



IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
ALMELUND, MN

MESSENGER

December
2025

December Newsletter

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The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Almelund, MN

By the time you read this, the turkey leftovers may be mostly gone, the darker evenings have settled in, and the church year has quietly flipped over to a new beginning: **Advent**.

And Advent, more than anything else, is a season of **hope**, but what are you hoping for?

“I hope I get everything done before Christmas.”

“I hope the weather cooperates.”

“I hope the kids behave for at least one picture.”

After Turkey Bingo, a lot of us were quietly hoping:

“I hope *my* card wins the turkey this year...”

But if what we “hope” for never comes and it leaves us bitter, anxious, or afraid it might not have been hope in the Christian sense at all. It may have been something closer to *security*:

“I hope things don’t change.”

“I hope nothing bad happens.”

“I hope I can keep control.”

In Luke 21, Jesus does something incredibly disruptive: he stands in front of the most impressive, seemingly permanent building his friends know the Temple and says, “*The days will come when not one stone will be left upon another.*”

Man, Jesus, talk about a buzz kill.

We like big strong things. Strong buildings. Strong institutions. Strong plans. Strong bank accounts. Plus, we can post those things to the book or the gram. If we’re honest, that’s often what we mean by “hope”: *I hope nothing falls apart.*

But Jesus doesn’t promise that.

He says there will be wars, earthquakes, famines, plagues, and frightening signs. He says some of his followers will be hated, betrayed, even killed.

And then right in the middle of that he says:

“Not a hair of your head will perish.

By your endurance you will gain your lives.”

It sounds like a contradiction, unless we realize:

Jesus is looking beyond our desire to be *un-scratched* and pointing to a deeper promise

that even when the stones fall, even when our plans crack, we are not lost to God.



Christian hope is not, “Nothing bad will happen to me.”

Christian hope is, “Nothing can separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus.”

There’s a kind of “religious hope” that says, “Hang on and eventually you’ll escape this messy world”

But in Luke, Jesus says something very different:

“This will give you an opportunity to testify.”

When the world shakes, that’s not our cue to disappear.

It’s our opportunity to **witness** to quietly, stubbornly, gratefully live like Jesus really is Lord:

- To keep lighting candles in the dark.
- To keep showing up for each other.
- To keep giving, serving, and forgiving even when it would be easier to shut down.

That’s Advent hope.

It’s not passive. It doesn’t curl up by the fire and wait for it all to blow over.

It gives fervor instead of complacency.

Advent doesn’t give us a way out of this world; it gives us a God who comes into this world into our headlines and hospital rooms, our kitchen tables and quiet worries so that no place we stand is God-forsaken.

Happy Advent

Pastor Justin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parents’ Shopping Night – Thursday, December 4

Need a night to finish your Christmas shopping? Bring your child(ren) to Immanuel on Thursday, December 4 from 4:30–9:00 p.m. for a fun evening at church. We’ll provide dinner and activities for the kids, while you head out to get your Christmas shopping done—*local, of course!*

Community Meal – Thursday, December 11

All are welcome to our Community Meal on Thursday, December 11 from 4:30–6:30 p.m. Come and enjoy a warm meal, good conversation, and a welcoming space. Additional food and personal care items will also be available for those who may need a little extra support this season. Invite a friend or neighbor!

Confirmation Lock-In (Grades 6–8) – Friday, December 19

Our Confirmation Lock-In for 6th–8th graders will be held on Friday, December 19, beginning at 5:30 p.m. We'll share a meal, faith activities, games, and time together at church. Youth will “roll right into” worship the next morning, so plan on picking them up after Saturday morning worship.

Stewardship will meet on December 1 at 10am in the Fireside Room.

Naomi Circle will meet at the home of Kris Koran on December 16th at 9:30am for our monthly meeting. See you then!

Attention new members and women seeking a fellowship group: We are exploring the idea of starting a third women's circle which will meet in the evening. Anyone interested in joining the conversation to decide its direction please join us at 6 PM on December 3 at Immanuel. Contact Amanda Cook for more information.

Collecting for the Women's & Children's Shelter

Naomi Circle will be collecting women and children pajamas for the Family Pathways women's shelter. A collection box will be placed in the Gathering area and donations will be collected until Sunday December 14th.

We, the Naomi Circle, thank you for your generous donation(s)

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.

Confirmation Classes: 10th, Graduation and Settling Down
17th, We want a King

The Women of the ELCA:

Our planned meeting for 2026 will be held on January 12, 2026 with Sarah circle to lead. All Women are welcome come join us!

