



IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
ALMELUND, MN

MESSENGER

November

2025

Giving Thanks



Inside This Issue:

All Saints Memorial	Page 10
Announcements	Pages 3-12
Birthdays	Page 13
Calendar	Pages 14-15
Christian Education	Pages 22-25
Council Minutes	Pages 26-27
Financial Summary	Page 17

Memorial Committee	Meets Nov 10th
Pastors Article	Pages 2-3
Property	Page 27
Stewardship	Pages 25-26
Thank You's	Page 9
Three Ways to Give	Page 18
Worship & Music	Pages 19-21
Worship Schedules	Page 16

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Almelund, MN

Gratitude is everywhere these days—podcasts, books, mugs at Target, and yes, plenty of my sermons☺ Sometimes it can feel like we're being told to be thankful because we've forgotten how. In Luke 17, Jesus heals ten people with leprosy and only one turns back to say thank you. The other nine do the sensible thing: they follow the rules, see the priest, go home, and get their lives back. It's an awesome picture of restoration—but maybe not a picture of *well-being*.



Here's the difference the Gospel nudges us to notice: it's one thing to be thankful, it's another thing to be mindful. All ten received a blessing. Only one paused long enough to trace that blessing back to its Source. Jesus tells that one: "Your faith has made you well." In other words, gratitude didn't just celebrate the cure—it opened the door to *wholeness*.

Gratitude re-threads us to God as the giver of every good gift. It pulls us out of isolation and back into relationship—with God, with others, and even with our own lives. And because it's relational, gratitude has to become concrete, practiced, embodied...or it slips away.

A small, pocket-sized practice

Recently, my daughter found three small smooth glass rocks in a little plastic bag outside our sanctuary doors. "What are these for?" she asked. I told her a woman from First Lutheran in Taylors Falls made them after a sermon on gratitude. Inside the bag were simple directions:

- Put three glass stones in your right pocket at the start of the day.
- As you encounter a moment of joy, peace, or gift, say, "Thank you, God," and move one stone to your left pocket.
- By day's end, all three should be in the left pocket. Then write down those three thank-you moments in a small prayer journal.

My daughter looked at the rocks, smiled, and said, "I think I'm going to try this." Proud dad moment. And confession: I still need to follow up with her. Because again—it's one thing to be generally thankful; it's another to *practice* being mindful.

Gratitude is not the **reward** for a good day; **mindfulness is the discipline that remakes a day**—and, over time, remakes us.

Why this matters for our community

When we practice gratitude together, we become a church that notices. We notice the people who are often unseen. We notice what God is already doing in small, quiet ways. We notice where healing has begun and where we're still longing for it. Gratitude doesn't deny pain or gloss over grief; it trains our eyes to find God's presence even there. That's the difference between being cured and being made well.

Imagine as our church becomes known as “the church that pays attention”—to God, to one another, to the needs of our neighbors. That kind of attention changes how we worship, how we serve, and how we talk to each other in meetings and hallways. It turns complaints into curiosities, impatience into intercession, and routine tasks into offerings.

With gratitude for each of you and those stones are still outside the sanctuary doors if you would like to grab a few for family and friends this November ☺

Pastor Justin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Member Sunday is Coming — Sunday, November 9

If you've been worshipping with us and are ready to make Immanuel your church home, we're excited to welcome you on **New Member Sunday!** Joining is simple: there are **no classes required**—just your desire to participate in the mission and community of Almelund.

How to join:

- **Text or email Pastor Justin** (see contact info on the front/back page).
- Pick up a **New Member Form** and add your name to the **sign-up sheet** on the table outside the Fireside Room.
- Return your completed form to **Mark** in the church office (if the office is locked, please slide it under the door).

We're grateful you're here and thrilled to have you journey with us!

Stewardship will meet on November 4 at 1pm in the Fireside Room.

Naomi Circle will meet at the home of Julie Weller on November 18th at 9:30am for our monthly meeting. See you then!

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)

Confirmation Classes: 12th, The Covenant and Covenant Girls
19th, The Covenant and Covenant Girls

Advent Family Adventures — Wednesday, Nov. 19 • 5:30–7:30 PM

Kick off the season with a special evening for all ages! We'll share a family-friendly dinner, then learn and discover the story of Jesus' birth through simple, hands-on activities that help us prepare our homes and hearts for Christmas.

