



IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
ALMELUND, MN

MESSENGER

May

2026



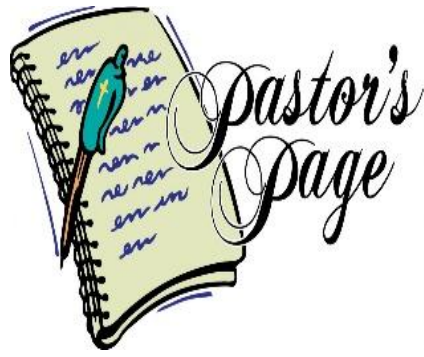
The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Almelund, MN

Inside This Issue:

Announcements	Pages 3-9 & 12	Pastors Article	Pages 2-3
Birthdays	Page 13	Property	Page 26
Calendar	Pages 14-15	Stewardship	Page 27
Christian Education	Pages 24-25	Thank You's	Page 9-11
Financial Summary	Page 17	Three Ways to Give	Page 18
Memorial Garden	Pages 19-21	Worship & Music	Pages 22-24
		Worship Schedules	Page 16

Spring is here. Easter has come. New life has begun.

The snow is gone, the grass is waking up, the birds are back, and yes—even the dog turds in the yard have reappeared. Spring has a way of revealing everything. It brings beauty, growth, and new life, but it also uncovers what has been hidden all winter long. In some ways, that is not a bad image for the Easter season.



Because Easter is not just about pretty flowers, bright sunshine, and nice songs. Easter is about the risen Christ meeting real people in the middle of real life. Mary stood at the tomb weeping and did not recognize Jesus at first. The disciples hid behind locked doors in fear. Thomas wrestled with doubt. The disciples on the road to Emmaus walked with Jesus and still could not see him for who he was. Easter does not skip over grief, confusion, fear, or uncertainty. Jesus enters right into the middle of it all and brings peace, hope, and life.

That is what makes Easter such good news for us. Christ is risen not only when life feels clean and beautiful, but also when life feels messy, exposed, and unfinished. Sometimes spring reveals flowers. Sometimes it reveals dog turds in the yard. Either way, it is still the season of resurrection. God is still at work bringing life out of what has been buried.

I think that same hope has been present in this season of shared ministry with First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Taylors Falls. Over these past months, we have seen blessings emerge through shared worship, shared meals, and shared life together. Community dinners and Lenten suppers brought people around the table. The joint choir has lifted our voices together in praise. Game nights have built laughter and connection. Shared prayer and shared ministry have reminded us that the church is bigger than one building and stronger when we walk together.

As we look ahead to the congregational vote regarding a one-year shared ministry, I invite you to keep this season in prayer. This is about more than structure or schedules. It is about discerning where God is leading us. It is about recognizing the gifts already growing among us. It is about trusting that new life can come when communities are willing to share burdens, joys, and ministry together. Shared ministry does not mean losing our

identity. It may very well be one of the ways God helps us live more fully into who we are called to be.

May will be a full month in the life of the church. We look forward to the Youth Mission Trip to Kentucky in June and the opportunity for our young people to serve and grow in faith. We will recognize our graduating seniors and give thanks for this important milestone. We will celebrate the blessing of quilts and prayer shawls, giving thanks for those ministries of comfort and care. We will rejoice in First Communion at Taylors Falls. We will gather for the congregational vote. We will keep the Synod Assembly in prayer as voting takes place for a new bishop. And as Memorial Day approaches, we will remember with gratitude those who gave their lives in service.

Sometimes new life begins with beauty blooming everywhere. Sometimes it begins with discovering what the snow has been covering up. Either way, God is not discouraged. The risen Christ still comes among us, still speaks peace, still feeds us, still calls us forward, and still brings life where we need it most.

Blessings,

Pastor Justin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark Your Calendars

May 3 - **St. Croix Sacred Ensemble** will lead worship at both Immanuel (9:00) and First Ev. (11:00). For over 20 years, this group has conveyed God's Grace, Love and Light through their Musical Ministry.

May 22 - **Almelund Farmer's Market** begins it 19th Season at Rod's Country Corner!! Come Friday afternoons - 3-6:00 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.

May 25 - Memorial Day is the day we remember the sacrifices made by those who have served in our military, and to also remember the lives of all our loved ones. This Memorial Day we will again gather for an 11:30 Ceremony of Remembrance at the Immanuel Cemetery. Ham Dinner will follow served in the Fellowship Halls. Cost to be determined. Veterans eat Free! Food Service Group D will be in charge with help from the congregation! The Food Sign-Up Chart will be located in the Gathering

