

Immanuel Lutheran News

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
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WADENA, MINNESOTA 56482

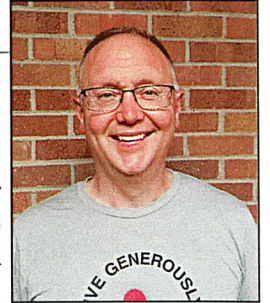


*Called and united through the Gospel of
Jesus Christ, our mission is to proclaim
and respond to God's presence among us.*

June/July 2026

From the Desk of Pastor Nate...

Nearly-summer greetings to you in the name of Almighty God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! Summer is a great time to catch up on your reading... including the gospel of John. It's not too late to get started. And, if you've been keeping up with my recommended readings, it's time for your next installment. This month's readings are John 13:1-16:4a. Here are a few thoughts from me on the stories and teachings you will encounter in these verses.



In John 13:1-11, Jesus begins his final evening with his disciples. And the first thing he does is to wash their feet. This is very strange. No teacher or leader would ever do such a humble thing. But Jesus does.

In John 13:12-20, Jesus reflects on these actions with his disciples. He has set them an example of humility. We have seen Jesus' power in his miracles. But this is to be our lasting image of him: love and service. And he calls us to do likewise. Before the scene shifts to a new teaching, notice how Jesus discusses how one will betray him. And as he hands the bread to Judas, he tells him to do what he must do quickly. The tension builds in the story.

In John 14, Jesus, that even though he will soon leave them, goes to prepare a place for them. Eventually, he will return and bring them to that place. In the meantime, we can remember him by carrying on his work. He also promises the Holy Spirit in this chapter to aid us in this work.

In John 15, Jesus shifts to an image of the church using vines and branches. As we abide in Jesus (i.e., connect with him), we bear fruit. And he reiterates that the fruit we are to bear is to love others as he has loved us.

Finally, in John 15:18-16:4a, Jesus plainly says that the world will hate those who love him and follow him. But he makes it clear that we are never to return that hate. Instead, we serve. Jesus also foretells that his followers will be thrown out of synagogues. Despite this persecution, Jesus calls his church to not stumble in the face of such problems but remain faithful.

We will hear the rest of these "Farewell Teachings" from Jesus in our August newsletter. In the meantime, may these teachings challenge you and encourage you in your sacrificial faith toward your friends and your enemies, too.

Humbly in Christ,

Pastor Nate

Pastor Nate

Good things ahead....

June 1

- 9 am - ICW Block Cutting
- 12-3:30 pm - Fellowship Hall in Use
- 2 pm - Book Club (*Friendship Room*)

June 2

- 9 am - Staff Meeting

June 7

- Sunday Worship Schedule (*see below*)

June 9

- 9 am - Staff Meeting

June 10

- 12 pm - Rotary (*Catered*)

June 11

- 6 pm - Northstar Round Table

June 14

- Sunday Worship Schedule (*see below*)
- 10:45 am - ILC Council Meeting

June 15

- 9-2 pm - ICW Quilting

June 16

- 9-2 pm - ICW Quilting
- 9 am - Staff Meeting
- 5:30 pm - Dinner Club @ Pirate's Den

June 17

- 12 pm - Rotary (*#2 D. Haraldson*)

June 18

- 10:30 am - Catholic Charities Frozen Meal Distribution

June 19 - OFFICE CLOSED - Juneteenth

June 21 - HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

- Sunday Worship Schedule (*see below*)
- (Please stay after worship and help take down tables in prep for the blood drive Monday, if you are able)

June 22

- 9 - 6 pm - Blood Drive (*Fellowship Hall*)

June 23

- 9 am - Staff Meeting
- 11 am - Dementia Caregiver Support Group (*Friendship Room*)

June 24

- 12 pm - Rotary (*Catered*)

June 28

- Sunday Worship Schedule (*see below*)

June 30

- 9 am - Staff Meeting

July 1

- 12 pm - Rotary (*#3 N.Overland*)

July 5

- Sunday Worship Schedule (*see below*)

July 7

- 9 am - Staff Meeting

July 8

- 12 pm - Rotary (*Catered*)

July 9

- 6 pm - Northstar Round Table

July 12

- Sunday Worship Schedule (*see below*)

July 14

- 9 am - Staff Meeting
- 6-9 pm - Fellowship Hall in Use (Wadena Concert Assoc.)

