



**IMMANUEL**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ALMELUND, MN

# MESSENGER

February

2026



**Inside This Issue:**

Announcements	Pages 3-9	Pastors Article	Pages 2-3
Birthdays	Page 11	Property	Page 22
Calendar	Pages 12-13	Stewardship	Page 21
Christian Education	Pages 19-21	Thank You's	Page 10
Council Minutes	Pages 22-23	Three Ways to Give	Page 16
Financial Summary	Page 15	Worship & Music	Page 17
		Worship Schedules	Page 14

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



There are a lot of ways to measure the health of a church. Attendance. Giving. Volunteer lists. Committees that actually meet. But one of the simplest and most telling signs of a healthy congregation is this:

Do we eat together?

Not because it's trendy. Not because it's efficient. And

definitely not because it's good for our waistlines. But because shared meals do something deeper. They feed us emotionally and spiritually. They create connection. They make room for stories. They turn strangers into neighbors and neighbors into friends. In a world that keeps getting faster and more isolated, sitting at a table with other people is a quiet, sacred act. That's why I'm grateful for the meals we share at Immanuel, especially this month.

**Community Dinners: A Free Meal, and Something More**

Our Community Dinners are outreach in one of the most faithful forms we know: hospitality. No charge. No pressure. Just a warm meal and a place to belong for an hour.

And here's the truth: connection is just as important as the food. A person can be full and still feel alone. But when someone is welcomed, listened to, and treated like they matter, that can be the start of healing. Community dinners say, without preaching a sermon, *"You are welcome here. You have a place."*

**Progressive Dinner: Hospitality as a Spiritual Practice**

A Progressive Dinner is more than a fun night. It's an exercise in Christian hospitality. We're not just eating, we're practicing discipleship. We're entering one another's homes, being guests and hosts, learning to receive and to give. That's a spiritual skill.

Opening your home isn't about having the perfect furniture or the cleanest kitchen. It's about making space for people. And when we do that when we step into each other's lives, we strengthen the fabric of the church in a way that programs alone never can.

**Lenten Meals: Come as You Are, and Stay to Reflect**

Lent can be heavy. Work is busy. Kids have practices. The days are still dark early. That's why our Lenten Meals matter so much.

Everything is prepared. All you have to do is come. Come after work. Come tired. Come hungry. Come as you are. Sit down, share your day, and then

stay to reflect. In a real way, these meals become a bridge from the rush of the day into the quiet of worship.

Coffee, Bars, and Fellowship: Worship Continues at the Table

Our fellowship time with coffee and bars might seem small, but it's not. It's a continuation of worship, communion with donuts and cookies instead of wafers. It's where conversations happen. It's where newcomers get noticed. It's where burdens get shared and joys get celebrated.

Sometimes the most meaningful ministry of a Sunday morning happens not in the pews, but around a table with a paper napkin and a cup of coffee.

Don't Miss the Table This Month

I want to encourage you: please don't neglect these offerings this month. They are part of how we stay connected, how we remain a church that feels like family.

And I also want you to know: these meals don't happen by accident. It takes volunteers to plan, cook, set tables, pour coffee, clean up, and open the doors. And it's all worthwhile, every time, when we get to see you, when the room fills up, when laughter returns, when someone walks out a little lighter than they walked in.

So come. Bring a friend. Bring your kids. Bring your appetite. Bring your story.

Because at Immanuel, the table isn't just a meal.

It's sacred shared space. And it's one of the ways God keeps making us the church together.

Blessings

Pastor Justin

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Committee/Financial Reports**

Annual report will be published for pick up on Sunday, February 15, 2026. The Annual Meeting is on February 22, 2026.

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

Mark, your calendars - Holy Smokes is coming back to Jake's on the Lakes on Thursday, January 22 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*

After a brief break, Prayer Shawl has begun meeting again every 1st & 3rd Wednesday's 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.

**Hannah Circle** (ILC's new women's circle) will meet Wednesday, February 4th at 6:00 PM. This month's activity will be making floral arrangements. If you are new to the circle, please contact Amanda Cook to RSVP 612-978-1204

**Parish Care Team** will meet February 2, 2026 at 9:00am

**Stewardship** will meet on February 2 at 10am in the Fireside Room.

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

**The Immanuel Quilters.** We will meet Tuesday, February 10th, 10am-2pm, with a noon potluck lunch. If you have a 2026 high school graduate in your family be sure and notify the church office! We're busy sewing quilts for the upcoming graduates. Our group is also looking for new places to donate our many tied quilts. If you have a suggestion, please let our group know or give me a call. We're also sewing small flannel receiving blankets. If you know of anyone who could use a warm quilt during these cold winter days, please talk to any quilter-we have many to share! Stay warm and hope to see you Tuesday, February 10th! Martha Strecker. 651-341-3885

## New! Sermon Note Art

This fall we're trying a new way to listen to the sermon together. As you come into the sanctuary, pick up a blank index card from the back of the narthex (or ask an usher).

