



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

37515 Park Trail, Almelund, MN 55012

Pastor Justin Fenger

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026

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

SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 7/26/2026
GATHERING
TODAY'S SERVICE IS USING ELW:
RED BOOK



PRELUDE:

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Patient God,

C: You have taught us all we need to be your faithful people. And yet we persist in going our own way, doing our own thing, and minding our own business when we ought to be about the business of your kingdom. Forgive our selfish neglect of others and bring us back into wholeness with our brothers and sisters. Amen.

P: God is merciful, patient, kind and forgiving. We have been pardoned for all that we have done, and all that we have overlooked. May we give now as we have received: generously and extravagantly, in the way of our loving teacher, savior and friend. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: Let us give thanks to God,

L: Sing praises to our creator,

L: Seek God's presence all the time

C: And make God's name known to everyone.

C: And tell about the great things God does.

C: And you will see God's promises fulfilled.

OPENING HYMN:

Morning Has Broken

ELW 556 Red

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Boundless God, Your kingdom is surprising, expansive and valuable beyond anything we could obtain. Teach us to seek it more than all other treasures on earth, that we might come to know the abundant life you have promised, in Jesus' name. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC:

I Love The Lord/Total Praise

Dadu Reeves Family

**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 29:15-28
Psalm 105:1-11, 45
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

INSTALLATION OF ORGANIST: Dadu Reeves

CHILDREN'S SERMON:

SCRIPTURE READING:

Genesis 29:15-28

¹⁵Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" ¹⁶Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. ¹⁸Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." ¹⁹Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." ²⁰So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. ²¹Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." ²²So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. ²³But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. ²⁴(Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) ²⁵When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" ²⁶Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." ²⁸Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM:

Psalm 105:1-11, 45

R: O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

C: Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

R: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

C: Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.

R: Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

C: O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

R: He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth.

**C: He is mindful of his covenant forever, of the word that he commanded,
for a thousand generations,**

R: the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac,

C: which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

R: saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance."

C: that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws. Praise the Lord!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia

ELW pg. 151

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, Alleluia.

GOSPEL:

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Glory to you, O Lord

³¹He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." ³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." ⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind;

⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

SERMON:

HYMN OF THE DAY:

Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793 Red

HOLY BAPTISM:

Colter Larson, born March 7, 2026 to Jeremy & Kayla Larson
Sponsors are; Connor Larson, Kelsey Larson & Philip Larson
Welcome to our newest member of Immanuel

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

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.**

OFFERTORY:

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS:

Create In Me

ELW 186 Red

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

All things are working together for your good, **O God. Take these gifts we offer and use them for your purposes on earth, that all might be fed, clothed and nurtured in the life of the Spirit. Amen.**

SENDING:

L: Jesus spoke often of the reign of God, of the coming day when all will be as God intended.

C: We can’t be certain what the reign of God will be like,

L: But Jesus’ parables help us envision it.

C: A mustard seed, yeast, a pearl, and a net full of fish.

L: All things his listeners would have understood.

C: All things that nourish creation and have value.

L: All things involving the work of God’s people: to plant, to leaven, to buy, and to catch.

C: So the reign of God will nourish all creation.

L: The reign of God is of great value to everyone.

C: The reign of God is every one of us, God’s beloved children.

L: Let us act in love that God’s reign might be noticed all around us.

C: Let us be God’s reign in the here and now for the sake of the world.

CLOSING HYMN:

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise (x2)

ELW 206 Red

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar are in memory of Martin Strecker

Community Dinner, Friday August 14 from 4:30-6:30.

Almelund Farmer's Market began its 19th Season at Rod's Country Corner!! Come Friday afternoons – 3-6:00 and check out the local items...annuals, perennials and garden plants, asparagus, rhubarb, eggs, maple syrup, honey, breads, jams/jellies, craft items and other goodies! Products change with the season. New vendors are encouraged and welcomed to join this fun community get-together. If interested, contact Pat @ 651-583-2100.

Don't miss the LAST PATTY MELT NIGHT of our 11th season - Wednesday, July 29 - 5:30 until gone - Hope to see you there!! Our THANKS & APPRECIATION to everyone who supported this fun, community event! ~Almelund Lions & Patty Melt Crew!

Holy Smokes!

Mark, your calendars - Holy Smokes is at Wild Mtn. Winery on Thursday, July 23 at 6:30 PM.

Music in Almelund!