July 15

- 12 pm - Rotary (*#1 G.Kluenenberg*)

July 16

- 10:30 am - Catholic Charities Frozen Meal Distribution

July 19

- Sunday Worship Schedule (*see below*)
- Immanuel VBS Kickoff during worship*
- 10:30 am - Congregational Life Potluck (*Fellowship Hall*)

July 20

- 8:45-3 pm - Vacation Bible School

July 21

- 8:45-3 pm - Vacation Bible School
- 9 am - Staff Meeting
- 5:30 pm - Dinner Club @ Larry's

July 22

- 8:45-3 pm - Vacation Bible School
- 12 pm - Rotary (*Catered*)

July 23

- 8:45-3 pm - Vacation Bible School

July 26

- Sunday Worship Schedule (*see below*)

July 28

- 9 am - Staff Meeting
- 11 am - Dementia Caregiver Support Group (*Friendship Room*)

July 29

- 12 pm - Rotary (*#2 D.Haraldson*)

Sunday Worship Schedule

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



Worship Wednesday to resume September 16th!

More information to come in the August newsletter!



Summer Office Hours

Monday	8:30am - 3:30pm
Tuesday	8:30am - 3:30pm
Wednesday	8:30am - 3:30pm
Thursday	8:30am - 3:30pm
Friday	8:30am - 12pm

VBS!

Lead by Luther Crest Counselors!

Bring a friend!



MOUNTAIN MOVERS

KINDERGARTEN-5TH GRADE

JULY 20-23

8:45 AM - 3:00 PM
Please do not drop your child off before 8:30.

AT IMMANUEL

CONGREGATION MEMBERS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO JOIN US FOR OUR CLOSING PROGRAM AT 2:30 ON THURSDAY!

DONATIONS
Donations can be made on or before July 21.

Cash or checks written to Immanuel Youth - VBS in the memo line.

Donations are not required.

WHO CAN JOIN?
All children entering Kindergarten through 5th grade are welcome!

Don't miss this mountain-moving week of faith, fun, and friends!

QUESTIONS?
Contact the Immanuel Church Office for more information.

We can't wait to see you there!

SUMMER WORSHIP MINISTRY

Sign up outside the church office to usher, lector, assist with communion, and/or provide special music. If you are in need of an accompanist, please contact Deb Haraldson at 218-640-1777.



Dinner Club will meet
Tuesday, June 16
5:30 pm - Pirate's Den
Tuesday, July 21
5:30 pm - Larry's

Women's Ministry

Block Cutting - Monday, June 1 @ 9 am
Monday, August 3 @ 9 am

Quilting - June 15 & 16 @ 9 am - 2 pm
This will be a "Sewing Day"! Bring your sewing machine, and we will be sewing quilt tops. Don't sew? We would still love to see you! There are many parts to the quilting process that don't include sewing.

August 17 & 18 @ 9am - 2 pm

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



Congregational Life is planning a potluck!! It will be on July 19th after the Sunday worship service. This is to help introduce the VBS camp counselors to everyone in the congregation. Congregational Life members will supply hot dishes. We are asking you to bring in sides and desserts. This will be a great time to connect with the Youth in our church and to enjoy some yummy food and share a meal with others! We will be serving lunch and snack during VBS-July 20th-23rd. There will be signup sheets if you would like to bring bars/cookies for us to serve. Looking ahead...We are hosting a "Welcome Back" picnic on August 19th at Tapley Park. Look for more information in the August newsletter. Thank you for your support!

