



# Immanuel's Story

## May 2026

600 4<sup>th</sup> St SW Crosby MN

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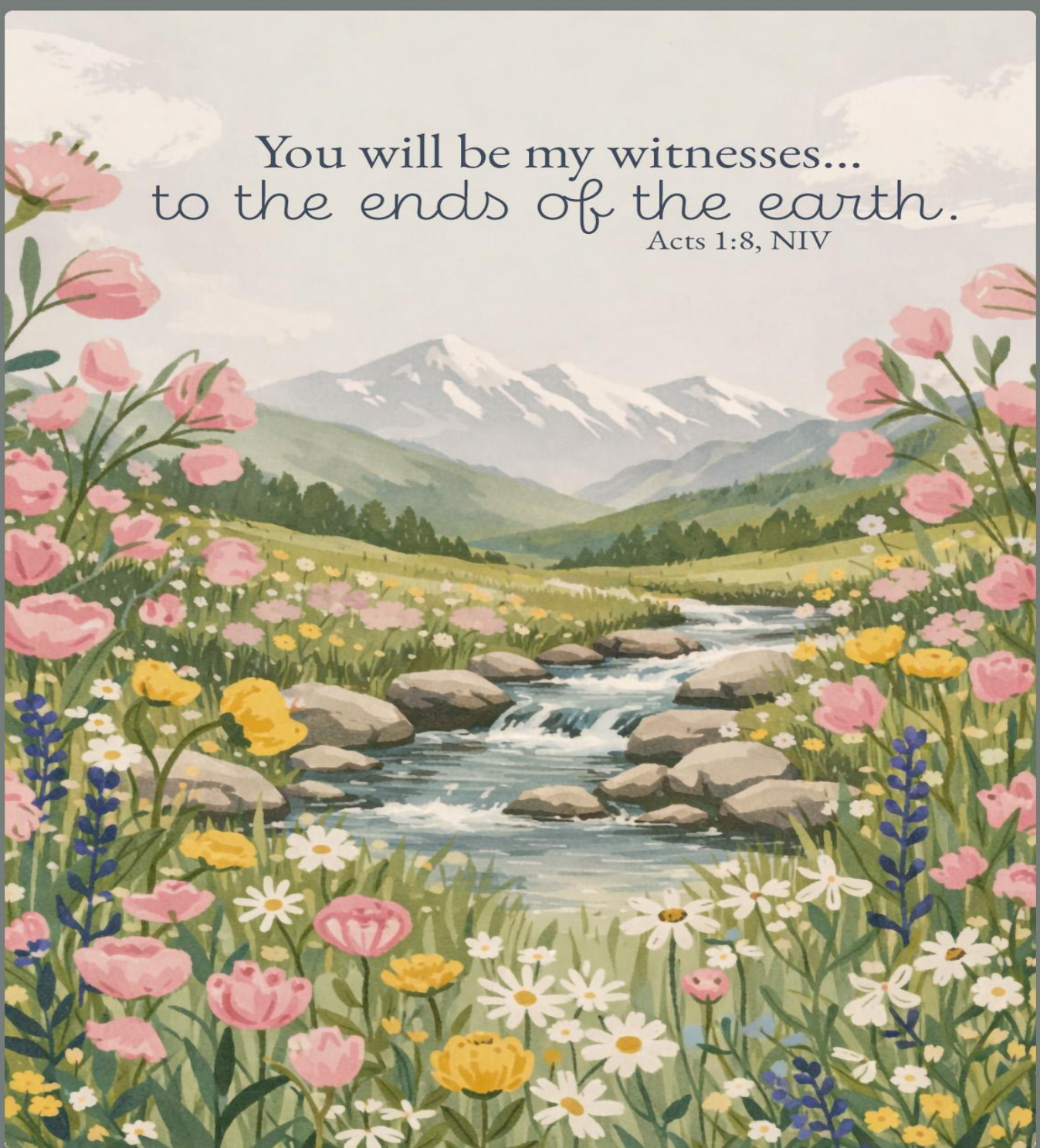
[www.immanuelcrosby.org](http://www.immanuelcrosby.org)