What to expect

- Warm community dinner to start the night
- Interactive stations that tell the Nativity story
- Practical ideas to help families prepare for Advent at home
- A short closing blessing for your household

Bring kids, grandkids, godparents—everyone's welcome. Invite a friend or neighbor!

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: please post: We are in need of donations of bars for turkey bingo. Put in the church kitchen or bring to the bingo hall on Saturday.

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 will meet Tuesday, November 11th, 10-2pm, with a potluck lunch at noon. We spent much of our day in October sorting through fabric given to us by Arlen Burnside... what a fabulous collection our quilting friend Alice had! We're working on quilts for graduates, baby quilts for baptisms, and tying quilts to donate to family pathways. If you can't make the Tuesday gathering and would rather sew at home, we have lots of fabric and some kits to choose from. If you know of anyone who could use a quilt as the cold weather approaches, please let any quilter know. Have a Happy Thanksgiving. Blessings to all as the busy holiday season approaches! Martha Strecker. 651-341-3885

The Parish Care Team will meet on November 4, 2025.

Youth Group News

Youth Group will meet Nov. 5th & 19th from 6pm-7pm

Wreath Sales are going on. Please order your wreath with a youth, Dee or Jason. Just a reminder that we will not make many extras so please order to make sure you get one.

Wreath making is Nov. 22nd. We need all youth there to help.

Parents are encouraged as well to attend.

We will have a Potluck Lunch so please bring a dish to share

Make One, Take one Pillowcase 4-H Workshop

Sunday Nov 9, 2025, Location our church, Time 1pm to 4pm.

Kits provided. Bring sewing machine if able

You are invited to join the Chisago County 4-Hers in this community service project. You will be making one pillowcase for yourself and the second pillowcase that you make will be donated to Santa Anonymous. If you have any questions, contact Gwen Swenson or Connie Linder. Also, it would be nice to let them know if you are planning on attending so we can have plenty of pillowcase kits.

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 at 6pm (kids required to come earlier at 5pm) - reminder postcards will be sent with important information about this.

Memorial Committee will meet on Monday, November 10 at 5:00 pm

Tune in our Daily Texts, Monday through Saturday on our Facebook Page [@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.

Friends of Luther Point!

If you haven't already heard, we have moved our annual meeting to November instead of its traditional time in February in hopes of improving communication with our member congregations.

This will allow us to conduct the business of Luther Point before the majority of our churches hold their annual meeting, and allow us to get upcoming information to you in a timely manner.

We would love for you to join us for our 2025 Annual Meeting at Luther Point on **Sunday, November 16, at 2:00 PM.**

Blessings, Luther Point Bible Camp

Singers invited to sing during Lighting Festival

The 33rd annual Choral Vesper Service will be held 4:30 PM Saturday, November 29 as part of Taylors Falls Lighting Festival. The choral group is made up of singers and musicians from the community at large. All singers are invited to participate in this short-term commitment. There are five Sunday 6:00 to 8:00 PM rehearsals at Taylors Falls United Methodist Church, 290 W. Government Street, starting October 26 and four Sundays in November. Tyler Olson is director. Please register now at wwymd@aol.com with your name, cell number, and voice range - S,A,T,B. More information will be emailed directly to you.

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!!!!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

By end of day Monday, November 17; The third Monday of the month.

PROOFREADING:

Of newsletter @ 11:00 November 19; in the Fireside Room.

NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY:

Will be Friday, November 21 @ 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.



**Grab your
dabber
TURKEY
BINGO**



**Saturday,
November 15,
2025, 6:00 PM**

**Shafer Township Hall
18259 St. Croix Trail
Taylors Falls, MN 55084
\$20 for 20 games**

**Bring items for the food shelf for a chance drawing of a
complete turkey dinner**

Sponsored by Immanuel Lutheran Church, Almelund

THANK YOU

Community Out-Reach and involvement; Our showing Christ's love to everyone – Thank you's go to everyone involved:

- Playground structures for young and old!
- Arranging and attending the Looney Lutherans.
- Donating and participating in Trick or Treat

We can see you care.

Stewardship Committee

Love
Vada



Thank you for
the camp
Scholarship it was
so fun

Thank you so much for
Scholarship to camp

I had so much fun

I'm so excited to go next year!!



THANK
YOU SO
MUCH!