Also: The mitten tree is going up in the narthex. Please bring mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, socks, children thru adult sizes. Thank you

The Immanuel Quilters are taking a holiday break in December. Our next sewing day will be Tuesday, January 13th, 2026. If you know of anyone who could use a cozy quilt as the cold weather approaches, please let any quilter know... our bins are full to share. We donated a quilt to the person who got rid of our church mice... Pastor Justin will deliver it. Thank you to everyone who supports our ministry. We wish everyone a very blessed and happy holiday! Martha Strecker. 651-341-3885

The Parish Care Team will meet at 10:30 on December 9, 2025.

Youth Group News

Youth Group will meet Dec. 3rd & 17th from 6pm-7pm. **ALSO**; Church decorating Sat Dec 6th at 9am

Attn Kids and Parents:

Offering can be given in 2 ways again this year. Cash offerings will be saved and given to Soldier's 6 again (the organization that trains service dogs for soldiers and first responders) OR an item for the food shelf (this box is upstairs by classroom C on the left).

Christmas Program - we will start practicing during Sunday School in November, and the program will be on 12/14 @ 9:00 during church service - reminder postcards will be sent with important information about this.

Tune in our Daily Texts, Monday through Saturday on our Facebook Page [@immanuellutheranchurchofalmelund](https://www.facebook.com/immanuellutheranchurchofalmelund)

A daily devotional time based on an Old and New Testament Bible verse based on a Moravian Church tradition and Ground Up Grace Publications Daily Texts 2025 books.

NOISY OFFERINGS ARE THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH
We express our thanks to all those who provide special music with a

Special Thank You to those who travel a distance to share their talents. We would like to show our appreciation by gifting these musicians with a gas card through the "Noisy Offerings". So - SAVE YOUR CHANGE and let's make a Joyful Noise Unto The Lord!!!!

2025 All Saints Memorials

In memory of Martin Strecker; by Martha Strecker & family for Quilting Ministry.

In memory of Kirk Lane Ness & Lee Michael Ness; by Marlin & Lois Ness for The Youth Group Mission Trip.

In memory of loved ones; by Kristine Koran & family for the African Student Scholarships.

In memory of James R. Swenson; by Gwendolyn Swenson for Building Fund-North Wing kitchen.

In memory of Dad & Mom: Archie & Anita Abrahamson; Brothers: Steve & Randy Abrahamson; by Teresa & Curt Carlson & family for Archives & Cemetery.

In memory of Dawn Swartz; by Diane Rothe for Altar Guild.

In memory of Thomas F. Jesse, Mr. & Mrs. Helmoth Jesse, Mr. & Mrs Clyde Berge, Mr. & Mrs. Harald Pahl; by Thomas & Regina Jesse for Scholarship.

In memory of Rod, Lois & Gayle Johnson; Nels & Myrtle Bostrom; by Mark & Diane Johnson for Building Fund.



Mylo Philip Lundquist
November 13, 1930 –
August 9, 2025

THANK YOUS

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank the youth group for their hard work creating the beautiful wreaths for us to purchase. We know it was a "sticky" job, but you persevered and completed the task anyway.

The Stewardship Committee welcomes our New Members. Thank you for joining our church family, we are grateful you have chosen us to be part of your continuing faith journey.

Thank you to everyone who purchased a wreath from the youth group.

We truly appreciate you all and your support.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

By end of day Monday, December 15; The third Monday of the month.

PROOFREADING:

Of newsletter Wednesday, December 17 @ 11:00; in the Fireside Room.

NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY:

Will be Friday, December 19 @ 10:00 in the Fireside Room. Volunteers can fill newsletters with offering envelopes and labels for mailing.

Thank you for your help!

Mark Weslander



**CHRISTMAS BRUNCH and
CRAFT/BAKE SALE**

**December 7, 2025 after
church.**

**Donations needed of Christmas Cookies,
baked goods, homemade candies, jams,
jellies and other canned items. Also, craft
items of all kinds. Please price items before
bringing them. Have at church by Saturday
December 6.**

Almelund
Old - Fashioned
Santa Claus Day



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025

2:00 to 4:00 PM

Almelund/Amador Town Hall

**Apple Cider ~ Coffee ~ Christmas Treats
(Donations of goodies gladly accepted!)**

Candy Bags for Children of ALL Ages!

BAKE SALE/BAZAAR FUNDRAISER

benefiting the Amador Heritage Center

***Hand-painted Calligraphy Christmas Bulbs**

***Holiday Items!**

Please have donations at the Town Hall by 12-noon.