During the sermon:

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

When you're finished, you can:

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

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

This is for everyone, not just confirmation students!

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

## Youth Group News will meet

Feb 4th & 18<sup>th</sup> from 6-7 pm

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

We have registered for our mission trip  in June. The youth will be going to Louisville, KY for this year's trip!

Mark Your Calendars for Sunday March 1, 2026. **ALMELUND**

**SAMPLER** is Coming! The afternoon will start out with a **1:00 pm Concert** featuring local musicians and friends. Worship & Music will serve an assortment of desserts & beverages in the Fellowship Hall following the concert. This will be a good time to get your bidding number for the **3:00 pm Live Auction** called by LeeAnn Vande Kamp, "Auctioneer Extraordinaire"!! Donations are now being accepted - anyone can donate or help get items for this event. In the past - Quilts, Dinners for 4 or 8, Pie of the Month, Airplane Ride, Assorted Meat Packages, Use of a Lake Home just to name a few, have been donated. What fun addition can you come up with? **This fundraiser will go to help with entertainment costs for the Apple Festival.** Your support will be greatly appreciated!

## **Coming to Immanuel!**

Friday, February 6th. A no cost, Semi-Progressive dinner from 5-9pm. We start at church with appetizers, break into groups to head out to the Host homes for dinner. Afterwards, the groups return to church for dessert, conversation and music.

*All are invited!*

A sign up sheet to attend the dinner will be in the gathering area. If you'd like to take part and have children, they are welcome too, however will stay back at church with sitters and responsible adults present. The kids will be fed and play games while you are at the host home.

*Host homes.*

There will be a need for host homes. If interested in having 4-6 guests at your home for dinner, there will be a signup sheet available for that as well. You will be furnished with the entire meal, just provide a beverage.

Join us for a pleasant evening of fellowship.

The Stewardship/Season of Renewal committees

**Confirmation Classes:** 11<sup>th</sup>, Home Again  
25<sup>th</sup>, God's Surprise

**Ash Wednesday Services:** 11:00 @ First; 6:30 @ ILC

**Lenten Services:** First 11:00 W/Lunch following  
ILC 5:30 Supper 6:30 Service

**Tune in our Daily Texts**, Monday through Saturday on our Facebook Page [@immanuel.lutheran.church.of.almeida](https://www.facebook.com/immanuel.lutheran.church.of.almeida)

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!!!!

Fri., Feb 13

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



**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:**

By end of day Monday, February 16; The third Monday of the month.

## **PROOFREADING:**

Of newsletter Wednesday, February 18 @ 11:00; in the Fireside Room.

## **NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY:**

Will be Friday, February 20 @ 10:00 in the Fireside Room. Volunteers can fill newsletters with offering envelopes and labels for mailing.

Thank you for your help!

Mark Weslander

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

### **SUNDAY HISTORY TALKS**

#### **The Arrowline Railroad and Sunrise**

Have you ever heard about the railroad that was supposed to go through Sunrise in the early 1900s? Join us on Sunday, February 15 at 3 p.m. at the Amador Town Hall in Almelund for a program on the Arrowline Railroad - a grand scam or a plan gone wrong. This railroad would have made Sunrise a major stop between St. Paul and Duluth/Superior!

#### **Chisago County One-Room Schools**

At one time Chisago County had 61 school districts and today there are only two! Join us for a program on Sunday, March 15 at 3 p.m. at the Amador Town Hall for more information and a wide variety of photographs. If you have Chisago County school pictures, yearbooks or other memorabilia, feel free to bring them along. If you have a story about attending a one-room school please share it with us!

Mark your calendars! These programs are free and open to the public!

