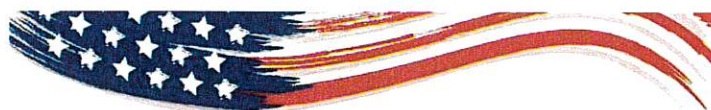


In Word & Deed



"God With Us"

July - August 2026

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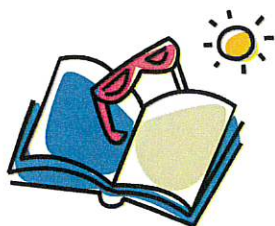
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IMMANUEL
Lutheran
Church

305 2nd Ave W

Cresco IA 52136

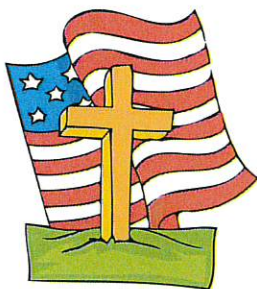
563-547-2108

8:30 - 1:30 M-Th

Closed Fridays

office@immanuelcresco.com

www.immanuelcresco.com



From the Pastor's Desk

Alive by Grace

I wonder what the first words were that Lazarus said to Jesus when he was raised from the dead. After he walked out of the tomb, working out the rigor mortis cricks in his neck, unbound from the stinking graveclothes, what would he have to say to the one who raised him from the dead? Maybe it's fitting that the story doesn't record him saying anything, because an awestruck speechlessness would make a lot of sense. But I wonder, after he got his feet under him, maybe after he had had a few sleeps and awoken on his own, gotten into the rhythm of a living human being again, ate a few meals, and then maybe found himself walking alongside his close friend Jesus for a moment, I wonder if the first words he said were: "Thank you." They may have been said with broken speech and tears in his eyes. They may have been said as he stopped Jesus in his tracks and looked him in the eyes. They may have been said in a mumbled shyness due to how inadequate the words felt compared to the overwhelming gratitude he felt for being alive. But yes, I think some version of 'thank you,' is what Lazarus said.

This is, in some sense, the only response that make sense when we receive the gift of grace. Paul writes in the letter to the Romans that those who have received the love of God in Jesus Christ, 'the grace in which we stand' (5:2), should present themselves to God 'as those who have been brought from death to life' (6:13). In the life of grace, the incredible gift of God's love for us in Jesus Christ says more about us than anything else. It's life itself. Even if we're dead like Lazarus, grace means that who God is for us is more important than anything else that seems to define us. By grace we are named Beloved Children of God. We are not Beloved because of our ability to bend the world to our will, or to be better than other people and win some special prize. It's pure gift. We are beloved because God chooses to love us. Period. As a church, who we are is all about who God is, who we really are is seen in God's gracious love for us. It's like being little Lazaruses, staggering from the empty tomb, shielding our eyes from the sunlight, stunned by the gift of life itself and uttering a heartfelt thank you to the one who gave it.

Then, I'm guessing, the next step for Lazarus after that initial, gobsmacked 'thank you,' was to turn to others and tell them what it means to live in grace. I'm guessing he felt compelled to find a way to show them that the love God has for them in Jesus Christ is more powerful than anything that wants to name or claim them, anything that wants to demean them. Death itself has nothing on Christ's powerful word of grace. He may have told them that Christ's word of forgiveness on the cross is stronger than any curse or sin that binds them, and to be brought into the freedom of the love of God from the slavery of sin is not all that different from being snatched from death and dragged back to life. He probably tried to tell them that they aren't so different from him. They too are like Lazarus, alive by grace, and all the graceless ways they are tempted to treat one another wash away as tiny specks in the unabashed gratitude of knowing that we, who once were dead, have been raised in Jesus Christ. As Paul writes elsewhere: 'From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view... if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!' (2 Cor. 5:16-17). I pray you find a way to live like Lazarus, a brand new creation in gratitude for the relationship of grace you have because of Jesus. And may you find a way to share that relationship of grace with all you meet.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Nathan

Reminder - The July-August Newsletter will NOT be mailed out but it will be e-mailed to everyone (if we have your email address) ... if you hear of anyone saying they did NOT get their newsletter this month, please have them reach out to the office with a correct email address! It is also located on the Immanuel Website going forward!
Thanks, Cindy



Official Acts June 2026
No Baptisms

Funerals
Al Vrieze - 6.2.26
Jason Smith - 6.5.26

June - August
Mid Month Communion

There will be **NO MIDMONTH** Communion for the foreseeable future. If you wish to have Communion brought to you or a family member, see the office ... Thanks!





