



**IMMANUEL**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ALMELUND, MN

# MESSENGER

April

2026



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*The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Almelund, MN*

## A Prayer for April: Jesus, Surprise Me

It's hard to talk about new life when there's still snow on the ground. Everything is covered. Everything still looks dead. And if we're honest, sometimes the snow is convenient. It covers the stuff we'd rather not look at the moments we're not proud of, the things we tell ourselves weren't really that bad. Nobody saw it anyway. Doesn't really affect anything.

You snapped at one of your kids and moved on like it didn't happen. You got frustrated with a coworker and talked behind their back instead of going to them directly. Someone cut you off in traffic and suddenly you're riding their tail with your high beams flashing. You're annoyed and frustrated with your own life but unwilling to do anything about it, so the people around you get to feel it instead. You talked down someone's idea before you even finished hearing it. You gossiped about someone whose story you didn't know half of. You've kept your distance from God for so long that church feels more like obligation than home.

The snow covers it. Or we tell ourselves it wasn't that bad. Or we dress it up with a fine attitude and hope nobody looks too close. But then there's the other version of Easter despair: the one that doesn't bother hiding anything because it's decided hope is already gone. Jesus died, sure. But what actually changed? There are protests in the streets. Families divided at the dinner table. Distance growing in relationships that used to feel close. Wars breaking out and more being threatened. It is still so dark: literally and figuratively. The tomb is empty, they say. Okay. So where is the new life? Where is the hope? Point me to it, because from where I'm standing everything still looks like winter.

I get that. I feel that. And I don't think Easter asks us to pretend otherwise. But then I look out my office window.

There are small crabapples still clinging to the tree from last fall: dry and forgotten-looking, but a quiet reminder that this tree has fruited before and will again. Down the road, a new business has laid its footings, real promise literally rising up out of the snow piles. People pass by on their way to Wild Mountain, to work, to family: ordinary life, stubborn and continuing, even in the gray.



By the time you read this, things will have changed. Maybe a little less snow on the ground. Maybe walls and a roof on that new building in town. But not Jesus. And if I'm being honest not me either. Still the same guy, still in need of the same grace, still looking out the same window and asking the same question. Where is the hope?

And the same simple prayer comes to mind: *Jesus, surprise me. As you always do.*

In the people I least expect. In the slow return of color to the hillside. In your resurrection story, showing up again in the middle of all of this: the mess, the darkness, the things I've covered up and the things I've given up on.

Yes, we are that bad. Yes, it feels hopeless sometimes. But none of that changes what you have done and what you continue to do in our lives. He is risen. He is risen indeed.

*Pastor Justin*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

*Baptismal candles have been a traditional gift for many years for those baptized at Immanuel. The candle is a gift from Immanuel and is intended to assist parents in telling their child about the gift of Baptism. It is suggested the candle be lit each year on the anniversary of the child's baptism as a special event at dinner or when bedtime prayers are shared. Pastor Schaffner and his wife Marcie started the practice during their ministry with us. Marcie melted down the unused portion of liturgical candles used during worship services and poured the melted wax into a mold to create a baptismal candle. A decorative baptismal design was then added to the candle which was presented to the newly baptized. Along the way Marcie asked me to share the candle making with her, and when Pastor & Marcie left our congregation, I continued making baptismal candles numbering over 280 at present. I am choosing to pass on the baptismal candle making so someone else can enjoy this meaningful activity. The process is not difficult and I am willing to share all I have learned. All supplies needed in making the candles are ready to pass on including several poured candles ready for decorative design to be attached. Please contact me if interested.*

*Joanne Johnson*

651-278-2686 or [chareter@yahoo.com](mailto:chareter@yahoo.com)

**Parish Care Team** will meet April 6, 2026, at 9:00am

**Hannah Circle** (ILC's new women's circle) will meet Wednesday, April 1st at 6:00 PM.

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

Mark, your calendars - Holy Smokes is coming back to Jake's on the Lakes on Thursday, April 23 at 6:30 PM.

Holy Smokes is a relaxed, come-as-you-are gathering for good conversation, faith questions, and community. Grab a bite or a drink if you'd like, pull up a chair, and join us for an evening of laughter, thoughtful discussion, and connection.

All are welcome—bring a friend!

### **Prayer Shawl Update**

Prayer Shawl is meeting again every 1st & 3rd Wednesday at 1:30 pm in the Fireside Room. We knit, crochet, have tea with a treat and enjoy fellowship while relaxing to music. You are invited to come and check out the array of yarn and colors, pick some out and join us. If you haven't had the opportunity of learning how to knit or crochet, and would like to give it a try, we would be happy to help you get started. All supplies are available. Shelves continue to overflow with donations of yarn!! Bundles have been put together for future prayer shawls and are available for anyone to pick up and be creative.

Please call Joanne at 651-278-2686 with any questions.