The Amador Heritage Museum invites you to Music in Almelund! On the 3rd Sunday of July and August the museum will feature local musicians from 2p – 3p in the museum's picnic shelter.

Sunday, August 16, 2p – 3p Interstate Band

Bring a lawn chair or blanket! WIFI is available! Allow time to see the new exhibits in the Museum.

The Museum is open Sundays, 1p – 4p.

Remember: the 3rd Sunday in September is the Apple Festival! 11a – 4p

The ACS Chisago County Relay for Life will be taking place on Friday, August 21 from 5:30 - 9:00 pm at the Chisago Lake Lutheran Church in Center City. We will be selling luminaries at our Church on Sunday, August 2 and 16 after the service. All donations are welcome. Cancer research is making great strides extending lives and improving the quality of those lives. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause and come join us at this uplifting event.

Jeske Noordergraaf and Kris Koran

Threshing Grounds Church Service 9:00 am, Sunday, August 9, 2026. No Church Service at ILC that Sunday. Service music provided by Jolly Ramblers.

VBS “What’s Cooking”

3 years old – 5th

August 10-13th 5:30-8:00pm

Looking for volunteers. Sign-up in gathering area outside fireside room and/or pick up registration forms

Serving Groups:	Monday	Group C	Hot Dogs
	Tuesday	Group D	Grilled Cheese
	Wednesday	Group E	Sloppy Joes
	Thursday	Group A	Taco in a Bag

Faith Conversations
Widening Circles

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

EVENT DETAILS

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

4th Thursday • 6:30 PM

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

All are welcome **Good conversation • good community**

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.

THANK YOU

MANY THANKS to everyone who supported the Almelund Lions/Patty Melt Wednesdays this summer!! It was the 11th Season and you came no matter the weather...cold, rain, heat, smoke! You made the Patty Melt Crew's nights with the fun and laughter you had together. All the community support was greatly appreciated!

Dearest friends at
Immanuel Lutheran Church,

June 2026

Thank you so much for your generous gifts and the beautiful celebration of Momoh as we start our married Wyoming life together. We are humbled by the offertory gifts and the outpouring of love and blessings you sent us with. Minnesota, and Almelund, will always have a special place in our hearts and in our story. Please keep in touch! We can't wait to visit soon.

All our love,

Amy & MOMOH

Dear Immanuel
Lutheran Church Quilters -

July 2026

Thank you so much for the BEAUTIFUL quilt and the love it represents. We are so grateful for your support and generosity as we begin the next part of our lives together. Hopefully, Momoh can grace your meetings with us music via a CD and eventually as we plan our visits to MN. Thank you so much for the quilt!

In love,

Amy & MOMOH

To the Prayer Shawl Group
at Immanuel Lutheran,

We were so touched to
receive your handmade
prayer shawls in memory
of our dear sister Lynn!

Thank you for your
kindness and your love
poured out to us!

We have such fond
memories of Almeland
and Immanuel Lutheran!

Sincerely,
Beth (Chindvall) Anderson
and Anne Chindvall

In moments of sorrow,
it's family and friends and
especially Holy Spirit
who bring
love and peace
Thank you sincerely.

The Family of Lynn Stalker

BENEFIT FOR Denny Betterley



We are having a benefit for Denny on
August 22nd, 2026 from 1-6 at the American
Legion in Forest Lake Mn at 355 W Broadway
Ave Forest Lake, MN 55025

Live entertainment will be Steve Jacoby,
the one man rock band. From 1-5 pm
There will be a silent auction.

There will be a spaghetti dinner for \$25
(Denny will receive 50% of the proceeds.)
If you have any questions or would like to
donate to the silent auction please contact
April 715-671-8136. Barb 651-860-3227 or
Kathi 651-366-1263.



Please come and help support Denny Betterley. In December he thought he had a stomach bug. It would start to get better and then he would get the symptoms back worse than the last time. He was admitted to St Croix hospital in February for a week and then transferred by ambulance to Southdale Fairview hospital in Edina (where he stayed for two weeks). The first week in March it was determined that he had a severe infection in his colon (Diverticulitis) and that part of it needed to be removed. During the surgery scar tissue on his spleen was nicked and another surgeon had to come in and repair this immediately. Due to blood loss he needed to have 3 blood transfusions within a 24-hour period. Due to the sudden blood loss Denny also suffered from a minor stroke and has limited use of his right hand although Occupational Therapy has been able to get him back to almost 100% with his range of motion. Denny has another major surgery coming up this fall and has been extremely limited in what he can do for work.