Back to School Clothing Give-Away

July 30, 31 & August 1, 2026

We will gladly accept any clothes, infant through teen,
left over from your garage sales this summer for our
Clothing Give-Away.

**Drop off at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 305 2nd Ave W
(the church with the clock)**

Monday through Friday or call 563-379-9293 for pickup.
Taking clothes until Sunday, July 26th!

Thank you!



Adult Study & Prayers

Adult Education Opportunity

Sunday morning Adult Education is watching *The Chosen (when available)*
& enjoying amazing conversations each week & it's impact on each member. All
are invited to join at 8:00 am - 8:45 a.m.



Sunday Evening Adult Study

Adult Bible Study meets with Pastor Dan on **Sunday nights at 6:00 p.m.** Continuing in the
Word, we share in-depth discussions of the impact of that word on our daily lives. Adding
prayer and communion to each evening, we join in a complete time of worship & fellowship!

Prayers of Healing, Comfort and Guidance

Derek Grube, Jackson Ollendieck, Reggie Ollendieck & Martha Rasmusson,

Loved Ones Serving Our Country

*For all our service men & women serving our Country ~ Families ... please let the office
know of your family member currently serving to be listed here by name. Thanks!*

Friends & Family in Care Centers or RSHC

Sara Breitsprecher, Dick Franks, JoAnne Kratz, Sandra Peter & Helen Schmauss

Treasurer's Report Summary

GENERAL FUND	May	Year to Date	
Beginning Balance	-\$13,975.98	\$3,148.92	General Fund
General Fund Income	\$23,887.00	\$82,719.45	Savings Account
Reimbursed Income	\$190.00	\$15,506.25	\$33,870.44
Reimbursed Expenses	-\$190.00	-\$3,407.67	
Miscellaneous Income	\$5,865.16	\$35,081.40	
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$0.00	-\$335.94	Rent 2026
Coffee Fellowship	-\$20.62	-\$268.23	\$5,000.00
General Fund Expenses	-\$4,711.74	-\$43,881.24	
General Executive Committee Expenses (Payroll)	-\$20,344.67	-\$97,863.79	
GENERAL FUND	-\$9,300.85	-\$9,300.85	ILC Miller Fund
Operating Loan	\$0.00	\$0.00	Account Balance
Savings income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$379,093.35
Savings expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	30-Apr-2026
Debt Reduction Income / Fall Dinner	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Debt Reduction Exp /Op Loan / Savings / Payment	\$0.00	\$0.00	
General Fund Ending Balance	-\$9,300.85	-\$9,300.85	
Men's Breakfast			A Sommer CD
Beginning Balance	\$817.28	\$276.72	\$14,102.90
Men's Breakfast Income	\$144.00	\$1,279.00	
Men's Breakfast Expense	-\$160.00	-\$754.44	
Ending Balance	\$801.28	\$801.28	
Hands of the Master			
Beginning Balance	\$1,187.59	\$2,687.59	
Hands of the Master Income	\$550.00	\$550.00	
Hands of the Master Expense	\$0.00	-\$1,500.00	
Ending Balance	\$1,737.59	\$1,737.59	
BENEVOLENCE FUND			Sent to the ELCA
Beginning Balance	\$5,594.18	\$1,730.57	May
Income	\$2,174.00	\$15,771.21	\$839.00
Expenses	-\$1,189.00	-\$10,922.60	2026
Ending Balance	\$6,579.18	\$6,579.18	\$9,472.60
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND			Pledged
Beginning Balance	\$11,003.42	\$8,704.42	\$15,500.00
Income	\$125.00	\$7,224.00	
Expenses	\$0.00	-\$4,800.00	
Ending Balance	\$11,128.42	\$11,128.42	
Luther League Account			
Beginning Balance	\$5,309.07	\$5,099.63	
Youth Income	\$10.00	\$416.00	
Youth Expense	-\$3,552.47	-\$3,749.03	
Ending Balance	\$1,766.60	\$1,766.60	
Checking Account Balance	\$12,712.22	\$12,712.22	

SUMMARY OF IMMANUEL COUNCIL MINUTES – June 4, 2026

PASTOR'S REPORT: The Website has gone live at *immanuelcresco.com*. The In Word & Deed Newsletter will be available on line and/or e-mailed to you. If you wish, a hard copy newsletter can be mailed to you. Also copies will be available for pick up in the lobby.

