



IMMANUEL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ALMELUND, MN

# MESSENGER

## September

### 2026

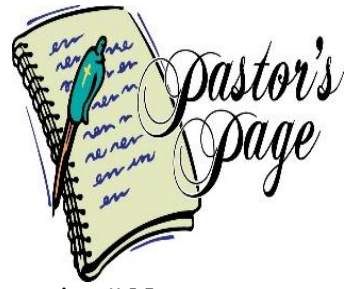


*The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Almelund, MN*

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My kids just finished their fall shopping. New shoes. New clothes. New notebooks that haven't been scribbled in yet. A whole new school year. I was always excited about that as a kid. I'm not sure my kids share quite the same enthusiasm, and that's okay. But there's something in all that *new* that Scripture knows by heart.



Lamentations says God's mercies are "new every morning." Not new once a year when the notebooks come out, but new every single day. That's the God we're introducing our kids to this year.

And this year, on the last Sunday of August, we will gather the backpacks up here on the hill, and we bless them. We lay hands on the ordinary stuff of a kid's life, the zippers, the lunch boxes, the worry. We ask God to go with them into the year, which begged the question what do we want our kids to take with them through the year so, I asked our Christian Education Committee to think about a theme this year, one of them was driving and happened to glance down at a placemat left over from this summer's Vacation Bible School, that said "God is Good" " She thought, *that's a nice theme*. Nothing dramatic. Just a small thought on an ordinary drive. Then she pulled into her driveway, and her husband met her; after a short conversation, without any prompting, he said, "God is good." The Spirit speaks. Sometimes on the drive home. So that's our theme. **God is good, but not as a slogan** to smooth everything over, the sticker we slap on top of a hard day so we don't have to sit in it. Because the truth is, the world is full of things that are not good. Death is bad. Bullying is bad. Injustice is bad. It's just bad. And I don't ever want us to hand a child a Bible verse like it's medicine we're swearing tastes like candy. Kids can taste the difference. They deserve a faith that can hold the weight of the real world, because the real world is exactly where their faith will be tested.

So, we're going to tell them the truth. God made this world and called it *very good*, which means the grief and the destruction were never the plan. They're the intrusion. The thing that doesn't belong. Scripture doesn't even flinch about this: Paul calls death an *enemy*, "the last enemy to be destroyed." Not a teacher. Not a tool in God's hand. An enemy God is at war with.

And that's what makes "God is good" the most solid ground a kid can stand on — not that the world is good, but that God refused to stay out of a world that isn't. He came down into it. The cross was not good; it was injustice and torture and the death of an innocent man, and God never once called it fine. But God took the worst thing and turned it into the place where death

got beaten. Easter doesn't say Good Friday was secretly okay all along. Easter says the bad doesn't get the last word.

That's why our verses this year are Psalm 107 and Lamentations 3. Psalm 107 is story after story of people crying out from the very bottom, lost, imprisoned, sick, caught in the storm, and God showing up every time. And Lamentations sits right in the rubble of a destroyed city, grieving, not pretending anything is fine, and right there in the middle of the grief it says: "his mercies are new every morning."

That's what we want these kids carrying into the school year and into their lives: not a slogan that cracks the first time life gets hard, but a God who is already down in the crack with them, "new every morning."

So come to the Blessing of the Backpacks on the last Sunday of August. Bring your kids, your grandkids, the neighbor kid who needs a church. And come to worship this fall as Sunday School begins because this theme isn't just for the little ones. It's for every one of us who has ever looked at this world and wondered how we're supposed to say God is good.

We can say it. Not because the world is. But because He came.

*God is good — new every morning*, Pastor Justin.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Almelund's Farmers Market is well underway** - Rod's Country Corner, Friday afternoons - 3-6:00. Check out the variety of local items...plants, produce, eggs, maple syrup, honey, breads, jams/jellies, wood crafts, floral bouquets - Products change with the season. New vendors are encouraged and welcome!!! If interested, contact Pat @ 651-583-2100.

