



Immanuel's Story

June 2025

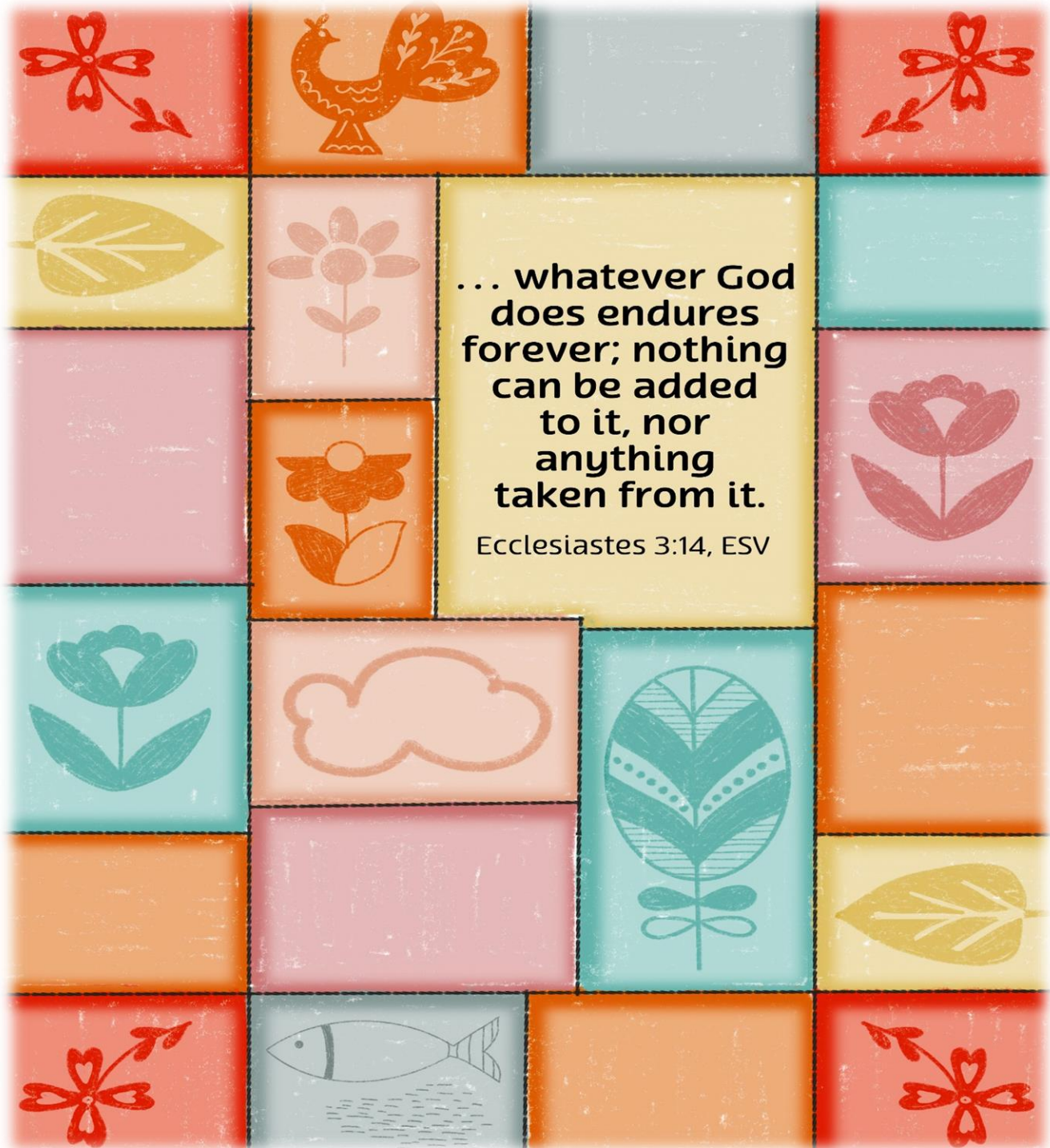
600 4th St SW Crosby MN

office@immanuelcrosby.org

www.immanuelcrosby.org

218.546.6010

Volume 40 Issue 6



So many memories...

So many conversations...

So many special God-moments...

So much laughter...

So many tears...

Too many bad jokes...

“For everything, there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.”

(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Now is the time to say farewell and goodbye “God be with Ye” for now, until we meet again.

