



IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
ALMELUND, MN

MESSENGER

October

2025



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The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Almelund, MN

On the drive up to The Lodge in Taylors Falls, I caught myself remembering the last time I turned into that parking lot—right after the Annunciation school tragedy in Minneapolis. A community—and a nation—overwhelmed by grief again. Now, I make the same turn into The Lodge a month later, our nation grieves the killing of Charlie Kirk, still trying to piece together what cannot be made whole, and as Minnesota continues to mourn the deaths of Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark. There are days when it feels like the air itself is heavy with sorrow.



In the days, weeks, and months ahead, I want you to hear one word from Jesus washing over you again and again: “Beloved.” Not because we’ve earned it, not because the 10 o’clock news is good, but because God is good—even when the news is not.

When fear shouts and grief lingers, we don’t have to manufacture courage or certainty. We can live from a truer center: *I am beloved; so are you*. That identity doesn’t remove sorrow, but it gives us footing and direction for what to do next.

Act like “beloved” people because you are, that’s your identity

- Humility with dignity. No groveling, no swagger. We refuse comparison (“not like them”) and choose confession (“Lord, have mercy”).
- Persistent prayer. Like the widow—steady, hopeful, and public when needed. Prayer fuels action; action returns us to prayer.
- Protective love. We use power to shield the vulnerable, not to insulate ourselves. We move resources toward “the least.”
- Truthful speech with grace. Bless more than boast. Tell the truth without contempt. Repent quickly when wrong.
- Open tables. Hospitality that makes room for children, newcomers, and the overlooked—names learned, chairs added.
- Justice with patience. Small courageous steps (letters, meetings, budget shifts) kept up when the arc feels long.
- Repair over revenge. Seek reconciliation, make amends, forgive as we’re able, and keep wise boundaries.
- Gratitude and rest. Receive like children—thankful, curious—and guard Sabbath
- Shared burdens. Show up—meals, rides, presence at hard meetings, prayers for enemies as well as friends.

- Discernment filter. *Does this protect the least? Does this exalt me—or God?* If it only pads my comfort, rethink it.

Blessings

Pastor Justin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Details & Announcements

Triangle Park Playground Installation — Sat, Oct 4 at 9:00 AM

Join us at Triangle Park to help install new playground equipment. We truly need all the help we can get—great project for all skill levels. Bring work gloves; if you have basic tools (ratchets, socket sets), toss them in. Coffee, water, and snacks provided.

Confirmation Info Meeting — Sun, Oct 5 right after worship (~10:00 AM)

Parents/guardians and students in grades 6–8: quick orientation to this year’s Confirmation plan, calendar, and expectations. We’ll keep it brief and answer questions. If you can’t attend, email the office and we’ll send the packet.

Confirmation Starts — Wed, Oct 8, 5:30–7:00 PM (with dinner)

Weekly classes begin for our Confirmation students. We’ll share a simple dinner at 5:30 PM, then teaching and small groups. Please arrive a few minutes early to get settled.

Bible Blessing (3-year-olds & 3rd graders) — Sun, Oct 12 during worship

A milestone moment as we place Scripture in the hands of our kids.

Families of 3-year-olds and 3rd graders, please check in with the office so we don’t miss anyone. (If you’d like your child’s name noted in their Bible, tell us how you want it written.)

Evening of Faith — Fri, Oct 24 (6:00pm)

A special evening for our students preparing for Confirmation and their parents. We’ll share stories, prayer, and final preparations for Confirmation Sunday. Watch for a time confirmation by email and in the bulletin.

Stewardship will meet on October, 7th at 1pm in the Fireside Room.

Naomi Circle will meet at the home of Joanne Johnson on October 21st at 9:30 am.

The Women of the ELCA: Our 2025 meeting dates will be held at church, in the Fireside room at 10am on the following date.

October 13 Naomi circle to lead

Our planning meeting for 2026 will be held on January 12, 2026 with

Sarah circle to lead. All Women are welcome come join us!

The Immanuel Quilters will meet Tuesday, October 14th, 10am-2pm, with a potluck lunch at noon. We have many quilt tops to get ready to tie. A quilt was given to Pat Remer for the Apple Festival. Gwen Swenson showed the ribbons our quilts won at the fair. Be sure and look at the special quilt hanging in the fellowship hall. It was made for Immanuel's anniversary celebration and holds many special memories! Thank you to Jody Johnson for ordering the special quilt holders and to Pastor Justin for helping to hang the quilt! If you know of anyone who could use a quilt as fall approaches, please talk to any quilter. Hope to see you October 14th to help us stitch! Martha Strecker. 651-341-3885

The Parish Care Team will not meet in October, as it met twice in September.