### **Holy Baptism, July 26, 2026 of**

**Colter Larson, born March 7, 2026 to**

Jeremy & Kayla Larson

Sponsors; Kelsey Larson, Philip Larson & Connor Larson

**"Welcome, new member, to Immanuel Lutheran Church of Almelund"**

### **Youth Group**

Sept 2nd Youth & Confirmation registration @ 6pm in the fellowship hall

Sept 19th food prep for Apple Fest 9am @ Lions Park

Sept 20th Apple Fest! All youth are needed to help

Please reach out to Dee or Jason with any questions

**Stewardship** will meet September 14th @ 10:00am. Then, back to the first Monday of the month.

**Parish Care Team** will meet September 14th, 2026, at 9:00am

**Hannah Circle** will meet Wednesday, September 2nd at 6:00 PM.

**The Naomi Circle** will meet at the home of Joanne Johnson on September 15th at 9:30am. Hope to see you all there!

**Did you hear the joyful and exciting noise** in and around our church one week in August? It came from our awesome Bible School. Thanks to our fearsome leader Beth, Pastor Justin and all of the other leaders that shared their love of God with the children. Thanks for the youth for being there. Thanks to the cooks. Thanks to the parents. Especially thanks to the children who came eager to learn and have fun. It was a wonderful week for all.

Stewardship Committee

**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)

### **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

## Help Lead Our Sunday School Ministry

We are looking for someone—or a small team of people—to help take the lead with our Sunday School program. This does not need to be a position carried by one person alone. We hope to build a team that can share the planning, organization, teaching, and communication involved in helping our children grow in faith. Those helping lead Sunday School would work with Pastor Justin and other volunteers to:

- Help plan the Sunday School calendar and lessons
- Recruit and support teachers and classroom helpers
- Communicate with families about schedules and special activities
- Help organize supplies and curriculum
- Encourage children and families to participate
- Bring new ideas and energy to our children's ministry

You do not need to be a trained teacher or Bible expert. What matters most is a love for children, a willingness to work with others, and a desire to help young people know that they are loved by God and are an important part of our church family.

This could be a wonderful opportunity for two or three people to serve together and divide the responsibilities according to their gifts and availability.

If you are interested, curious, or willing to be part of the conversation, please contact Pastor Justin.

### **APPLE FESTIVAL:** Sunday, September 20, 2026

The Apple Festival Committee is looking for **VOLUNTEERS** to help make Apple Crisp and Apple Bread Pudding. We'll be coming together, sharing lots of laughter and fellowship while baking up a storm in Immanuel's kitchen. All help would be appreciated – come when you can, stay as long as you can?

**Reserved dates** for the kitchen for Apple Festival:

Thursday, September 17 @ 2:00 - Apple Crisp

Friday, September 18 @ 4:00 - Apple Bread Pudding

Will need a date for Apple Butter - TBD - Will let you know.

**VOLUNTEERS** are also needed Apple Fest Sunday to help set-up, serve and clean-up. If interested, please contact Pat @ 651-583-2100

**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.

July 29, 2026

To all Women, Friends and North Cluster Contacts,

Trinity Lutheran of North Branch and Chisago Lakes Lutheran invite you to join us on Saturday, September 26, for the North Cluster Gathering at Trinity in North Branch (38460 Lincoln Trail.)

Registration begins at 9:00 am with the program at 9:30am.

SWO (Synodical Women's Organization) Board Member Kathy Hogenson, Trinity, Lindstrom will bring greetings and updates from the Synodical Women's Organization.

The program speaker will be Jenny Henthorn, Community Engagement Coordinator, for New Pathways to tell us about their new building in Cambridge and how churches can continue to be involved in helping those experiencing homelessness.

The morning offering will be split one-half to SWO and one-half to New Pathways. (Make checks payable to "St. Paul Area SWO" marking North Cluster offering in the memo line.)

A material offering of Toilet paper, paper towels, laundry soap, dish soap and cleaning wipes will be collected.

Please let all the women in your church know about the gathering and have the information published in your respective newsletter and bulletin.

If you have any questions, please contact Ann Tanko (763-444-5453) email-artanko15@gmail.com or Barb Wikelius at 651-208-4008 bjwilelius@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday September 26!

Ann Tanko  
Trinity Lutheran, North Branch

Barb Wikelius  
Chisago Lakes Lutheran

On **Sunday, Sept. 13**, congregations of the ELCA will gather for our annual day of service, **"God's work. Our hands."** This day offers an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the ELCA — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Through the years, we have embraced **"God's work. Our hands."** as a way for us to **be church together**. Being church together means being connected, as we recognize our shared calling and our shared responsibility across congregations, synods and the churchwide organization.