Thank you for the profound honor and privilege of serving as your pastor at Immanuel. Thank you for all the recent cards and gifts, prayers and encouraging words, gatherings and gift of a new piano, that you all shared with Jill and me during our final days at Immanuel. We will miss you greatly!

Whoever becomes the next pastor at Immanuel, will be very blessed; very blessed, indeed! You are a vibrant and caring faith community that understands and extends the grace of God to others; a faith community committed to, and lives out, the mission of Christ in being God’s movement of love in the world today. So...in the words from the **original** Pastor Paul:

“When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth.



I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is for you.

May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen” (Ephesians 3:14-21)

Thankful for our journey together in Christ – **Pastor Paul and Jill**



Birthdays

- 1 Cheryl Barber, Angela Knoll
- 2 Bentley Pankratz, Tony Perkins
- 3 Sandy Davis, Cody Maki
- 4 Michele Snook, Greg Waffensmith, Birdie Walth
- 5 Ron Christenson, Connor DeCent
- 6 Mike McWilliams, Katelyn Norwood
- 7 Jill Mattson
- 8 Taya Mohs
- 10 Don Hoemke
- 11 Krista Houck, Sawyer Hoyt
- 12 Brian Wood
- 13 Tyler Bliss, Brooks Kannel, Noah McWilliams
- 14 Sue Schubert
- 15 Deb Koop, Tyler Peterson, Ember Popkes, Jim Radinovich
- 16 Jeanette Radinovich, Max Snook, Kristen VanHorn
- 17 Kay Gaudette, Norm Hullinger, Eileen Leino
- 18 Nancy Heise
- 19 Brandi Hallin, Mayson Rinde
- 20 Karl Perry
- 22 Jess Arneson, Dee Beseman
- 24 Lynn Thoms, Lloyd Bordwell, Carson Faulkner-Spychallo
- 27 Ken Johnson, Kim Waffensmith
- 28 Erin Koop, Avis Nelson
- 29 Lynette Dehning

Anniversaries

- 1 Don & Ruth Imberi (1996)
- 5 Dale & Vi Klungness (1964)
- 6 Harry & Patty Kahnert (1970)
- 7 Blaine & Debbie Kreller (2014)
- 7 Dave & Mary Peterson (1969)
- 8 Denny & Sandy Davis (1996)
- 13 Roger & Sandy Twigg (1970)
- 14 Mike & Kristen VanHorn (2008)
- 18 Jason & Joelle Duerr (2016)
- 18 Marv & Brenda Hayes (1977)
- 19 Stan & Mary Nagorski (1992)
- 20 Mitch & Sue Reagan (2015)
- 21 Jeff & Marshal Olson (1969)
- 23 Jeremy & Michelle Houck (1990)
- 23 Jim & Mary Ellen Stolle (1964)
- 25 Fred & Claudia Tessmer (1967)
- 27 Joe & Darlene McNally (1964)

Funerals

Joyce Hullinger

Jeanne Risnes

Tina Maier (graveside)

Robyn Gries

Bonnie Jo Morison (Koop Funeral Home)

Baptisms

Colton Scott Wood

Addison Viola Wood

Carly Kay Wood



May 4	181
May 11	163
May 18	170
May 25	252



Memorials Given

Given in memory of Joyce Hullinger by:

- Fred & Claudia Tessmer, undesignated*
- Denny & LuAnn Henrichs for Milestone Ministry*
- Norm Hullinger for Good Sam Ministry*
- LaVonne Riechers for Good Sam*
- Jeff & Marsha Larson for Good Sam*
- Judy Running for CRES Care Kits*
- Randy & Amy Stanfield for Good Sam*
- Audrey Jacobson for Good Sam*
- Paul & Jill Mattson for Good Sam*
- Bob & Pat Neros for Good Sam*
- Marian Segersten for Milestone*

Given in memory of Archie Sabyan

- Cheryl Wise, undesignated*
- Candy Turner, undesignated*

Given in memory of Fred Fox by:

- Mark & Nicki Bjornstad for Malawi Ed Fund
- Fred & Claudia Tessmer, undesignated
- Sylvia Graff for Pastor's Retirement gift
- Audrey Jacobson, undesignated

Given in memory of Jeanne Risnes by:

- Fred & Claudia Tessmer, undesignated
- Denny & LuAnn Henrichs, Milestone
- Mark & Nicki Bjornstad, Malawi Education fund
- Marian Segersten, Milestone
- Lynn & Shelly Harker, undesignated
- Audrey Jacobson, undesignated
- Sherry Pinkston, undesignated

Jill DeCent, Family Ministry Coordinator

Sweet, sweet, SUMMERTIME!