Diane Breitling - Congregational Life Chair

ILC Book Club - Monday, June 1 @ 2:00 pm

Book Club will NOT meet in July and August



Endowment Corner

The Endowment Committee is very concerned about the financial pressures that local families might be facing these days. So we've made a gift of \$2500 to the Good Samaritan Fund, specifically to aid members and friends of Immanuel with any shortfalls they might be facing around transportation costs, food insecurity, and housing. If you or your family are facing those kinds of challenges, reach out to Pastor Nate for a discreet conversation.

The Endowment Fund is also pleased to hear about the impact our gifts to Peoples Church have made. Our \$2000 gift made us one of 161 donors to Peoples Church in 2025. During the past year, Peoples Church served 27,500 meals, housed 400+ unique individuals for one or more nights at the church, and helped 11 individuals move into stable housing. May God continue to bless this shared ministry!

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

The council met on Sunday, May 10, 2026. Next meeting: June 14, 2026 @ 10:45 am

Endowment Committee: Cindy Becker- The Endowment Committee donated \$2500 to the Good Samaritan Fund – A motion to accept the donation was made by Cindy and seconded by Margie. Motion carried.

Congregational Life: Diane Breitling- Congregational Life Committee met on May 2nd. We will be hosting a congregational potluck on Sunday, July 19th to introduce the VBS camp counselors. Congregational Life committee will bring hot dishes and invite the rest of the congregation to bring sides and desserts. We will serve lunch and snacks to the VBS kids and counselors. There will be a sign-up sheet for church members to bring in bars or cookies. We are planning a welcome back picnic in August at Tapley Park. More info to come.

Outreach Evangelism: Rick Johnson- Meeting/Training to be held May 17th

Youth and Education: Meagan Ferris- May Day basket delivery during Wednesday Worship was a wonderful success! The baskets were very much appreciated by both our congregation members and neighbors, and it was a meaningful way to spread kindness and joy throughout the community. Thank you to everyone who helped prepare and deliver baskets! We also wrapped up our final Wednesday Worship gathering at the end of April with a fun night of bingo and prizes. It was a great evening of fellowship, laughter, and celebration as we closed out another wonderful year together. The Youth Committee is currently looking for youth and families willing to help with church yard clean up this spring and summer. If you are interested in helping, please reach out to Elana or Meagan. In addition, some congregation members have mentioned they could use assistance with yard work as well, offering a great opportunity for service and fellowship. Our Luther Crest VBS will take place July 20–23. Be sure to get signed up! We are also thankful for our counselor hosts and appreciate their hospitality and support during VBS week. The committee is hoping to organize additional youth fellowship opportunities throughout the summer. If you have ideas, would like to help plan activities, or are willing to volunteer, please contact Meagan. Looking ahead, we are planning a Youth & Family meeting in September before Wednesday Worship begins again for the new year. Lastly, we are always looking for Wednesday Worship teachers and volunteers. If you are interested in helping with this important ministry, please let Elana or Meagan know!

Property Management: Jeff Morlock- Renovations to the Kitchen – new counter tops, and resurfacing of the cupboard doors and drawer faces should begin the week of May 18th.

Worship and Music: Margie Anderson- We met April 27th. Special music is going ok. There will be a sign up sheet posted for the summer. On May 3rd there were eight graduates recognized. Special Music Sunday was May 10th Mark Stone is getting closer to a solution for mounting the TV. Damper for the piano will be on next month's agenda. Old Business: Pastor Nate would like to try different ELW liturgies for Wednesday Worship in the fall. **New Business:** September 16th is startup for Wednesday evening worship. Reformation/Confirmation will be October 25th. Cantors: Pastor Nate would like to expand the list of cantors to lead Kyrie and Hymn of Praise. Next Meeting August 24th

Immanuel Church Women: Diane Teigland –The ICW hosted the Spring Gathering of Conference 6 of the NW Minnesota Synod on April 14th, 2026. Sixty-six women were in attendance. The event was enriched by an inspirational Bible Study by Pastor Nate and a very interesting presentation about the Holy Land by Pastor Lauryl Ivers. The women of Immanuel used their gifts and talents to make it a wonderful day!