Pastor has officiated at four funerals in the past month. On Friday he took Paid Time Off. June 7th he will lead the annual service at the Florenceville Methodist Church. The 2026 Northeastern Iowa Synod C3 event will be attended by Pastor Dan, Rod Bakken, Nancy Bakken and LuAnn Gast on June 6th.

MISSION CONVERSATION: The proposed new mission statement is “By God’s grace Immanuel Lutheran Church is a faith community striving to love and serve as disciples of Jesus.” Members have been encouraged to discuss the statement before it is voted on at the July Semi-Annual Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Motion made and passed to set the date of the Semi-Annual Meeting for July 26th. Agenda items were discussed.

July 2nd is the next board and council meetings. Meanwhile the Administrative Board members should review the black binders that contain the new council structure. It has been decided that board meetings should be the 2nd Thursday of the month and the council meeting should be the 3rd Thursday of the month. There must be enough time for a board to summarize their meeting on a form and for the council to read the form before they meet.

BOARD REPORTS:

Stewardship & Finance – The board will educate themselves on what the designations on the offering envelopes mean and then share the information at the Semi-Annual Meeting.

Worship & Music – The piano in the back room of the education wing has been tuned. There will be regularly scheduled, annual tuning of the church’s three pianos. The process of adding and removing names from Immanuel’s prayer list will be updated.

Church Properties – The board will investigate the high maintenance cost of the copy machine, there will be one key for several doors and the weeds on the east side of the church will be taken care of.

Evangelism & Social Concerns – The Faith Formation students were served meals. The freezer has been cleaned out. Every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. volunteers have been sorting recently dropped off clothing in preparation for the Back to School Clothing Giveaway July 30th, 31st and August 1st.

Youth Ministry – The F-3 Youth Lock-In involved seven youth and three adults. July 19th there will be an informational meeting about the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. Fund raising will begin in September.

Christian Education – Plans for GLOW in the fall include registration on line, updating youth training and revising the schedule.

Parish Fellowship – Plans are being made for a July social event. Members will offer to help with the Orleans Church bonfire on June 14th.



**Meeting
Minutes**

*This is a summary of the minutes of the June meeting.
Full minutes will be available after formal approval
by council at the next meeting.*

Our Proposed New Mission Statement: **A Plumb Line for Our Life Together**

A mission statement is more than a memorable sentence for a bulletin, website, or sign. At its best, a mission statement names who we are, why we exist, and what God is calling us to do. For a congregation, it becomes a purpose statement: a clear and faithful guide that directs everything we do together.

That is why the proposed new mission statement for Immanuel Lutheran Church matters. It is intended to help us ask, again and again, whether our worship, learning, service, fellowship, leadership, decisions, and use of resources are aligned with the purpose God has given us. In the book of Amos, God shows the prophet a plumb line, a builder's tool used to see whether a wall is straight. In a similar way, our mission statement can serve as a plumb line for our life together. When something we are doing lines up with our mission, we can give thanks and keep moving forward. When something does not, we can prayerfully make adjustments so that our congregation's life and work are brought back into alignment with our calling.

The proposed mission statement, which was introduced at our January semi-annual meeting, is: ***"By God's grace, Immanuel Lutheran Church is a faith community striving to love and serve as disciples of Jesus."***

The Bible verse chosen to accompany this statement is 1 John 4:11: *"Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another."* This verse reminds us that Christian love begins with God's love for us. We do not create the church by our own strength, wisdom, or effort. Everything we are and everything we do depends first on God's grace.

The statement reminds us that the church is a faith community. We are God's beloved children, gathered by grace, living out our faith together. Faith is not something we practice alone; it is formed, strengthened, challenged, and shared in community. As Immanuel Lutheran Church, we belong to God and to one another.

Our mission also calls us to love. As disciples of Jesus, we seek to love others as Jesus loved: without limit, without exception, and without first asking who is deserving. The love we have received from God becomes the love we are called to share with neighbors near and far.

