

THE IMMANUEL INFORMER

A publication of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church



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FALL MINISTRY KICK OFF & CHURCH EVENTS

SUMMER RECAP WITH PICTURES

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



*Building strong relationships in Christ
and making Him known to all.*



2025/2026 IMMANUEL COUNCIL & BOARD MEMBERS

CHURCH OFFICERS

President: Doug Mechaelsen

Vice President: John Nordeen

Secretary: Lori Whipple

Treasurer: Chuck Carlson

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Kelly Dahl

Patty Rathmacher

Julie Skaar

Brad Waline

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Lily Rathmacher

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Joel & Sarah Halverson

Pastor Allison Potratz

Grant Severson

Blake Winecoff (youth rep)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Sean Edens

Ben Haberl

Brice Haskin

Jim Oberender

Steve Skartvedt



Pastor Andrew Potratz

andrew.potratz@immanuelstorycity.org

Carol Lake

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

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Pastor Allison Potratz

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

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OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR & ACCOMPANIST

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SEMINARY INTERN

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Tyler Oberender

CUSTODIAN

Chris Dahl

DEPLOYED PASTOR TO RIVERSIDE

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Ben Carlson

TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR

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Church Council

council@immanuelstorycity.org

Amanda Tebben

NURSERY COORDINATOR

Contact



604 Lafayette Avenue
Story City, Iowa 50248



515.733.4972 or 515.357.6982



office@immanuelstorycity.org



www.immanuelstorycity.org



Church Office Hours:

Mondays - Thursdays: 9 A.M. - Noon

Fridays by appointment only

Sunday Schedule

8:00 A.M. RADIO BROADCAST
(KASI, 1430 A.M.)

8:30 A.M. EDUCATION HOUR

9:30 A.M. WORSHIP
LIVE STREAM

10:30 A.M. FELLOWSHIP (SOCIAL HALL)



Facebook

[ImmanuelLutheranStoryCity](https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranStoryCity)



YouTube

[ImmanuelLutheranStoryCity](https://www.youtube.com/ImmanuelLutheranStoryCity)



Apple Podcasts

Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Story City, IA



*Back to school. Back to routines. Back to church.
Let's settle into this exciting season
of purpose and connection.*



fall 2026 sermon series

MORE *to* YOUR STORY

based on the book by MAX LUCADO



by Pastor Andrew Potratz

I have a story. As I have sorted and organized my life into some sort of narrative over the last decade or more, it is interesting to observe the different seasons and movements that God has orchestrated in my life, my family, and in ministry. Much of my earlier ministry life, before seminary, was spent with a yearning to find my place in ministry and to know that I was on the path that God had made me for. It was easy to get rutted in familiarity and routine, but I knew that God had something else/more in store for my life and my family. I praise God for clearly leading me on the path to pastoral ministry, and I continue to believe that even now, there is more to my story! God is not done working in my life, or in yours.

How often do you think about your story? A few years ago, we went through Max Lucado and Randee Frazee's "The Story" - a chronological readthrough of the main themes and stories of the Bible. God's story is big, good, and it includes you! God's story is also Our story!

This fall, we are kicking off the school year with a series called "*More To Your Story*." As Christians, we have a place in God's story and in God's plans. Our lives are not meant to be spent waiting for heaven, rather our lives are to contribute to bringing heaven to earth today. The eternal reality will be incomprehensibly good, but we cannot miss that God invites us to be part of His story Now, Today, in This Place!

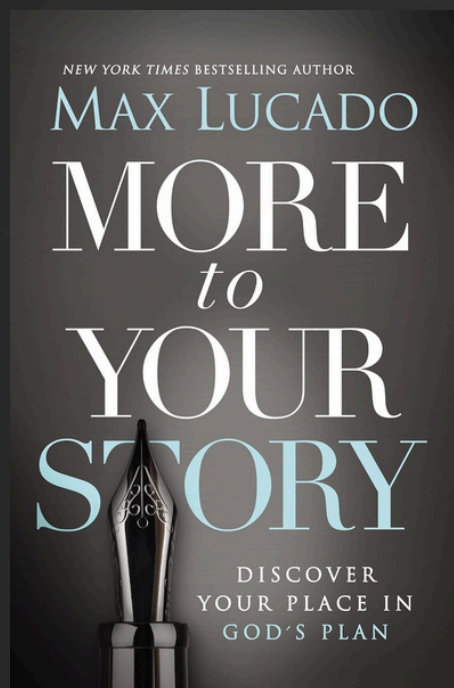
In this series, based on the scriptures behind Max Lucado's work, we will emphasize the importance of discovering our calling in the body of Christ, our gifts that God has given us, and our steady purpose here on earth as we live and grow in faith. This series will also have a six-week small group video

study to accompany the Sunday themes, and from there we will dig deeper into how each member of the body of Christ is invited to grow, serve, and contribute to the Kingdom of God here on earth in tangible and intentional ways!

So, I invite you to think about your story. How has God sustained you in faith? In life? And how might God be calling you into the “more” that he has for each of us in Christ Jesus? The truth is, we are never meant to be done growing. A Thriving life is a Growing life - and it's my prayer for you that you will discover, embrace, and live out the “more” to your story! ☀️

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Ephesians 2:8-10

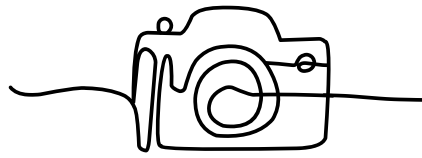


There's more to your story than you think— come explore it with us through our sermons, weekly adult Bible study, and small groups this season.