## **Women's Retreat**

February 13th - 15th

### **Luther Point Bible Camp**

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

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

**Where:** Luther Point Bible Camp, Grantsburg, WI

**Cost:** \$50 - Friday through Sunday Includes table, two nights of lodging, 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners, snacks, coffee and hot cocoa \$35 - Saturday

only Includes table, 1 breakfast, 1 lunch, 1 dinner, snacks, coffee and hot cocoa. No Lodging

### More First Lutheran Events, TF

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

**Stewardship committee** would like to say: What a blessing to have volunteers participating in the community dinners each month, what a great community outreach. (Thank you all). A big thank you to those that help clear snow and help in anyway with the church maintenance.

You are all valued. All great examples to walk with Jesus. 🙏

# Luther Point BIBLE CAMP

## Winter Camp

February 6 – 8, 2026

6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

\$95/camper

### Theme

Building Community

How very good and pleasant  
it is when kindred live  
together in unity!

–Psalm 133:1



## THANK YOU



Naomi circle would like to thank everyone for the generous donations of pajamas. 87 pajamas were collected and dropped off for the refuge.

With gratefulness and thankfulness, I am blessed with family and friends at age 90, I can still move around, go and do as I wish. I thank you for all the wishes - cards - gifts I received. Sorry the weather kinda took away the birthday party.

Duane Thiel





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 Makenna Thorsen

4 Mark C. Johnson, Zachary Rivard, Hailey Rivard, Madigan Hendrickson

5 Kaitlin Carlson, Pat Noyes, Amanda Cook

7 Harland Carlson, Wendy DeVault, Nickolas Betterley, Scott Raschke

9 Jennifer Bauman

12 Laurie Peterson, Marshall Johnson, Justin Johnson

14 Gannon Dockendorf, Gus Klanderud

16 Tracy Tolzmann, Tara Rothe, Ashley Thielen, Joe Woodruff,  
Olivia Witzel

17 Kari Johnson, Rylee Flanery, Kalaya Paavola, John Westlund

20 Brandalyn Bourasa, Kelly Donahue

21 William Chinander, Melody Morgan

22 Stephanie Wendel

23 Mark Peterson, Levi Oknich

25 Adam Plank

26 Marty Johnson, Jasper Muggli

27 Robert Stirling

28 Craig Meyer, TJ Flanery

# February 2026

Sun	Mon 9:00-3:00 Office Hours	Tue 9:00-3:00 Office Hours
<p><b>1</b> 9:00 Comm Wors Live and Online by our Youth Group W/Noisy Offering; Sunday School after Children's Sermon. 11:00 First Ev. Lutheran Service</p>	<p><b>2</b> 10:00 WOW Practice 10:00 Stewardship Meets 9:00 Parish Care Team Meets</p>	<p><b>3</b> 9:00 Worship Team 5:00 Choir Practice @ FELC</p>
<p><b>8</b> 9:00 Prayer Shawl Worship Service Live and Online; Sunday School after Children's Sermon 11:00 First Ev. Lutheran Service Luther Point Winter Camp</p>	<p><b>9</b> 10:00 WOW Practice 5:00 Property Meeting 6:00 Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>10</b> 9:00 Worship Team 10-2 Quilters meet W/potluck at noon 5:00 Choir Practice @ ILC</p>
<p><b>15</b> 9:00 WOW Communion Worship Live and Online W/Sunday School after Children's Sermon 11:00 First Ev. Lutheran Service 3:00 Arrowline Railroad – Amador Town Hall</p>	<p><b>16</b> <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> 6:00 Chris. Ed.</p>	<p><b>17</b> 9:00 Worship Team 9:30 Sara Circle Meets 5:00 Choir Practice @ FELC</p>
<p><b>22</b> 9:00 Joint Choir Worship Service Live and online; Sunday School after Children's Sermon 10:00 Annual Meeting 11:00 First Ev. Lutheran Service <b>PICK-UP NEWSLETTERS</b> Youth Group retreat at Luther Point</p>	<p><b>23</b> 6:00 Worship &amp; Music Meets</p>	<p><b>24</b> 9:00 Worship Team 5:00 Choir Practice @ ILC</p>
<p><b>1</b> 9:00 Comm Wors Live and online W/Noisy Offering; Sunday School after Children's Sermon. 11:00 First Ev. Lutheran Service</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</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>4</b> 1:30 Prayer Shawl Meets 6:00 Hannah Circle Meets 6-7 Youth Group Meets	<b>5</b> Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Wisdom Seekers @ First Lutheran	<b>6</b> Bulletin Printed Luther Point Winter Camp 5:00-9:00pm Semi Progressive dinner	<b>7</b> Luther Point Winter Camp
<b>11</b> 5:30-7:00 Confirmation	<b>12</b> Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Wisdom Seekers @ First Lutheran	<b>13</b> Bulletin Printed 4:30-6:30 Community Meal	<b>14</b> <b>VALENTINES DAY</b>
<b>18 ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 11:00 <b>Newsletter</b> is ready for proof reading in the Fireside room 11:00 Service @ First 6:30 Service @ ILC 1:30 Prayer Shawl Meets 6-7 Youth Group Meets	<b>19</b> Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Wisdom Seekers @ First Lutheran	<b>20</b> Bulletin Printed 10:00 <b>Newsletter Assembly</b> Youth Group retreat at Luther Point	<b>21</b> Youth Group retreat at Luther Point
<b>25 LENT</b> 5:30-7:00 Confirmation 11:00 Service @ First W/Lunch following 5:30 Lenten Supper @ ILC 6:30 Service @ ILC	<b>26</b> Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Wisdom Seekers @ First Lutheran 6:30 Holy Smokes @ Jakes on the Lakes	<b>27</b> Bulletin Printed	<b>28</b>
<b>4 LENT</b> 1:00 Prayer Shawl Meets 6:00 Hannah Circle Meets 11 & 6:30 Services	<b>5</b> Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Wisdom Seekers @ First Lutheran	<b>6</b> Bulletin Printed	<b>7</b>