Summer is here, and after a busy and bustling May, it's my prayer that some rest and relaxation is in store for many. As we transition to new pastoral leadership here at Immanuel, may we remember whose church this is, and who our forever shepherd is, and always will be.

Immanuel will be collaborating with Salem Lutheran Church for VBS again this year! This is very exciting because it allows us to be brothers and sisters in Christ with another local congregation and create an even bigger and better event. Watch for information in the coming weeks on how you can volunteer and be part of such a special event for many children. In the meantime-registration is OPEN! This fills up fast, so register early!

Vacation Bible School 2025



July 14th-17th

Brought to you by Salem Lutheran Church and Immanuel Lutheran Church!
Registration available at <https://www.salemdwd.org>

In Youth ministry, students wrapped up the year by participating in the "Walk to Hope" put on by some of our fellow students, who are part of the "Student Action Leadership Team" at Crosby Ironton High School. Monies raised for this event goes to support the non-profit organization out of Aitkin, MN called "HOPE (Healing Opportunity Provided Equally) to support those experiencing domestic violence. We are blessed to be a blessing.

On May 21st, youth celebrated their last Wednesday session of the year with a cook-out and games. Here is a schedule for the monthly youth get-togethers:

Wednesday, June 11th

The Nordell Residence, 5:30pm-7:30pm
17757 Zarr Rd Ironton, MN 56455
(Cook out, bonfire, and wiffle ball)

Wednesday, July 23rd

Party at the Traylor residence on Serpent! 5:30pm-7:30pm. 118 2nd St SE Crosby, MN 56441
Bring a swimsuit, towel, and appetite! Parents welcome to join.

Wednesday, August 6th

Hiking trip to Jay Cooke State Park
(We will travel together in a van! Watch for details on Remind, Email, and text in July.)

MEAL WITH A MISSION

June 8

10:30am – Benefitting:

Cuyuna Range Youth Center



Holy ground

For me, there's nothing quite like taking off my sandals in the summer and walking through the grass. But when our sons were infants, neither shared that love of going barefoot. When we'd attempt to lower them to play outside, they'd raise their legs, trying not to touch the tickly, prickly, green ground.

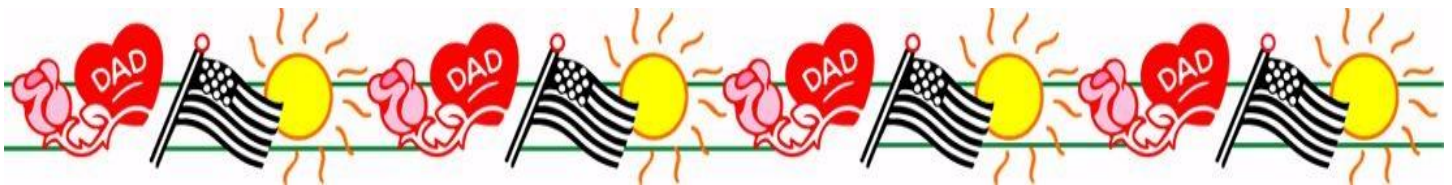
"Do not come any closer," the Lord warned Moses through the burning bush. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground" (Exodus 3:5, NIV). In God's presence, Moses faced a turning point: either resist God's instructions or obey, leading the Israelites out of Egypt.

Maybe taking off my sandals this summer can remind me that I'm standing in God's presence. I may not hear a booming voice, and I might just be standing at the kitchen sink doing chores. Or I might be at a barbecue, with the opportunity to truly listen to my neighbors. God's presence permeates life's big moments as well as the mundane.

How can you "take off your sandals" and enter what God has for you?

GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET REPORT

	<u>APR - 25</u>	<u>APR - 24</u>	<u>YTD 2025</u>	<u>YTD 2024</u>
BUDGET	35,848	37,553	143,392	150,132
GENERAL FUND GIVING	34,960	27,931	128,625	132,031
GENERAL FUND EXPENSE	30,936	32,091	140,038	141,937
NET INCOME	4,024	-4,160	-11,413	-9,906



A FATHER'S DAY PRAYER

GOD, BLESS ALL THE FATHER'S IN THE WORLD. FATHER, WE ASK THAT YOU GUIDE THEM TO BE GOOD ROLE MODELS AND LOVING TO THEIR CHILDREN. WE ALSO ASK THAT YOU HELP THEM TO BE A FATHER LIKE YOU ARE. GIVE THEM GRACE AND PATIENCE TO HANDLE SITUATIONS IN A LOVING WAY.

AMEN

Major Capital Improvement Fund

4/30/2025

April 1, 2025	Balance:	\$35,292.26
	Deposits:	\$1407.20
	Reserve:	\$250.00
	Withdrawals:	\$4,000.00
April 30, 2025	Ending Balance:	\$32,949.46

June Worship Service Schedule

June 1

Psalm 97 John 17:20-26

Greeters: DeCent Family

Ushers: Mike & Karen Midthun

Lector: Jack Schubert

Communion: Paula Traylor

Offering Counters: Paula Traylor & Sandi Erickson

Tech: Tim Bongs & Jack Schubert

June 8

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b John 14:8-17

Greeters: Sylvia Graff & Mary Carlson

Ushers: Dale & Vi Klungness

Lector: David Pundt

Communion: Peter Nordell

Offering Counters: Pam Ballard & Marian Freese

Tech: Terri Wisniak & Jack Schubert

June 15

Psalm 8 John 16:12-15

Greeters: Jeremy & Anna Grabrian

Ushers: DeeDee Frahm & Elaine Karel

Lector: Nancy Evans

Communion: Char Kinzer

Offering Counters: Erinn Hoyt & Darlene McNally

Tech: David Pundt & Tim Bongs

June 22

Psalm 22:19-28 Luke 8:26-39

Greeters: Youth

Ushers: Youth

Lector: Youth

Communion: Kevin Martini

Offering Counters: Deb Koop & Sue Schubert

Tech: Dave Peterson & Tim Bongs

June 29

Psalm 87:1-3, 5-7 John 21:15-19

Greeters: Mark & Debbi Carlson

Ushers: Ron & Carolyn Mogen

Lector: Hal Kirchoff

Communion: Tom Nixon

Offering Counters: Paula Traylor & Sandi Erickson

Tech: Tim Bongs & Jack Schubert

GRT Leaders for June: Group #1: Elaine Karel & Vi Klungness





PRAYER MINISTRY

Keep it Simple ~ Keep it Real ~ Keep it Up

“This is the best bit of advice I ever received about how to pray.”

Keep it Simple so the most natural thing in the world doesn't become complicated, weird and intense. This is the Father we are dealing with and he knows better than us what we need. The Lord's Prayer is simple enough to be memorized by children and yet profound enough to sustain a whole lifetime of prayer.

Keep it Real because when life hurts, we are going to be tempted to pretend that we are fine. When we make a mess of things, we are tempted to hide from God, which never really works and end up hiding from ourselves, which works quite well. Author Anne Lamott wrote a book about prayer with the title *Help, Thanks, Wow*. She states that these three words are the only prayers we will ever need. Whether or not we agree, she does a brilliant job driving home the need for radical honesty in prayer.

Keep it Up because life is tough, the battle is fierce and God is not an algorithm. The journey of faith demands a stubborn, determined and often unwillingness to give in, not least in the realm of prayer. No matter how simply and honestly we pray, it's easy to lose heart when our prayers don't seem to be working. That's why it's not enough just to keep it simple and keep it real. Jesus tells us that we must “always pray and not give up”.

Here is the great and inescapable truth, taught in Scripture, modeled by Christ and advocated by all the heroes of our faith: We cannot grow in prayer without some measure of effort and discomfort, self-discipline and self-denial. Just as we cannot get physically fit without regular exercise and a healthy diet, so your spiritual growth will be determined, to a very significant extent, by the prayer exercises we choose or do not choose to establish and sustain.

Thoughts within, *a simple guide for normal people*, written by Pete Greig In faith, Your

Prayer Team

Update from the Council President

Update from the Council President

The month of June welcomes all sorts of newness. We are cleansed by the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross. The earth is fresh from the spring rain. New births abound in the animal kingdom, and the summer sun brings warmth and beauty to God's green earth.

