



**IMMANUEL**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ALMELUND, MN

# MESSENGER

June

2026



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

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The other day I was driving past the ballfields and noticed a string of cars parked along the road. My first thought was: *Patty-Melt Night*.

Then I remembered. It's only May. Still, I felt something. That little lift in the chest you get when you're looking forward to something. And I sat with that for a minute, because I think it's worth paying attention to.

It's not really about the sandwich, is it. It's about the ease of it. You pull in when you can. You grab a plate. You run into someone you haven't seen since Easter or since the harvest or since the last time schedules lined up just right and you get ten good minutes. No agenda. No commitment. No guilt if you have to leave early. Just a familiar face and a warm meal and a conversation that actually goes somewhere. There's something almost holy in that. Low threshold. High warmth.

I want to say something plainly, and I want to say it as a fellow parent before I say it as your pastor: Sunday mornings are hard.

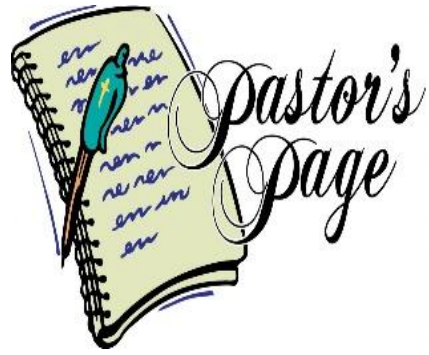
I'm usually out the door before my family is fully awake. My wife carries most of the weight of getting three kids up and out on a Sunday morning, and I know I am not the only one in this congregation whose household runs like that. There are parents of little ones who spent Saturday night up with a sick kid. There are families who look at the clock and the chaos and the distance and make the only rational choice available: stay home, breathe, survive.

I'm not going to pretend that isn't happening. I'm not going to guilt anyone about it. What I will say is that I miss you when you're not here — not with a clipboard in my hand, but with that same feeling I had at the ballfield. That lift. That genuine glad-to-see-you.

And I've been sitting with a question this spring: what if we made it a little easier to show up?

Jesus rose on a Sunday morning. The Church has gathered on Sunday since the very beginning, and Immanuel will keep gathering on Sunday. That's not in question.

But I've been asking a different question lately: what else could we offer? What might fit into the rhythm of a busy family's week the way a Wednesday evening at the ballfields does — easy to show up for, genuinely good, and worth coming back to?



We are in the process of welcoming a new church musician to our ministry this summer. One of the conversations we're having together is about what additional worship experiences might look like, something on a weeknight, something simpler and more intimate, a different kind of gathering that meets people where they actually are. Nothing is finalized yet. But the conversation has started, and I'm genuinely hopeful about where it goes.

Worship is how we connect to God and to each other. Not just on Sunday mornings in our good clothes, but in the middle of the week, in a folding chair, with nowhere pressing to be for an hour. I think there's something there worth trying.

*"And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching." — Hebrews 10:24–25, NRSV*

The writer of Hebrews doesn't say: show up perfectly. Doesn't say: have it together. What it says is don't stop encouraging one another. Don't let the habit of absence become the new normal. Keep finding ways to be together and when you're together, actually be there for each other.

That's the church I want us to be this summer. Low threshold. High warmth. The kind of place you pull into when you can, find a familiar face, feel something real, and leave a little lighter than you came.

We're going to keep dreaming about what that looks like over the next few months. I hope you'll dream with us. And if you have an idea, a time that might work for your family, a format that might actually draw you in, something you've always wished the church would try, I want to hear it. Catch me after worship. Send me a note. Flag me down at the ballfields.

*I'll probably be the one looking a little too excited about a sandwich.*

Blessings

Pastor Justin

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Message from Anne Chindvall:** It's with great sadness that I tell you this... My dear younger sister, Lynn, was killed in a car accident last Monday morning, May 11th on her way to work..

Funeral celebration for Lynn Chindvall Stalker on Saturday, June 6, at Isle Evangelical Free Church in Isle, MN.

11:00 Family Visitation

Noon-1:00 General Visitation

1:00 PM Service

Graveside Service following, and then lunch.

Lynn's father, Pastor Chindvall, was pastor here at Immanuel from 1958-1967, before pastor Schaffner. Lynn was confirmed in the class of 1967.