If you are creating shawls on your own and bringing them in, please put them in the bins on the floor in Room C closet so they can be blessed at the next scheduled Dedication.

Also, there are many shawls available in Room C for gifting & you are encouraged to give them to anyone in need of feeling God's presence and comfort. Please sign the sheet you'll find there and take a card for gifting. Gift bags & tissue paper are available for you to use.

**The Immanuel Quilters.** Will meet Tuesday, April 14th, 10am-2pm, with a potluck lunch at noon. Last month we donated adult and baby quilts to Options For Women in North Branch. We like donating locally--if you have any suggestions please let us know. This past month we worked on sewing and tying quilts. If anyone has gently used sheets, we can use any color for backing on tied quilts. With our recent snow storm if you know of anyone who could use a quilt, we have many ready to share! The 2nd antique quilt is ready to hang in the fellowship room--be sure and check the embroidered names in the squares. It is truly a treasure!

Hope to see you there 14th!

Martha Strecker. 651-341-3885

**Stewardship** will meet on April 6 at 10am in the Fireside Room.

**WELCA** meeting dates for 2026-

April 12, after church - Naomi Circle in charge

July 12, after church - Sarah Circle in charge

October 11, after church - Naomi Circle in charge

January 11, 2027, Sarah Circle in charge

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

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

During the sermon:

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

When you're finished, you can:

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

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

This is for everyone, not just confirmation students!

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

### **Attention 2026' Graduates**

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

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

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

### **Youth Group News**

Youth Group will meet April 1 & 15th from 6pm - 7pm

April 25th Youth Group serves coffee

Youth had a wonderful retreat at Luther Point in February. Lots of great discussions and of course fun games with kids that was their first time at a retreat.

Can't wait to do it all over again next year!!

**Confirmation Classes:** 18<sup>th</sup>, Manna and Mercy for All  
25<sup>th</sup>, Manna and Mercy for All

**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 2026 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!!!!

### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:**

By end of day Monday, April 20; The third Monday of the month.

### **PROOFREADING:**

Of newsletter Wednesday, April 22 @ 11:00; in the Fireside Room.

### **NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY:**

Will be Friday, April 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**

**Many THANKS to everyone** who helped in any way with The Sampler. It was an awesome afternoon of Great Music; Great Coffee, Desserts & Fellowship and a Great Auction - what a variety of donated items!! Your support of this Apple Festival Entertainment Fundraiser was very much appreciated!! ~Worship & Music and Apple Festival Committees  
A Huge thank you to all those involved in the Almelund Sampler. An inspiring afternoon with the following gifted musicians performing: The Good Neighbor Ukulele Band, The Sunrise River Trio, ILC Worship Band, Dave Nelson and Momoh Freeman, Marco Sherve and Momoh Freeman, and Lindstrom Trinity Praise Band.

We're sincerely grateful to the enthusiastic guests, the Worship and Music committee for the delicious treats, to all who donated items for the auction and to Leann Vandekamp auctioneer extraordinaire.

The Stewardship Committee

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

More First Lutheran Events, TF

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

Fri., Apr 10

4:30-6:30

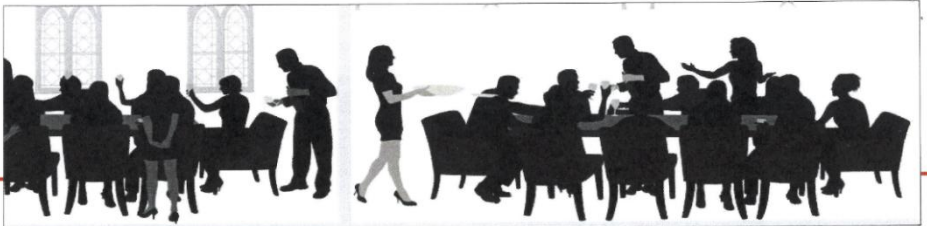
# Community Dinner

*Free!  
Everyone Welcome!  
Great Fellowship!  
Meet your friends & neighbors!*

*Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Almelund*

*Come & Bring a Friend!*

2nd Friday Each Month 4:30—6:30 pm





## March Birthdays

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 Bruce Sellman, Matt Carlson
- 3 Marvin Lindgren
- 4 Wendy Meyer, Matt Blomquist
- 5 Craig Stomberg, Diana Schleusner, Cora Massey
- 7 Angie Weness
- 8 Clay Larson, Mitchel Lutz, Ashley Larkin
- 10 Quintin Carlson, Connie Linder, Peyton Lindgren
- 11 Lynn Llingren
- 12 Kelly Hunter, Brittany Wyandt, Bailey Loso
- 13 Zachary Loso
- 14 Pamela Larson
- 15 Heidi Wiberg
- 16 Karl Swenson
- 17 Jennifer Andersen, Mirella Cook
- 19 Lois Johnson, Anna Sundell, Jeske Noordergraaf
- 20 Jill Hasselquist, Judy Peterson, Matt Paavola
- 21 Francis Tauer
- 22 Joe Anderson
- 25 Adam Cook
- 26 Mark McKenzie, Lyanna Carlson
- 27 Dianne Wiik
- 28 Nicole Lundsted, Kurt Swenson
- 30 Theodore Jasmer

## Youth Group Retreat



### **Immanuel Lutheran Church Annual Meeting February 22, 2026**

Julie Weller called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for staying for the meeting.