Area and will be posted soon. Volunteers will be needed to help set-up 9:00 Saturday, May 23 and for Memorial Day kitchen food preparation and clean-up. We have heard many times throughout the years how much this day is appreciated - not only for the Cemetery Ceremony, but for the delicious Ham Dinner and the opportunity to reconnect with family and friends. **Added this year is the Cemetery Walk** featuring the lives of some of the community's former residents along with some displays of local history. The first walk will be at 10:00 with the second at 1:30 - placards will be placed to guide visitors through the site. The Walk will introduce you to John Almquist, who owned the first general store in Almelund and Glen Berg, a highly decorated WW II fighter pilot along with several others with interesting stories! Also featured will be some of the most interesting grave markers and monuments in the cemetery - look for the special flags. Tour guides will be available to show the newly decorated sanctuary and also introduce you to the church's labyrinth - a place for meditation and reflection. There is no cost to participate in the Cemetery Walk or any of the educational tours. The event is open to the public - any donations received will benefit Almelund's Amador Heritage Center, sponsor of the Walk. **Help make the cemetery beautiful this year** - if there is an empty pot on a site, feel free to plant flowers. Maybe you have a hanging basket you can loan us for the Memorial Day Weekend? **Volunteers are needed to greet visitors** in the sanctuary and at the labyrinth. Information will be provided for volunteers. **Help is needed on Saturday, May 23rd** to put together placards and install them in the cemetery on Monday morning. Contact Lin Strong (lin.strong269@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping with this project.

A Year of Ministry Together — and the Road Ahead

Special Congregational Meeting | Sunday, May 17th | Following Worship

What began as a bold step of faith has become something beautiful.

One year ago, Immanuel Lutheran Church entered into a Shared Ministry Covenant with First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Taylors Falls — a partnership rooted in a relationship that stretches back over 137 years. Together, we set out to share staff, share resources, and share the work of the Gospel in our communities. And together, we have seen what God can do when two congregations say *yes* to something bigger than themselves.

Now, we have the opportunity to say *yes* again.

On Sunday, May 17th, immediately following worship, ILC will hold a Special Congregational Meeting to vote on continuing our One-Year

Shared Ministry Covenant with FELC. This renewed covenant expands our shared staffing model, strengthens our ministry capacity, and positions both congregations to do more — more outreach, more community care, more worship, more life together.

Before the vote, we invite you to join us for an Informational Meeting and Celebration on Thursday, May 14th at 6:00pm here at ILC. Come hear about what this past year has meant, what the renewed covenant includes, and where we believe God is leading us. There will be time to ask questions, share reflections, and celebrate one year of ministry together.

The proposed Shared Ministry Covenant document will be available for your review beginning Sunday, May 10th. We encourage every member to read it and come prepared to participate in this important decision.

This is more than a business decision — it is a declaration that we are better together. We hope to see you on May 14th and May 17th as we take the next faithful step forward.

Questions? Reach out to Pastor Justin or any member of the Shared Ministry Committee.

Dear Church Family-

Sarah Circle is organizing a cleaning of the sanctuary with Murphy’s oil wood cleaner on Wednesday, May 13 at 10:00 am, to maintain our beautiful space and ensure it remains welcoming for everyone. We would love your help! Whether you can spare an hour or more, your contribution makes a difference.

Thank you for considering this opportunity. Together, we all can keep our church a “shining” place of worship and fellowship!

HEALING SERVICE May 31st

Healing Services are offered the 5th Sunday of any month. The short service is used to facilitate spiritual, emotional and physical healing. We use this time to invite God’s grace and love to address our concerns as we know it is God alone who heals our minds and bodies. (James 5:14 - 16)

Your Parish Care Team (PCT) will have a Healing Service May 31st immediately following our regular 9:00 am service. This short service will offer anointing and a time for personal prayer.

You will still have plenty of time to join Coffee Hour for Fellowship at the conclusion of the service.

Parish Care Team will meet May 4th, 2026, at 9:00am

Hannah Circle (ILC’s new women’s circle) will meet Wednesday, May 6th at 6:00 PM.

The Naomi circle will meet at the home of Cami Peltier on May 19th at 9:30am. See you then!

Stewardship will meet on May 4th at 10am in the Fireside Room.

The Immanuel quilters will meet Tuesday, May 12th, from 10am-2pm, with a potluck lunch at noon. Our group donated a quilt to the St. Paul Area Synodical Women's Organization 2026 Convention. The quilts will be donated to Lutheran Social Service Safe House. In May we are planning on donating more quilts to Options for Women. A message was sent to DeeDee & Jason asking if the youth group could take quilts on their mission trip. We also talked about sewing quilts for The Linus Project (thru The SheShed in North Branch) and Ryan's Case for smiles, thru Rush City church. A big thank you to Peggy Lang, Linda McCormack & Gayle Drewry... they stopped for a visit and brought more quilt kits, several finished tops and lots of fabric for our stash. We are very blessed to have their support! Blessing of the quilts will be Sunday, May 17th and 2026 graduates will receive their quilts on Sunday, May 31st. Quilters will serve coffee that Sunday.

Hope to see you on May 12th!

Martha Strecker. 651-341-3885

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.

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

Holy Smokes, above Is Back!

Mark, your calendars - Holy Smokes is at Wild Mountain Winery on Thursday, May 28 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!

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

Youth Group will meet May 6th & May 20th from 6pm - 7pm.

