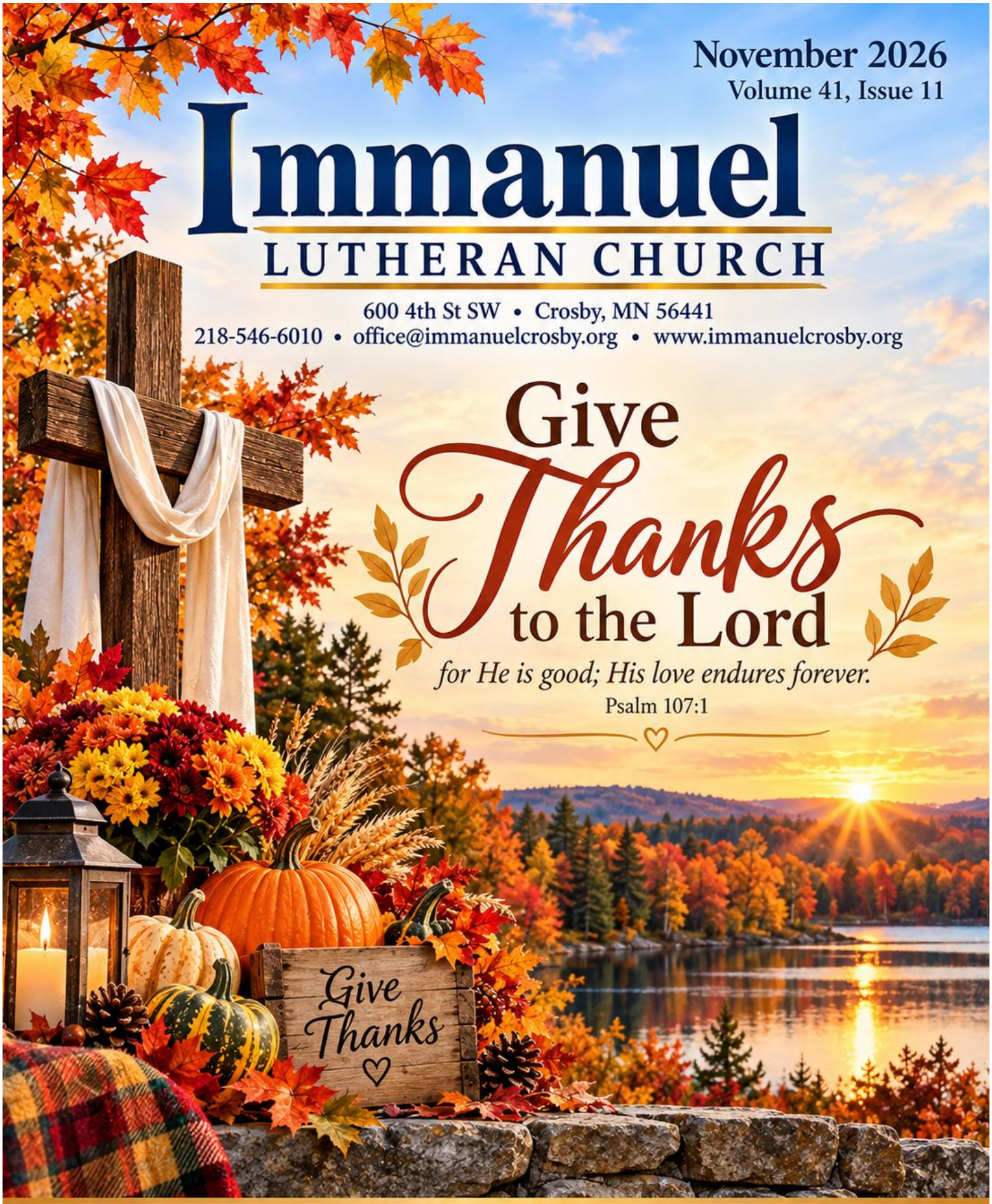
November 2026
Volume 41, Issue 11

Immanuel
LUTHERAN CHURCH

600 4th St SW • Crosby, MN 56441
218-546-6010 • office@immanuelcrosby.org • www.immanuelcrosby.org



A Community of Faith • A Place to Belong • A Future with Hope

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. "You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised." (Hebrews 10:36). 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 with your brothers, sisters and family 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 Thanksgiving season 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.