~~Adelaide~~
Adelaide
Fenger

Dear WELEA,
Thank you so much for
paying for me to go to Camp!
It was so fun I loved it so
much! My favorite parts
were swimming, crafts, and
making new friends! love Emma
Cooks



All Saints Sunday, November 2 we will be celebrating the lives of the saints in our lives! We will remember the loved ones we have lost this year and those who have died in past years that we hold close in our hearts. There will be an opportunity during our worship service to come forward to light a candle in remembrance of our special loved ones.

Name of person(s) to be remembered or honored:

Your Name: _____

Given to this Memorial Fund: _____

Similar to the Easter Memorial Garden, please return this form to the church, along with your contribution by Sunday, October 26th.

Make check to Immanuel Lutheran Church Memorial Fund.

You can bring your contribution to the office or drop it in the gray box outside the office.

Funds will be used as designated for your chosen Memorial Fund throughout the year. Thank you.

Note: *Forms turned in after the October 26th deadline will not be included in the All Saints Sunday memorials listing in the bulletin, but will be listed the next Sunday in the bulletin. Thank you!*

IMMANUEL'S MEMORIAL FUNDS:

Building Fund
Youth, and Adults
Youth Group Mission Trips
Prayer Shawl Ministry
Immanuel Quilters
African Student Scholarships
Technology
Music Fund
Cemetery Perpetual Care

Christian Education Curriculum for Children

Scholarship Funds
Parish Care Team
Itonya Congregation Support
Archives
Church Library Fund
Landscaping
Altar Guild
Undesignated

Mission Investment Future4KIDZ

In 2005 Immanuel became a Mission Future 4KIDZ Congregation. All baptized children should have received \$50 from Immanuel Lutheran to start their Mission Future 4KIDZ investment in the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. There was a lapse in this offering and we are now offering this investment once again and retroactively to children baptized at Immanuel.

When a congregation makes this investment it does three things:

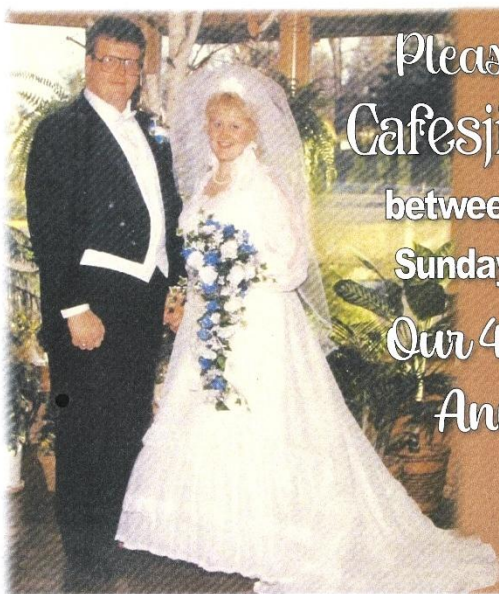
1. It celebrates Baptism and makes it a lifelong event, since investment doesn't mature until the child is 18 years old. Each quarter they get a statement of funds growth which could be a reminder of this gift from our congregation.
2. The parents become the custodian of the account and they realize that the Body of Christ is larger than just the local congregation. They sense the larger church at work doing ministry.
3. The children become little stewards from the get go. They get excited about mission and ministry when they see the churches that their money is helping to build, plus they receive an interest rate on their own savings.

If parents choose to accept our gift for their child, they will need to complete an application form and return it to the church. Immanuel will in turn send it to Mission Investment with our \$50 gift to start the investment for the child. The parents will then become the custodian of and manage the account until it matures on the child's 18th birthday. They will be sent a booklet with deposit coupons that can be used by family members & friends to make additions at any time to celebrate important events in the child's life such as graduation, birthdays or Christmas gifts. A great way to set aside money for college or other needs. The MIF will send a birthday card and a Christmas card to the child each year, and will also send cards, on request, to notify parents when funds have been added to the child's investment.

Immanuel Lutheran's members hope this investment will serve as a constant reminder to the child of the their baptism and as an effective way to save for their future.

For those children baptized during the lapse, a letter, along with a MIF4KIDZ brochure and an application form will be sent to the parents offering this investment for their child. If they choose to accept this gift, they will be asked to return the application form to church before January 1, 2026.

If you had a child baptized at Immanuel during the lapse, and did not receive a letter, please let the church know.



Please join us at
Cafesjian's Carousel

between 1:00 & 3:00 pm

Sunday, November 2nd,

Our 40th Wedding
Anniversary...

