



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

37515 Park Trail, Almelund, MN 55012

Pastor Justin Fenger

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 2025

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



Service for Sunday 8/24/2025

GATHERING

Today's Service is using the ELW; Red Book
Theme

Crossroads of Culture and Faith

PRELUDE:

By Momoh Freeman

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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 to 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

1 Samuel 8:1-21

Luke 20:20-26

Today's Hymns

Hymn #408 (ELW)

Hymn #796 (ELW)

Hymn #696 (ELW)

Hymn #184 (ELW)

Hymn #551 (ELW)

PRAYER OF ADORATION:

God of the marketplace and of the sacred sanctuaries, of roadsides and waysides, we gather as your people, diverse in opinion and belief, yet finding common ground here. And we celebrate it and give thanks for it and rejoice in it and come alive because of it.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

P: From market square to political forum,

C: we bring the debate and the story,

P: The discussion and the question to this forum of heaven.

C: And in worship meet the God whose word meets us here to challenge,

P: Wrestle, support, and encourage us.

C Let us worship.

OPENING HYMN:

Come, Thou Almighty King (v.v.1,2,3)

ELW 408 Red

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God of all of us, **may we have minds to recognize you, wherever you may be.**
God of word and debate, of possibility and reality, of dream and of plan,
of vision and horizon, in every place and time, may we find you,
alive between us, in all the ways we speak, Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC:

Is It Lawful to Pay Taxes?

by Marco Sherve

HOLY BAPTISM:

For: Theodore Michael Jasmer

Born April 30, 2025, to Mikayla & Caleb Jasmer

Sponsor's are: Hunter & Amanda Jasmer

CHILDREN'S SERMON:

SCRIPTURE READING:

1 Samuel 8:1-21

¹ When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. ² The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second was Abijah; they were judges in Beer-sheba. ³ Yet his sons did not follow in his ways but turned aside after gain; they took bribes and perverted justice. ⁴ Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah ⁵ and said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations." ⁶ But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to govern us." Samuel prayed to the Lord, ⁷ and the Lord said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. ⁸ Just as they have done to me from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. ⁹ Now then, listen to their voice; only, you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them." ¹⁰ So Samuel reported all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking him for a king. ¹¹ He said, "These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots, ¹² and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. ¹³ He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. ¹⁴ He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers. ¹⁵ He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers. ¹⁶ He will take your male and female slaves and the best of your

cattle and donkeys and put them to his work. ¹⁷ He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. ¹⁸ And on that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the Lord will not answer you on that day.” ¹⁹ But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, “No! We are determined to have a king over us, ²⁰ so that we also may be like other nations and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles.” ²¹ When Samuel heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the Lord.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

How Firm a Foundation (v.1)

ELW #796 Red

GOSPEL:

Luke 20:20-26

Glory to you, O Lord

²⁰ So they watched him and sent spies who pretended to be honest, in order to trap him by what he said and then to hand him over to the jurisdiction and authority of the governor. ²¹ So they asked him, “Teacher, we know that you are right in what you say and teach, and you show deference to no one but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. ²² Is it lawful for us to pay tribute to Caesar or not?” ²³ But he perceived their craftiness and said to them, ²⁴ “Show me a denarius. Whose head and whose title does it bear?” They said, “Caesar’s.” ²⁵ He said to them, “Then give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” ²⁶ And they were not able in the presence of the people to trap him by what he said, and being amazed by his answer they became silent.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON:

HYMN OF THE DAY:

Jesus Calls Us; o’er the Tumult (v.v.1,3,4,5)

ELW 696 Red

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

Congregational Response: **Lead Me Jesus Lead Me Jesus
Lead Me Jesus... Lead Me Lord**

THE LORD’S PRAYER:

Pg.112 ELW 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:

I Paid My Income Tax Today

by Marco Sherve

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS:

Create In Me

ELW 184 Red

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

May we fall in together again, **sharing our points of view, and our diversity of opinion.**
May we create strong community, with our shared values, bound together through the variety of experience. May we grow the kin-dom, by celebrating our differences, and listening to them all.
May we be your people tartan and colorful, weaving together our different strands of ideas.
May we be here as we are, and know we are an open space for all. May we offer love, in all its hues, to all your people. Amen.

SENDING:

May we proclaim wise words of the true God, may we speak up for peace, and express love in our actions.
May we be people of compassion, champions of justice, kings of unity and people of grace.
May we go from here as followers of Christ, and servants of the one true God, filled with the Holy Spirit.