**OFFICE HOURS** Please note, office hours are back to Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday. Where did the summer go???

**Address Change:** For Mark & Cindy Weslander; Tom & Rachel Blakeslee  
7662 Pioneer Rd  
Wyoming, MN 55092

**The Immanuel quilters** summer break is over! The Immanuel Quilters will meet Tuesday, September 8th, from 10am to 2pm, with a potluck lunch at noon. Thank you to Jim & Linda Mielke for taking a quilt to Luther Point for their silent auction fund raiser. We will also be donating a quilt to the Apple Festival, September 20th and are looking ahead with 7 graduates in 2027. We have plenty of fabric, patterns, and some kits available if you'd like to sew at home. Our quilting is slowly getting more organized, but if you want help choosing fabric or finding a new project, please ask any quilter. Summer is going by fast and I hope yours was very enjoyable... I know it was warm! Hope to see you September 8th!

Martha Strecker. 651-341-3885

**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, Sep 21; The third Monday of the month.

**PROOFREADING:**

Of newsletter Wednesday, Sep 23 @ 10:00; in the Fireside Room.

**NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY:**

Will be Friday, Sep 25 @ 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

**Holy Smokes!**

Mark, your calendars - Holy Smokes is at Wild Mountain Winery on Thursday, September 24 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**

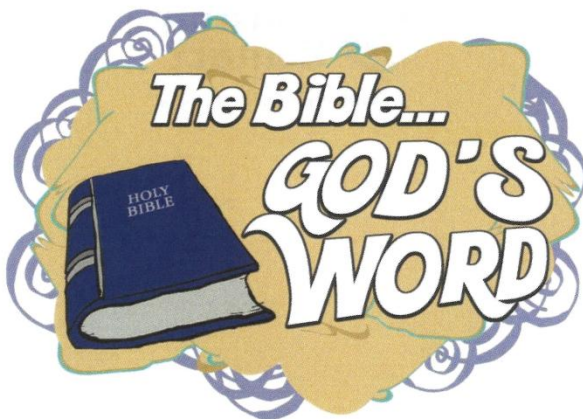
Wild Mountain Winery  
4th Thursday of the Month  
6:30 PM  
April–October 2026

4th Thursday • 6:30 PM

1 April — INDIVIDUALISM: Me, Myself, & I Alone  
2 May — Law & Gospel: Captured & Free  
3 June — The Myth(?) of Christian Self-Help  
4 July — My Story, Your Story, God's Story  
5 August — Mental Health (It's NOT just you...)  
6 September — Listening 101: Listening as the First Act of Love  
7 October — Figuring Out Forgiveness

All are welcome

Good conversation • good community



*The Saint Paul Area Synodical Women's Organization invites you to our annual*

## **Bible Study Enrichment: Gather Bible Study Preview**

Previewing the 2026-2027 Bible Studies from the Gather Magazine  
+ *Our Prayer Practices*  
with Bible Study Leader Pastor Carrie Stiles

**Saturday, September 19, 2026**  
**St. Mark's Lutheran Church - North St. Paul**

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM followed by lunch

All women are welcome!

**Registrations are due by September 16, 2026.**

**[CLICK HERE for more info or to REGISTER ONLINE](#)**

Immanuel Lutheran Church Mail - Register for Bible Study Enrichment

**[CLICK HERE to print form and REGISTER BY MAIL](#)**

*The mission of Women of the ELCA is to  
mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.*

**ST. BRIDGET OF SWEDEN**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

# BLOCK PARTY

**SATURDAY, SEP 5 • 6-10PM**

**BOOGIE  
WONDERLAND**  
Get Down Tonight

**TURKEY DINNER • BEER TENT  
BURGERS • HOT DOGS • BRATS  
KIDS GAMES • SILENT AUCTION**

**7K CASH RAFFLE • FREE ADMISSION**

**HWY 8, LINDSTROM MN**

FOR MORE INFO: STBRIDGE

## 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.



**Begins September 10th**

**Fri., Sep 11, 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**

September: Jon Ekstrom

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.