Come for a spin
and some light
refreshments!

NO PRESENTS, please... only your PRESENCE!



Cafesjian's
carousel

**IMPORTANT NOTE: If it is below 45°F,
the Carousel will NOT be running,
but we will party on!**

**Please dress appropriately...Cafesjian's
Carousel Pavilion is NOT heated!**

Enter thru the gate on the SE side of the pavilion.

An RSVP would be appreciated but is not required / 651-674-5149 or e-mail: tracymtolzmann@gmail.com

**Cafesjian's Carousel is located in
Saint Paul's beautiful Como Park
1245 Midway Parkway**

(just East of Hamline Avenue)

~ there's lots of free parking ~

Como Park Zoo & Conservatory are open 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

We look
forward to
seeing you!

**Merrie
& Tracy**

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 Elizabeth Damm, Everett Wiberg
4 Clay McCarthy
6 Linda Meyer
7 Scott Tolzmann
8 Jay Flodquist, Adelaide Fenger
9 Natalee Oknich
10 Ian O'Donnell
11 Henry Johnson
12 Kyle Andersen
13 Scott Olson, Debra Krengel, Alexander Berger
14 Hunter Swenson
17 Brooks Geisbauer
19 Katie Burnside, Nicki Klanderud
22 Paula Mohn
25 Greg Elkerton
27 Dayne Meyer, Logan Peltier
30 Sarah Smith, Brandon Peltier, Katie Fenger

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue
2 All Saints Sunday – White DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS 9:00 Comm Wors Live and Online; W/Noisy Off; SS after Children's Ser 10:00 Confirmation Info Meeting 11:00 First Lutheran Service 1:00 Tolzmann 40 th Anniv. @ Como P	3 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 10:00 WOW Practice	4 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 9:00 Worship Team 2:30 Parish Care Meets 1:00 Stewardship Meets In the Fireside Room 5:00 Choir Practice @ FLC
9 Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost—Green 9:00 Reception of new members Worship Service; Sunday School after Children's Sermon 11:00 First Lutheran Service	10 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 10:00 WOW Practice 5:00 Memorial Meeting 5:00 Property Meeting 6:00 Council Meeting	11 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 9:00 Worship Team 10-2 Quilters meet W/potluck at noon 5:00 Choir Practice ILC
16 Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost—Green 9:00 WOW Communion Worship Live and Online; 4 th grade receive Bibles W/Sunday School after Children's Sermon 11:00 First Lutheran Service 2:00 Annual Meeting at Luther Point	17 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 6:00 Chris. Ed.	18 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 9:00 Worship Team 9:30 Sarah Circle Meeting 9:30 Naomi Circle Meets @ Julie Weller's home 5:00 Choir Practice FLC
23 Christ The King Sunday - White 9:00 Joint Choir W/Worship Service Live and Online; Sunday School after Children's Sermon 11:00 First Lutheran Service PICK-UP NEWSLETTERS	24 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 6:00 Worship & Music Meeting	25 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 9:00 Worship Team 5:00 Choir Practice ILC 6:30pm Thanksgiving Eve Service @ ILC W/Joint Choir
30 First Sunday of Advent 9:00 Youth Service. Sunday School after Children's Sermon 11:00 First Lutheran Service 3:00 SCVO @ TF Methodist	1	2

NOTES		

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 1:30 Prayer Shawl Meets 6-7 Youth Group Meets	6 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Wisdom Seekers @ First Lutheran	7 9:00-3:00 Office Hours Bulletin Printed	1/Turn clocks back /8
12 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 5:30-7:00 Confirmation	13 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Wisdom Seekers @ First Lutheran	14 9:00-3:00 Office Hours Bulletin Printed	15 6:00 Turkey Bingo @ Shafer Town Hall
19 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 1:30 Prayer Shawl Meets 6-7 Youth Group Meets 11:00 Newsletter is ready for proof reading in the Fireside room 5:30-7:30 Family Night Adventures 5:30-7:00 Confirmation	20 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Wisdom Seekers @ First Lutheran	21 Bulletin Printed 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 10:00 Newsletter Assembly in the Fireside room	22 Youth Wreath Making W/Potluck
26 9:00-3:00 Office Hours	27 THANKSGIVING Bulletin Deadline	28 9:00-3:00 Office Hours Bulletin Printed	29 4:30 Vespers Service TF Methodist Church
3	4	5 4:30-9 Parents Shopping Night	6

Thank you to those helping with the Worship Services!