For Immanuel, we look forward to our newness as we gather together in our next Intentional Interim season with Pastor Ian Hewitson. The council met in special session in May and voted unanimously to hire Pastor Ian to guide us.

Pastor Ian was with us in the spring of last year, when Pastor Paul was on sabbatical, and we welcome him as our Intentional Interim Pastor. We thank God for this turn of events, as God has brought us together once again. It feels good. It feels right.

Pastor Ian, most recently, has been the full-time Director of Pastoral Care at Presbyterian Homes & Services at McKenna Crossing and Stonecrest retirement communities in the Twin Cities. He resigned from that position to gradually work his schedule to become our full-time Intentional Interim Pastor.

Mark your calendars! We have scheduled a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 22 after worship. The meeting is three-fold. Details of the agenda are being developed and will be mailed to each member of the congregation prior to the meeting.

- Essentially, we will learn more about Pastor Ian,
- Share a vision of what our Intentional Interim process might look like and,
- Thirdly, we will look at an option to purchase the Kehl property. *(Briefly, with the passing of Don Kehl in February, Don specifically wanted Immanuel Lutheran to have the first option in the sale of his home adjacent to our parking lot, as he and his wife, JoAnn, were custodians and long-time dedicated members of our congregation.)*

Rest assured, we are conducting due diligence and preparing detailed information so the congregation can make educated decisions, as we prepare for the Congregation meeting.

Great things lie ahead as we enter our period of Refirement and Inspirement!

Have faith and rest assured, we are in good hands...God's hands.

Char Kinzer,

218-831-1180



Manna for Malawi

Manna For Malawi
11th Annual Benefit Concert and Meal
Benefitting Malawi Orphan Care Project

Featuring music by



Saturday, August 23rd 2:00-6:00pm
Immanuel Lutheran Church,
600 4th Street SW, Crosby, MN

Meal and Beverages available
beginning at 3:00pm

Freewill Offering

Silent Auction and Raffle Items

Activities for Children

All proceeds benefit Malawi Orphan Care Project
www.malawiorphanproject.org

The Manna for Malawi Team needs more members. We are losing Pastor Paul and Jill. If you would like to be a part of the team, please come to a monthly meeting and see how it goes.

Our event still needs tents for the eating area, salad greens, bread sticks, beverages and silent auction items. If you can help with this, please call or text Terri (612)210-1024.

As you know, our event donates the money raised to food and education for the registered orphans at Malawi Orphan Care Project (MOCP). One year at the local high school costs \$170. One year at boarding school is \$1700. I have more information if you are interested in donating to education. A team is at the site now. Five people left from Illinois and three people left from Alberta, Canada. They will meet in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on Tuesday, May20th and continue on to Malawi. Please pray for safe travel, good health, and for God's will to be done.





SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS BAZAAR, NOVEMBER 8, 2025

Thank you for being the Bazaar in years past! I know November 8th seems like a long way off. Do we really want to think about Fall when we are just getting over winter! You know time flies fast.

Our Immanuel Family puts on a great Bazaar starting with A Meal With A Mission on July 13th. The monies from MWAM help with necessary purchases for the set up of the Bazaar. Please look for the back of the Sunday welcome slip at the end of June and beginning of July to sign up to help with the preparation on Saturday, July 12th and serving the meal on Sunday, July 13th.

We need Bazaar raffle items. Over the past years there has been a variety of items from cement work, special dinners, wood craft items, fishing guide packages and quilts. We need four to five items for a successful raffle. Last year the raffle raised \$1,707.00. Your creative talents and gifts are a blessing. I am hoping you have started your projects. November comes sooner than you think! Please listen to the tap on your shoulder.

All proceeds from the Spirit of Christmas Bazaar go to help out our local community. As we have learned in our BELIEVE Series, nothing can be done by one person. We all have gifts to be used for God's purposes.

A Team Captains meeting will be on July 16th at 6:30pm in the fellowship hall at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

If you have questions, please give us a phone call: Co-Chairs Carol Pundt 218-678-3256 and Patty Kahnert - 612-385-2927. We are thankful for our Immanuel Families' dedication to making the Spirit of Christmas Bazaar 2025 a success!