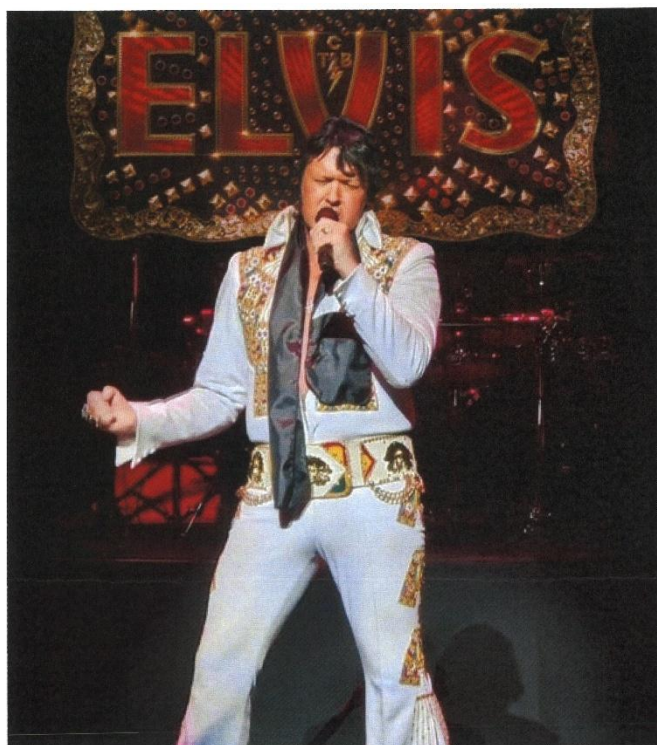


**Thursday, September 3rd**

**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**



**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

# September 2026

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                        | Mon<br>9:00-3:00<br>Office Hours                                                    | Tue<br>9:00-3:00<br>Office Hours                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                     | <b>1</b><br>9:00 Worship Team<br>Chisago Lakes &<br>North Branch schools<br>start classes       |
| <b>6 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b><br>9:00 Communion Worship Service Live<br>and Online W/Noisy Offering.<br>11:00 First Ev. Lutheran Service                                       | <b>7 LABOR DAY</b><br>Office Closed for<br>Holiday                                  | <b>8</b><br>9:00 Worship Team<br>10:30 WOW Practice<br>10-2 Quilters meet<br>W/potluck at noon  |
| <b>13 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b><br>9:00 Worship Service Live and Online<br>God's work. Our hands Sunday<br>11:00 First Ev. Lutheran Service                                     | <b>14</b><br>9:00 Parish Care<br>10:00 Stewardship<br>5:30 Property<br>6:00 Council | <b>15</b><br>9:00 Worship Team<br>9:30 Naomi Circle @<br>Joanne Johnson's<br>10:30 WOW Practice |
| <b>20 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost</b><br>9:00 WOW Communion Worship<br>Service Live and Online<br>11:00 First Ev. Lutheran Service<br>11-4 Apple Festival                           | <b>21</b><br>6:00 Chris. Ed.<br><b>NEWSLETTER<br/>DEADLINE</b>                      | <b>22</b><br>9:00 Worship Team                                                                  |
| <b>27 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b><br>9:00 Worship Service Live and Online<br>W/Prayer Shawl Dedication<br>10:00 Men of ILC Pancake Breakfast<br>11:00 First Ev. Lutheran Service | <b>28</b><br>6:00 Worship & Music                                                   | <b>29</b><br>9:00 Worship Team                                                                  |