LEAD PASTOR UPDATE: Pastor's Report – May 2026 - April/Early May Highlights **1.** We had a great conclusion to our Early Risers Class with a couple sessions on 1, 2, and 3 John. **2.** Worship Wednesdays had their final session April 29 – it was a great year. **3.** Graduate Sunday was May 3. **4.** Pastoral Acts –Baptism of Kolby Oscar Winter on May 2 –Baptism of Brooks David Linville during worship May 3 –Baptism of Nathan Wyatt Jacobsen, Riley Allen Jacobsen, and Hunter Lucas Jacobsen on May 3 at a special service following worship. What a wonderful weekend of faith!

Looking ahead – **1.** I am participating in WDC Baccalaureate on May 20. **2.** Our hospitality team training is May 17. **3.** Our final food distribution for the backpacks program will be May 21. We will resume in September. **4.** VBS Week is July 20–23. **5.** We are already starting some tentative planning for fall.

Financial Secretary Report: Gail Klunenberg– The total of general offerings counted and deposited for **April 2026** were: **General \$34,370.41 Building \$1,165.00**

Endowment \$1,080.00 Youth \$863.16 This does not include direct deposits.

Treasurer's Report: Bryan Greenwaldt –

General Fund Contributions: \$34,235

Total Expenses: \$44,585

General Fund Register Balance 04/30/26: \$64,142

Building Fund Register Balance 04/30/26: \$23,929

Finance Committee: Dean Krogstad– Did not meet.

Other Business: Linger Longer–It has been decided that beginning Sunday May 31st, and then every 4th Sunday of the month thereafter – the Linger Longer committee will service some refreshments (cookies, coffee, lemonade) for some after-worship fellowship. There will be some signs posted. They may also need volunteers to fill in on an as-needed basis.

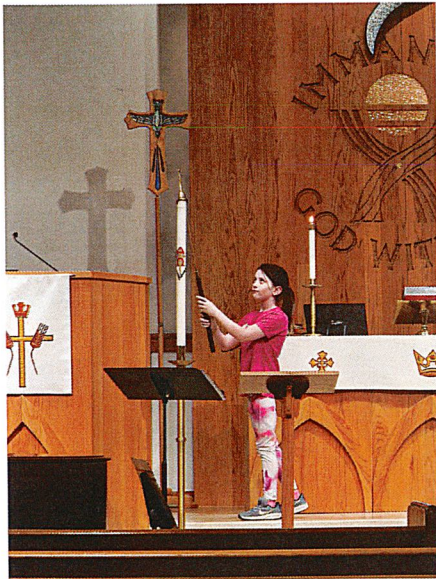
Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer – Motion to adjourn made by Bryan and seconded by Margie, Motion carried. Respectfully, Becky Crooker – Secretary

April 2026 Financial Report

Sunday General Offering	\$ 24,948.00	Restricted Fund Giving	\$9,002.00
Electronic Direct Giving	\$9,287.00	Restricted Fund Expenses	\$8,000.00
Total General Contributions	\$34, 235.00	Restricted Fund Balance 4/30/2026	\$62,387.00
		Building Fund Deposit	\$1,590.00
Total General Expenses	\$44, 585.00	Building Fund Expenses	\$ -
General Fund Balance 4/30/2026	\$65,142.00	Building Fund Balance 4/30/2026	\$23,929.00

Good things happening....

