

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

37515 Park Trail, Almelund, MN 55012

Pastor Justin Fenger

Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

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

SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 3/1/2026

GATHERING

TODAY'S SERVICE IS USING

ELW: RED BOOK & HFG: TEAL BOOK

PRELUDE: There is a Redeemer Momoh Freeman

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

Let us confess our sins to God and one another.

(Brief moment of silence)

We confess to you, most loving God, the sins that both bind and scatter us. We have knowingly believed dishonest words. We have questioned your gracious power again and again. We have given into temptation. We have acted out of fear, placing blame on others yet holding ourselves apart.

In our disbelief and confusion we have hurt our neighbors and ourselves. Gather us back to you.

Forgive us, free us, and make us whole for the sake of your son Jesus Christ. Amen.

Friends, beloved of God, Jesus came not to condemn the world but that all might be saved through him.

In the name of + Christ your sins are forgiven.

May God unbind your guilt and shame, lead you by the Spirit, and bring you to wholeness in abundant life.

Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!

C: **How vast is the sum of them!**

L: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

C: **Wonderful are your works; of this we are certain.**

OPENING HYMN:

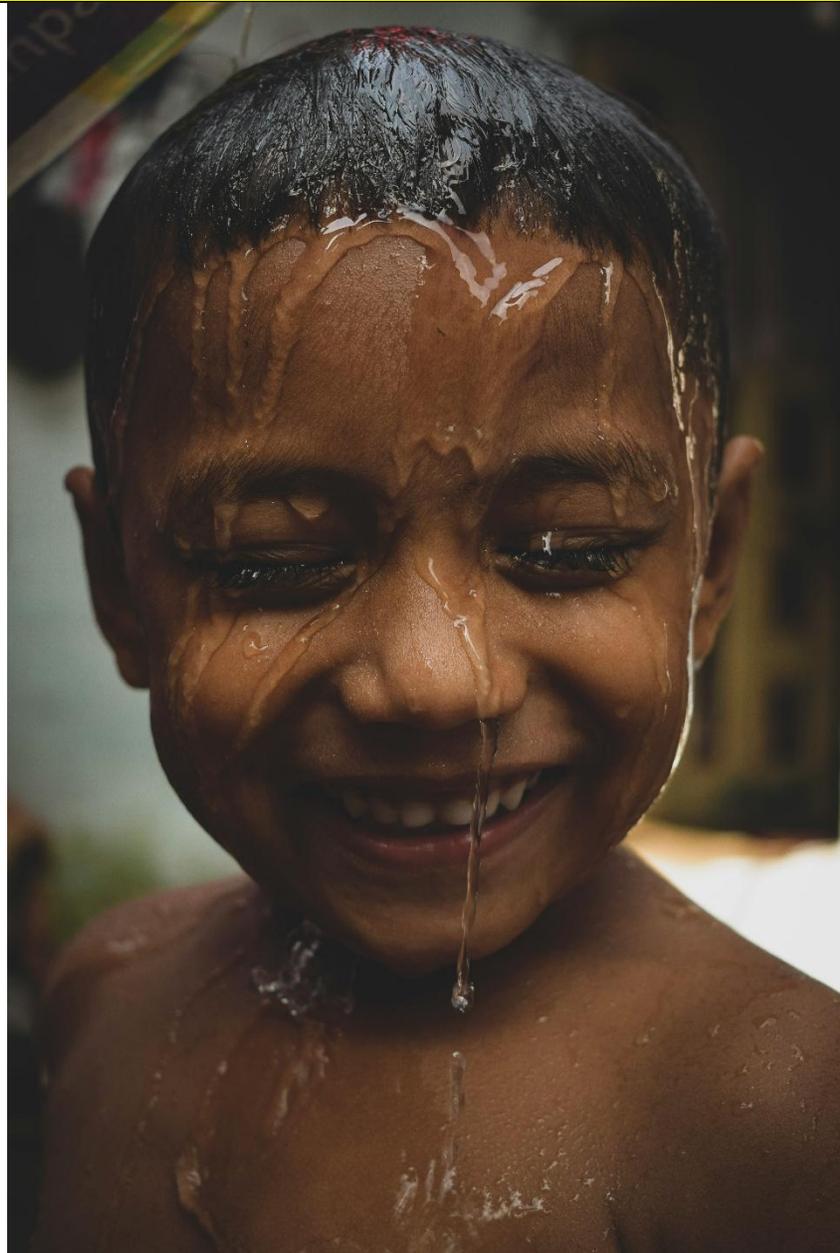
Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross

ELW 335 Red

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Nicodemus/Mystery

Living God,

we come looking for signs of your heavenly kingdom. When certainty binds our spirits, astonish us and confound our expectations. Bring us through water and Spirit to trust that you speak of what you know; Birth us into the mystery that you desire to give all eternal life. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Welcome to Immanuel!

