

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

37515 Park Trail, Almelund, MN 55012

Pastor Justin Fenger

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 2026

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

HEALING SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 8/30/2026

GATHERING

TODAY'S SERVICE IS USING

ELW: RED; LBW GREEN; WOV BLUE BOOKS

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: Jesus calls us to listen to the word, a word which can challenge and distress us.

C: Set our minds not on human things, but on divine things, O God.

L: Jesus asks us what we would give in return for our lives.

C: Set our minds not on human things, but on divine things, O God.

You can write prayer requests on the card in your bulletin, and drop it in the basket. A member of the Parish Care Team will circulate to collect written prayers. We will silently lift these prayers up to God later in this service and I will pray for each of these prayer requests throughout the week.

OPENING HYMN:

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

ELW 696 Red

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God of vocation, Stir up in us a passion for your creation that we might have the courage to follow the difficult path Jesus led. Give us both the sustenance we need to flourish and a heart for sacrifice on behalf of others, that all might have life and have it abundantly. For the sake of your son, Jesus Christ our savior. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC:

His Eye is on The Sparrow

Fatuna Reeves



**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

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalms 105:1-6,
23-26, 45

Matthew 16:21-28

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS:

Sunday School Theme: "God Is Good"

P: We bring them forward: backpacks and lunch bags, binders and instrument cases. A whole new year no one has lived yet.

C: We don't know what this year holds. But we know who holds us.

P: There will be good days and hard days. Easy mornings and mornings we'd rather skip.

C: In all of them, God is good.

P: Not good only when the grades are good, or when we're picked first —

C: but good all the way down. New every morning. His mercy never runs out.

P: So we send these students out blessed and remembered, belonging to God before they belong to any school, grade or team or test.

C: Great is your faithfulness, O God.

Prayer of Blessing

P: Let us pray. Good and faithful God, you meet us in the classroom and the bus line and the lonely lunch table. You meet us in the win and in the losses. Bless these backpacks and everything crammed inside them. Bless the hands that carry them: these students, these teachers, these families. Go with them. Remind them, when they forget these bags at school or on the bus, that they are never forgotten. In Jesus' name never let go of us.

C: Amen.

P: God is good

C: all the time.

P: All the time

C: God is good. Now go, and be loved out there.

CHILDREN'S SERMON:

SCRIPTURE READING:

Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. ⁷Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." ¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹²He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." ¹³But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM:

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 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: Then Israel came to Egypt; Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham.

C: And the Lord made his people very fruitful, and made them stronger than their foes,

R: whose hearts he then turned to hate his people, to deal craftily with his servants.

C: He sent his servant Moses, and Aaron whom he had chosen.

R: Praise the Lord!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: God, Whose Almighty Word (V.4)

ELW 673 Red

GOSPEL:

Matthew 16:21-28

Glory to you, O Lord

²¹From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." ²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

SERMON:

HYMN OF THE DAY:

Love That Will Not Let Me Go

LBW 324 Green

1 O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

2 O Light that foll'west all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.

3 O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain
and feel the promise is not vain
that morn shall tearless be.

4 O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.

Text: George Matheson, 1842-1906, alt.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

P: O God, who always listens to us, who breathes new life into us, call us forward to resurrection.

We are surrounded by a world of dry bones, a world of death and despair,

a world where we lose hope in our structures, ourselves, and you.

We pray for this world in need of your Word: for all the people in it . . for those who lay down their lives . . . for those who lead . . .

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

P: O God, who always listens to us, who breathes new life into us, call us forward to resurrection.

We are surrounded by people with dried up lives,

people unable to see your life past their tears.

We pray for this world in need of your healing presence:

for those who are imprisoned or alone,

those ill or infirm, or grieving, especially . . .

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

P: O God, who always listens to us, who breathes new life into us,

call us forward to resurrection.

We are spellbound by those dry bones, terrified of the stink of death,

and often too dumbfounded to call forth life in your name.

We pray for your chosen people, your Church . . .

We pray for the courage not just to follow you to death,

but to follow you to the New Creation.

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

P: Call us to follow in the footsteps of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who taught us when we pray to say:

Our Father in heaven . . .

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:

God, who gave all your yourself for the sake of your beloved creation, and who continues to sustain us with your abundance, we offer these gifts out of what you have first given us, in gratitude and wonder. May they, in turn, bring fullness and gratitude to others, so that all might know of your incomprehensible love. Amen.

SENDING:

L: God called Moses out of his comfort,

C: To deliver God's people from slavery.

L: Moses had excuse after excuse.

C: I'm nobody. No one will listen to me. I don't speak well.

L: And finally—directly—Moses said:

C: Send someone else.

L: God wouldn't have it. Moses had a job to do.