GET YOUR COPY OF
More to Your Story



Immanuel Snapshot



Sunday In-Person Attendance

- April average: 210
- May average: 155
- June average: 135

3-month average: 167

Online Average Attendance*

Sunday average: 30

**this accounts for those watching live - not those who view the service after the livestream has ended.*

Deaths & Memorials

- Janet Hermanson passed away on April 28. Service on May 4.
- Don Munsen passed away on May 25. Graveside service on June 12.
- Renee Severson (Zach Twedt's mother) passed away on July 3.

Other Pastoral Acts

- Confirmation of Teddy Christian, Joshua Dahl, Harper Hill, Zayne Leeman, Clay Rickerl, and Jerry Severson on April 26.
- Baptism of Alayna Diane Gillaspie, and Quentin Dean Gillaspie (*private service*) on May 31.
- Baptism of John William Christian on July 19. Parents are Tom & Courtney Christian; Sponsors are Heather Thompson, Nathan Danzer, Dena Boyd and Sawyer Hjortsvang.

Church Financial Report

To see the church's current financial report, check the lobby slatwall for paper copies. Questions regarding the church's financial status can be directed to financial secretary, Carol Lake, or church treasurer, Chuck Carlson.

Other Churchwide Happenings

- Our pastoral intern Isaac Kubat finished up his 2-year internship with us. Please keep him in your prayers as he continues seminary!
 - Our youth ministry leader Conner Freerks finished his internship as well and has accepted a position at Youth For Christ starting this fall.
 - Our new video security system is now fully installed.
-

what can I pray about?



- We pray that God would empower Immanuel, its members, its ministry, and its leadership to be steadfast in faith, hope, and love.
- We pray for God to move in the hearts of Immanuel's people to invest in Immanuel's needs through generosity of resources and time.
- We pray for God's hand to move in our community, and to lead people to hear, receive, and know the Good News through Immanuel and other local churches. We pray that God would work in and through US to answer this prayer!
- We pray for God to lead us into a season of discovering our gifts, and using them for the betterment of the Kingdom of God!
- We pray for the war-torn and unstable areas of our world, and ask for God's Peace to prevail in these places and in our lives - specifically Iran, Haiti, and Ukraine.
- We pray for God to give Immanuel's staff and council a clear Vision, Direction, and Mission to fulfill through our work here.
- If you have prayer requests that you would like to share, please reach out to one of our pastors or Milianna in our office.

my prayers

my praises

Church Library



In the book of Philippians (ch. 4, v. 8) the apostle Paul urges us to keep things that are noble, right, pure lovely, and admirable foremost in our minds. The goal of the church library is to provide you with materials that fit that description. Stop in and find something truly “excellent and praiseworthy” to enrich your life today.

RECENT ADDITIONS

Where Courage Calls by Janette Oke and Laurel Oke Logan. When a young woman of wealth and means spends a year teaching the children in a poor mining community, she discovers that the beauty of life doesn't depend as much on external circumstances as it does on the condition of your heart.

Braced for Love by Mary Connealy. The story of a trio of half-brothers thrown together against their will by an unlikely inheritance, and how they forge a true sense of family against all odds.

The British Booksellers by Kristy Cambron. Two story lines, one from the first World War, the other from the second, eventually converge to show that in God's sovereign plan there are no coincidences, only His saving grace.

Sandpiper Cove by Irene Hannon. Return to Hope Harbor for this feel-good romance between the unlikeliest of characters, proving once again that God's plans are always better than any we can come up with on our own.

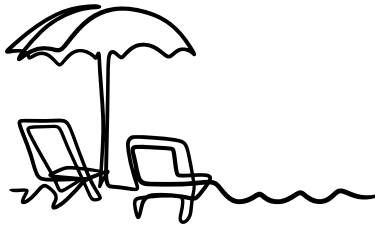
The Foxhole Victory Tour by Amy Lynn Green. Follow the ups and downs and the heartaches and joys of a USO variety show unit performing for the troops during WWII. See how unlikely bonds of camaraderie and respect are made for a lifetime.

NEW NONFICTION

Never Give Up, A Prairie Family's Story by Tom Brokaw. The author tells his own family's story and how they lived by the motto “never give up” during the most difficult times.

You Are Never Alone by Max Lucado. “Trust in the miracle of God's presence and power.” Based on the miracles of Christ from the book of John.

spring & summer recap



A LOOK BACK AT THE LAST 3 MONTHS AT IMMANUEL

Kerygma Summit 2026 in Hendersonville, Tennessee

Pastor Allison and Milianna Carlson traveled to Tennessee for the Kerygma Summit, hosted at Long Hollow Church, April 30 - May 2. The drive to and from the event was impacted by some weather, road construction, and interesting roadkill. But the people, the food (including authentic Italian!), and the worship was fantastic! Lisa Harper, Hope Darst, Meredith Andrews, Christine Caine, Michael Bird, and Dr. Jim Howard were just some of the special speakers and artists that filled this 3-day Bible workshop. Long Hollow Church has a beautiful campus, including a fishing pond and Legacy Park and Coffee House open to the community. If you're ever in the Hendersonville area, go check it out!