May 17th is our last Youth led church service until the fall.

Mission Trip meeting will also be May 17th after service. Please make sure your youth and at least 1 parent attend this meeting.

Confirmation Class: 5:30-7:00 27th The Risen People Share God's Dream

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.

Tune in our Daily Texts, Monday through Saturday on our Facebook Page [@immanuelchurchofalmelund](https://www.facebook.com/immanuelchurchofalmelund)

A daily devotional time based on an Old and New Testament Bible verse based on a Moravian Church tradition and Ground Up Grace Publications Daily Texts 2026 books.



Jeanenne Zank is moving to Lindstrom Senior Living

We had a farewell party for her here at Point Pleasant Heights. She is 95 years young! Please post this picture, as I thought folks at church would like to know this. She will be missed here!

Thank you!

Jennifer Abbott



Shirley with the quilt Lydia unit made. She is the last member from Lydia.

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, May 18; The third Monday of the month.

PROOFREADING:

Of newsletter Wednesday, May 20 @ 11:00; in the Fireside Room.

NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY:

Will be Friday, May 22 @ 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

Dear Martha, Thank You! Please extend my thanks to your church group and let them know their efforts are greatly appreciated. I put the shawl around my shoulders every evening when I watch TV and it is so comforting.

Thank you all so very much.

Love,
Carol

Dear Kris & the Prayer Shawl Group at Immanuel - Almelund, Thank you Kris for all the prayers & thoughts for our family. Please let the Prayer Shawl Group at Immanuel know that their shawl brings me comfort & love.

Sincerely,
Andrea

Thank You! You didn't have to. But I'm glad you did. Such a great gift. The work is beautiful, love the colors and the stitch. What a lovely idea your church has. The prayer card - great. I quilt at church. Can't wait to show the girls - Excellent. Just love It. Thank you so much Martha.

Love,
Janice

Immanuel Lutheran Church (missed from January)

Thank you for the poinsettia plant. Also, thank you Joanne & Richard for your visits and prayer shawl after Tom's Passing.

Sue Minar

I recently gave a Prayer Shawl to a friend whose husband passed away. She asked me to pass on this message.

"Thank you so much for arranging the Prayer Shawl from your church. It is beautiful. Please thank them on my behalf" -Kay

Dear Martha,

Thank you so very much for the lovely prayer shawl and your wishes for healing! Wrapping up in it brings to mind all my special friends and the healing power of our Lord.

Love, Maggie

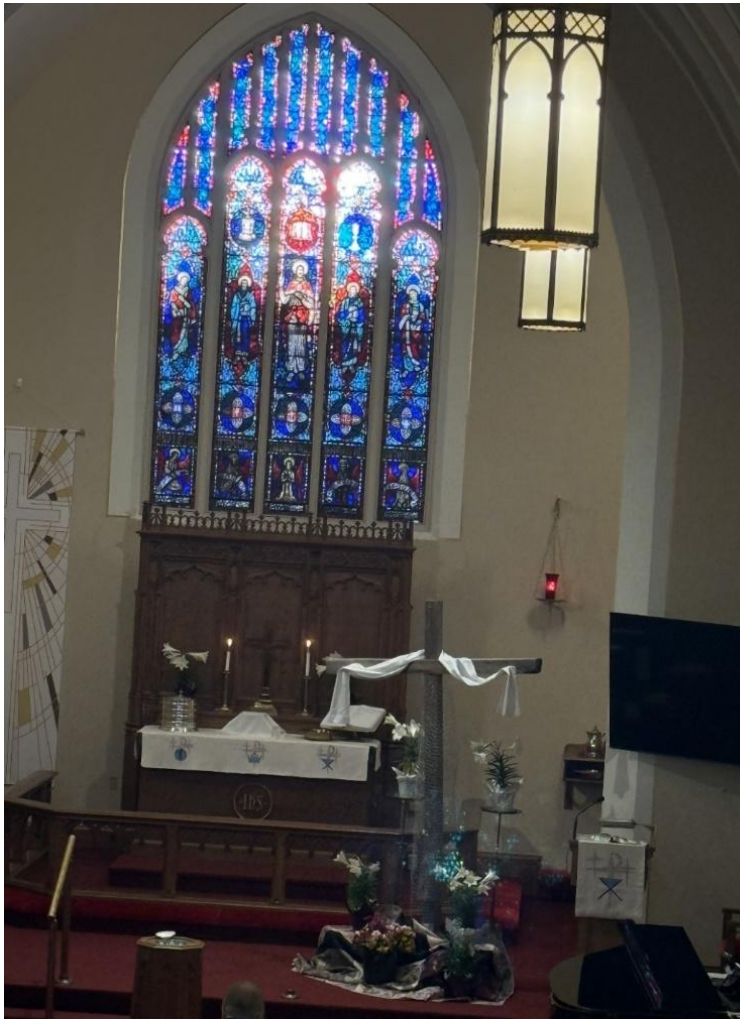
Thank you to all who supported our Palm Sunday breakfast & Heggies pizza fundraiser. We can't do the things we do without you all.