C: In the end, Moses answered the call, and God's people were liberated.

L: God called Jesus to deliver God's people from slavery to sin.
C: Jesus didn't hesitate, though it would cost him his life.
 L: God calls us out of our comfort,
C: To work for the reign of God,
 L: To share the good news far and wide,
C: To strive for peace and justice in all the earth.
 L: Will we make excuses? After all, we're not Jesus.
C: Will we look God straight in the eye and say, "Send someone else?"
 L: Or will we set aside our worldly concerns, and take the risk, trusting God to guide us.
C: Jesus, help us to be willing!

CLOSING HYMN: Bind Us Together WOV 748 Blue

DISMISSAL:
 Go in peace, with Christ beside you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

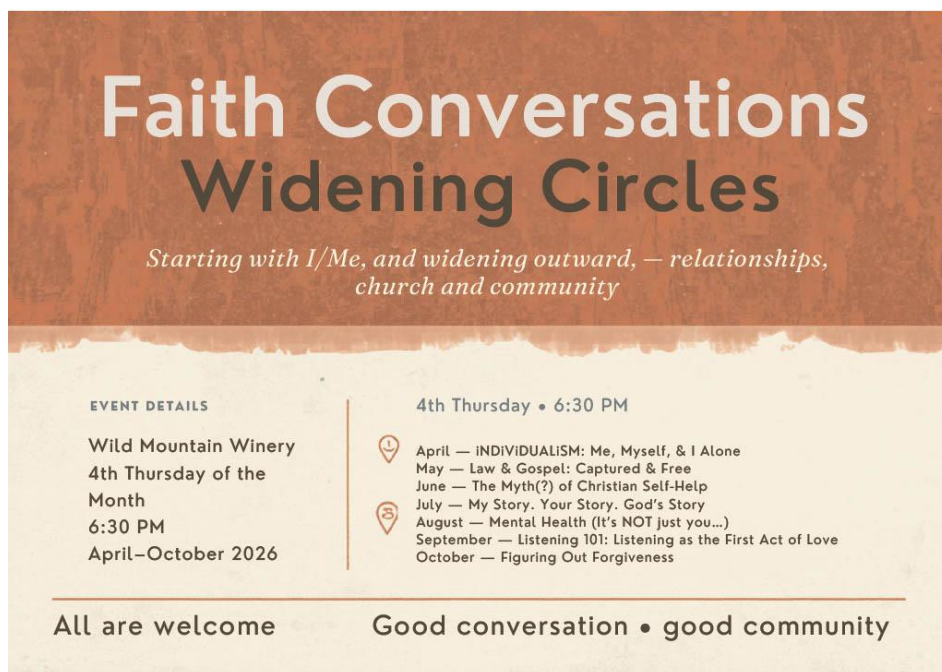
Community Dinner, Friday September 11 from 4:30-6:30.

**RALLY SUNDAY AND PANCAKE
 BREAKFAST!!!** Sunday September 27, 2026

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, September 24 at 6:30 PM.



**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
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All are welcome Good conversation • good community

Youth Group sign up is Sep. 2nd @ 6pm
 Welcoming all new 6th graders!

Youth Group begins Wed. Sept. 16th 6:30-7:30

Apple Fest Sept. 20th. All youth are needed to work this event if possible.

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.

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.

Confirmation: Starts Wednesday, September 30th @ 5:30

Sunday School

- August 30th - Blessing of the Backpacks
- Sept 27th - Rally Sunday with pancake breakfast
 - Rally Sunday will be a Carnival game style as the last few years have been
 - Teresa noted 21 large bags and 21 small bags to use for prizes and giveaways
 - Ping Pong balls and numbered duckies
 - Many prizes and give aways
 - Bags, ping pong balls, duckies and give aways are in a large tote in Classroom B
 - Pre-load bags, and then have additional prizes at the game sites

Dadu and his family are moving into their new home, and our church family has a wonderful opportunity to welcome them! As they settle in, here are some items they could use:

- Dining room set • Living room set • Coffee tables • Microwave • Bedroom set
- Beddings • Towels • Any other household items are appreciated!

If you have something to share, please contact the church office. Thank you for your generosity and for helping make their new place feel like home.

Donated: Crockpot, handmixer, bath towels, a double sheet and double bed frame (boxspring/mattress needed), dining room set W/four chairs and lamp.

September 27th 9:00 am
Rally Sunday
Prayer Shawl Dedication
Followed with
Pancake Breakfast



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

Fri., Sep 11, 4:30-6:30

Community Dinner

Free!
Everyone Welcome!
Great Fellowship!
Meet your friends & neighbors!

