



IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
ALMELUND, MN

MESSENGER

October

2026

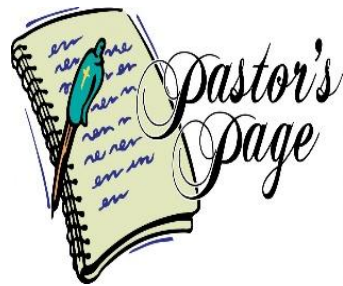


The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Almelund, MN

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Walk into the church on a Monday morning. It's dark. Quiet. The pews are empty, the fellowship hall is empty, the kitchen's wiped down, and the coffee pots are upside down in the drying rack. And now, as temperatures fall outside, the furnace is running. The floors got cleaned anyway. The Wi-Fi's blinking away in the corner for nobody.



I've been doing the math. Sunday morning, that's an hour, maybe two with coffee. Wednesday evening, a few hours. A committee here, a Bible study there, a funeral lunch when we need one. Add it all up across a normal week, and our buildings are in use maybe six, eight hours.

The rest of the time? They sit there. Heated. Lit. Waiting.

That's been rattling around in me. Because we take good care of these places, we fix the roof and patch the parking lot and update the tech, and we should; these are gifts. But a gift that sits in a closet isn't much of a gift; it just becomes something we look past when we open the closet.

"Be hospitable to one another without complaining." (1 Peter 4:9)

The word Peter uses for hospitality literally means love of the stranger. And notice what he doesn't say. He doesn't say start a hospitality program. Form a committee. Put together a five-year plan. He's not talking about a program at all.

He's talking about a posture.

Opening the door. And then not grumbling about the crumbs on the floor afterward. Not sighing about the chairs put back in the wrong spot or the coffee maker left on or the kid who scuffed the wall. Just, the door opened.

People came in. Something good happened. Sweep it up and do it again. Peter's writing to little scattered congregations who didn't have much, and he tells them to treat what they have as grace to be handed out. The very next verse says it: whatever gift each of you has received, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

We are small congregations too. We have what we have. And what we have includes a couple of pretty good buildings.

Here's the thing. We didn't build these for ourselves.

And honestly, this community already knows how to do this with Community Dinners, Game Nights, Together with Friends, Apple Fest, Threshing Show, VBS, Lighting Festival, etc., where a whole bunch of you showed up, volunteered, ran equipment, offered your land and your time and your know-how. Last year we helped put in playground equipment down at Triangle Park before Apple Fest, and this year a few more pieces went in, plus a fence. Over at First we're looking hard at our own little

playground and what it could become.

That's hospitality. That's the whole community opening its doors. And we're already in it. We're not starting from scratch. We're just asking whether our own doors can open a little wider, a little more often.

This place has given us so much. Families who built these churches.

Neighbors who show up when the casseroles are needed. Four school districts' worth of kids, 4-H, Scouts, ball players, all of it. We want to give back.

I want our buildings used. Not six or eight hours a week. Twenty. Thirty-five.

The fellowship hall, for your graduation party, your family reunion, your anniversary, your 4-H meeting, your card club. The kitchen, for the group that needs to cook for a crowd. The Wi-Fi and the tables, for the student who needs a quiet place to study, or the remote worker who needs to get out of the house for an afternoon. The lawn and the playground, for parents who want somewhere safe for the kids to run.

Celebrations, yes. And mourning too. Birthdays and funerals. Big gatherings and small ones. Or no event at all, just a place to sit and be.

If you have an idea, a group, a need, a "would it be okay if..." — call the church office. Chances are the answer is yes. And if you know somebody who'd never think to ask a church for anything, maybe you're the one who tells them they can.

Because in the end this isn't about square footage. It's about Jesus.

Jesus kept ending up at tables. With tax collectors, with fishermen, with people everybody else had written off. And nobody at those tables earned their seat. Nobody passed a membership check at the door. They were just invited. Welcomed. Fed.

That's the table we've been given. That's what these buildings are for.

So let's leave the lights on. Let's open the door. And thanks be to God there are Crumbs on the floor.

Pastor Justin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parish Care Team will meet October 5th, at 9:00am

Stewardship will meet October 5th, at 10:00am.

Hannah Circle will meet on Wednesday, October 7th at 6:00 PM.

The Naomi Circle will meet at the home of Linda Mielke on October 20th at 9:30am. Hope to see you all there!

Youth Group has officially kicked off its 2026/27 year. We're already busy with activities. Apple Fest was our first fundraiser of the year and it was fantastic! Thanks to those who stopped by and supported this great group of kids.

Wreath sales are kicking off!

All wreaths fresh & handmade with love by the youth group.

Upcoming dates for Youth Group meetings/events are as follows...

Oct 7th & 21st Youth meeting

Oct 23rd-25th Youth Retreat at Luther Point

Wreath making Nov. 21st all youth are needed! Parents are strongly encouraged to help. We will have a potluck lunch!

Supper & Game Night, Thursday, October 1st, 4:30pm-6:30pm

At FELC; Free supper, board games & great company

Wisdom Seekers, Thursday Mornings at 9am at FELC

Crafting Saturday, October 10th, 9am-2pm at FELC

Bring your crafts & a dish to share!!