Confirmation Classes: 8th Beginnings; 22nd God births a people;
29th The Wilderness School.

Tune in our Daily Texts, Monday through Saturday on our Facebook Page [@immanuelchurchofalmelund](#)

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.

Created & Becoming

Faith Conversations at the Edges of Life and Creation

Fourth Thursday of every month at the Wild Mountain Winery

6:30 PM – Come early for wine, stay for the conversation!

October – Creation & Earth Care: Partners in a Living World

We close the series grounded in our shared home. What does it mean to be stewards of creation? We'll explore eco-theology, sustainability, and sacred responsibility.

Join us for a monthly series where science, culture, and faith meet in honest dialogue. Brought to you by **Immanuel Lutheran Church of Almelund** and **First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Taylors Falls**.

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

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, October 20; The third Monday of the month.

PROOFREADING:

Of newsletter @ 11:00 October 22; in the Fireside Room.

NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY:

Will be Friday, October 24 @ 10:00 in the Fireside Room. Volunteers can fill newsletters with offering envelopes and labels for mailing.

Thank you for your help!

Mark Weslander

THANK YOU

Thank you for your support, love and prayers as we navigate my father's passing. His service was a wonderful tribute to him. A big Thank You to the Sunrise River Trio for the music. And a special Thank You to Service Group D and the Hotdish group for providing his favorite meal.

The Lundquist Family

Thank you to the many volunteers that make the Apple Festival a success and bring joy to our community. You're all awesome.

Stewardship committee.

“trick or treat”

IMMANUEL
lutheran
CHURCH

annual

Tractor
and
Treats
fun
for All!



Sunday
October 26th
4~6pm
37515 Park Trail, Almelund. MN.

Message from Luther Point Bible Camp





Carissa Ditlefsen (she/her)
Program Director

Camp: 715-689-2347

www.LuherPoint.org

11525 Luther Point Rd.

Grantsburg, WI 54840

 @lutherpointbiblecamp  @LutherPoint

FALL DAY AT CAMP



Saturday
October 18
9:00am - 5:00pm
Fall Camp will be
for 1st - 5th graders!

OUR THEME FOR THE WEEKEND:

God Promises to Provide: Learning through Creation

Our theme for the weekend is going to be focusing on preparing for winter, campers will learn about what we do with our garden at camp and our new addition of chickens. We will study the story of Elijah and the Widow from 1 Kings 17 and connect it back to the hands on activities we have planned with the garden, chickens and more!

Christian Ed meeting Minutes – 8/20/25, 6:30pm

Attended by: Pastor Justin, Val, Julie & Teresa

Old Business:

- Reviewed VBS. There were a few less kids (20-30) than last year, but overall, it went very well. The curriculum was fun, and the kids seemed to enjoy it, may look at Grow again next year, especially if they continue with free programs.

New Business:

Sunday School

- Pastor Justin looked at Concordia and Augsburg's Spark, but he felt that a new one that he found was maybe closer to what we would like to use and would work with the church services a little better. This one is called Hearts Alive. We would receive it online and have it on a flash drive. It has Year A, B & C, much like Augsburg used to do.
- Val, Julie and Teresa looked at it, it is much like Orange, there is a lot there, but it does seem to cover stories instead of just themed bible verses. We all agreed that it looked like a good option for us, as we can get all the years, and rotate through them, possibly for several years. Decision made to go with this program. Justin will figure out how we are ordering it and get it ordered.
- Justin mentioned that we can still locate videos for each story on YouTube to go with the lessons and have that ready to go for each Sunday.
- We will have a teacher meeting in September, Justin would like to attend and suggested we do this at our regular September CE meeting. Teresa will communicate this to the teachers
- Teachers: Amanda, Cami, Katie, Teresa, Val – and Dana (Teresa will double check with Dana - she said yes)
- Substitutes: Julie Flodquist, Beth Berger, would Linda be interested? Jenny Abbott?
- Rally Sunday is September 28th – pancake breakfast planned. Decided that the games, etc. would be the following week, as 2 families that

regularly are there (5 kids) will not be able to make it. So, on Rally Sunday it will be a regular Sunday School Day with the pancake breakfast.

