

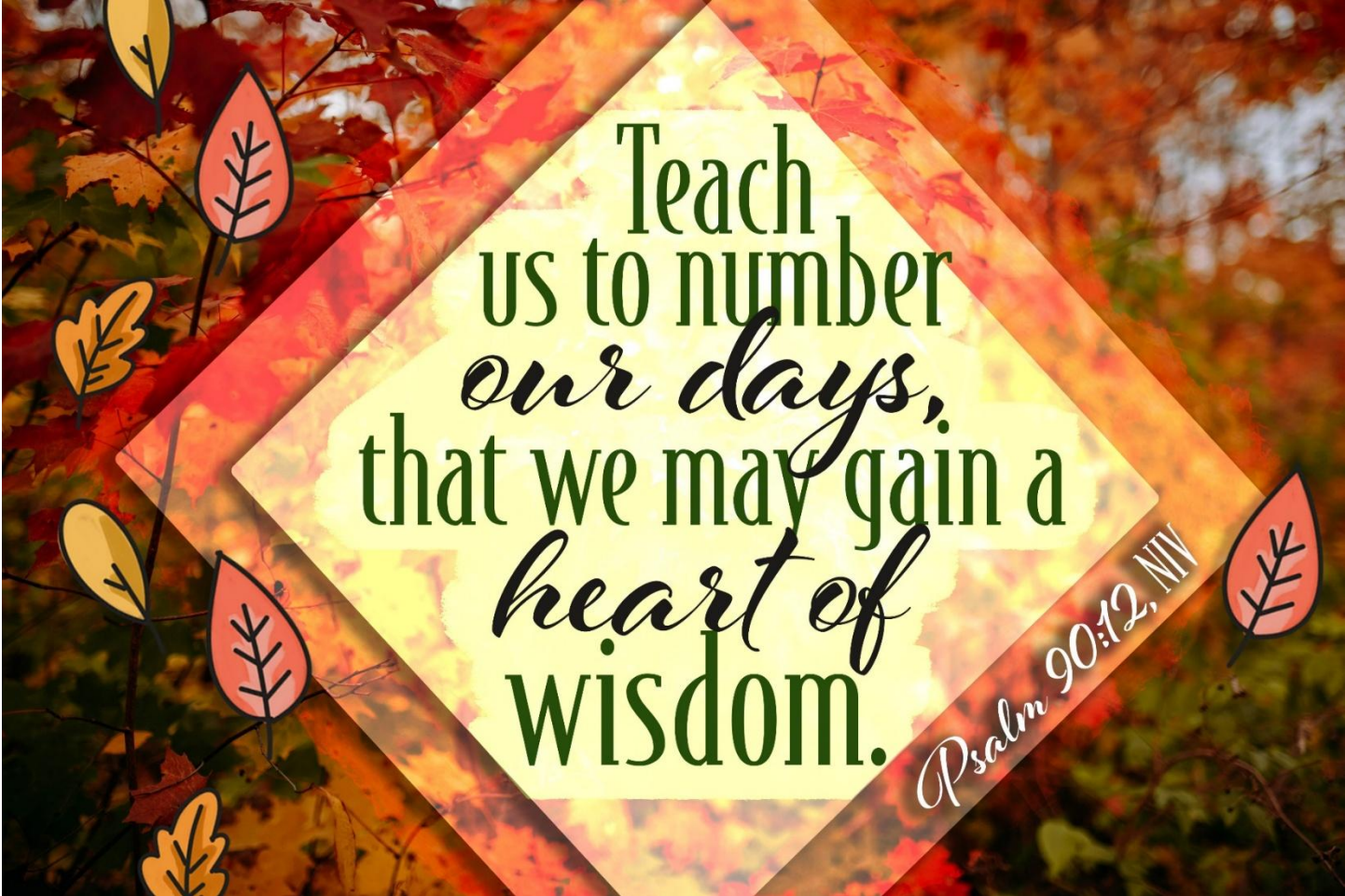


Immanuel's Story

October 2025

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Volume 40 Issue 10



Teach
us to number
our days,
that we may gain a
heart of
wisdom.