Thank you for joining us for our worship service. Whoever you are, whatever you've done, or wherever you are in life. You are loved by God which means, You are welcome here at Immanuel., God's grace is given freely, not earned. So whatever journey you are on, God led you here today. We thank you for coming and hope you see you again soon.

Visitors, welcome to worship! If you are interested in knowing more about our congregation please speak to Pastor Justin or call the church office! Contact info is on the back of this bulletin.

We encourage all children who can read, to follow along in the bulletin during our worship service.

We invite you to follow the service and take part in a way that feels right to you.

Hearing devices are available from an usher.

P = Pastor

L = Leader

C = Congregation

R = Reader

Sections in **bold** are to be read by the congregation

Today's Scripture

Genesis 12: 1-4a

Psalms 121

John 3:1-17

SPECIAL MUSIC:

Ye Must be Born Again

Momoh Freeman

CHILDREN'S SERMON:

NOISY OFFERING:

SCRIPTURE READING:

Genesis 12: 1-4a

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." ⁴So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM:

Psalms 121

R: I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?

C: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

R: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

C: He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

R: The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

C: The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

R: The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

C: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (Lent 2)

ELW 334 Red

GOSPEL:

John 3:1-17

Glory to you, O Lord

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

SERMON:

HYMN OF THE DAY:

Breathe on Me Breath of God

HFG 161 Teal

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

OFFERTORY:

Freely, Freely

Momoh Freeman

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS:

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW 184 Red

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

All that we have is yours, O God. **Accept and use these gifts in ways we cannot begin to imagine, to reach those whom we will never meet, but to whom we are joined by your love for all humanity. For the sake of Jesus. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION:

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

ELW Pg. 112 Red

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name;
Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

EUCHARISTIC INVITATION:

As we lift this bread and this cup, so has Jesus been lifted up for our sake, and for the life of the world. Fill us with his wisdom at this holy table, strengthened anew to serve your people, the world that he so loves. Come and be fed!

DISTRIBUTION:

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Heavenly Father, **You have met us at this table with Christ's body and blood that we might rejoice together in the bread you provide and never be thirsty again. Send us now into the world as signs of your unbound presence, seeking the wholeness of the kingdom of God, and inviting all who hunger to come and see your glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

BLESSING:

May God who seeks you by night and by day, in death and in life, open your senses to the mystery of God's grace, enfold you through water and Spirit in Christ's love, and give you confidence in the Spirit's power to unbind and grant new life. May the Holy Trinity, + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Mother of us all, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN:

How Great Thou Art (v.v.1,3)

ELW 856 Red

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace forgiven, whole and free.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL RECORDS – JANUARY-DECEMBER 2025

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Mary Paulson should be Marcy Paulson

<u>Name of Deceased</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Age</u>
Mylo Lundquist	August 11, 2025	94

Date of death correction for Mylo Lundquist is August 9, 2025

Donors to Endowment Fund for 2025

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10/5/2025 Dorothy Johnson \$2,000 By Dana & Dana Johnson

Endowment correction for Dorothy Johnson is as follows:

Kathy Brihn, gave a check for \$2,000 to the church in October for a donation to the endowment fund. \$1,000 for Vernold and Dorothy Johnson and \$1,000 for Dana A and Dana M Johnson.

I sincerely apologize for these mistakes. If more mistakes are found, please email me at office@immanuelalmelund.com or call me at (651)431-8941.

Thank you for your understanding

Mark Weslander – Administrative Assistant

Youth Group News: Heggies pizza sales are starting!!

There's a few new flavors this year along with all your other favorites!

Youth will meet March 4th & 18th at 6pm before service.

The Naomi circle will meet at the home of Julie Weller on March 17th at 9:30 am. See you all there!

Holy Smokes Is Back!

Mark, your calendars - Holy Smokes is at Jake's on the Lakes on Thursday, March 26 at 6:30 PM.

New! Sermon Note Art

This fall we're trying a new way to listen to the sermon together.

As you come into the sanctuary, pick up a blank index card from the back of the narthex (or ask an usher).

During the sermon:

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

When you're finished, you can:

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

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

This is for everyone, not just confirmation students!

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

Attention 2026' Graduates

Please notify the church office at (651)583-2340, if you are graduating from High School or College. We would like to know. Also, please fill out a scholarship application form outside the church office.

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.