Congratulations to the Graduates of 2026

We especially want to acknowledge the following grads from our Immanuel family:

- Keely Oberender, daughter of Tyler & Halli Oberender
 - graduating from Roland-Story High School
 - attending Dordt University (Souix Center) to study public relations and play on the softball team
- Joseph Reinert, son of Gene & Jessica Reinert
 - graduating from Roland-Story High School
 - attending the University of Northern Iowa to study engineering





Scandinavian Days 2026

The Immanuel Church kitchen was filled with flour, rolling pins, and griddles on June 1st to get potato cakes ready for the Scandinavian Days Bake Sale!



This year, Immanuel hosted a Bake Sale & Coffee Bar on Saturday, June 6 - we raised over \$2,100 to go towards our Sanctuary Restoration Project. Immanuel also hosted Mini Golf on the tennis courts during Scandinavian Days and raised over \$600 to go towards the purchase of new Bibles for kids and youth participating in Immanuel programming.



Thank you to Milianna Carlson and Jaynee Christian for leading these events, and for our dozens of volunteers who baked, set up the golf course, and helped make these events successful!



Day Camp 2026

Day Camp led by our Riverside Bible Camp leaders was held at Immanuel June 8 - 10. This year's theme was "To Know His Name", based on Psalm 135:13 which says "Your name, O LORD, endures forever, Your renown, O LORD, through all generations."



Each day our campers focused on a different name of God, and had an archeological adventure. We also had theme days - Monday was hat day, Tuesday was favorite team day, and Wednesday was wacky dress up day. Thank you to the Board of Ed and our volunteers for making this another great year for Day Camp!

Celebrating 50 years of marriage!

On Sunday, June 14, our congregation recognized Frank & Carol Baedke who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary! The family brought scrapbooks of pictures including the wedding album, Carol brought her wedding dress, and we enjoyed a wonderful fellowship with sandwiches, eggrolls, and cake! Carol's mother was in attendance, and Frank's sister made a beautiful quilt for this special anniversary! Congratulations, Frank & Carol!



National Read the Bible Day participants

Immanuel Women's Bible study participated with hundreds of other Christians nationwide on July 14. Every county in Iowa hosted readers. Story County was assigned Ecclesiastes through Song of Solomon chapter one. It was an honor to share the morning together in God's Word knowing that 6 continents and over 30 countries were reading through the Bible together on the same day.



Church Council & Board Minutes

Minutes of the Joint Council Meeting:
Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
May 14, 2026 7:45 PM In Person in the Social Hall

Present: Pastor Allison, Pastor Andrew, Doug Mechaelsen, Lori Whipple, Chuck Carlson, Patty Rathmacher, Brice Haskins, Katie Brouwer, Frank Baedke, Lily Rathmacher, Jim Oberender, Sean Edens, Jaynee Christian, Brandi Hill, Jana Larsen

President Doug Mechaelsen called the meeting to order at 7:51 PM.

1. Opening prayer was given by Pastor Allison.
2. Approval of previous meeting minutes. Sean moved that the April minutes be approved and Jim offered a second. Approved unanimously.
3. Treasurer's Report was presented by Chuck Carlson using documents emailed to council. Jaynee moved that the Treasurer's report be approved and Jana offered a second. Approved unanimously.
4. Report of Boards (see below for full reports)
 - a. Board of Ed: Katie Brouwer
 - b. Deacons: No quorum
 - c. Trustees: Sean Edens
 - d. Youth Board: Pastor Allison. No new update.
5. Old Business
 - a. Nominating Committee. Those going off their boards will serve on the Nominating Committee. Those will be Jim Oberender, Kelly Dahl, Brad Waline, Brandi Hill, and Jana Larsen.
 - b. Safety Conversations. A draft of the Safety Team Standard Operating Procedure Handbook was given to all council members and Doug asked all members to review.
 - c. Internship Program Updates. Conner will be done at the end of VBS.
6. New Business
 - a. New Member. The Deacons did not have a quorum so the new member could not be approved for membership.

Doug adjourned the meeting at 8:46 PM. Sean moved that the meeting be adjourned and Lily offered a second. Next meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2026 but has been rescheduled for June 18, 2026. Devotions will be given by a member of the Deacons Board.

Those present prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Whipple, Secretary

Board of Ed Meeting
May 14, 2026

Present: Pastor Allison, Jana Larsen, Katie Brouwer, Lily Rathmacher, Brandi Hill, Jaynee Christian