Youth Group

Three cheers for the youth group!!! They do so much for our church. The Palm Sunday breakfast was great and much appreciated by all who came. The Sunday services they give are very inspiring. It is great to see so many taking part enthusiastically.

Stewardship Committee

Dear ladies of the Quilting group,
With grateful hearts, we want to extend our sincere thank you for the beautiful handmade blankets you lovingly created for the families and babies served through our Boutique.
Each stitch reflects your generosity, prayer, and care. These blankets are so much more than fabric; they are a tangible expression of God's love, offering warmth, comfort, reassurance of families during tender and meaningful moments in their lives.
Your willingness to share your time and gifts blesses families in ways that words cannot fully express. We know that when a mother wraps her baby in one of these blankets, she is also being wrapped in encouragement, dignity, and hope.
"Let all that you do be done in love."
1 Corinthians 16:14
Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ and for partnering with us in this mission. Your faithfulness and kindness are deeply appreciated and will continue to make an impact far beyond what you may ever see. With heartfelt gratitude,
OPTIONS for women.



Easter Sunrise
Service
through our
beautiful east
window.
Thank you Loraine
for the picture

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., May 8,

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 Christine Johnson, Robb Medin, Jeremy Meyer
- 2 Joseph Frascone
- 3 Brooke Rothe, Brody Rothe, Kim Maroschek
- 4 Steve Peterson
- 5 Jennifer Abbott
- 6 DeWayne Gunderson
- 8 Peter Johnson, Jeff McKenzie, Beth Berger
- 10 Randal Lindblom, Alexandra Meyer
- 12 Lesley Mohn, Christopher Chinander, James Chinander
- 13 Bert Nelson, Aaron Maroschek, James Armstrong
- 14 Christina Ellifritz, Keith Parsons
- 15 Braxton Kennedy
- 19 Matthew Bauman, Waylon Schultz, Weston Schultz
- 21 Bryan Waldemar
- 23 Jerzie Peterson, Jason Schultz, Kayla Olson
- 24 Hailey Swenson
- 26 Brogan Bauman
- 28 Darla McKenzie
- 29 Logan Lundsted
- 31 Robert Linder, Dale Sandberg, Tate Klanderud

May 2026

Sun	Mon 9:00-3:00 Office Hours	Tue 9:00-3:00 Office Hours
<p>3 Fifth Sunday after Easter - White 9:00 St. Croix Sacred Ensemble Worship Service Live and Online; W/Noisy Offering & Sunday School 11:00 First Ev. Lutheran Service</p>	<p>4 9:00 Parish Care Meets 10:00 WOW Practice 10:00 Stewardship Meets</p>	<p>5 9:00 Worship Team 5:00 Choir Practice @ ILC</p>
<p>10 MOTHER'S DAY Sixth Sunday after Easter – White 9:00 Men's Chorus & Joint Choir Worship Service Live and Online W/Prayer Shawl Dedication & Sunday School after Children's Sermon ALSO pick up the Shared Ministry Covenant document 11:00 First Ev. Lutheran Service</p>	<p>11 10:00 WOW Practice 5:00 Property Meeting 6:00 Council Meeting</p>	<p>12 9:00 Worship Team 10-2 Quilters meet W/potluck at noon</p>
<p>17 Seventh Sunday of Easter White 9:00 Youth Group, Quilt Dedication, WOW Communion Worship Live and Online W/Sunday School after Children's Sermon AFTER service; Congregational Meeting 10:00 Youth meeting for Mission Trip 11:00 First Ev. Lutheran Service</p>	<p>18 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:00 Chris. Ed.</p>	<p>19 9:00 Worship Team 9:30 Naomi Circle Meets @ Cami Peltier's</p>
<p>24 Day of Pentecost - Red 9:00 Worship Service Live and online 11:00 First Ev. Lutheran Service PICK-UP NEWSLETTERS</p>	<p>25 MEMORIAL DAY Memorial Day Dinner 11:30 Service Ham dinner follows service</p>	<p>26 9:00 Worship Team</p>
<p>31 The Holy Trinity White 9:00 Senior Recognition & Healing Worship Service Live and Online 11:00 First Ev. Lutheran Service</p>	<p>1 JUNE 9:00 Parish Care Meets 10:00 Stewardship Meets</p>	<p>2 JUNE 9:00 Worship Team</p>

