



IMMANUEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

600 4th St SW
Crosby MN

SEPTEMBER 2026



office@immanuelcrosby.org



www.immanuelcrosby.org

VOLUME 41,
ISSUE 9

NO BROKEN PROMISES

You have kept your promise because you are righteous.

Nehemiah 9:8



In Nehemiah 9:8, God's people look back across the long, winding road of their history and offer up a simple, breathtaking realization: **"You have kept your promise because you are righteous."**

If we are honest with ourselves, staying faithful isn't always easy. We live in a weary world where promises are broken every day, sometimes out of carelessness, but often out of sheer exhaustion or deep pain. We see it in marriages that struggle despite the best intentions, in friendships that quietly drift away, and in the commitments, we make to God and one another that grow heavy when life gets hard.

When the road gets rough, it is so human to look for relief. Yet scripture gently reminds us that true righteousness isn't about perfection; it's about **relational faithfulness**.

God doesn't keep His promises because we earned them or because we've been perfect. He keeps them because *that is who He is*. His love is an anchor when our circumstances feel like a storm. When Psalm 15 speaks of keeping our word "even when it hurts," it isn't asking us to suffer needlessly—it's inviting us to rest in the kind of deep, trustworthy integrity that reflects our Heavenly Father.

When you feel the weight of a hard promise today, remember that you do not carry it alone. The God who makes promises is the same God who gives you the grace, strength, and patience to walk them out, one step at a time.

A Prayer for the Journey

Dear Lord,

You know the weight of the promises we carry, and You know the places where our hearts are tired. Guard our lips when we are quick to speak and give us wisdom before we give our word. When staying faithful feels hard or costly, remind us of how gently and steadfastly You have held us. Let Your quiet righteousness flow through our lives, so that those around us might catch a glimpse of Your unfailing love.



- 1 Karolyn Latterelle
- 2 Lynda Nelson
- 4 Whitney Arneson, Jody Bunio,
Jan Nordell
- 5 Marian Freese
- 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 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

BAPTISM

Rhett Daniel Ernst

FUNERAL

Margaret Ann "Peggy" Beseman

- 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 William & Vonda Bongs (1954)
- 11 Ken & Melissa Chamberlin (2004)
- 17 Jake & Dee Dee 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 26	111
August 2	123
August 9	100
August 16	90
August 23	80



September 2026 Worship Schedule

Altar Guild – Nancy Heise and Robyn Klopfleisch
SRT Leaders – No. 4 Jan Doonan & Nancy Heise



September 6

Greeters: Garry & Linda Nelson

Lector: Deb Koop

Offering: Paula Traylor & Liz Mattson

Church Lockup: Char Kinzer

Ushers: Jim & Meredith Bloedel

Communion: Paula Traylor

Tech Support: David Pundt & Jack Schubert

Lawn Care: Joe McNally

September 13

Greeters: Marian Segersten & Char Kinzer

Lector: Pam Klopfleisch

Offering: Paula Traylor & Liz Mattson

Church Lockup: Marian Segersten

Ushers: Mike & Karen Midthun

Communion: Char Kinzer

Tech Support: Dave Peterson & Jack Schubert

Lawn Care: Jack Schubert

September 20

Greeters: Mark & Debbi Carlson

Lector: Jeff Olson

Offering: Erinn Hoyt & Liz Mattson

Church Lockup: Pat Neros

Ushers: Dan Beseman & Nick Zillmer

Communion: Meredith Bloedel

Tech Support: Leif Gustafson & Jack Schubert

Lawn Care: Dan Wisniak

September 27

Greeters: Lynette Dehning & Paula Kovatovich

Lector: Nancy Evans

Offering: Bonnie Goshey & Sandi Erickson

Church Lockup: Nancy Heise

Ushers: Jim & Paula Traylor

Communion: Mary Ellen Perry

Tech Support: Jack Schubert & Terri Wisniak

Lawn Care: Butch Burgstaler



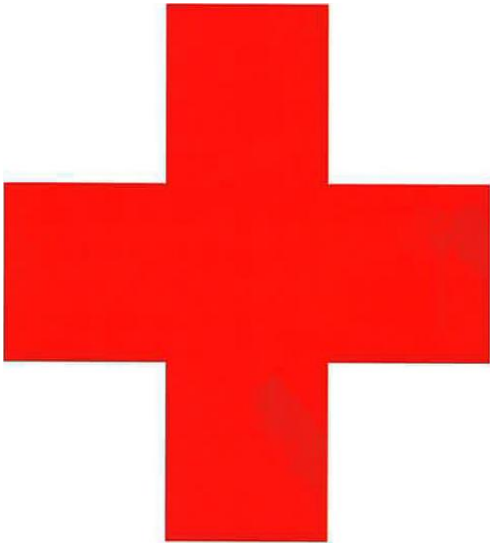
SEPTEMBER LECTIONARY TEXTS

Sept 6	Ezekiel 33:7-11	Psalms 119:33-40	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20
Sept 13	Genesis 50:15-21	Psalms 103:8-13	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
Sept 20	Jonah 3:10—4:11	Psalms 145:1-8	Philippians 1:21-30	Matthew 20:1-16
Sept 27	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32	Psalms 25:1-9	Philippians 2:1-13	Matthew 21:23-32