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

	Feb 1	Feb 8	Feb 15	Feb 22	
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Youth Group	Julie Weller	McCoy – Peyton Lindgren	Bob Stirling	
<b>Ushers</b>	Youth Group	Deb Krengel	Deb Krengel	Deb Krengel	
<b>Sound Tech</b>	Julie Johnson	Loraine Rue	Nancy Nadeau	Loraine Rue	
<b>Camera Tech</b>	Matt Oknich	Dave Rue	Jodi Johnson-Waldemar	Dave Rue	
<b>Children's Sermon</b>	Youth Group				
<b>Coffee Servers</b>		Matt & Soua Carlson	Youth Group	Sharon Thiel Gwen Swenson	
<b>Teachers</b>	Cami Peltier	Amanda Cook Valerie Lutz	Cami Peltier	Amanda Cook Valerie Lutz	

### **Communion Servers:**

**Sunday, Feb 1<sup>st</sup>** - Clay Ryberg, Julie Weller, Norm Peterson

**Sunday, Feb 15<sup>th</sup>** - Beth Berger, Jeff Lutz, Julie Weller

### **Communion Wine - Wild Mountain Winery**

### **Communion Wafers now used**

**Reader Coordinator**                      **February:** Pat Noyes

**Altar Guild:**                                      **February:** Jennifer Abbott

# Financial Recorder's Report for Year to Date of December 2025

Code	Fund	12/31/2025	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
1	GENERAL	\$18,526.01	\$198,601.95	\$200,896.96
2	UNDESIGNATED	\$140.00	\$2,667.00	\$2,136.25
3	SYNOD	\$450.00	\$4,535.00	\$4,225.00
4	LUTHER POINT	\$150.00	\$500.25	\$591.00
5	LUTH. SOC. SERV.	\$150.00	\$540.00	\$243.00
6	ITONYA TANZANIA MISSION	\$-	\$555.00	\$970.00
7	WORLD HUNGER	\$-	\$210.00	\$111.25
10	LOOSE	\$1,282.00	\$7,349.50	\$5,656.62
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
16	THANKSGIVING	\$-	\$453.00	\$410.00
17	CHRISTMAS	\$633.00	\$658.00	\$1,363.00
18	USE OF CHURCH	\$-	\$1,845.00	\$990.50
20	NOISY OFFERING	\$149.22	\$2,202.17	\$1,668.48
21	BUILDING FUND	\$490.00	\$3,755.47	\$3,633.25
22	CdFee	\$8.25	\$143.15	\$196.15
23	SAMPLER			\$4,447.00
24	CHRISTIAN ED	\$5.00	\$252.00	
26	SHARE MINISTRY	\$4,260.00	\$26,070.00	\$-
27	Grants	\$304.00	\$1,134.00	\$-
30	YOUTH GROUP	\$-	\$354.00	\$-
31	YOUTH MISSION TRIP	\$-	\$2.00	\$-
33	WELCA	\$-	\$10.00	\$-
34	WORSHIP & MUSIC	\$-	\$25.00	\$76.25
36	QUILTERS MINISTRY	\$-	\$302.00	
40	FOOD SHELF	\$-	\$25.00	\$-
50	ENDOWMENT FUND	\$1,000.00	\$3,031.25	\$81.50
60	SPECIAL DONATIONS	\$1,370.00	\$43,970.66	\$12,938.72
90	MEMORIAL	\$-	\$100.00	\$5,330.00
91	MEMORIAL GARDEN	\$-	\$2,605.00	\$1,220.00
92	ALL SAINTS	\$-	\$700.00	\$-
97	Fund Transfers	\$-	\$22,348.04	\$37,074.44
	Totals	\$28,917.48	\$328,123.44	\$287,789.06