218.546.6010

Volume 41 Issue 5

You will be my witnesses...  
to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8, NIV





James 1:2-12

**CAUSE FOR THANKSGIVING**

**Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you  
in Christ Jesus.**

**I Thessalonians 5:16**

It really is the will of God for us that in all circumstances we offer up praise and thanksgiving to him; and we can do that as members of the body of Christ. There are some things for which no person can really be thankful, the things we see happening that are offensive to God and contrary to his will. But even in these circumstances we can give thanks because we belong to a faithful Savior who provides for us, both in times of adversity and in times of prosperity.

“In all circumstances” also means during those times when our faith in God is severely tested and tried. James goes so far as to say that we are to consider it pure joy whenever we face trials of many kinds. His reason is very clear. These trials nurture perseverance as long as we hold fast to the Redeemer and to the promises of his Word. James assures us that the person who perseveres under trial will receive the crown of life promised to those who love the Lord.

Today, join heart and voice and thank the Lord for his goodness. The promise made to Israel has been fulfilled again in our experience. “My people will be filled with my bounty.” (Jeremiah 31:14). At the same time, we will also thank the Lord that in the midst of trials we can rejoice because our loving Father will turn them to our benefit, if not in this life, then surely in the life to come.

**PRAYER**

**On this day we rejoice before you in the  
bounty of your provision.**

**Enable us in every circumstance of life to remember your Fatherly  
love and kindness  
and to look to you for blessing.**

**In Jesus' name,**

**Amen.**



## Birthdays

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

## Anniversaries

- 10 Richard & Eileen Leino (1975)
- 14 Tom & Nancy Jann (1966)
- 30 Don & Nancy Nyvold

***Please note: There are no Council minutes in this issue. The Council will have its April meeting on Wednesday, April 29.***



## ATTENDANCE

<b>March 29</b>		<b>103</b>
<b>April 5</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>83</b>
	<b>10am</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>April 12</b>		<b>125</b>
<b>April 19</b>		<b>110</b>

**She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her.**

**Proverbs 3:15**



**Thank  
you,  
moms**

**GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET REPORT**

	<b><u>MARCH 26</u></b>	<b><u>MARCH 25</u></b>	<b><u>YTD 2026</u></b>	<b><u>YTD 2025</u></b>
BUDGET	34,858	35,848	104,574	107,544
GENERAL FUND GIVING	36,490	37,286	89,472	93,680
GENERAL FUND EXPENSE	46,282	42,734	98,452	109,001
NET INCOME	<b>-9,792</b>	<b>-5,448</b>	<b>-8980</b>	<b>-15,321</b>