Memorials

Given by: Bruce & Mary Oliphant, in memory of Jeff Oliphant, for Malawi Children

Given by: Mark & Nicki Bjornstad, in memory of Peggy Beseman, for Malawi Children



American Red Cross

BLOOD DRIVE

Immanuel Lutheran Church

600 4th St SW Crosby

Tuesday, September 8, 2026 9am—3pm

*Please call 1-800-733-2767, or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter:
Immanuel Crosby to schedule an appointment*



GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET REPORT

	<u>JULY 26</u>	<u>JULY 25</u>	<u>YTD 2026</u>	<u>YTD 2025</u>
BUDGET	34,858	35,848	244,006	250,936
GENERAL FUND GIVING	24,727	32,437	207,549	220,600
GENERAL FUND EXPENSE	25,004	21,830	211,089	230,727
NET INCOME	-277	10,607	-3,540	-10,127

Major Capital Improvement Fund



July 1, 2026	Balance:	\$19,382.44
	Deposits:	\$452.04
	Reserve:	\$250.00
	Withdrawals:	\$0.00
July 31, 2026	Ending Balance:	\$20,084.48

Immanuel Forward Mortgage

07/01/2026	Balance:	\$73,266.73
	Monthly Payment (\$722.16)	\$313.64 – Principal
	Principal Payments:	\$2447.84
07/31/2026	Ending Balance:	\$70,505.25

*****Memorial/Honorarium Donations please consider these ministries: *****

BENEVOLENCE MILESTONE MINISTRY MUSIC YOUTH

Thank you for your faithful giving.





2026 Spirit of Christmas Bazaar

Meal With A Mission raised around \$1,100.00. YEAH! A big THANK YOU for everyone who helped to prep for the Sunday meal, set up the fellowship hall on Saturday and prepared, served, and cleaned up on Sunday! Also, another big THANK YOU for **everyone's** generous donations!

REMINDER – Christmas Bazaar Team Captains please come to a kickoff meeting on September 16th in the Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing the date for the Bazaar...2nd Saturday or 1st Saturday of November!

PINE WREATHS: A Team Captain is still needed for the wreath making project this year for the Bazaar. You will have lots of help! PLEASE prayerfully consider leading a team of hard-working wreath crafters. Having pine wreaths for sale is a big fundraiser for the Bazaar.

ATTENTION ALL LEFSE CHEFS! Please let me or Patty know if you would be willing to make lefse to sell at the Bazaar. Time is running out to notify us because if there is to be lefse for sale we need to advertise it on the poster which will be printed soon!

MORE REMINIDERS:

- Artists and Crafters – the Bazaar 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.**

Blessings! Carol Pundt (218-678-3256 –Land Line)

Patty Kahnert (612-385-2927 - Cell)



HOSPITALITY...What Does It Mean?

Hospitality is the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers. The focus is making people feel welcome, comfortable, valued and safe. It also includes making the person feel personally cared for from start to finish.

The spiritual gift of hospitality is a special ability given by the Holy Spirit to warmly welcome people, create peaceful spaces and care for their physical or emotional needs by reflecting God's love.

Biblical hospitality is the active love and welcoming of strangers, outsiders, and those in need. It goes far beyond modern entertaining or social dinner parties. It is a core spiritual duty reflecting God's grace toward humanity. Romans 15:7 tells us, "Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."

It means opening your life, time and heart to share God's grace with others. Scripture calls believers to welcome strangers, care for the vulnerable and love one another, mirroring the lavish grace God showed us while we were still outsiders.

Hospitality is emotional. Depending on past experiences, it can shape the entire encounter. Make the environment feel inviting and give those we are interacting with a sense of belonging. We must love like Jesus by treating people with grace and mercy.

God wants to know that hospitality is important to Him because it reflects His own character. The Bible presents God as a generous host who welcomes humanity. When people show kindness and make room for strangers, they mirror God's unconditional love. Accept one another, just as Christ accepted us, in order to bring praise to God.

