



# Immanuel's Story

## September 2025

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Immanuel Lutheran Church  
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## Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup> Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.

<sup>3</sup> Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his<sup>[a]</sup>;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

<sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.

<sup>5</sup> For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Psalm 100 is a beautiful and powerful passage. This Psalm is a wonderful reminder of where our hope and strength truly come from.



In a world that can feel so broken and uncertain, it's easy to lose our way. We may feel a deep sense of loneliness or discouragement. But this psalm, and this reflection on it, offers us a grounding truth: we are not alone. On the Lord's Day, we get to join our voices with the entire Church of Jesus Christ—a chorus of praise that spans the globe and stretches back through generations.

This isn't just a duty; it's a gift. We come together to praise God not because we have to, but because we need to. We need to remember that God is the one who made us, and that we are his workmanship, created anew in Christ Jesus. This truth gives our lives meaning and purpose.

The most comforting part of this reflection is the reminder that God's faithfulness endures through all generations. We are living in a time of great distress, and it can feel overwhelming. But Psalm 100 encourages us to look beyond the immediate moment and anchor our hearts in God's unchanging character. His goodness, His love, and His faithfulness are not temporary; they are eternal. This is a promise we can hold on to, a sure foundation that will never give way.

Because of this, we can look to the future with hope, no matter what challenges we face. We have a God who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. His love is stronger than any hatred, his goodness is greater than any evil, and his faithfulness is more powerful than any fear. Today, and always, let us find peace in this truth and give thanks.



## Birthdays

- 1 Karolyn Latterelle
- 2 Lynda Nelson
- 4 Whitney Arneson, Jody Bunio,  
Jan Nordell
- 5 Marian Freese, Carter Popkes
- 6 Bob Neros
- 7 Nicki Bjornstad
- 8 Barb Hoemke
- 9 Sue Bliss, Brenda Bongs
- 10 Joshua Norwood
- 12 Linda Rono
- 13 Mary Oliphant, Ardelle Patrick
- 14 Bill Bunio, Ilo Kyar
- 16 Tim Henrichs
- 17 Chase Hage, Stan Nagorski
- 18 Nicole Bundy, Ava Johnson,  
Amy LaPierre
- 20 Gary Erickson, Dean Sodahl
- 23 Jason Duerr
- 25 Samantha Henrichs
- 26 Joe McNally, Anne Olson
- 29 Jackie Holmes
- 30 Jeanne Kurtz

## FUNERALS

Joseph Simons  
Bernita Harrison

## Anniversaries

- 2 Virgil & Melva Panitzke (1961)
- 6 Nick & Mary Zillmer (1986)
- 7 Don & Barb Hoemke (1968)
- 7 Tom & Heather Nixon (2002)
- 9 Tom & Audrey Webber (1989)
- 11 Bill & Vonda Bongs (1954)
- 11 Ken & Melissa Chamberlin (2004)
- 17 Jake & DeeDee Frahm (2005)
- 23 Jon & Audrey Wittnebel (1972)
- 25 Dan & Delores Beseman (1965)
- 28 John & Robyn Klopfleisch (2019)
- 28 Casey & Sarah Pederson (2002)
- 28 Greg & Kim Waffensmith (1979)



July 27	126
August 3	146
August 10	131
August 17	131
August 24	126

# IN LOVING Memory

- ✝ Memorial gift given by Denny & LuAnn Henrichs in memory of **Bill Bunio's mother** for Milestone Ministry
- ✝ Memorial gifts given by Sylvia Graff in memory of **Nancy Campion, Carroll Kukowski and Cy Dehn** for the general account