#### **Approval of Prior Annual Meeting Minutes**

MSP to approve the minutes from the previous Annual Meeting.

## **Nominations to Council and Committees**

- **Church Council**

- Members with one year left
  - Amanda Cook, Beth Berger, Clay Larson, Julie Weller
- Nominations
  - Norm Peterson, Perry Lindberg, Clay Ryberg, Chris Schumacher

- **Auditing Committee**

- Members with one year left
  - Matt Oknich, Dana Johnson
- Nominations
  - Marcy Paulson

- **Christian Education Committee**

- Members with one year left
  - Kristy Johnson, Jenny Abbott
- Nominations
  - Valorie Lutz, Teresa Carlson

- **Head Usher**

- Nominations
  - Deb Kregel, Marty Johnson, Steve Tuey, Zach Rivard

- **Memorial Committee**

- Members with one year left
  - Connie Linder, Gwen Swenson, Ashley Larkin
- Nominations
  - Jody Johnson, Joanne Johnson, Vickie Johnson

- **Nominating Committee**

- Nominations
  - Marlin Ness, Katie Fenger, Dana Mary Johnson, Linda Peterson

- **Personnel Committee**

- Members with one year left
  - Diane Rothe
- Nominations
  - Lorraine Rudd

- **Property Committee**

- Members with one year left
  - Bob Rothe, Perry Lindberg
- Nominations
  - Norm Peterson, Scott Olson

- **Resolution Committee**

- Nominations
  - Barb Lindberg, Linda Mielke, Lynn Schultz, Tora Carlson
- **Stewardship Committee**
  - Members with one year left
    - Cami Peltier, Kris Koran, Linda Peterson
  - Nominations
    - Julie Weller, Natalee Oknich, Maureen Peterson
- **Worship and Music Committee**
  - Members with one year left
    - Dayna Geisbauer, Tora Carlson, Kim Raschke
  - Nominations
    - Nicki Klanderrud, Diane Huber, Pam Larson
- **Luther Point Delegates**
  - Nominations
    - Rachael Paavola, Linda Mielke
- **Synod Convention Delegates**
  - Nominations
    - Beth Berger, Linda Peterson, Julie Weller

- **MSP to accept the Ballot as presented**

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- **Resolutions**

- MSP for members to review the resolutions independently.
- MSP to accept the resolutions as presented.

- **Pastor's Annual Report**

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- \*\*Today's sermon referenced the fulfillment in Gospel of Matthew, chapter 4, and encouraged us to return to the larger story of faith. We were reminded that, as people rooted in Jesus Christ, we need to be diligent in our prayers.
- One of the beautiful things about being a multi-generational church is that volunteering should not feel like a requirement. Instead, we are encouraged to reflect on where we are truly needed. It is okay to step down from a committee or long-held tradition and allow others the opportunity to step in. The nature of life means making room for new ministry. We should listen to God's voice and create space for new things while continuing to offer our gifts to the community.
- Our church serves as a foundational place for the community. We want this church to be a place where the community can stay rooted and connected. As we move into 2026, we are called to live within the larger story of outreach. This means letting go of some long-

standing resolutions or habits simply because “we’ve always done them,” while still holding on to the purpose that truly matters.

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- Pastor shared that he is involved with the Season of Renewal and is focused on helping the congregation move forward with open doors. Community meals and fellowship gatherings are an important part of that effort, and he expressed appreciation to those who help make them happen.
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- The church has established healthy rhythms and feels energized by the work being done. We are called by God to continue trying new things that engage and serve all generations.

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- *\*\* Summary taken from Secretary’s notes*

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### • **2026 Budget**

- The 2026 budget was presented in the **Annual Report for 2025** packet. Questions were raised regarding the Non-Budget items listed in the packet. The council explained these represent funds that are not expected annually, such as memorial donations and other one-time contributions.
- MSP to approve the 2026 budget as presented.

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### • **Congregational Records**

- The 2025 Congregational Records were presented in the **Annual Report for 2025** packet.
- MSP to accept as presented.

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### • **Financial Reports**

- The 2025 Financial Reports were presented in the **Annual Report for 2025** packet.
- MSP to accept as presented.

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### • **Committee Reports**

- The 2025 Committee Reports were presented in the **Annual Report for 2025** packet.
- MSP to accept as presented.

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- The meeting closed with the **Lord’s Prayer**.
  - **Adjourned:** 10:20 a.