**A time for coffee and fellowship is enjoyed after every Sunday service**

| <b>Wed</b><br><b>9:00-3:00</b><br><b>Office Hours</b>                                             | <b>Thu</b>                                                                                                        | <b>Fri</b><br><b>9:00-3:00</b><br><b>Office Hours</b>                                                                                 | <b>Sat</b>                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2</b><br>No Prayer Shawl<br>6:00 Hannah Circle<br>6:00 Youth &<br>Confirmation<br>Registration | <b>3</b><br>Bulletin Deadline<br>4:30-6:30 Game Night<br>@ FELC                                                   | <b>4</b> Bulletin Printed<br>3-6 Almelund Farmer's<br>Market At Rods                                                                  | <b>5</b><br>6-10 pm<br>Block Party @<br>Lindstrom                                                                       |
| <b>9</b>                                                                                          | <b>10</b><br>Bulletin Deadline<br>9:00 Wisdom Seekers<br>@ FELC                                                   | <b>11</b> Bulletin Printed<br>3-6 Almelund Farmer's<br>Market At Rods<br>4:30-6:30 Community<br>Meal                                  | <b>12</b>                                                                                                               |
| <b>16</b><br>No Prayer Shawl                                                                      | <b>17</b><br>Bulletin Deadline<br>9:00 Wisdom Seekers<br>@ FELC<br>2:00 Apple crisp makn'<br>4:30-6:30 Game Night | <b>18</b><br>Bulletin Printed<br>3-6 Almelund Farmer's<br>Market At Rods<br>4:00 Apple Bread<br>Pudding making                        | <b>19</b> 8:30-12:30<br>Bible Study<br>Enrichment<br>9 am Youth food<br>Prep @ Lions<br>Park AND help<br>For Apple Fest |
| <b>23</b><br>10:00 <b>Newsletter</b><br>is ready for proof<br>reading                             | <b>24</b> Bulletin Deadline<br>9:00 Wisdom Seekers<br>@ FELC<br>6:30 Holy Smokes @<br>Wild MTN Winery             | <b>25</b><br>Bulletin Printed<br>10:00 <b>Newsletter</b><br><b>Assembly</b><br>3-6 <b>LAST</b> Almelund<br>Farmer's Market At<br>Rods | <b>26</b><br>9:00 am North<br>Cluster<br>Gathering                                                                      |
| <b>30</b>                                                                                         | <b>1 Oct</b><br>Bulletin Deadline<br>9:00 Wisdom Seekers<br>@ FELC                                                | <b>2 Oct</b><br>Bulletin Printed                                                                                                      | <b>3 Oct</b>                                                                                                            |

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

|                          | Sep 6            | Sep 13           | Sep 20                  | Sep 27                               |  |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Scripture Reader</b>  | Bob Sterling     | Matt Carslon     | Steve Peterson          | Lynn Schultz                         |  |
| <b>Ushers</b>            | Marty Johnson    | Marty Johnson    | Marty Johnson           | Marty Johnson                        |  |
| <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>    |                  | Linda Peterson   | Apple Fest<br>No coffee | Men of Immanuel<br>Pancake Breakfast |  |
| <b>Teachers</b>          | No Sunday School | No Sunday School | No Sunday School        | Rally Sunday                         |  |

### Communion Servers:

**Sunday, Sep 6th-** Clay, Perry, Chris

**Sunday, Sep 20th-** Norm, Julie, Clay

### Communion Wine - Wild Mountain Winery

### Communion Wafers now used

**Reader Coordinator**                      **Sep:** Lynn Schultz

**Altar Guild:**                                      **Sep:** Jeske Noordergraaf

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 Carol Carlson, Lainey Bauer
- 3 Ruth Ekstrom
- 6 DeeAnn Fredlund
- 9 Esther Tauer, Grace DeVault, Rachel Paavola
- 10 Jessica Bellin
- 11 Julie Flodquist, Jerry Meyer, Diann Huber
- 12 Jodi Johnson-Waldemar
- 13 John Brekke
- 16 Don Noyes, Katherine Flanery, Olivia Loso, Ella Loso
- 18 Lori Carr
- 20 Bryan Peterson
- 21 Carter Rothe, Steve Blomquist, Erin Tauer
- 22 Janet Johnson, Henry Larkin
- 25 Kris Koran, Zayden Thelander
- 26 Gene Fisk, Tammy Johnson, Andrea Boyer, Nancy Nadeau, Ida Johnson
- 27 Henry Cook
- 28 Brianna Mohn
- 29 Jesiah Peltier
- 30 Kate DeVault