Psalm 90:12, NIV



Immanuel Lutheran Church
600 4th St SW, PO Box 98
Crosby MN 56441

"What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord." - Psalm 116:12-13

The Unpayable Debt

Have you ever had someone do something so kind for you that you felt you could never repay them? Maybe it was a friend who helped you through a difficult time, a stranger who offered an unexpected hand, or a family member who sacrificed for your well-being. That feeling of overwhelming gratitude, mixed with the realization that your own efforts are insufficient, is a powerful one.



This is the very feeling the Psalmist explores in Psalm 116. He was at death's door, entangled by "the cords of death" and "the anguish of the grave." He cried out to the Lord for deliverance, and the Lord saved him. Now, standing on the other side of that miraculous rescue, he asks a question we all can relate to: "What can I possibly give back to the Lord for all He has done for me?"

The Symbolic Cup

The Psalmist's answer is profound. He doesn't say he'll offer up a great sacrifice or perform a grand act. Instead, he says, "I will lift up the cup of salvation." This isn't a literal, physical cup. It's a powerful symbol, much like the "cup" in Psalm 16:5 that represents all that God has assigned to a person's life.

To "lift up the cup of salvation" is to **accept** the gift of salvation that God freely offers. It is a posture of gratitude, a humble acknowledgment that you have nothing of equal value to give in return. The only thing you can do is gratefully receive the free and magnificent gift. The act of "lifting up" is a public declaration, a way of holding up this gift for all to see and saying, "This is what God has done for me! This is His kindness, and I gladly accept it."

Our Response of Gratitude

Just as the Psalmist was saved from death, we have been saved from eternal condemnation. We can never repay the price Jesus paid for us on the cross. Our salvation is a free gift, purchased not with our works, but with His grace.

So, how do we "lift up the cup of salvation"?

- **We accept it:** We open our hearts and receive the forgiveness and new life that Jesus offers.
- **We declare it:** We live our lives in a way that reflects His goodness, publicly calling on His name and giving Him all the glory.
- **We share it:** We tell others about the incredible gift we've received, inviting them to drink from the same cup of salvation.

We have a debt we can never repay, but we are not expected to. The Lord simply asks us to accept His gift with a grateful heart.

What is one way you can "lift up the cup of salvation" and thank God for His goodness today?

More from Pastor Ian...

Subject: A Two-Pronged Approach to Organizational and Educational Improvement

This memo outlines a strategic plan for the next two years, focusing on enhancing the effectiveness and mission of Immanuel Church. Based on my observations over the past three months, this approach targets two key areas for development: **organizational structure** and **congregational education**.

1. Organizational Review and Streamlining

Objective: To ensure that our organizational structure and committees are aligned with the church's stated purpose and mission.

Upon review of church documents and discussions with the Council, it has become apparent that minor inconsistencies exist within our current committee structures and their interrelationships. This initiative is not a reinvention of our current framework but rather a **streamlining effort**.

We will assess how current committees, and their functions, integrate with the church's overall plan. The goal is to clarify roles, improve efficiency, and ensure that all parts of our organization are working cohesively toward our shared goals.

2. Educational and Teaching Enhancement

Objective: To deepen the congregation's understanding of God's Word through expanded teaching ministries.

The congregation has demonstrated a strong desire for in-depth biblical teaching. While the pulpit ministry will remain the cornerstone of my efforts, this plan includes the expansion of our educational offerings.

In addition to regular sermons, I intend to lead dedicated classes for the congregation and, as resources permit, provide educational opportunities for the wider community. These could take the form of specialized classes, seminars, or conferences. The specific logistics and scheduling for these initiatives are currently under development.