- o Oct 5th – bounce house, games, prizes, etc. Teresa will pick up prize bags and already has prizes.
- o Should still be able to be in the old basement if the weather is not nice
 - For teacher meeting, Teresa will put together the sign-up list for Sundays that they can teach and a calendar of holidays and events
 - Christmas program
- o Smaller program, just with the Sunday school kids in it, not with the service – but all Congregation invited
- o This should be on December 14th at 2pm, kids could come early enough to run thru the program upstairs (will still have Sunday School at the regular time)
 - ☐ Will need to see if Momoh is available
 - ☐ Coffee with cookies after the program – ask parents to bring a dozen cookies as in prior years?
- Holidays and Sunday School calendar
- o MEA Oct 19 – we will have Sunday School
- o After Thanksgiving – Nov 30th – we will have Sunday School
- o After Christmas – Dec 28th No Sunday School
- o After New Year's Day – Jan 4th – No Sunday School
- o Day before MLK Day – Jan 18th – we will have Sunday School
- o NB & CL Spring breaks (same week) – 3/8/26 Sunday before, No Sunday School
- o Easter – April 5th – No Sunday School, but Easter Egg hunt after church
- o Last Day – May 17th
 - Will do Tractor or Treat again at the end of October
 - Will do Advent Adventures again – maybe on a Wednesday night again before Advent starts on Nov 30th
 - Will do Holy Week Adventures again – before Holy Week starts Mar

30th Milestones

- Prayer pillows – need date figured out, and list solidified for Kindergartners
- Banks – need date figured out
- Lock in for 3rd -5th w/Lord's Prayer, during Lent Adult
- Confirmation – Wed evenings, alternating with Youth Group, 5:30pm-7:30pm with light supper
- Holy Smokes at the Wild Mtn winery the 4th Thurs, thru Oct, then at church
- Sept 4th – 9am at First Lutheran – Wisdom Seekers
- Chosen Bible Study – may start again sometime in November

Christian Ed/Sunday School teacher meeting Minutes – 9/15/25, **6:30pm**

Attended by: Pastor Justin, Val, Teresa, Dana & Cami

Old Business:

Did not review minutes from last meeting as some items are included in the new agenda to talk with teachers about, and minutes were given to the office to include in the October newsletter (August meeting was too late), and were sent out by email to Christian Ed Committee.

New Business:

Sunday School

- Calendar for Sept-May handed out to Pastor Justin and teachers
- Teresa forgot to bring the Teacher sign up, will print out and leave in Classroom B with a reminder text to go out for teachers to sign up
- Talked about Curriculum change
 - o Pastor Justin described Hearts Alive and how he came to this decision
 - o Pastor Justin looked at Concordia and Augsburg's Spark, but he felt that a new one that he found was maybe closer to what we would like to use and would work with the church services a little better. This one is called Hearts Alive. We would receive it online and have it on a flash drive. It has Year A, B & C, much like Augsburg used to do.
 - o This curriculum follows the lectionary, so going along with the church year
 - o Is based more on Bible stories and their lessons, whereas Orange was often just a short verse that they were trying to fit into a monthly theme

- Justin mentioned that we can still locate videos for each story on YouTube to go with the lessons and have that ready to go for each Sunday – he will load on to a flash drive
- Discussed where to do the opening, will probably continue to do it in the Fellowship Hall, at some point may do it in the old basement again
- Justin ordered the new curriculum, we can share with First Lutheran with them helping to pay for Year A (currently in Year C, but when new church year starts with Advent, it goes into Year A)
 - Will eventually have Year A, B & C which can continue to be re-used
 - Will have printed available and also determine how to share with a flash drive and/or with Google Drive (came with Microsoft, but Justin will look into how to share on Google Drive)
- Justin handed out examples for teachers to look at and review
- Dana especially liked the music part, which can be incorporated in our opening and/or in the classroom
- It is still robust, with a lot there to choose from
- Talked about asking some people with musical abilities to help with music, we can sing with them, but without the piano or a youtube video for backing, it is hard to get them too excited about singing
- Teachers: Amanda, Cami, Katie, Teresa, Val, and Dana (Teresa will double check with Dana -she said yes)
- Substitutes: Julie Flodquist, Beth Berger, Diane H, Jenny Abbott?
- Went over calendar
- Rally Sunday is September 28th – pancake breakfast planned. Decided that the games, etc. would be the following week, as 2 families that regularly are there (5 kids) will not be able to make it. So, on Rally Sunday it will be a regular Sunday School day with the pancake breakfast. Will have the first week ready for those teachers
 - Val and Cami volunteered to get the curriculum ready with Justin during the day during the week – meeting Thursday morning, the 18th to do that
- Oct 5th – bounce house, games, prizes, etc. Teresa picked up prize bags (we will write names on them – some things we have will go in right away as gifts, and Teresa purchased.
 - some items to give as prizes. Still need to determine the games and who can be there to help.