**Major Capital Improvement Fund**

March 1, 2026 **Balance:** **\$20,733.30**

**Deposits:** \$9,504.96

**Reserve:** \$250.00

**Withdrawals:** \$3,626.98

March 31, 2026 **Ending Balance:** **\$26,861.28**



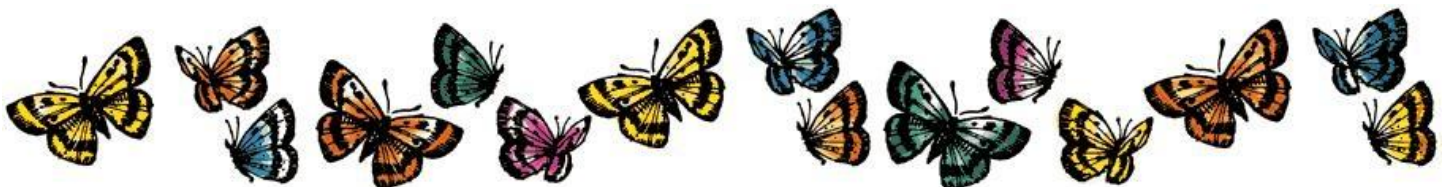
**Immanuel Forward Mortgage**

03/01/2026 **Balance:** **\$83,450.31**

**Monthly Payment** \$722.16 \$290.42 – Principal

**Principal Payments:** \$1932.44

03/31/2026 **Ending Balance:** **\$81,227.45**





## May 2026 Worship Service Schedule

Altar Guild – Pam Ballard & Marian Freese

SRT Leader – No. 2 LuAnn Henrichs



### May 3

Greeters: Mike & Karen Midthun  
Lector: Barb Hakes  
Offering Counters: Paula Traylor & Elizabeth Mattson  
Church Lockup: Pat Neros

Ushers: Garry & Lynda Nelson  
Communion: Paula Traylor  
Tech: Vicki Burlet & Jack Schubert

### May 10

Greeters: Mike & Eileen Patrick  
Lector: Marian Segersten  
Offering Counters: Erinn Hoyt & Darlene McNally  
Church Lockup: Char Kinzer

Ushers: Elaine Karel & Diane Hummel  
Communion: Meredith Bloedel  
Tech: Dave Peterson & Jack Schubert

### May 17

Greeters: Jon & Audrey Wittnebel  
Lector: John Klopfleisch  
Offering Counters: Bonnie Goshey & Sandi Erickson  
Church Lockup: Nancy Heise

Ushers: Nick Zillmer & Dan Beseman  
Communion: Mary Ellen Perry  
Tech: Terri Wisniak & Jack Schubert

### May 24

Greeters: Youth  
Lector: Nancy Meyer  
Offering Counters: Marian Freese & Paula Traylor  
Church Lockup: Dave Peterson

Ushers: Youth  
Communion: Brian Marquart  
Tech: Dave Peterson & Jack Schubert

### May 31

Greeters: Hal & Judy Kirchoff  
Lector: Jeff Olson  
Offering Counters: Deb Koop & Sue Schubert  
Church Lockup: Dave Peterson

Ushers: Don & Nancy Nyvold  
Communion: Char Kinzer  
Tech: Leif Gustafson & Jack Schubert



# Meal with a Mission

Sunday, May 3, 2026

10:30 a.m.

Benefitting The Community Effect

## ~ Memorials ~

Given By	For...	In Memory (or in honor) of
Lynette Dehning	Easter Lily	Scott Dehning
Leif & Melissa Gustafson	Easter Lily	Berndt & Debbie Gustafson
Debbie Lindahl, Lacey, Kyja and families	Easter Lily	Joel Lindahl
Rich & Eileen Leino	Easter Lily	Parents & Siblings
Orv Nelson	Easter Lily	Avis Nelson
LeRoy Habighorst	Easter Lily	Barb Habighorst & in honor of Dale Habighorst
Jim & Ardelle Patrick	Easter Lily	Arnold & Ardith Matheny
Joe & Darlene McNally	Easter Lily	In honor of Sarah, Sammi, Bridget, Kerry & Jason
John & Audrey Wittnebel	Youth	Adrian Olson
Stan & Mary Nagorski	Quilters	Adrian Olson
Roger & Sandy Twigg	Youth	Adrian Olson
Dennis & LuAnn Henrichs	Milestone Ministries	Adrian Olson
Mark & Nicki Bjornstad	Malawi Education	Adrian Olson
Randy & Amy Stanfield	Undesignated	Adrian Olson
Bruce & Mary Oliphant	Malawi Children	Adrian Olson
Bruce & Mary Oliphant	Malawi Children	Joseph Lanners
Jim & Judy Christenson and Ron Christenson	Christmas Bazaar	Hayward Parrish

## May Lectionary Texts

May 3	Acts 7:55-60	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
May 10	Acts 17:22-31	Psalm 66:8-20	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
May 17	Acts 1:6-14	Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35	1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11	John 17:1-11
May 24	Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	John 20:19-23
May 31	Genesis 1:1—2:4a	Psalm 8	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20

### From the Council President

For some time now, I've thought about sharing my appreciation and feeling of belonging in our church. When I attend church on the 'Lord's Day' (as Pastor Ian would say), I feel comforted, happy, and really good seeing and being among familiar faces – my church 'family'.