Quilters will meet on October 13th, 10:00-2:00 W/potluck at noon

The Gift of God's Word: Reformation Sunday, October 25

Luther wanted the Bible in the hands of ordinary people. In their own language. In their own homes. Five centuries later, we're still at it, one kid at a time.

On Reformation Sunday, October 25, during worship, we'll present Bibles to our 3-year-olds, 3rd graders, and 6th graders. A 3-year-old won't read it yet, and that's okay. The promise is the same one spoken over them at the font: this Word is for *you*.

We have a Food and Essential shelf located by the Men's bathroom in the Fellowship Hall. This is for the use of all people/church congregation, neighbors/Our Community. Please take items as needed. You may also donate items to this shelf. Non-perishable/Non expired items. Examples: canned food, boxed cereals, muffins, care items and cleaning supplies. (On behalf of Stewardship members: Thank you)300

Important Date Change Notice!

The October Community Dinner, hosted by the Prayer Shawl group, will be held on Friday, October, 16th from 4:30p-6:30p.

This is a week later than normal, due to a scheduling conflict. The November and December dinners will be held on the second Friday of those months.

Viking Vittles Needs You

In order to continue the weekend food program for students in our community that are food insecure we need people to deliver the totes to the schools. This would be one day a month for approximately 1 hour. Each tote contains 8 bags of food for students. The totes weigh between 25-28#. Last year we delivered 7 totes to the Education Center and 23 totes to Sunrise River School. The totes can be delivered on Tuesday or Wednesday mornings. You would deliver once per month.

To volunteer or if you have questions, please call Donna at 612-363-5072.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE QUARTERLY WELCA MEETING:

Sunday October 11th following the service. Grab your coffee and treats and meet in the north fellowship hall.

We have several important dates/events coming up in this last quarter of the year that we will be discussing. Hope to see you then!

WELCA meeting dates for 2026-

October 11, after church - Naomi Circle in charge

January 11, 2027, Sarah Circle in charge

Tune in our Daily Texts, Monday through Saturday on our Facebook Page @immanuelchurchofalmelund

A daily devotional time based on an Old and New Testament Bible verse based on a Moravian Church tradition and Ground Up Grace

Publications Daily Texts 2026 books.

The Immanuel Quilters will meet Tuesday, October 13th, 10am-2pm, with a potluck lunch at noon. We're working on quilts for our 7 graduates for 2027. If you have a senior this year be sure the office has the correct information. We have plenty of fabric, patterns, and some kits available if you'd like to sew at home. Feel free to check out our quilting room. We are slowly getting our room more organized, but if you would like help choosing fabric, or finding a new project please ask any quilter. Hope to see

you October 13th. Have a Happy Halloween



Martha Strecker. [651-341-3885](tel:651-341-3885)

Exercise your vocal chords! Come sing with Unexpected Company Chorale! Rehearsals for our winter concert, "Songs of Wonder", start on Monday, September 14th, at Trinity Lutheran Church, [13025 Newell Avenue, Lindstrom](#). Register in person starting at 6:30 PM or register online at www.ucchorale.org. Rehearsals are Monday evenings, at 7PM. If you love to sing, you should sing with Unexpected Company Chorale!

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, Oct 19; The third Monday of the month.

PROOFREADING:

Of newsletter Wednesday, Oct 21 @ 10:00; in the Fireside Room.

NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY:

Will be Friday, Oct 23 @ 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



Thursday, October 1st

4:30pm - 6:30pm

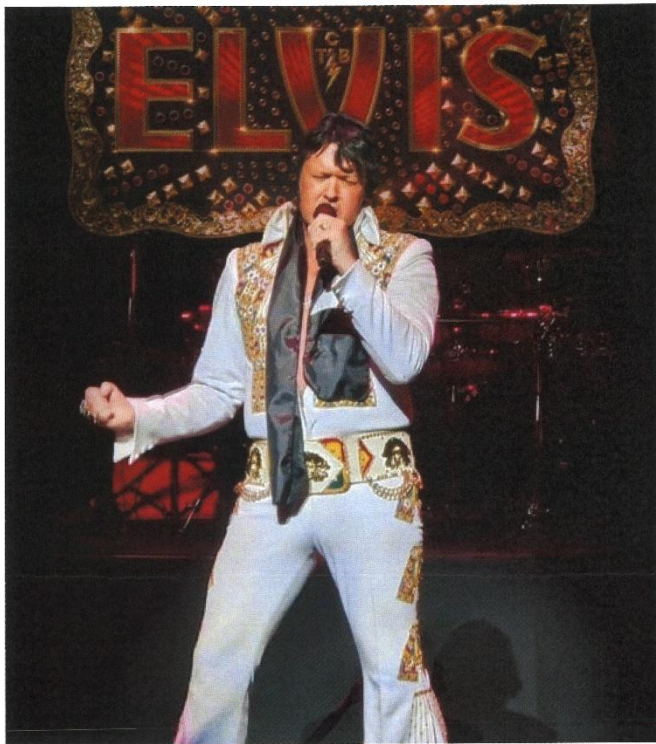
Come enjoy a delicious supper and have some fun playing games! Bring your favorite game or play what is available at the church! There is something for everyone!!!

**First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Taylors Falls**

Holy Smokes!

