



Immanuel's Story

April 2026

600 4th St SW Crosby MN
office@immanuelcrosby.org www.immanuelcrosby.org 218.546.6010
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He Is Risen!



Maundy Thursday – April 2, Worship at 6:45 p.m.

Good Friday – April 3, Worship at 6:45 p.m.

Easter Sunday – April 5, Worship at 8am & 10am

Meal with a Mission

Sunday, April 12

10:30 a.m.

Benefitting Manna for Malawi



LEFT IN THE DARK

No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was.

Job 2:13

This reflection captures the profound and often uncomfortable core of the Book of Job, highlighting the agonizing tension between human limitation and divine mystery. One of the most striking elements of the narrative is the power of the initial silence shared by Job and his friends. In Job 2:13, the friends actually perform their most godly act by simply sitting in



the dust for seven days, offering a ministry of presence that acknowledges suffering as something that transcends language. The trouble began the moment they, and eventually Job himself, felt the need to fill that silence with explanations. When we try to systematize pain or provide a “reason” for every tragedy, we

often end up causing more harm than good, turning a person's lived agony into a cold theological debate.

By the time we reach the end of the story in chapter 42, we see a surprising divine verdict. The Lord expresses anger toward the friends because they spoke about God as if he were a predictable formula, whereas Job is commended for his honesty. Even though Job's words were often born of despair and frustration, he directed his cries toward God rather than just talking about Him from a distance. Job eventually arrived at a place of peace not because he received a list of reasons for his losses, but because he encountered the Creator. He realized that the universe is governed by a complexity and a wisdom that far exceed human understanding, leading him to admit that he had spoken of things “too wonderful” for him to know.

A vital lesson for any reader is that Job never actually gets to read the Book of Job. He is never shown the “behind the scenes” dialogue from the opening chapters and dies without ever knowing the specific reason for his trial. His story teaches us that faith is not the absence of questions, but the decision to trust the character of God when the circumstances of life make no sense. It is a call to hold fast to our profession of faith even when we are left in the dark, resting in the confidence that while we may not see the purpose, we are never separated from the love of a faithful Father.



Birthdays

- 1 Marv Hayes
- 4 Iris Christenson, Michael Jola
- 7 Jim Bloedel
- 8 Ron Mogen, Audrey Wittnebel
- 9 Rick Koop
- 10 Jack Schubert
- 11 Steve Heins
- 12 Carter DeCent
- 13 Skyler Faulkner
- 14 Mary Nagorski
- 15 Lucy Christenson, Tucker Pederson,
Barb Rhodes, Nick Zillmer
- 18 Cindy Albrecht
- 19 Judy Christenson
- 20 Steve Freese
- 22 Trey Jacobs
- 23 Denny Davis, Audrey Jacobson,
Kevin Reinhart
- 24 Mike Patrick
- 25 Garry Nelson, Sandy Twigg
- 26 Mick Lindert, Bruce Oliphant
- 27 Maren Koop, Connie Rinde
- 28 Pam Klopfleisch
- 29 Joyce Kallestad, Mary Peterson,
Linda Peterson, Noah Reinhart
- 30 Wendy Chirhart, Judy McKanna

Anniversaries

- 6 Ken & Sandy Johnson (1968)
- 8 Don & Judi Hendrickson (1995)
- 10 Randy & Amy Stanfield (1990)
- 18 Steve & Erica Perpich (2009)
- 20 Hal & Judy Kirchoff (1968)
- 25 Brian & Kim Marquart (1992)
- 27 Steve & Laura Heins (2001)
- 28 Don & Sue Rasmussen (1973)
- 29 Jason & Paula Kovatovich (2006)