**Joint Worship Service, Sunday June 28th @ 10:00.** Immanuel and First will honor our dearly loved Momoh as he plays his last worship service, (along with some of his many friends!) for our congregations. It will be a day to celebrate and rejoice the Blessing of Momoh's Musical Talents. Pot-luck will follow worship - watch for more info on how you can help with this.

**Joint Choir Practice:** Tuesday, June 23 @ 5:00 - Immanuel. Fellowship will follow with Pizza to be provided. Asking choir members to bring something to share for the party! [We will rehearse "Easter Alleluia" for "Momoh & Friends" Joint Worship Service, June 28 @ 10:00]

**Almelund Farmers Market Has Begun its 19th Season!** Come to Rod's Country Corner Friday afternoons from 3-6pm and check out the local items...annuals, perennials and garden plants, asparagus, rhubarb, eggs, maple syrup, honey, breads, jams/jellies, craft items and other goodies! Products change with the season. New vendors are encouraged and welcomed to join this fun community get-together. If interested, contact Pat @ 651-583-2100.

**Parish Care Team** will meet June 1st, 2026, at 9:00am

**Hannah Circle** (ILC's new women's circle) will meet Wednesday, June 3rd at 6:00 PM.

**The Naomi Circle** will be meeting at the Pizza Pub at 11:30am in Center City on June 16th for our June monthly meeting. Hope to see you there!

**Stewardship** will meet on June 1st at 10am in the Fireside Room.

### **Community Dinner Notice !**

The Stewardship Committee has been hosting this event since December of 2025 on the second Friday of each month. Our plan was to open the serving opportunities to other groups/committees of Immanuel.

The following groups have graciously offered to help!

June: Naomi Circle

July: Stewardship, picnic at the Museum

August: Sarah Circle

September: **open**

October: Prayer Shawl

November: **open**

December: Education Committee

Thank you to all those who have supported this worthwhile event! If you'd be interested in hosting for either of the above posted open months, please contact a member of the stewardship committee.

**COMING SOON!!!** "Patty Melts" at the Almelund Lion's Ball Field! The **11th Season** begins Wednesday, June 10 - running through July 29. Serving starts at 5:30. The "Crew" will be cooking Patty Melts, Cheeseburgers, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, French Fries & Cheese Curds, chips, candy & beverages available. Don't miss these fun, summer nights to meet up with friends and neighbors. What a Great Way to support the Almelund Lion's Club! See You There!!!!

### **Luther Point Campership**

**Parents:** Get your kids signed up! **Grandparents:** Get your grandkids signed up! **Kids:** Invite a friend, or a cousin, or a sibling! Even if they are not members of Immanuel, we will pay their entire cost of camp!

***Immanuel will pay for your camp experience!!***

There are one, two and five-day opportunities. This is for children entering grades 1-12. Just register on line.

For further information go to [www.lutherpoint.org](http://www.lutherpoint.org) or [info@lutherpoint.org](mailto:info@lutherpoint.org)

**WELCA** meeting dates for 2026-

July 12, after church - Sarah Circle in charge

October 11, after church - Naomi Circle in charge

January 11, 2027, Sarah Circle in charge

## Youth Group News

Please keep the Youth Group, & Adult leaders in your prayers as they head to Louisville KY on June 6th for their mission trip. Pray for safe travels, good weather and above all compassion, empathy & love for those we are serving.

We'll see you when we return!

**The Immanuel Quilting group** is taking the summer off... our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 8th. After the quilts were blessed on May 17th, we gave the youth group quilts to take with on their mission trip. More quilts were also donated to Options for Women in North Branch. I made this year's quilt donated to the Memorial Day's celebration, to be given to a veteran. Loraine Rue quilted it. Everyone is busy during the summer months, but if you want to sew at home we have lots of fabric and kits available. There are also 3 drawers of patterns available for your use. Talk to any quilter if you need help. We still are in need of any color, gently used sheets for backing of tied quilts. We are so blessed to have a congregation that truly supports our mission. Enjoy your summer!

Martha Strecker.

651-341-3885

## Prayer Shawl & Quilt Dedications



## Holy Smokes!

Mark, your calendars - Holy Smokes is at Wild Mountain Winery on Thursday, June 25 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!