Finally, the statement names service as a central way we share God's love with the world. To serve others as disciples of Jesus is to see each person as someone who bears the image of God, who is beloved by God as we are, and to respond to them in love through grace-filled words and concrete, loving actions. Our service is not limited to those who are familiar to us, similar to us, or connected to our congregation. It reaches outward because God's love reaches outward.

As we prepare for our upcoming semi-annual meeting and the vote on this proposed mission statement, please take time to reflect on these words. Read them prayerfully. Talk about them with one another. Ask how they might guide our worship, ministries, decisions, and daily life as a congregation. Together, may we listen for God's call and seek to align everything we do with the mission God has entrusted to us.

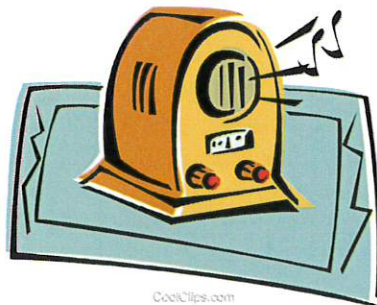
In Christ,
Pastor Dan



Radio Broadcast Sponsorship

July & August 2026

- July 5, 2026 In recognition of the 49th Wedding Anniversary of Neal & Sarah Lienhard who were married on July 9, 1977. Living in California these days; we send congratulations to Neal and remember Sarah who sadly passed away on August 23, 2025.
- We also keep George Peter in loving memory. George was born March 6, 1905 and died January 5, 1991. Sponsored by his daughter, Janice Mecklenburg and family.
- July 12, 2026 In loving memory of Danny Courtney, who passed away July 16th, 2011. Sponsored by Evan, Cari, Mason, Blake and Maverick & Max Carman.
- July 19, 20256 In loving memory of JoAnn Hale (Franks). JoAnn was born on May 3, 1938 and passed away on June 25, 2015. Sponsored by her daughters Barb Larsen and Vicky Reicks and their families.
- July 26, 2026 In honor and special recognition of the 55th Wedding Anniversary of Bill & Cheryl Seele and the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Arlyn & Vickie Grube. Both celebrating on July 31st, we congratulate them all on this incredible milestone and wish them many more years of happiness.
- August 2, 2026 In loving memory of Grandson Kyler and Husband Ray Bina. Kyler's birthday is February 1, 2001 and he died on April 17, 2017. Ray's birthday is August 5, 1945 and he died on November 29, 2016. Sponsored by Judi Bina and the entire Bina Family.
- August 9, 2026. In loving memory of her brother, Don Davis and mother, Sofie Davis. Don was born on August 2, 1942 and passed away on December 22, 2013. Sofie was born on November 9, 1914 and passed away on December 27, 2019. Sponsored by Carol Harrington and family.
- August 16, 2026 In recognition of the 10-year anniversary of Cindy Yslas as the Office Administrator at Immanuel Lutheran. Thanks for the dedication, endless hours and professionalism shown for over 10 years. Sponsored today by Judy Jacobson and members of the Immanuel family.
- August 23, 2026 In honor of the 3-year anniversary of Pastor Dan answering The Call to Immanuel Lutheran on August 22, 2024. We have been blessed to have Pastor, Jen & Ethan join our Immanuel family.
- August 30, 2026 In loving memory of Tim Vagts, son of Dale & Joyce Vagts. Tim was born September 1, 1960 and passed away on May 9th, 2010. Sponsored by Dale & Joyce Vagts and family.





July 2026



Communion is offered every Sunday!
No Wednesday services over the Summer (May-Aug)!!