1. OPENING PRAYER
2. PREVIOUS MINUTES - Minutes from the previous meeting approved.
3. TREASURER'S REPORT: \$6,595.31
4. Recap of Last Month:
 - a. Kid's Musical was a success!
 - b. Confirmation Sunday was such a blessing
5. Upcoming:
 - a. Last day of Sunday School is May 17th-kids will sing that day
 - b. Teacher Appreciation-celebration with cake for fellowship time on the 17th to say thank you to all of the Sunday School teachers.
 - c. Day Camp June 8th-10th-volunteer sign-ups and donation tables are set up now. Wed the 10th, serve ice cream treats on the patio, looking for service project idea. Adult volunteer gift cards. Kid volunteers to pool.
6. Other:
 - a. Curriculum-Katie called various churches on Sunday school curriculums and ideas. Gave an update. Used same curriculum each year. Using a workbook.
 - i. Katie showed curriculum idea "Not Consumed"
 - ii. Getting high school involvement, non-members teaching classes
 - b. Superintendent/Teachers: Katie will talk to Lisa M. Need 3 teachers and 2 board of ed positions
 - c. Revising Policies
 - d. Visioning
 - e. Review Parent/Teacher Surveys-continued discussions
 - i. Bigger Celebrations-Baptisms, First Communion (arrange it differently so it's more special for the kids, maybe having them line up or take it at the railing, or move to Maundy Thursday, what age is appropriate?), Giving out 3-year-old prayer books and 2nd Grade Bibles, My Bible Class during Sunday School idea, Confirmation, Graduation.
7. Close in Prayer

Trustee Minutes
May 13, 2026

Jim Oberender, Brice Haskin, and Sean Edens in attendance

Walked with board of Ed to get more information on requested basement updates

Discussed Treasures report - asked Chuck for more information on trend data

- Approved proposal from Sean for replacement closer for south door (broad street)
- Plan to keep monitoring the balcony water issue
- Jim to talk to Tyler about borrowing Co-op lift to inspect outside (determined lift was not tall enough)
- Alley lights need to be checked (checked and repairs have not been completed - Sean to get quote)
- Planning to have asbestos removed from the under stairs storage room after VBS
- Approved proposal from Steve Skartvedt for 2 applications of weed and fertilizer
- Approved proposal from Sean to replace exterior garbage door (metal cellar door)
- Approved proposal from Sean to have existing blueprints digitized
- Sean to contact Basepoint building automations to service ADA door

Minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting
Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
May 17, 2026 10:45 AM

President Doug Mechaelsen called the meeting to order at 10:45AM.

Pastor Andrew began the meeting in prayer.

It was determined that a quorum was present to hold a meeting.

Doug gave an overview of where the security project began.

Sean Edens, chairman of the Trustees, presented the proposal to the congregation to upgrade the security system providing background of the need. He also said that there has been a gift of \$10,000 toward the project as well as a \$1,000 pledge if the proposal was approved. He mentioned that there are also grants available which will be applied for.

Attached is the PowerPoint presentation of the information provided to the congregation at the meeting.

Sean asked for questions.

How will this impact the budget? The remainder of this year's monthly expenses associated with the camera are not included in the budget approved at the beginning of the fiscal year. It will be included for next year.

Who is monitoring the cameras? Doug provided information about the security team intentions and procedure. Along those lines it was asked if local police are alerted? Per Mar would notify local police.

Asked if we should have a second quote? We have no issues with Per Mar so no other quote was pursued.

How long are the recordings kept? Recordings are kept for approximately 30 days.

Was this proposal unanimous amongst all Trustees? Yes, as well as the Joint Council.

With no other questions, Deb Olson moved and Mary Danielson offered a second to vote to "approve \$16,400.00 for the CCTV upgrade, which is part of the total investment for the security upgrade project of \$20,988.00 (plus applicable taxes). Also to approve a combined monthly recurring service fee of \$293.00 for 24/7 monitoring, cloud management, and the comprehensive maintenance plan."

Ballots were handed out.

Votes were counted and tallied: Yes 55 and No 15

John Rathmacher moved that the meeting be adjourned and Craig Sargent offered a second. Motion approved and Doug closed the meeting at 11:05 AM

Respectfully submitted

Lori Whipple
Council Secretary

Minutes of the Joint Council Meeting:
Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
June 18, 2026 7:45 PM In Person in the Social Hall

Present: Pastor Allison, Pastor Andrew, Doug Mechaelsen, Lori Whipple, Chuck Carlson, Patty Rathmacher, Katie Brouwer, Frank Baedke, Lily Rathmacher, Sean Edens, Brad Waline, John Nordeen, Julie Skaar, Kelly Dahl

President Doug Mechaelsen called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM.

1. Opening devotions and prayer was given by Brad.
2. Approval of previous meeting minutes. Brad moved that the May minutes be approved and Katie offered a second. Approved unanimously. Sean moved that the minutes of the special congregational meeting dated May 17, 2026 be approved and Patty offered a second. Approved unanimously.
3. Treasurer's Report was presented by Chuck Carlson using documents emailed to council. John moved that the Treasurer's report be approved and Julie offered a second. Approved unanimously.
4. Report of Boards (see below for full reports)
 - a. Board of Ed: Katie Brouwer
 - b. Deacons: Kelly Dahl
 - c. Trustees: No quorum. Sean gave a few updates. Security system is fully installed and the south ADA door works on both sides. New closures for cellar door and small west door are ready to pick up which Sean will do. Sean and Chuck met with our insurance agent for ways to reduce our premiums. It was discussed whether our volunteers were covered and they are not. This company does not make it available. The storage closet is ready to be cleared and ready to abate. Blue prints are digitized.
 - d. Youth Board: The Youth Board is made up of EPIC leaders, which many will not be returning. So right now it's Allison, Grant Severson and two high school youth. They are working on finding perhaps a few parents rather than EPIC leaders.
5. Old Business
 - a. Safety Conversations Update. Roland-Story High School has a key to be used in case of evacuation. That key will work in addition to the electronic lock. Sean will assure that their key works. Doug asked council for suggestions of people to serve on the safety team. It was suggested that our congregation members who are law enforcement officers or fire fighters could serve. Andrew will supply Doug with those names.
 - b. Building Access and Management. Someone in addition to Milliana should be trained. Sean will take this position until the safety team is established.
6. New Business
 - a. New Members. Deacons received applications for membership from Nathan and Stephanie Rusinack (son Karsen), Tammy Johnston, Courtney Christian (son John), and Tom Christian. Deacons moved to approve these individuals for membership. Sean offered a second. Approved unanimously.
 - b. Missions Committee Budget (via Deacons). A proposed mission budget was presented by Pastor Andrew and he went through the changes suggested. Deacons moved to approve this mission budget and Katie offered a second. Approved unanimously.