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ALMELUND**  
**2026 COMMITTEES and ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES**

**CHURCH COUNCIL** \*Committee Reps

Pastor Justin Fenger			
Julie Weller*	Stewardship	Amanda Cook	
Beth Berger*	Christian Ed	Clay Larson	
Norm Peterson*	Property	Chris Schumacher*	Worship & Music
Clay Ryberg*	Memorial	Perry Lindberg*	Property

**AUDITING COMMITTEE**

Matt Oknich	Dana Johnson	Marcy Paulson
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**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Kristi Johnson	Jennifer Abbott	Valorie Lutz	Teresa Carlson
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**HEAD USHER**

Deb Kregel	Marty Johnson	Steve Tuhy	Zach Rivard
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**MEMORIAL COMMITTEE**

Connie Linder	Gwen Swenson	Ashley Larkin	Jody Johnson
Joanne Johnson	Vickie Johnson		

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Marlin Ness	Linda Peterson	Katie Fenger	Dana Mary Johnson
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**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Council President	Council-Vice President	
Pastor	Diane Rothe	Lorraine Rue

**PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

Bob Rothe	Perry Lindberg	Scott Olson	Norm Peterson
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**RESOLUTION COMMITTEE**

Barb Lindberg	Linda Mielke	Lynn Schutz	Tora Carlson
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**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

Cami Peltier	Kris Koran	Linda Peterson	Maureen Peterson
Julie Weller	Natalee Oknich		

**WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE**

Tora Carlson	Dayna Geisbauer	Kim Raschke	Nicki Klanderud
Diane Huber	Pam Larson		

**LUTHER POINT DELEGATE**

Rachel Paavola	Linda Mielke
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**SYNOD CONVENTION DELEGATES**

Beth Berger	Linda Peterson	Julie Weller
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# April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue 9:00-3:00 Office Hours
<p><b>5 EASTER SUNDAY White</b>            9:00 Joint Choir Communion Worship Service Live and Online; W/Noisy Offering            11:00 First Ev. Lutheran Service</p>	<p><b>6</b>            9:00 Parish Care Team Meets            10:00 WOW Practice            10:00 Stewardship Meets</p>	<p><b>7</b>            9:00 Worship Team            5:00 Choir Practice @ ILC</p>
<p><b>12 Second Sunday after Easter White</b>            9:00 Worship Service Live and Online W/Sunday School after Children's Sermon            11:00 First Ev. Lutheran Service            WELCA Meeting by Naomi Circle</p>	<p><b>13</b>            10:00 WOW Practice            5:00 Property Meeting            6:00 Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>14</b>            9:00 Worship Team            10-2 Quilters meet W/potluck at noon            5:00 Choir Practice @ FELC</p>
<p><b>19 Third Sunday after Easter White</b>            9:00 WOW Communion Worship Live and Online W/Sunday School after Children's Sermon            11:00 First Ev. Lutheran Service</p>	<p><b>20</b>  <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>            6:00 Chris. Ed.</p>	<p><b>21</b>            9:00 Worship Team            9:30 Naomi Circle Meets @ Sharon Thiel;s            5:00 Choir Practice @ ILC</p>
<p><b>26 Fourth Sunday after Easter White</b>            9:00 Joint Choir Worship Service Live and online; Sunday Sch. after Child's. Sermon            11:00 First Ev. Lutheran Service  <b>PICK-UP NEWSLETTERS</b></p>	<p><b>27</b>            5:00 Worship &amp; Music Meets</p>	<p><b>28</b>            9:00 Worship Team            5:00 Choir Practice @ FELC</p>

<b>Wed</b> 9:00-3:00 Office Hours	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b> 9:00-3:00 Office Hours	<b>Sat</b>
<b>1</b>  1:30 Prayer Shawl Meets 6:00 Hannah Circle Meets	<b>2 MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Wisdom Seekers @ First Lutheran 6:30 Joint Choir Service @ ILC	<b>3 GOOD FRIDAY</b> Bulletin Printed 3:00 Service @ FELC	<b>4</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Wisdom Seekers @ First Lutheran	<b>10</b> Bulletin Printed 4:30-6:30 Community Meal	<b>11</b>
<b>15</b> 1:30 Prayer Shawl Meets	<b>16</b> Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Wisdom Seekers @ First Lutheran	<b>17</b> Bulletin Printed	<b>18</b>
<b>22</b> 11:00 <b>Newsletter</b> is ready for proof reading 5:30-7:00 <b>Confirmation</b> 6:00 <b>Youth Meets</b>	<b>23</b> Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Wisdom Seekers @ First Lutheran 6:30 Holy Smokes @ Jakes on the Lakes	<b>24</b> Bulletin Printed 10:00 <b>Newsletter</b> <b>Assembly</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> Bulletin Printed	<b>2</b>