Expected Outcome

I am confident that this **two-pronged strategy** is achievable within the next two years. By strengthening our organizational foundation and enriching our educational ministry, Immanuel Church will gain a clearer understanding of her identity. This clarity will ultimately enable the congregation to be more discerning and unified in the process of selecting her next pastor.

Your support and cooperation are essential for the success of this plan.



Birthdays

- 1 Lindsey Knoll
- 2 Audrey Webber
- 3 Ron Larson, Richard Leino, Jim Patrick
- 4 Kermit Olson
- 5 Bronson Ballard, Dotty Hayes (90!)
- 6 CeCe Snook
- 7 Becky Pakarinen
- 10 Sarah Pederson
- 11 Rachel Aulie, Elaine Karel
- 13 Shayne Jacobs
- 14 Mary Ellen Stolle
- 17 Angie Reinhart
- 18 Judy Running, Dan Wisniak
- 19 Noah Larson
- 20 Addie Finck
- 21 Frank Foote, Braylon Kannel
- 22 Tara Freese, Kay Partello
- 25 Brody Chamberlin, Bennett Kannel, Bonnie LaPierre
- 26 Josie Chamberlin, Adam Midthun, Virgil Panitzke
- 27 Chip Polich
- 29 Emily McWilliams

Anniversaries

- 4 John & Karen Rosecrans (1980)
- 7 Mark & Sue Bliss (1989)
- 11 Gary & Karen DeBoer (1997)
- 14 Grant & Kim Gibson (1995)
- 16 Jerry & Jill DeCent (2010)
- 17 Bill & Glenda Langton (1959)
- 17 Dan & Terri Wisniak (1970)
- 20 Karl & Mary Ellen Perry (1984)
- 26 Tony & Roxie Perkins (1985)
- 30 Bob & Pat Neros (1965)



August 31	95
September 7	149
September 14	145
September 21	141

The following **Memorials** were given by:

- ✝ Adrian & Jean Olson, in memory of Joe Simons, undesignated
- ✝ Adrian & Jean Olson, in memory of Bernita Harrison, undesignated
- ✝ Marian Segersten, in memory of Stacey Kimball for Sunday School
- ✝ Denny & LuAnn Henrichs, in memory of Stacey Kimball for Milestone Ministry
- ✝ Denny & Luann Henrichs, in memory of Joy Case for Milestone Ministry

October Lectionary Scripture Readings

Oct 5	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4	Psalms 37:1-9	2 Timothy 1:1-14	Luke 17:5-10
Oct 12	2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c	Psalms 111	2 Timothy 2:8-15	Luke 17:11-19
Oct 19	Genesis 32:22-31	Psalms 121	2 Timothy 3:14—4:5	Luke 18:1-8
Oct 26	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalms 46	Romans 3:19-28	John 8:31-36

Malawi



Each year Immanuel donates the Christmas meal to Malawi Orphan Care Project. This is a highly anticipated party. More than 1000 children attend and that takes a lot of volunteers to cook, serve and clean up. These pictures are from last year's Christmas where 2 cows were cooked and served with rice. Treats are also given out.

It is time to start collecting donations for this year's Christmas meal. The meal costs approximately \$2000. If you can donate, please use the special Malawi Christmas Meal envelopes in the back of the sanctuary and mark your checks as Malawi Christmas meal.



Romans 13:8

Let no debt remain outstanding, except continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET REPORT

	<u>AUGUST - 25</u>	<u>AUGUST- 24</u>	<u>YTD 2025</u>	<u>YTD 2024</u>
BUDGET	35,848	37,553	286,784	300,424
GENERAL FUND GIVING	24,594	36,244	245,194	265,658
GENERAL FUND EXPENSE	23,007	29,089	253,715	276,784
NET INCOME	1,587	7,155	-8,521	-11,126