So, what does this mean to each of us? "Strangers" can be found here in our congregation. Do you know everyone's name? Have you spoken to people other than those you feel comfortable with? If we want to be more hospitable, could we start here within our faith family? How often has Pastor Ian (and Jill when she is available) been asked into our homes? We should definitely welcome all new members and visitors to interact with us during fellowship. If there are any other suggestions, please come forward with them.

Paula Traylor
Prayer Team Leader

Manna for Malawi



Our event was blessed with a beautiful day! We had a good turnout and brought in ~\$10,500. It will go to Malawi Orphan Care Project for food and education.

This event works because of all the volunteers. Thank you to all of you who worked the event that day. Thank you to all that donated to this event. Thank you to the band Third Wheel for donating their time and talent for us. Thank you to the Bridge for hosting us. Thank you to Auto Smith for donating their time.

There were seven raffle items this year:

1. Lawn tools and accessories
2. Vestavia 36" Firepit and cover
3. 2 Rockers with cushions & quilt
4. Vehicle detail certificate \$350 value
5. \$300 Cash
6. \$200 Cash
7. \$100 Cash

The winners of the raffle items were:

1. Lucia Preass
2. Don E. Nyvold Jr.
3. Butch Burgstaler
4. Karla Leonhardt
5. Hal Kirchoff
6. Barb Moe
7. Mick Olson

Another Season passes – Let's revitalize

The summer season is winding down, and fall is upon us. As I write this in late August, I sense the urgency of families preparing for a new school year.

Along those lines, Classical Conversations, the Christian homeschool that filled our halls with song, laughter, and learning about God for the past two school years, has outgrown our space. Good for them! Unfortunate for us.

Those of us who had the privilege of observing their Christ-centered education program, even if only from afar, were impressed by the ever-present parental and family involvement, singing, and genuine Christian learning.

In August Beth Bourgeois, Deb Kreller's daughter and the chapter coordinator, sent us a note explaining that the program had grown beyond what Immanuel could accommodate. The Monday use of Immanuel began in the fall of 2024 with five families and nine students, grew last year to eight families and 15 children. In 2026 it grew to 11 families with 23 students enrolled and has now outgrown our facility.

Beth thanked us and said they would miss us. We sent back a heartfelt note of thanks for the time we were blessed with their presence.

Meal with a Mission

September 6, 10:30 a.m.

Come together around the table and make a difference in our community!

This Meal with a Mission will benefit the Cuyuna Range Food Shelf

Thrivent Action Plan supports all of our MWAMs at Immanuel with a Visa gift card to be used for groceries and other expenses surrounding the event

A note from Char Kinzer, Council President

There is a lot happening in this season of transition.

- The Transition Steering Team is gathering insights from members of the congregation. Where have we been? Where are we going? What kind of pastoral leadership do we need? Listening sessions are being planned, and I hope we will all take part in this time of transition with openness, patience, and attentiveness to where God is leading us.
- Bible Study groups are back on the calendar. If you would like to be part of a Bible Study, please call the church office.
- Pastor Ian has wrapped up many teaching sessions.
- We have a new book to read, “Becoming a Welcoming Church” – a good short read.
- We’re firming up the membership roster, so we have a clear understanding of our membership numbers when we present our profile to potential call candidates. If we haven’t seen you for a while, we may reach out to reconnect and make sure our records are current.
- Potluck on September 20? Watch your Sunday bulletin for details.
- We’re still in a holding pattern with Sunday School and youth programming, and we’re praying for guidance and leadership there. However, we’re thankful for the current third-year confirmation class scheduled to finish their education by late October.

Dear Lord, now more than ever, we ask that you will open our hearts, minds, and ears to your calling. We pray fervently for your Holy Spirit to guide us in this opportune time of transition. Make your path evident and we will follow. In Jesus name, we pray.