Thoughts from the Unleashed Conference: Des Moine, Iowa. October 4-7, 2026 (LCMC)

Immanuel:

A personal look back is shared regarding the 26th Annual Gathering and Convention of the association, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC), held from October 4–7, 2026, at the Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines, Iowa. Gathered under the inspiring theme, **"Unleashed!"**, and anchored by the liberating promise of Galatians 5:1—*" It is for freedom that Christ has set us free"*—pastors, delegates, and believers from all over came together for a deeply moving week of worship, shared fellowship, and meaningful ministry planning.

What Was Explored Together: Seven Breakout Sessions

In Des Moines, we explored practical approaches to ministry. The following seven standout sessions both challenged and equipped participants:

Unleashing Your Church Council: Frameworks and Tools for Effective Boards (Led by Ryan Alexander)

> **Focus:** This session helped us examine how organizations are structured and governed, moving away from rigid routines toward an energizing, empowering approach.
>
> **Takeaway:** Leaders explored practical resources and training designed to bring greater clarity, unity, and momentum to church boards so congregations can faithfully chase their calling.

Youth Ministry That Engages the Whole Family (Led by Rob Horne and Daniel Kuelbs)

> **Focus:** Drawing on Martin Luther's vision of the home as a primary place of faith formation and teaching as part of faith formation. This discussion focused on family involvement in bridging the gap between Sunday school and daily family life.
>
> **Takeaway:** Wonderful, practical ways were provided to help teenagers encounter Jesus while supporting and equipping parents and mentors right at home.

Pastoral Care for Teens in Trauma and Crisis (Led by Mary Kate Towne and Katie Borden)

> **Focus:** Acknowledging that many young people carry heavy burdens and pain, this compassionate session focused on how the body of Christ can step into those tender places.
>
> **Takeaway:** Ministry leaders were equipped to walk gently alongside youth in crisis, pointing them toward the healing, patience, and enduring hope found in Jesus.

AI and the Church: Ethical Horizons and Practical Beginnings (Led by Sean Kelly)

> **Focus:** This workshop touched on how modern digital tools are changing everyday ministry tasks like communication and outreach.

Takeaway: Discussions covered how to navigate these technologies thoughtfully while keeping eyes firmly fixed on genuine human connection and faith.

Beyond Preferences: What Actually Makes Us the Church? (Led by Dave Hall)

Focus: Rooted in the Augsburg Confession, this session reminded participants of the beauty of Christian freedom while anchoring them in the absolute essentials.

Takeaway: Attendees were encouraged to lead with grace and deep theological conviction, remembering that the true church gathers wherever the Gospel is purely taught and the sacraments are shared.

Digital Communications & Content Creation (Led by Carlie Hajduch and Mike Housholder)

Focus: Looking at the modern "front door" of churches, this breakout examined how websites and online presence welcome seekers before they even walk through physical doors.
Takeaway: Practical strategies were shared to help ministries communicate their warmth, schedules, and message clearly online. The suggestions followed closely with the book, *Becoming a Welcoming Church*.

Free Will and Our Bondage to Sin (Led by Julie Smith and Steve Turnbull)

Focus: A rich theological dive into Martin Luther's teachings on grace, human nature, and true freedom.

Takeaway: Participants were reminded of the profound freedom found in the Gospel—simultaneously freed by Christ's love and called to love neighbors in return.

Sampling of Exhibitor Booths

Between main sessions and breakouts, participants had the opportunity to visit a vibrant display of ministry partners, mission organizations, and service providers in the exhibition hall. A sampling of the booths included:

Sola Publishing: Featuring confessional Lutheran educational materials, Bible study guides, and their popular confirmation curricula (including student workbooks focused on Luther's Small Catechism, the Commandments, Creed, Lord's Prayer, and Sacraments).

Luther House of Study: Demonstrating their free, interactive confirmation curriculum and digital learning modules designed to walk students through the Catechism, scripture narrative, and Lutheran theology.

Association of Christian Lay Counselors (ACLC): Providing resources and support to train and equip lay leaders to walk alongside individuals in need of care, connection, and spiritual guidance within local congregations.

Church Doctor Ministries: Offering consultations, resources, and coaching tailored to help churches assess health, revitalize ministry, and gain Kingdom-shaped missional momentum.

Momentum Network: Connecting pastors, church planters, and leaders through peer coaching, monthly meetups, and practical strategy workshops designed to help churches grow.

Global Mission & Relief Ministries: Featuring various LCMC-affiliated international mission partnerships, natural disaster relief organizations, and church-planting networks dedicated to sharing the Gospel globally.