Major Capital Improvement Fund

8/31/2025

August 1, 2025 **Balance:** **\$48,375.86**

Deposits: \$1105.27

Reserve: \$250.00

Immanuel Forward: \$1815.00

Withdrawals: \$0.00

August 31, 2025 **Ending Balance:** **\$51,546.13**



October 2025 Worship Service Schedule

Altar Guild – LuAnn Henrichs and Claudia Peterson

SRT Leader – Elaine Karel and Vi Klungness



October 5

Greeters: Mike & Karen Midthun

Lector: Jeanne Kurtz

Offering Counters: Bonnie Goshey & Paula Traylor
Schubert

Ushers: Bill & Jody Bunio

Communion: Paula Traylor

Tech: David Pundt and Jack

October 12

Greeters: Stan & Mary Nagorski

Lector: Deb Koop

Offering Counters: Erinn Hoyt and Darlene McNally

Ushers: Jeff & Marsha Olson

Communion: Char Kinzer

Tech: Vicki Burlet and Jack Schubert

October 19

Greeters: Bill & Jody Bunio

Lector: Hal Kirchoff

Offering Counters: Jody Bunio & Sandi Erickson
Schubert

Ushers : Nick Zilmer & Dan Beseman

Communion : Peter Nordell

Tech: Dave Peterson and Jack

September 28th

Greeters: Youth

Lector: Sandy Twigg

Offering Counters: Sandi Erickson & Jody Bunio
Schubert

Ushers: Youth

Communion: Tom Nixon

Tech: Dave Peterson and Jack





Spirit of Christmas Bazaar 2025

The Spirit of Christmas Bazaar is on Saturday November 8th from 8:30am to 1:00pm.

Please consider helping the Committee Team Captains with the activities listed below. **For those of you who have not been able to help in the past, it is our hope you can find an activity to become involved in. It is great fellowship and a great way to meet new people.**

Thank you to all the Team Captains who attended the meeting on September 11th and your commitment to the 2025 Spirit of Christmas Bazaar

TEAM CAPTAINS

- Money and Cash Boxes-Nancy Evans (Treasurer)
- Wreaths-Sandy Davis
- Bake Sale-Deb Kreller
- Confections-Marsha Larson
- Raffle-Marsha Larson & Vi Klungness
- Publicity-Marian Segersten
- Flyer Distribution-LuAnn Henrichs
- Sweet Shop- Judy Kirkoff
- Cashier-Paula Traylor (Cashier Manager)
- Hallway Decorations-Mary Ellen Perry
- Furniture Set-Up and Take Down-Our Immanuel Guys & Confirmation Youth
- Craft Display Set-Up-Karen DeBoer; Judy Kirkoff; Nancy Nyvold, Kim Gibson
- Pricing-Kay Gaudette & Judy Running
- Personalization-Sharon Simons, Kim Gibson & Karen DeBoer
- Lefse-The Jean Olson Crew
- Children's Room-Vicki Burlet
- Chocolate Covered Cherries-Claudia Tessmer, Birdie Walth, Sandy Twigg, Meredith Bloedel
- Rolls, Coffee & Cider-Pam Klopfleisch
- Table Set Up and Decorations on Tables For Coffee and Rolls-Jan Doonan
- Set Up and Display Items and Putting Bows on Wreaths -Mary Nagorski
- Prayers-Judi Burson
- Calligraphy Ornaments-Judy Running & Sharon Simons
- Music-Judi Burson, Mitch Mitchell, Rick Koop

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS BAZAAR RAFFLE

The Spirit of Christmas Raffle Tickets, costing \$1.00 each, will be available in the church bookstore corner on the four Sundays leading up to the Bazaar, October 12, 19, 26, and November 2nd as well as the day of the Bazaar, Saturday, November 8th and off site from Marsha Larson or Vi Klungness.

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 8th is just around the corner.
- Bakers and Canners-We hope you are canning what you will be donating!
- Bags: Please start saving shopping bags with handles for the bazaar. Please no plastic grocery bags!

Everyone, your creative talents and gifts are a blessing to the community! Let's make this Bazaar a great community success!