*Immanuel Lutheran Church
Almelund*

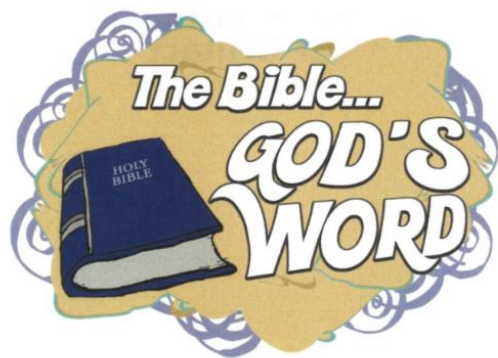
Come & Bring a Friend!

2nd Friday Each Month 4:30—6:30 pm



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

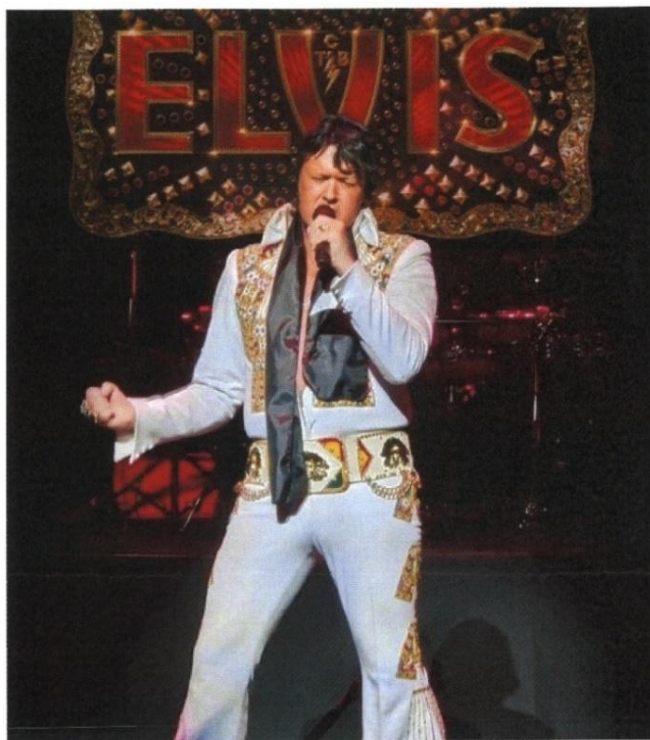
Saturday, September 19, 2026
St. Mark's Lutheran Church - North St. Paul

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



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

**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: Fatuna Reeves Reader: McCoy Lindgren Ushers: Bob Stirling Clay Ryberg Sound Tech: Loraine Rue Camera Tech: Dave Rue Proclaim: Carli Linngren Children's Sermon: Pastor Justin Altar Guild: Green Nancy Nadeau Coffee Servers: Ekstrom Family in honor of Ruth Ekstrom's 80th Birthday	Immanuel Church Calendar This Week Sunday August 30 9:00 Healing Worship Service Live and Online. 10:00 Coffee Served 11:00 Service at First Ev. Lutheran Church TF Monday August 31 Tuesday September 1 9-3 Office hours 9:00 Worship Team Meets Wednesday September 2 9-3 Office hours No Prayer Shawl 6:00 Hannah Circle Meets 6:00 Youth & Confirmation Registration. Thursday September 3 Deadline for Bulletin Info 4:30-6:30 Game Night @ FELC Friday September 4 9-3 Office hours Bulletins Printed 3-6 Almelund Farmer's Market at Rods Saturday September 5 Sunday September 6 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																				
August 23, 2026 Attendance: 69 Weekly Giving Update: August 23, 2026 <table><tr><td>General</td><td>\$4,092.97</td></tr><tr><td>Benevolence:</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>-Undesignated</td><td>\$ 20.00</td></tr><tr><td>-Lutheran Soc. Serv.</td><td>\$ 25.00</td></tr><tr><td>-Luther Point:</td><td>\$ 125.00</td></tr><tr><td>Building Fund</td><td>\$ 20.00</td></tr><tr><td>Loose</td><td>\$ 38.75</td></tr><tr><td>Youth Group</td><td>\$ 2.00</td></tr><tr><td>Online Service Fee</td><td>\$ 1.00</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>\$4,324.72</td></tr></table> Offering includes: Almelund Threshing Club for \$500.00 MN Revenue for \$164.97	General	\$4,092.97	Benevolence:		-Undesignated	\$ 20.00	-Lutheran Soc. Serv.	\$ 25.00	-Luther Point:	\$ 125.00	Building Fund	\$ 20.00	Loose	\$ 38.75	Youth Group	\$ 2.00	Online Service Fee	\$ 1.00	TOTAL	\$4,324.72	Happy birthday this week! 1 Carol Carlson Lainey Bauer 3 Ruth Ekstrom		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.1.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
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