Seminary & Theological Education Partners: Showcasing educational pathways, certificate programs, and distance-learning opportunities for equipping future pastors and lay leaders.

Reflections on Keynote Speakers

Main sessions were taught by experienced teachers who guided attendees through what it means to live out freedom in Christ:

> **David Zahl** (Executive Director of Mockingbird Ministries) spoke on being **"Free From,"** offering a refreshing message of grace for a worn-out world. He gently challenged the exhausting treadmills of modern life, pointing away from self-reliance and toward the unmerited favor of the Savior.
>
> **Tara Beth Leach** (Senior Pastor of Good Shepherd Church) spoke on being **"Free For,"** inspiring listeners to look outward. She reminded everyone that Christian freedom is never merely an individual comfort, but a communal calling to shine brightly as a witness in neighborhoods.
>
> **Mike Housholder** (Senior Pastor of Lutheran Church of Hope, Des Moine) spoke on being **"Free To,"** sharing practical wisdom on evangelism and discipleship. Drawing from years of ministry experience, he encouraged congregations to boldly innovate, raise up new leaders, and share the Gospel without fear.

A Word of Encouragement

In closing, overall, I thought that the 2026 LCMC Annual Gathering proved to be very well -balanced, spiritually rich, and pragmatically useful event. The conference anchored its entire program in the truth of Galatians 5:1. In doing so, the conference successfully bridged historical confessional Lutheran theology with the urgent, day-to-day operational and relational realities facing modern congregations. The seamless integration of inspiring main session preaching, rigorous theological instruction, and practical breakout topics—ranging from board governance and digital media to mental health crisis care—left participants intellectually stimulated, pastorally renewed, and thoroughly equipped to return to local fields with courage and clarity.

Anticipation remains high for how the Lord will continue to work through the church family as believers walk together in His grace!

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the Unleashed Conference 2026.

Pastor Ian



BIRTHDAYS

2	Erinn Hoyt
3	Gail Mueller, Tom Webber
4	Jim Christenson, Diane Hummel, Alyssa Laffin
6	Laura Heins
7	Sienna Miller
8	Jill DeCent, Mancel Mitchell
9	Geraldine Cronk, Dave Peterson
12	Don Imberi
13	Rose Strom
15	Bella Oren
16	Mary Zillmer
20	Jennifer Wodarz
21	Pat Neros, Shirley Sanborn
23	Missy Foote
24	Amy Stanfield
25	Marc Henrichs
28	Hannah Pederson
29	Mary Johnson, Steve Perpich
30	Marsha Olson

ANNIVERSARIES

1	Bruce & Mary Oliphant (1959)
2	Garry & Lynda Nelson (1973)
8	Rick & Deb Koop (1975)
11	Mike & Eileen Patrick (1960)
18	Lynn & Shelly Harker (1972)
26	Dennis & LuAnn Henrichs (1966)
28	Carl & Jeanne Kurtz (1987)



September 27	145
October 4	114
October 11	128
October 18	120

BAPTISMS

Sutton Rose Lueck
Case August Lueck
Garrett David Stealy



***A memorial** was given by Dennis & LuAnn Henrichs for ILC Quilters in memory of Robert Palmer*

NOVEMBER LECTIONARY TEXTS				
Nov 1	Revelation 7:9-17	Psalm 34:1-10, 22	1 John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-12
Nov 8	Amos 5:18-24	Psalm 70	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Matthew 25:1-13
Nov 15	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18	Psalm 90:1-8, 12	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Matthew 25:14-30
Nov 22	Ezekiah 34:11-16, 20-24	Psalm 95:1-7a	Ephesians 1:15-23	Matthew 25:31-46



These students were confirmed at Immanuel on Sunday, October 25.
Left to right: Owen Klun, Garrett Stealy, Aribelle Radinovich, Lillian Thompson and Madellyn Monnier. Please keep these young people in your prayers.



