

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

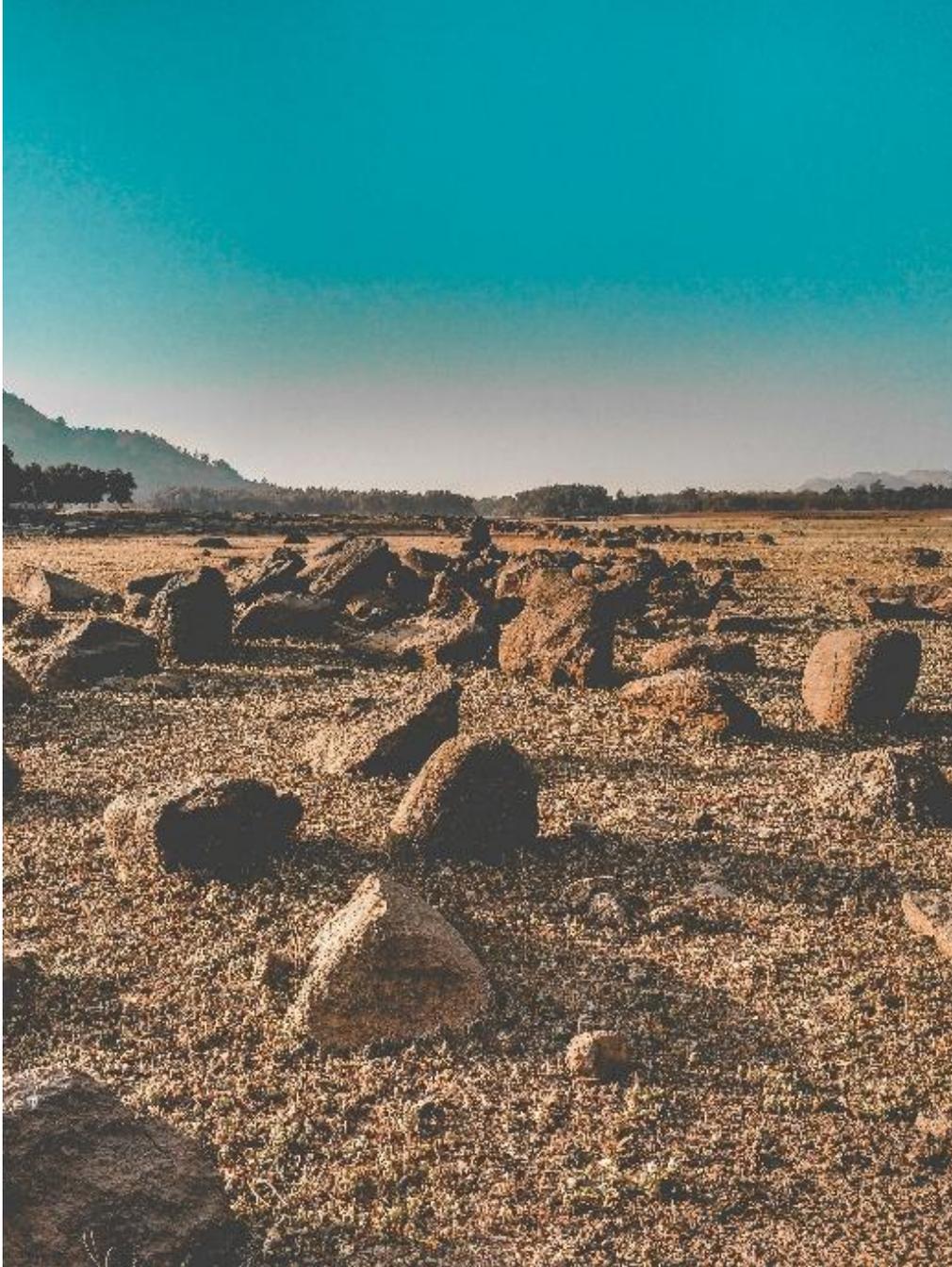
37515 Park Trail, Almelund, MN 55012

Pastor Justin Fenger

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

**A welcoming community rooted in Christ, growing in faith and serving with joy!**



**SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 2/22/2026**

**GATHERING**

**TODAY'S SERVICE IS USING ELW: RED BOOK**

**PRELUDE:**

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

Joint Choir

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Welcome to Immanuel!**

Thank you for joining us for our worship service. Whoever you are, whatever you've done, or wherever you are in life. You are loved by God which means, You are welcome here at Immanuel., God's grace is given freely, not earned. So whatever journey you are on, God led you here today. We thank you for coming and hope you see you again soon.

**Visitors**, welcome to worship! If you are interested in knowing more about our congregation please speak to Pastor Justin or call the church office! Contact info is on the back of this bulletin.

**We encourage all children** who can read, to follow along in the bulletin during our worship service.

We invite you to follow the service and take part in a way that feels right to you.