## Memorial gifts (and designation) given in memory of **Joe Simons**:

- ✝ Bob & Pat Neros, undesignated
- ✝ Fred & Claudia Tessmer, undesignated
- ✝ Dotty Hayes, general account
- ✝ Don & Nancy Nyvold, Quilters
- ✝ Jeff & Marsha Olson, Malawi Education
- ✝ Hal & Judy Kirchoff, Quilters
- ✝ Lynn & Shelly Harker, Good Samaritan
- ✝ Marian Segersten, Immanuel Forward
- ✝ Sylvia Graff, general account
- ✝ Virgil & Melva Panitzke, Malawi children
- ✝ Mark & Nicki Bjornstad, Immanuel Forward
- ✝ Roger & Sandy Twigg, Sunday School
- ✝ Audrey Jacobson, undesignated
- ✝ Bruce & Mary Oliphant, Malawi children
- ✝ Denny & LuAnn Henrichs, Milestone Ministry
- ✝ Jim & Meredith Bloedel, undesignated
- ✝ Dave & Claudia Peterson, Youth Ministry
- ✝ Jon & Audrey Wittnebel, Youth Ministry

## Memorial gifts given in memory of **Bernita Harrison**

- ✝ Stan & Mary Nagorski, for Quilters
- ✝ Dan & Delores Beseman, undesignated
- ✝ Dave & Claudia Peterson, for general account
- ✝ Audrey Jacobson, undesignated
- ✝ Virgil & Melva Panitzke, for Malawi children
- ✝ Marian Segersten, for Milestone Ministry
- ✝ Lynn & Shelly Harker, for Quilters
- ✝ Fred & Claudia Tessmer, undesignated
- ✝ Denny & LuAnn Henrichs, Milestone Ministry

## September Lectionary Scripture Readings

Sept 7	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Psalm 1	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14:25-33
Sept 14	Numbers 21:4b-9	Psalm 98:1-4	1 Corinthians 1:18-24	John 3:13-17
Sept 21	Amos 8:4-7	Psalm 113	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Luke 16:1-13
Sept 28	Amos 6:1a, 4-7	Psalm 146	1 Timothy 6:6-19	Luke 16:19-31

*Jill DeCent, Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Greetings!

As Summer is winding down, we begin to look to Fall. It's always bittersweet for me. I am a lover of the warm temperatures and sunny days, but also enjoy routine and everything "Fall"-ALL things pumpkin and apple, leaves, and the cozy feeling Fall brings. Oh yes, can't forget.....FOOTBALL! Here's what's happening in Youth and Children's ministry-

In Youth Ministry-

Youth enjoyed their last gathering of the Summer on August 6th, hiking at Jay Cooke State Park in Carlton, MN. Eight students joined in on the fun, and a trip to the "Sweetly Kismet" candy store completed the day. This time was filled with hiking the rocky terrain, crossing the "Swinging Bridge", and engaging in devotion and prayer as a group next to the river. God provided perfect weather!

Details for the upcoming program year schedule for Confirmation and Youth Group are currently being formed. Last year, we spent intentional time as a group as a whole on Wednesdays, to soak up time with Pastor Paul and Jill. We are excited to welcome Pastor Ian to our youth programs. Watch your mailbox and "Remind" App for schedules and plans.

In Children's Ministry-

Rally Day and Blessing of the Backpacks will be held on Sunday, September 7th! This is a celebration of our first day back to Sunday School, for all students Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. 6<sup>th</sup> Graders are invited to join the youth activities and teachings on Wednesday evenings. Bring your backpack for a special blessing from Pastor Ian during children's time, and a special backpack keychain to remind you of God's love all year around!

Sunday school will be held each Sunday (Not including holidays or holiday weekends) September-May, and will release following Children's Time (Around 9:40).

If you, or someone you know is desiring Nursery type care for their young child during church, please contact the church office. We would be glad to help make accommodations!

Faithfully,

Jill DeCent, Family Ministry





### GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET REPORT

	<u>JULY - 25</u>	<u>JULY- 24</u>	<u>YTD 2025</u>	<u>YTD 2024</u>
BUDGET	35,848	37,553	250,936	262,731
GENERAL FUND GIVING	32,437	33,469	220,600	229,414
GENERAL FUND EXPENSE	21,830	35,302	230,727	247,681
NET INCOME	<b>10,607</b>	<b>-1,833</b>	<b>-10,127</b>	<b>-18,267</b>

When you would like your offering to go to a certain Ministry or project like the Immanuel Forward project you need to write the name of the Ministry or project on your offering envelope and/or the memo line of your check. This will ensure your offering goes to the Fund or project you want it to. I am always here to answer any questions or correct any mistakes you find on your statements.