	Nov 2	Nov 9	Nov 16	Nov 23	Nov 30
Scripture Reader	Julie Johnson	Diann Huber	Chris Schumacher	Steve Peterson & Nov 25th	Youth Group
Ushers	Steve Tuhy Family	Steve Tuhy Family	Steve Tuhy Family	Steve Tuhy Family	Youth Group
Sound Tech	Dave Rue	Julie Johnson	Nancy Nadeau	Loraine Rue	
Camera Tech	Matt Oknich	Vern Johnson	Jodi Johnson-Waldemar	Dave Rue	
Children's Sermon	Sharon Thiel	Amanda Cook	Pastor Justin	Jeske Noordergraaf	Youth Group
Coffee Servers			Sarah Circle		Youth Group
Teachers	Jenny Cami Katie	Dana or Val Amanda Teresa	Dana or Val Amanda Katie	Dana or Val Cami Teresa	Dana or Val Amanda Teresa

Communion Servers:

Sunday, Nov 2nd - Clay Ryberg, Clay Larson, Amanda Cook

Sunday, Nov 16th - Norm Peterson, Julie Johnson, Beth Berger

Communion Wine - Wild Mountain Winery

Communion Wafers now used

Reader Coordinator **November:** Joanne Johnson

Altar Guild: **November:**

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

Code	Fund	1-Sep	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
1	GENERAL	\$ 21,507.50	\$ 150,801.86	\$ 135,682.89
2	UNDESIGNATED	\$ 190.00	\$ 1,890.00	\$ 1,581.25
3	SYNOD	\$ 410.00	\$ 3,210.00	\$ 3,150.00
4	LUTHER POINT	\$ 12.00	\$ 298.25	\$ 365.00
5	LUTH. SOC. SERV.	\$ 20.00	\$ 165.00	\$ 102.00
6	ITONYA TANZANIA MISSION	\$ -	\$ 555.00	\$ 650.00
7	WORLD HUNGER	\$ 10.00	\$ 110.00	\$ 56.25
10	LOOSE	\$ 483.00	\$ 4,893.50	\$ 2,997.37
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	\$ 790.50
20	NOISY OFFERING	\$ 109.37	\$ 1,565.55	\$ 1,080.46
21	BUILDING FUND	\$ 210.00	\$ 2,783.47	\$ 2,673.25
22	CdFee	\$ 13.65	\$ 115.50	\$ 141.45
24	CHRISTIAN ED	\$ 2.00	\$ 197.00	\$-
26	SHARE MINISTRY	\$ 2,130.00	\$ 17,550.00	\$-
27	Grants	\$ 12.00	\$ 772.00	\$-
30	YOUTH GROUP	\$ 50.00	\$ 202.00	
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	\$ -	\$ 31.25	\$ 50.00
60	SPECIAL DONATIONS	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 11,026.20	\$ 12,525.72
90	MEMORIAL	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 890.00
91	MEMORIAL GARDEN	\$ -	\$ 2,605.00	\$ 1,220.00
97	Fund Transfers	\$ 3,969.00	\$ 15,513.04	
	Totals	\$ 39,128.52	\$ 219,547.62	\$ 167,542.08



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 ~ September 22, 2025

Present: Pastor Justin, Tora Carlson, Diann Huber, Julie Johnson (Council Rep.), Pam Larson, Kim Raschke, Pat Remer

Absent: Beth Berger (Council Rep.), Momoh Freeman, Dayna Geisbauer, Nicki Klanderud

Tora called the meeting to order at 6:30 to accommodate the “Values & Visions” potluck meeting. Kim gave devotions.

Review August 25, 2025, minutes. MSP to accept.