***Don't forget your camera!**

***Any questions? Contact Pat: 651-583-2100**

Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM by Chair Gwen Swenson

Present: Joanne Johnson, Jody Johnson, Vickie Johnson, Ashley Larkin, Connie Linder, Gwen Swenson, and Clay Ryberg (Church Council Representative)

Minutes of the August 11th meeting were approved, the Treasurer's report was accepted

Old Business:

Mission Investment program letters have been sent to parents of approximately 50 children baptized at Immanuel since this program was discontinued in 2013. Interested parents must submit the necessary forms to enroll their children in this savings program. An initial \$50 investment on behalf of each enrolled child will be made by Immanuel with funds coming from the Memorial Fund. Current and future baptismal families receive enrollment information from Pastor prior to baptism.

2025-2026 Memorial Scholarship recipients to submit their first semester grades by January 1st to receive their scholarship award.

As of this meeting, the date(s) not yet announced for Lamp Post Sunday event. Memorial Committee completed a brief description of our committee activities/responsibilities which has been submitted to Mark and Pastor for inclusion in printed literature for this upcoming event.

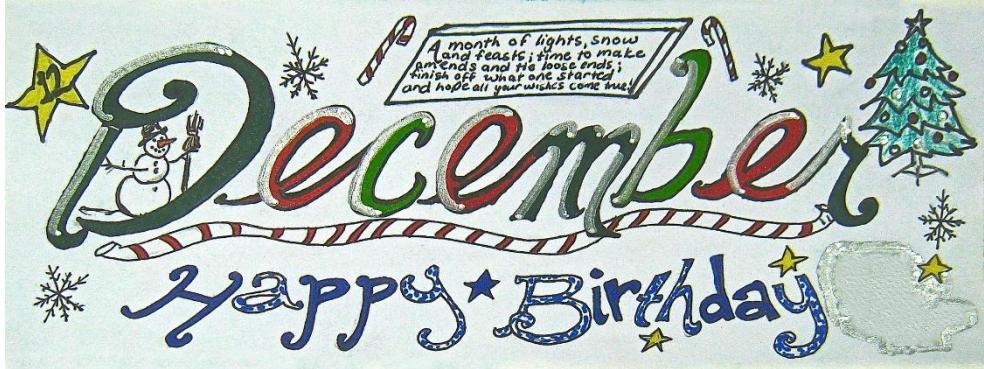
New Business:

Briefly discussed the 2026 Annual meeting and related Memorial Committee report.

Memorial will provide Mark a copy of the current donation fund categories to be used for Easter Memorial Garden and All Saints Day donation forms for 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 5:44 PM

Next meeting dates are scheduled as follows: Sunday, January 25th at 10:15 AM following worship (*Fireside Room*), Wednesday, March 18th at 5:00 PM (*Fireside Room*)



As you celebrate your Birthday, remember to celebrate your Spiritual Birthday each year.

Light a candle to remember your Baptism, too. God Bless you on your special days!

2 Nora Donavan
4 Marcy Meyer, Tyler Abbott, Barb Buus,
LouAnn Nordeen, Hailey Wyndt, Jeff Lutz
5 John Sandberg, Julie Johnson
6 Vickie Johnson
7 Shannon Plank
8 Stephanie Wagner, Jace Flodquist, Steve Peltier
9 Daryl Abrahamson, Kyle Burnside
10 Abigail Johnson
11 Tami Buus
12 Susan Sandberg, Jessica Johnson
13 Gerald Johnson, Glenn Johnson, Gabrielle Beede
15 Amelia Strock
16 Michael Tauer
17 Shannon Lindgren
18 Declan Bauman
21 Mark A. Johnson
22 John Mills, Avalynn Waldemar
23 Suzanne Minar
24 Hanna Sandstrom
25 Jeanne Burnside, Todd Peltier
26 Matthew Lutz
27 Merrie Tolzmann, Jaime Burnside
28 Arlen Burnside
29 Perry Lindberg, Loraine Rue, Cindy Johnson, Duane Thiel
31 Karen Goodlander

Thank you to those helping with the Worship Services!

	Dec 7	Dec 14	Dec 21	Dec 24	Dec 28
Scripture Reader	Alexis Kamppi	Vicki Johnson	Matt Carlson	5:30pm Abigail Johnson 10pm Elizabeth Sandberg	Richard Sellman
Ushers	Marty & Jody Johnson	Marty & Jody Johnson	Marty & Jody Johnson	Marty & Jody Johnson	Marty & Jody Johnson
Sound Tech	Dave Rue	Lorraine Rue	Nancy Nadeau	Lorraine Rue	Julie Johnson
Camera Tech	Matt Oknich	Dave Rue	Jodi Johnson-Waldemar	Dave Rue	Vern Johnson
Children's Sermon			Amanda Cook		Tracy Tolzmann
Coffee Servers	Brunch Craft/Bake Sale	Jenny Abbott & Teresa Carlson			Youth Group
Teachers	Dana Cami Katie	Dana Amanda Teresa	Val Cami Katie		No Sunday School