Sun	Mon	Tue
<u>Pastor Dan Office Hours:</u> Mon Off Tues - 1-4 p.m. Wed 9-10 Staff Mtg - Peace Wed 11-Noon/Visitations Thur 9-Noon/Visitations Thur 9:30 Staff Mtg - ILC Fri - by appt	<u>Cindy's Office Hours</u> Mon - Thurs 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Fridays - Office Closed!	
5 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. Adult Study 9:00 a.m. Worship w/Baptism 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship (P) PD & PN Continuing Ed - Indianapolis, IN	6 <i>Pastor Day Off!</i> 5-9 July	7  Mobile Food Pantry Featherlite Bldg 4:30 - out of food!
12 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. Adult Study 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship (O) 6:00 p.m. Bible Study w/Pastor Dan	13 <i>Pastor Day Off!</i>	14
19 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. Adult Study 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 1:00 p.m. Info Mtg - YOUTH GATHERING 2027 6:00 p.m. NO Bible Study w/Pastor Dan 6:00 p.m. Bonfire Worship—Orleans - VBS kickoff	20 <i>Pastor Day Off!</i> IOP Vacation Bible School	21 @ Orleans & Peace
26 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. Adult Study 9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Semi-Annual Voter's Meeting (ILC) 10:30 a.m. Worship (O) 6:00 p.m. Bible Study w/Pastor Dan 	27 <i>WIC 8:30 - 4:00 pm</i> <i>Pastor Day Off!</i>	28

Immanuel Lutheran Churchpastorbaldwin16@gmail.compastor.nwicks@gmail.comoffice@immanuelcresco.com

563/547-2108



305 2nd Ave W, Cresco IA 52136

Pastor Dan Baldwin

Pastor Nathan Wicks

Cindy M. Yslas

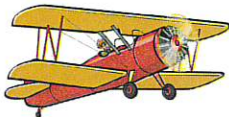
Website: www.immanuelcresco.com**Check us out LIVE on Facebook each Sunday Morning at 9:00 a.m.**Radio Broadcasts on KCZQ radio FM 102.3: Sunday morning services at 9:00 am
and "Devotions to Begin Your Day" Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 8:05 am

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30 a.m. Circle of Grace Working on Clothing <i>No Wednesday Night</i>	2 <i>Semi-Annual Reports Due to office</i> 6:30 p.m. Board Meetings 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting	3 <i>Office Closed!!</i>	4 
8 8:30 a.m. Circle of Grace Working on Clothing 9:30 Circle of Grace Meeting <i>No Wednesday Night</i>	9 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast	10 <i>Office Closed!!</i>	11
15 8:30 a.m. Circle of Grace Working on Clothing <i>No Wednesday Night</i>	16 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast	17 <i>August newsletter items Due to office</i> <i>Office Closed!!</i>	18
22 8:30 a.m. Circle of Grace Working on Clothing <i>No Wednesday Night</i> 19-22 July	23 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast	24 <i>Office Closed!!</i>	25
29 8:30 a.m. Circle of Grace Working on Clothing <i>No Wednesday Night</i>	30 7 a.m. Men's Breakfast Clothing Giveaway 3-7 p.m. FREE Clothing Giveaway!!! 	31 Clothing Giveaway 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 	1 August Clothing Giveaway 8 a.m. - Noon 

August 2026



Communion is offered every Sunday!
No Wednesday services over the Summer!!

Sun		Mon	Tue
Pastor's Office House Monday - Off Tues 1-4 Wed 9-10 Staff Mtg - Peace Wed - 11-Noon - Visits Thur - 9 -Noon - Visits Thurs 9:30 Staff Mtg- ILC Fri - by appt		Cindy's Office Hours: Mon - Thurs 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Fridays - Office Closed	
2 <i>Fly-In Breakfast & Fine Art Show</i> 8:00-8:45 a.m. Adult Study 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. - Worship (P) 6:00 p.m. NO Adult Bible Study w/Pastor Dan 		3 <i>Pastor Off!</i>	4  4:30 - 6:00 p.m. <i>Mobile Food Pantry</i> <i>Cresco Fairgrounds</i>
9 8:00-8:45 a.m. Adult Study 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. - Worship (O) 5:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study w/Pastor Dan (1 hr early)		10 <i>Pastor Off!</i>	11
16 <i>Pastor to SYNOD 17-20 August</i> 8:00-8:45 a.m. Adult Study 9:00 a.m. Worship (Lay Service w/Scott Wiley) 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m.—Worship (P) 6:00 p.m. NO Adult Bible Study w/Pastor Dan <i>Czech Days - Protivin ~ 14-15 August</i>		17 <i>Pastor Off!</i>	18
23 Norman Borlaug Days 22-24 August 8:00-8:45 a.m. Adult Study 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship (O) in Park 4:45 p.m. Mutual Ministry (ILC) 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study w/Pastor Dan		24 <i>Pastor Off!</i>	25
30 8:00-8:45 a.m. Adult Study 9:00 a.m. Joint Worship - Chicago Folk Service 10:00 a.m. Fellowship (All 3 churches) at ILC 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study w/Pastor Dan		31 <i>Pastor Off!</i>	

