



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

37515 Park Trail, Almelund, MN 55012

Pastor Justin Fenger

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026

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



SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 2/8/2026

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE:

You Are the Salt for the Earth, O People

Momoh Freeman

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Faithful God,

C: Your promises have never wavered, and yet we are not always willing to believe them. We descend into our own despair, unable to see past our immediate concerns. We drag others down with us and live to complain and commiserate. We ignore the miracles in front of our face. Forgive us for living such small lives, O God, and restore in us the wonder of what it is to be your people. Amen.

P: God is faithful; God is merciful; God does not hold our sins against us! Receive the assurance of your deliverance by the one who promised from of old to set us free, and who seeks and finds us to this very day. Alleluia! Amen.

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

Isaiah 58:1-9a
[9b-12]

Psalms 112:1-10

Matthew 5:13-20

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: God will always guide us,

C: Satisfying our every need.

L: God makes us strong,

C: Watering us like a garden.

L: What was destroyed will be rebuilt,

C: And we will receive God's renewing Spirit.

OPENING HYMN:

Gather Us In (v.v.1,2,3,4)

ELW 532 Red

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

O God, **You are the giver of all light. Make us shine like lamps to guide others to your kingdom, that everyone might come to your great city of grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC:

I Am the Light of the World

Momoh Freeman

BLESSING OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS:

CHILDREN'S SERMON:

SCRIPTURE READING:

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. ³"Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. [If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.]

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM:

Psalms 112:1-10

R: Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord, who greatly delight in his commandments.

C: Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

R: Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever.

C: They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

R: It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice.

C: For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever.

R: They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.

C: Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.

R: They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor; their righteousness endures forever;
their horn is exalted in honor.

**C: The wicked see it and are angry; they gnash their teeth and melt away;
the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

This Little Light of Mine (v.1)

ELW 677 Red

GOSPEL:

Matthew 5:13-20

Glory to you, O Lord

¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. ¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

SERMON:

HYMN OF THE DAY:

Take My Life, That I May Be (v.v.1,2,3,4)

ELW 583 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:

We Are An Offering

ELW 692 Red

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS:

Create In Me

ELW 186 Red

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

If we give to those in need **but still oppress them, we are doing no good, O God. Teach us your ways, so that we can know how to best serve your beloved children. Bless these gifts we offer here today, and may they be the first step toward serving you in ever deeper ways, for the sake of our savior Jesus. Amen.**

SENDING:

L: You are the salt of the earth.

C: We are called to a faith full of flavor.

L: You are the light of the world.

C: We are called to a faith that shines brightly.

L: Do not let the salt of your faith become bland.

C: We so often hold ourselves back, afraid of how we are perceived.

L: Do not let the light of your faith go unseen.

C: We so often hide it, afraid of failure.

L: God does not expect perfection from you.

C: We know it is impossible.

L: God only calls you into the fullness of faith you already possess.

C: God help us to take risks for the sake of the world.

L: Let your light so shine before others,

C: That they will see the fruits of our good works and know they come from God.

CLOSING HYMN:

This Little Light of Mine

ELW 677 Red

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Report will be published for pick up on Sunday, February 15, 2026.

For the Annual Meeting on February 22, 2026.

Community Meal Friday, February 13 from 4:30-6:30pm @ Immanuel Lutheran Church of Almelund

Sarah Circle will meet on February 17 at 9:30 at church.

Youth Group News will meet Feb 18th

Youth Group retreat Feb 20th - 22nd at Luther Point

Confirmation Classes: 11th, Home Again
25th, God's Surprise

The Immanuel quilters next meeting is February 10th, 10am-2pm. If you would rather sew at home on these cold winter days... we have bins of fabric available for anyone to use. Please notify the church office if you have a high school senior this year! Hope to see you there 10th! Martha Strecker. 651-341-3885

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.

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.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

SUNDAY HISTORY TALKS

The Arrowline Railroad and Sunrise; Join us on Sunday, February 15 at 3 p.m. at the Amador Town Hall in Almelund

Women's Retreat

February 13th - 15th

Luther Point Bible Camp

Enjoy a beautiful weekend while working on your favorite craft projects. Whether you are a quilter, scrapbooker, card maker, make diamond art, embroiderer, jewelry maker, or another kind of crafter and enjoy good conversation, laughter and new and existing friends, this weekend is for you! Crafting not your thing? Puzzles, cozy reading areas, snow tubing and outdoor grounds to walk around are available!!