Communion Servers:

Sunday, Dec 7th - Clay Ryberg, Jeff Lutz, Amanda Cook

Sunday, Dec 21st - Clay Larson, Julie Johnson, Julie Weller

Wednesday, Dec 24th – Early - Julie Weller, Norm Peterson, Beth Berger
Late – Pastor Justin

Communion Wine - Wild Mountain Winery

Communion Wafers now used

Reader Coordinator December: Joanne Johnson

Altar Guild: December: Nancy Nadeau

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue
	1 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 1:00 Stewardship Meets In the Fireside Room	2 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 9:00 Worship Team 5:00 Choir Practice FELC
7 Second Sunday of Advent - Blue 9:00 Comm Wors Live and Online; W/Noisy Offering; Sunday School after Children's Sermon 11:00 First Lutheran Service	8 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 10:00 WOW Practice 5:00 Property Meeting 6:00 Council Meeting	9 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 9:00 Worship Team 10:30 Parish Care Meets Quilters are not meeting 5:00 Choir Practice ILC
14 Third Sunday of Advent - Blue 9:00 Worship Service Live and Online; W Sunday School Christmas Program. 11:00 First Lutheran Service	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 10:00 WOW Practice 6:00 Chris. Ed.	16 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 9:00 Worship Team 9:30 Sarah Circle Meeting 9:30 Naomi Circle Meets @ Kris Koran's home 5:00 Choir Practice FELC
21 Fourth Sunday of Advent - Blue 9:00 Joint Choir Communion Worship Live and Online W/Sunday School after Children's Sermon 11:00 First Lutheran Service PICK-UP NEWSLETTERS	22 9:00-3:00 Office Hours	23 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 9:00 Worship Team 12:00 BULLETIN DEADLINE 2:00 Bulletins Printed
28 1st Sunday after Christmas - White 9:00 Worship Service Live and Online; Sunday School after Children's Sermon 11:00 First Lutheran Service	29	30

NOTES			
Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:00-3:00 Office Hours Prayer Shawl off in Dec 6:00 Meeting for 3 rd Women's Circle 6-7 Youth Group Meets	4 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Wisdom Seekers @ First Lutheran	5 9:00-3:00 Office Hours Bulletin Printed	6 9:00 Youth Church Decorating
10 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 5:30-7:00 Confirmation	11 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Wisdom Seekers @ First Lutheran	12 9:00-3:00 Office Hours Bulletin Printed	13 2-4 Almelund Old Fashioned Santa Claus Day
17 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 11:00 Newsletter is ready for proof reading in the Fireside room 5:30-7:00 Confirmation 6-7 Youth Group Meets	18 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Wisdom Seekers @ First Lutheran	19 Bulletin Printed 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 10:00 Newsletter Assembly in the Fireside room	20
24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 Service @ FELC 5:30 Service @ ILC 10:00 Service @ ILC	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27
31 NEW YEARS EVE Good bye 2025	1 NEW YEARS DAY Hello 2026!!!!!!	2	3

Financial Recorder's Report for
Year to Date of October 2025

Code	Fund	Oct-25	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
1	GENERAL	\$ 13,047.00	\$ 163,848.86	\$ 151,342.05
2	UNDESIGNATED	\$ 305.00	\$ 2,195.00	\$ 1,791.25
3	SYNOD	\$ 425.00	\$ 3,635.00	\$ 3,525.00
4	LUTHER POINT	\$ -	\$ 298.25	\$ 416.00
5	LUTH. SOC. SERV.	\$ 100.00	\$ 265.00	\$ 152.00
6	ITONYA TANZANIA MISSION	\$ -	\$ 555.00	\$ 655.00
7	WORLD HUNGER	\$ 25.00	\$ 135.00	\$ 81.25
10	LOOSE	\$ 582.00	\$ 5,475.50	\$ 3,791.37
11	FELLOWSHIP DINNERS	\$ -	\$ 1,569.00	\$ 1,601.69
12	LENT	\$ -	\$ 534.00	\$ 1,020.00
13	MAUNDY THURSDAY	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 40.00
14	GOOD FRIDAY	\$ -	\$ 48.00	\$ 60.00
15	EASTER	\$ -	\$ 1,003.00	\$ 808.00
18	USE OF CHURCH	\$ -	\$ 1,620.00	\$ 890.50
20	NOISY OFFERING	\$ 347.64	\$ 1,913.19	\$ 1,186.13
21	BUILDING FUND	\$ 162.00	\$ 2,945.47	\$ 2,843.25
22	CdFee	\$ 13.90	\$ 129.40	\$ 159.35
23	SAMPLER	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,287.00
24	CHRISTIAN ED	\$ -	\$ 197.00	\$ -
26	SHARE MINISTRY	\$ 4,260.00	\$ 21,810.00	\$ -
27	Grants	\$ 58.00	\$ 830.00	\$ -
30	YOUTH GROUP	\$ 152.00	\$ 354.00	\$ -
31	YOUTH MISSION TRIP	\$ -	\$ 2.00	\$ -
33	WELCA	\$ -	\$ 10.00	\$ -
34	WORSHIP & MUSIC	\$ -	\$ 25.00	56.25
36	QUILTERS MINISTRY	\$ -	\$ 302.00	\$ -
40	FOOD SHELF	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ -
50	ENDOWMENT FUND	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,031.25	\$ 50.00
60	SPECIAL DONATIONS	\$ -	\$ 11,026.20	\$ 12,679.72
90	MEMORIAL	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 890.00
91	MEMORIAL GARDEN	\$ -	\$ 2,605.00	\$ 1,220.00
92	ALL SAINTS	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	\$ -
97	Fund Transfers	\$ 4,835.00	\$ 20,348.04	\$ -
	Totals	\$ 27,012.54	\$ 246,560.16	\$ 189,545.81