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

| Code | Fund                    | Jul-26       | YTD 2026      | YTD 2025      |
|------|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1    | GENERAL                 | \$ 18,744.35 | \$ 100,255.28 | \$ 106,755.36 |
| 2    | UNDESIGNATED            | \$ 130.00    | \$ 1,737.50   | \$ 1,520.00   |
| 3    | SYNOD                   | \$ 450.00    | \$ 3,150.00   | \$ 2,400.00   |
| 4    | LUTHER POINT            | \$ 75.00     | \$ 1,082.00   | \$ 261.25     |
| 5    | LUTH. SOC. SERV.        | \$ 50.00     | \$ 627.50     | \$ 120.00     |
| 6    | ITONYA TANZANIA MISSION | \$ 25.00     | \$ 75.00      | \$ 505.00     |
| 7    | WORLD HUNGER            | \$ -         | \$ 60.00      | \$ 50.00      |
| 10   | LOOSE                   | \$ 374.00    | \$ 3,230.00   | \$ 3,762.50   |
| 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           | \$ -         | 920           | \$ 920.00     |
| 20   | NOISY OFFERING          | \$ 524.10    | 1384.06       | \$ 1,384.06   |
| 21   | BUILDING FUND           | \$ 100.00    | 2333.47       | \$ 2,333.47   |
| 22   | CdFee                   | \$ 15.50     | 85.45         | \$ 85.45      |
| 23   | SAMPLER                 | \$ -         | \$ 4,972.60   | \$ -          |
| 24   | CHRISTIAN ED            | \$ 49.00     | \$ 166.00     | \$ 195.00     |
| 26   | SHARE MINISTRY          | \$ 2,130.00  | \$ 14,910.00  | \$ 13,290.00  |
| 27   | Grants                  | \$ -         | \$ 1,099.00   | \$ 760.00     |
| 30   | YOUTH GROUP             | \$ 500.00    | \$ 550.00     | \$ 150.00     |
| 31   | YOUTH MISSION TRIP      | \$ -         | \$ 902.00     | \$ 2.00       |
| 33   | WELCA                   |              |               | \$ -          |
| 34   | WORSHIP & MUSIC         | \$ -         | \$ 12.50      | \$ 25.00      |
| 35   | ALTAR GUILD             | \$ 50.00     | \$ 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 | \$ 14,279.10  |               |
| 60   | SPECIAL DONATIONS       | \$ 20.00     | \$ 2,095.16   | \$ 893.20     |
| 90   | MEMORIAL                |              |               | \$ 100.00     |
| 91   | MEMORIAL GARDEN         | \$ -         | \$ 1,707.00   | \$ 2,605.00   |
| 92   | ALL SAINTS              |              |               | \$ -          |
| 97   | Fund Transfers          | \$ 5,000.00  | \$ 5,500.00   | \$ 6,544.04   |
|      |                         |              |               |               |
|      | Totals                  | \$ 42,516.05 | \$ 163,339.72 | \$ 148,198.58 |



# 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!

Stewardship meeting minutes.

Date: August 3, 2026

### **Members present:**

Names: Julie Weller, Kris Koran, Linda Peterson, Cami Peltier, Maureen Peterson, Pastor Justin Fenger

### **Devotions:**

Name: Kris

### **Discussed: Old Business**

#### **S.O.R. : No more outside meetings.**

{Focus on communication and engaging our membership}

Will have our own meeting, [Updating the webpage. [In progress]

### **Community Dinner**

August 14: Sarah Circle; Sept: Jon Ekstrom;

October: Prayer Shawl; November: Parish Care; December: Christian Ed Serving..

### **Food Pantry**

Clear signage has been put up around the church.

Will refresh reminders in bulletin and Messenger

### **Church Directory**

PLEASE Send in your family photos to office office@immanuelalmelund.com }

Working on format; will include a calendar {In progress} Shoot to have Draft by Sept.

### **New Business I**

Thank You for Sept: Kris {V.B.S.}

Fall Stewardship: Ideas Discussed {will revisit in Sept}

### **NEXT MEETING:**

September 14; 10:00AM

### **DEVOTIONS:**

Natalee Oknich.

## Worship & Music Minutes ~ July 27, 2026

Present: Pastor Justin, Tora Carlson, Diann Huber, Dayna Geisbauer, Nicki Klanderud, Kim Raschke, Pat Remer

Absent: Chris Schumacher, Council Rep.

Tora called the meeting to order – Nicki gave devotions.

Reviewed June 22, 2026 minutes. MSP to accept.