Old Business:

Children’s Sermons:

- Oct. 5 – Amanda
- Oct. 12 –
- Oct. 19 – Jeske
- Oct. 26/Confirmation – Pastor Justin

Recap Worship Services/Events:

- August 26...Meeting after Worship Team to plan Immanuel 2026 calendar – planned through remainder of 2025.
- August 28...6:30 Holy Smokes @ Winery
- August 31...9:00 ILC /WOW worship/Service of Healing...11:00, FLC – will have Service of Healing, also.
- September 4...“Wisdom Seekers” new discussion group - FLC Youth Room @ 9:00, facilitated by Jerry Rhodes. There were about 10 in attendance with members from both churches.
- Hay Days, September 6 & 7
- September 7...9:00 ILC Worship/Communion/Noisy Offering [\$109.37] ...11:00, FLC
- September 14...9:00 ILC Worship/Baptism of Ella Rae Johnson, daughter of Kayla & Brandon Johnson...11:00, FLC
- September 16...6:00, Tuesday-Joint Choir Rehearsals Began @ ILC
- September 21...9:00 ILC Worship/Communion...11:00, FLC/Rally Day
- September 21...Apple Festival, 11-4:00 – a very successful day!
- September 22...Values & Vision Potluck – good attendance!

Upcoming Dates:

- September 25...6:30 Holy Smokes @ Winery
- September 28...ILC WOW Worship/Rally Sunday/Men of Immanuel 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/Rally Sunday//Baptism of Larkin Baby/Communion/Noisy Offering...11:00, FLC
- October 8...Confirmation begins
- October 12...9:00 ILC Worship/Bibles to 3-year-olds & 3rd grade...11:00, FLC
- October 12...2:30 “Loony Lutherans” at ILC. Free Will Offering – Desserts/Refreshments served afterward.
- October 18...Spiritual Gifts Workshop, 9-1:00
- 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...11:00, FLC. Joint choir at both churches
- October 26...2:00 Ecumen Worship with Pastor Justin
- October 26...Tractor & Treat, 4-6:00. Ask the congregation for candy donations – Worship & Music serve hot beverages – committee to be here by 3:30 to get hot water started - Tora to ask Soua to pick up cocoa packets for hot chocolate – Pastor Justin will take care of the apple cider.
- *time changed at Worship Team meeting. Lion’s will participate – How about 4-H and AFD?
- October 26...Taylors Falls Community Choir rehearsals begin – 6:00 @ Methodist Church
- 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 16...9:00 ILC WOW Worship/4th grade receives banks/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
- November 29...4:30 Taylors Falls Community Choir Vespers Service, Methodist Church
- November 30, 1st Sunday of Advent...9:00 ILC Worship...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, 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...11:00, FLC
- December 14...6:00 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???
Worship/Communion, and 10:00 Worship/Communion, ILC
- December 28...9:00 ILC Worship/Christmas in Amador with Tracy?
Pastor Justin to ask him...11:00, FLC

Message Board – From Kim, 9-3-25... “If the church goes with an Aluminum Composite material which was a really nice heavy duty material and use the lighting that’s already there, the cost would be approximately \$300. If they want to do the whole back lit thing, it’s \$5000+.” Pastor Justin to check with Indigo Signs for another quote. Kim could do a design using blue & yellow colors. Kim will also look at the message board at the bottom of the front steps. Clay will work on the rusting letters after the playground equipment is installed, Oct 4-5.

TV was raised and attached to the wall Tuesday, September 2. The large close-circuit choir TV has not been installed yet. The Lectern will be moved back up to its original location.

LSS Sunday – Pastor Justin will contact them again.

Sampler – March 1, 2026. Lee Ann Vande Kamp, Auctioneer Extraordinaire!!! Not too early to start getting donations for the auction. *Tora contacted her niece to see if her group (Holy Hootenanners) would come for that Sunday’s worship service with the possibility of performing for The Sampler that afternoon – they would like more info.

New Business:

Worship Team - Service formats/hymns are done through October 12.

Oil-based Altar Candles – will not worry about this now as there are enough altar candles for the rest of the year.

Need to Order a New Christ Candle – After looking at examples, MSP to order a 2-1/16” X 45” - \$185.70.

Prayer Concerns: Pastor Justin led us in prayer for all concerns mentioned.

Next Scheduled Meeting: October 27, 2025 @ 6:00

Devotions: Pat

Christian Ed/Sunday School teacher meeting Minutes –
1/20/25, 6:30pm

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

Old Business:

Briefly reviewed September minutes regarding dates that had been decided and change to Christmas program.