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



**Experience the King like never before. Anthony Shore
will be putting on a Gospel Show as Elvis.**

October 25, 2026 at 2:00 PM

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Almelund, MN

Come for a fun afternoon show and rock to the Gospel Music of Elvis Presley

Fri., Oct 16, 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



Community Dinner Update

October: Prayer Shawl

November: Parish Care Team

December: Education Committee

Thank you to all those who have supported this worthwhile event! If you'd be interested in hosting future Community Dinners, please contact a member of the stewardship committee.

Tractor and Treat

HALLOWEEN EVENT



Immanuel Lutheran Church
Sunday, October 11th

🎃 4pm - 6pm 🎃

37515 Park Trail, Almelund

All Are Welcome!



Grab your dabber



TURKEY BINGO

**Saturday, November 14, 2026,
6:00 PM**

**Shafer Township Hall
18259 St. Croix Trail
Taylors Falls, MN 55084**

\$20 for 20 games

**Bring items for the food shelf
for a chance drawing of a
complete turkey dinner
Sponsored by Immanuel
Lutheran Church, Almelund**

Wisdom Seekers

Thursday Mornings at 9:00 am

**First Evangelical Lutheran Church
First Floor Education Room**

Everyone is welcome! Come explore how history
has influenced religion and how religion has
influenced history.



40

SCHOOL SERVICES
— NORTH BRANCH —

Our company will
match up to
\$5,000
what we collect!



*Small
Donations
Make a
BIG
Difference!*



STUFF A BUS

FOOD DRIVE

2ND ANNUAL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST, 2026
♥ NORTH BRANCH ♥

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

Groceries AND Personal-Care Items Welcome!

FOOD ITEMS ♥

- Canned vegetables & fruit
- Canned soups, chili & stews
- Pasta, rice & pasta sauce
- Macaroni & cheese
- Peanut butter & jelly
- Cereal & oatmeal
- Crackers, granola bars & snacks
- Canned meats (ravioli, spaghetti, etc.)
- Cooking oils, flour, sugar
- Baby food & formula

♥
*Every
Donation
Helps a
Local Family!*

PERSONAL-CARE ITEMS ♥

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body wash / bar soap
- Deodorant
- Toothbrushes & toothpaste
- Razors
- Feminine hygiene products
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Laundry detergent
- Dish soap
- Diapers & baby wipes

♥
*Thank
you!* ♥



All Saints Sunday, November 1, 2026 we will be celebrating the lives of the saints in our lives! We will remember the loved ones we have lost this year and those who have died in past years that we hold close in our hearts. There will be an opportunity during our worship service to come forward to light a candle in remembrance of our special loved ones.

Name of person(s) to be remembered or honored:

Your Name:

Given to this Memorial Fund:

Similar to the Easter Memorial Garden, please return this form to the church, along with your contribution by Sunday, October 25th.

Make check to Immanuel Lutheran Church Memorial Fund.

You can bring your contribution to the office or drop it in the gray box outside the office.

Funds will be used as designated for your chosen Memorial Fund throughout the year.

Thank you.

Note: *Forms turned in after the October 25th deadline will not be included in the All Saints Sunday memorials listing in the bulletin, but will be listed the next Sunday in the bulletin. Thank you!*

IMMANUEL'S MEMORIAL FUNDS:

Christian Education

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Archives

Music

Altar Guild

Africa Support/African Student Scholarships

Building Fund

Immanuel Quilters

Technology

Landscaping

Youth Group Mission Trips

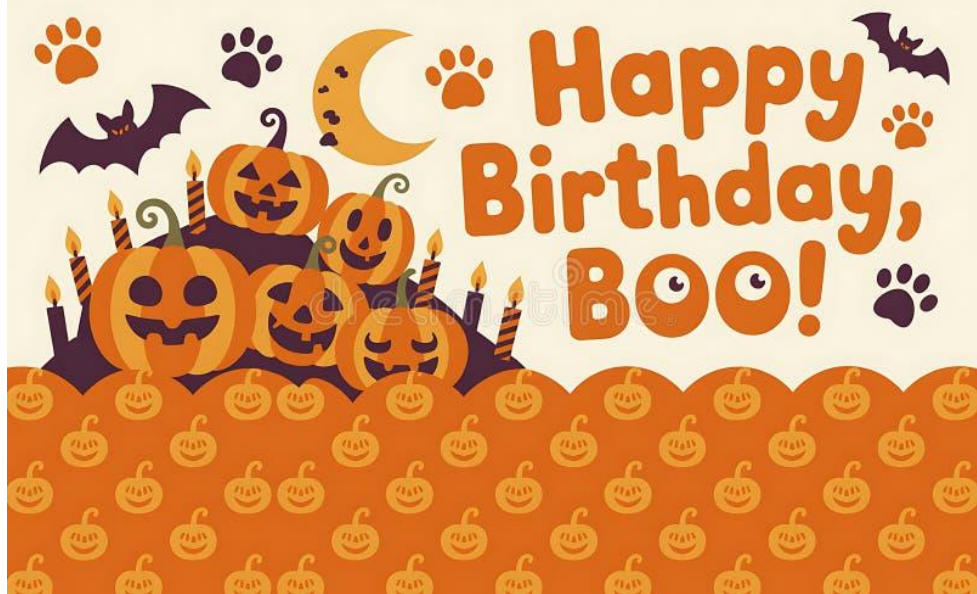
Scholarships

Parish Care Team

Library

Cemetery Perpetual Care

Undesignated



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 Bradley Johnson, Christina Loyas, Cynthia Tubbs, Lucas Anderson