TITHES & OFFERINGS

Three Ways to Give!

Thank you so much for your financial gifts which support Immanuel's ministry. We ask you to prayerfully do what you can to support Immanuel's mission.

Give in Person

When you attend worship in person, you are welcome to place your offering in the offering plate as it is passed during the service. Offering envelopes, like the one included in this newsletter, are available in the pews.

Give by Mail

You can also mail your offering to the church, using the offering envelope provided in this newsletter at:

Immanuel Lutheran Church
37515 Park Trail
Almelund, MN 55012

Give Online

Giving through our website is a quick and easy way for you to give and for the church to receive your gift. Go to www.ImmanuelAlmelund.com and click on "Make a Gift." You can designate how you want it used and if you want to make a one-time gift or ongoing contribution. It is recorded just as if you had placed it in the offering plate. Whatever way you give your gifts, thank you for your support of Immanuel's ministry. We couldn't do it without you!

Worship & Music Minutes ~ October 27, 2025

Present: Tora Carlson, Momoh Freeman, Dayna Geisbauer, Diann Huber, Nicki Klanderud, Pam Larson, Pat Remer

Absent: Pastor Justin, Beth Berger, Julie Johnson, Kim Raschke

Tora called the meeting to order – Pat gave devotions.

Reviewed September 22, 2025 minutes. MSP accept.

Children's Sermons:

- Nov. 2 – Sharon
- Nov. 9 – Amanda
- Nov. 16 – Pastor Justin
- Nov. 23 – Jeske
- Nov. 30 – Youth Group

*FYI: Youth Group will lead worship, do children's sermons and serve coffee the following dates...

November 30; January 25; March 29; May 17 (Communion)

Old Business:

Recap Worship Services/Events:

- September 25...6:30 Holy Smokes @ Winery
- September 28...ILC WOW Worship/Rally Sunday/"Thanks" to the Men of Immanuel for serving a Great Pancake Breakfast ...11:00, FLC/"God's Work, Our Hands"
- September 28...2:00 Ecumen Worship with Pastor Justin
- October 4 & 5...Installation of Playground Equipment @ Triangle Park & Museum
- October 5...9:00 ILC Worship/Baptism of Owen Larkin/Rally Sunday/Communion/Noisy Offering **[\$347.64]**...11:00, FLC
- October 8...Confirmation begins
- October 12...9:00 ILC Worship/Bibles to 3 yr-olds & 3rd graders...11:00, FLC
- October 12...2:30 "Loony Lutherans" at ILC. Free Will Offering – WELCA served Desserts/Refreshments afterward. GREAT PROGRAM!!
Thought the attendance was a little smaller than 2024 - however, it was harvest time. Also thought there should be more advertising when they come again.
- October 18...Spiritual Gifts Workshop, 9-1:00...Postponed
- October 19...9:00 ILC WOW Worship/Communion...11:00, FLC
- October 23...6:30 Holy Smokes @ Winery
- October 26, Reformation Sunday...9:00 ILC Worship/Confirmation. A really nice service – the confirmands "Faith Statements" were

awesome!!...11:00, FLC. Joint choir at both churches - joint choir adds so much to the worship services!!