Immanuel Lutheran Church
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 563/547-2108

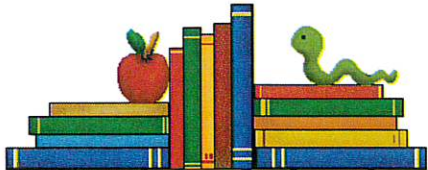


305 2nd Ave W, Cresco IA 52136
 Pastor Dan Baldwin
 Pastor Nathan Wicks
 Cindy M. Yslas

Website: www.immanuelcresco.com

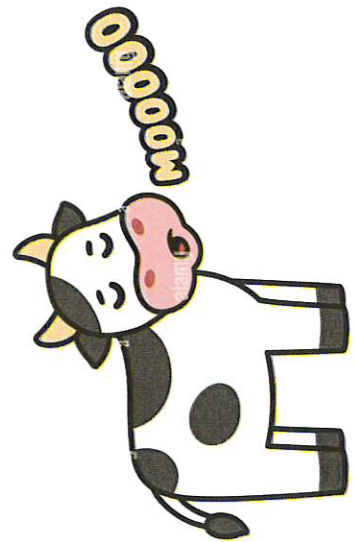
Check us out LIVE on Facebook each Sunday Morning at 9:00 a.m.

Radio Broadcasts on KCZQ radio FM 102.3: Sunday morning services at 9:00 am
 and "Devotions to Begin Your Day" Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 8:05 am

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	30 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Back to School Clothing Give-Away	31 8 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Back to School Clothing Give-Away 	1 8 a.m. - Noon Back to School Clothing Give-Away 
5	6 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast NO Board or Council Meetings	7  Office Closed!	8 
12 9:30 a.m. Circle of Grace	13 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast	14 Czech Days—Protivin 14-16 August September Newsletter calendar items are due	15 Czech Days—Protivin 14-16 August
19	20 7 a.m. Men's Breakfast  5 p.m. Hymn Selection	21 Office Closed! Norman Borlaug Days 22-24 August	22 Noon - Hospital Aux Quilt Auction
26	27 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast	28 Office Closed!  Back to School	29

July 2026— Worship Assistants

DATE	GREETERS/USHERS	COMM. ASSISTS	WORSHIP LEADER	LECTOR	ACOLYTES	SOUND SYSTEM	PROJECTION
July 5, 2026 Sunday	Mary Olson & Charlotte Hebrink	Gary & Sharon Johnson	Cindy Yslas	Sharon Johnson	Matt Hemann & Kim Steven	Al Voyna, Arlyn Grube & Matt Gates	Bob Omar
July 12, 2026 Sunday	NO WEDNESDAY	WoW Worship	MAY—AUG				
	Steve & Wendy Johnson	Rod & Nancy Bakken	Lindsey Johnson	Rod Bakken	Matt Hemann & Kim Steven	Al Voyna, Arlyn Grube & Matt Gates	Al Voyna
July 19, 2026 Sunday	NO WEDNESDAY	WoW Worship	MAY—AUG				
	Kelly Praska & LaVonne Beck	Bill & Cheryl Seele	Dale Vagts	Bill Seele	Matt Hemann & Kim Steven	Al Voyna, Arlyn Grube & Matt Gates	Matt Gates
July 26, 2026 Sunday	NO WEDNESDAY	WoW Worship	MAY—AUG				
	Dale & Joyce Vagts	Merle & Marge Sovereign	Tanya Fencil	Karen Nance	Matt Hemann & Kim Steven	Al Voyna, Arlyn Grube & Matt Gates	Jenny Matt
	NO WEDNESDAY	WoW Worship	MAY—AUG				



Moo Mobile at the Mighty Howard County Fair

We can NOT thank everyone enough for the amazing support we received to man the Moo Mobile at the Mighty Howard County Fair. We had a tremendous group of volunteers who stepped up and covered a three-hour shift (and some a bit longer than that) ... It made a tremendous difference and what a BEATUFUL day of weather we had! That might explain the hundreds & hundreds of hundreds of malts we served until 8:00 p.m. at the **MIGHTY HOWARD COUNTY FAIR!!**

Thanks again!!