# Faith Conversations Widening Circles

*Starting with I/Me, and widening outward, — relationships,  
church and community*

#### EVENT DETAILS

Wild Mountain Winery  
4th Thursday of the  
Month  
6:30 PM  
April–October 2026

4th Thursday • 6:30 PM



April — INDIVIDUALISM: Me, Myself, & I Alone  
May — Law & Gospel: Captured & Free  
June — The Myth(?) of Christian Self-Help



July — My Story. Your Story. God's Story  
August — Mental Health (It's NOT just you...)  
September — Listening 101: Listening as the First Act of Love  
October — Figuring Out Forgiveness

All are welcome

Good conversation • good community

**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!!!!

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:**

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

**PROOFREADING:**

Of newsletter Wednesday, June 17 @ 10:00; in the Fireside Room.

**NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY:**

Will be Friday, June 19 @ 10:00 in the Fireside Room. Volunteers can fill newsletters with offering envelopes and affix the labels for mailing. Thank you for your help!

Mark Weslander

**THANK YOU**

**Many THANKS** to everyone who helped in any way with the Memorial Day Dinner. We often hear how appreciated this dinner is - this opportunity to reconnect with family and friends. And because Immanuel works together, we ALL have a part in making this a Special Day for so many!

**A huge thank you for all that helped clean the sanctuary on Wednesday.** Your hard work and dedication truly made a difference. And a special thank you to the 5 children that helped us!!! Thank you once again for your willingness to lend a hand and for your support and love for our church.

**More First Lutheran Events,  
TF**

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

**New Book Study** at The Lodge  
Wednesdays at 10am.

First Lutheran WELCA invites you to our annual

# Salad Luncheon



Variety of Salads

Free Will Offering

**June 10**  
**11am - 1pm**



**1000 S. Jay Ave  
& Cty Rd. 7**

**First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
in Rush City, MN**

Fri., June 12, 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*



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 Goldeann Carlson, Lindsey Thorsen, Adam Oknich, Henry Carlson
- 2 Douglas Peterson, Kylie Bauer
- 3 Gwendolyn Swenson, Willa Tauer, James Rue
- 4 Derek Meyer
- 5 Philip Larson
- 7 Diane Rothe
- 8 Stacy Burnside
- 9 Michael DeVault, Soua Carlson
- 10 Sharon Thiel
- 11 Ellie Lehto, Vern Johnson, Angela Ryberg
- 15 Harlan Bostrom
- 16 Cindy Weslander, Skip Buck
- 19 James Mielke
- 22 Carl Sandberg, Lillian Tauer
- 23 Jackson Thelander
- 25 Gary Peterson, Dale Rue, Chad Lindgren, Coralee Muggli, Paige Lutz
- 27 Dave Rue
- 28 Dana Alan Johnson, Dennis Peterson, Kenrick Waldemar
- 30 John Ryberg

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

	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Steve Peterson	Lynn Schultz	Norm Peterson	Pat Remer
<b>Ushers</b>	Deb Kregel	Deb Kregel	Deb Kregel	Deb Kregel
<b>Sound Tech</b>	Dave Rue	Loraine Rue	Nancy Nadeau	Julie Johnson
<b>Camera Tech</b>	Matt Oknich	Dave Rue	Jodi Johnson-Waldemar	Vern Johnson
<b>Children's Sermon</b>	Pastor Justin	Pastor Justin	Pastor Justin	Pastor Justin
<b>Coffee Servers</b>		Sarah Circle	Flanery/Swenson families	Pot-Luck with FELC
<b>Teachers</b>	No Sunday School	No Sunday School	No Sunday School	No Sunday School

### Communion Servers:

**Sunday, June 7th-** Clay Ryberg, Amanda Cook, Julie Weller

**Sunday, June 21st-** Norm Peterson, Chris Schumacher, Julie Weller

### Communion Wine - Wild Mountain Winery

### Communion Wafers now used

**Reader Coordinator**                      **June:** Linda Mielke

**Altar Guild:**                                      **June:** Diane Rothe, Linda Meyer

# June 2026

Sun	Mon 9:00-3:00 Office Hours	Tue 9:00-3:00 Office Hours
If the Administrative Assistant goes to a three day week this summer. It may be: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	<b>1</b> 9:00 Parish Care 10:00 Stewardship	<b>2</b> 9:00 Worship Team
<b>7 Second Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:00 Communion Worship Service Live and Online W/Noisy Offering 11:00 First Ev. Lutheran Service	<b>8</b> 5:00 Property 6:00 Council	<b>9</b> 9:00 Worship Team
<b>14 Third Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:00 Worship Service Live and Online 11:00 First Ev. Lutheran Service	<b>15</b> 10:00 WOW Practice <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> 6:00 Chris. Ed.	<b>16</b> 9:00 Worship Team 11:30 Naomi Circle @ Pizza Pub
<b>21 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:00 Communion Worship Service. <b>PICK-UP NEWSLETTERS</b>	<b>22</b> 6:00 Worship & Music	<b>23</b> 9:00 Worship Team 5:00 Joint Choir Practice
<b>28 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 10:00 Joint <b>SPECIAL</b> Worship Service Live and online, honoring Momoh Freeman with “Momoh & Friends” Potluck will follow the service	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00 Worship Team