ATTENDANCE

March 1	125
March 8	94
March 15	64
March 22	94



He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

Matthew 28:6

GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET REPORT

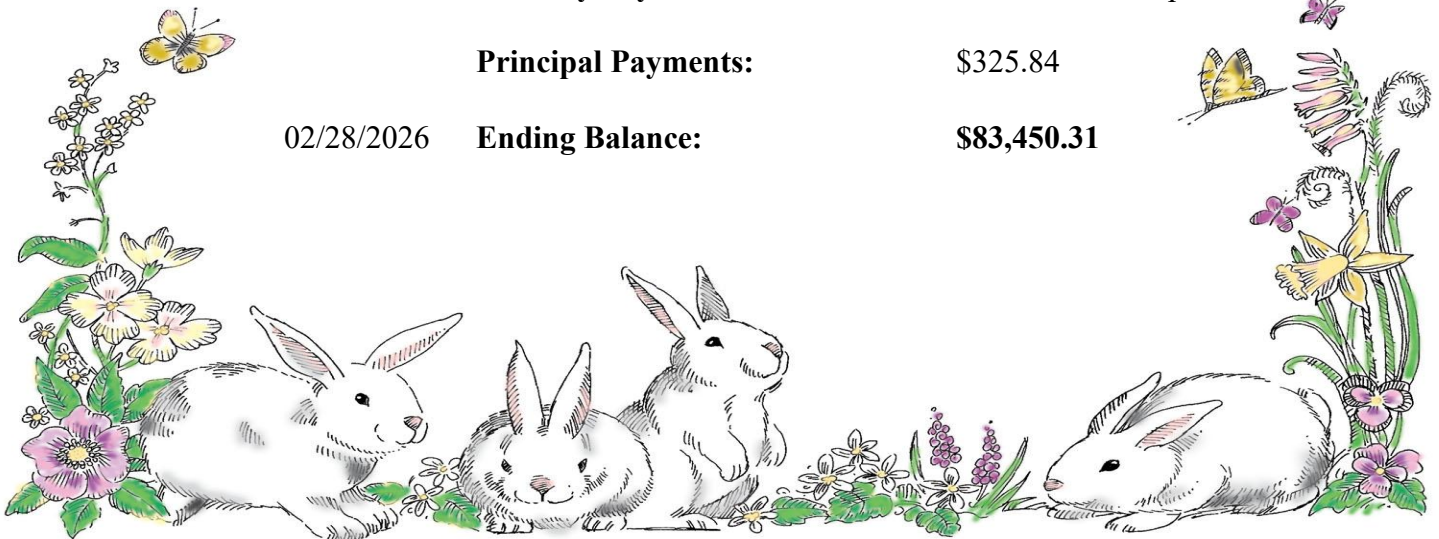
	<u>FEBRUARY 26</u>	<u>FEBRUARY 25</u>	<u>YTD 2026</u>	<u>YTD 2025</u>
BUDGET	34,858	35,848	69,716	71,696
GENERAL FUND GIVING	29,044	23,964	53,607	56,379
GENERAL FUND EXPENSE	25,450	30,825	52,728	66,295
NET INCOME	3,594	-6,861	879	-9,916

Major Capital Improvement Fund

February 1, 2026	Balance:	\$24,026.80
	Deposits:	\$444.23
	Reserve:	\$250.00
	Withdrawals:	\$3,987.73
February 28, 2026	Ending Balance:	\$20,733.30

Immanuel Forward Mortgage

02/01/2026	Balance:	\$84,013.79
	Monthly Payment	\$722.16
		\$237.64 – Principal
	Principal Payments:	\$325.84
02/28/2026	Ending Balance:	\$83,450.31





April 2026 Worship Service Schedule

Altar Guild – Barb Moe & Deb Eatros

SRT Leader – No. 3 Pam Klopfleisch

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 2 - 6:45pm

Greeters: Marian Freese & Barb Moe
Communion: TBD

Ushers: Jeff & Marsha Olson
Tech: Jack Schubert and TBD

GOOD FRIDAY, April 3 – 6:45pm

Greeters: Marian Freese & Sue Schubert
Communion: Char Kinzer

Ushers: Joe & Darlene McNally
Tech: Jack Schubert and TBD

RESURRECTION SUNDAY, April 5 - 8am

Greeters: Ken & Barb Moe
Lector: Jeanne Kurtz
Offering Counters: Erinn Hoyt & Darlene McNally

Ushers: Leif Gustafson & DeeDee Frahm
Communion: Brian Marquart
Tech: Jack Schubert & David Pundt