### **Old Business:**

**Children's Sermons:** Pastor Justin for summer months. Start with volunteers either September 13<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **Recap Worship Services/Events:**

- June 28 – 10:00 “Momoh & Friends” Joint Worship Service – potluck to follow. Really nice service with a GREAT Potluck.
- June 28 – 2:00 Ecumen Service
- July 5 – 9:00 ILC Patriotic Service/Communion/**Noisy Offering [\$573.10] to Soldiers 6** – JoAnn Dolezalek, pianist...11:00, First
- July 9, 10, 11, 12 – Chisago County Fair. Good Showing at the fair by ILC members!!
- Friday, July 10 – ILC Community Picnic @ Museum picnic shelter, 4:30-6:30. Well attended with at least 40.
- July 12 – 9:00 ILC – Jason Fredlund covered for Pastor Justin...THANKS to Jason for his good message & leadership!!/JoAnn Dolezalek, pianist. ...11:00, First.
- July 19 – 9:00 ILC/Communion...11:00, First
- July 26 – 9:00 ILC/Installation of Dadu Reeves, New Music Coordinator/Baptism of Colter Larson/Special Music by Dadu & Family...11:00, First
- July 26 – 2:00 Ecumen Service

### **Upcoming Dates:**

- Wednesday, July 29 – LAST PATTY MELT @ Lions Ball Field
- August 2 – 9:00 ILC/Youth Group Mission Trip Recap & Reflections/Communion/Noisy Offering...11:00, First
- August 7, 8, 9 – Almelund Threshing Show
- August 9 – 9:00 Polka Service @ Threshing Show Grounds, music provided by Jolly Ranchers, Pastor Justin to give the message, Jon Ekstrom will help with prayers etc...11:00, First
- August 10, 11, 12, 13 – VBS, 5:30-8:00
- August 14 – ILC Community Dinner, 4:30-6:30...Emphasis on VBS Families
- August 16 – 9:00 ILC/WOW Service/Communion/VBS Sunday...11:00, First
- August 23 – 9:00 ILC...11:00, First
- August 23 – 2:00 Ecumen Service
- August 30 – 9:00 ILC/Service of Healing...11:00, First
- September 1 – Chisago Lakes and North Branch Schools Start

### **Upcoming Dates:**

- Sunday, October 25 – Tractor & Treat
- 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)

### **Sampler:**

Looking at Sunday, April 11, 2027. LeeAnn will call the auction – Momoh & Amy said they would come back for that!!

**Other:**

- Miss seeing the Pentecost Banner – Pastor Justin will hang it up.
- Much discussion on installation of air conditioning in sanctuary.
- NO Rite of Confirmation this year as there are no confirmands for 2026. **HOWEVER:** Confirmation registration for new students will be September 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 6:00, Fellowship Hall.

**New Business:**

Worship Team

- Service formats/hymns are done through August 31 with exception of WOW Sunday, August 16th.

**Prayer Concerns:**

Pastor Justin led us in prayer for all concerns mentioned.

Next Scheduled Meeting: August 24, 2026 @ 6:00

Devotions: Kim

## **Memorial Committee Meeting Minutes August 10th, 2026**

Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM by Vice-Chair Joanne Johnson

Present: Joanne Johnson, Jody Johnson, Vickie Johnson, Ashley Larkin, Connie Linder and Clay Ryberg (Church Council Representative)

Minutes of the May 4th meeting were read and approved, the Treasurer's report was accepted

**Old Business:**

Treasurer Connie updated the committee on fund distributions previously approved. Connie mailed a check for the Itonya fund monies previously held by Memorial to the proper recipient and zeroed out this category from Memorial, as Clay confirmed that Itonya is actually overseen and budgeted for under Benevolence.

**New Business:**

Vickie will follow-up with Mark to ensure he has the most current information for donation categories to be included in the All Saints Day donation form and request its inclusion in the October newsletter and weekly bulletins leading up to the November 1st date.

Memorial has been approached to provide funds for requested reimbursements as related to the monthly Community Dinner food purchases. Discussion followed as to whether monies in the Funeral Lunches category could be used for this reimbursement. Additional information is needed, item tabled at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 5:29 PM

Next meeting dates are scheduled as follows: Monday, November 16th at 5:00 PM (Fireside Room)

## **PROPERTY COMMITTEE MINUTES AUGUST 10, 2026**

**PRESENT;** Norm Peterson, Bob Rothe, Don Noyes, Harland Carlson, Julie Weller, Marlin Ness, Perry Lindberg,

Meeting Called to Order by Marlin 5:30

**Old kitchen remodel** - waiting on plumbing before proceeding with other steps

Discussion of pressure washing deck - hold off to fall when cooler  
Northeast back door in process of being painted, base coat is on it at present to be refinished by Dan Anderson.

Southwest Entrance door being Painted by Jodi Johnson- Thank you Jodi

Flat roof & flashing - original church to addition - waiting on bid

Cemetery flagpole rope is going to be replaced by David Rue [thank you David] and new flag supplied.