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to phone Carol Pundt (218-678-3256/land line) or Patty Kahnert (612-385-2917/cell).



Grace Lutheran Church of McGregor
48115 Lake Avenue
McGregor

October 25, 2025, 9am (registration), program 10am-2pm

Lunch is included

Angela Sjodin will give her powerful testimony of transformation on “Clinging to Christ.”

If you would like to carpool to the retreat, please contact the ILC office, 218-546-6010, to be placed on the list

Youth & Family Ministry Update from Nancy Heise

A new school year has begun and youth programs are underway.

Sunday school has begun with children released after communion for a 30 min lesson. We have a curriculum aimed at a multi age class. I am thankful for the 5 teachers that have stepped forward to lead. Confirmation begins September 17th. We will follow a similar schedule to last year with confirmation and youth groups alternating weekly. We plan to use the Lutheran House of Study curriculum starting with the 10 commandments.



Youth group will begin next week September 24th. Youth group is open to those is grades 6-12. I ask that all students fill out registration forms so we have contact information for families. This helps us to get permission for activities away from Immanuel involving volunteer drivers, and to notify students and parents if plans need to change for any reason.

The first BAY youth rally will be October 8th and a great night of praise and fellowship.

I would like to thank the parents that stepped up to provide meals for confirmation students through November 12th. If anyone would like to provide a meal for youth group nights please let me know.

I appreciate the support and encouragement I have received from parents and the congregation as we navigate changes in our Sunday school and youth programs.

Pastor Ian will begin full-time ministry at Immanuel on September 29, 2025!

May God bless our time together



OUR BIBLE and OUR FAITH

Reading the Bible is a very important part of our faith because it is a sacred text in Christianity. It is a guide for a moral life and a source of a religious scripture considered holy. It is also an authoritative source of divine revelation, sacred laws and wisdom that shape the understanding of our faith. It is necessary for spiritual growth and comfort. For believers, it explains God's nature, offers a path to salvation, provides instructions for daily living, and fosters a deeper connection with God and our community of faith.

The Bible repeatedly tells us "Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go". Joshua 1:9

He will provide strength in difficult times. He will offer a comfort that dispels fear and anxiety, particularly in the face of threats or suffering. This command encourages trust in God, rather than fear of circumstances or others, assuring believers they do not have to face challenges alone and can overcome fear through faith and God's love.

Reading the Bible can impact the brain by enhancing deep thinking and focus, reducing negative emotions like loneliness and increasing positive behaviors.

"Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you" is told to us from 1 Peter 5:7. God's message regarding anxiety is one of peace, trust, and surrender. He encourages believers to cast their worries on Him through prayer and thanksgiving, rather than being consumed by anxiety. Key passages from the Bible advise against worry, directing focus to God's provision and care, offering comfort and a peace that surpasses understanding.

Remember three straightforward truths:

God, the text, and the reader.

There is a God!
He speaks through the Bible!
He speaks to people like us!

Submitted by Paula Traylor, Prayer Team Leader



Message from the Council President

Do you worry? Does your mind spin, trying to plan how to direct life for you and everyone around you, so everything moves forward as you think it should be?

I do. Many times, my mind is non-stop, in a whirl of repeated thoughts.

The Jesus Calling devotions keep telling me not to plan. Not to worry. Have faith, because God has a direction, and if I just be happy, pray, and listen, I already have a path that is God given, so don't try to direct it.

Well, I'm trying, and need to remind myself almost daily not to try to map out the path of the day. But, we're human. We have responsibilities. We have meetings, agendas, daily duties that we feel we need to create and follow a to-do list. So, I, like many perhaps, let my mind spin. I try to make a direction and then finally surrender to the peace and power of God, and ask that the Holy Spirit guide and direct my day-to-day.

Dear God, Grant me, and Immanuel, the peace of understanding that you have taken care of the big picture, and if I believe and trust, you will guide my footsteps, words and actions to help do your will.