April 5 - 10am

Greeters: Dan & Terri Wisniak
Lector: David Pundt
Offering Counters: Erinn Hoyt & Darlene McNally

Ushers: Char Kinzer & Sue Schubert
Communion: Brian Marquart
Tech: David Pundt & Jack Schubert

April 12

Greeters: Gary & Sandi Erickson
Lector: Deb Koop
Offering Counters: Bonnie Goshey & Sandi Erickson

Ushers: Mark & Sue Bliss
Communion: Paula Traylor
Tech: Leif Gustafson, David Pundt & Jack Schubert

April 19

Greeters: Jeff & Angie Taylor
Lector: Nancy Evans
Offering Counters: Paula Traylor & Elizabeth Mattson

Ushers: Nick Zilmer & Dan Beseman
Communion: George Erickson
Tech: Jack Schubert & Terri Wisniak

April 26

Greeters: Youth
Lector: Judy Kirchoff
Offering Counters: Pamela Ballard & Marian Freese

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

Lock church after worship:

4/2 Pat Neros
4/5 Char Kinzer
4/12 Marian Segersten
4/19 Pat Neros
4/26 Dave Peterson



Youth Ministry update

I want to thank the students that have been helping with set-up and clean-up of Lenten soup suppers. The help is much appreciated.

I am currently planning activities for the youth this summer. I am looking into the possibility of a short youth mission trip and more local service projects. If you have some yard clean up, a small painting project, or know of someone who could use a helping hand, please let me know at youth@immanuelcrosby.org. I would also like to set up some fun events for our youth and, as always, chaperones and drivers are needed. Let me know if you have ideas or are interested in volunteering this way.

Graduation milestone: If you have a graduating high school senior this year and would like to participate in the senior blessing service, please let me know. We will provide the materials for a tie blanket in the students' school colors, embroidered with Immanuel Lutheran and the students' name. The blankets are presented during the church service on the second Sunday in May. A blessing for the students and their parents during this time of transition is given. I need to know by April 7, 2026 if you plan to participate.

I regretfully announce the pausing of Sunday School for the remainder of the school year due to an absence of students.

April Lectionary Texts

April 5	Acts 10:34-43	Ps 118:1-2,14-24	Colossians 3:1-4	Matthew 28:1-10
April 12	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Ps 16	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
April 19	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Ps 116:1-4,12-19	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35
April 26	Acts 2:42-47	Ps 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10

A pastor who was giving a children's sermon on vestments asked, "Why do you think I wear this collar?" A boy called out, "Because it kills ticks and fleas up to 30 days?"

(contributed by Orv Nelson)

The “GREAT EXCHANGE”

Christians understand the meaning and importance of Easter. This is the most significant Christian holiday. We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ three days after his crucifixion, symbolizing victory over sin and death.

Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness. This was His time of preparation and spiritual reflection before his own crucifixion and resurrection. He had predicted His own death. He knew and accepted His destiny.

The devil introduced sin into the world and he has the power of death. His power uses temptation and lies to bring us into sin. That separates us from God. Jesus overcame Satan’s power through His own death and resurrection. Jesus paid the price. Our sins can be forgiven and we have the promise of eternal life.

John 11:25 tells us: “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.”

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He promised us the gift of the Holy Spirit. He is our divine guide and the source of power to strengthen us to overcome temptation.

The ultimate demonstration of God’s love for us was the sacrifice of His one and only Son. He died for us while we were still sinners and undeserving. His love for us is freely given with grace and hope to all who believe.

Submitted by Paula Traylor

From the Council President

A church retreat/training session is a deliberate period of time spent away from daily routines, work, and distractions to focus on spiritual growth and reconnection with God and others. I invite you to the mini-retreats Pastor Ian is holding after Sunday fellowship during this, our transition period between seated Pastors. I feel it's important that we know and discuss our beliefs and identity.

Last fall, the Council held a retreat to review and understand our Constitution and Bylaws, and we're looking forward to more retreat/training sessions in the next few months.

