



Immanuel's Story

May 2025

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Retirement OPEN HOUSE

Pastor Paul & Jill will be retiring at the end of May. Their celebration on Saturday, May 17th from 1:00-3:00 p.m. is almost here! We will be announcing the event on Facebook, in the CI Courier, at the Chamber and also, will be putting up flyers. There will be cake, coffee, a keg of rootbeer, and small plate foods by chefs Elizabeth and Gio. Marian is creating a slide show and Jill D. is decorating. If you have any photos that

you would like to see in the slide show, please send them to Marian at msegersten@gmail.com by May 10th.

Potluck

We will celebrate Judi Burson's special birthday and Pastor Paul's last worship service with us on Sunday, May 25th after worship. **Please bring a dish to share.** A keg of rootbeer, cake, and ice cream will be served.

On the final day of my treatment at St. Joseph's Hospital more than a year ago, came the following words broadcast over the hospital PA system for morning devotions:

Once you were like sheep who wandered away.

But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your soul. (1st Peter 2:25)

May you be a tender, teachable Christ-follower
and respond to God's invitation to make you more like Him.

Whenever He calls you up, it means He's getting ready
to call you out to a new place, a new assignment, and a new land of promise.

Refuse the enemy's taunts.

Respond to the Guardian of your soul.

He loves you and intends to use you greatly. Have a brave day!

Chaplain Peggy ~ St. Joseph's Hospital ~ Brainerd, Minnesota ~ March 2024



These words hold special meaning for me, as Jill and I now prepare for a new chapter of life and faith together in retirement – we are calling it “reFIREment!” God is not done with us yet, and we are eager to find new ways to love and serve God and God's people – like it says above: “a new place, a new assignment, and a new land of promise.” We sincerely believe and know that God loves us and intends to use us for His purposes as long as we both shall live.

And I hope these words can ((and will) have special meaning for you, the people of God at Immanuel. You too, are launching out into a new chapter of life and faith, mission and ministry. God is also calling you to a new place (the surrounding and quickly changing culture has its own new and unique challenges and opportunities), a new assignment (to reach and connect with the people of this community and beyond), and a new land of promise (a new mission field which is right outside the doors of our church facility.)

Now is the time to respond to the “Guardian of your souls” – the one who loves you completely in Christ - and has intentions and purposes to use you greatly in advancing His Kingdom and being part of God's movement of love in the world today.

It has certainly been my privilege to be your friend, pastor and partner in the mission of Christ at Immanuel. Grace and Peace - *Pastor Paul*



Birthdays

- 2 Nancy Nyvold, David Pundt
- 3 Al Doonan, Brenda Hayes
- 4 Mason Miller
- 5 Austin Davis
- 6 Therese Norwood, Margo Sodahl
- 8 Debbie Foote
- 9 Bill Thoms
- 10 Karen DeBoer, Brenda Lofquist,
Taylor Popkes
- 11 Mary Carlson, Nancy Horner, Kallie
Nixon, Sharon Simons, Mike
VanHorn
- 12 Elizabeth Bundy, Jerry DeCent,
Shawn Jarvela, Joe Simons
- 13 Peggy Beseman, Judi Burson
- 14 Isaiah Aulie, Sara Moe
- 15 Brady Aulie
- 16 Marian Segersten
- 19 Tanya Jacobs
- 22 Terrie Bunker, Jean Olson, Hannah
Pakarinen
- 23 Haley Reinhart
- 24 Chloe Perpich
- 25 John Radinovich
- 28 Chase Horner, Riley Jacobs,
Vi Klungness
- 29 Phyllis Collignon
- 30 Ruth Imberi, Jenni Kannel
- 31 Meredith Bloedel, Jason Kovatovich

Anniversaries

- 10 Richard & Eileen Leino (1975)
- 14 Tom & Nancy Jann (1996)
- 19 Al & Jan Doonan (1984)
- 30 Don & Nancy Nyvold (1981)
- 31 Josh & Nacishia Rinde (2014)

Funeral

Archie Sabyan

Baptism

Cleo Grace Batchelder



ATTENDANCE

March 30	116
April 6	139
April 13	182
April 20	281
8am – 129	
10am – 152	
April 27	119

Jill DeCent, Family Ministry Coordinator

Greetings!