## Thank you to those helping with the Worship Services!

	Apr 2	Apr 5	Apr 12	Apr 19	Apr 26
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Richard Sellman	6:30 Sharon Thiel 9:00 Julie Weller	Jeske Noordergraaf	Gwen Swenson	Pat Remer
<b>Ushers</b>	Deb Krengle Julie Weller	6:30 Deb & Julie 9:00 Jason & Dee Fredlund	Pat & Don Noyes	Kim & Scott Raschke	Pat & Don Noyes
<b>Sound Tech</b>		9:00 Dave Rue	Loraine Rue	Nancy Nadeau	Julie Johnson
<b>Camera Tech</b>		9:00 Matt Oknich	Dave Rue	Jodi Johnson-Waldemar	Vern Johnson
<b>Children's Sermon</b>			Jeske Noordergraaf	Sharon Thiel	
<b>Coffee Servers</b>		Worship & Music	Trent & Kristi Johnson	Oriole Ave Lutherans	Youth Group
<b>Teachers</b>		Valerie Lutz Cami Peltier Katie Fenger	No Sunday School	Dana Johnson Cami Peltier Teresa Carlson	No Sunday School

### Communion Servers:

**Thursday, Apr 2<sup>nd</sup>** Beth Berger, Perry Lindberg, Julie Weller

**Sunday, Apr 5<sup>th</sup> Early** Clay Ryberg

**Sunday, Apr 5<sup>th</sup>- Late** Beth Berger, Norm Peterson, Julie Weller,

**Sunday, Apr 19<sup>th</sup>-** Amanda Cook, Chris Schumacher, Clay Larson

### Communion Wine - Wild Mountain Winery

### Communion Wafers now used

**Reader Coordinator**                      **April:** Linda Mielke

**Altar Guild:**                                      **April:** Diane Rothe, Joanne Johnson

## Financial Recorder's Report for Year to Date of January 2026

Code	Fund	1/31/2026	YTD 2026	YTD 2025
1	GENERAL	\$ 12,041.00	\$ 12,041.00	\$17,408.00
2	UNDESIGNATED	\$ 242.50	\$ 242.50	\$455.00
3	SYNOD	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00	
4	LUTHER POINT	\$ 170.00	\$ 170.00	
5	LUTH. SOC. SERV.	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$20.00
6	ITONYA TANZANIA MISSION	\$-	\$-	\$100.00
7	WORLD HUNGER	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	
10	LOOSE	\$ 340.00	\$ 340.00	\$453.00
11	FELLOWSHIP DINNERS	\$-	\$-	
12	LENT	\$-	\$-	
13	MAUNDY THURSDAY	\$-	\$-	
14	GOOD FRIDAY	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	
15	EASTER	\$-	\$-	
16	THANKSGIVING	\$-	\$-	
17	CHRISTMAS	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	
18	USE OF CHURCH	\$-	\$-	
20	NOISY OFFERING	\$ 101.79	\$ 101.79	
21	BUILDING FUND	\$ 194.50	\$ 194.50	\$105.00
22	CdFee	\$ 28.50	\$ 28.50	\$11.70
23	SAMPLER			
24	CHRISTIAN ED			
26	SHARE MINISTRY	\$ 2,130.00	\$ 2,130.00	\$-
27	Grants			\$-
30	YOUTH GROUP	\$-	\$-	\$-
31	YOUTH MISSION TRIP	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$-
33	WELCA	\$-	\$-	\$-
34	WORSHIP & MUSIC	\$-	\$-	
36	QUILTERS MINISTRY	\$-	\$-	
40	FOOD SHELF	\$-	\$-	\$-
50	ENDOWMENT FUND			
60	SPECIAL DONATIONS			
90	MEMORIAL	\$-	\$-	
91	MEMORIAL GARDEN	\$-	\$-	
92	ALL SAINTS	\$-	\$-	
97	Fund Transfers	\$-	\$-	

Totals

\$ 16,068.29    \$ 16,068.29    \$18,552.70



# 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](http://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!

## Youth Group Retreat (Cont.)



## **Worship & Music Minutes - February 23, 2026**

Present : Pastor Justin, Tora Carlson, Diann Huber, Nicki Klanderud, Pat Remer

Absent: Beth Berger, Momoh Freeman, Dayna Geisbauer, Pam Larson, Kim Raschke

Tora called the meeting to order – Pat gave devotions.

Reviewed January 26, 2026, minutes – MSP to accept.

Old Business:

Children's Sermons:

- March 1 – Amanda
- March 8 – Jason
- March 15 – Hailey
- March 22 – Youth
- March 29/Palm Sunday – NONE

Recap Worship Services/Events:

- Feb. 1 – 9:00 ILC Worship/Communion/Noisy Offering[\$91.33]/Youth did a good job leading the

Service...11:00, First

- Feb. 6, Friday – ILC Progressive Dinner, 5-9:00

- Feb. 8 – 9:00 ILC Worship/Blessing of the Prayer Shawls...11:00, First

- Feb. 13, Friday – Community Dinner, 4:30-6:30 @ ILC

- Feb. 15 – Lions Sweetheart Breakfast! 8-Noon @ Shafer Township Hall.