- October 26...2:00 Ecumen Worship with Pastor Justin
- October 26...Beer & Hymn Sing at Uncommon Loon, 3:30-5:30 – Not as well attended as in the past. Momoh and Dwight added their musical talents to the afternoon.
- October 26...Tractor & Treat, 4-6:00. Well Attended!! Worship & Music served hot chocolate & apple cider. Went through 50 packets of cocoa mix in an hour (need more for next year). Will need more tables next year, also. Lion's participated – 4-H was unable to attend as it was their awards banquet. AFD participated, too bringing up the new truck! The weather was great – the event was enjoyed by all!!
- October 26...Taylors Falls Community Choir rehearsals began – 6:00 @ Methodist Church

Upcoming Dates:

- November 2, All Saints Day...9:00 ILC Worship/Communion/Noisy Offering...11:00, FLC
- November 9...9:00 ILC Worship/Reception of New Members...11:00, FLC
- November 15...6:00 Turkey Bingo @ Shafer Township Hall
- November 16...9:00 ILC WOW Worship/Banks to 4th graders/Communion...11:00, FLC
- November 19, Wednesday...5:30 Advent Family Adventures at ILC
- November 23...9:00 ILC Worship...11:00, FLC. Joint choir at both churches
- November 25, Tuesday...6:30 Joint Thanksgiving Service @ ILC with joint choir. Sarah Circle serves pie/coffee after.
- November 29...4:30 Taylors Falls Community Choir Vespers Service, Methodist Church
- November 30, 1st Sunday of Advent...9:00 ILC Worship led by Youth Group...11:00, FLC
- November 30...3:00 St. Croix Valley Orchestra Concert @ Methodist Church, Taylors Falls
- December 5, Friday...Parent's Shopping Night, 4:30-9:00
- December 7, 2nd Sunday of Advent...9:00 ILC Worship/Communion/Noisy Offering/Holiday Brunch with Craft & Bake Sale...11:00, FLC
- December 13...Santa Day, 2-4:00 at Town Hall
- December 14, 3rd Sunday of Advent...9:00 ILC Worship/Sunday School Christmas Program...11:00, FLC/Sunday School Christmas Program

- December 21...9:00 ILC Worship/Joint Choir Christmas Service/Communion...11:00, FLC – Joint Choir Christmas Service
- December 24, Christmas Eve...4:00, FLC...5:30 (WOW participation?)/Worship/Communion, and 10:00 Worship/Communion, ILC
- December 28...9:00 ILC Worship – “Christmas in Amador” with Tracy Tolzmann? Pastor Justin to ask Tracy...11:00 FLC

Message Board – Looked at Kim’s design using the Swedish blue & yellow colors. Suggested changing “The Welcome Place” to Everyone Welcome OR All Are Welcome. For an aluminum composit (printed vinyl) the cost would be \$300 – would use the existing lighting. Another option is to have a sign made of white polycarbonate which would start at \$400 – cost would increase with cutting/gluing individual letters, numbers, design coloration, etc. Would need to add backlighting. Also – committee suggests new wrought iron lettering. Clay & Pam will check on the cost. The white sign on the front lawn needs attention, too – could someone paint this? Worship & Music thinks all this information should now go to Property Committee.

Sampler – March 1, 2026. Not too early to start getting donations for the auction...do have a 36" Blackstone Grill.

Wondered if the Holy Hootenanners would be interested in playing for that Sunday’s worship service and then staying to play for the Sampler. Tora talked with her niece and was told they don’t perform much anymore.

New Christ Candle is in place! Looks Great!

Mouse Exterminator – Troy Timmermanis came from White Bear Lake and did not charge...give him \$100 gas card, homemade Apple Pie (Tora), and ask quilters if they would donate a quilt.

New Business:

Worship Team:

- Service formats/hymns are done through November 9.
- Purchase “Clergy Stuff”, a good resource for Sunday Worship - Cost is \$200/year. Need to upgrade the CCLI License to Premium Level which would allow us to print out the full score, not just the melody line. MSP to purchase both “Clergy Stuff” and upgrade CCLI license to Premium Level.
- Worship Team will work on the Advent Season when resources come.
- Re-kindle ILC Band? Worship & Music thinks this would be great to get this going again!

Prayer Concerns:

Closed with The Lord’s Prayer for all concerns mentioned.

Next Scheduled Meeting: November 24, 2025 @ 6:00

Devotions: Pastor Justin

Christian Ed meeting Minutes – 11/17/25, 6:00pm

Attended by: Pastor Justin, Val, Teresa, Jenny & Julie

Old Business:

Briefly reviewed October minutes regarding the change back to the service time for the Christmas program.