August 2026— Worship Assistants

	GREETERS/USHERS	COMM. ASSISTS	WORSHIP LEADER	LECTOR	ACOLYTES	SOUND SYSTEM	PROJECTION
Aug 2, 2026 Sunday	Mike Henry Leonard Zeller	Manley & Linda Bigalk	Cindy Yslas	Judi Bina	Matt Hemann & Kim Steven	Al Voyna, Arlyn Grube & Matt Gates	Bob Gast
Aug 9, 2026 Sunday	Louie & Lisa Lienhard	Phyllis Barth Sonia Ollendieck	Sue Easler	Cindy Yslas	Matt Hemann & Kim Steven	Al Voyna, Arlyn Grube & Matt Gates	Matt Gates
Aug 16, 2026 Sunday	Charlotte Hebrink Mary Olson	Gary & Sharon Johnson	Sonia Ollendieck	Sharon Johnson	Matt Hemann & Kim Steven	Al Voyna, Arlyn Grube & Matt Gates	Bob Omar
Aug 23, 2026 Sunday	Mary Gunhus Martha Rasmusson	Merle & Marge Sovereign	Cindy Yslas	Dale Vagts	Matt Hemann & Kim Steven	Al Voyna, Arlyn Grube & Matt Gates	Al Voyna
Aug 30, 2026 Sunday	Kelly Praska LaVonne Beck	Sharon Ollendieck Judi Bina	Lindsey Johnson	Karen Nance	Matt Hemann & Kim Steven	Al Voyna, Arlyn Grube & Matt Gates	Jenny Matt

Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2026 (Sponsored by Immanuel, Orleans & Peace Churches)

Hosted at Peace & Orleans Churches
July 19 - 22, 2026 ~ 6-8 p.m. - FREE!!

Sunday (19th) - Orleans ~ Kickoff/Campfire
2969 Co Rd W14, Cresco

Mon - Wed (20th-22nd) ~ Peace - 745 Co St, Ridgeway

Transportation provided ~ Come out and enjoy!!

To register - fill out form [online-forms.gle/hAMnCw2qV195Hxm7](https://forms.gle/hAMnCw2qV195Hxm7) or
email: ridgewayparish@gmail.com or call Darcy 563.387.7098!



Without Amy's support, I would still be an addict, and I wouldn't be where I am today," said Michelle, an LSI client.

Michelle was struggling with substance abuse, legal issues, and mental health issues when she found LSI therapist Amy Davis back in 2021.

"God helps us in ways we don't always want him to," said Michelle. "When the coronavirus pandemic hit, I lost my job. The unemployment lines were long at the time, so we went several months without a paycheck, so I decided to get creative with my finances. I started selling drugs and was later arrested with a large quantity of drugs. They came in, took my kid, and I went to jail. After that, I was referred to work with Amy at LSI."

Michelle and Amy worked through Michelle's childhood trauma, processing the significant losses in her life due to drug overdose and death. Amy helped Michelle work on building a positive support system, a list of future goals, and a relationship with her daughter, Rachel.

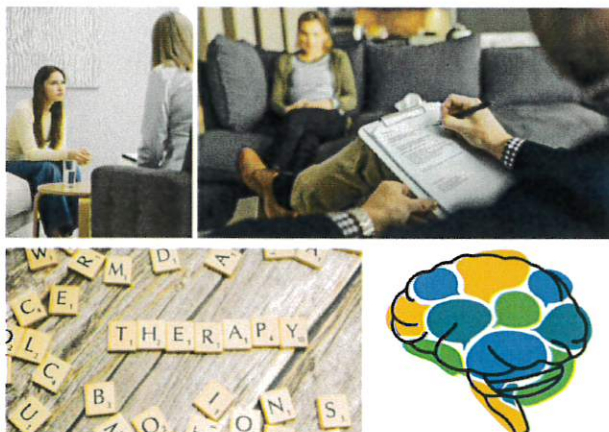
"Rachel and I had a lot of problems when we entered therapy because I was a drug addict, and there was a lot of broken trust between us," said Michelle. "LSI therapists helped us rebuild that trust and helped show her the progress I had made when she couldn't see it herself."