VENMO DONATIONS APPRECIATED

**@dennybet (771) IF VENMO ASKS
4 DIGITS OF CELL**

@dennybet

THRESHING SHOW
Polka Worship Service

Jolly Ramblers

🕒 9:00am
 📅 Sunday August 9th
 🏠 Entertainment Building

Featuring the **JOLLY RAMBLERS**



Join us for a morning of worship, music, and community!

Fri., Aug 14, 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



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: STBRIDGETOFSWEDEN.ORG • 651-257-2474

Thank you for helping lead worship today! Pastor: Justin Fenger Organist: Dadu Reeves Special Music: Dadu Reeves Family Reader: Emma Cook Ushers: Marty Johnson Sound Tech: Julie Johnson Camera Tech: Vern Johnson Proclaim: Carli Linngren Children's Sermon: Pastor Justin Altar Guild: Green Diane Rothe Tora Carlson Coffee Servers: Connie Linder Linda Meyer	Immanuel Church Calendar This Week Sunday July 26 PICKUP NEWSLETTERS 9:00 Worship Service Live and Online. 10:00 Coffee Served 11:00 Service at First Ev. Lutheran Church TF Monday July 27 6:00 Worship & Music Meets Tuesday July 28 9-3 Office hours 9:00 Worship Team Meets Wednesday July 29 9-3 Office hours 5:30 Patty Melts at the Ball Field Thursday July 30 Deadline for Bulletin Info Friday July 31 9-3 Office hours Bulletins Printed 3-6 Almelund Farmer's Market at Rods Saturday August 1 Sunday August 2 9:00 Communion Worship Service Live and Online. W/Noisy Offering. 10:00 Coffee Served 11:00 Service at First Ev. Lutheran Church TF		IMMANUEL STAFF Justin Fenger, Pastor Dadu Reeves, Organist Mark Weslander, Administrative Assistant & Financial Recorder Jenica Beck, Financial Secretary Kim's Kleaning, Church Custodial Work Daryl Abrahamson, Cemetery Groundskeeper Jason & DeeDee Fredlund, Youth Directors Office Hours: T,W,F 9:00am-3:00pm Unless otherwise noted. Cell phone (651)431-8941																					
		CONTACT INFORMATION Immanuel Lutheran Church 37515 Park Trail, Center City, MN 55012 Email: office@immanuelalmelund.com Phone: (651)583-2340 Website: www.immanuelalmelund.com Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchOfAlmelund Justin Fenger, Pastor pastor@immanuelalmelund.com (651)308-7717 Dadu Reeves, Organist dadureeves@gmail.com (609)503-0554 Mark Weslander, Administrative Assistant office@immanuelalmelund.com (651)431-8941 Jenica Beck, Financial Secretary finance@immanuelalmelund.com (763)377-5396 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																						
July 19, 2026 Attendance: 85 Weekly Giving Update: July 19, 2026 <table><tr><td>General</td><td>\$ 3,423.00</td></tr><tr><td>Benevolence:</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>-Undesignated</td><td>\$ 20.00</td></tr><tr><td>Building Fund</td><td>\$ 20.00</td></tr><tr><td>Loose</td><td>\$ 151.00</td></tr><tr><td>Shared Ministry</td><td>\$ 2,130.00</td></tr><tr><td>Altar Guild</td><td>\$ 50.00</td></tr><tr><td>Property – Bingo Money</td><td>\$14,279.10</td></tr><tr><td>Spec. Don. A/C Sanc.</td><td>\$ 20.00</td></tr><tr><td>Online Service Fee</td><td>\$ 1.00</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>\$20,094.10</td></tr></table>	General	\$ 3,423.00	Benevolence:		-Undesignated	\$ 20.00	Building Fund	\$ 20.00	Loose	\$ 151.00	Shared Ministry	\$ 2,130.00	Altar Guild	\$ 50.00	Property – Bingo Money	\$14,279.10	Spec. Don. A/C Sanc.	\$ 20.00	Online Service Fee	\$ 1.00	TOTAL	\$20,094.10	Happy birthday this week! 26 Jennifer Oknich, Mason Maroschek Henry Wyandt 27 Zachary Wendel Bridget Olson 28 Fred Maroschek 29 Dana Mary Johnson 30 Tony Koran 31 Michael Johnson 1 Linda Mielke	
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