# 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!

**Worship & Music Minutes - November 24, 2025**

Next Scheduled Meeting: January 26, 2026

Devotions: Beth



## Christian Ed meeting Minutes – 1/19/2026, 6:00pm

Attended by: Pastor Justin, Teresa, Val & Julie

**Old Business:** Reviewed December meeting minutes

### **New Business:**

#### **Sunday School**

- Curriculum - going well so far, does not always have a specific video to go with it, but can find the lesson for kids in a video on youtube.
  - Holy Week Adventures
    - Discussed doing Lenten Adventures, could do any time during Lent
    - Discussed what may be easiest for families to get to
      - Turn out has been ok, but not a lot
    - Going to try on a Sunday morning before church - 8:15am, March 22nd - same day as Prayer pillows for Kindergartners
      - Pastor will meet with them then to do a story/video/activity for a bit before getting ready for service - will be Holy week themed
      - Kids will then go with family to service, and let out for Sunday School at the regular time
        - Sunday School can do lesson and/or activity and craft that go along with Holy Week
        - Teresa to talk with teachers about doing the same Holy week game/craft together, or each class can do their own thing
      - Pastor will do a postcard to send to families, we will remind them each week in church and Sunday School and have it in bulletins and newsletter
      - Discussed having donuts during time with Pastor
- Palm Sunday 3/29, Teresa will find the skit and get it to the teachers
  - Reminders in bulletins and newsletter
    - Easter 4/5 No Sunday School
  - Easter Egg Hunt - 2 separate groups like last year, if the weather is nice, outside otherwise split between upstairs in gathering area and classrooms and downstairs in old basement. Have plenty of eggs, will need candy and some other items. Teresa will look into getting some Easter items, and what we may already have.

- Soldier's 6 - Sunday school offering is going there
  - Continue to remind kids, and reminders in bulletins
  - Pastor would like to be able to be there for this, this year - good dates are Apr 19th and May 17th - Teresa to reach out to them
- We will do a 2nd noisy offering on whatever date we have it, to give to Soldier's 6
  - Discussed Sunday school/VBS leadership
- VBS - Beth Berger expressed interest last year, need to ask if she's still interested
- Sunday School - Teresa would like to step down to let others lead for the 2026-27 year, much of the leading comes thru the CE committee
  - Talk to Sunday School teachers
  - Put in bulletin and newsletter
    - List responsibilities

### **Milestones**

- Lock-In for 3rd-5th Grade, date is changed to 3/20, 5pm-9pm with Lord's Prayer lesson/theme
  - 25 kids possible in this age group
  - Dinner supplied by CE Group
    - Julie - 40 hot dogs, watermelon, brownies/bars
      - Val - hot dog fixings, buns & juice
    - Teresa - Chips & maybe help Julie with bars
    - Teresa, Julie & Val should all be able to be there
- Prayer Pillows for Kindergartners - March 22nd (same day as Holy Wk Adv) - should be 3 kids: Peter, Lyanna & Ian, Pillows made and ready to go
- First Communion - April 2nd, Maunday Thursday for 3rd graders, Pastor to have class and make bread with families, possibly on Palm Sunday 3/29 in the afternoon

### **Adult**

- Luther Point Retreat for Youth Group is on Feb 20th
- Holy Smokes - at Jakes by the Lakes on this Thursday, Jan 22nd, 6pm
  - Chosen Bible study - not started yet, will be on Zoom

### **Other**

- CE year End report of activities was submitted to Mark last week
- Council approved CE budget for next year - Daily Text also came out of this budget

- Cradle roll - Jenny should talk to Joanne Johnson about getting the information on the recently baptized, Joanne was able to reach out for the Mission Investments that are being started again
  - Laptop - still working on set up
- Cubicle storage, not figured out yet, but once we do, we can empty the desk and Property will dispose of it

### **Stewardship Committee Meeting-January 5, 2026**

Members Present: Cami, Linda, Sharon, Julie, Kris

Devotions: Linda

Progressive Dinner Meeting: January 7, at church, at 1:00

Community Dinner: January 9, 4:30 to 6:30, Menu was planned. We will locate some GoBoxes so a few dinners can be sent home to sick.