Wed 9:00-3:00 Office Hours	Thu	Fri 9:00-3:00 Office Hours	Sat
<p>6 1:30 Prayer Shawl Meets 6:00 Hannah Circle Meets 6-7 Youth Group Meets</p>	<p>7 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Wisdom Seekers @ First Lutheran</p>	<p>1 Bulletin Printed 8 Bulletin Printed 4:30-6:30 Community Meal</p>	<p>2\9</p>
<p>13 10:00 Cleaning of the Sanctuary</p>	<p>14 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Wisdom Seekers @ First Lutheran 6:00 Informational Meeting & Celebration At ILC</p>	<p>15 Bulletin Printed</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>20 11:00 Newsletter is ready for proof reading 1:30 Prayer Shawl Meets 6-7 Youth Group Meets</p>	<p>21 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Wisdom Seekers @ First Lutheran</p>	<p>22 Bulletin Printed 10:00 Newsletter Assembly 3-6 Almelund Farmer's Market At Rods</p>	<p>23 9:00 Mem. Day set up & food prep</p>
<p>27 5:30-7:00 Confirmation</p>	<p>28 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Wisdom Seekers @ First Lutheran 6:30 Holy Smokes @ Wild MTN Winery</p>	<p>29 Bulletin Printed 3-6 Almelund Farmer's Market At Rods</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>3 JUNE 1:30 Prayer Shawl Meets 6:00 Hannah Circle Meets</p>	<p>4 JUNE Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Wisdom Seekers @ First Lutheran</p>	<p>5 JUNE Bulletin Printed 3-6 Almelund Farmer's Market At Rods</p>	<p>6 JUNE</p>

Thank you to those helping with the Worship Services!

	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
Scripture Reader	Sharon Thiel	Julie Johnson	Youth	Bob Stirling	Dana Johnson
Ushers	Steve Tuhy	Steve Tuhy	Steve Tuhy	Steve Tuhy	Steve Tuhy
Sound Tech	Nancy Nadeau	Loraine Rue	Nancy Nadeau	Julie Johnson	
Camera Tech	Matt Oknich	Dave Rue	Jodi Johnson-Waldemar	Vern Johnson	
Children's Sermon		Jeske Noordergraaf	Youth Group	Pastor Justin	Pastor Justin
Coffee Servers		Linda Peterson	Joanne Johnson & Maureen Peterson	No Coffee	Quilters
Teachers	Dana Johnson Cami Peltier Katie Fenger	Dana Johnson Amanda Cook Teresa Carlson	Dana Johnson Cami Peltier Katie Fenger		

Communion Servers:

Sunday, May 3rd- No Communion

Sunday, May 17th-Youth Group

Communion Wine - Wild Mountain Winery

Communion Wafers now used

Reader Coordinator **May:** Linda Mielke

Altar Guild: **May:** Diane Rothe, Tora Carlson

Financial Recorder's Report for Year to Date of March 2026

Code	Fund	1-Mar	YTD 2026	YTD 2025
1	GENERAL	\$14,196.00	\$37,842.00	\$43,219.65
2	UNDESIGNATED	\$370.00	\$812.50	\$755.00
3	SYNOD	\$450.00	\$1,350.00	\$800.00
4	LUTHER POINT	\$125.00	\$490.00	\$83.25
5	LUTH. SOC. SERV.	\$75.00	\$175.00	\$70.00
6	ITONYA TANZANIA MISSION	\$-		\$300.00
7	WORLD HUNGER	\$-	\$35.00	\$-
10	LOOSE	\$463.00	\$1,301.00	\$1,544.50
11	FELLOWSHIP DINNERS	\$341.10	\$341.10	\$99.00
12	LENT	\$653.00	\$976.00	\$437.00
13	MAUNDY THURSDAY	\$-		\$15.00
14	GOOD FRIDAY	\$20.00	\$50.00	\$15.00
15	EASTER	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$-
16	THANKSGIVING	\$-		\$-
17	CHRISTMAS	\$-	\$30.00	\$-
18	USE OF CHURCH	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$485.00
20	NOISY OFFERING	\$138.60	\$331.72	\$398.66
21	BUILDING FUND	\$155.00	\$809.50	\$675.00
22	CdFee	\$29.90	\$77.40	\$30.35
23	SAMPLER	\$4,972.60	\$4,972.60	\$-
24	CHRISTIAN ED	\$115.00	\$115.00	\$190.00
26	SHARE MINISTRY	\$-	\$4,260.00	\$2,300.00
27	Grants	\$-	\$366.00	\$317.00
30	YOUTH GROUP	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$-
31	YOUTH MISSION TRIP	\$-	\$250.00	\$2.00
33	WELCA	\$-		\$-
34	WORSHIP & MUSIC	\$-		\$25.00
36	QUILTERS MINISTRY	\$-		\$-
40	FOOD SHELF	\$-		\$25.00
50	ENDOWMENT FUND	\$-		\$31.25
60	SPECIAL DONATIONS	\$-	\$435.16	\$-
90	MEMORIAL	\$-		\$100.00
91	MEMORIAL GARDEN	\$1,707.00	\$1,707.00	\$-
92	ALL SAINTS	\$-		\$-
97	Fund Transfers	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$-
	Totals	\$24,561.20	\$57,476.98	\$51,917.66



TITHES & OFFERINGS

Three Ways to Give!

Thank you so much for your financial gifts which support Immanuel's ministry. We ask you to prayerfully do what you can to support Immanuel's mission.

Give in Person

When you attend worship in person, you are welcome to place your offering in the offering plate as it is passed during the service. Offering envelopes, like the one included in this newsletter, are available in the pews.