<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri 9:00-3:00 Office Hours</b>	<b>Sat</b>
<b>3</b> 1:30 Prayer Shawl 6:00 Hannah Circle	<b>4</b> Bulletin Deadline	<b>5</b> Bulletin Printed 3-6 Almelund Farmer's Market At Rods	<b>6</b> Youth Mission Trip to Louisville, KY
<b>10</b> 5:30 Patty Melts at the Ball Field	<b>11</b> Bulletin Deadline	<b>12</b> Bulletin Printed 3-6 Almelund Farmer's Market At Rods 4:30-6:30 Community Meal	<b>13</b>
<b>17</b> 10:00 <b>Newsletter</b> is ready for proof reading 1:30 Prayer Shawl 5:30 Patty Melts at the Ball Field	<b>18</b> Bulletin Deadline	<b>19</b> Bulletin Printed 10:00 <b>Newsletter            Assembly</b> 3-6 Almelund Farmer's Market At Rods	<b>20</b>
<b>24</b> 5:30 Patty Melts at the Ball Field	<b>25</b> Bulletin Deadline 6:30 Holy Smokes @ Wild MTN Winery	<b>26</b> Bulletin Printed 3-6 Almelund Farmer's Market At Rods	<b>27</b>
<b>1 JULY</b> 1:30 Prayer Shawl 6:00 Hannah Circle 5:30 Patty Melts at the Ball Field	<b>2 JULY</b> Bulletin Deadline	<b>3 JULY</b> Bulletin Printed 3-6 Almelund Farmer's Market At Rods	<b>4 JULY            INDEPENDENCE            DAY</b>

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

Code	Fund	26-Apr	YTD 2026	YTD 2025
1	GENERAL	\$ 13,840.00	\$ 51,682.00	\$ 60,303.65
2	UNDESIGNATED	\$ 280.00	\$ 1,092.50	\$ 950.00
3	SYNOD	\$ 450.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,200.00
4	LUTHER POINT	\$ 175.00	\$ 665.00	\$ 233.25
5	LUTH. SOC. SERV.	\$ 167.50	\$ 342.50	\$ 95.00
6	ITONYA TANZANIA MISSION	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 300.00
7	WORLD HUNGER	\$ -	\$ 35.00	\$ 50.00
10	LOOSE	\$ 754.00	\$ 2,055.00	\$ 2,396.50
11	FELLOWSHIP DINNERS	\$ -	\$ 341.10	\$ 251.00
12	LENT	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,026.00	\$ 534.00
13	MAUNDY THURSDAY	\$ 37.00	\$ 37.00	\$ 25.00
14	GOOD FRIDAY	\$ 35.00	\$ 85.00	\$ 48.00
15	EASTER	\$ 522.00	\$ 622.00	\$ 1,003.00
16	THANKSGIVING	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
17	CHRISTMAS	\$ -	\$ 30.00	\$ -
18	USE OF CHURCH	\$ 100.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 720.00
20	NOISY OFFERING	\$ 192.12	\$ 523.84	\$ 535.32
21	BUILDING FUND	\$ 283.00	\$ 1,092.50	\$ 1,020.00
22	CdFee	\$ 27.40	\$ 104.80	\$ 44.00
23	SAMPLER	\$ -	\$ 4,972.60	\$ -
24	CHRISTIAN ED	\$ -	\$ 115.00	\$ 195.00
26	SHARE MINISTRY	\$ 4,260.00	\$ 8,520.00	\$ 6,900.00
27	Grants	\$ 110.00	\$ 476.00	\$ 317.00
30	YOUTH GROUP	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 150.00
31	YOUTH MISSION TRIP	\$ 500.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 2.00
33	WELCA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
34	WORSHIP & MUSIC	\$ 12.50	\$ 12.50	\$ 25.00
36	QUILTERS MINISTRY	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
40	FOOD SHELF	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25.00
50	ENDOWMENT FUND	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31.25
60	SPECIAL DONATIONS	\$ -	\$ 435.16	\$ 120.00
90	MEMORIAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00
91	MEMORIAL GARDEN	\$ -	\$ 1,707.00	\$ 2,605.00
92	ALL SAINTS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
97	Fund Transfers	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ -
	Totals	\$ 21,845.52	\$ 79,322.50	\$ 80,178.97