The Transition Steering Team would like to thank everyone who participated in sharing their thoughts and ideas. Here are five key points from the Congregational Survey and small group sessions:

1. **Church Growth and Welcoming Young Families** Respondents expressed a strong desire to grow Immanuel by retaining current members, reconnecting with those who have stepped away, and especially welcoming young families with children.
2. **Worship and Music** Members value Bible-based preaching, meaningful sermons, communion, prayer, and Lutheran worship traditions. They also appreciate the bluegrass group, pianist, and hymn leaders. Many favor a blended worship style that combines traditional elements with contemporary music, along with renewed interest in a choir and other musical groups.
3. **Community Outreach and Service** Respondents believe Immanuel is doing well in supporting its Malawi mission and addressing some local needs. However, many see opportunities for the church to become a stronger presence and a more influential voice in the surrounding community. Members seemed especially excited about becoming more involved and being seen in Immanuel branded clothing organizing and participating in activities of all types to which families in the community could be invited.
4. **Member Involvement and Communication** Although Immanuel has a committed core of volunteers, participation needs to broaden. We all need to "be the church." We are all disciples, and every disciple has a gift, a talent, that can be shared. Members recommended clearer communication about volunteer opportunities, personal invitations to get involved, more flexible scheduling, expanded Bible study options, and increased use of temple talks to keep the congregation informed of the many activities and organizations Immanuel is involved in and the many ways others could help.
5. **Leadership and Openness to Change** Most respondents expressed confidence in the church council, leadership team, and staff while recognizing that change is necessary for Immanuel's future vitality. Members are generally open to new ideas that support the church's mission and look forward to the vision and leadership a new pastor will bring. Members understand the importance of patience and support of a new pastor as, with the help of God, he/she grows into the role.



General Operating Budget Report

	September 26	September 25	**YTD 2026**	YTD 2025
Budget	34,858	35,848	313,722	322,632
General Fund Giving	27,314	37,105	262,676	282,299
General Fund Expense	28,091	20,762	266,619	274,612
Net Income	**-777**	16,343	**-3,943**	7,687



Major Capital Improvement Fund

September 1, 2026	**Balance:**		**$20,744.03**
	Deposits:	$15,058.19	
	Reserve:	$250.00	
	Withdrawals:	$1,725.00	
September 30, 2026	**Ending Balance:**		**$34,327.22**



Immanuel Forward Mortgage

09/01/2026	**Balance:**		**$59,707.87**
	Monthly Payment:	($722.16)	396.48 – Principal
	Principal Payments:		$2,467.65
09/30/2026	**Ending Balance:**		**$56,843.74**

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

Quilters **Good Sam** **Altar Guild**

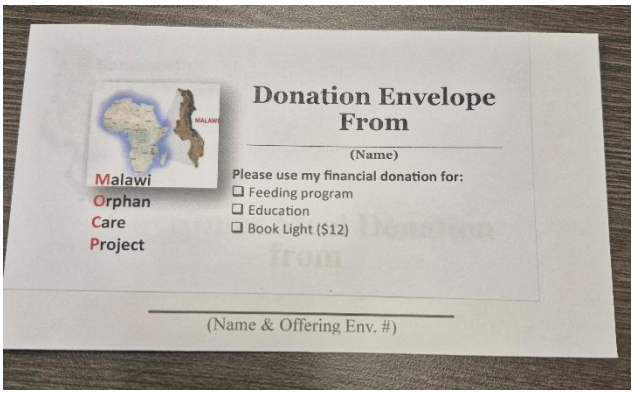
THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL GIVING.

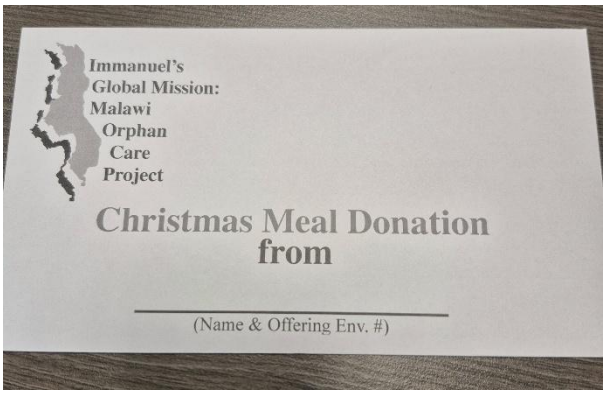
Malawi

Andy Jones, Mission Trip Coordinator for MOCP sent this letter. Amy LaPierre was the last ILC person to go on a mission trip in 2024.

