

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

37515 Park Trail, Almelund, MN 55012

Pastor Justin Fenger

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026

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

WOW W/VBS SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 8/16/2026

GATHERING

TODAY'S SERVICE IS USING ELW: RED BOOK

PRELUDE: My God is an Awesome God WOW

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: It is a very good thing

L: The unity of the Spirit

L: Or something beautiful

C: For siblings to live in peace!

C: Is like something very valuable.

C: Which God has created.

OPENING HYMN:

Come, All You People

ELW 819 Red

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Loving God, You show mercy to all who call on you. Teach us to show your grace to all who cross our path, regardless of where they come from or how they live, for the sake of your loving son, Jesus. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC:

Praise, Praise! You Are My Rock

WOW

CHILDREN'S SERMON:



**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 45:1-15

Psslm 133

Matthew 15:10-28

SCRIPTURE READING:

Genesis 45:1-15

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ²And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. ⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' ¹²And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM:

Psalms 133

R: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

**C: It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.**

R: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: God, Whose Almighty Word (V.2)

ELW 673 Red

GOSPEL:

Matthew 15:10-28

Glory to you, O Lord

[¹⁰Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: ¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile." ²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it

to the dogs.” ²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly. ²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

	The Gospel of the Lord	Praise to You, O Christ
SERMON:	What’s Cooking?	

HYMN OF THE DAY:	For All the Faithful Women (v.v.1,2,last)	ELW 419 Red
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

OFFERTORY:	10,000 Reasons	WOW
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PRESENTATION OF GIFTS:	Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful	ELW 184 Red
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OFFERTORY PRAYER:

Your gifts, O God, cannot be taken away from us. Fill our hearts with gratitude and generosity, and use these gifts that we present to you, so that your kingdom’s work might flourish on earth. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION:

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

THE LORD’S PRAYER:	ELW Pg. 112 Red
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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 forive 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.

EUCCHARISTIC INVITATION:

Even though we have disobeyed, we still receive God’s mercy in abundance. Come and share the gifts of this holy supper at the table of your savior. All are welcome and no one will be turned away!

DISTRIBUTION:	He’s Everything To Me	WOW
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

SENDING:

L: We judge others by our own narrow standards.
C: We think we are better than them because of what we eat or don’t eat,
L: Or how we dress or don’t dress,
C: Or who we associate with and don’t associate with.
L: But while we judge ourselves better because of these things,

C: The only thing that really matters is whether we love our neighbors as ourselves.

L: What comes from our hearts is the true measure of our character.

C: May we see others as beloved children of God, separate from our worldly criteria.

L: May we listen in love to what comes from the hearts of all those around us.

C: And may we live out our faith in all we do and say.

CLOSING HYMN:

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me

ELW 860 Red

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebrate Ruth Ekstrom's 80th birthday on August 30th, after church.

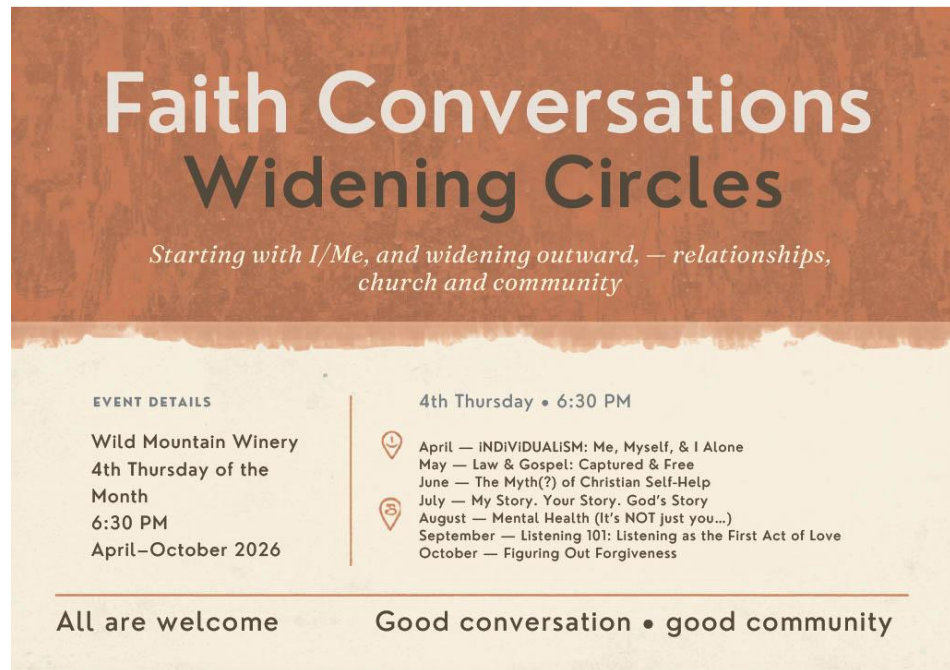
There's an Apple Festival meeting on Sunday, August 16 at 6:30pm. It will be in the old firehall.

Community Dinner, Friday September 11
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.

Holy Smokes!