Doug adjourned the meeting at 8:43 PM. Brad ended the meeting with prayer. Lori moved that the meeting be adjourned and Sean offered a second. Next meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2026. Devotions will be given by a member of the Trustees.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Whipple, Secretary

Mission Trip 2026



In June, seven students and two adult leaders traveled to Lake Traverse, South Dakota, for a week-long mission trip. While serving on the Lake Traverse Dakota Reservation, the team completed a variety of work projects throughout the community. They helped clean a local school, completed yard work at tribal centers and community gardens, assisted with beautification projects, and visited residents at local nursing homes.



Throughout the week, students learned about the history and culture of the Dakota Tribe while demonstrating the love of Christ through their service, compassion, and relationships with those they met. While there, the group also visited some unique places, such as an Earth Lodge, Nicollette Tower, and Sica Hallow State Park!





We are looking forward to going on another mission trip next summer - we are going to Duluth, Minnesota! It will be the week of June 27th - July 2nd. This is open to students 7th grade - 12th grade (this means current 6th graders - 12th graders are able to attend next summer). Service projects may include yard work, assisting at food pantries, supporting a youth center, and spending time with elderly residents.



There will be a \$50 deposit required to reserve your spot, with the rest being fundraised or through donations. The deadline to sign up is by September 20th; spots will be filled first come, first served. We have 15 spots reserved and we will have the option to add more if available. A packet with more information will be released in late August.



august 2026



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

These are the weekly gatherings and activities that form the rhythm of immanuel Lutheran Church.

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Sundays

8am	Radio Broadcast
8:30am	Adult Education
9:30am	Worship
10:30am	Fellowship

Tuesdays

8:30am	Women's Bible Study <i>(moves to Mondays on August 24)</i>
9:30am	Staff Meeting

Church activities are subject to change. See the current Google Calendar on our church website: immanuelstorycity.org

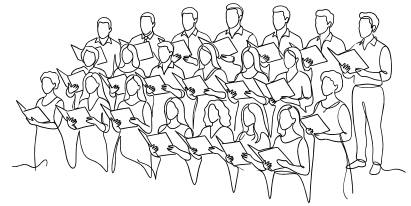
CALENDAR

2	Communion Sunday	
3	Choir Potluck & Meeting	5:30pm//Social Hall
6	Quilters	9am//Social Hall
8	Immanuel Pool Party	1pm//Riverside
9	Middle School EPIC Night Adult Study: Raising Spritual Champions	6pm 6:30pm//Chapel
16	Service of Holy Communion Middle & High School EPIC Water Night Adult Study: Raising Spiritual Champions	10:30am 6pm 6:30pm//Chapel
20	Deacons//Trustees//Board of Ed Meetings Church Council Meeting	6:30pm 7:45pm
23	Back to School Blessing//Teachers' Meeting	9:30am//10:45am
26	EPIC MS Kick-Off Night!	6pm
30	Care & Visitation Team Meeting EPIC HS Kick-Off Night!	8:30am 6pm

AUGUST EVENT SPOTLIGHTS

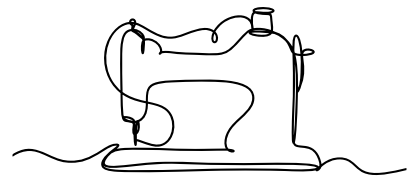
3 Choir Potluck & Meeting 5:30pm//Social Hall

Bring a dish to share and ideas on how to keep the choir involved throughout the next year. All singers 6th grade and up are welcome. If you cannot attend the meeting but have thoughts concerning the future of the choir, please contact the church office.



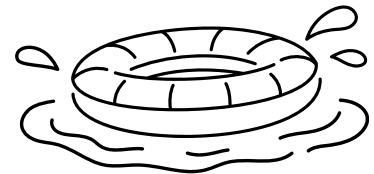
6 Quilters 9am - noon //Social Hall

No quilting experience needed. Bring a snack to share for coffee hour! Donations of bed sheets and pillowcases (80 - 100% cotton), fabric, and financial gifts are always needed. Contact Julie Thompson for more information



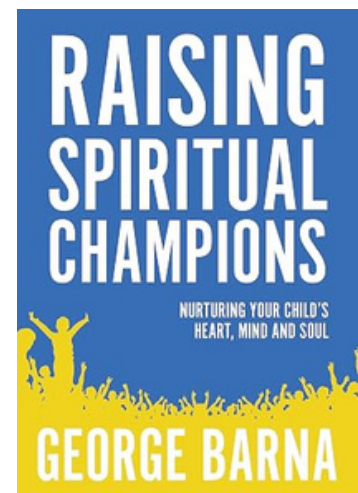
8 Immanuel Pool Party 1pm - 3pm//Riverside

For all Immanuel members, their families and friends! Bring any snacks you want to share; bring your own beverages (no glass bottles). Best Dive Competition at 2pm with a kid category and an adult category.