- Organizational review and restructure of committees, some of which are outdated or no longer exist.
- What's expected of a church council?
- Discover the values of the two denominations we are lightly affiliated with, the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) and the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). Interestingly, NALC did a study this past summer and noted that 135 of its 500+ Lutheran congregations across the U.S., Canada, and Mexico are dual-affiliated with both.

Council understands we have work to do in preparation, so that Immanuel has our 'act together' when we call a new pastor.

On the music front, we are so thankful for the dedication of Judi Burson and the Churchyard Band, who have stepped up to play extra Sundays in light of Rich Aulie's retirement. Rich and his musical family have been long-time contributors to our worship service, and we thank him for his years of service.

We're still open to a part-time music coordinator to help support and grow our future music needs. In the meantime, to ensure continuity, in case of an unforeseen absence of a music accompanist, we're going to try a new digital organ program called Substitute Organist Service. If needed, we hope it might save us from singing A Cappella some unsuspecting Sunday. Thank you Nancy Heise and team for doing the research on this.

I'm also looking forward to the Transition Profile Team report on the Immanuel Story portion of the history/demographic section of our profile, which will eventually be shared with pastor candidates. Thank you to the team that's working on Immanuel's story.

I pray we can continue to lean on the Holy Spirit to guide us, cultivating trust over personal desire.

Remember: the time between settled pastors is a grace-filled opportunity for renewing and strengthening our faith community and purpose. I'm reminded to embrace the project with an open mind and heart.

I welcome your thoughts – always. Char

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: March 17, 2026, 5:30 pm

X Meredith Bloedel
X George Erickson
X Char Kinzer
X Debbie Lindahl
X Brian Marquart

Tom Nixon
X Mary Ellen Perry
X David Pundt
X Paula Traylor
Pastor Ian Hewitson

OPENING PRAYER: Brian Marquart opened the meeting with prayer.

CALL TO ORDER: Vice President Brian Marquart called the meeting to order at 5:39 pm. There were three additions to the agenda under New Business: #6 Accept Tom Nixon's resignation; #7 Seek an additional council member; #8 Discuss a potential exit interview. Char Kinzer moved that we accept the agenda as amended, Mary Ellen Perry seconded her motion, and it was approved by voice vote.

CELEBRATING THE JOYS OF IMMANUEL: The wonderful way that Judi and Churchyard Band have stepped up to furnish music for services; the progress at the Parsonage; and the Meal with a Mission for Immanuel East raised \$1,700 to pay down the mortgage.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Char Kinzer moved that the Financial Report be approved. Her motion was seconded by Debbie Lindahl and was approved by a voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Manna for Malawi:** David Pundt reported the committee has selected the band Third Wheel to perform for this year's event on August 9th at the Bridge Tavern from 2 pm to 6 pm. The committee will meet at the Bridge on April 8th at 5:30 pm. Bonnie Lapierre has volunteered to take over the food section from Carol Pundt, but we're still looking for someone to take over the raffle team.
- **Investment Committee:** Jim Stolle reported that the Investment Committee met on March 10th and plans to reinvest CDs maturing in March 2026 in 2-year CDs, following our approved laddering program. We have adequate reserves to get us through September 2026, at which time we will evaluate CDs maturing at that time.
- **Financial Manager:** We received an insurance check for \$9,119.87 to cover expenses with the Parsonage sewage freeze-up claim, which was deposited in the Major Capital account under the Insurance Claim fund. A \$5,000 deductible will be coming out of that account, so Council should be aware, as to avoid if possible using that account for major purchases or plans.