**Hearing devices** are available from an usher.

P = Pastor

L = Leader

**C = Congregation**

R = Reader

Sections in **bold** are to be read by the congregation

**Today's Scripture**

Genesis 2:15-17,  
3:1-7  
Matthew 4:1-11

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:**

Let us confess our sins to God and one another.

**We confess to you, most loving God, the sins that both bind and scatter us.**

**We have knowingly believed dishonest words.**

**We have questioned your gracious power again and again.**

**We have given into temptation.**

**We have acted out of fear, placing blame on others yet holding ourselves apart.**

**In our disbelief and confusion we have hurt our neighbors and ourselves.**

**Gather us back to you.**

**Forgive us, free us, and make us whole for the sake of your son Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Friends, beloved of God,

**Jesus came not to condemn the world but that all might be saved through him.**

**In the name of + Christ your sins are forgiven.**

**May God unbind your guilt and shame, lead you by the Spirit, and bring you to wholeness in abundant life.**

**Amen.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

L: Because you have made God your refuge,

**C: No evil shall befall you.**

L: God will command the angels concerning you,

**C: To guard you in all your ways.**

L: On their hands they will bear you up

**C: So that you will not dash your foot against a stone.**

**OPENING HYMN:**

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

**ELW 319 Red**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

God our Creator,

**We long for wholeness in our hearts and in our lives. When we are tempted by quick fixes or twisted promises, remind us that true sustenance, protection, and power is found only in you. Lead us by your Spirit to rest confidently in your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC:**

Yield Not to Temptation

Joint Choir

**SCRIPTURE READING:**

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

<sup>15</sup>The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; <sup>3</sup>but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** O Jesus, Blessed Lord (v.1)

ELW 541 Red

**GOSPEL:**

Matthew 4:1-11

**Glory to you, O Lord**

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup>But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" <sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; <sup>9</sup>and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" <sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to You, O Christ**

**SERMON:**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:**

In Christ There Is No East or West

ELW 650 Red

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

ELW Pg. 112 Red

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name;  
Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; on earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen.**

**OFFERTORY:**

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

Momoh Freeman & Dave Nelson

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS:**

Create In Me

ELW 186 Red

**OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

**You have promised to be faithful, O God, and we put our trust in you. Accept these gifts we now bring as a sign of our belief that you will provide for our every need. Make us generous with each other and forgiving of our own shortcomings, that we might truly be your servants in the world. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

**BLESSING:**

May God who seeks you by night and by day, in death and in life, open your senses to the mystery of God's grace, enfold you through water and Spirit in Christ's love, and give you confidence in the Spirit's power to unbind and grant new life. May the Holy Trinity, + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Mother of us all, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN:**

Let Justice Flow like Streams

ELW 717 Red

## **DISMISSAL:**

Go in peace forgiven, whole and free..

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE:**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The flowers up front** are in memory of Alice Burnside's Birthday

**Confirmation Classes:** 25<sup>th</sup>, God's Surprise

**Youth Group News:** Heggies pizza sales are starting!! There's a few new flavors this year along with all your other favorites!

Youth will meet March 4th & 18th at 6pm before service.

### **Holy Smokes Is Back!**

Mark, your calendars - Holy Smokes is at Jake's on the Lakes on Thursday, February 26 at 6:30 PM.

### **New! Sermon Note Art**

This fall we're trying a new way to listen to the sermon together.

As you come into the sanctuary, pick up a blank index card from the back of the narthex (or ask an usher).

During the sermon:

- Confirmation students: write your name on the back of the card.
- Write the sermon theme or main point somewhere on the card.
- Then respond:
  - draw a picture of something that spoke to you, or
  - write a short poem, phrase, or little story.

When you're finished, you can:

- hand your card to Pastor Justin after worship, or
- place it in his box.

If you're especially proud of your artwork or words, feel free to sign your name on the front as well.

This is for everyone, not just confirmation students!

Each week a selection of "Sermon Note Art" will be displayed in the Sunday School hallway as a way to share what God is stirring in our hearts.

### **Attention Sunday school kids and parents**

We do collect a Sunday school offering on Sundays in 2 ways. Food can be brought for the Food Shelf or a monetary offering will be given to Soldier's 6 who train dogs for soldiers and first responders.

### **Special events coming up:**

3/22 - 8:15am, Holy Week Adventures in the fellowship hall until church starts and later at Sunday school that day, Prayer pillows at church that day for Kindergartners

3/27 - Lock in 3rd-5th grade, 5pm-9pm

3/29 - Palm Sunday - participate in worship

**March 1st Almelund Sampler is getting closer** - we are still looking for **DONATIONS** for the Live Auction. Some good ideas from past auctions - Host a Dinner; Assorted Meat Packages; Gift Certificates to local restaurants; Creative Baskets - Movie Night, Pizza Night, Breakfast Fixings, etc. - what fun addition can you come up with. **This fundraiser will be to help with entertainment costs for the Apple Festival!!** Your support will be greatly appreciated!