# 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!

## Memorial Committee Meeting Minutes May 4th, 2026

Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM by Vice Chair Joanne Johnson  
Present: Jody Johnson, Vickie Johnson, Ashley Larkin, Connie Linder, and Clay Ryberg (Church Council Representative) Minutes of the March 18th meeting were approved, the Treasurer's report was accepted

**Old Business:** Committee received and reviewed 9 applications for 2026 scholarships. Each recipient will receive a \$500 scholarship to assist in furthering their educational training. Five recipients were selected. Recipients will be notified, with a request to attend an upcoming worship service where they will be officially declared.

Memorial Committee was very pleased with the strong interest in the scholarship program and felt all were deserving applicants going into a diverse range of careers. The Easter Memorial Garden received 36 donations with memorial monies designated to fund a variety of categories. The committee is considering options to increase the number of altar flowers for future Easter services.

**New Business:** There is no new business to report at this time. Meeting adjourned at 5:54 PM Next meeting dates are scheduled as follows: Monday, August 10th at 5:00 PM (church-location TBD); Monday November 16th at 5:00 PM (Fireside Room)

## Worship & Music Minutes ~ April 27, 2026

Present: Tora Carlson, Diann Huber, Nicki Klanderud, Pam Larson, Pat Remer, Chris Schumacher

Absent: Pastor Justin (Guard Commitment), Momoh Freeman, Dayna Geisbauer, Kim Raschke

Tora called the meeting to order – Diann gave devotions.  
Reviewed March 23, 2026 minutes. MSP to accept.

### Old Business:

#### **Children's Sermons:**

- April 5/Easter Sunday - Jason
- April 12 – Jeske

- April 19 – Sharon
- April 26 – Amanda
- May 3 – NONE
- May 10 – Jeske
- May 17 – Youth Group
- May 24/Memorial Weekend – Pastor Justin begins Summer Children’s Sermons
- May 31 –

**Recap Worship Services/Events:**

**THANK YOU**, Diann Huber for your posts on Facebook – this is an important outreach of Immanuel’s ministries! The congregation is encouraged to send photos and share information so Diann can get the word out.

- 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 provided Special Music.
- April 4, Saturday – 7:00 Easter Vigil @ Becky Hulden’s home. Only 1 other couple came – weather did not cooperate!
- April 5, Easter Sunday – 6:30 ILC Sunrise Service @ Labyrinth, Worship & Music served coffee/treats - 9:00 Easter Service/Communion/Joint Choir/Brass/Noisy Offering **[\$192.12]**...11:00, First Lutheran Easter Service/Joint Choir/Brass
- April 10 – ILC Community Dinner, 4:30-6:30. Pretty well attended – 30 plus. Suggested to have a banner made to advertise the dinner and to ask the Lions, AFD, 4-H, Threshing Company if they would be interested in hosting/cooking a dinner.
- April 12 – 9:00 ILC Service...11:00, First
- April 19 – 9:00 ILC WOW Service/Communion...11:00, First
- April 26 – 9:00 ILC Service...11:00, First – joint choir at both. Pastor Justin gone for a two-week military commitment. Becky Hulden & Jerry Rhodes led services at both churches.
- April 26 – 2:00 ILC Ecumen Worship

**Upcoming Dates:**

- May 3, - 9:00 ILC...11:00, First. **St. Croix Sacred Ensemble** will present “Singing the Sermon” at Immanuel & First. 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 as Pastor Justin will be gone. Will be taking Noisy Offering at both churches which will go to the Ensemble.

- May 8 – Immanuel Community Dinner, 4:30-6:30.

- May 10/Mother's Day – 9:00 ILC Service...11:00, First – Joint Choir and Blessing of the Prayer Shawls at both churches.

- May 17 – 9:00 WOW/ILC Youth led Service/Blessing of the Quilts...11:00, First. Both congregations will vote on continuation of joint ministry.