Lions were disappointed in

the turn-out.

- Feb. 15, Transfiguration Sunday – ILC WOW

Sunday/Communion...11:00, First

- Feb. 18, Ash Wednesday – 11:00, First had a good turn-out...6:30, ILC had over 50.

- Feb. 22 – 9:00 Short ILC Worship Service/ANNUAL MEETING immediately followed...

11:00 First – Joint Choir @ Both

- Feb. 22 – 2:00 Ecumen Worship

Upcoming Dates:

- Feb. 25, Wed. Lenten Worship @ First, 11:00 - 12:00 Meal...ILC 5:30 Meal, Gr. D, 6:30 Worship

- Feb. 26 – 6:30, Holy Smokes @ Jakes on the Lakes

- March 1 – 9:00 ILC Worship/Communion/Noisy Offering...11:00, First

- March 1 – ALMELUND SAMPLER...1:00 – Concert... 2:30 – Worship & Music to serve refreshments/time to get bidding numbers...3:00 –

Auction w/LeeAnn Vande Kamp.

- March 4, Wed. Lenten Worship @ First, 11:00 - 12:00 Meal ...ILC 5:30 Meal, Gr. E, 6:30 Worship
- March 6, Friday - World Day of Prayer, 1:00 @ Ecumen
- March 8 – Day Light Saving Time Begins
- March 8 – 9:00 ILC Worship ...11:00, First
- March 11, Wed. Lenten Worship @ First, 11:00 -12:00 Meal...ILC 5:30 Meal, Gr. A, 6:30 Worship
- March 13, Friday – ILC Community Dinner, 4:30-6:30
- March 15 – 9:00 ILC WOW Service/Communion...11:00, First
- March 18, Wed. Lenten Worship @ First, 11:00 – 12:00 Meal...ILC 5:30 Meal, Gr. B, 6:30 Worship
- March 20, Friday – 3-5 th Grade Lock-In from 5-9:00
- March 22, Pastor Justin gone – 9:00 ILC Youth Leads Worship/Prayer Pillows to Kindergartners...11:00, First – Joint Choir @ both
- March 22 – 2:00 Ecumen Worship
- March 25, Wed. Lenten Worship @ First - 11:00 – 12:00 Meal...ILC 5:30 Meal, Gr. C, 6:30 Worship
- March 26, Thursday – 6:30, Holy Smokes @ Jakes on the Lakes
- March 29 – 9:00 ILC Palm Sunday/Sunday School Skit at beginning of service/Youth Group Breakfast...11:00, First – Joint Choir @ Both!
- April 2, Maundy Thursday – 6:30 @ ILC/Joint Choir/First Communion for Third Graders/Stripping of the Altar
- April 3, Good Friday – 6:00 @ First. Don Moyer will provide Special Music providing the 6:00 time works for him.
- April 4, Saturday – possible 7:00 Easter Vigil @ Becky Hulden’s home
- April 5, Easter Sunday – 6:30 ILC Sunrise Service @ Labyrinth, Worship & Music serves coffee/treats
- 9:00 Easter Service/Communion/Joint Choir/Brass...11:00, First Easter Service/Joint Choir/Brass Sampler – March 1, 2026, Fundraiser for Apple Festival Entertainment 1:00 – Concert...Norm will MC – needs a script soon!
- Good Neighbors Ukulele Circle, Trinity Lindstrom Praise Band (would like more music from them this year!), WOW group, Sunrise River Trio. Also asked but were unable to attend: Tracy with his band organs (they will be gone), Johnny Russell, Don Moyer, Don Karsky and Bell Ringers from Rush City First Lutheran (they are unable to come this year as they didn’t

have enough ringers for the date – want to be asked for the next Sampler!)  
2:30 – Refreshments served by Worship & Music – will have coffee  
& hot water thermoses

along with cups, containers of tea bags and hot chocolate mix on the table.  
Committee members

are asked to bring something for coffee.

Also, Time to get Bidding Numbers.

3:00 – Live Auction called by LeeAnn Vande Kamp

- anyone can still donate or help get items...have 36-inch Blackstone Grill;  
Silver Tea

Service; Two “Superday Passes for 2” to Wild Mountain; 2 Quilts; Pie of  
the Month; Bread of

the Month; Cookie of the Month; Dinner for 6; 2 - Maple Syrup Baskets: 2  
Nights at a Lake

Home; 1 Pizza a month for a Year; 6 Hours of Genealogy Research; and  
more!