I welcome your thoughts, always. — Char

FLY THROUGH THE BIBLE

Fall Adult Sunday School

Start Date: September 27, 2026, 10:45 a.m. in the sanctuary

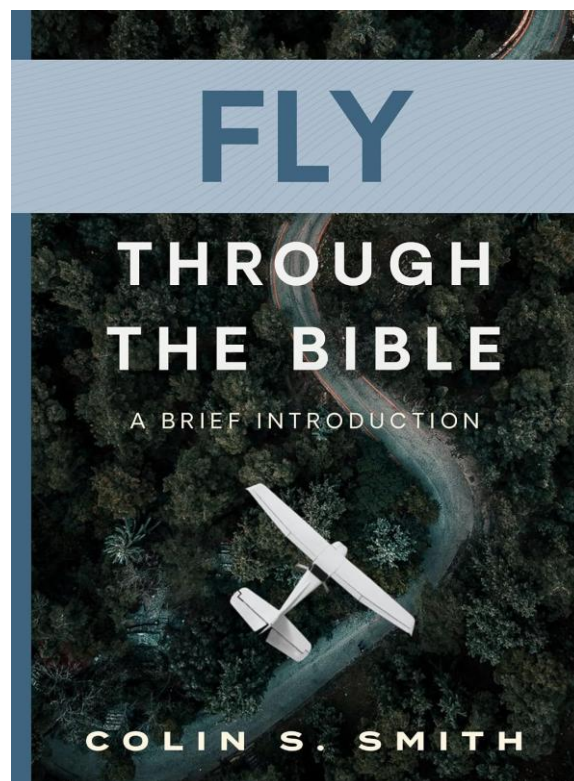
End Date: TBD

Fly Through the Bible by Pastor Colin Smith provides a bird's-eye view of the entire biblical story in an accessible, non-intimidating way. Rather than getting bogged down in minute details, Smith uses a high-altitude approach to help readers see how the overarching narrative of Scripture fits together around a single central focus: God's plan of redemption through Jesus Christ.

Why it's good for Adult Sunday School

Simple enough for beginners who feel overwhelmed by the Bible, yet rich enough for long-time believers to see old truths with new eyes within a cohesive framework. The 15 brief sections naturally map to a 15-week class curriculum or a 3-part seasonal series.

The Christ-centered emphasis: Helps group members see the big picture without losing sight of the Bible's main hero.



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Council Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2026 5:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Meredith Bloedel	Debbie Lindahl
X Wade Burlet	X Brian Marquart
George Erickson	X Mary Ellen Perry
X Pastor Ian Hewitson	X David Pundt
X Char Kinzer	X Paula Traylor

OPENING PRAYER: Char Kinzer led our opening prayer.

CALL TO ORDER: President Char Kinzer called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

Addition(s) to Agenda/Agenda Acceptance: Delete New Business #2 Youth Coordinator Retirement/Resignation Bonus.

Pastor Ian Hewitson moved that the agenda be approved as amended; Paula Traylor seconded his motion, and it was approved by voice vote.

JOYS OF IMMANUEL: Brian Marquart's sermons for the last two weeks during Pastor Ian's vacation; A solution to the missing music last Sunday; Manna for Malawi; The Ernst Family.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Discussion/Acceptance: Char Kinzer moved that we accept the Financial Report. Wade Burlet seconded her motion, and it was approved by voice vote.

1. **Right Path checking account #1170 balance of \$1,235.63.** Motion was made by Mary Ellen Perry to move \$1,235.63 from the Right Path checking account #1170 to the Area of Greatest Need savings account. Brian Marquart seconded the motion, and it was approved by voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance and Investment: Council expressed its appreciation for Jim Stolle's thorough and complete report.

Buildings and Grounds: Wade Burlet reported the Church mailbox is up. Someone parked in front of it at a recent gathering. Wade said he ordered a sign asking people not to block the mailbox. New handicapped parking spot signs have been ordered as well as three for 'Visitor's Parking.' A few small trees were removed in front of the Parsonage to enhance the view of the lake. Wade received a bid for security cameras for the office. After discussion, he was asked to have the bidder expand to include an intercom. Joe McNally will have knee surgery soon, and Wade will now be the committee's contact person.

Transition Steering Team: Char Kinzer reported that 50 surveys have been completed. Parishioners have until August 24th to complete. Each person in a family should complete to get a better sample. The Team will soon begin scheduling small group listening sessions.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Ian moved we welcome the Ernst Family into Immanuel Lutheran Church membership. The family includes Nathan and Anna and children Beckham, Kason and Rhett. Paula seconded his motion, and it was approved by voice vote.

Pastor Ian presented the Legacy Coalition Grandparenting Summit to be held at the Heritage Church in Baxter on September 19, 2026, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Pastor Ian said the program would concentrate on the important role grandparents play not just in their immediate family but in their church family as well. Tuition in advance is \$48, \$53 the day of the event. To register, contact:

<https://brushfirere.com/legacy-coalition/simulcast/616280>. The Legacy website is www.legacycoalition.com. Lunch will be included.

The Men's Den has finished their segment on the sacraments.