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, May 20, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

(X) Jerry Decent, Box 50	(X) Pastor Paul Mattson
(X) Char Kinzer, Box 104	() Tom Nixon, Box 07
(X) Bonnie LaPierre , Box 119	(X) Peter Nordell, Box 222
(X) Debbie Lindahl 125	(X) David Pundt, Box 295
(X) Kevin Martini, Box 213	(X) Paula Traylor, Box 145

CALL TO ORDER 6:44pm

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA: Paula Traylor moved we accept the agenda as printed. Jerry DeCent seconded her motion and it was approved by voice vote.

CELEBRATING THE JOYS OF IMMANUEL: 26 years of Pastor Paul and Jill Matson, the Community Retirement Party, Wednesday Youth Group, music from the Handbell Quartet, Three Baptisms!, the decision to hire Intentional Interim Pastor Ian Hewitson, a sense of happiness and strength in our congregation, Marian's pictures.

AGENDA

ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCIAL REPORT: Paula Traylor moved we accept the Financial Report. Her motion was seconded by Jerry Decent and was approved by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Buildings and Grounds: President Char Kinzer announced that she would be the council liaison to the Building and Grounds Committee and will attend their meetings.

-Freezer Replaced: The freezer in the kitchen quit working. After checking with five vendors, the lowest bid of \$3,250 was accepted from A-Z Restaurant Supply Equipment in Princeton, which included removal of the old freezer.

-Church Grounds: Jack Schubert has agreed to eradicate dandelions and weeds using a hand sprayer around the Church this summer. The Committee reported all lawn equipment is in working order and is stored in the Church garage. CI school has said they would contact their snow removal contractor to fix the sod near the Path of Hope that was damaged this winter.

-Geo's Painting will paint the parsonage and re-install stripes in the church parking lot. The septic will also be pumped at the parsonage.

-Foggy Windows in Fellowship Hall: John Klopfleisch contacted the company that installed the windows originally to get replacement panes. The windows are under warranty. Brainerd Glass agreed to replace the window panes in six windows for \$850. Kevin Martini moved and Jerry Decent seconded a motion to pay Brainerd Glass for the work.

Personnel: Peter Nordell reported that Jill Decent, Family Ministry Coordinator, would like to go back to school and requests a reduction in her activity. She is preparing a proposal for the Personnel Committee.

Manna for Malawi: David Pundt reported all Manna for Malawi event preparations are proceeding

satisfactorily and the press release has been sent out. Pastor Paul Mattson reported that a contract has been signed with musical group Gigfoot. Jerry Decent reported that tables and chairs from the fire hall have been reserved.

2. WIRING ORGANIZATION AND CLEAN-UP: Postponed until further notice.
3. INTENTIONAL INTERIM PLAN: A council committee has arranged for pulpit supply through the month of June. Intentional Interim Pastor Ian Hewitson is expected to begin as part-time in July. Tom Nixon and Nancy Heise are to work out details with Pastor Ian of his contract. More details will be announced at a congregational meeting to be held on June 22, 2025.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. KEHL REAL ESTATE: Peter Nordell, on suggestion by the Finance Committee, moved that the congregation hold a meeting on June 22, 2025 to consider purchasing the Kehl Real Estate for possible future use. Debbie Lindahl seconded his motion and the council approved the motion on a voice vote. Char Kinzer moved that we hire a certified building inspector to examine the property before the meeting. Peter Nordell seconded her motion and it was approved by voice vote. Char Kinzer said she would form a committee of individuals with expertise in real estate matters to prepare an inclusive as possible report for the congregational meeting.
2. ILC Branded Items: Council authorized Double D Printed Tees operated by Ardelle Patrick to display samples of clothing and promotional items with Immanuel Lutheran Church's logo. Items would be priced at cost for members wishing to order.

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS FOR JULY 2025

July 6 - Paula Traylor
July 13 - Peter Nordell
July 20 - Char Kinzer
July 27 - Jerry Decent

ADJOURNMENT: Peter Nordell moved we adjourn, Paula Traylor seconded the motion and it was approved by voice vote.

We closed with The Lord's Prayer.

NEXT MEETING SET FOR June 17, 2025, 6:30 P.M.

NEW ADDRESS

Paul & Jill Mattson
302 First Avenue #2
Two Harbors MN 55616

Email:

paul.j.mattson@gmail.com
jill.e.mattson@gmail.com