
- b Transfer to G.Samaritan
- c Transfer to Giving Tree
- d Transfer to Congregational Life

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

**Congregational Life:** Diane Breitling- Lenten Wednesday Evening Soup suppers went really well. We had good attendance and lots of great volunteers helping make soup, baking bars and helping in the kitchen. We will be finishing up this school year with the last Worship Wednesday supper on April 29th. Looking ahead to summer, we will serve snack and lunch for VBS and thinking about a picnic sometime this summer.

**Outreach Evangelism:** Rick Johnson- Committee met on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm there were 7 members in attendance. Business discussed: 1) Meeting and greeting after church. Also, much time was spent on how to properly greet and visit with people. We want to do it right. A future training session as been planned and the date is pending – possibly May 19<sup>th</sup> after worship. 2) The packing of lunch bags was talked of and doing so was held on April 9<sup>th</sup> about 400 bags were packed. 3) Future meetings will depend on need. 4) Closed with prayer by Pastor Nate.

**Youth and Education:** Meagan Ferris- The Easter egg filling and hunt were a great success. Thank you to everyone who helped and supported this event. Wadena County Human Services will be present during the supper hour on April 15 to collect donations for the Visitation Room. Thank you to everyone who contributed and supported this meaningful service project. During class time on April 15th, the youth will be creating and assembling May Day Spring baskets, which will be distributed to the congregation and community the following week. Our final Worship Wednesday of the season will take place on April 29. Students will celebrate with a “last hurrah” by playing bingo with prizes during class time. Luther Crest will be hosting a VBS Day Camp July 20–23. We are currently seeking hosts for the counselors. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

**Property Management:** Jeff Morlock- Still working on the TV bracket. Windows are ordered. Chris Roberts was in last week and discussed the renovations to the Kitchen – new counter tops, and resurfacing of the cupboard doors and drawer faces.

**Worship and Music:** Margie Anderson- No Report

**Immanuel Church Women:** Diane Teigland -The Conference 6 Spring Gathering will be held Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> here at Immanuel. Looking ahead the WELCA Annual Conference will be held in September in Crookston. ICW will host the Graduate Sunday refreshments on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**LEAD PASTOR UPDATE: Pastor’s Report – April 2026 - March/Early April Highlights 1.** Wow! What an amazing Lent!! It was such a joy to lead the communion milestone class with our 4 5th graders. Maundy Thursday was a special evening. Our mid-week soup, music, and speakers were fantastic! Palm Sunday breakfast was great Holy Week was meaningful. Our celebration of Easter was glorious. **2.** Attended the Northwestern Minnesota Synod’s Get Together in Bemidji on March 21st. It was a good time of worshiping and learning with others. **3.** We packed nearly 400 bags of weekend food for the backpacks program on April 9th. This is our final pack until September. **4.** I continue to keep busy with my early risers class and working with several couples preparing for marriage. **Looking ahead – 1.** Final Early Risers class is April 19.

**2.** Final Worship Wednesday is April 29. **3.** Graduate Sunday is May 3. **4.** VBS Week is July 20–23.

**OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD: Financial Secretary Report: Reported by Gail Klunenbergh**

The total of general offerings counted and deposited for March 2026 were: **General \$22,344.40. Building \$150.00 Endowment \$100.00 Youth \$3,980.79.** This does not include direct deposits.

**Treasurer’s Report: Bryan Greenwald-**

**General Fund Contributions: \$30,226**

**Total Expenses: \$41,186**

**General Fund Register Balance 03/31/26: \$73,622**

**Building Fund Register Balance 03/31/26: \$22,293**

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

**Our Vision and Mission—Other Business: Synod Get Together Report –** It was attended by Pastor Nate, Audrey, Matthew, and Cindy on March 21<sup>st</sup> – it was well attended and very informational. Matthew touched base on his breakout session that discussed digital faith and what that looks like. How congregations can reach young adults; that 18–35 age range and how to engage with them. Cindy attended a session that discussed respecting the Earth and cutting down on waste withing each church. Talked about things like recycling and the cost savings of doing so.