Give by Mail

You can also mail your offering to the church, using the offering envelope provided in this newsletter at:

Immanuel Lutheran Church
37515 Park Trail
Almelund, MN 55012

Give Online

Giving through our website is a quick and easy way for you to give and for the church to receive your gift. Go to www.ImmanuelAlmelund.com and click on "Make a Gift." You can designate how you want it used and if you want to make a one-time gift or ongoing contribution. It is recorded just as if you had placed it in the offering plate. Whatever way you give your gifts, thank you for your support of Immanuel's ministry. We couldn't do it without you!

Easter Memorial Garden 2026

In memory of David Wm. Johnson and all our Loved Ones by Joanne Johnson and Family; To Archives.

In memory of Carleton & Evelyn Peterson; Cecil Coe and Truman & Liz Olson by Steve & Laurie Peterson

In memory of Ed & Agnes Berg and loved ones by Donna Lou Berg

In memory of Grandma Dianne by Henry & Owen Larkin

In memory of Walter & Elizabeth Mielke; Walter & Dorothy O'Connell by Jim & Linda Mielke To Youth

In memory of Lowell & Ellie Olson by Olson Family

In memory of Kirk Lane and Lee Michael Ness, by Marlin & Lois Ness to the Youth Mission Trip.

In memory of Paul & Fran Magner, by the Magner Family

In memory of Loved Ones, by David & Loraine Rue

In memory of Martin Strecker, by Martha Strecker to the Immanuel Quilters

In memory of James R. Swenson by Gwendolyn Swenson & Families to the Youth Mission Trip

In memory of Parents: Vernon & Lois Kressin; In-laws: Emma & Ray Teeman, Roy Swenson by Gwendolyn Swenson to the Youth Mission Trip

In loving memory of Richard & Audrey Peterson; Jerry Marstaeller; Drew Thorsen by Dennis & Judy Peterson

In memory of dad & mom - Archie & Anita Abrahamson; Loved Ones by Teresa & Curt Carlson and Family

In memory of Roger & Bernice Medin by Rorie & Bob Chinnock

In memory of Walden Johnson by Lois Johnson & Johnson Family to African support

In memory of Wayne Carlson; Helen & Harold Olsen; Kelly & Ella Carlson and Tong Her by Tora Carlson & family to Youth Group Mission Trips & Immanuel Quilters

In memory of Rod, Lois and Gayle Johnson; Nels & Myrtle Bostrom; and Dean Kosen by Mark & Diane Johnson; To Youth Group Mission Trips

In memory of Loved Ones by Kris Koran

In memory of Judith Sellman; Mom & Dad; Duane; Chanann & Ciara by Richard Sellman; To Parish Care Team

In loving memory of Britta Grace Johnson, Erin Marie Thornton; by Tyler, Kelly, Sully, Ollie, Vinny and
Oskar Johnson

In memory of Beloved Family & Friends by Norm & Linda Peterson

In memory of our parents honored with 6 children, 20 Grandkids and 26 Great Grandkids by Sharon & Duane Thiel

In memory of Thomas F. Jesse; Mr. & Mrs. Helmuth Jesse; Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Berge; by Tom Jesse; to Cemetery Perpetual Care

In memory of our parents: Lawrence & Irene Linder; Eugene & Patricia Nissen by Bob & Connie Linder

In memory of Ruth Gleason; Walter & Hilma Bjork by Lanny Gleason

In memory of Jim Huber by Diann Huber

In memory of Loved Ones by Linda Holm

In memory of Donna & Dale Westlund by John Westlund

In memory of Archie & Anita Abrahamson; Edwin Schaefer; Steve & Randy Abrahamson; Donald & Marie Eggum; Louis & Ellie McNamara; Vern & Doris Nordquist; Bill & Betty Ryberg by Daryl & Julie Abrahamson

In memory of Wayne and Tong Her by Matt & Soua Carlson

In memory of Loved Ones by Natalie Oknich; to Cemetery Perpetual Care

In memory of Loved Ones by Vickie Johnson; to Cemetery Perpetual Care

In memory of Britta Grace Johnson; Ray & Dory Johnson; Adrian & Mary Peterson by Marty & Jody Johnson

In memory of Burdette Johnson, Husband; Algot & Alvina Carlson, Parents by Ida Johnson

In memory of Clifford & Mildred Anderson; Eugene Fisk; Robert Fisk; Hjalmer & Flora Lindgren by Marvin & Lynn Lindgren

Worship & Music ~ March 23, 2026

Present: Pastor Justin, Tora Carlson, Dayna Geisbauer, Diann Huber, Nicki Klanderud, Pam Larson, Kim Raschke, Pat Remer and Council Rep., Chris Schumacher.

Absent: Momoh Freeman

Tora called the meeting to order and introduced/welcome Chris, our new council rep.

Dayna gave Devotions.

Reviewed February 23, 2026 – MSP to accept.