New Business:

Sunday School

- Christmas program

- 12/14 - has changed back to during the service time, per Sunday school teacher request.
- The script has changed again to an even more simple version and Katie is working on it and assigning parts
- Jenny and Teresa will need to see cookies and milk/water/coffee
- Jenny and Teresa will do a bell song with the kids
- Kids have started practicing at Sunday School – as stated, Katie is taking care of the script, Amanda is directing kids and teachers on the program at practices and at the actual program, Katie and Justin have been working on communications to families and within church so that Momoh and the worship team are aware of what is happening, and Katie will keep teachers up to date on changes with script, Amanda will keep teachers up to date on practices, etc.
- Need to let Sarah Circle know that the time has changed a second time – Teresa had talked to Gwen when it was going to be at 6, need to let them know it is during the service again, if they are planning on handing out their bags again too.
- Jenny will come to practice bells with Teresa and the kids on the Sunday before, 12/7 during Sunday School
- Will need to find out if there will be a practice upstairs, Amanda will let us know
- Pastor sent out postcards to families with dates and times, kids should be at church at 8:30am to get costumes on, they should bring a dozen cookies

- Have asked Cami if she still wants to do costuming, Jenny will also help
- Pastor Justin will order the ornament gift from Sunday school, Teresa can put them in bags for the kids – have left over bags to use from other years
- Events:
 - 11/19 - Advent Adventures 5:30-7:30
 - Jenny and Julie will do a meal – kid-friendly
 - Val will bring a dessert
 - Teresa will bring juice
 - Cami is doing a craft
 - Pastor Justin will do the other activity
 - Our group will serve and clean up
 - Will ask Cami about what kind of help she may need
 - Inviting Youth Group who is meeting that night, to come and have supper with us
 - - Missed discussing: 12/5 - Parents Night out 4:30-9pm, will reach out to CE committee today
 - Will do Pizza for this
 - Games, etc

Milestones

- Banks – date picked 11/16/25, 4th graders
- Lock in for 3rd-5th w/Lord's Prayer, during Lent – date 2/27/26 (changed due to Luther Point retreat on 2/20)
- Prayer pillows – date picked 3/22/26, Kindergarteners

Adult

- Confirmation – Wed evenings, alternating with Youth Group, 5:30pm-7:30pm with light supper – Conf
- Holy Smokes at the Wild Mtn winery the 4th Thurs, may be at church, looking into other options, perhaps Jakes on the Lakes
- Sept 4th – 9am at First Lutheran – Wisdom Seekers, every Thursday morning
- Chosen Bible Study – may start again sometime in November
- Alpha Course will be coming, this is a few sessions and will combine with First Lutheran
 - Christian basics to be covered
 - We have done this course in our church in the past
- Other
 - A laptop for Sunday School to use has been gifted, which will help with the roster updates, sharing videos for the kids, etc.

Stewardship Committee Meeting-November 4, 2025

Members Present: Kris Koran, Cami Peltier, Linda Peterson, Sharon Thiel

Season of Renewal:

Next Meeting is a Zoom Meeting on January 10. Zoom will be set up at church. Progressive dinner is being planned for February 6 from 5-9. We will meet at church for a salad, go to homes for the main meal and back to church for dessert. Baby-sitting will be available. First Lutheran is invited to participate. Community Dinner is in the early stages of planning.

Church Directory

It will be printed in two separate parts-one for church information and one for member information. This is due to a glitch in technology.

Stewardship Plans

Temple talks are being given. Time and Talent sheets will be available at church.

New Meeting Date:

Stewardship Meetings will be held the first Monday of the month at 10:00.

Thanks will be given to new members and wreath makers.

Devotions next month - Cami Peltier

Property Committee Minutes November 10, 2025

Present: Julie Weller, Harland Carlson, Don Noyes, Bob Rothe, Norm Peterson, Marlin Ness, Scott Olson, Perry Lindberg

Meeting called to order By Marlin @ 4:58

Discussion of items in old kitchen - where to put them?

Dan Anderson is going to start repairs in old kitchen after Thanksgiving. Marlin is waiting on bid from lawn care company to mow grass for church next year.

Northeast door replacement & adjustment to Southwest door repair has been approved by council.

Scandia heating is scheduled to do scheduled furnace maintenance on December 10th 8-8:30 am

Norm has dusted & oiled the mantel - Thanks Norm

New Business:

Bob Rothe did some updating & moving signs & repaired crack in wall - Northwest corner of building [Old elevator] - Thanks Bob

Discussion of possible improvements in old men's Bathroom

The joint well with neighbors' pump was recently replaced.