3 Mark W. Johnson, Jason Fredlund, Calvin Flanery

4 MacKenzee Hays

5 Clay Ryberg, James McCarthy

6 Jeremy Larson

9 Sheila Smith, Momoh Freeman, Belinda Berger

10 Ella Tuhy

11 Judy Nelson

12 Kenzey Rothe

13 Gretta Rivard, Kristi Johnson

14 Lois Ness, Heather Johnson

15 Nick Wiberg, Kevin Nadeau

16 Chad Burnside

18 Ella Johnson

21 Shelby Armstrong, Emma Cook

22 Wyatt Lutz, Adam Anderson

27 Aaron Schultz, Martha Strecker

28 Jared Rothe

29 Robert Olson, Owen Paavola

31 Robby Roth

October 2026

Sun	Mon 9:00-3:00 Office Hours	Tue 9:00-3:00 Office Hours
A time for coffee and fellowship is enjoyed after every Sunday service		
4 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Worship Service Live and Online with Jerry Rhoads; and Noisy Offering. Sunday School after children's sermon 11:00 First Ev. Lutheran Service	5 9:00 Parish Care 10:00 Stewardship	6 9:00 Worship Team 10:30 WOW Practice
11 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Worship Service Live and Online. Sunday School after children's sermon WELCA meets after church 11:00 First Ev. Lutheran Service 4-6 Tractor & Treat @ ILC	12 COLUMBUS DAY 5:30 Property 6:00 Council	13 9:00 Worship Team 10:30 WOW Practice 10-2 Quilters meet W/potluck at noon
18 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 WOW Communion Worship Service Live and Online. Sunday School after children's sermon 11:00 First Ev. Lutheran Service	19 6:00 Chris. Ed. NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	20 9:00 Worship Team 9:30 Naomi Circle @ Linda Mielke's 10:30 WOW Practice
25 Reformation Sunday LPBC Youth Retreat 9:00 Worship Service Live and Online. Sunday School after children's sermon. And Bible Distribution 11:00 First Ev. Lutheran Service 2:00 Ecumen Service	26 6:00 Worship & Music	27 9:00 Worship Team 10:30 WOW Practice

Wed 9:00-3:00 Office Hours	Thu	Fri 9:00-3:00 Office Hours	Sat
	1 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 Wisdom Seekers @ FELC 4:30-6:30 Game Night @ FELC	2 Bulletin Printed	3
7 1:30 Prayer Shawl 6:00 Hannah Circle Youth Group 6:30 Choir Practice @ ILC	8 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 Wisdom Seekers @ FELC	9 Bulletin Printed	10 9-2 Crafting Saturday; FELC
14 6:30 Choir Practice @ FELC	15 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 Wisdom Seekers @ FELC	16 Bulletin Printed 4:30-6:30 Community Meal	17 MEA Weekend
21 10:00 Newsletter is ready for proof reading 1:30 Prayer Shawl Youth Group 6:30 Choir Practice @ ILC	22 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 Wisdom Seekers @ FELC 6:30 Holy Smokes @ Wild Mtn Winery	23 LPBC Youth Retreat Bulletin Printed 10:00 Newsletter Assembly	24 LPBC Youth Retreat
28 6:30 Choir Practice @ FELC 5:30 Confirmation	29 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 Wisdom Seekers @ FELC	30 Bulletin Printed	31 HALLOWEEN 5:00 Trunk & Treat @ FELC

Thank you to those helping with the Worship Services!

	Oct 4	Oct 11	Oct 18	Oct 25	
Scripture Reader					
Ushers	Zach Rivard	Zach Rivard	Zach Rivard	Zach Rivard	
Sound Tech	Dave Rue	Loraine Rue	Nancy Nadeau	Julie Johnson	
Camera Tech	Matt Oknich	Dave Rue	Jodi Johnson-Waldemar	Vern Johnson	
Children's Sermon	Amanda Cook	Jeske Noordergraaf		Pastor Justin	
Coffee Servers	Matt & Soua Carlson	Hannah Circle	WELCA		
Teachers					

Communion Servers:

Sunday, Oct 4th- Clay Ryberg, Amanda Cook, Chris Schumacher

Sunday, Oct 18th- Perry Lindberg, Norm Peterson, Julie Weller

Communion Wine - Wild Mountain Winery

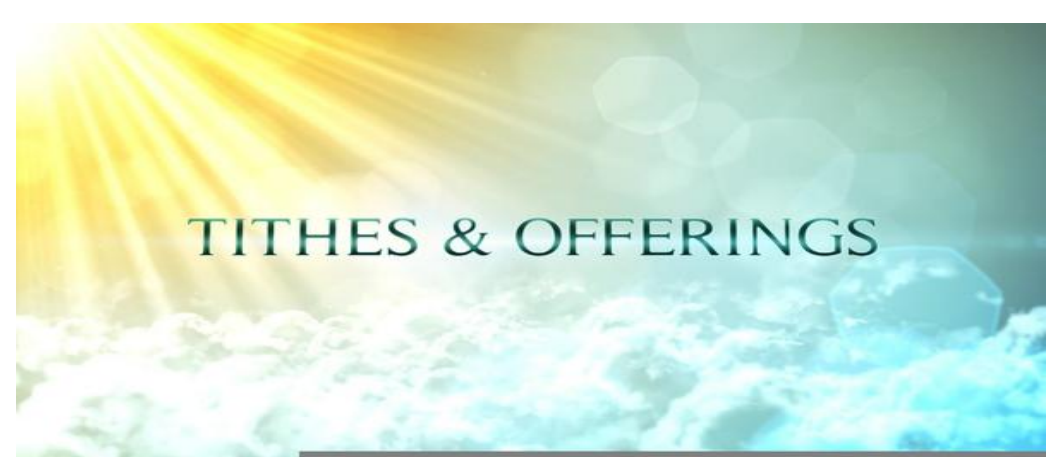
Communion Wafers now used

Reader Coordinator **Oct:** Joanne Johnson

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

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

Code	Fund	26-Aug	YTD 2026	YTD 2025
1	GENERAL	\$13,839.97	\$114,095.25	\$129,294.36
2	UNDESIGNATED	\$170.00	\$1,907.50	\$1,700.00
3	SYNOD	\$450.00	\$3,600.00	\$2,800.00
4	LUTHER POINT	\$175.00	\$1,257.00	\$286.25
5	LUTH. SOC. SERV.	\$50.00	\$677.50	\$145.00
6	ITONYA TANZANIA MISSION	\$-	\$75.00	\$555.00
7	WORLD HUNGER	\$25.00	\$85.00	\$100.00
10	LOOSE	\$237.00	\$3,467.00	\$4,410.50
11	FELLOWSHIP DINNERS	\$-	\$341.10	\$1,569.00
12	LENT	\$-	\$1,026.00	\$534.00
13	MAUNDY THURSDAY	\$-	\$37.00	\$25.00
14	GOOD FRIDAY	\$-	\$85.00	\$48.00
15	EASTER	\$-	\$622.00	\$1,003.00
16	THANKSGIVING	\$-	\$-	\$-
17	CHRISTMAS	\$-	\$30.00	\$-
18	USE OF CHURCH	\$-	\$377.50	\$1,620.00
20	NOISY OFFERING	\$124.70	\$1,281.15	\$1,456.18
21	BUILDING FUND	\$120.00	\$2,131.50	\$2,573.47
22	CdFee	\$15.50	\$187.85	\$101.85
23	SAMPLER	\$275.00	\$5,247.60	\$-
24	CHRISTIAN ED	\$2.00	\$168.00	\$195.00
26	SHARE MINISTRY	\$2,130.00	\$17,040.00	\$15,420.00
27	Grants	\$-	\$1,099.00	\$760.00
30	YOUTH GROUP	\$2.00	\$552.00	\$152.00
31	YOUTH MISSION TRIP	\$2.00	\$904.00	\$2.00
33	WELCA	\$-	\$-	\$10.00
34	WORSHIP & MUSIC	\$-	\$12.50	\$25.00
35	ALTAR GUILD	\$-	\$50.00	
36	QUILTERS MINISTRY	\$-	\$-	\$302.00
40	FOOD SHELF	\$-	\$-	\$25.00
50	ENDOWMENT FUND	\$-	\$15.00	\$31.25
51	BUILDING RENOVATION	\$-	\$14,279.10	
60	SPECIAL DONATIONS	\$-	\$2,095.16	\$1,026.20
90	MEMORIAL	\$-	\$-	\$100.00
91	MEMORIAL GARDEN	\$-	\$1,707.00	\$2,605.00
92	ALL SAINTS	\$-	\$-	\$-
97	Fund Transfers		\$5,500.00	\$11,544.04
	Totals	\$17,618.17	\$179,952.71	\$180,419.10



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!

THANK YOU

Dear Immanuel Lutheran church,
Thank you very much for the
Ada Ogren Scholarship. It really
does mean alot. Its been a true
blessing being able to grow up
around this church and I cannot thank
you all enough.

-Brady Roth

Immanuel Lutheran Church,
thank you so much for presenting
me with the Irene Hasselquist
Scholarship. This will help me as I
finish my college journey through
Student-teaching, and become a teacher!
Again thank you very much,
Brooke Rotne.

Thank you to everyone
for your prayers & cards
following Dean's open
heart surgery & hospital-
ization.

Thank you to Pastor
Justin for his visit
and to the pray shawl
Committee for the beautiful
shawl delivered by Joanne
& Richard. The care
& concern shown by
church & community are
greatly appreciated

Dean & Natalie Oknisk

Thanks to all who made the
Almelund Apple Festival a
huge success. The food was
delicious. The entertainment was
great. The vendors had many
wonderful things to
sell. Stewardship Committee

Dear Martha, Thank you so
much for the prayer/healing
shawl. So very thoughtful and I
have used it and I know it has
helped me. I believe prayer is
very powerful and it's what has
gotten me through this ordeal.