9 Middle School EPIC Night 6pm **Adult Study: Raising Spritual Champions 6:30pm//Chapel**

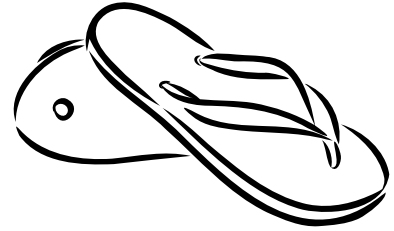
While Middle Schoolers enjoy EPIC Night with food, worship, and games, parents are specifically invited to a special two-week adult Bible study, *Raising Spiritual Champions*. This class explores current research and the cultural realities shaping today's kids, reminding us that a child's worldview is largely formed by age 13. These early years give families and the church a vital window to instill Godly values that guide children into the life God desires for them.



16 Middle & High School EPIC Water Night 6pm
Adult Study: Raising Spiritual Champions 6:30pm//Chapel

Dress to get wet! We ask students to dress modestly. Boys, please wear a shirt and shorts, Girls, please wear a one-piece bathing suit with shorts, or shorts and t-shirt. Please bring a towel and a change of clothes! Parents are invited to our *Raising Spiritual Champions* study during this EPIC event.

EPIC is our 5th - High School program on Wednesday nights during the school year. We meet for pizza, worship, games and small groups. Outings are scheduled throughout the year. EPIC registration will be released in August. If you're not currently on our email list, contact the church office.



23 Back to School Blessing 9:30am in worship

Join us for Back-to-School Sunday on Sunday, August 23 as we pray over our students, teachers, school staff and administrators, and families as a new school year begins. Students are invited to bring their backpack to worship for this blessing.

Teachers, we will meet after worship for our final meeting before Rally Sunday!



24 Women's Bible Study 8:30am

Women's Bible Study, led by Pastor Allison, currently meets on Tuesdays at 8:30am in the Cornerstone Room. Starting August 24th, we'll be moving our study to Mondays at 8:30am. Our next study is "*Song of Songs: The Love We Long For*" by Lisa Harper. All materials provided, but you can find the book online. Ladies of all ages are invited to join us!



26 EPIC MS Kick-Off Night!**6pm - 8pm**

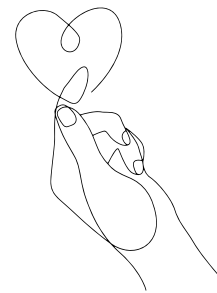
Middle School EPIC "Discover God's Story!" meets Wednesdays 6 - 8pm with pizza! Leaders are Allison Potratz, Kayla Bentz, Grant Severson, and Andrew Potratz.

EPIC

Registration available in August. We are increasing the suggested donation to be \$30/student or \$60/family to help with the increasing costs of pizza.

30 Care & Visitation Team Meeting**8:30am**

All current Care & Visitation team members as well as anyone interested in joining this important ministry are invited to join Pastor Andrew on August 30th. We will reflect on our work, get important updates where needed, and encourage one another in this ministry!



Would you like to receive regular visits from someone on our Care and Visitation team? Just ask! We have 15+ people who, alongside our pastors, serve and minister this way. Please contact the office for any visit requests, to join this ministry team, or to learn more.

EPIC HS Kick-Off Night!**6pm - 8pm**

High School EPIC "Live God's Story!" meets Sundays 6 - 8pm with pizza! Leaders are Allison Potratz and Andrew Potratz, and parent helpers!

EPIC

Registration available in August. We are increasing the suggested donation to be \$30/student or \$60/family to help with the increasing costs of pizza.

Student Volunteer Opportunity-10th-12th grade High School students are invited to consider being a leader for the Middle School EPIC program! If you are interested in helping on Wednesday nights, please reach out to Pastor Allison!

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1	Maliyah Zerr	12	Nancy Sargent	23	Florian Tebben
2	Kevin Amundson Ashley Edens Wendell Graber Sharon Moore	14	Lisa Handeland Chris Hill Jerry Severson	26	Eustace "ER" Lake Kari Schaufenbuel Sabrina Schaufenbuel
3	Blake Winecoff	15	Chance Christian Rita Frette Dave Morris	28	Charlotte Loots, Duane Wheeler, Branch Whipple
5	Nathan Rusinack	19	Dave Amensen	29	Corine Nordeen
6	Em Quang Norma Sexe Greg Voga Dan Wheeler	21	Thomas Halverson Weston Messerly	30	Laura Carlson
7	Milianna Carlson Kamryn Lande Gwen Tebben Karen Waline	22	Roger Oakland	31	Clark Thompson
8	Kenadi Lowe Logan Voga				
9	Kenneth Stock				

Let the church office know if we're missing your birthday or anniversary so we can celebrate with you!