- Should still be able to be in the old basement if the weather is not nice
- Christmas program
 - Smaller program, just with the Sunday school kids in it, not with the service – but all congregation invited
 - This should be on December 14th at 2pm, kids could come early enough to run thru the program upstairs (will still have Sunday School at the regular time)
 - Will need to see if Momoh is available
 - Coffee with cookies after the program – ask parents to bring a dozen cookies as in prior years?
- Special events/Holidays/Sunday School calendar
 - Rally Sunday(s): Part 1 on 9/28, Part 2 on 10/5 as discussed
 - Confirmation starts on 10/8
 - 10/12 – Bible Sunday for 3 year olds and 3rd graders
 - MEA Oct 19 – we will have Sunday School
 - 10/26 – Confirmation Sunday, Tractor or Treat 4pm-6pm
 - 11/16 – 4th graders get banks – can what is usually the meeting about kids/money be part of the Children's Sermon
 - 11/19 – 5:30pm to 7:30 pm Advent Adventures, Cami will figure out a craft
 - After Thanksgiving – Nov 30th – we will have Sunday School, Advent begins
 - 12/5/25 – Parents night out (Shopping night), CE will plan 4:30-9pm, dinner & games, maybe some Youth can help?
 - 12/14/25 – Sunday School in am, Sunday School Christmas Program 2 pm (kids will need to come early for a dress rehearsal (maybe at 1pm – we will discuss)
 - After Christmas – Dec 28th No Sunday School
 - After New Year's Day – Jan 4th – No Sunday School
 - Day before MLK Day – Jan 18th – we will have Sunday School
 - 2/18 – Ash Wednesday
 - 2/20 – 3rd thru 5th grade Lock In, CE will help plan, will be dinner, Lord's Prayer, activities 5-9 time frame
 - NB & CL Spring breaks (same week) – 3/8/26 Sunday before, No Sunday School
 - 3/22 – Prayer Pillows for Kindergarteners
 - Thursday 3/26 – 5:30-7:30p Holy Week Adventures, CE will help plan, dinner, craft activities
 - 3/29 – Palm Sunday with kids participating in a skit at the beginning of worship

- Easter – April 5th – No Sunday School, but Easter Egg hunt after church
- Last Day – classes May 10th & fun day May 17th
- Teresa brought some Christmas program ideas for Pastor Justin to look over to see if any will work
- Pastor Justin will work up a postcard to go out for Rally Sunday(s)
- Teresa will get Pastor Justin the updated spreadsheet of kids/families including the 6th graders going into Confirmation/Youth Group

Milestones

- Bible Sunday – date picked 10/12, 3 year olds and 3rd graders (& new confirmation kids)
- Prayer pillows – date picked 3/22, Kindergarteners
- Banks – date picked 11/16, 4th graders
- Lock in for 3rd-5th w/Lord's Prayer, during Lent – date 2/20

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

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue
EACH SUNDAY 10:00 Coffee is Served		
5 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost—Green 9:00 Communion Worship Live and Online; W/Noisy Offering;; Sunday School after Sermon 10:00 Confirmation Info Meeting 11:00 First Lutheran Service	6 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 10:00 WOW Practice	7 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 9:00 Worship Team 1:00 Stewardship Meets In the Fireside Room 6:00 Choir Practice @ FLC
12 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost—Green 9:00 Worship Service W/Bible Blessings for age 3-3 rd grade; Sunday School after Sermon 11:00 First Lutheran Service 2:30 Loony Lutherans	13 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 10:00 WOW Practice 10:00 WELCA Meets 5:00 Property Meeting 6:00 Council Meeting	14 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 9:00 Worship Team 6:00 Choir Practice ILC 10-2 Quilters meet W/potluck at noon
19 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost—Green 9:00 WOW Communion Worship Live and Online W/Sunday School after Sermon 11:00 First Lutheran Service	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 6:00 Chris. Ed.	21 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 9:00 Worship Team 9:30 Naomi Circle Meets @ Joanne Johnson's home 6:00 Choir Practice FLC
26 Reformation Sunday - Red 9:00 Confirmation W/Joint Choir; Worship Service Live and Online; Sunday School after Sermon 11:00 First Lutheran Service Ecumen Service 4-6 Tractor & Treat PICK-UP NEWSLETTERS	27 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 6:00 Worship & Music Meeting	28 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 9:00 Worship Team 6:00 Choir Practice ILC