Thank you so much,
Karen Francis

Dear Martha and Prayer Shawl Group

Thank you for the soft down
yellow prayer shawl. It feels so
good to be wrapped in the
arms of God's love thanks to
my prayer shawl friends.

I'm healing well following
my surgery. A cancerous tumor
was found but they believe they
got it all and are not expecting
I'll need chemo or radiation.
Praise be to God!

I so appreciate your
ongoing love and care.
Thanks for your prayers
made tangible through
this cozy prayer shawl.

Blessings and peace
to you,
Pastor Marla

Thank you for the quilt and prayer shall.

Luke Rivard

Dear lunch people, thank you for such a wonderful luncheon you served.
My family really appreciated. God Bless You all!!

The DeWayne Gunderson Family

Christian Ed meeting Minutes - 8/17/26, 6pm

Attended by: Pastor Justin, Teresa, Jenny, Julie, Val and Cami

Old Business: Reviewed June Meeting minutes, July meeting was canceled due to only a couple people being able to make it

New Business:

VBS

- Cami joined us to share thoughts, as she heads up the Craft section of VBS, Jenny & Julie were also there to help
- The pictures on Facebook looked like it was wonderful and all went well, Justin, Cami, Jenny & Julie all agreed
- There were plenty of volunteers with the youth group helping - they seem to enjoy being the older kids that can help now
- Average kids/night range between 25-35, about the same as years past
- One new family, the Long family with a 6 and 3 year old, Jenny knows them and they are local to Almelund, we will reach out for Sunday School
- Online registration was a hit, any paper registrations have been given to Mark to update per Jenny
- Only a couple suggestions for next year, work on communication to others that are leading or helping, also, make copies of a list of each group for the volunteers and the teachers to have
- Beth will do this again next year according to Justin

Sunday School

- August 30th - Blessing of the Backpacks
- Sept 27th - Rally Sunday with pancake breakfast
 - Rally Sunday will be a Carnival game style as the last few years have been
 - Teresa noted 21 large bags and 21 small bags to use for prizes and giveaways
 - Ping Pong balls and numbered duckies
 - Many prizes and give aways

- Bags, ping pong balls, duckies and give aways are in a large tote in Classroom B
- Pre-load bags, and then have additional prizes at the game sites

- Justin has talked to Amanda Massey, who may be willing to coordinate Sunday School

- Theme ideas for the year: God is Good, Share your Faith, Help others in God's service

- Would like to keep the kids in 3 groups, as it seems to keep the kids engaged better

- May use Hearts Alive again - Pastor will get in touch with others to see if they are teaching and what they think about that, Cami, Val and Teresa liked Hearts Alive

- Who will teach? - Cami will teach 1st-2nd, Val, Teresa, Jenny and Julie will substitute teach

Adult

- Holy Smokes - at Wild Mountain Winery - 4th Thursday, 6:30pm April thru October, Faith Conversations Widening Circles

Other

- Cradle Roll - Jenny, Justin, Mark and JoAnne Johnson have met and are working on this - Keeping large shelving, will get small cubes from Target

- CE has decided to do Community meal 4:30-6:30 on December 11th and combine it with the Parent's night out event (until 8:30) - menu is in place: Curt & Teresa will smoke pork shoulder, Val will bring buns, baked beans, Julie will do Cheesy potatoes, BBQ sauce, ketchup, pickles and coleslaw provided by Julie, all will bring 1 pan of bars, coffee, water, milk (Jenny bringing), Val will bring juice boxes. Animal crackers for later for kids - Teresa

Christian Ed Meeting Minutes - 9/21, 6pm

Attended by: Kristi, Julie, Jenny, Cami. Teresa & Pastor Justin

Old Business: Reviewed August meeting Minutes

New Business:

Sunday School

● Rally Sunday - this Sunday, Sept 27th, with breakfast by the Immanuel men

○ Julie, Kristi, Dana & possibly Jenny will be there

○ Carnival theme - games & prizes

- Leadership & teachers - Pastor Justin gave us an update, there is not a volunteer to lead or a group to lead. 2 teachers are interested, 3 others will teach, and Julie, Jenny & Teresa will substitute as needed
 - The Christian Ed committee plus Julie and Cami, will all lead together
 - Discussed the difficulties for families/parents with being able to volunteer
- Communication postcards went out to families to invite them to Rally Sunday and Sunday School
- A tentative calendar and sign up sheet was created and emailed to teachers & subs
- The CE group has offered to help with anything additional that needs to be done, Jenny can put together lesson folders
- Discussed many ideas Pastor Justin brought up for doing Sunday school in different ways - such as changing the day or the time, the frequency, just kids or congregation with kids as part of church, send home, etc. We decided to start with it every Sunday during service as we have been doing, but break into 2 classes: Pre-K, K & 1st grade, and then 2nd - 5th grade
- Pastor mentioned that Hearts Alive was staying in the Old Testament all fall, mostly Moses, and he would like to continue preaching the book of Matthew, so he brought up some other curriculum to be more in line with what he is doing this fall.
 - Decided to order Mini Lessons to start with this fall - they are from Spirit and Truth Publishing and called Living the Word, can be purchased quarterly so it can be tried out, and is very reasonable
 - Lessons will be about 20 minutes long
 - No longer having videos at the beginning, kids will go right to classrooms
 - Discussed having classroom helpers if there are many kids in a class, some members of the congregation have expressed interest to Cami
 - Kristi mentioned having the younger kids, Pre-K thru 1st grade, be more play based