Dear friend of Malawi Orphan Care Project,
Thank you for the interest in your congregation during the past few years in a short-term mission trip to Malawi with Malawi Orphan Care Project, Inc. Since beginning our relationship with Kenyenyeva Ministries of Malawi in 2005, MOCP has organized and led more than a dozen teams on trips to Malawi. The people of Kenyenyeva in Malawi are always very excited to welcome their North American friends, and to extend to them their very special Malawian hospitality from the "Warm Heart of Africa."
Please invite members of your congregation to join us in praying about their possible involvement in a mission trip to Malawi in 2027 or beyond. Teams can travel at any time during the year, depending upon when the team participants are available for travel. Our partners have shared that May through August is the best time of year for them, which often works well for us. However, we currently have teams working for trips this fall in 2026, and in January 2027! Teams in the past have led VBS type programs and sports camps, discipling for teens, put roofs on houses, and focused on literacy and education. In what way might God be leading you?
Please place this invitation in your worship bulletins and newsletters. We invite everyone to pray about this opportunity and reply via email to let us know of your interest by November 15. After we hear from those who feel called to explore a trip, we will schedule a time in December for a Zoom conversation to discuss what is involved in a mission trip to Malawi with MOCP, answer questions and explain the discernment process. A commitment to join a team is not needed until early 2027.
If you have any questions, please contact us. And please distribute this invitation to anyone else you know who might have an interest!
Thank you and may God bless your journey.
Andy Jones
Malawi Orphan Care Project Mission Trip Coordinator ohjones4@hotmail.com
Malawi Orphan Care Project, Inc. www.malawiorphancareproject.org

Every year Immanuel continues to finance the Christmas meal that Susan Bushard started at the project. Envelopes are on the Malawi bookcase outside the sanctuary doors. We will need to wire the donation in by November 16th. Pictures of last year's Christmas party are on our Facebook page.





Remember we are also collecting for *Fill the Suitcase with Book Lights.* Envelopes for donations and a sample Luke light are on the Malawi shelf outside the sanctuary doors. See the website Unite to Light if you would like details on the lamps. https://unitetolight.org/luke-light/



Spirit Of Christmas Bazaar Activities November 7–14

Carol Pundt (218-678-3256) and Patty Kahnert (612-385-2917)

PROJECT DROP OFF

Your projects and crafts can be brought to the church on Thursday, November 12, noon-4pm or Friday, November 13th from 9am to noon to be priced and displayed.

HELP NEEDED

A note to our men

- Help is needed to take down tables & chairs on Thursday, 11/12, beginning at 8am after Men's Den. Please contact Kevin Martini (218-770-8917) to offer help in moving display furniture from the garage to the fellowship hall on Wednesday, 11/11 at 6pm. This should take an hour or so.
- Help is also needed after the Bazaar at 1:15 p.m. on 11/14 to move furniture & display items back to the garage and set up tables & chairs in the fellowship hall.

A note to our ladies—We need help on Thursday November 12th at 10:00. The furniture will need a good wipe down to be ready to display our beautiful items. If you would like to bring treats to share that would be great! We look forward to working with you. Many hands make light work.

2026 Spirit of Christmas Bazaar

Raffle tickets are still available, costing $1.00 each on Sunday, November 1, November 8 and during the Bazaar on November 14. There are many great raffle items.

Confections-Marsha Larson

- Confections will be prepared on Thursday, November 12th at 9:00am. They will be packaged and wrapped at 10:30am. Final packaging will be on Friday morning.
- If you are making confections at home to donate, please bring them to the church on Thursday, Nov 12, 9am-11am be packaged with the confections made at church. Contact Marsha Larson at 218-316-2459 or 218-546-6065 with questions.

Baked/Canned Items For Sale-Deb Kreller-218-820-6219

The bake sale continues to be a popular at the Bazaar. Any and all baked goods and home canned items are great sellers. Bring your delicious goodies to church by 12:00pm Friday November 13h.

Chocolate Covered Cherries Ladies will be meeting on Monday November 9th and Wednesday November 11th in the ILC kitchen. Please phone Birdie Walth (218-684-1218) for details.

Children's Activities Room-Vicki Burlett-612-418-1989
Please talk to Vicki if you would like to help her with children's activities while their family members are shopping.

Cashiers for Paula Traylor- 218-546-6502
Paula will be contacting volunteer cashiers to help with checking out items. **Clean shopping bags with handles can be donated** – leave under the coat rack in the fellowship hall. No grocery bags, please.

Wreaths – Jeanne Kurtz - 218-821-0514
Wreath preparation will be at the Deerwood Township Hall garage (20782 State Hwy 6, Deerwood MN 56444) on Saturday **November 7th at 1:00pm** to gather and prepare pine boughs for making the wreaths on Sunday **November 8th at 1:00pm**, again at the Deerwood Township Hall garage. Please dress for the weather and bring gloves and pruning shears. Please bring along some treats to share.