Old Business:

Children's Sermons:

- March 1 – Amanda
- March 8 – Jason
- March 22 – Youth
- March 29/Palm Sunday – NONE
- April 5/Easter Sunday - Jason
- April 12 – Jeske
- April 19 – Sharon
- April 26 – Amanda

Thanks to all who do such a good job with the kids – you are appreciated!!

Recap Worship Services/Events:

- 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 [**\$138.60**]...11:00, First
- March 1 – ALMELUND SAMPLER...1:00 – Concert... 2:30 – Worship & Music served refreshments/time to get bidding numbers...3:00 – Auction w/LeeAnn Vande Kamp. Agreed it was a very successful fundraiser for Apple Festival Entertainment...\$1,142.60 – Concert...\$4,080.00 – Auction --- **Grand Total = \$5,222.60**

Gave out 6 gift cards – Good Neighbors Ukulele Circle does not charge. They will accept donations which are used for “use of practicing facilities” and to donate instruments to kids. Decided to give them \$150 which will come out of Noisy Offering monies. Went over pros/cons of the Sampler. Concert was awesome – really enjoyed the ukuleles! Talked about possible musicians for next year. Great Fellowship – about 75-80 came down for coffee & treats...need to add cheese & fruit (nice for gluten-free people). Our THANKS to LeeAnn for her energetic auction skills – she was impressed with the big variety of donations!

We need to work on advertizing – there was nothing in the area papers; should have sent out flyers to the local churches for their bulletins/newsletters. Also would be helpful to have someone willing to do the live-streaming and have a sound

person who could help set up microphones/stands for the musicians. Would be helpful to know ahead of time what the musicians need. Committee tentatively set April 11, 2027 for the next sampler – need to see if this will work for LeeAnn and possible musicians.

- 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. The chapel was full for this Powerful Service – thanks to Immanuel’s Parish Care Team for hosting the event and serving an array of Nigerian treats after the service – to Pastor Justin for the beautiful bulletin he formatted; the musicians – Momoh, Marco, Don Karsky & Luann Klempe.

- 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. Not many in attendance – too many other things going on.

- March 15 – 9:00 ILC WOW Service/Communion...11:00, First.

CANCELLED!!

- March 18, Wed. Lenten Worship @ First, 11:00 – 12:00 Meal...ILC 5:30 Meal, Gr. B, 6:30 Worship

- March 22/Pastor Justin gone – 8:15 Holy Week Adventures were cancelled.

9:00 ILC Youth Led Worship/Prayer Pillows to Kindergartners...11:00, First

- March 22 – 2:00 Ecumen Worship

Upcoming Dates:

- 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 27, Friday – 3-5th Grade Lock-In from 5-9:00

- 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.

- April 4, Saturday – 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 Lutheran Easter Service/Joint Choir/Brass

Looking Ahead:

May 3, **St. Croix Sacred Ensemble** will lead worship 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 for a military commitment.

May 17 – MAY have a congregational vote on continuation of joint ministry with First Evangelical Lutheran, Taylors Falls.

Other

- Soldiers 6 are unable to come.

New Business:**Worship Team:**

Service formats/hymns are done through March 29.

Lent – attendance has been good for the Wed. services. Thanks to Tracy and Marco for leading The Holden Evening Prayer – people enjoy that service.

From Worship Team meeting, March 24th – suggested that 2027 Maundy Thursday, Good Friday & Saturday night's Easter Vigil all be the same time to alleviate confusion.

Other:

An updated job description for Momoh's position is being worked on – hopefully finalized by church council at the April 13th meeting.

Will also be looking to fill the financial secretary position.

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

Next Scheduled Meeting: April 27, 2026,

Devotions: Diann

Christian Ed meeting Minutes - 4/20/26, 6pm

Attended by: Pastor Justin, Teresa, Jenny & Val

Old Business: Reviewed March Meeting minutes

New Business:**Sunday School**

- Discussed curriculum - shared Cami's thoughts, she loves it, finds it to be age appropriate and finds it easy to have a craft or activities go with it, but could do without the video. Val shared that she agrees, the video often goes over the younger kids' heads, Teresa sees the curriculum as a pared down, simpler version of Orange that follows the liturgy the church uses and has real stories. Shared with Teresa and Val from Amanda that she feels there are not enough ways to creatively teach the lessons as it is too strictly outlined and would like to have it available to her at home. Dana spoke with Pastor about questions and concerns. Pastor has decided to set up a separate meeting(s) with teachers and parents to go over some of the questions and concerns and come up with a plan that makes things easier for teachers, parents and kids going forward. We would like to have Sunday school be an enjoyable experience for the kids and the teachers.