Special events coming up:

- 3/15 - 8:15am, Holy Week Adventures in the fellowship hall until church starts and later at Sunday school that day.
- 3/22 - Prayer pillows at church that day for Kindergartners
- 3/27 - Lock in 3rd-5th grade, 5pm-9pm
- 3/29 - Palm Sunday - participate in worship

March 1st Almelund Sampler is HERE - This fundraiser will be to help with entertainment costs for the Apple Festival!! Your support will be greatly appreciated!

THANK YOU

Thank you to all of you for your cards, prayers, and well wishes following Steve's recent heart surgery. Pastor Justin for his hospital visit and the prayer shawl he received. We are truly blessed with a wonderful church family.

Thank you again,
Steve and Laurie Peterson

To: Prayer Shawl Group

Thank you so much for the beautiful shawl. Please keep me in your prayers.

Doris Mullins

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

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!

New Book Study at The Lodge Wednesdays at 10am.

Wisdom Seekers Study Group Every Thursday, 9:00 am @ First Lutheran

SEASON OF LENT

Lenten Services:	March 4	11:00 @ First Lutheran W/Lunch following 5:30 Supper @ Immanuel Lutheran W/6:30 Service. Group E Serves.
	March 11	11:00 @ First Lutheran W/Lunch following 5:30 Supper @ Immanuel Lutheran W/6:30 Service. Group A Serves.
	March 18	11:00 @ First Lutheran W/Lunch following 5:30 Supper @ Immanuel Lutheran W/6:30 Service. Group B Serves.
	March 25	11:00 @ First Lutheran W/Lunch following 5:30 Supper @ Immanuel Lutheran W/6:30 Service. Group C Serves.

Lenten Theme for Worship: "Longing"

This Lent we'll name something we all carry—longing. Longing for healing. Longing for connection. Longing for courage when life feels heavy. Each week we'll listen for how God meets us right where we are—not with shame or pressure, but with mercy, truth, and the steady love of Christ.

ALMELUND SAMPLER

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT ALMELUND APPLEFEST
Every dollar raised helps provide LIVE MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT for the Fall Festival (Applefest)

Community Event Sunday

Come for the music. Stay for the treats. Join

March 1st

the fun at the auction!



Music

1:00 PM



Live Local Music to enjoy

Fill your bellies with desserts



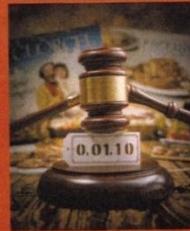
Dessert

2:30 PM

Auction

3:00 PM

Join us for the live auction called by LeeAnn Vandekamp. Featuring a variety of great items including travel, activities, and food.



systems, family pain, and guilt. Week by week we'll see how God works even in the mess, loosening what holds us and opening a path toward grace.

Midweek Services

After Ash Wednesday: Joseph in Genesis

- Week 2 (March 4) — *Bound by Violence* — Genesis 37:12–36
- Week 3 (March 11) — *Bound by Dishonest Systems* — Genesis 39:1–20
- Week 4 (March 18) — *Bound by Family* — Genesis 41–42
- Week 5 (March 25) — *Bound by Guilt* — Genesis 50:15–21

Sundays in Lent & Holy Week

- Lent 2 (March 1) — *Longing for Mystery* — John 3:1–17
- Lent 3 (March 8) — *Longing for Relationship* — John 4:5–42
- Lent 4 (March 15) — *Longing for Community* — John 9:1–41
- Lent 5 (March 22) — *Longing for Authenticity* — John 11:1–45
- Palm Sunday (March 29) — *Longing for Courage* — Matthew 21:1–11
- Maundy Thursday (April 2) — *Longing for Intimacy* — John 13:1–17, 31b–35
- Good Friday (April 3) — *Longing for Solidarity* — John 18:1–19:42
- Easter Sunday (April 5) — *Longing for New Life* — John 20:1–18

Midweek Lenten Theme: Joseph — “Bound... and Set Free”

Our midweek services will begin on Ash Wednesday, then follow the story of Joseph from Genesis—an honest, human journey through what binds us: jealousy, violence, broken

Trinity Lutheran Church – North Branch

Annual LENTEN FISH FRY

Fridays 5-7 p.m. | Feb. 20-March 27, 2026

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT

Fish
Hand-cut Fries
Coleslaw
Dessert
Coffee & Milk

Pop for \$1.50
Meatless spaghetti also available!



TRINITY
Lutheran Church
NORTH BRANCH
38460 Lincoln Trl
North Branch, MN
651-674-7047



Now offering

TAKE-OUT!

\$15 Adults
\$5 Kids age 5-10
Kids under 5 FREE!

Proceeds support
Viking Vittles
Weekend backpack food program



Easter Memorial Garden

Funds will be used for altar flowers & worship supplies throughout the year; or you may give to a memorial fund of your choice. Please return this form to the church, along with your contribution by or before Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026. Make check to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Easter Memorial Garden.