When: Friday, February 13, 2026 5:30pm to Sunday, February 15, 2026 10:30am

Where: Luther Point Bible Camp, Grantsburg, WI

Cost: \$50 - Friday through Sunday Includes table, two nights of lodging, 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners, snacks, coffee and hot cocoa \$35 - Saturday only Includes table, 1 breakfast, 1 lunch, 1 dinner, snacks, coffee and hot cocoa. No Lodging

**Saturday bonus craft: Create your own Bible/Church Bag. Additional \$20 for supplies (High quality zipper bag & goodies) For more information or for questions, please email Angie Linngren at felctf@gmail.com. Registration deadline: January 29th

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

Ash Wednesday Services: February, 18

11:00 @ First Lutheran
6:30 @ Immanuel Lutheran

Lenten Services: 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.



Here's Stitch watching over grandma Cindy. Cindy's ventilator is gone and learning to talk is next. Small steps to recovery.

Sweet Heart's

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**Proceeds will be used for
Community Projects**

Pancakes, French Toast, Sausage, Eggs, Juice, Milk, Coffee

Sunday, Feb 15th

8:00am – 12 Noon

at the

Shafer Township Hall

18259 St Croix Trail (Hwy 95)

Just ¼ Mile west of downtown Palmdale or
3 ¼ miles east of downtown Almelund on Hwy 95

Sponsored by

Almelund Lions Club

Adults \$10.00

Children under 12 \$5.00

Children under 6 FREE

*Used eyeglasses and hearing aids will be
collected at this and all Lions Club activities*

We are always looking for new members,
if interested please ask a Lion, Thank You

Immanuel Church Calendar This Week	
<p>Thank you for helping lead worship today!</p> <p>Pastor: Justin Fenger</p> <p>Organist: Momoh Freeman</p> <p>Special Music: Momoh Freeman</p> <p>Reader: Jullie Weller</p> <p>Ushers: Steve Tuhy</p> <p>Sound Tech: Loraine Rue</p> <p>Camera Tech: Dave Rue</p> <p>Proclaim: Carli Linngren</p> <p>Children's Sermon: Amanda Cook</p> <p>Altar Guild: Green Jennifer Abbott</p> <p>Teachers: Amanda Cook Valerie Lutz</p> <p>Coffee Servers: Matt & Soua Carlson</p>	<p>Sunday February 8 9:00 Prayer Shawl Worship Service Live and Online. Sunday School after Children's Sermon 10:00 Coffee Served 11:00 Service at First Ev. Lutheran Church TF</p> <p>Monday February 9 9-3 Office hours 10:00 WOW Practice 5:00 Property Meeting 6:00 Council Meeting</p> <p>Tuesday February 10 9-3 Office hours 9:00 Worship Team Meets 10-2 Quilters meet W/potluck at noon 5:00 Choir Practice ILC</p> <p>Wednesday February 11 9-3 Office hours 5:30-7:00 Confirmation</p> <p>Thursday February 12 Deadline for Bulletin Info 9:00am Wisdom Seekers bible study @ First Lutheran TF</p> <p>Friday February 13 9-3 Office hours Bulletins Printed 4:30-6:30 Community Meal</p> <p>Saturday February 14 VALENTINES DAY</p> <p>Sunday February 15 9:00 WOW Communion Worship Service Live and Online. Sunday School after Children's Sermon 10:00 Coffee Served 11:00 Service at First Ev. Lutheran Church TF 3:00 Arrowline Railroad – Amador Town Hall 8:00am-12:00pm Sweet Heart's Breakfast @ Shafer Town Hall</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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ywiik99@yahoo.com
(651)583-2600
Daryl Abrahamson, Cemetery
julie.l.abrahamson@gmail.com
(651)674-2419
Martha Strecker, Quilting group
mmstreck@frontiernet.net
(651)583-2221
Joanne Johnson, Prayer Shawl group
chareter@yahoo.com
(651)278-2686

February 1, 2026	
Attendance: 87	
Weekly Giving Update:	
February 1, 2026	
General	\$3,632.00
Benevolence:	
-Undesignated	\$ 82.50
-Lutheran Soc. Serv.	\$ 25.00
-World Hunger	\$ 25.00
Building Fund	\$ 112.50
Loose	\$ 67.00
Online Service Fee	\$ 2.60
TOTAL	\$3,946.60
NOISY OFFERING	\$ 91.33

Happy birthday this week!

9
Jennifer Bauman

12
Laurie Peterson
Marshall Johnson
Justin Johnson

14
Gannon Dockendorf
Gus Klanderud