New Business:

Sunday School

- Teachers were invited but were not able to make this meeting. Will plan for a Sunday after church. By the end of the meeting it was decided to meet this Sunday 10/26 after church in Classroom B, Teresa sent out text to teachers.
- Hearts Alive – going well so far, only have thru 11/23, will have to buy the next year as it goes with the church year and repeats. There is money in the CE budget, Pastor will go ahead and purchase.
- Video – Justin sets up, but it times out. Suggested that one teacher go downstairs at start of Children’s sermon to find and start again. Can look to see in the search what he had looked up and bring it up that way – it is on youtube. There will be more than one option. According to Justin, on some of the teacher resources, it gives a suggested video, but not every week.
- Christmas program
 - o 12/14 - had changed to afternoon, changing again to 6pm. Let families know that they should donate a dozen cookies for the short cookies/milk fellowship after the program.
 - o Only Sunday School kids per requests from other teachers/parents
 - o Program script
 - Teresa brought catalog from Christ to All (we have used these in the past) – free download and allowed to edit to our needs – we will use Love Came Down
 - Pastor will download the script
 - We will also get goodie bags for kids from church/Sunday school/Christian Ed, and a program we can use for Advent Adventures
 - Cami has a craft for Advent Adventures, but we can use the rest of this that he is ordering
 - To be paid with CE funds
 - Will meet with Teachers on Sunday 10/26 after church in Classroom B

- Does anyone want to lead the program? If so, the opportunity has arisen - could do as a group or in pairs, if not and no one from the congregation wants to, Teresa can continue to do this for this year, but will be looking at other options for how we practice, etc. – ideas for practice are listed below – if someone else takes over, this can all be subject to change, this is just Teresa's idea to keep things running smoothly if she is still doing it.
- Practices will still be during Sunday School, except on 12/14 – we will still do the video lesson, then sing and then break into classrooms to do our lesson/practice speaking parts
 - Start on 11/9 with that format
 - 11/30 – short practice together after the video – to figure out how we are arranged, using in front of the stage downstairs as a mirror to what we would do upstairs, then go to class to work on parts
 - 12/7 – after video, practice together in old basement in front of the stage
 - For practices together, teacher teams (or if only one can be there) will be in charge of their kids and following along, standing, sitting, parts, etc. since they have been working with them in the classroom.
 - 12/14 – rehearse as on 12/7 during Sunday School, quick snack then bring them all upstairs
 - 12/14 – Dress rehearsal 12/7 after church in the Sanctuary – parents to wait downstairs at coffee or in the gathering area, so as to limit the distractions, should take about an hour
 - Depending on what Pre-K – K teachers decide for those kids, if they are only at the very beginning, teachers can then just take them downstairs to their parents when their practice is finished

- Postcards to families – to be sent out in Early November – dates of practices and especially 12/14 Practice and Program times will need to be sent out. Kids will need to come at 5pm for program starting at 6 so we can get them into costumes and ready. Pastor will be getting a postcard ready once all has been decided after the Teacher meeting. We will have to let him know. This should also ask them to bring a dozen cookies
- Will need to see who can serve – cookies just need to be set out, and milk/water – coffee not needed since this is in the evening
- Pastor will find out if Momoh is going to be available for practice on 12/14 after church and for the program.
- Pastor will find out who will be available to do sound at the 12/14 practice after church and for the program (will be there earlier – maybe 5-5:30)
- Need to let Sarah Circle know that the time has changed, if they are planning on handing out their bags again too.
- Events:
 - 10/26 Tractor or Treat – donations are being gathered downstairs, event has been publicized
 - 11/19 - Advent Adventures 5:30-7:30
 - Jenny and Julie will do a meal
 - Val will bring a dessert
 - Teresa will bring juice
 - Cami is doing a craft
 - We will be using items ordered that go with our Christmas Program from Christ to All called Love Comes down
 - 12/5 - Parents Night out 4:30-9pm
 - Will do Pizza for this
 - Games, etc

Milestones

- Bible Sunday – was 10/12, went well
- Prayer pillows – date picked 3/22/26, Kindergarteners
- Banks – date picked 11/16/25, 4th graders
- Lock in for 3rd-5th w/Lord's Prayer, during Lent – date 2/20/26

Adult

- Confirmation – Wed evenings, alternating with Youth Group, 5:30pm-7:30pm with light supper – Confirmation begins on 10/8

- Holy Smokes at the Wild Mtn winery the 4th Thurs, thru Oct, then at church
- 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
 - o Christian basics to be covered
 - o We have done this course in our church in the past

Stewardship Committee Meeting-October 7, 2025

Members Present-Pastor Justin, Cami, Linda, Sharon, Kris
Minutes and Agenda were approved.