### **Attention 2026' Graduates**

Please notify the church office at (651)583-2340, if you are graduating from High School or College. We would like to know. Also, please fill out a scholarship application form outside the church office.

## THANK YOU

**Thank you to all of you** for your cards, prayers, and well wishes following Steve's recent heart surgery. Pastor Justin for his hospital visit and the prayer shawl he received. We are truly blessed with a wonderful church family.

Thank you again,

Steve and Laurie Peterson

### **To: Prayer Shawl Group**

Thank you so much for the beautiful shawl. Please keep me in your prayers.

Doris Mullins

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### **More First Lutheran Events, TF:**

**Quilting** 9:30am - 11:00am First and Third Wednesdays of the month. No experience needed! New quilters welcome!

**New Book Study** at The Lodge Wednesdays at 10am.

**Wisdom Seekers Study Group** Every Thursday, 9:00 am @ First Lutheran

## SEASON OF LENT

<b>Lenten Services:</b>	February 25	11:00 @ First Lutheran W/Lunch following 5:30 Supper @ Immanuel Lutheran W/6:30 Service. Group D Serves.
	March 4	11:00 @ First Lutheran W/Lunch following 5:30 Supper @ Immanuel Lutheran W/6:30 Service. Group E Serves.
	March 11	11:00 @ First Lutheran W/Lunch following 5:30 Supper @ Immanuel Lutheran W/6:30 Service. Group A Serves.
	March 18	11:00 @ First Lutheran W/Lunch following 5:30 Supper @ Immanuel Lutheran W/6:30 Service. Group B Serves.
	March 25	11:00 @ First Lutheran W/Lunch following 5:30 Supper @ Immanuel Lutheran W/6:30 Service. Group C Serves.

### **Lenten Theme for Worship: “Longing”**

This Lent we’ll name something we all carry—longing. Longing for healing. Longing for connection. Longing for courage when life feels heavy. Each week we’ll listen for how God meets us right where we are—not with shame or pressure, but with mercy, truth, and the steady love of Christ.

#### Sundays in Lent & Holy Week

- Lent 1 (February 22) — *Longing for Wholeness* — Matthew 4:1–11
- Lent 2 (March 1) — *Longing for Mystery* — John 3:1–17
- Lent 3 (March 8) — *Longing for Relationship* — John 4:5–42
- Lent 4 (March 15) — *Longing for Community* — John 9:1–41
- Lent 5 (March 22) — *Longing for Authenticity* — John 11:1–45
- Palm Sunday (March 29) — *Longing for Courage* — Matthew 21:1–11
- Maundy Thursday (April 2) — *Longing for Intimacy* — John 13:1–17, 31b–35
- Good Friday (April 3) — *Longing for Solidarity* — John 18:1–19:42
- Easter Sunday (April 5) — *Longing for New Life* — John 20:1–18

**Midweek Lenten Theme: Joseph — “Bound... and Set Free”**

Our midweek services will begin on Ash Wednesday, then follow the story of Joseph from Genesis—an honest, human journey through what binds us: jealousy, violence, broken systems, family pain, and guilt. Week by week we’ll see how God works even in the mess, loosening what holds us and opening a path toward grace.

**Midweek Services**

- Ash Wednesday (February 18) — Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

**After Ash Wednesday: Joseph in Genesis**

- Week 1 (February 25) — *Bound by Jealousy* — Genesis 37:3–11
- Week 2 (March 4) — *Bound by Violence* — Genesis 37:12–36
- Week 3 (March 11) — *Bound by Dishonest Systems* — Genesis 39:1–20
- Week 4 (March 18) — *Bound by Family* — Genesis 41–42
- Week 5 (March 25) — *Bound by Guilt* — Genesis 50:15–21

**Trinity Lutheran Church – North Branch**

# Annual LENTEN FISH FRY

Fraturdays 5-7 p.m. | Feb. 20-March 27, 2026

## ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT

Fish  
Hand-cut Fries  
Coleslaw  
Dessert  
Coffee & Milk

Pop for \$1.50  
Meatless spaghetti also available!



**TRINITY**

Lutheran Church  
NORTH BRANCH

38460 Lincoln Trl  
North Branch, MN  
651-674-7047



Now offering  
**TAKE-OUT!**

**\$15 Adults**  
**\$5 Kids age 5-10**  
**Kids under 5 FREE!**

**Proceeds support**  
**Viking Vittles**  
**Weekend backpack food program**

# ALMELUND SAMPLER

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT  
ALMELUND APPLEFEST 🍏  
Every dollar raised helps  
provide LIVE MUSICAL  
ENTERTAINMENT  
for the Fall Festival (Applefest)

Community Event Sunday

Come for the music. Stay for the treats. Join  
the fun at the auction!