I would call Immanuel a close-knit faith community. When one of us is not in church, we ask if they are okay, not out of curiosity or to be nosey, but because we truly care.

Lately, we've experienced loss, grief, compassion, and yet unity with the passing of several of our long-time members. I'm certain that having a church 'family' becomes particularly important during these heartfelt times of personal struggles.

*... the whole body, joined and knit together ...*



*as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.*

EPHESIANS 4:16, NRSV

We also feel the loss when some of our 'family' moves away.

Those 'family' connections are fostered when we work side by side through our volunteer and mission activities. Some of us were born into this faith community. Some married into it. I personally feel we have a deep and caring concern for each other, whether we've been members for a short time or have been a part of this church since our childhood.

However, some scholars have cautioned against calling ourselves a church 'family', as it might be difficult for someone new to fit in. I would hope that, as we conduct some self-study during our transition, we will be mindful of that and build programs that reach out to others who are not yet part of our faith community.

We live in a small town with other faith communities. It's comforting and relatively easy to find and develop Christ-centered relationships outside of Immanuel.

Pastor Ian, in his teachings, has also taught us that going to church is not only about the experience of being amongst our 'family', but rather what we hear and learn from the Word of the Gospel.

Thank you for letting me feel like a part of this faith community. Lord, help us to grow outside of our 'family' as we work together to be a better "us" during our transition phase.

I welcome your thoughts – always. Char

## God's Business

by Jim Christenson

A dear friend of mine likes to remind people (when they get a little too “nosy”), “There’s two kinds of business, my business and none of your business!” Good advice for all of us! As humans, many times we tend to think that we know what’s best about everything, everybody and every situation. We even question God’s business. When I was 23, my dad was diagnosed with cancer. Four years later, he died and I was devastated. I had started my new career and I was a new husband and father myself. I needed my dad now more than ever and he wasn’t there for me.

I was also very angry with God. Why did He take my dad? Why now? My prayers became more like vicious rants with selfish questions. How dare He do this to me?!? How can taking my dad away from his family be part of Your plan? My dad would miss the birth of two of my children. He wasn’t going to ever attend another birthday party, holiday or other family event. Why? Why? Why?

It took me many months to work through all of these angry emotions. Eventually, my prayers to my Heavenly Father warmed and I began to realize that I was not the one in charge. I don’t make the rules. I don’t get to run His “business.” God’s will is just that, God’s will. It took me many prayers and searching through God’s word to finally find the peace I was looking for and that I so desperately needed. The two verses that I found the most comforting were in Isaiah 55:8-9. “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

A few months later, I wrote the poem below as an “apology” to God for daring to question His will or His ways especially when it was He, “the King of the Universe,” who freely gave up His one and only son to save each one of us from our sins.

### Jesus Came Down

Jesus came down from Heaven  
A Savior King before His birth.  
He came to be one true light  
For all the people on Earth.

Jesus came down from the hills  
To show us right from wrong.  
He taught with perplexing parables  
And we offer prayer and song.

Jesus came down from the cross  
In the ultimate display of love.  
Hate and evil were truly no match  
From God’s power from above.

Jesus came down from Heaven  
And He’s with us every day.  
To guide us through the troubled spots  
As we live our lives His way.