If you have pine trees on your property and they need a little trimming to be used for wreaths, please contact Jeanne and Carl Kurtz or bring the branches to the Deerwood Township Town Hall Building at the address above on November 5th at 1:00pm.

Organizing the Spirit of Christmas bazaar takes involvement from our entire Immanuel Church Family. The money raised will go to help the many in need in our community. We appreciate everything done by each of you to help make the Bazaar a success! **If you have never been involved with helping with the Bazaar, now is the time to talk to Carol or Patty. Additional help is always needed.**

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, give one of us a phone call or tap us on the shoulder during fellowship hour after church services.





November 2026 Worship Schedule

Altar Guild: Gary & Sandi Erickson
SRT Leader: LuAnn Henrichs



November 1

Greeters: Mike & Eileen Patrick
Lector: Pam Klopfleisch
Offering: Paula Traylor & Liz Mattson
Church Lockup: Char Kinzer

Ushers: Hal & Judy Kirchoff
Communion: Meredith Bloedel
Tech Support: David Pundt & Jack Schubert

November 8



Greeters: Shelly Harker & Marian Segersten
Lector: John Klopfleisch
Offering: Pam Ballard & Marian Freese
Church Lockup: Marian Segersten

Ushers: Elaine Karel & Dianne Hummel
Communion: Paula Traylor
Tech Support: Jack Schubert & Terri Wisniak

November 15

Greeters: Joe & Darlene McNally
Lector: Jeanne Kurtz
Offering: Deb Koop & Sue Schubert
Church Lockup: Pat Neros

Ushers: Dan Beseman & Nick Zillmer
Communion: Char Kinzer
Tech Support: Amy LaPierre & Jack Schubert

November 22

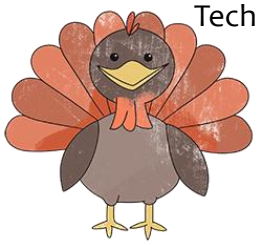
Greeters: Barb Moe & Marian Freese
Lector: Glenda Langton
Offering: Bonnie Goshey & Sandi Erickson
Church Lockup: Dave Peterson

Ushers: Don & Nancy Nyvold
Communion: George Erickson
Tech Support: Dave Peterson & Jack Schubert

November 29

Greeters: Bruce & Mary Oliphant
Lector: Darlene McNally
Offering: Erinn Hoyt & Darlene McNally
Church Lockup: Dave Peterson

Ushers: Wade & Vicki Burlet
Communion: Brian Marquart
Tech Support: Leif Gustafson & Jack Schubert



PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

by Paula Traylor

Many Bible verses tell us to give thanks for that is the will of God.

Thessalonians 5:18 "*Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

God wants us to be thankful because He knows that gratitude changes how our minds work and fills us with joy.

Colossians 3:17 "*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."* We are to do everything with grateful hearts. This reminds us to keep giving thanks at all times.

Philippians 4:6 "*Do not be anxious, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."*

God wants us to bring our cares and concerns to Him. He also wants us to approach Him with a thankful heart.

Psalm 107:1 "*Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!"*

We can thank Him for being good. He is always good. We can trust in Him. We know that His love can never be taken away from us.

James 1:17 "*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming from the Father of lights, with whom there is no shadow due to change."*

Try counting your blessings. Sunny days, star-lit nights, smiles from strangers, lost item found, pets that love you unconditionally and being surrounded by family and friends. Too many to count!

Psalm 28:7 "*The Lord is my strength and my shield; in Him my heart trusts."*

Thank God for being our source of strength and our shield. He wants us to turn to Him for safety. He is our refuge in difficult times and our shelter in life's storms.

Psalm 86:12 "*I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.*"

Father God, you are our all-in-all. We lift up, with our whole hearts, offering thanksgiving to you. May we live to give you glory!





Help Shape Immanuel's Next Chapter — Stay Engaged, the Call Committee Nomination and Election Process is unfolding

Immanuel Lutheran Church is preparing for an important step in calling our next pastor: selecting a Call Committee to help guide the congregation through this process of prayerful discernment.

Beginning November 1, members of the congregation will be able to nominate fellow members who are willing to serve on the Call Committee, **but not before** we have a good understanding of what the Call Committee is responsible for and who is best to serve on a Call Committee.