In Children's Ministry...

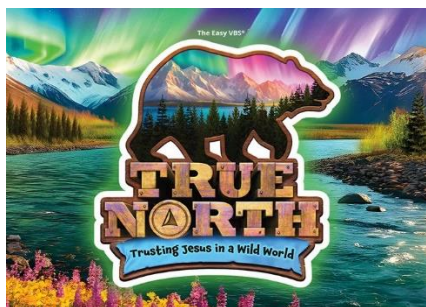
Join us on Sunday mornings for Sunday School! Ages 4-12 welcome, and we love youth helpers! Here's the schedule for the remainder of the season-

April 27th- SS resumes with "Believe" study- Gentleness

May 4th- Lesson on "Humility" (Last lesson for "Believe" study)

May 11th- Mother's Day craft during Sunday School

May 18th- Last Day of Sunday School for season- Ice Cream social to follow!



Save the date! Immanuel is joining Salem Lutheran Church again this year for Vacation Bible School! VBS will be held July 14th-17th, at Salem Lutheran Church in Deerwood. Stay tuned for volunteer opportunities, and training sessions!

In Youth Ministry...

The last 6 weeks have been a time of faith formation, positive connections, and relationship-building for our youth and their adult faith mentors. Thank you to faith mentors for your commitment to your student(s). The relationship doesn't end here! Keep engaging and praying for each other! As we wind down our season in Youth and Confirmation sessions, here's the schedule through May-

April 23rd- Youth Group/Confirmation resumes, with BAY RALLY! This is the last B.A.Y Rally of the year. We will depart ILC in carpools around 5:30 pm and return to ILC around 8:30 pm.

April 30th- NO Youth Group/Confirmation (Rummage Sale week at ILC)

May 7th- Youth Group/Confirmation

May 14th- Youth Group/Confirmation

May 21st- End of year celebration (Regular time, at ILC)

Join us on Sunday, May 4th, as we celebrate our graduating senior students during the regular church service. This year, we honor Michaella Cronk, Ava Johnson, and Kallie Nixon. Congratulations, and may God bless your journey!

MEAL WITH A MISSION

May 18

10:30am – Benefitting:
ILC Quilting Ministry



The following memorials were given by

- † Nancy Heise, in memory of Don Kehl, for the Building Fund
- † Bruce & Mary Oliphant, in memory of Don Kehl, for Malawi
- † Sylvia Graff, in memory of Ester Flodin, for Pastor's Retirement Party
- † Gary & Sandi Erickson, in memory of Darlene Erickson, for Easter flowers
- † Rich & Eileen Leino, in memory of their parents, for Easter flowers
- † Ken & Barb Moe, in memory of Eric W. Moe, for Easter flowers
- † Stan & Mary Nagorski, in memory of Wayne & June Leopold; and in memory of CI students who passed before their time, for Easter flowers
- † Dotty Hayes, in memory of Larry Hayes; in memory of Don Kehl, undesignated
- † Hal & Judy Kirchoff, in honor of the 57th wedding anniversary for Easter flowers
- † Denny & LuAnn Henrichs, in memory of Archie Sabyan, undesignated
- † Bruce & Mary Oliphant, in memory of Archie Sabyan, for MOCP
- † Linda Rono, in memory of Lester Rono Jr., undesignated
- † Hal & Judy Kirchoff, in memory of Archie Sabyan, undesignated



GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET REPORT

	<u>MAR - 25</u>	<u>MAR - 24</u>	<u>YTD 2025</u>	<u>YTD 2024</u>
BUDGET	35,848	37,553	107,544	112,599
GENERAL FUND GIVING	37,286	37,211	93,680	104,100
GENERAL FUND EXPENSE	42,734	41,150	109,001	109,777
NET INCOME	-5,448	-3,939	-15,321	-5,677

Pastor's Retirement parties are coming up faster than we believed they would. If you have not contributed to the Retirement Gift and Party Fund and would still like to, contributions will be accepted through the 11th of May. We all know this is going to be a bittersweet month as we celebrate Pastor's Retirement, we are very happy for him and at the same time we are very sad we are losing him. We, together, must keep our Immanuel Family going forward into the future.