CLOSING HYMN:

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

ELW 551 Red

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

ILC ANNOUNCEMENTS

The museum is open on Sundays from 1 - 4 p.m. this summer. If you could PLEASE help with hosting the museum one Sunday afternoon it would be much appreciated. The only thing you have to do is greet any guests and sit in a lawn chair on the front steps! There is also internet if you would like to be connected! Please let me know - the museum is all clean with all the exhibits ready - so there is nothing else to do. Thank you! Lin Strong

Almelund Farmers Market Began its 18th Season Friday, May 23rd at Rod's Country Corner! Come Friday afternoons from 3-6pm 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.

WISDOM SEEKERS

A new discussion group called "Wisdom Seekers" will begin meeting at 9 AM on Thursday, September 4, 2025, in the youth room at First Evangelical Lutheran Church. This discussion is open to all interested parties. We will be exploring how history has influenced religion and how religion has influenced history. Since both of these topics are influenced by philosophy we will explore that aspect of human thought as well. Your opinion will be appreciated by everyone in attendance and the lives of everyone will be enriched by the open, unjudged, fascinating thoughts that will come to the surface as we compare theology, history, and philosophy. (Facilitated by Jerry Rhoads).

SAVE THE DATE

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

Bible Study Enrichment

Previewing the 2025-2026 Bible Studies from the Gather Magazine
with Bible Study Leader Pastor Carrie Stiles

Saturday, September 20, 2025
St. Mark's Lutheran Church - North St. Paul

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM followed by lunch

All women are welcome!
Registration and more information will follow soon.

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 2025 books.

Apple Festival Committee is reserving the kitchen...

Tuesday, September 9 @ 1:00 - Apple Butter

Thursday, September 18 @ 2:00 - Apple Crisp

Friday, September 19 @ 4:00 - Apple Bread Pudding

Youth Group will be starting up soon. If you have a 6th-12th grader that would like to join stay tuned for registration night! Youth will be having the Walking Taco stand at Apple Fest. All youth will be needed to help with this great fundraiser on Sept. 21st!

The Immanuel quilters are enjoying a hot summer break. Our next sewing day is Tuesday, September 9th.

30th ANNUAL APPLE FESTIVAL

Sunday, September 21, 2025 - 11-4:00

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!

Apple Butter - Tuesday,

September 9 - 1:00,

Apple Crisp - Thursday,

September 18 - 2:00

Apple Bread Pudding - Friday,

September 19 - 4:00

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

FAITH CONVERSATIONS LIVING IN THIS MOMENT

THE AFTERLIFE

The mysteries surrounding
the afterlife and why it matters

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH YOUR LIFE?

Finding purpose and discerning
Goo's will

FAITH IN THE DAWN OF A.I.

Technology and the challenges
of the age to come

GENETIC ENGINEERING AND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN

Modern science and
human flourishing

END OF TIMES?

Theology, hope, and the
meaning of the Apocalypse

EVOLUTION, THEOLOGY, SCIENCE, CANCER AND GOD'S TOOLS FOR CREATION

Understanding God's working in world



CREATION AND EARTH CARE

Faith and its expression toward
the natural world

FOURTH THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

6:30 PM

WILD MOUNTAIN WINERY

BROUGHT TO YOU BY IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN
ALMELUND AND FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN TAYLORS FALLS

Be sure to save the date and check [ELCA.org/DayOfService](https://www.elca.org/DayOfService) for updated resources soon. **Created & Becoming Faith Conversations at the Edges of Life and Creation**

Fourth Thursday of every month at the Wild Mountain Winery

6:30 PM – Come early for wine, stay for the conversation! **August 28th not the 21st as newsletter shows**

August – Evolution, Theology & Cancer: God's Tools for Creation

Is God at work in natural selection? What do illness and survival reveal about divine purpose? We'll wrestle with how science, suffering, and spirituality intersect.

God's work. Our hands.



September 7, 2025

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, Sept. 7**, when congregations of the ELCA will join together for our annual day of service, ["God's work. Our hands."](#)

Participating in service projects is one way to celebrate who we are as the ELCA — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

We are a church that is energized by lively engagement in faith and life. As we continue our tradition of service, we remember the words of Martin Luther, **"Our faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing."** With our hands, we do God's work of restoring and reconciling communities in Jesus Christ's name.