Confirmation: Starts this Wednesday, Sept 23rd

Milestones

- Bible Sunday - 3 yr olds, 3rd graders & new confirmation kids - Pastor to find a date
- Prayer Pillows for Kindergarteners will be during Lent
- Money management & banks for 4th graders - Nov
- Lock In 3rd-5th graders - Feb
- Dates for all need to be picked, tabled for next meeting

Upcoming Events

- Tractor or Treat - Oct 11th, Cami suggested putting a flyer in their bags to invite to Sunday school, or possibly the postcard, since other kids come to this event that may not be currently going to our church

- Community meal done by CE group will be at same time as Parents Night Out on Dec 11th, Meal 4-6, Parents night out 4-8:30
- Advent Adventures - possible date of Nov 18th
- Christmas program - Dec 13th, during service - will be simple, as Pastor found a program with a single narrator, kids will just be dressed up in the costumes and act out
- Someone suggested Pastor be the narrator, Pastor mentioned other adults

VBS

- Pastor may have a conflict with the usual date - he will figure that out, discussed moving it as he is very much a part of the VBS program

Adult

- Holy Smokes continues at Wild Mountain Winery at 6:30pm on the 4th Thursday thru October
- Wisdom Seekers 9am Thursdays at First Lutheran Other
- Cradle Roll - Jenny has several ornaments that should go to families now, since the children are old enough for Sunday school, they have been invited to Sunday School and Pastor will get their ornaments to them. Jenny needs baptism dates to prepare some others that were baptized and need their ornament hung up.
- Pastor has picked up the new storage cubicles for Sunday School classrooms

Worship & Music Minutes ~ August 24, 2026

Present: Pastor Justin Fenger, Tora Carlson, Diann Huber, Pam Larson, Pat Remer, Chris Schumacher

Absent: Dayna Geisbauer, Nicki Klanderud, Kim Raschke, Dadu Reeves
Tora called the meeting to Order – Pat gave devotions for Kim.

Old Business:

Review July 27, 2026 minutes. MSP to accept.

Children's Sermons: Pastor Justin will continue through September 20 th - Pat will start recruiting Children's Sermon participants, beginning with September 27, Rally Sunday.

Recap Worship Services/Events:

- Wednesday, July 29 – LAST PATTY MELT @ Lions Ball Field. Great support from the community!
- August 2 – 9:00 ILC/Youth Group Mission Trip Recap & Reflections/Communion/Noisy Offering [\$124.70]...11:00, First
- August 7, 8, 9 – Almelund Threshing Show

- August 9 – 9:00 Polka Service @ Threshing Show Grounds. GREAT SERVICE!! Pastor Justin, message; Jon Ekstrom, helped with prayers etc.; polka music provided by Chuck Theil and the Jolly Ramblers – really appreciated the lively polka music!!...11:00, First
- August 10, 11, 12, 13 – VBS, 5:30-8:00. GOOD ATTENDANCE (30-40 every night!)
- August 14 – ILC Community Dinner with emphasis on VBS families, 4:30-6:30 About 35-40 attended.
- August 16 – 9:00 ILC/WOW Service (enjoyed the WOW participation)/Communion/VBS Sunday...11:00, First
- August 21 – Relay For Life @ CLLC. Could use help selling luminaries at Immanuel as Grace DeVault would like to be done with Relay responsibilities – travel being the issue.
- August 22 – Denny Betterley Benefit @ American Legion, Forest Lake
- August 23 – 9:00 ILC...11:00, First
- August 23 – 2:00 Ecumen Service

Upcoming Dates:

- August 27, Thursday – 6:30 Holy Smokes @ Wild Mt. Winery
- August 30 – 9:00 ILC/Blessing of the Back Packs/Service of Healing. Idea for 2027 – ILC could put out a call for back packs & school supplies...11:00, First
- September 1 – Chisago Lakes & North Branch Schools Start
- September 6 – 9:00 ILC/Communion/Noisy Offering...11:00, First
- September 11 – ILC Community Dinner prepared by Jon Ekstrom, 4:30-6:30
- September 12, 13 – Hay Days
- September 13 – 9:00 ILC...11:00, First. God's Work, Our Hands at both churches. (Projects @ Luther Point?????)
- September 20 – 9:00 ILC/Communion...11:00, First/Rally Sunday
- September 20 – Apple Festival, 11-4:00
- September 24 – 6:30 Holy Smokes @ Wild Mt. Winery
- September 27 – 9:00 ILC/WOW/Rally Sunday/Dedication of Prayer Shawls/Men of Immanuel provide Breakfast...11:00, First
- September 27 – 2:00 Ecumen Service
- October 4 – 9:00 ILC/Communion/Noisy Offering...11:00, First. Need pulpit supply at both churches as Pastor Justin will be gone.
- October 9 – ILC Community Dinner, 4:30-6:30
- October 11 – 9:00 ILC...11:00, First
- October 11 – “Tractor & Treat” 4-6:00
- October 18, MEA Weekend – 9:00 ILC/WOW/Communion...11:00, First

- October 22 – 6:30 Holy Smokes @ Wild Mt. Winery (depending on the weather)
- October 25, Reformation – 9:00 ILC...11:00, First
- October 25 – 2:00 Ecumen Service

Looking Ahead:

- November 22 or 29 – Possible African Men’s Chorus...Would they sing for the Worship Service or have an afternoon concert? Dadu should set this up.
- Tuesday, November 24 – Joint Thanksgiving Evening Service – (6:30 @ ILC in 2025) Pie & Coffee to follow service. Wondering if First would be interested in having the service this year – would they want to host Pie & Coffee????