Your Friend in Christ,

Deb Eatros, Financial Manager

### Major Capital Improvement Fund

7/31/2025

July 1, 2025	<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$31,757.24</b>
	<b>Deposits:</b>	\$1202.62
	<b>Reserve:</b>	\$250.00
	<b>Immanuel Forward:</b>	\$20,171.00
	<b>Withdrawals:</b>	\$5,005.00
July 31, 2025	<b>Ending Balance:</b>	<b>\$48,375.86</b>





## **SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS BAZAAR NOVEMBER 8, 2025**

We have some fantastic raffle items again this year:

- Oak blanket chest hand crafted by Jeff Olson;
- White oak plant stand hand crafted by Randy Evans;
- Scandinavian wood tine box hand crafted by Jeff Olson;
- Comforter basket with handmade quilt by Betsy Santi;
- Scandinavian gift basket donated by Nord Haus;
- Family Fun basket donated by Cathy Preston;

Last year's the raffle raised \$1,700.00.

Marsha Larson (218-546-6065) and Vi Klungness (612-518-9745) are the team captains for the bazaar raffle. They will need additional help with ticket sales. Please do not hesitate to let them know you can help.

### **SOME REMINDERS:**

- Artists and Crafters-November 8<sup>th</sup> is just around the corner.
- Bakers and Canners-We hope you are planning what you will also be bringing!
- Bags: Please start saving shopping bags with handles for the bazaar.

Christmas Bazaar Team Captains please come to a kick off meeting on September 11th at 6:30pm in the church fellowship hall.

Everyone, your creative talents and gifts are a blessing to the community!

Blessings! Carol Pundt & Patty Kahnert





## September 2025 Worship Service Schedule

Altar Guild – Robyn Klopfleisch & Nancy Heise  
SRT Leader – Jan Doonan & Nancy Heise



### September 7

Greeters: Marsha Larson & Pam Klopfleisch  
Lector: Pam Klopfleisch  
Offering Counters: Pamela Ballard & Marian Freese

Ushers: Bill & Jody Bunio  
Communion: Paula Traylor  
Tech: Jack Schubert

### September 14

Greeters: Barb Rhodes & Lynette Dehning  
Lector: David Pundt  
Offering Counters: Paula Traylor & Bonnie Goshey

Ushers: Wade & Vicki Burlet  
Communion: Bonnie LaPierre  
Tech: Jack Schubert and Terri Wisniak

### September 21

Greeters: Ken & Barb Moe  
Lector: Barb Rhodes  
Offering Counters: Jody Bunio & Sandi Erickson

Ushers : Nick Zilmer & Dan Beseman  
Communion : Tom Nixon  
Tech: Dave Peterson and Jack Schubert

### September 28th

Greeters: Youth  
Lector: Youth  
Offering Counters: Sandi Erickson & Paula Traylor

Ushers: Youth  
Communion: Char Kinzer  
Tech: Dave Peterson and Jack Schubert





# Happy September!

May your September be filled with peace, happiness and miracles.  
May this fall season be abundant with positive changes for you and your loved ones.

The month of September is an opportunity of transition. This transition, from summer to autumn, brings cooler weather and beautiful fall foliage.

Fall is also a period of balance between daylight and darkness.

Push the “Reset Button” and feel the motivation to set and pursue new goals or to re-engage with your existing ones. September symbolizes new beginnings. It's a month of change.

“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me,” (Philippians 4:13) This Bible verse for September reminds us that no matter what life brings our way, we can always get through it with the help of God! He will be by our side with each step we take.

It is always good to take a step back and remind ourselves of how far we have come. It can be easy to forget all our hard work. Remember that God will guide our way, no matter what changes are ahead or where life takes us.

He will never leave us nor forsake us.

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak. Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35)

The Bible strongly advocates for sharing with the poor and needy. It emphasizes generosity, compassion and the importance of caring for the marginalized, seeing it as both a duty and a pathway to spiritual growth.