Mark, your calendars - Holy Smokes is
at Wild Mtn. Winery on Thursday,



**Faith Conversations
Widening Circles**

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

EVENT DETAILS	4th Thursday • 6:30 PM
Wild Mountain Winery	April — INDIVIDUALISM: Me, Myself, & I Alone
4th Thursday of the	May — Law & Gospel: Captured & Free
Month	June — The Myth(?) of Christian Self-Help
6:30 PM	July — My Story. Your Story. God's Story
April–October 2026	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**

August 27 at 6:30 PM.

Music in Almelund!

The Amador Heritage Museum invites you to Music in Almelund! On the 3rd Sunday 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

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

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

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!

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.

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 DIGIT OF CELL

@dennybet

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.

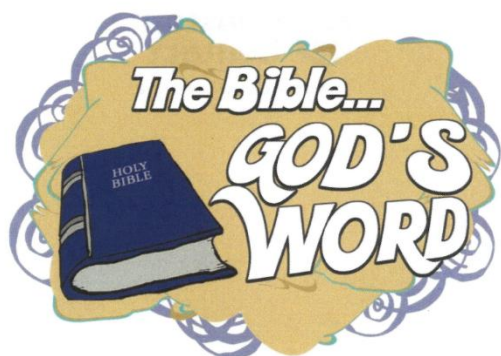
(On behalf of Stewardship members: Thank you)

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.

Women of the **ELCA**  Saint Paul Area Synod



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: STBRIDGETOFSWEDEN.ORG • 651-257-2474

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



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

Book Study at The Lodge
Wed. Aug. 12th at 10am
Wed. Aug. 26th at 10am
Ten Women of the Bible
by Max Lucado

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

One month away! 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.

As you explore opportunities to participate in your community, consult these [resources](#) to plan and promote your day:

- Planning tool kit.
- Worship resources.
- Slides for projection screens or online worship.
- Posters and social media graphics.
- Spanish-language resources.
- Promotional banners.
- Videos.
- Special hymn text, sheet music and recording.

[Old Lutheran](#) has "God's work. Our hands." T-shirts and other items available for purchase. The deadline for ordering your congregation's personalized T-shirts is Wednesday, Aug. 19.

Don't forget to share your congregation's participation with us! Send stories and photos

to LivingLutheran@elca.org so that together we can celebrate what God accomplishes through you.

Participate on social media, using #GodsWorkOurHands.

If your congregation cannot participate on Sept. 13, we encourage you to consider another day for your service activities.

"God's work. Our hands." is an extension of the work you do every day to make your community a better place.

We look forward to working with you on Sept. 13! Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thank you for helping lead worship today! Pastor: Justin Fenger Organist: Dadu Reeves Special Music: WOW Group Reader: Henry Cook Ushers: Connie & Bob Linder Communion Servers: Beth Berger Chris Schumacher Perry Lindberg Sound Tech: Nancy Nadeau Camera Tech: Jodi Johnson-Waldemar Proclaim: Carli Linngren Children's Sermon: Pastor Justin Altar Guild: Green Nancy Nadeau Coffee Servers: Marlin & Lois Ness	Immanuel Church Calendar This Week Sunday August 16 9:00 WOW Communion Worship Service W/<u>VBS!!!</u> 10:00 Coffee Served 11:00 Service at First Ev. Lutheran Church TF 6:30 Apple Festival meeting Monday August 17 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9-3 Office hours Tuesday August 18 9-3 Office hours 9:00 Worship Team Meets 9:30 Naomi Circle Meets @ Kris Koran's Wednesday August 19 9-3 Office hours 10:00 Newsletter is ready for proofing NO Prayer Shawl Thursday August 20 Deadline for Bulletin Info Friday August 21 9-3 Office hours Bulletins Printed 10:00 Newsletter Assembly 3-6 Almelund Farmer's Market at Rods 5:30-9:00 Relay For Life @ Chisago Lake Lutheran Church Saturday August 22 Sunday August 23 PICKUP NEWSLETTERS 9:00 Worship Service Live and Online. 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																	
August 2, 2026 Attendance: 89 Weekly Giving Update: August 2, 2026 <table><tr><td>General</td><td>\$3,728.00</td></tr><tr><td>Benevolence:</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>-Undesignated</td><td>\$ 80.00</td></tr><tr><td>Building Fund</td><td>\$ 20.00</td></tr><tr><td>Loose</td><td>\$ 81.00</td></tr><tr><td>Youth Mission Trip</td><td>\$ 2.00</td></tr><tr><td>Online Service Fee</td><td>\$ 1.00</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>\$3,912.00</td></tr></table>	General	\$3,728.00	Benevolence:		-Undesignated	\$ 80.00	Building Fund	\$ 20.00	Loose	\$ 81.00	Youth Mission Trip	\$ 2.00	Online Service Fee	\$ 1.00	TOTAL	\$3,912.00	Happy birthday this week! 16 Matthew Wendel 20 McCoy Lindgren Bridgetta Hall Sadie Rothe 21 Marlin Ness	
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