**Linger Longer –** The counsel discussed putting together a committee to try to get more people to gather after service on Sunday’s. In a way to combat people from just “bee lining” to the door right after service is over, it might be nice to have cookies and coffee/juice available for members to share after service. To get people to just turn that corner a bit and “linger longer” it could help members get to know each other better. This is something that will be discussed more, and will probably be tested maybe once or twice per month.

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

Respectfully, Becky Crooker – Secretary



Dinner Club will meet  
Tuesday, May 19  
5:30 pm – The Uptown



**“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.

**WORSHIP MINISTRY**

Sign up outside the church office to usher, lector, assist with communion, and/or provide special music.



**ILC Vacation Bible School 2026  
Registration forms outside Elana’s office**



\*\*\*Be sure to check out our 2026 Graduate bulletin board outside of Elana’s office! You will be able to find open house information for graduates that provided it!\*\*\*



**What’s  
Happening**

**May 3**

Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)  
**Graduate Sunday** – Refreshments and cake served at 8:30 am Fellowship and graduate-led worship to follow at 9:30 am!

**May 4**

9 am – ICW Block Cutting  
12–3:30 pm – Fellowship Hall In-Use

**May 5**

9 am – Staff Meeting

**May 6**

12 pm – Rotary (Catered)

**May 7**

1 pm – MAC/NAPS

**May 10 – Happy Mother’s Day**

Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)  
**“All Music Sunday” Worship**  
10:45 am – ILC Council Meeting

**May 12**

9 am – Staff Meeting  
1:30 pm – ICW Bible Study

**May 13**

12 pm – Rotary (#3 N.Overland)

**May 14**

6 pm – Northstar Round Table

**May 17**

Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)  
– Geranium Sign-ups Due  
– Following Worship – 30 minute Hospitality Team Training (Fellowship Hall)

TBD – Julia Whynott Student Piano Recital  
TBD – Julia Whynott Student Piano Recital

**May 18**

9 am – ICW Quilting

**May 19**

9 am – ICW Quilting  
9 am – Staff Meeting  
5:30 pm – Dinner Club @ The Uptown

**May 20**

12 pm – Rotary (Catered)

**May 21**

10:30 am – Catholic Charities Frozen Meal Distribution

**May 24**

Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)

**May 25**

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

**May 26**

9 am – Staff Meeting  
11–12:30 pm – Dementia Caregiver Support Group (Friendship Room)

**May 27**

12 pm – Rotary (#1 G.Kluenenberg)

**May 31**

Sunday Worship Schedule (see below)

**Graduate Sunday**



Sunday, May 3, 2026  
Refreshments 8:30am  
Graduate Led Worship 9:30am

**Block Cutting ~ Monday, May 4 @ 9 am  
Monday, June 1 @ 9 am**

**Bible Study ~ Tuesday, May 12 @ 1:30 pm  
(March/April/May Gather pg.24)**

**There will be NO Bible Study June, July, & August**

**Quilting ~ May 18 & 19 @ 9 am - 2 pm  
June 15 & 16 @ 9 am - 2 pm**



The church office will be closed  
on Monday, May 25th in  
recognition of Memorial Day.



**Summer Office Hours**

Friday, May 22 through  
Friday, September 4  
Monday – Thursday: 8:30 am – 3:30 pm  
Friday: 8:30 am – 12:00 pm



**Hospitality Team Training  
May 17**

Immanuel’s Hospitality Team believes visitors and members should be greeted warmly, given space to answer questions, and engage in thoughtful conversation. If you have those gifts and are interested in learning more, join us for a 30-minute training after worship on May 17.

**Sunday Worship Schedule**

- 8:30 – Coffee Fellowship
- 9:30 – Worship (LIVE on YouTube)
- 9:30 – Radio Broadcast 920 AM or 101.7 FM



**Wednesday Discipleship to resume**

**Wednesday, September 16!**

**More information to come in the August newsletter!**



**Backpacks for Kids**

Thank you for a great year of packing bags for the WDC Backpacks for Kids program! We will resume packing in September. Stay tuned for more details in the August and September newsletters.

**BOOKCLUB - June 1st**

May Book Club will meet Monday, June 1 Friendship Room @ 2:00 pm  
Anyone is welcome to attend!!  
This will be the last meeting until September!