Express gratitude for the gifts we have received along our spiritual journey.

By acknowledging and appreciating the blessings in our lives, we open ourselves up to even more abundance and jubilation.

Every day is a fresh start. A new month is a gift. Unwrap it with joy.

**Keep the faith! Choose to be happy!**

Submitted by Paula Traylor Prayer Team Leader

## Update from the Council President

Several motions were made at the Church Council's August meeting that helped set the Immanuel Forward project (Kehl property purchase) in motion.

The Immanuel Forward project is now well underway, with a goal of purchasing the property by October 1. The Council approved the Immanuel Forward Finance Committee's request to pursue a mortgage of approximately \$95,000, the balance needed, at this time, to finance the \$185,000 project.

The committee proposed that we use a down payment of a little over \$94,000 from the following funds:

- \$50,000 recommended from the church's finance and investment committee's assessment of our reserves (\$20,000 Fidelity Major Capital Account, \$20,000 Fidelity Memorial Account, and \$10,000 Unity Bank Major Capital Account, of which \$5,000 was used for the Earnest money to hold the purchase date to October 1.
- \$22,257.50 – an undesignated Thrivent Fixed Annuity Fund that was donated to the church; and
- \$21,976.00 (Thanks to the congregation's generous envelope donations to Immanuel Forward thus far!)

The project finance committee is committed to finding ways to pay off the mortgage early, similar to the historic church expansion project, which was a much larger feat.

Bob Neros has been meeting with several people of the congregation, creating an Immanuel Forward Visionary Committee, to determine short and long-term uses of the property. Anyone with vision and ideas is encouraged to contact Bob.



# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 18, 2025

6:30 p.m.

### ATTENDEES:

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

### CALL TO ORDER 6:31 P.M.

Additions to Agenda: President Char Kinzer added the following item to the Agenda: NEW BUSINESS: 3. Ranger Live Radio.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA: Paula Traylor moved we accept the agenda as amended. Tom Nixon seconded her motion and it was accepted by voice vote.

CELEBRATING THE JOYS OF IMMANUEL: Two new volunteers, Vicki Burlett and Don Rasmussen have signed up to work in the sound booth; the Cantors, Sue Rasmussen and Brian Marquart; attendance has been very good this past month; Psalm 121.

### AGENDA

ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCIAL REPORT: Peter Nordell moved that we accept the Financial Statement. Tom Nixon seconded his motion, and it was approved by voice vote.

### OLD BUSINESS:

#### 1. KEHL PROPERTY:

a. PURCHASE AGREEMENT: Peter Nordell moved that Paula Traylor be approved as the authorized signer for the Kehl Property Purchase Agreement. Tom Nixon seconded his motion and it was approved on a voice vote.

b. IMMANUEL CHURCH FINANCE COMMITTEE REQUEST: Peter Nordell moved that the Fidelity Major Capital Account of \$20,000, the Fidelity Memorial Account, \$20,000 and the Unity Bank Major Capital Account, \$10,000 be liquidated and used as part of a down payment for the Kehl Property. His motion was seconded by Bonnie LaPierre and approved by voice vote.

c. IMMANUEL FORWARD FINANCE COMMITTEE: Peter Nordell moved that we close the previously donated Thrivent Account #9066194 of \$22,257.50 and use the funds, along with the money raised so far by Immanuel Forward, to complete the down payment for the Kehl Property. Debbie Lindahl seconded the motion, and it was approved by voice vote.

D. IMMANUEL FORWARD FINANCE COMMITTEE REQUEST: Paula Traylor moved we authorize the Immanuel Forward Finance Committee to pursue a \$95,000 mortgage loan with Unity Bank for a fixed three-year term, amortized over 20 years to cover the remainder of the \$185,000 Kehl property purchase with the understanding the finance committee will still try to cover the loan as soon as possible. Peter Nordell seconded the motion, and it was approved via voice vote.

## 2. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Buildings and Grounds: Char Kinzer reported that the parsonage interior has been painted and sewer pumped.

Manna for Malawi: David Pundt reported all is ready for the event on Saturday.