- New leadership
 - VBS - Jenny spoke with Beth Berger, who is willing to lead. Cami wants to do crafts and would like to know a theme by the end of May.
 - It will be Aug 10th-14th (after Threshing show again) Would like to ask Beth if she wants to pick the curriculum or have assistance with that, could use Grow again possibly. Planning meeting should occur in the next month

- New Sunday School leader - Teresa listed what her role as leader has looked like, in our agenda and hopes that will help show how much decision making is done by the CE committee and help is carried out thru that committee as well. Anyone or as a team can come to the CE meetings held on the 3rd Monday of each month, if they are going to lead or even if they are a parent or teacher that wants to be included. Most of this role involves planning ahead, making sign-up sheets and calendars for the Sunday school year, keeping kids, their grades and contact information up to date, communicating with CE, Pastor, and other committees and groups and communication to Mark for the newsletter and bulletins.

- Soldier's 6, Noisy offering, Pastor has spoken with council and will discuss with Worship and Music, then we can pick a Sunday, may do coffee that same Sunday for more to add to the donation which would include Sunday school offering and noisy offering

Milestones - none left for this school year

Adult

- Holy Smokes - at Wild Mountain Winery again starting April 23rd

Other

- Cradle Roll - still need to follow up with JoAnne Johnson, try to have meeting with Jenny, JoAnne, Mark and Pastor Justin
- Pastor will order the new cubicle storage for all classrooms
- Stewardship asked about CE doing the community meal. CE has decided we could do the one on December 11th and combine it with the Parent's night out event we have been doing

Property Committee Minutes April 13, 2026

PRESENT: Scott Olson, Dave Rue, Pastor Justin, Bob Rothe, Don Noyes, Julie Weller, Marlin Ness, Perry Lindberg & representative from Sara Circle Diane Rothe

Meeting called to order by Marlin @ 5:00 pm

Old Business:

Continued discussion of old kitchen renovation. The project was started about a year ago with volunteers gutting the area. Dan Anderson has studded the walls for insulating sheet rocking & has repaired the floor. A design has been drawn up by KJ design from North Branch.

Diane Rothe representing Sara Circle presented a donation of \$14,500 towards the project. A big Thank you to the Sara Circle!

From discussion we have laid out next steps to proceed with renovation:

- Electrical Work Bid \$4314.00

- Sheet rock / painting to be performed by Dan Anderson

- Cabinets bid

- Plumbing

- Flooring [type & color has been determined} after cabinets are installed measurements can be done to figure out cost - will be installed by Dan Anderson

This list will be presented to council for approval.

Other old business: Key lock has been installed on the east kitchen entrance by Clay Ryberg - Thank you to Clay

Norm Peterson will continue to mow church property- Thank Norm!

New Business: Float on Septic has been installed by Mike Armstrong @ no charge - Thankyou Mike!

Discussion of kitchen dishwasher needs maintenance, and professional service will be looked into .

Light bulb in Sanctuary is burnt out - Dave & Bob are going to look into., a challenging job to crawl above the ceiling -Thankyou Dave & Bob.

Windows will be washed on New Addition (28 windows) by professional service on May 13 - cost of \$275-\$375.

Discussion of hiring Mud jackers to come & level some of the sidewalk in front of church.

The Security Company has performed routine check over & replaced necessary batteries.

Pastor Justin led us in prayer.

Meeting Adjourned by Marlin @ 5:47 pm

Submitted by Perry Lindberg

Stewardship meeting minutes.

Date: April 6, 2026

Members present:

Names: Julie Weller, Kris Koran, Linda Peterson, Cami Peltier

Devotions:

Name: Linda Peterson

Discussed: Old Business

S.O.R. next meeting date:

Final meeting May 2nd, 9am Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church
{Focus on communication and engaging our membership}

Community Dinner

April 10,2026; confirmed menu May 8, 2026; Discussion of menu
Discussion to get others involved within 3 months

Food Pantry

Clear signage for its location/info {Cami will make signs for
fellowship hall}

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

Synod Assembly:

Notes; Address: Registration

New Business

May Newsletter / Thanking youth for doing March service
and Palm Sunday breakfast. {Kris will write}

Next meeting:

Date: May 4th, 2026 Time: 10:00am

Devotions; Maureen Peterson

Discussed skipping the July meeting because of holiday.

Immanuel Lutheran Church May 2026

37515 Park Trail

Almelund, MN 55012-7511

Change Service Requested

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Companion to Itonya Congregation -

Tanzania, Africa

Contact Info: 651-583-2340; office@immanuelalmelund.com

web site: www.immanuelalmelund.com

Pastor: Justin Fenger 651-308-7717; pastor@immanuelalmelund.com

Administrative Assistant/Financial Recorder:

Mark Weslander 651-431-8941; office@immanuelalmelund.com

Financial Secretary: Kyle Hendrickson

651-717-8804; financial@immanuelalmelund.com

Custodial: Kim's Kleaning

Organist/Choral Director: Momoh Freeman

Accompanist: Pat Remer

Cemetery Groundskeeper: Daryl Abrahamson
(651)674-2419; julie.l.abrahamson@gmail.com

Youth Group: Jason Fredlund 651-208-5915;

DeeDee Fredlund 651-206-1190

Sunday School: Teresa Carlson 651-214-9531

Our Mission Statement:

**A welcoming community rooted in Christ,
Growing in faith and serving with joy!**

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