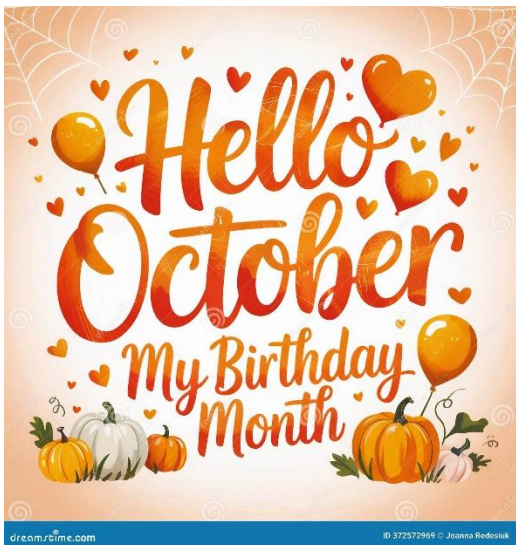
Notes:

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 1:30 Prayer Shawl Meets 6-7 Youth Group Meets	2 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Wisdom Seekers @ First Lutheran	3 9:00-3:00 Office Hours; Bulletin Printed	4 9am Triangle Park Playground Installation
8 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 5:30-7:00 Confirmation	9 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Wisdom Seekers @ First Lutheran	10 9:00-3:00 Office Hours; Bulletin Printed	11
15 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 1:30 Prayer Shawl Meets 6-7 Youth Group Meets	16 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Wisdom Seekers @ First Lutheran	17 Bulletin Printed 9:00-3:00 Office Hours;	18 9-1 Spiritual Gifts Workshop
22 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 11:00 Newsletter is ready for proof reading in the Fireside room 5:30-7:00 Confirmation	23 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Wisdom Seekers @ First Lutheran 6:30 Holy Smokes @ Wild Mtn. Winery	24 9:00-3:00 Office Hours; Bulletin Printed 10:00 Newsletter Assembly in the Fireside room 6:00 Evening of Faith	25
29 9:00-3:00 Office Hours 5:30-7:00 Confirmation	30 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Wisdom Seekers @ First Lutheran	31 HALLOWEEN	

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!

- 1 Kristopher Koran
- 2 Bradley Johnson, Christina
Loyas, Lucas Anderson
- 3 Mark W. Johnson, Jason
Fredlund, Calvin Flanery
- 4 MacKenzee Hays
- 5 Clay Ryberg, James McCarthy
- 6 Jeremy Larson
- 9 Sheila Smith, Momoh Freeman, Belinda Berger
- 10 Ella Tuhy
- 11 Judy Nelson
- 12 Kenzey Rothe
- 13 Gretta Rivard, Kristi Johnson
- 14 Lois Ness, Heather Johnson
- 15 Nick Wiberg, Kevin Nadeau
- 16 Chad Burnside
- 21 Shelby Armstrong, Emma Cook
- 22 Wyatt Lutz, Adam Anderson
- 27 Aaron Schultz, Martha Strecker
- 28 Jared Rothe
- 29 Robert Olson, Owen Paavola
- 30 Angel Marshall
- 31 Robby Rothe



Thank you to those helping with the Worship Services!

	Oct 5	Oct 12	Oct 19	Oct 26		
Scripture Reader	Marlin Ness	Emma Cook	Mirella Cook	Mark Weslander		
Ushers	Steve Tuhy Family	Steve Tuhy Family	Steve Tuhy Family	Steve Tuhy Family		
Sound Tech	Dave Rue	Loraine Rue	Nancy Nadeau	Julie Johnson		
Camera Tech	Matt Oknich	Dave Rue	Jodi Johnson-Waldemar	Vern Johnson		
Children's Sermon	Amanda Cook		Jeske Noordergraaf	Pastor Justin		
Coffee Servers	Matt & Soua Carlson	Parish Care Team	Julie Johnson & Tora Carlson			
Teachers Valerie Dana Cami Amanda Katie Teresa						

Communion Servers:

Sunday, Oct 5th - Clay Ryberg, Julie Johnson, Julie Weller

Sunday, Oct 19th - Norm Peterson, Jeff Lutz, Clay Larson

Communion Wine - Wild Mountain Winery

Communion Wafers now used

Reader Coordinator **October:** Joanne Johnson

Altar Guild: **October:** Joanne Johnson & Diane Rothe

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

Code	Fund	31-Aug	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
1	GENERAL	\$22,489.00	\$129,244.36	\$119,670.37
2	UNDESIGNATED	\$180.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,431.25
3	SYNOD	\$400.00	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00
4	LUTHER POINT	\$25.00	\$286.25	\$365.00
5	LUTH. SOC. SERV.	\$25.00	\$145.00	\$77.00
6	ITONYA TANZANIA MISSION	\$50.00	\$555.00	\$350.00
7	WORLD HUNGER	\$50.00	\$100.00	
10	LOOSE	\$648.00	\$4,410.50	\$2,710.13
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	\$700.00	\$1,620.00	\$790.50
20	NOISY OFFERING	\$72.12	\$1,456.18	\$962.82
21	BUILDING FUND	\$240.00	\$2,573.47	\$2,522.00
22	CdFee	\$15.90	\$101.35	\$131.45
24	CHRISTIAN ED	\$-	\$195.00	\$-
26	SHARE MINISTRY	\$2,130.00	\$15,420.00	\$-
27	Grants	\$-	\$760.00	\$-
30	YOUTH GROUP	\$2.00	\$152.00	
31	YOUTH MISSION TRIP	\$-	\$2.00	\$-
33	WELCA	\$10.00	\$10.00	
34	WORSHIP & MUSIC	\$-	\$25.00	
36	QUILTERS MINISTRY	\$-	\$302.00	\$56.25
40	FOOD SHELF	\$-	\$25.00	
50	ENDOWMENT FUND	\$-	\$31.25	\$-
60	SPECIAL DONATIONS	\$133.00	\$1,026.20	\$50.00
90	MEMORIAL	\$-	\$100.00	\$2,525.72
91	MEMORIAL GARDEN	\$-	\$2,605.00	
97	Fund Transfers	\$5,000.00	\$11,544.04	\$1,220.00
	Totals	\$32,170.02	\$180,368.60	\$139,192.18



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!



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:

Sunday School Bibles & Curriculum
 Vacation Bible School
 Luther Point Bible Camp
 Christian Education Curriculum for Children,
 Youth, and Adults
 Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall
 Audio Visual Equipment
 Youth Group Mission Trips
 Scholarship Funds
 Prayer Shawl Ministry
 Immanuel Quilters
 Church Banners
 Itonya Congregation Support
 African Student Scholarships
 Endowment Fund
 Archives Room supplies & Compact
 DVD System for Archives Room

Church Library Fund
 Choir Music Fund
 Landscaping Fund
 Cemetery Perpetual Care
 Labyrinth
 Carillon Repair Fund
 Church Renovation Fund
 Church computer/software
 needs
 Fellowship Hall Sound System
 Baptism Booklets (for parents
 and sponsors)
 Grief Booklets (for families
 members of those who
 have lost loved ones)
 Altar Guild
 Undesignated memorial

YOUNG(ish) AT HEART



www.looneylutherans.com

October 12, 2025 2:30

Free will offering

Desserts and refreshments served after
program.

Everyone is invited to a hilarious comedy at:

Immanuel Lutheran Church

37515 Park Trail

Almelund, MN 55012

STARTING SEPTEMBER 4TH

WISDOM SEEKERS

THURSDAYS AT 9:00AM

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Youth Room, 1st floor

Join us in exploring how history has influenced religion and how religion has influenced history. Since both of these topics are influenced by philosophy, we will explore that aspect of human thought as well. Discussion is open to all interested parties. This will be enriched by the open, unjudged, fascinating thoughts that will come to the surface as we compare theology, history, and philosophy.
See Jerry Rhoads with any questions

Worship & Music Minutes ~ August 25, 2025

Present: Pastor Justin, Tora Carlson Julie Johnson (Council Rep.), Nicki Klanderud, Pam Larson, Pat Remer

Absent: Beth Berger (Council Rep.), Momoh Freeman, Dayna Geisbauer, Diann Huber, Kim Raschke

Tora called the meeting to order – Pam gave devotions.

Reviewed July 28, 2025 minutes. MSP to accept.

Old Business:

Children's Sermons – Pastor Justin taking care of summer months.

Recap Worship Services/Events:

- July 31...6:30 Holy Smokes @ Winery
- August 3...9:00 ILC Worship/Communion/Noisy Offering [\$72.12]...11:00, FLC
- August 4 - 9...Pastor Justin's participation in a Chaplain Professional Development workshop
- August 10...9:00 Threshing Show Worship – Not able to have a Polka Service as Jon's band was not available. He was accompanied by Joanne Endress on keyboard, though. Do have some polka band leads for 2026 –

the people really want to hear that music! Threshing Show attendance was down this year!...11:00, FLC

- August 11-14...Vacation Bible School was well attended.