- flyer – Pastor Justin

- 2 people to hand out bidding numbers and keep track of purchases – Jody  
Johnson &

Stephanie Wendel

- someone to help LeeAnn with auction items – Bob Rothe

St. Croix Sacred Ensemble – Pat emailed Deborah Fristad asking for May 3,  
using “Singing Sermon”

format. Asked if they also would do the service at First. That will work for  
them – cost is \$225.00 per

service but will sing both for a total of \$350.00 since they are back-to-back.  
Fee will be split between

the two churches, coming out of Pulpit Supply Budget as Pastor Justin will  
be gone for a military

commitment.

Ordered Banners for Christmas, Epiphany and a white banner @ a cost of  
\$188 each. Money to come

from Worship & Music Budget.

New Business:

Worship Team:

- Service formats/hymns are done through March 1 st .

- Lent – will use Holden Evening Prayer and Lent in the Box for Wed.  
services. Tracy Tolzmann and

Marco Sherve will lead Holden Evening Prayer.

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

Next Scheduled Meeting: March 23, 2026 Devotions: Dayna

# Memorial Committee Meeting Minutes January 25th, 2026

Did Not Meet in February

## Christian Ed meeting Minutes - 3/16/26, 6pm

Attended by: Pastor Justin, Teresa, Jenny & Julie

**Old Business:** Reviewed January Meeting minutes

**New Business:**

### **Sunday School**

- Holy Week Adventures - will not be rescheduled, but Teresa will text teachers about doing the craft together
- Palm Sunday 3/29 - Teresa will discuss with teachers, who will be the readers, copies are in classroom B. Need to see if anyone will do bells with the kids.
- Easter, April 5th - no Sunday School
  - Will do an Easter Egg Hunt again, outside if weather permits, otherwise in church
    - But still splitting age groups
    - Teresa picked up more things for the eggs and bags for the kids to use
    - Teresa, Julie and Jenny filled the eggs after the CE meeting
  - Soldier's 6 - will not be able to visit, Sunday School offering will be deposited and disbursed thru them thru the church. May still do a special offering at church to send in with it as well.
- New leadership
  - VBS - Jenny spoke with Beth Berger, who is willing to lead it
    - That will be Aug 10th-14th (after Threshing show again)
    - Plans will start in early summer
  - New Sunday School leader - a few people have been approached, no one has stepped up at this time

### **Milestones**

- March 22nd - Prayer Pillows for Kindergartners, we have, and there are 3 kids this time
- Lock in for 3rd-5th Graders w/Lord's Prayer lesson will be March 27th, 5-9pm
  - Food - Julie 40 hot dogs, watermelon & brownies or bars
    - Val - hot dog fixings, buns & juice
    - Teresa - chips & help Julie with brownies/bars
  - Help - Julie, Val & Teresa should be able to be there

- 1st Communion bread making, Pastor Justin and families on Palm Sunday afternoon

- 1st Communion for 3rd graders - Maundy Thursday, April 2nd

### **Adult**

- Holy Smokes - at Jake's by the Lakes, Thursday Mar 26th, 6:30pm, may start at Wild Mountain Winery again in April

### **Other**

- Cradle Roll - still need to follow up with JoAnne Johnson, try to have meeting with Jenny, JoAnne, Mark and Pastor Justin

- Laptop is ready to use for Sunday school, has lessons and the related videos on it

- Pastor will order the new cubicle storage for all classrooms

## **Property Committee Minutes March 9, 2026**

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

Meeting called to order by Marlin @ 5:02

Motion Made for Marlin to remain chairman & Perry secretary

Update on old kitchen remodel: floor is repaired & underlayment installed.

Exterior walls have been coated with waterproofing material; walls have been framed.

Next step is to get plumbing & electrical done. Will follow plan that had been drawn up. Decisions need to be made about pantry, cabinets & counter tops.

After plumbing & electrical are done, Dan can proceed with insulation & sheet rocking.

Next project for Dan is northwest entrance & brick tuckpointing on east wall of church below window.

Matts are in place outside entry doors.

Three hymnal holders have been repaired, by Dave Rue, Thanks Dave.

Discussion of lock box on east entry to kitchen, new lock box is going to be installed by Clay Ryberg, Thanks Clay

Discussion of some carpet areas need to be shampooed; Dave Rue is going to look into.

Discussion of windows in new addition need to be washed, Marlin is going to check into commercial window cleaners.

Norm is going to continue mowing church grounds. Thank You Norm.

Motion made by Norm seconded by Don Noyes to adjourn meeting.

Meeting adjourned @ 5:39 by Marlin

submitted by Perry Lindberg

## Stewardship Meeting March 2, 2026

Members present: Kris Koran, Linda Peterson, Julie Weller, Maureen Peterson, Cami Peltier and Pastor Justin Fenger.

Devotions: Cami.

Discussed: Sampler, Community dinner and menu, next month's dinner April 10th. S.O.R., next meeting date: May 2nd. Directory on hold, add photos of new members and process information. Conference Assembly: updates in Synod newsletter. Will send 3 delegates.