Pastor Ian was asked to furnish a list of area ministers to serve in case of emergencies during vacation and periods of absence.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Confirmation Youth Update:** Meredith Bloedel has volunteered to lead the current confirmation class with Paula Traylor's assistance.
2. **Committee Identification and Modifications:** Mary Ellen Perry wrapped up her work on Committees with Debbie Carlson. Char Kinzer will now try to use the information to help update the Continuing Resolutions to be presented to the council for their review.
3. **Church Security Policy:** A report is in progress.
4. **Parsonage Market Value Update:** Per Harry Kahnert's report, Brian Marquart moved that the Fixed Asset account #1520 be updated from \$306,719 to \$760,000. Mary Ellen Perry seconded his motion, and it was approved by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Website Updates:** Council agreed to recommend references to the Right Path Ministry be deleted, as the program has been eliminated. Website references of Sunday School should state that Immanuel Lutheran Church Sunday School classes are currently suspended during our transition period. Children are welcome, and childcare will be available during church services when needed. Confirmation programs are in place for those currently enrolled, at this time. All youth programs will be re-evaluated as we move through the transition period.
2. **Immanuel East Insurance and Property Tax:** Mary Ellen Perry moved that the 2026 property tax of \$967 for the Immanuel East Rental be paid from the \$1,700 escrow fund. Also, the annual Immanuel East house insurance of \$2,131.77 be paid with the balance from the escrow fund of \$733, and the balance of \$1,398.77 to be authorized from the Area of Greatest Need savings account. (Note: Future 2027 taxes and insurance should be covered by the escrow fund unless taxes increase.) Brian Marquart seconded her motion, and it was approved by voice vote.

3. **Updating of Membership Rolls:** Char Kinzer has been working with Debbi Carlson on the list of members active and inactive in our current system. She reported we have 354 active members and 54 inactive, prospective, and non-members. Char will ask a sub-committee of long-time members to examine the list for discrepancies and duplications and prepare a membership rolls recommendation to the Council at the next meeting as we prepare to true-up our database.
4. **iPad purchase for Square fundraising:** Char Kinzer moved that we authorize Deb Eatros to purchase a new iPad for use with our Square hardware for less than \$500 if the current iPad is not able to update to a compatible version. Brian Marquart seconded her motion, and it was approved by a voice vote
5. **Zoom meeting presentations by NALC and LCMC:** Char Kinzer reported that she will schedule a presentation at our September meeting from one of the two synods we are affiliated with to better learn the advantages of each.

COMMUNION ASSIGNMENTS FOR OCTOBER

October 4: Paula Traylor; October 11: Char Kinzer; October 18: Wade Burlet; October 25: David Pundt

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Council closed with the Lord's Prayer

ADJOURNMENT: Brian Marquart moved we adjourn at 7:06 pm. His motion was seconded by Mary Ellen Perry.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING September 15, 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9am Staff Meeting 9am Quilting 6:30pm Transition Steering Team Mtg	2 8am Bible Study	3 7am Men's Den 6pm Churchyard Practice	4	5
6 9:30am Worship 10:30am Meal with a Mission for Food Shelf	LABOR DAY Church Office Closed <i>Lawn Care</i> – Joe McNally	8 Red Cross Blood Drive at Immanuel 9am Staff Meeting 1:30pm Ruth Circle 3:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Transition Steering Team Mtg	9 8am Bible Study 10am Bible Study	10 7am Men's Den 8:30am Building & Grounds Mtg 6pm Churchyard Practice	11 	12
13 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Fellowship 	14 11am Website Meeting 4pm TOPS <i>Lawn Care</i> – Jack Schubert	15 9am Staff Meeting 9am Quilting 12pm Renewal 1:30pm Tabitha Study 3:30pm Bible Study 5:30pm Council Meeting 6:30pm Transition Steering Team Mtg	16 8am Bible Study 10am Bible Study Confirmation 6:30pm Team Captains' Mtg for Bazaar	17 7am Men's Den 9am Church Cleaning 6pm Churchyard Practice	18	19
20 9:30am Worship 10:45am Potluck to Celebrate Property Purchase	21 Newsletter Deadline 4pm TOPS <i>Lawn Care</i> – Dan Wisniak	22 9am Staff Meeting 3:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Transition Steering Team Mtg	23 8am Bible Study 10am Bible Study Confirmation	24 Assemble/Mail Newsletter 7am Men's Den 6pm Churchyard Practice	25	26
27 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:45am "Fly Through the Bible" Adult Sunday School	28 4pm TOPS <i>Lawn Care</i> – Butch Burgstaler	29 9am Staff Meeting 3:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Transition Steering Team Mtg	30 8am Bible Study 10am Bible Study Confirmation	ALTAR – Nancy Heise & Robyn Klopfleisch SRT Team #4: Jan Doonan & Nancy Heise		



September 2026