Discussion: Brian Marquart suggested that all major committees be listed on the agenda under Committee reports each month.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Organizational/Structure Update:** No report. Mary Ellen Perry moved, and Paula Traylor seconded a motion to ask Pastor Ian to supply a rough draft for the next Council meeting.
2. **Update on Immanuel East Rental:** Char Kinzer reported that the rental documents are being finalized on March 19, and the rental committee will announce on Sunday the opening of the window for rental applications to be received.
3. **Set date for Installation of Officers and new council members:** Tabled until after Easter.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Discuss Council retreat/training session:** Char Kinzer reported that a contact from LCMC has offered to teach a Council training session. George Erickson moved that we ask the LCMC contact to present his information and perhaps explain more about his organization. Mary Ellen Perry seconded his motion, which was approved by a voice vote. Paula Traylor, Mary Ellen Perry, and Char Kinzer will prepare for the meeting with the LCMC contact.
2. **Propose change to Council meeting dates:** Motion was made but withdrawn. No action was taken.
3. **Audit proposal:** Brian Marquart moved, and Paula Traylor seconded a motion to hire Minnesota Money Management to conduct an external audit for the 2025 financial records. The motion was approved by voice vote.
4. **Authorize Substitute Organist Service program:** Char Kinzer moved and Debbie Lindahl seconded a motion to purchase the Substitute Organist Service to supply music for church services. The motion was amended to include the purchase of an iPad and other equipment for up to \$550. Brian Marquart has volunteered to help with the selection of music if needed. The motion was approved by a voice vote. Money for the purchase and service will come from the Immanuel Lutheran Church Special Savings account Music Fund.
5. **Sunday School update:** Brian Marquart moved, and David Pundt seconded a motion to suspend Sunday School classes until September. The motion was approved by a voice vote.
6. Brian Marquart moved, and David Pundt seconded a motion to accept the resignation of Tom Nixon from his seat on the Council, with regret. The motion passed on a voice vote. The nominating committee will be alerted.
7. **Web site management:** Mary Ellen Perry moved, and George Erickson seconded a motion to appoint Deb Eatros as the head of a committee to operate and update the Immanuel Lutheran Church website.




COMMUNION ASSIGNMENTS FOR MAY: May 3 Paula Traylor; May 10 Meredith Bloedel; May 17 Mary Ellen Perry; May 24 Brian Marquart; May 31 Char Kinzer

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ADJOURNMENT: Paula Traylor moved, and Mary Ellen Perry seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:45 pm.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

April 21, 2026, 5:30 pm

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 20px; font-size: 48px; color: green; font-family: cursive;"> April 2026 </div>			1 8am Bible Study – N. Evans 10am Bible Study – P. Collignon 	2 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7am Men's Den 6pm Churchyard Practice 6:45pm Worship	3 GOOD FRIDAY 6:45pm Worship	4 9:30am The Right Path Recovery Meeting
5 RESURRECTION SUNDAY 8am Worship 10am Worship 	6	7 9am Staff Meeting 9am Quilting 12pm Renewal Group 3:30pm Bible Study – D. Kreller	8 8am Bible Study – N. Evans 10am Bible Study – P. Collignon 5-7:30pm Confirmation 6pm High School Bible Study	9 7am Men's Den 6pm Churchyard Practice	10	11 9:30am The Right Path Recovery Meeting
12 9:30am Worship 10:30am Meal with a Mission benefitting Manna for Malawi	13 4pm TOPS	14 9am Staff Meeting 1:30pm Ruth Circle 3:30pm Bible Study – D. Kreller	15 8am Bible Study – N. Evans 10am Bible Study – P. Collignon 5-7:30pm Youth Night 6pm High School Bible Study	16 7am Men's Den 6pm Churchyard Practice	17	18 9:30am The Right Path Recovery Meeting
19 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 4pm TOPS	21 9am Staff Meeting 9am Quilting 12pm Renewal Group 1:30pm Tabitha Study 3:30pm Bible Study – D. Kreller 5:30pm Council Meeting	22 8am Bible Study – N. Evans 10am Bible Study – P. Collignon 5-7:30pm Confirmation 6pm High School Bible Study	23 7am Men's Den 6pm Churchyard Practice	24 	25 9:30am The Right Path Recovery Meeting
26 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee 	27 4pm TOPS	28 9am Staff Meeting 3:30pm Bible Study – D. Kreller	29 8am Bible Study – N. Evans 10am Bible Study – P. Collignon 5-7:30pm Youth Night 6pm High School Bible Study	30 7am Men's Den 6pm Churchyard Practice	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px; background-color: #e0f0e0;"> SRT #3 Pam Klopfleisch </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #e0f0e0;"> Altar Guild: Deb Eatros & Barb Moe </div>	