- **Education of the Process:**
  - **Call Committee Information Packet:** This in-depth information has been made available in the Fellowship Hall and sent digitally to those who receive emails. It's a must-read if you are considering nominating someone.
  - **Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 1.** After worship we will meet in the sanctuary where Christian Huntley from Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) will be leading an important educational session via Zoom to help guide us.
- **Nominations Open November 1 and Close on November 15 at 11:00.** We will have a nomination form that can be filled out and placed in a submission box in the Fellowship Hall and, at this writing, we are trying to create a fillable digital nomination form. **IMPORTANT:** Not everyone nominated will necessarily appear on the final ballot. Following the nomination period, the Council will have the authority and responsibility to prepare a balanced and diverse final slate of candidates for the election.
- **Special Congregation Meeting set for Sunday, December 13:** Our constitution provides that the congregation elects the final Call Committee, so Council has set a special Congregation Election for Sunday, December 13.
  - The Transition Steering Team has also suggested a constitutional amendment to allow the Call Committee to have an odd number of voting representatives rather than the current even number of six; therefore, there's an amendment to consider at the special congregational meeting on December 13.

Please read the information, ask questions, participate thoughtfully, and pray for God's wisdom and guidance throughout this process. Prayer is of the utmost importance. We need to be engaged, pray, and know that God has a plan for calling a new Pastor.

Together, let us faithfully seek God's direction for the future ministry of Immanuel.

I welcome your thoughts always - Char

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Council Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2026, 6:06 p.m.

ATTENDEES

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

OPENING PRAYER: Char Kinzer led the opening prayer.

CALL TO ORDER: President Char Kinzer called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

Addition(s) to Agenda/Agenda Acceptance: Paula Traylor moved that we accept the agenda as written. Wade Burlet seconded her motion, and it was approved by voice vote.

JOYS OF IMMANUEL: The baptism of Garrett Stealy.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Discussion/Acceptance: Paula Traylor moved that we accept the Financial Report. Debbie Lindahl seconded her motion, and it was approved by voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance: Nancy Evans presented a report from the latest Finance and Investment Committee meeting. Char Kinzer moved to accept the report to be considered for the next Council meeting. Wade Burlet seconded her motion, and it was approved by voice vote.

Buildings and Grounds: The Executive Committee authorized $440 for added parking lot striping to be paid from Unity Bank Major Capital Account. Wade Burlet reported that the carpeting will be cleaned on Friday. The Men's Den has agreed to move furniture before the cleaning is done and then move the furniture back. Wade reported that other general maintenance items were completed.

Transition Steering Team:

The Transition Steering Team presented a proposal for the call process moving forward.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Paula Traylor moved that we accept Garrett Stealy as a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church. Meredith Bloedel seconded her motion, and it was approved by voice vote. Pastor Ian Hewitson presented a report on the LCMC conference he
attended. The report will be in the next Congregational newsletter. Pastor Ian recommended any future LCMC conferences. He announced that CRMC CEO Amy Hart will speak on medical insurance issues at Immanuel Lutheran Church on November 12, at 6. Pastor Ian said the adult Sunday school sessions have been going well. He supplied a list of pastors for pulpit supply and emergencies.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Committee Identification Modification**s: Tabled.
2. **Church Security Procedures:** Tabled.
3. **Praise and Pie Thanksgiving eve service:** David Pundt moved to remove the item from being tabled at last meeting and place it back on the Church calendar for November 25. Brian Marquart seconded his motion, and it was approved by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Consider setting COLA salary recommendations for staff for budget:** Brian Marquart moved that we request a document to show what a 3.6% COLA increase would do to the 2027 budget expectations from the Budget Committee and consider it at the next Council meeting. His motion was seconded by Mary Ellen Perry and approved by voice vote.

2. **Discuss Nomination and Call Committee Election Process Timeline/Special Congregational Meeting December 13, 2026:** Mary Ellen Perry moved we approve and adopt the Nomination and Call Committee Election Process Timeline. David Pundt seconded her motion, and it was approved by voice vote. (A special
Congregational meeting for the election of a Call Committee is scheduled for December 13, as part of the Timeline.)

3. **Recommend a Constitutional amendment for the Call Committee number:** Mary
Ellen Perry moved the following resolution be presented at the special
Congregational meeting on December 13. Constitution C13.05: When a pastoral
vacancy occurs, a Call Committee of five voting members and one alternate shall be elected by this Congregation. Term of office shall terminate at the installation of the newly called pastor.
The current Constitution reads "a committee of six".