- Friday, May 22 – Farmer's Market begins its 19<sup>th</sup> Season

- Saturday, May 23 - 9:00 – Prep for Monday's Ham Dinner – Group D, in charge

- May 24 – 9:00 ILC Service...11:00, First

- Monday, May 25 – 11:30 Memorial Day ILC Cemetery Service – 12:00 Dinner – Almelund Cemetery Walk

- May 31 – 9:00 ILC Service...11:00, First. Recognition of Seniors and Service of Healing at both churches. [North Branch Graduation is June 7]

### **New Business:**

#### **Worship Team:**

- Service formats/hymns are done through May 17.

- Recapped the Holy Week Services...thought Maundy Thursday, Good Friday & Easter Vigil 2027 times should all be the same to alleviate confusion.

- talked about making up a small Holy Week informational pamphlet as there were some questions on what the Easter Vigil was. Committee thought this was a good idea.

- "Momoh & Friends" Worship Service – June 28. This will be Momoh's last Sunday. Will have one 10:00 service at Immanuel for both churches with a pot-luck to follow. First Lutheran is agreeable to this. Who would set up, serve & clean up? Much discussion – suggestions were to

- put up a food/volunteer sign-up sheet like we do for Memorial Day. Would need volunteers to set-up, clean-up, serve.

- because we expect a large crowd, wondered about putting up tents with tables & chairs.

- do we have enough plates, cups, silverware – could use from the Town Hall.

- could Immanuel form an Activities Committee?

-Worship & Music to meet Tuesday, May 19 @ 6:00  
to discuss Momoh's last service, June 28.

**Other:** Discussed problem with what is projected on the screen during  
worship services.

**Prayer Requests: Closed** with The Lord's Prayer for all concerns  
mentioned.

Next Scheduled Meeting: June 22, 2026

Devotions: Nicki

### Property Committee Minutes May 11, 2026

PRESENT: Marlin Ness, Bob Rothe, Norm Peterson, Don Noyes, Norm  
Peterson, Julie Weller, Pastor Justin, Perry Lindberg  
Meeting called to order by Marlin @ 5:03 pm

#### **Old Business:**

Break room / old Kitchen restoration discussion  
waiting on electrician, and plumbing can be done before sheet rocking. Bid  
for \$2500 has been received from Menards for cabinets & countertops

Dishwasher needs maintenance and Dave Rue is going to check out.  
Light bulbs in Sanctuary have been done by Dave Rue & Bob Rothe –  
Thank you to them  
Windows will be washed on May 13th

#### **New Business :**

Discussion of Mud jacking settling side walk out front, Marlin going to call  
Mud Jackers- Thank you Marlin  
David Rue has done some carpet cleaning going to do more – Thank you  
Dave  
Dan Anderson is working on tuck pointing brick on several areas of the  
church  
Pastor Justin led us in prayer  
Meeting adjourned By Marlin @ 5:32  
next meeting June 8th @ 5:00 pm  
Submitted by Perry Lindberg

## Stewardship meeting minutes. Date: May 4, 2026

### **Members present:**

Names: Julie Weller, Kris Koran, Linda Peterson, Cami Peltier, Maureen Peterson, Natalee Oknich

### **Devotions:**

Name: Maureen Peterson

### **Discussed: Old Business**

#### **S.O.R. next meeting date:**

The last meeting was canceled. Discussion; How to move forward.  
{Focus on communication and engaging our membership}

### **Community Dinner**

May 8,2026; Menu confirmed

Discussion to get others involved; Groups have been approached and agreed to serve.

List for months and groups serving will be posted by kitchen in fellowship.

### **Food Pantry**

Clear signage has been put up around the church.

{Local food shelves are in need of cleaning products and personal care items.)

### **Shared Ministry**

Discussion of many opportunities to be involved.

### **Church Directory**

On going {PLZ Send in your family photos to office  
[office@immanuelmelund.com](mailto:office@immanuelmelund.com)}

### **New Business 1**

Thank you for June messenger; for Community Dinner volunteers.

{Kris will write.}

Stewardship will not meet in July.