Your friend in Christ,

Deb Eatros, Financial Manager

Major Capital Improvement Fund

3/31/2025

March 1, 2025	Balance:	\$66250.13
	Deposits:	\$792.13
	Reserve:	\$250.00
	Withdrawals:	\$32,000.00
March 31, 2025	Ending Balance:	\$35,292.26



May Worship Service Schedule

May 4 *Believe - Humility*

Greeters: Sue Schubert & Deb Eatros

Ushers: Adrian & Jean Olson

Lector: Barb Rhodes

Communion: Paula Traylor

Offering Counters: Paula Traylor & Sandi Erickson

Tech: Tim Bongs & Jack Schubert

May 11

Psalm 23

John 10:22-30

Mother's Day

Greeters: Bill & Glenda Langton

Ushers: Dan Wisniak & Joe McNally

Lector: John Klopfleisch

Communion: Tom Nixon

Offering Counters: Pam Ballard & Marian Freese

Tech: Terri Wisniak & Jack Schubert

May 18

Psalm 148

John 13:31-35

Greeters: Ron & Carolyn Mogen

Ushers: Jeff & Marsha Olson

Lector: Sandy Twigg

Communion: Peter Nordell

Offering Counters: Erinn Hoyt & Darlene McNally

Tech: David Pundt & Tim Bongs

May 25

Psalm 67

John 14:23-29

Greeters: Youth

Ushers: Youth

Lector: Youth

Communion: Kevin Martini & Co.

Offering Counters: George Erickson & Marian Freese

Tech: Dave Peterson & Tim Bongs

Worship



PRAYER MINISTRY

May is Our Month of Fullness of Joy and Hope

The Good News: Joy and Gladness will be experienced every day of this month and beyond. “Great joy” shall be yours from this day forward.

May is the month of sunshine, blooming flowers, happiness, endless blessings and possibilities. We can expect growth and new beginnings. **It is a month of inspiration and excitement.**

God tells us that May will be full of opportunities and answered prayers. **“If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”** John 14:14

One of the many significances of May is that it is the fifth month of the year **which symbolizes grace.** Grace is a gift of favor and love. **You are welcome to God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ.**

God’s divine grace manifests in various ways, including forgiveness, salvation and the provision of daily blessings. It’s the unmerited favor and love that God freely offers us. **Walk in grace.**

We must remember that the Holy Spirit is God’s active presence, applying the work of salvation to believers. If we live life in accordance with the Holy Spirit, **We Will Harvest the Fruits of the Spirit:** Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. This is what we are told in Galatians 5:22-23.

The Holy Spirit’s three key works are regenerating believers, guiding and teaching them in truth, and empowering them to live a life pleasing to God. **These are essential for spiritual growth and a relationship with God.**

Let us pray: *May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. May this divine presence of His grace, love and fellowship, reform, renew and release us to live lives in which people see and experience grace, love and fellowship. In Jesus’ name. Amen.*

In Faith, Your Prayer Team

Update from the Council President

It gives me comfort and pleasure, knowing how well all the busy sheep of Immanuel work together to make up our Church! We are blessed to be a healthy congregation!

The Intentional Interim Pastor search has been ongoing for a few months, and that's okay. We are not rushed, but confident that God has us in His plan.

We are so blessed to have this opportunity that Pastor Paul and Jill's retirement gives us. We will send them off after May 25 to a new lifestyle. Pastor has coined the word... 'Refirement.' Jill's pick up the word... 'Inspirement.' Whatever the term is, we know that with God, great things lie ahead for them. We are then given an opportunity for our own period of 'Refirement' and 'inspirement,' and we can embrace that.

If we were not such a healthy church family, I could see this being a gloom and doom situation. But we are strong in faith and hope in God.

As I write this in late April, we are still searching for who God has in mind for our Intentional Interim Pastor. In the meantime, we are blessed with very capable lay people in our congregation and a Little Falls pulpit supply pastor to carry out our church services if need be.

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

As always, I welcome your help and guidance. Call me or grab my attention at church gatherings. Thank you!

Char Kinzer
218-831-1180

What is an Intentional Interim Pastor?

An "Intentional Interim Pastor" is a temporary pastor who is specifically trained and equipped to guide a church through a transition period, such as between pastors, by facilitating a process of self-study, addressing issues, and developing a clear vision for the future.