4. **Set budget for Call Committee expenses:** Tabled for recommendation.

5. **Stewardship Sunday Pledge date:** Char Kinzer moved December 6, 2026, to be set for Stewardship Sunday Pledge Day and authorize Paula to draft the stewardship letter, which could include some of our needs. Mary Ellen Perry seconded her motion, and it was approved by voice vote.

6. **Information Only:** Executive Committee authorized expenses when presented for Pastor Pam Thorson to preach and meet with Transition Steering. Expenses will be taken out of the Transition Savings account.

7. **Information Only:** Executive Committee authorized a payment of $250 sponsorship for the Cuyuna Lakes Chambers Fall Festival Paint-the-Pumpkin event. Amount to be taken from the Community Appeals budget.

8. **Bridge Tavern Chili Cook-Off:** David Pundt and Char Kinzer volunteered for this November 15 event, but they're willing to accept others for the team. David has a recipe.

9. **Approve Bea Anderson scholarship:** Paula Traylor moved to award the Bea Anderson Scholarship to Reece Morrisette for CLC Welding School. Meredith Bloedel seconded the motion and it was approved by voice vote.

COMMUNION ASSIGNMENTS FOR AUGUST

December 6: Paula Traylor; December 13: George Erickson; December 20: Char Kinzer; December 27: Davidd Pundt

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

ADJOURNMENT: Pastor Ian Hewitson moved to adjourn at 7:42 pm. His motion was seconded by Char Kinzer.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: November 17, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

NALC Pastor Pam Thorson Visit Was Much Appreciated

Pastor Pam Thorson, our Mission District Dean for the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) Synod, visited us on the weekend of October 18.

She and her husband, Kevin, had a nice visit and meal with the Transition Steering Team on Saturday night, and on Sunday, she blessed us with a sermon and pastoral leadership for our worship service.

The dinner conversation was engaging, discussing how NALC helps guide churches in the call process. Transition Team members had the chance to discuss best call committee practices.

Pastor Pam was also able to meet with the Church Council after the church service on Sunday to share her knowledge and experience with the two Lutheran organizations we are associated with, as she is also dual-affiliated with both the NALC and Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC), as we are.

We appreciated the connection and look forward to working with her and NALC Call Process Coordinator Pastor Shelly Schultz in the future.

LCMC will have resources for us during our call process as well. Pastor Christian Huntley from LCMC will be leading a discussion on the best practices for selecting a Call Committee at a special Educational Session after worship on Sunday, November 1.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:45am Call Comm Ed Session ***Call Committee Nominations Open***	**2** 11am Funeral – Sharon Holtzleicer	**3** 9am Staff Meeting 9am Quilting 12pm Renewal 3:30pm Bible Study	**4** BIBLE STUDIES: 8am 10am 6:30pm	**5** 7am Men's Den 6pm Churchyard Practice	**6** 	**7**
8 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:45am Adult Class with Pastor Ian	**9** Candy Prep for Bazaar 	**10** 9am Staff Meeting 1:30pm Ruth Circle 3:30pm Bible Study	**11** BIBLE STUDIES 8am 10am 6:30pm	**12** 7am Men's Den 8:30am Building & Grounds Mtg 9:30am Finance Comm Meeting 6pm Churchyard Practice	**13**	**14** **8:30am—1pm Spirit of Christmas Bazaar**
15 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:45am Adult Class with Pastor Ian ***Call Committee Nominations Close***	**16** **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** 4pm TOPS	**17** 9am Staff Meeting 9am Quilting 12pm Renewal 1:30pm Tabitha Study 3:30pm Bible Study 5:30pm Council Mtg	**18** BIBLE STUDIES 8am 10am 6:30pm	**19** 7am Men's Den 6pm Churchyard Practice	**20**	**21**
22 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Fellowship	**23** 4pm TOPS 	**24** **Assemble/Mail Newsletter** 9am Staff Mtg 9am Hanging of the Greens 3:30pm Bible Study	**25** BIBLE STUDIES 8am 10am 5:30pm **6:30pm Praise and Pie**	**26** THANKSGIVING DAY – Church Office Closed Altar: Gary & Sandi Erickson SRT #2 LuAnn Henrichs	**27**	**28**
29 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Fellowship	**30** 4pm TOPS					

November 2026