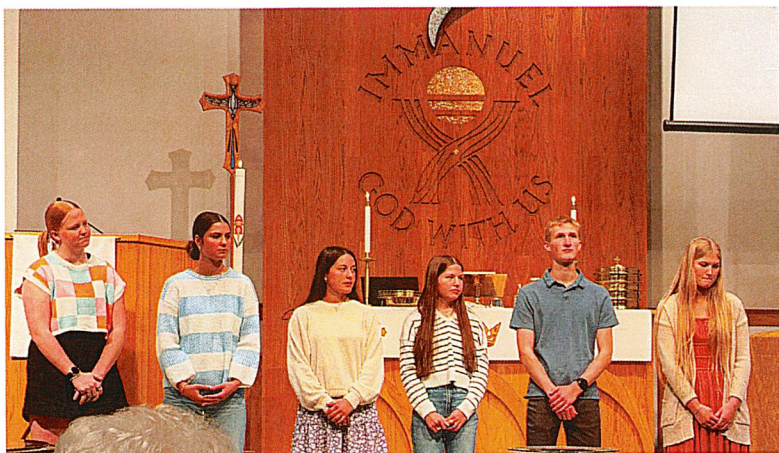
Our youth had the joy of delivering May Day baskets on April 22nd to members of our congregation and neighbors—sharing smiles, kindness, and a little bit of spring cheer along the way! It was a beautiful evening, and we were grateful to soak up the sunshine and spend some time together on the playground, enjoying God's creation and each other's company. We also continue to be so proud of how our youth take an active role in our Worship Wednesday services. From singing and lighting candles to collecting the offering and sharing readings, they help lead in such meaningful ways. It's a blessing to watch their faith grow and shine! Thank you to everyone who supports and encourages these amazing young people!



Our congregation and youth came together in such a meaningful way to support the Visitation Room at Human Service. We collected games, activities, and craft supplies to help create a warm, welcoming space for families. On April 16th, two staff members from Human Services stopped by to pick everything up—and they were absolutely blown away by the generosity and thoughtfulness of our group! Thank you to everyone who donated, organized, and helped make this project such a success.



Good things happening....

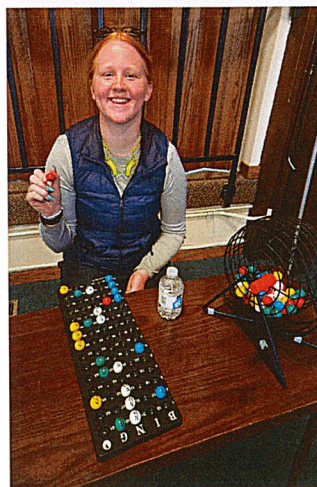


Congrats Graduates!!

We celebrated a very special Graduate Sunday on May 3rd! We took time to recognize and honor our graduating seniors as they prepare to step into this next exciting chapter of life. We are so proud of each of them and grateful for the ways they have been a part of our church family over the years. We pray God's blessings over their journeys ahead! Days like today are a true gift, filled with joy, pride, and faith. Congratulations to our graduates: Anna Fiemeyer, Anna Hegarty, Isabelle Lehmkuhl, Julia Lunde, Grant Nelson, Lydia Oldakowski, Hayden Olson, and Charli Snyder. Blessings to all who were able to celebrate this special milestone with us!

Worship Wednesdays

What a fun way to wrap up our final Worship Wednesday on April 29th! We celebrated with bingo, lots of laughs, and some great prizes—such a joyful night together! A huge THANK YOU to all of our amazing teachers, volunteers, meal providers, and everyone who helped make worship meaningful each week. Your time, energy, and care made this year so special for our youth. As we look ahead to next year, we're excited to plan a Youth & Parent Meeting at the beginning of the year. This will be a chance to share ideas for activities and gather volunteers to help make the year meaningful and fun for everyone. Have a wonderful summer—we can't wait to gather again next year!



2026 IMMANUEL STAFF AND COUNCIL

Staff

Lead Pastor..... Nate Loer
Youth & Family
Spiritual Gifts CoordinatorElana Seibert
Administrative Secretary.....Tracy Church
Custodian.....Ellen & Doug Carlstrom
Bookkeeper..... Amy Greenwaldt
Choir Director.....Deb Haraldson
Accompanist.....Suzanne Moe

Council

President.....Matt Greenwaldt
Vice President.....Cindy Becker
Secretary.....Becky Crooker
Treasurer Bryan Greenwaldt
Financial Secretary..... Gail Kluenenberg
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



JUNE/JULY

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