Rachel, in therapy as well, has been seeing LSI Therapist Chelsea Zaragoza since 2019. In addition to one-on-one therapy sessions with their respective therapists, Michelle and Rachel also do family therapy sessions with Amy and Chelsea. These sessions help the mother and daughter have time set aside to talk about issues they are having in a healthy, productive way.

"Michelle has had a lot of struggles, loss, and a lot of people who didn't believe in her, and her daughter was one of them," said Amy Davis, LSI Therapist. "We have worked hard doing family and individual therapy to bring those two back together, and it has worked. Where they are now, I don't think I've seen a mother-daughter relationship as healthy as the two of them are."

"To see how far Michelle has come since I met her is truly remarkable," said Amy. "She built the ladder, and she climbed out."

"I was a mess when I first came to LSI," said Michelle. "Now, I'm sober, in college, have a high-paying job, and have my daughter back. Amy believed in me when no one else did, not even myself. She gave me hope."



Pine Ridge Reservation June 2026 Update

When I speak to groups about the center, I **now need two hands to count everything we do**—and that is a good problem to have. When I arrived in July 2020, COVID had slowed things down, and we had five main areas of ministry. I used to hold up one hand and count them off on my fingers. Now I need to use the thumb on my other hand too.

I start with the **Job Corps** because they make the center's work possible. One long-time group recently told me this is the best staff they have ever seen here. I have been able to travel, visit churches, and raise support because I know the work will continue while I am gone. The Job Corps handles every part of the center's operation. It is also a ministry, because it gives people a chance to support themselves and their families, while others come for a season, regain their footing, and move on.

The second area is our **giveaways**. We provide blankets, hygiene kits, and diapers whenever supplies allow. Diapers are in especially high demand, and we often struggle to keep sizes 4, 5, and 6 in stock. Every day, people come seeking help with diapers, and in winter there is also strong need for blankets. Hygiene kits are always appreciated when available. We also serve a community lunch on Sunday afternoons and share food through the shelter.

The third pillar is our **kids time program**. Four days a week, children come to the center for food, friendship, and activities. Each visit includes a meal and something to do. Once a month, we plan a larger outing—last fall we visited a pumpkin patch, we have gone to movies, and most recently the kids had the chance to ride horses. This program is an important part of our ministry. To me, it is the heart of what we do.

The fourth pillar is our **energy matching fund**. Winters in South Dakota are harsh, and propane and electricity can be expensive. We match up to \$200 per household to help cover electricity, propane, or firewood. Although it is usually a matching program, we waive that requirement when a family or elder is in urgent need. I keep a supply of firewood at my house for those late Friday or Saturday calls saying someone may not make it through the weekend without heat. This past winter, we helped 310 families.

The fifth pillar was on hold when I arrived, but it is also how I first came to know the center and why I am here today. In January 2018, I came for a 10-day immersion as part of my seminary training. **Cultural immersions** are important both to the center and to the community. Artists and cultural guides help guests understand life on the reservation and the experience of being Native. We do not want people to come on a mission trip or to try to fix things. We invite them to come to listen, observe, and learn. Immersions are one of the best ways we share the center's story, and if you have never joined one, I encourage you to consider our September 26 open immersion.

Those were the five areas we had when I arrived, and I could count them on one hand. But in the middle of COVID, I could not ignore members of the homeless community who had nowhere safe to go—not even a place for a hot shower, a restroom, or a warm meal. In fall 2021, working with our partners and in consultation with the tribe, we began using the center as a day shelter and eventually took over the night shelter as well. We are now averaging more than 30 people each night at the shelter, and as many as 80 people come through the center during the day to shower, warm up, cool off, do laundry, talk with someone, or drink one of the 7,000 cups of coffee we go through each week.

The center is a busy place. The pastor who built it told me he was proud of the work we are doing and that the center has become what he always hoped it would be. It is a place where people can come and, hopefully, leave feeling a little better.

Today, someone came in to rent a building for a funeral and asked about a cooking pot that had somehow ended up in our collection. I found the pot, but not the lid. I joked that I would need to wait for the staff to arrive to locate it—everyone thinks I am in charge, but I just work here. In some ways, I want it that way. I want my staff to do their jobs without me looking over their shoulders, and I want them to feel empowered to make decisions as they see fit. I am blessed with an excellent Job Corps team, and I am excited to see what the future holds for the reconciliation center.

Pastor Dan Johnson

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