Pest control service has been completed, and Norm has sealed area by air conditioner that possibly was letting pests in. Thanks Norm
Smoke detectors are going to be checked

Next meeting December 8th @5:00 pm

Meeting adjourned @ 5:30 by Marlin

Submitted By Perry Lindberg

Immanuel Lutheran – Church Council Meeting
11/10/25, 6:00 PM

Attendees: Beth Berger, Pastor Justin Fenger, Julie Johnson, Jeff Lutz, Norm Peterson, Clay Ryberg, and Julie Weller

Devotions led by: Julie Weller

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: Julie Johnson made the motion to accept the prior meeting minutes without changes. Norm Peterson seconded the motion. MSP

Old Business:

- **Season of Renewal** – Ongoing project. Council received a handout titled “Immanuel Lutheran Church – 2–5 Year BHAGs.” Tabled to allow time for review.
- **Restoration** – Old kitchen restoration will begin after Thanksgiving. There are remaining items in the old kitchen that will be removed and stored with the intention of sorting through them and eliminating items no longer needed.
- **Shared Ministry** – Ongoing; the group has not met recently. Working to schedule a 6-month review.
- **Christian Flag** – Completed and hung.
- **Doors, NE Entrance** – Waiting to be placed on the schedule of the door company.
- **Pest Control** – Completed.

New Business:

- **Community Meal** – We will be holding a monthly community meal open to members and community members. Meals will begin in December and occur monthly. Motion to hold meals: MSP.
- **Fill the Bus** – We will collect food items for the “Fill the Bus” food drive. All food items will be matched pound for pound, and funds given will be matched up to \$500 per person/group by the bus company. Council will use Tithing Outside Our Walls for a donation. See Tithing Outside Our Walls.
- **Special Donations** – The church has received recent special donations. These funds need to be allocated using the existing “Endowment Fund, Gift

Acceptance/Distribution Policy Option.” There is a set distribution to accounts within the church, but distribution percentages need to be decided. This item is tabled as we are expecting an additional special donation this month.

- **Tithing Outside Our Walls** – Two community needs were brought to council. The first is the Fill the Bus Food Drive. MSP to donate \$1,000 to the Fill the Bus Drive. The second is a family experiencing a medical crisis with very little insurance. MSP to give the family a gift of \$1,000 and to consider future gifts if the need is greater than expected.
- **Triangle Park Playground Equipment** – Completed.
- **Progressive Dinner** – There will be a progressive dinner starting at ILC, involving members of ILC and First Lutheran of Taylors Falls. The dinner will start and end at ILC. Childcare will be provided. The date is TBD after the first of the year.
- **New Members** – MSP to accept the following new members and confirmands as members of ILC: Bri Tompkins; the Sara Ohman family; Marcy & Mike Paulson; Fred & Maureen Peterson; Tyler & Amanda Massey family; Daniel Klinke & Lola Munson; Brooks Geisbauer; Gus Klanderud; and Connor Paavola.
- **Copier in Classroom C** – A new black-and-white printer is needed for Classroom C. MSP to purchase a printer up to \$250.

All reports and meeting materials were reviewed. Motion to record the reports and meeting minutes: MSP.

Offering Securer:

Sunday, December 7 – Julie Weller

Sunday, December 14 – Clay Ryberg

Sunday, December 21 – Julie Johnson

Wednesday, December 24 (Early) – Beth Berger

Wednesday, December 24 (Late) – Pastor Justin

Sunday, December 28 – Julie Weller

Communion Servers:

Sunday, December 7 – Clay Ryberg, Amanda Cook, and Jeff Lutz

Sunday, December 21 – Julie Johnson, Julie Weller, and Clay Larson

Wednesday, December 24 (Early) – Norm Peterson, Beth Berger, and Julie Weller

Wednesday, December 24 (Late) – Pastor Justin

Devotions for Next Month’s Council Meeting: Beth Berger

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Immanuel Lutheran Church December 2025

37515 Park Trail
Almelund, MN 55012-7511
Change Service Requested

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Companion to Itonya Congregation -
Tanzania, Africa

Contact Info: 651-583-2340; office@immanuelalmelund.com
web site: www.immanuelalmelund.com

Pastor: Justin Fenger 651-308-7717; pastor@immanuelalmelund.com

Administrative Assistant/Financial Recorder:

Mark Weslander 651-431-8941; office@immanuelalmelund.com

Financial Secretary: Kyle Hendrickson

651-717-8804; financial@immanuelalmelund.com

Custodial: Kim's Kleaning

Organist/Choral Director: Momoh Freeman

Accompanist: Pat Remer

Cemetery Groundskeeper: Daryl Abrahamson
(651)674-2419; Julie.I.abrahamson@gmail.com

Youth Group: Jason Fredlund 651-208-5915,
DeeDee Fredlund 651-206-1190

Sunday School: Teresa Carlson 651-214-9531

Our Mission Statement:

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

Non-Profit
Organization
Permit #5
Center City, MN
55012