Thank you to all that helped with the Sampler/worship and music.

Next meeting: April 6, 10:00am

## Immanuel Church Council Minutes March 9, 2026

**Attendees:** Beth Berger, Amanda Cook, Pastor Justin Fenger, Clay Larson, Perry Lindberg, Norn Peterson, Clay Ryberg, Chris Schumacher, and Julie Weller

**Devotions:** Led by Julie Weller- Read the Resolutions to remind us of our mission.

### **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

Norn Peterson made a motion to approve the prior meeting minutes without changes. Amanda Cook seconded the motion. **MSP**

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### **Assignment of Roles**

- **President:** Julie Weller **MSP**
- **Vice President:** Norm Peterson **MSP**
- **Secretary:** Beth Berger **MSP**
- **Treasurer:** Jody Johnson **MSP**

### **Assignment of Committees**

- **Property Committee:** Norm Peterson and Perry Lindberg
- **Christian Education Committee:** Beth Berger
- **Memorial Committee:** Clay Ryberg
- **Worship and Music Committee:** Chris Schumacher
- **Stewardship Committee:** Julie Weller

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### **Old Business**

- **Season of Renewal:** Next meeting in May. We will be talking about the BHAG goals that were set and implementation progress.
- **Restoration:** The old kitchen restoration project is moving forward. The floor has been built up and the walls are studded in. The next

step is electrical and plumbing. Working on getting quotes for that work. Sarah's Circle will give the final approval for the finishing plans.

- **Shared Ministry:** The Shared Ministry Committee—consisting of ILC members Clay Ryberg, Norn Peterson, Julie, and Pastor—will meet with members of First Lutheran on March 16 to review the contract for renewal. A draft of the contract will then be sent to the ILC Council for review prior to the April council meeting. Following that review, a congregational meeting will be held on or around May 17 (exact date to be announced with 30-day notice).
  - **Community Meal:** The community meal is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month. This month it will be held on 3/13.
  - **Lamp Post:** Council members are asked to spread the word about Lamp Post. It is encouraged that the different committees at ILC share what the committee is currently working on via literature at the Lamp Post or a Temple Talk.
  - **Biodegradable Cups:** Implementation of biodegradable paperware has gone well. The compost has been very clean meaning it has not had items in the bins that do not belong.
  - **Vacuum:** Is still planned but has not been purchased yet.
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## New Business

- **Use of the church:** The Youth Livestock group submitted an application for use of the church for their meeting on 3/22. **MSP** to allow use of the church and waive the fee.
- **Synod Conference Assembly:** Linda Peterson, Beth Berger, Julie Weller and Pastor attended the conference assembly. Nominations for Bishop were made, and the nominees now have short videos on the synod website. It is encouraged to go out and view the videos, at: <https://spas-elca.org/our-synod/bishop-election/nominating/> . If there are questions or suggestions for the congregation please reach out to Linda, Beth, Julie, or Pastor.
- **The Almlund Sampler:** This event went well. The music was amazing and we would like to thank the Musicians. The turnout for the auction far exceeded the attendance for the music portion. There was not a lot of advertising, so we plan to do more next year.
- **Resignations:** Momoh Freeman, Organist, Pianist, and Choir Director has given us his resignation effective 6/28/26. Kyle Hendrickson, Financial Secretary, has given us her resignation effective 6/1/26.

- **Freeman Wedding and Rehearsal:** Momoh and Amy have asked to use the church for their rehearsal meal on 6/19/26 for 90-100 people. They also asked if the congregation would be willing to provide the meal. They would prefer a Taco Bar. **MSP** to allow use and ask the congregation for donations.
- **Key Lock Box:** It has been brought to our attention that the key lock box is not weathering well and does not work from time to time. **MSP** to purchase an all-weather lock box to be mounted rather than hanging from the door handle. The memorial committee will be asked to purchase.

All reports and meeting materials were reviewed. A motion was made to record the reports and meeting minutes. **MSP**

### **Offering Securers**

- Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> – Beth Berger
- Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Clay Ryberg
- Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> – Julie Weller
- Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Beth Berger
- Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> Easter Early Service- Clay Ryberg
- Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> Easter Late Service- Beth Berger
- Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>- Julie Weller
- Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>- Amanda Cook
- Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> Cly Ryberg

### **Communion Servers**

- Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> – Beth Berger, Norn Peterson, Julie Weller
- Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Beth Berger, Perry Lindberg, Julie Weller
- Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> Easter Early Service- Clay Ryberg
- Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> Easter Late Service- Beth Berger, Norm Peterson, Julie Weller
- Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>- Amanda Cook, Chris Schumacher, Clay Larson

**Devotions for Next Month’s Council Meeting:** Beth Berger

**Next Meeting:** April 13, 2026 at 6:00 PM

The meeting was closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church      April 2026**

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!**

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Permit #5  
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55012