# Manna for Malawi

## **Manna For Malawi** **12th Annual Benefit Concert and Meal**

Benefitting Malawi Orphan Care Project

### **Featuring**



**Sunday, August 9th 2:00-6:00pm**  
**The Bridge Tavern, Hwy 6 N, Crosby**

**Pulled Pork Meal provided by**  
**The Bridge Tavern beginning at 3:00pm**

**Silent Auction and Raffle Items**

**Activities for Children**

All proceeds benefit Malawi Orphan Care Project  
[www.malawiorphanproject.org](http://www.malawiorphanproject.org)

We are so excited that Judy Kirchoff and Nancy Nyvold will head up our raffle committee and Bonnie LaPierre will work with Carol on the food committee. We now need to get a team together to ask for silent auction donations. We have a letter of solicitation ready and a list of companies to choose from. Amy wants to have a solicitor's meeting soon. If you can help please call Amy LaPierre on (218)251-2711. If you have an item to donate, let Amy know.

Thank you to all who helped make our MWAM a success!

Our next meeting is at the Bridge on Thursday, May 14th at 6pm. If you would like to be on the planning committee this year, please come to the meeting or give Terri a call on (612)210-1024.

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~ Save the Date ~

The Women's Spring Salad Luncheon  
will be held at Immanuel  
on Saturday, June 6, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.

Bring a salad to share  
And please – bring a friend

Dessert will be provided




# Spirit of Christmas Bazaar 2026

## November 7<sup>th</sup>





It may seem like there is a lot to prepare for the Spirit of 2026 Christmas Bazaar, but the Bazaar will be here sooner than you think! For crafters, this is a reminder if you haven't started planning your project, now is the time to do so. Along with craft projects for sale at the bazaar, we are hoping there will be 4 to 5 individuals volunteering to contribute their project for the raffle. We are also asking for someone to help with the raffle by being a Team Leader. Last year the raffle sales were \$1,645.00.

All proceeds from the Spirit of Christmas Bazaar go to help out our local community. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to let us know. Thank you for everything you can do to make the Spirit of 2026 Christmas Bazaar a success!

Carol Pundt (218-678-3256 land line) and Patty Kahnert (612-385-2927)





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 9:30am Worship – Churchyard 10:30am MEAL with a MISSION – Community Effect 10:45am Class with Pastor Ian  	4 4pm TOPS	5 9am Staff Meeting 9am Quilting 12pm Renewal Group 3:30pm Bible Study – D. Kreller	6 8am Bible Study – N. Evans 10am Bible Study – P. Collignon 5-7:30pm Confirmation 6pm High School Bible Study	7 7am Men’s Den  6pm Churchyard Practice	1/8  	2/9 9:30am The Right Path Recovery Mtg
10 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee 10:45am Class with Pastor Ian  	11 4pm TOPS	12 9am Staff Meeting 1pm Worship Support Mtg 1:30pm Ruth Circle 3:30pm Bible Study – D. Kreller  	13 8am Bible Study – N. Evans 10am Bible Study – P. Collignon 5-7:30pm Youth Night 6pm High School Bible Study	14 7am Men’s Den 8:30am Property Team Meeting 6pm Churchyard Practice	15	16 9:30am The Right Path Recovery Mtg
17 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee 10:45am Class with Pastor Ian	18 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 4pm TOPS	19 9am Staff Meeting 9am Quilting 12pm Renewal Group 1:30pm Tabitha Study 3:30pm Bible Study – D. Kreller 5:30pm Council Meeting	20 8am Bible Study – N. Evans 10am Bible Study – P. Collignon 5-7:30pm Confirmation 6pm High School Bible Study	21 7am Men’s Den  6pm Churchyard Practice	22	23 9:30am The Right Path Recovery Mtg
24 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee 10:45am Class with Pastor Ian  	25 <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b>	26 9am Staff Meeting	27 8am Bible Study – N. Evans	28 7am Men’s Den <b>Assemble/Mail Newsletter</b> 6pm Churchyard Practice	29	30 9:30am The Right Path Recovery Mtg
31 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">             May 2026           </div>			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: yellow; display: inline-block;">             ALTAR – Pam Ballard &amp; Marian Freese           </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: yellow; display: inline-block; margin-top: 5px;">             SRT #2 LuAnn Henrichs           </div>		