Sampler:

Looking at Sunday, April 11, 2027. LeeAnn will call the auction – Momoh & Amy said they would come back for that!! Good Neighbors Ukulele Circle said “Yes” for participation!

New Business:

Worship Team:

- Service formats/hymns are done through September 27.

Other:

- Some comments from the congregation...miss saying The Apostles & Nicene Creeds like we’ve done in the past. Thought during Advent or Lent we could select a setting using a creed.
- Committee is encouraged to bring new ideas to the table that would enhance the worship experience.
- How will we celebrate Immanuel’s 140th Anniversary in 2027?

Prayer Concerns:

Pastor Justin led us in prayer for all concerns mentioned.

Next Scheduled Meeting: September 28, 2026 @ 6:00 Devotions: Dadu

Minutes from Stewardship meeting of September 14, 2026

Members present: Julie Weller, Kris Koran, Maureen Peterson, Natalie Oknick, Linda Peterson and Pastor Justin

Devotions: Julie Weller

The minutes of August 3rd were approved

Old Business:

Community Dinner: October 16th Prayer Shawl, November Parish Care, December Christian Ed.

Church Directory: Printing of the new directory will be September 27!

SOR: Pastor Justin presented a plan for a clear communication flow for ILC and create a calendar for Shared Ministry activities.

New Business:

October Thank you: Kris (Apple Festival)

Fall Stewardship:

Distribute Time and Talent sheets.

Plan for Welcome for Dadu and family to be held in November 15th after church service.

Next Meeting: October 5th, 10am

Devotions: Natalie Oknick

PROPERTY COMMITTEE MINUTES SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

PRESENT: Norm Peterson, Julie Weller, Pastor Justin, Bob Rothe, Don Noyes, Scott Olson , Perry Lindberg

Meeting called to order at 5:30 By Norm Peterson

Discussion of old kitchen renovation, Dan Anderson working on insulation and sheetrock, projected to be done in a couple weeks. Cabinets will be ordered from Menards by Bob Rothe. Flooring needs to be done after cabinets are in place.

Flat roof update: does not need to be replaced, needs some repair on flashing in which Adam Cook is going to do..

Mud jacking sidewalk, waiting for a quote on repairs.

Troy Timmermanis has been doing pest control for no charge & has gotten mice under control.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 by Norm Peterson

Submitted by Perry Lindberg

**Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2026**

Meeting called:

Members: Amanda Cook, Perry Lindberg, Norm Peterson, Clay Ryberg, Clay Larson, Julie Weller, Pastor Justin

Devotions: Clay Ryberg speaking of the Importance of kindness.

Financial Secretary, Jenica Beck was there to give finance report and answer questions.

Old Business:

Dan Anderson is back working restoring the old kitchen and should be done with the walls in a couple of weeks; Cupboards and floor to follow.

Pastor Justin gave up-date on improving communication W/Shared Ministry and members.

New Business:

Council approved to give Troy Timermanis, with Bear Pest Controls; who has been taking care of mice and bee problem for no fee, a \$100 Gift Card and pie as a thank you.

Reported that the Vacation Bible School kids, contributed 97 lbs. of food to Family Resource Food Bank.

Council approved to contribute, again to the “Stuff The Bus” on Saturday November 21st in North Branch. Church members can contribute on Sunday November 8th & 15th, with a cash donation and/or food or personal care items.

Turkey Bingo on November 14th will also be collecting for this. 4.0 Bus Company of North Branch, will match everything up to \$5,000.00.

Motion made to accept the committee reports.

Offering Securer:

Oct 4 Clay Ryberg,
Oct 11 Julie Weller
Oct 18 Perry Lindberg
Oct 25 Norm Peterson

Communion Ushers:

Oct 4 Clay Ryberg, Amanda Cook, Chris Schumacher
Oct 18 Perry Lindberg, Norm Peterson, Julie Weller

Meeting adjourned W/Lord’s Prayer

Next Meeting: October 12, 2026 @ 6:00 pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church October 2026

37515 Park Trail

Almelund, MN 55012-7511

Change Service Requested

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

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

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

Administrative Assistant/Financial Recorder:

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

Financial Secretary: Jenica Beck

(763)377-5396 finance@immanuelalmelund.com

Custodial: Kim's Kleaning

Organist: Dadu Reeves

(609)503-0554; dadureeves@gmail.com

Cemetery Groundskeeper: Daryl Abrahamson

(651)674-2419; Julie.I.abrahamson@gmail.com

Youth Group: Jason Fredlund 651-208-5915;

DeeDee Fredlund 651-206-1190

Sunday School:

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

Our Mission Statement:

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