### **Next meeting:**

Date: June 1,2026

Time: 10:00am

Devotions; Julie Weller

## Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting April 13, 2026

Attendance: Beth Berger, Amanda Cook, Pastor Justin Fenger, Clay Larson, Perry Lindberg, Clay Ryberg, Julie Weller

Devotions: Beth Berger

Previous council meeting minutes reviewed MSP

### **New Business:**

Synod assembly- delegate acceptance of Linda Peterson, Julie Weller and Beth Berger MSP

Resignations- MSP to accept the resignations of Kyle and Momoh.

June 28th service- We will be having a combined church service with First Lutheran to thank Momoh for his service to both congregations.

Open jobs- MSP to post for the financial position. Hold on to the music position to get the full scope of the job

Congregational meeting- Will be held May 17th to discuss the Shared Ministries renewal.

Internet- Internet changed, causing us to either have to switch providers.

Pastor came up with a solution through Verizon. It is \$60 per month, and he is currently paying it as we needed to get internet. The other solution would have been to incur a large one-time charge and larger monthly charges.

MSP to pay pastor back for the internet in the amount of \$60 per month.

Landline phone remains unchanged.

### **Old Business:**

Restoration of breakroom, old lower level- Dan was paid for the initial work out of the building budget. This caused an overage. Money will be moved from Thrivent to correct the overage. Sarah's Circle is donating funds to do the improvement to the breakroom; however, the funds to repair the electrical, subflooring, and walls need to be completed prior to the improvements.

Constitution- Julie Weller, Norm Peterson and Clay Ryberg will be meeting to go through the constitution. They will send to the council the proposed changes prior to the next meeting. After being reviewed by the council, we will set a congregational meeting to seek approval.

Shared Ministry- Council was presented with the proposed agreement for the next year. We will be reviewing it prior to the next meeting.

Property- We received a quote to repair the electrical in the breakroom in the amount of \$4,300. MSP to move ahead with the repairs.

New key lockbox has been installed.

May 13th the windows are being washed. MSP to pay \$378 for window cleaning.

## Christian Education-

Asking to do a special offering for Soldier 6. MSP to do special offering and match funds with tithing outside our walls.

Lay Ministry Training is being offered for a lifetime fee of \$500. This would be training for all lay people within our congregation. MSP to pay the lifetime fee for training.

## **Offering Securer:**

May 3rd- Clay Ryberg

May 10th- Julie Weller

May 17th- Perry Lindberg

May 24th- Clay Ryberg

May 31st- Beth Berger

## **Communion:**

May 17th- Perry Lindberg, Norm Peterson, Julie Weller

Next meeting: May 11th, 2026, at 6pm

Next meeting devotions: Amanda Cook

## **Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting May 11, 2026**

The May meeting of the Immanuel Church Council was brought to order by President Julie Weller at 6:03 PM Monday, May 11.

Members present: Amanda Cook, Pastor Justin Fenger, Perry Lindberg, Norm Peterson, Clay Ryberg, Chris Schumacher, Julie Weller

Devotions were led by Amanda Cook

A Motion to approve the Prior Meeting Minutes was made by Norm and seconded by Amanda. MSP.

## **Old Business:**

Restoration: Dan is working on the exterior brick while waiting for the break room to get caught up with electrical and plumbing.

Vacuum is still on hold until further notice.

Synod Assembly delegates and pastor will attend the upcoming meeting.

The updated Shared Ministry agreement has been shared, and a meeting will happen Thursday May 14th to answer questions, and a conversational meeting will occur on May 17th to vote on the renewal of the shared ministry covenant.

Community Meal: groups are taking turns serving the meals and ate meals being attended by community members.

**New Business:**

Open staffing positions: The financial secretary has been posted to the County press and Facebook. Music and Choir director positions have not been officially posted. The personnel committee will meet and decide the next steps in securing hires for the postings.

Congregational Meeting and shared ministry vote will be held May 17th. Perry and Julie will count ballots.

Committee Reports were presented and a motion to approve was made by Norm and seconded by Amanda. MSP.

Offering Securer:

Sun June 07 Clay R

Sun June 14 Clay R

Sun June 21 Norm

Sun June 28 Julie

Communion Servers: (3 needed unless otherwise indicated)

June 07 Clay R, Amanda, Julie W

June 21 Norm, Chris, Julie W

The next meeting will take place June 8th, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

Devotions are to be led by Clay Larson

Meeting Adjourned at 7:14 and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church     June 2026**

37515 Park Trail

Almelund, MN 55012-7511

Change Service Requested

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Companion to Itonya Congregation -

Tanzania, Africa

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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!**

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