Thank you.

Note: Forms turned in by the deadline will be included in the Easter Sunday memorials brochure in the bulletin, those turned in after Palm Sunday will be listed in the bulletin on the Sunday after Easter. Thank You.

Your Name: _____

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

Easter Memorial Garden Fund

Sanctuary Flowers & Worship Supplies, including Candles, Communion Supplies, Linen upkeep, etc.

Other memorial fund, (please Circle one)

Christian Education; Building Fund; Youth Group Mission Trips;

Scholarships; Prayer Shawl Ministry; Immanuel Quilters; Parish Care Team; Africa Support/African Student

Scholarships; Archives; Technology; Library; Music; Landscaping; Cemetery Perpetual Care;

Altar Guild; Undesignated donations will be placed in the Easter Memorial Garden Fund.

Thank you for helping lead worship today!

Pastor
Justin Fenger

Organist:
Momoh Freeman

Special Music:
Momoh Freeman

Reader:
Norm Peterson

Ushers:
Zach Rivard

Communion Servers:
Clay Ryberg
Julie Weller
Amanda Cook

Sound Tech:
Nancy Nadeau

Camera Tech:
Matt Oknich

Children's Sermon:
Amanda Cook

Altar Guild: Purple
Loraine Rue
Julie Weller

Teachers:
Valerie Lutz
Cami Peltier
Katie Fenger

Coffee Servers:

Immanuel Church Calendar This Week

Sunday March 1
9:00 Communion Worship Service Live and Online. W/Noisy Offering. Sunday School after Children's Sermon
10:00 Coffee Served
11:00 Service at First Ev. Lutheran Church TF
1:00 Almelund Sampler

Monday March 2
9:00 Parish Care Team Meets
10:00 WOW Practice
10:00 Stewardship Meets

Tuesday March 3
9-3 Office hours
9:00 Worship Team Meets
5:00 Choir Practice @ FELC

Wednesday March 4
11:00 Service @ FELC W/Lunch following
1:30 Prayer Shawl Meets
5:30 Lenten Supper @ ILC
6:30 Lenten Service @ ILC
6:00 Hannah Circle Meets
6:00 Youth Meets

Thursday March 5
Deadline for Bulletin Info
9:00am Wisdom Seekers bible study @ First Lutheran TF

Friday March 6
9-3 Office hours
Bulletins Printed
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Saturday March 7
Set clocks ahead 1 Hour by 2am Sunday

Sunday March 8
DAY LIGHT SAVINGS TIME
9:00 Worship Service Live and Online.
Sunday School after Children's Sermon
10:00 Coffee Served
11:00 Service at First Ev. Lutheran Church TF

IMMANUEL STAFF

Justin Fenger, Pastor
Momoh Freeman, Organist
Pat Remer, Accompanist
Mark Weslander, Administrative Assistant & Financial Recorder
Kyle Hendrickson, Financial Secretary
Kim's Kleaning, Church Custodial Work
Daryl Abrahamson, Cemetery Groundskeeper
Jason & DeeDee Fredlund, Youth Directors
Teresa Carlson, Sunday School Leader
Office Hours: M,T,W,F 9:00am-3:00pm
Unless otherwise noted.
Cell phone (651)431-8941

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Phone: (651)583-2340
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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchofAlmelund>

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Mark Weslander, Administrative Assistant
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(651)431-8941

Kyle Hendrickson, Financial Secretary
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(651)717-8804

Momoh Freeman, Organist/Director
momohfreeman@yahoo.com
(763)415-0330

Teresa Carlson, Sunday School Leader
(651)214-9531

Jason & DeeDee Fredlund, Youth Directors
jfredlund@frontiernet.net

Dianne Wiik, Prayer Chain
ywiik99@yahoo.com
(651)583-2600

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

Martha Strecker, Quilting group
mmstreck@frontiernet.net
(651)341-3885

Joanne Johnson, Prayer Shawl group
chareter@yahoo.com
(651)278-2686

April 22, 2026
Attendance: 114

Weekly Giving Update:
April 22, 2026

General	\$2,483.00
Benevolence:	
-Luther Point:	\$ 25.00
Building Fund	\$ 130.00
Loose	\$ 169.00
Lent	\$ 258.00
Shared Ministry	\$2,130.00
Online Service Fee	\$ 2.00
Special Donations:	
-Cemetery Fund	\$ 25.00
-MN Revenue	\$ 435.16
TOTAL	\$5,632.16

Ash Wednesday Attendance: 67

Happy birthday this week!

2
Kelsey Anderson

3
Janice Elkerton

4
Carol Freed

5
Richard Wagner

7
Amanda Massey