As one of the current leaders in this congregation, I humbly come before God and ask that the Holy Spirit guide me and the Council and all the people of Immanuel to listen, relax, pray and let it be, let it be. Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, and help me listen in the silence to the presence of your being. All is good. We are Grateful. We are Immanuel, "God With Us".

I love being a part of this faith community. It's so great to worship with you on Sunday. Thanks. Char

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Council Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES & Church Box #

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pastor Ian Hewitson		<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	
<input type="checkbox"/> Jerry DeCent	50	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Nixon	7
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Char Kinzer	104	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peter Nordell	222
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bonnie LaPierre	119	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Pundt	295
<input type="checkbox"/> Debbie Lindahl	125	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paula Traylor	145

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Ian Hewitson opened the meeting with prayer.

CALL TO ORDER

President Char Kinzer called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

AGENDA

Addition(s) to Agenda:

- Char Kinzer requested we move Nancy Heise and Nancy Evans presentations to the beginning of the meeting to allow them to depart when finished.
- Char added New Business #5-Crow Wing County Land Service notices; #6 Cuyuna Youth Center, #7 Discussion of the Worship Care Center Schedule.

Agenda Acceptance: Peter Nordell moved we accept the agenda as adjusted, Tom Nixon seconded his motion and it was approved by a voice vote.

READING OF THE MISSION STATEMENT

Immanuel Lutheran Church is a community of faith that welcomes all people:

- to GATHER in worship
- to GROW in God's Word and grace
- to GO forward in faith to serve others in Jesus' name

CELEBRATING THE JOYS OF IMMANUEL

Special music by Don and Sue Rasmussen, good church service attendance of late, Nancy Heise confirmation information and volunteers for Sunday School, good voluntarism for Christmas Bazaar.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Nancy Evans presented an in-depth report of the financial health of Immanuel Lutheran Church. She suggested to the Council that motions for expenditure must include the number of the account the money is coming from.

- Peter Nordell moved we accept the financial report, Tom Nixon seconded his motion, and it was approved by a voice vote.
- Bonnie LaPierre moved the recommendation to transfer \$2,500 from the Major Capital Account to the Parsonage Upkeep #6215. Tom Nixon seconded her motion, and it was approved on a voice vote.
- Tom Nixon moved the recommendation to give the Investment Finance Team permission to move funds invested in Fidelity between the laddered CDs and the Money Market Checking Account as they feel is in the best interest of the church, without seeking prior approval of the Council. Paula Traylor seconded his motion, and it was approved by a voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

David Pundt reported that the Manna for Malawi event was probably going to move back to the Bridge Tavern for the 2026 event. This year's event did not generate as much as in past years, but the number of volunteers from the Church was impressively greater.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Immanuel Forward:

- Peter Nordell moved that a checking account be opened for Immanuel Forward with the following as authorized signers: Paula Traylor, Lynette Dehning, Deborah Eatros and Deborah Carlson. Tom Nixon seconded his motion, and it was approved by a voice vote.

2. Tech equipment proposal:

- After review of the proposal from Stewart Sound Systems, Peter Nordell moved that David secure a second bid from another party. Pastor Ian Hewitson seconded his motion, and it was approved by a voice vote.

3. Pipe Organist advertisement: The item was tabled.

3. Columbarium: The item was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Financial Actions

a. Authorized Signers at Unity Bank

- Paula Traylor moved by general consensus to remove names no longer associated with the financial accounts as presented by our finance manager, Deb Eatros. Peter Nordell seconded her motion, and it was approved by a voice vote.

Council agrees to remove Paul Mattson as authorized signer from the following accounts: General Account 2210, Major Capital Account 2480, Memorial Account 3271, Good Sam Account 4801, Meal With a Mission Account 1727, Malawi Ministry Account 8395, Scholarship CD 6180, Elsie Anderson Memorial CD 31164 and the Safe Deposit Box 1432.