- August 17...9:00 ILC with Bishop Lull/Special Collection [**\$519.00 plus matching funds**] for “Planting For Hope” (helps fund Campus Ministry & Pastor Debt Retirement) - VBS Sunday/Luminary

Dedication/Communion/Quinn Johnson & Friends provided Special Music...11:00, FLC with Bishop Lull

- August 24...9:00 ILC Worship/Baptism of Mikayla Johnson-Jasper & Caleb Jasper’s baby, Theodore...11:00, FLC

- August 24...2:00 Ecumen Worship with Pastor Justin. ILC leads service 4th Sunday of the month.

Upcoming Dates:

- August 26...Meeting after Worship Team to plan Immanuel 2026 calendar – Includes Julie Weller

- August 28...6:30 Holy Smokes @ Winery

- August 31...9:00 ILC /WOW worship/Service of Healing...11:00, FLC/Service of Healing.

- September 4...“Wisdom Seekers” new discussion group starting - FLC Youth Room @ 9:00, facilitated by Jerry Rhodes (Jerry will do an announcement at Immanuel)

- Hay Days, September 6 & 7

- September 7...9:00 ILC Worship/Communion/Noisy Offering...11:00, FLC

- September 14...9:00 ILC Worship/Baptism of Dana & Dana Johnson’s grandchild...11:00, FLC

- September 16...6:00, Tuesday-Joint Choir Rehearsals Begin

- September 21...9:00 ILC Worship/Communion...11:00, FLC

- September 21...Apple Festival, 11-4:00

- September 22...5:30 Values & Vision Potluck – Worship & Music invited/encouraged to attend discussion on “3 Big Hairy Goals” for over the next 3 years (goes along with Season of Renewal) Worship & Music will meet @ 6:30.

- September 25...6:30 Holy Smokes @ Winery

- September 28...ILC Worship/Rally Sunday/Men of Immanuel Pancake Breakfast ...11:00, FLC

- September 28...2:00 Ecumen Worship with Pastor Justin. ILC leads service 4th Sunday of the month.

- October 5...9:00 ILC Worship/Communion/Noisy Offering...11:00, FLC

- October 12...9:00 ILC Worship...11:00, FLC

- October 12...2:30 “Loony Lutherans” at ILC. Free Will Offering – Desserts/Refreshments served afterward.
- October 18...9-1:00 Spiritual Gifts Workshop @ ILC
- October 19...9:00 ILC Worship/Communion ...11:00, FLC
- October 23...6:30 Holy Smokes @ Winery
- October 26...9:00 ILC Confirmation/Reformation Sunday Worship...11:00, FLC
- October 26...2:00 Ecumen Worship, Pastor Justin
- October 26...Taylors Falls Community Choir rehearsals begin – 6:00 @ Methodist Church
- October 26...Tractor & Treat – time change at Worship Team meeting from 3:30-5:30 to **4-6:00**. Would like more community involvement – Pat to ask Lion’s to be a part of this again – Nicki will ask the Almelund All-Stars 4-H club and the Almelund Fire Department (they could show off their new truck!) – Worship & Music provide hot beverages!

Looking Ahead:

- November 9...ILC New Member Sunday
- November 25...6:30 Joint Thanksgiving Service @ ILC

Immanuel’s Message Board – Scott & Kim feel the vinyl insert is beyond their ability – Kim offered to reach out to Gateway Sign in Stacy to see what they could do...hasn’t heard anything back yet Clay’s progress in welding the rusting letters that are starting to break away from the brick – he’ll look at those letters again.

TV to be raised and attached to the wall & Installation of a large close-circuit choir TV – August 13 or 14th. Unable to do it either of those days – rescheduled for Tuesday, September 2nd.

LSS Sunday – Pastor Justin asked them to come in the fall but hasn’t heard back from them.

Sampler – LeeAnn has been contacted for March 1, 2026. Discussed how to use the concert & auction donation monies – MSP that donations from Sampler go to help fund Apple Festival Entertainment.

Tora will ask her niece if her group (Holy Hootenanners) would come for a worship service with the possibility of performing for The Sampler that same day.

Request to print “special music” words in bulletin – this is especially helpful to those who have a hard time hearing/understanding the words. After discussion, it was decided not to do this.

New Business:

Worship Team - Service formats/hymns are done through August 31.

Other:

- 2026 Lenten Season – 5:30 Supper – 6:30 Worship Service

- Seem to have a mouse problem – Pat will contact Don Noyes to see what can be done...probable professional extermination needed.

- Will go back to the Revised Common Lectionary...the cost of this resource is \$180.00/year. Will work with this a few weeks and see how that goes.

Prayer Concerns:

Pastor Justin led us in prayer for all concerns mentioned.