March 1<sup>st</sup>



Music

1:00 PM



Live Local Music to  
enjoy

Fill your bellies with  
desserts



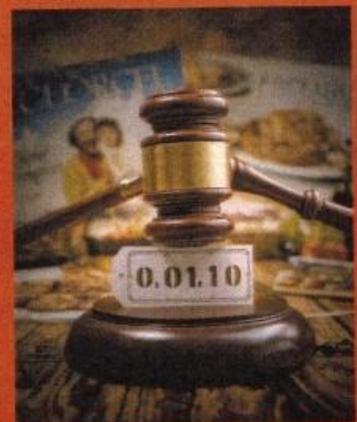
Dessert

2:30 PM

Auction

3:00 PM

Join us for the live  
auction called by  
LeeAnn Vandekamp  
Featuring a variety of  
great items including  
travel, activities, and  
food.



<b>Immanuel Church Calendar This Week</b>	
<p><b>Thank you for helping lead worship today!</b></p> <p><b>Pastor:</b> Justin Fenger</p> <p><b>Organist:</b> Momoh Freeman</p> <p><b>Special Music:</b> Joint Choir</p> <p><b>Reader:</b> Steve Tuhy</p> <p><b>Ushers:</b> Steve Tuhy</p> <p><b>Sound Tech:</b> Loraine Rue</p> <p><b>Camera Tech:</b> Dave Rue</p> <p><b>Proclaim:</b> Carli Linngren</p> <p><b>Altar Guild: Purple</b> Jennifer Abbott</p> <p><b>Teachers:</b> Amanda Cook Valerie Lutz</p> <p><b>Coffee Servers:</b> Sharon Thiel Gwen Swenson</p>	<p><b>Sunday February 22</b> 9:00 Joint Choir Worship Service Live and Online. 10:00 Annual Meeting W/Coffee to follow 11:00 Service at First Ev. Lutheran Church TF Youth Group retreat at Luther Point</p> <p><b>Monday February 23</b> 9-3 Office hours 6:00 Worship &amp; Music Meets</p> <p><b>Tuesday February 24</b> 9-3 Office hours 9:00 Worship Team Meets 5:00 Choir Practice @ ILC</p> <p><b>Wednesday February 25</b> 9-3 Office hours 11:00 Service @ First Lutheran W/Lunch following 5:30 Lenten Supper @ Immanuel Lutheran 6:30 Lenten Service @ Immanuel Lutheran 5:30-7:00 Confirmation</p> <p><b>Thursday February 26</b> Deadline for Bulletin Info 9:00am Wisdom Seekers Bible Study @ First Lutheran TF 6:30 Holy Smokes @ Jakes on the Lakes</p> <p><b>Friday February 27</b> 9-3 Office hours Bulletins Printed</p> <p><b>Saturday February 28</b></p> <p><b>Sunday March 1</b> 9:00 Communion Worship Service Live and Online. W/Noisy Offering. Sunday School after Children's Sermon 10:00 Coffee Served 11:00 Service at First Ev. Lutheran Church TF</p>

**IMMANUEL STAFF**

**Justin Fenger**, Pastor  
**Momoh Freeman**, Organist  
**Pat Remer**, Accompanist  
**Mark Weslander**, Administrative Assistant & Financial Recorder  
**Kyle Hendrickson**, Financial Secretary  
**Kim's Kleaning**, Church Custodial Work  
**Daryl Abrahamson**, Cemetery Groundskeeper  
**Jason & DeeDee Fredlund**, Youth Directors  
**Teresa Carlson**, Sunday School Leader  
**Office Hours:** M,T,W,F 9:00am-3:00pm  
 Unless otherwise noted.  
 Cell phone (651)431-8941

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchofAlmelund>  
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**Joanne Johnson**, Prayer Shawl group  
[chareter@yahoo.com](mailto:chareter@yahoo.com)  
 (651)278-2686

<b>February 15, 2026</b>	
<b>Attendance: 105</b>	
<b>Weekly Giving Update:</b>	
<b>February 15, 2026</b>	
General	\$2,555.00
Lent	\$ 40.00
Benevolence:	
-Undesignated	\$ 120.00
-Synod	\$ 450.00
-Lutheran Soc. Serv.	\$ 25.00
-Luther Point:	\$ 100.00
Building Fund	\$ 30.00
Loose	\$ 120.00
Online Service Fee	\$ 13.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,453.00</b>

<b>Happy birthday this week!</b>	
	22
	Stephanie Wendel
	23
	Mark Peterson
	Levi Oknich
	25
	Adam Plank
	26
	Marty Johnson
	Jasper Muggli
	27
	Robert Stirling
	28
	Craig Meyer
	TJ Flanery