Council also agrees to remove Sandra Museus from the Elsie Anderson CD 31164 and Quilters Account 6199; Dortehea Hayes is to be removed from Quilters 6199 and Susan Bushard is to be removed from Malawi Ministry Account 8395 and Eileen Patrick is to be removed from the Immanuel Women of the Word Account 3286.

- Char Kinzer moved to add Paula Traylor, a council member, as authorized signer for the financial accounts as presented by our finance manager, Deb Eatros. David Pundt seconded her motion, and it was passed on a voice vote.

Paula Traylor is to be added as authorized signer on the following accounts: General Account 2210, Major Capital Account 2480, Memorial Account 3271, Good Sam Account 4801, Meal With A Mission Account 1727, Safe Deposit Box 1432, Scholarship CD 6180, Elsie Anderson Memorial CD 31164, Malawi Ministry Account 8395, Immanuel Women of the Word 3286, Quilters Account 6199 and The RIGHT Path Account 1100.

- Pastor Ian Hewitson moved to add the following as authorized signers as presented by our finance manager, Deb Eatros. Paula Traylor seconded his motion and it was approved by voice vote.

Mary Ellen Perry is to be added as the authorized signer on Quilter Account 6199, Deborah Eatros and Deborah Carlson are to be added as authorized signers on the Elsie Anderson Memorial CD 31164.

b. ELAN Visa Credit Card Account:

- Peter Nordell moved that we close out the ELAN Visa Credit Cards under the names of Paul Mattson and Jill DeCent. Bonnie LaPierre seconded his motion, and it was approved by a voice vote.
- Char Kinzer made a motion to move the QuickBooks renewal to Deborah Carlson's credit card. Paula Traylor seconded the motion, and it was approved by a voice vote.

c. Authorized signer for Kehl Property purchase documents

- Pastor Ian Hewitson moved that Paula Traylor be authorized to sign all documents related to the purchase of the Kehl property. Char Kinzer seconded the motion, and it was approved by a voice vote.

2. Committee Organization and Structure:

Paula Traylor moved we distribute Immanuel Lutheran Church historical organizational documents for individual study and preparation for a future workshop to update and re-write said documents. Peter Nordell seconded her motion and it was approved by a voice vote. Pastor Ian Hewitson recommended that the sub-committee to organize said workshop include Tom Nixon.

3. Sunday School, Youth programs, Confirmation plans:

Nancy Heise reported that Confirmation of Immanuel Lutheran students would be held on Sunday, October 26. She has received five volunteers to teach Sunday School. Confirmation Youth will meet the first and third Wednesday of the month and study an on-line program; Youth group will meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

4. ILC membership roster review: The item was tabled.

5. Crow Wing County Land Statements:

Char Kinzer reviewed a number of mailing notices from Crow Wing County Land. Council agreed to delegate review of the documents and questions to the Buildings and Grounds Committee for future report and recommendations.

6. Youth Center Request: The item was tabled.

7. Heartwood Center Worship Schedule: When Pastor Paul Mattson retired, he removed Immanuel from the worship schedule for 2025. Immanuel was inadvertently added without our knowledge one Sunday in September. Pastor Ian has given them notice ILC will not participate in 2026.

COMMUNION ASSIGNMENTS FOR NOVEMBER

November 2 – Paula Traylor

November 9 – David Pundt

November 16 – Char Kinzer

November 23 – Tom Nixon

November 30 – Bonnie LaPierre

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ADJOURNMENT

Pastor Ian Hewitson moved we adjourn. His motion was seconded by Paula Traylor, and the meeting was adjourned.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Monday, October 20, 2025

MEAL WITH A MISSION

October 12

10:30am – Benefitting:

Cuyuna Lakes Lunch Bunch



The closing on the Kehl property will be on October 1, 2025. Please remember to mark checks/donations as “Immanuel Forward” for gifts to the project.