If your congregation cannot participate on Sept. 7, you are encouraged to pick another date that fits your schedule. **ELCA congregations participate in acts of service every day.** This day of service is an extension of the work you already do to make your community a better place.

Be sure to save the date and check [ELCA.org/DayOfService](https://www.elca.org/DayOfService) for updated resources soon.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Join us on Sept. 7!

First Lutheran of Harris and Spring Lake Lutheran invite all women of our church to join them on Saturday September 27th for the North Cluster Gathering at First Lutheran in Harris. Registration begins at 9:00 with the program at 9:30. Program speaker will be from Options for Women / Chisago County. The morning monetary offering will be split between SWO and Options for Women. A material offering of infant clothing and diapers will be given to Options for Women. If you have any questions please call Mary Johnson at 612-417-2964. See you at First Lutheran on Saturday September 27th.

THANK YOUS

VBS families donated 68 pounds of food that was taken to the North Branch and Chisago Lakes Food Shelves of Family Pathways! Way to go kids and families!

- Immanuel VBS Group

We had 20-30 kids join us each night for VBS! Thank you for coming and bringing your kids.

VBS families donated 68 pounds of food that was taken to the North Branch and Chisago Lakes Food Shelves of Family Pathways! Way to go kids and families! Thank you!

- Immanuel VBS Group

Thank you for helping lead worship today!	Immanuel Church Calendar This Week	Happy Birthday this week!
Pastor: Justin Fenger	Sunday, August 24 PICKUP NEWSLETTERS 9:00 Worship Service Live and Online 10:00 Coffee Served: 11:00 First Lutheran Service	24 Daryl Carolly 25 Lynn Schultz 26 Lori Blomquist Rev. Justin Fenger 28 Kailie Loyas Matthew Oknich Elizabeth Sandberg Kendall Flanery 29 Lowell Carlson Dave Nelson 30 Janice Elder
Organist: Momoh Freeman	Monday, August 25 9-3 Office Hours 10:00 WOW Practice 6:00 Worship & Music Meets	
Special Music: Marco Sherve	Tuesday, August 26 9-3 Office Hours 9:00 Worship Team meets	
Reader: Mitchell Lutz	Wednesday, August 27 9-3 Office Hours	
Ushers: Steve Tuhy Family	Thursday, August 28 Deadline for bulletin Info 6:30 Holy Smokes @ Winery	August 17, 2025 Attendance: 112
Sound Tech: Julie Johnson	Friday, August 29 9-3 Office Hours Bulletins Printed 3-6 Farmer's Market @ Rod's	Weekly Giving Update: August 17, 2025
Camera Tech: Vern Johnson	Saturday, August 30	General \$9,798.00 Benevolence:
Children's Sermon: Justin Fenger	Sunday, August 31 9:00 Healing Worship Service Live and Online W/WOW 10:00 Coffee Served: 11:00 First Lutheran Service	-Undesignated \$150.00 -Synod \$400.00 -Luther Point \$25.00 -LSS \$25.00 -Itonya Cong. \$50.00 -World Hunger \$50.00 Building Fund \$70.00 Loose \$386.00 Coffee Money \$133.00 Planting Hope \$519.00 Youth Group \$2.00 Shared Ministry \$2,130.00 Fund Transfer \$5,000.00 Online Serv. Fee \$12.90 Total 18,231.90
Altar Guild: Green Nancy Nadeau		
Coffee Servers: Diane Rothe		

IMMANUEL STAFF Justin Fenger, Pastor Momoh Freeman, Organist Pat Remer, Accompanist Kim's Kleaning, Church Custodial work Mark Weslander, Administrative Assistant & Financial Recorder Kyle Hendrickson, Financial Secretary Daryl Abrahamson, Cemetery Groundskeeper Jason & DeeDee Fredlund, Youth Directors Teresa Carlson, Sunday School Leader Office Hours: M-W & F 9:00-3:00 unless otherwise noted. Cell phone is always available @ 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/immanuelchurchofalmelund Justin Fenger, Pastor pastor@immanuelalmelund.com 651-308-7717 Mark Weslander, Administrative Assistant office@immanuelalmelund.com 651-431-8941 Kyle Hendrickson, Financial Secretary (651)717-8804 finance@immanuelalmelund.com	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 Jason 651-208-5915 DeeDee 651-206-1190 Dianne Wiik, Prayer Chain ywiik99@yahoo.com (651)583-2600 Daryl Abrahamson, Cemetery Julie.l.abrahamson@gmail.com (651)674-2419
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