They are not simply filling a pulpit until a permanent pastor is found, but actively lead the church through a deliberate, intentional process to prepare for the next stage of helping to build a strong future. They are a coach and facilitator and are not to be considered for the next full-time pastor.

The most effective transitions occur through careful planning.

Change always brings conflict, but healthy congregations see conflict as an opportunity for deeper understanding and growth.

Manna for Malawi

Manna For Malawi

11th Annual Benefit Concert and Meal

Benefitting Malawi Orphan Care Project

Featuring music by



GIGFOOT

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

Our Manna for Malawi event is coming along. The poster is done. The permit is approved. Maucieri's will do the food. We are working on beverages, raffle and silent auction. Can you donate a silent auction item?

Our Meal with a Mission on April 13th did well! The donations came to \$1000. Thank you all!

This event will help to feed and educate the registered orphans at Malawi Orphan Care Project. If you can think of a way to help or want to talk about donating, call Terri (612)210-1024.

We have put together this event many times but never on a Saturday and never at the church. It will be different this year but with the

Lord's help, we will again do well.



Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 15, 2025
6:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

(x) Jerry Decent, Box 50
(x) Char Kinzer, Box 104
(x) Bonnie LaPierre , Box 119
(x) Debbie Lindahl 125
(x) Kevin Martini, Box 213

(x) Pastor Paul Mattson
(x) Tom Nixon, Box 07
(x) Peter Nordell, Box 222
(x) David Pundt, Box 295
(x) Paula Traylor, Box 145

CALL TO ORDER President Char Kinzer called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA Tom Nixon moved the agenda be accepted, Jerry Decent seconded his motion and it was passed on a majority voice vote.

CELEBRATING THE JOYS OF IMMANUEL: The Men's Chorus performance of Ride On King Jesus on Palm Sunday, eleven children in Sunday School, the Snowbird's have returned!, the Lenten series of videos, "24 Hours that Save the World".

DEVOTIONS: LEAD LIKE JESUS CHAPTER 9

This month: Debbie Lindahl Next month: Kevin Martini

COUNCIL BUSINESS

ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCIAL REPORTS: Jerry Decent moved that the Financial Reports be approved, his motion was seconded by Paula Traylor and it was passed by majority voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:** The Building and Grounds Committee visited the parsonage to see if there were any maintenance needs and is getting bids to repaint the exterior. The Manna for Malawi Committee will meet next Thursday. The Crosby City Council was to consider a permit to close the alley adjacent to the parking lot for the event in August.
2. **UPDATE: INTENTIONAL INTERIM PROCESS:**
Tom Nixon reported that the Negotiating Committee recommended not accepting the contract as presented from Pastor Steven Abend at this time and so moved. Jerry Decent seconded his motion and it passed by majority voice vote.
Jerry Decent moved we interview the other two of the final four applicants and post the position again. Tom Nixon seconded his motion and it passed on a majority voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **MOVING SECURITY MONITOR:** Tom Nixon moved we accept a bid from Holden Electric for \$210 to move the security monitor. Peter Nordell seconded his motion and it was approved by majority voice vote.

2. WIRING IN CLOSET (CLEANUP) We received a bid for \$4,200.00 from Grabes Consulting to better arrange and label the wiring in the equipment room. Peter Nordell moved we table the project to a future time. Tom Nixon seconded his motion and the motion was approved by majority voice vote.

3. CUYUNA FARMERS MARKET – Children’s Program Request: Kevin Martini moved we donate \$100 from the Community Support budget item for the PoP Farmer's Market Kids Program, Peter Nordell seconded his motion and it was approved by majority voice vote.

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS FOR JUNE

2025		9:30 a.m.		<i>Special Services</i>
June 1		Paula Traylor		
June 8		Peter Nordell		
June 15		Char Kinzer		
June 22		Kevin Martini		
June 29		Tom Nixon		

THE LORD’S PRAYER / ADJOURNMENT Tom Nixon moved we adjourn, Jerry Decent seconded his motion and the meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING SET FOR MAY 20, 2025, 6:30 P.M.

May the road rise up

to meet you.

May the wind be always

at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon

your face.

The rains fall soft upon

your fields.

And until we meet again, may

God hold you in the palm of His

hand.