Looking for donations of water softener salt - drop off at church basement

Mud jacking of sidewalks discussed again, Bob Rothe has call into Mud jackers, waiting for response

Meeting Adjourned by Marlin @ 5:41

Submitted by Perry Lindberg

## **Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** July 13, 2026

### **Members' Present**

Beth Berger, Pastor Justin, Clay Larson, Norm Peterson, Clay Reiberg, Chris Schumacher, and Julie Weller.

**Devotions** Norm Peterson opened the meeting with devotions.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Motion made, seconded, and carried.

**Approval of Agenda** The agenda was approved.

### **Old Business**

## **Restoration Project**

The restoration project is currently waiting on plumbing work to be completed. Dan continues to work on painting.

## **Vacuum**

The purchase of the new robotic vacuum has been completed at approximately a 40% discount. The council discussed that it should help maintain the facility, particularly during the winter months when sand and salt create additional cleaning challenges. This item is complete and will be removed from the old business list.

## **Financial Secretary**

Jenica Beck has begun serving as Immanuel's Financial Secretary and Financial Recorder for First Lutheran as part of the shared ministry agreement. Kyle continues assisting with training as she becomes familiar with the Realm financial system and accounting processes.

## **Shared Ministry**

The shared ministry with First Lutheran continues to move forward in positive ways. Work continues on staffing, finances, and ministry coordination. The council expressed appreciation for the Personnel Committee's work over the past several months reviewing staff, interviewing candidates, discussing compensation, and helping guide several important staffing decisions.

## **Community Meal**

The July community meal was held as a picnic and was very successful, with 44 people attending. The only concern noted was the difficulty of transporting the food to the park.

## **New Business**

### **Organist and Accompanist**

The council welcomed Dadu Reeves as the new Worship Coordinator, Organist/Pianist, and Accompanist. Dadu is currently relocating his family to Minnesota.

The council also noted that Tyler Olson has accepted the position of Joint Choir Director. Tyler has previously worked with the choir and is well known within the congregation. This position also remains within budget through the shared ministry partnership.

### **Roofing and Gutters**

Adam Cook inspected the church roof. Overall, the roof is in good condition; however, the flat section of the roof will need to be replaced. The

council will begin obtaining quotes for the replacement. While inspecting the roof, Adam resealed the roof vents and repaired one loose shingle.

### **Tithing Outside Our Walls**

The council approved a \$3,000 donation to a family experiencing housing issues.

### **Reports**

The Pastor's Report and committee reports were reviewed and approved. Motion made, seconded, and carried.

### **Offering Security Schedule**

- **August 2:** Clay Ryberg   **August 9:** Chris Schumacher   **August 16:** Beth Berger
- **August 23:** Norm Peterson   **August 30:** Clay Ryberg

### **Communion Servers**

#### **August 2**

Clay Ryberg, Norm Peterson and Clay Larson

#### **August 16**

Beth Berger, Chris Schumacher and Perry Lindberg

**Next Devotions** Perry Lindberg

### **Next Meeting**

Monday, August 10, 2026

The meeting was adjourned.

## **Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes August 10, 2026**

Meeting called @ 6:05 pm

Members: Amanda Cook, Perry Lindberg, Norm Peterson, Clay Ryberg, Chris Schumacher, Julie Weller.

**Devotions:** Perry talked about the Community; that is the Threshing Party.

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

**Old Business:** Nothing new to update.

**New Business:**

Motion made and seconded and passed for; Memorial money from funeral lunches to be used to reimburse persons for expenses for the Community Meal, not to exceed \$150 per month. One bill for the whole group.

Chris mentioned that Immanuel will celebrate 140 years next summer.

Perry said the building will be 100years old.

Will look forward to form a group to head this up.

Motion made to accept the committee reports.

**Offering Securer:**

Sept 6<sup>th</sup> Clay Ryberg,  
13<sup>th</sup> Amanda Cook,  
20<sup>th</sup> Julie Weller,  
27<sup>th</sup> Chris Schumacher

**Communion Ushers:**

Sept 6<sup>th</sup> Clay, Perry, Chris  
Sept 20<sup>th</sup> Julie, Norm, Clay

Meeting adjourned W/Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: September 14, 2026 @ 6:00 pm



**Immanuel Lutheran Church      September 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!**