Next Scheduled Meeting: September 22, 2025 **@ 6:30**

Devotions: Kim

Stewardship Committee Meeting-September 2, 2025

Members Present: Pastor Justin, Natalee, Cami, Julie, Linda, Sharon, Julie

Sept. minutes and agenda were approved.

Paper directory was reviewed. It will be done and ready to give out by Sept. 28.

Season of Renewal: The Stewardship Committee will have a pot luck supper on Sept 22 at 5:00. All council members and one representative from each committee should be in attendance. At this meeting we will look over our vision statement and our core values and decide on three big goals to achieve in the next 5 years. From this we will evaluate our mission statement.

Season of Renewal workshop meeting will be held in the cities on Sept. 27.

A Spiritual Workshop will be held October 18. The stewardship committee will serve coffee and bars.

New members Sunday will be November 9.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting is October 7.

Immanuel Lutheran- Church Council Meeting 9/8/25. 6pm

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

Devotions lead by: Norm Peterson

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: MSP

Old Business:

- **Season of Renewal** – This is ongoing, it is an 18 month long program. There is a 1 hour potluck meeting on Sept. 22 at church to come up with 3 big hairy, audacious goals for Immanuel for the next 2-10 years. Pastor has requested that all Council members, the Stewardship committee and a member from each of the other committees attend this meeting.
- **TV in Sanctuary** - The TV is now mounted on the wall as high as it can reasonably go. The livestream will be tweaked as needed. There is always a need for volunteers on the audio/visual team.
- **Upping Spending in the Constitution and Congregational Meeting** -
 - MSP to present for a vote at the Annual Congregational meeting a proposal to increase the Council's ability to spend up to \$15,000 without prior Congregational approval according to the current Constitution bylaws (**Update Constitution C12.05 line C**)
 - MSP to present for a vote at the Annual Congregational meeting; in the event of an emergency Council has the authority to act upon the emergency without calling a Special Congregational meeting. This will be added to the current Constitution. (**Add to Constitution C12.05 line E**)
- **Shared Ministry with First Lutheran** - This project is going well. The Worship team from both churches have completed a Church activities calendar for the remainder of 2025. They are working on getting a calendar ready for 2026.
- **Restoration** - MSP to pay Dan Anderson \$2750 for his work on the NorthEast entrance. This money will be taken from the Restoration Fund.
- **Playground - Volunteers** - Almelund Parks playground equipment will be ready for installation on October 4th & 5th. Volunteers are needed. Jeff Lutz will bring a cement mixer to be used to set the equipment.

New Business:

- **Dehumidifier for old basement** - MSP To accept a dehumidifier being donated by Lynn Strong. Clay Larson will pick it up and deliver it to Church. **Council Secretary is to send a Thank You to Lynn Strong.**
- **NorthEast Entrance door** - MSP To have the Property Committee obtain an estimate to have the door replaced.
- **NorthWest Entrance door** - MSP To have the Property Committee have the NW Entrance door looked at as it sticks and is damaging the wood door framing.
- **North Side of Church between doorways** - Property provided to Council that there is an issue with drainage on this side of the church. Jeff Lutz, Norm Peterson and Dan Anderson will look into this issue.

Reports and Committee Reports:

MSP All reports were approved a presented

Offering Securer:

Sunday, October 5th	Julie Weller	Sunday, October 12th	Julie Johnson
Sunday, October 19th	Clay Larson	Sunday, October 26th	Julie Weller

Communion Servers:

Sunday, October 5th	Julie Weller, Clay Ryberg, Julie Johson
Sunday, October 19th	Clay Larson, Jeff Lutz, Norm Peterson

Devotions for October Council Meeting - Clay Ryberg

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Property Committee Minutes September 8, 2025

PRESENT: Bob Rothe, Julie Weller, Norm Peterson, Scott Olson, Harland Carlson, Pastor Justin, Perry Lindberg
Meeting Called to order by Norm @ 4:57

Old Business:

Discussion of old office & entrance/hallway renovation, coming along Dan Anderson hoping to be done by Rally Sunday, Railing in hallway is going to be repaired by Dan, to retain original railing.
Floor plan design has been received for old kitchen, Sarah circle is going to review.
Scandia plumbing and heating are going to fit into their schedule rerouting of heating pipes in old kitchen .

New Business:

One dehumidifier has been purchased for old basement & is helping maintain humidity.
Discussion of water in men's old bathroom & north wall water issues of old basement.
Exterminator is coming on Thursday to consult with mice issues.
Motion was Made by Bob Rothe to adjourn meeting @5:30 seconded by Harland Carlson
Submitted by Perry Lindberg

Immanuel Lutheran Church October 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.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**