Season of Renewal will meet separately on October 20 at 4:30 at church.
Church Directory has had some technical issues but is coming together.
Spirit Workshop has been postponed until November.
Sharon will thank volunteers in November.

We will use the time and talent sheets that were redone last year for stewardship this fall. The sheets will be put in the Messenger, bulletin and QR Code. We will have 4 temple talks in November.

Next meeting will be November 4 at 1 pm. Natalee Oknich will have devotions.

Property Committee Minutes October 13, 2025

Present Marlin Ness, Dave Rue, Norm Peterson, Julie Weller, Scott Olson.
Don Noyes, Bob Rothe, Perry Lindberg
Meeting Called to order by Marlin @ 5:02

Old Business

Old office Renovation is done & northeast entrance stair way by Dan Anderson.

Altar guild items are back in place in old office.

Discussion of archive items that are presently in old kitchen need to be sorted before finding appropriate place to put them.

Perry & Norm are going to do this if anyone else wants to be involved in Archives contact Norm or Perry.

Scandia Plumbing & Heating have finished rerouting of piping in old kitchen, so remodel can proceed.

New dehumidifier is in place in old basement.

Exterminator has been here a couple of times and has addressed the mice, bugs & bee issues, Work was performed at no charge by Troy Timmermanis {Bear Pest Control] out of White Bear.

New Business

Marlin has talked to Anderson Landscaping about bid on mowing lawn for church grounds for next year.

Couple things added to long range plan:

painting trim garage & painting storage shed

Old office closet sink change & changes needed in closet

Northeast entrance door - have received bid on replacing. & repair of

Northwest entrance door sticking problem.

Norm has volunteered to oil & dust the mantel - Thanks Norm

Marlin was going to check with Scandia heating on furnace Maintenance.

Meeting adjourned @ 5:43 by Marlin

submitted by Perry Lindberg

Immanuel Lutheran- Church Council Meeting 10/13/25, 6pm

Attendees: Amanda Cook, Beth Berger, Pastor Justin Fenger, Julie Johnson, Clay Larson, Norm Peterson, Clay Ryberg and Julie Weller

Devotions lead by: Clay Ryberg

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

Old Business:

- **Season of Renewal-** Ongoing project. Next Season of Renewal meeting 10/21. In September there was a meeting held to talk through the mission statement and core values. The meeting was a great success, and a lot of good input was received.
- **Upping Spending in Constitution-** This will be added to the agenda at the next annual meeting. Notices for annual meeting due by January 23rd.
- **Restoration-** Old office and sacristy is completed, Still need to complete updates to the sink and closet area. Items that are currently in the old kitchen temporarily from the sacristy prior to the renovation need to be gone through and moved. The Old Kitchen needs to be free of items so work can begin in that area. Pastor will work on going through and moving items. The old kitchen plans

have been okayed by Sarah's circle. Funding for the old kitchen will be provided by Sarah's circle. Currently Dan is working on the water damage in the northwest entry.

- **Shared Ministry-** Ongoing – Pastor will be setting up a time for the Shared Ministry committee to meet.
- **Doors NE entrance-** We received a bid to replace the door in the NE entrance, in addition, to cutting off the door in the NW entrance to keep it functioning when the ground heaves due to frost. Motion to move ahead with repairs, MPS.
- **Pest Control-** Pest control was received. There were a few holes plugged, bait boxes placed and sprayed for insects. The service provider did not charge, council is asking Worship and Music if we can send a Kwik Trip gas card.

New Business:

- **Building use application-** We received 2 building use applications one from the 4H Clothing a Quilting and one from Shooting sports and wildlife. MPS for both events and fees waived.
- **Annual Meeting-** The meeting will be held February 22nd notices due January 23rd

All reports and meeting reports were reviewed. Motion to make the reports and meeting reports record. MSP

Offering Securer:

Sunday, November 2nd – Amanda Cook

Sunday, November 9th – Julie Johnson

Sunday, November 16th – Beth Berger

Sunday, November 23rd – Clay Ryberg

Sunday, November 30th - Julie Weller

Communion Servers:

Sunday, November 2nd – Amanda Cook, Clay Ryberg, and Clay Larson

Sunday, November 16th – Norm Peterson, Julie Johnson and Beth Berger

Devotions for next month's Council Meeting- Julie Weller

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Immanuel Lutheran Church November 2025

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

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

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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.l.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**