Personnel: No report.

3. CLASSICAL CONVERSATIONS HOMESCHOOL UPDATE: Char Kinzer reported that the group will hold its family orientation night on Monday, September 15, 2025 and begin school on Monday, September 29, 2025. They expect 8 families to participate, educating 15 students between ages 4 and 12, Up from five families last year.

4. EMAIL VOTING: Discussion was held on email voting to reiterate what previous councils had decided about email voting by the Council. A consensus of the Council was that voting by email would not be used. Emergency actions will be handled by the Council Executive Committee.

## NEW BUSINESS:

1. LCMC ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 5-8: Peter Nordell moved that we not officially participate in the LCMC Annual Meeting this year. Debbie Lindahl seconded his motion, and it was passed on a voice vote.
2. PASTOR'S REPORT/UPDATES: Pastor Ian Hewitson expressed his gratitude for work done on the parsonage.
3. RANGER LIVE RADIO: David Pundt moved that support of this effort would not be a good stewardship of congregation funds and should not be supported. Debbie Lindahl seconded his motion, and it was approved by a voice vote.

## OPEN DISCUSSION:

Council discussed the need to update the Bylaws, Policies and Procedures of Immanuel Lutheran Church to include clarification of committee formation and record-keeping, family ministry, and funeral policies. Future workshops will be held to complete these tasks.

The Youth Ministry advisory committee had met that day to discuss confirmation and youth plans moving forward in light of Jill Decent's plans to resign from the Family Ministry position and attend school full-time. The committee recommended looking at what Salem is doing as one option. No final decisions have been made for Family ministry.

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS FOR SEPTEMBER

October 5	Paula Traylor
October 12	Char Kinzer
October 19	Peter Nordell
October 26	Tom Nixon

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

ADJOURNMENT: Tom Nixon moved we adjourn. Debbie Lindahl seconded his motion and it was approved by voice vote at 8:41pm.

The next council meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

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## MANNA FOR MALAWI

The Manna for Malawi event had a beautiful weather day, thank you Lord. Thank you to Maucieri's for donating the spaghetti and sauce. They made the meatballs with ground meat donated by Super One. Mixed Company donated the lemonade. Auto Smith donated the kid's activities. All the silent auction items were donated as well. Thank you to all the volunteers that donated their time, tents and worked to make this event a success. The preliminary amount of funds raised is \$6568. We will be writing thank you notes on September 7th.

### RAFFLE WINNERS

Fishing Package	Robert Dauphinais
Yet Cooler	Craig Lubovich
DeWalt Blower & Trimmer	Vi Klungness
\$100	Ken & Barb Moe
\$200	Bill Bunio
\$300	Sue Heckart



The following recipes were contributed by Elizabeth Mattson. These foods were served at Pastor Paul & Jill's Farewell Potluck on May 18, 2025.

Liz's Potato Salad *quantities are all personal preference*

Roasted yukons

Red onion and celery, chopped small

Fresh dill

Stone ground mustard

Mayo

Sherry or red wine vinegar

Swedish Meatballs – Rosemary Kraus

2# ground beef

1 ¼ cups bread crumbs

2 eggs

1/8 teaspoon nutmeg

1/8 teaspoon allspice

1/4 teaspoon black pepper

2 onions, chopped

3/4 cup milk

2 teaspoons salt

1 clove garlic, chopped

*Blend ingredients well, make into balls and brown. Take off fat. Remove balls from pan and add 2 cubes bouillon to drippings, 1 tsp paprika, ¾ cup sour cream, salt & pepper to taste. Thicken and pour over meatballs in casserole. Bake or simmer one hour.*

*Liz's Version: Make balls and put in casserole with oil, bake for 30 minutes @350. Save drippings and add flour to make a roux. Add cream and beef stock until thick and creamy.*

Liz's Punch Bowl

Jello mold: Make jello as instructed, but add whatever you want—fruit, candy. Add juice or pop to help fill the mold and freeze overnight. Be creative!

The punch: apple juice, cranberry juice, Sprite, ginger and honey—substitute ginger ale or beer.