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

1	David & Donna Teigland	16	Greg & Kathy Thompson
2	Dallas & Patricia Kray	17	Mike & Mary Ness
3	John & Colleen Johnson	18	Don & Lori Olson
8	Erik & Alaina Christian John & Patty Rathmacher	20	Nathan & Stephanie Rusinack
15	Eric & Courtney Mensen	26	Todd & Tiffany Janes Jason & Kari Schaufenbuel

september 2026



Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Church activities are subject to change. See the current Google Calendar on our church website: immanuelstorycity.org



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

These are the weekly gatherings and activities that form the rhythm of immanuel Lutheran Church.

Sundays

8am	Radio Broadcast
8:30am	Education Hour
9:30am	Worship
10:30am	Fellowship

Mondays

8:30am	Women's Bible Study
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Tuesdays

9:30am	Staff Meeting
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Wednesdays

6pm - 8pm	EPIC Youth Program
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Saturdays

8am	Men of Immanuel
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CALENDAR

2	Small Group Leaders Meeting	6:30pm
3	Quilters	9am//Social Hall
6	Communion Sunday	
7	Labor Day - Church Closed - No Activities	
10	Deacons//Trustees//Board of Ed Meetings	6:30pm
	Church Council Meeting	7:45pm
12	Men of Immanuel Kick Off	8am

13	Rally Sunday (Sunday School year begins) Presentation of Bibles & Lord's Prayer books Story City Carousel Rides	8:30am 9:30am 1pm - 4pm
16	<i>The Witness Practice</i> Bible Study	5:30pm
20	Installation of Sunday School Teachers Service of Holy Communion My Bible Class for 2nd Graders and Parents	9:30am during worship 10:30am 11am
23	<i>The Witness Practice</i> Bible Study	5:30pm
25/26	Church Reserved for Wedding	All day
27	Lunch & Learn: Lutheran Distinctives (RSVP)	11:30am//Social Hall
30	<i>The Witness Practice</i> Bible Study	5:30pm

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Home-Delivered Meals Volunteers

Weekdays

Immanuel delivers meals via Heartland Senior Services of Ames every September. You can sign up to volunteer for a spot online or directly with the church office. Volunteers need to pick up the meals at Immanuel at 10:45am.



One driver is needed (but you can team up to make it more fun!), and you'll need to allow 1 hour for meal pickup, delivery, and returning the bag to the Heartland volunteer at the church parking lot.

If you have any questions regarding this volunteer opportunity, contact Milianna in the church office.

Note: no deliveries on Labor Day or weekends.

If you or someone you know would benefit from Heartland's Meals on Wheels program, please call 515-357-4573 or check out their website (heartlandofstorycounty.org) for more information and a menu.



SEPTEMBER EVENT SPOTLIGHTS

2

Small Group Leaders Meeting

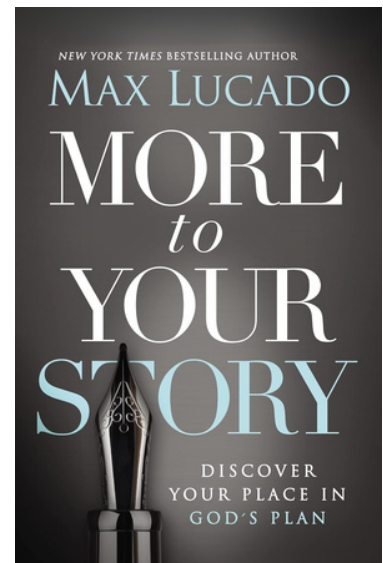
6:30pm

Small groups are an important part of Immanuel's community. Sunday mornings alone do not give us the time and space to "Grow deep relationships in Christ" as our Mission Statement calls us to do, so many of Immanuel's people find that in the small group setting.

On September 2, Pastor Andrew will host all current small group leaders, and anyone interested in helping lead or forming a group! This will include some history on Immanuel Small Groups, good practices, and what benefits come from digging into these intentional times to grow and do life together.

This fall, we are kicking off the school year with a series called *More To Your Story*. This study, written by Max Lucado, includes a six-part video series and small group discussion guide. Our sermons during this season will tie into the same themes and scriptures.

The emphasis of this study is to grow in our understanding of (and practice!) how God calls each of us to an important part of the church, ministry, and God's mission here on earth! Our faith in Jesus is the beginning, not the end of our stories!



Do you want to start a small group? We can train you! Come to the Small group leaders meeting on Sept. 2, or reach out to Pastor Andrew.

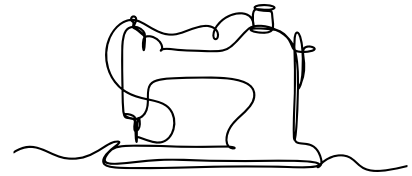
Do you want to join a group? We can help you find one! Let the pastors or the office know and we'll get you plugged into a group this fall.

Do you need ideas or resources for your current group? We keep a great library of small group video materials at the church. Contact Pastor Andrew!

3 **Quilters**

9am - noon //Social Hall

No quilting experience needed. Bring a snack to share for coffee hour! Donations of bed sheets and pillowcases (80 - 100% cotton), fabric, and financial gifts are always needed. Contact Julie Thompson for more information



12 **Men of Immanuel**

Saturdays @ 8am

Men of all ages are invited for Bible Study, coffee, donuts and fellowship each Saturday morning in the Social Hall. This group typically meets after Labor Day (September) through the last Saturday before Memorial Day (May). Contact Brad Waline with questions.