Zoom Meeting for SOR: January 10, at church at 9:00

Church Directory will be printed after the annual meeting.

Lamp Post Sunday January 11, 2026, A table will be set up in the fellowship hall with information about the various church committees.

Thanks will be made to the people who put on the Community Dinners and to the volunteers who keep the snow shoveled and maintain the church grounds.

Next meeting: February 2, at 10:00

## Property Committee Minutes January 12, 2026

Present Marlin Ness, Harland Carlson, Julie Weller, Pastor Justin, Scott Olson, Perry Lindberg

Meeting Called to order by Marlin @5:02

Old Business

Review of projects for 2025 - list compiled for annual meeting

List of projects for long range planning was compiled

New Business

A Request to remove 2 metal desks from classrooms which are not being used. Vent from furnace need to be addressed, causing damage to the wall which needs to be addressed soon, Marlin was going to check with Scandia Heating. Discussion of floor runners on entrances not working, discussed possible options .

Fireplace in Fireside room not working, Marlin was contact someone to service it.

Counter in basement where deserts are displayed needs some repairs.

Meeting was adjourned by Marlin. @ 6:00

Submitted by Perry Lindberg

## Immanuel Lutheran – Church Council Meeting 1/12/2026, 6:00 PM

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

**Devotions:** Led by Julie Weller

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

Clay Ryberg made a motion to approve the prior meeting minutes without changes. Julie Johnson seconded the motion. **MSP**

---

**Old Business**

- **Season of Renewal:** Ongoing 18-month program. The council is currently working on the three goals previously established.
- **Restoration:** The old kitchen project is delayed until Dan is able to complete the wall build-out.
- **Shared Ministry:** Ongoing. Angie from First Lutheran will take on additional tasks for both congregations as needed. The Shared Ministry Committee will meet on Thursday, January 15.
- **Men's Room Repairs:** The leak in the men's room urinal has been repaired.

- **Community Meal:** A community meal was held, serving 43 people and providing seven take-home meals.
  - **Lamp Post:** In addition to the Lamp Post, committees are being asked to participate in a Temple Talk during worship services.
- 

### **New Business**

- **2026 Budget:** Handouts were distributed. The council approved the 2026 budget with adjustments to be presented at the annual congregational meeting. **MSP**
  - **Proclaim Software:** The software used to present worship content both in person and online has experienced glitches. These issues have been identified and are currently being addressed. In-person service issues are minimal; online issues are being worked on.
  - **Personnel Annual Reviews:** Annual reviews have been completed.
  - **Compostable Supplies:** Compostable paperware is now being used. Supplies have been received, and Mark will order additional items as needed. Compost bins will be set out and clearly labeled.
  - **Automatic Vacuum:** A Roomba-type automatic vacuum has been requested to clean high-traffic areas upstairs. Motion approved to purchase a vacuum up to \$300. **MSP**
- 

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

---

### **Offering Securers**

- February 1 – Julie Johnson
- February 8 – Julie Weller
- February 15 – Beth Berger
- February 22 – Clay Ryberg

### **Communion Servers**

- February 1 – Clay Ryberg, Julie Weller, and Norm Peterson
  - February 15 – Beth Berger, Julie Weller, and Jeff Lutz
- 

**Devotions for Next Month's Council Meeting:** Norm Peterson

**Next Meeting:** February 9, 2026 at 6:00 PM

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

---

**Immanuel Lutheran Church February 2026**

37515 Park Trail

Almelund, MN 55012-7511

Change Service Requested

**Non-Profit**

**Organization**

**Permit #5**

**Center City, MN**

**55012**

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

Contact Info: 651-583-2340; [office@immanuelalmelund.com](mailto:office@immanuelalmelund.com)

web site: [www.immanuelalmelund.com](http://www.immanuelalmelund.com)

Pastor: Justin Fenger 651-308-7717; [pastor@immanuelalmelund.com](mailto:pastor@immanuelalmelund.com)

Administrative Assistant/Financial Recorder:

Mark Weslander 651-431-8941; [office@immanuelalmelund.com](mailto:office@immanuelalmelund.com)

Financial Secretary: Kyle Hendrickson

651-717-8804; [financial@immanuelalmelund.com](mailto: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](mailto: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!**