13 **Rally Sunday**

8:30am

Our fall season of Adult Sunday school will begin on Rally Sunday, September 13th! Each week will dig into some of the texts and themes for that Sunday's sermon. Each week is a new text, so come when you can and dig deeper into God's Word with us!

We offer Sunday School for 3-year-olds through 5th Grade, and Confirmation Class for 6th - 8th graders. Sunday mornings at 8:30am starting Sept. 13 through mid-May.

The 2nd graders will receive their Bibles, and the 3 & 4-year-old class will receive their Lord's Prayer books during worship.

On Rally Sunday we're having guest magician Curtis Hed perform a show called *Don't Be Fooled*.



In Curtis 'Don't Be Fooled' show, Curtis subtly integrates his faith into his performances. The show is designed to entertain and enlighten audiences without being preachy. Curtis uses His show to point out how easy it is for us to be fooled and how God does not want us to be fooled in the living of our life. To that end God has given us Christ's Church, fellow believers to encourage us, the Bible, to help instruct us, and His Spirit, to guide us.

13 Story City Carousel Rides

1pm - 4pm

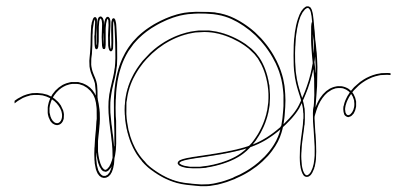
Come out to the Story City Carousel for free rides - sponsored by the Immanuel Board of Deacons. Invite your friends or family for a fun afternoon at the carousel. Treats will also be served. To help volunteer in running this event, please contact Patty Rathmacher.



16 The Witness Practice Bible Study

5:30pm

A community Bible study (including a catered meal) begins Sept. 16 at 5:30pm. The study is 4 weeks long - location is to be determined - either Riverside Bible Camp's Mortvedt Hall or Immanuel's Social Hall. Bring yourself and a friend, your Bible and an appetite for good food & conversation. We'll meet September 16, 23, 30, and October 7. **Email study@immanuelstorycity.org to RSVP.**



Study Description: There is an unspoken rule we all intuitively live by: good news is meant to be shared. Whether it's news of landing a new job, getting into the college we wanted, or discovering an incredible restaurant — we naturally want to share it with others.

Yet, for many of us, this isn't always our experience with our own faith, and for good reason.

Every day, we are bombarded with signals from our surrounding culture to "keep our beliefs to ourselves." This can lead to a very private way of following Jesus that, in belief, is "good news for all people," but in practice, just becomes "good news for me."

Yet, in the midst of this, Jesus' invitation to witness to him has not expired.

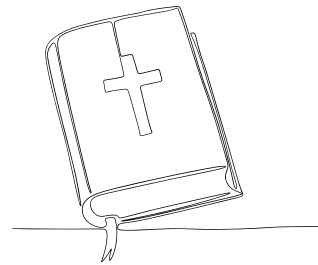
For the last two millennia, followers of Jesus have dared to ask the question: How do we witness to the good news of Jesus in this particular moment? Through this series, we want to explore this exact question for our time — to discover together the loving and patient way we can witness to the Gospel with our life and words.

Welcome to the Practice of Witness. *(book by John Mark Comer)*

20 My Bible Class

11am

All 2nd graders and their parents are invited and encouraged to attend the My Bible Class with Pastor Allison. Students will learn how to navigate their new Bible as they begin their journey with Jesus!



27 Lunch & Learn: Lutheran Distinctives

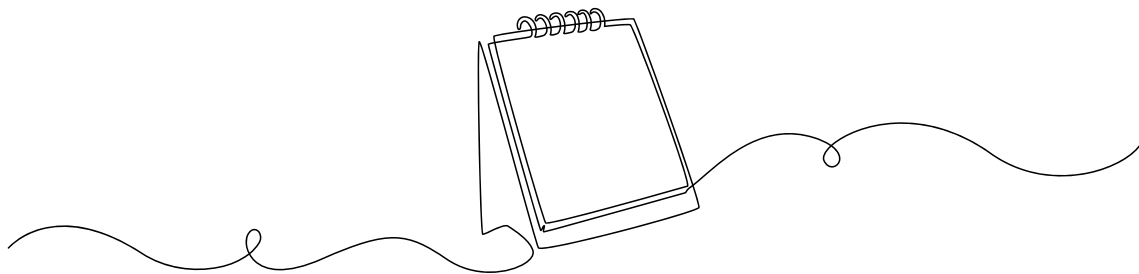
11:30am//Social Hall

This is a free event led by Brad Waline. Reservations are required - use the QR code (SignUpGenius Link) or contact the church office to RSVP. This Lunch & Learn event includes lunch, presentation, and time for questions from the presenter.

Event Description: What exactly does it mean to be a "Lutheran"? Who was Martin Luther, and what is Reformation Sunday? What makes Lutherans different from other denominations? We'll learn how our Lutheran heritage and theology help us better understand our faith and live out our callings in Christ. Whether you grew up Lutheran or not - this is a class you don't want to miss!



Have something to share with the Immanuel church community?



All bulletin, worship and/or weekly email announcements are due to the church office by 10 A.M. on Thursday mornings for inclusion in our church communications. *Contact Milianna in the church office with questions.*

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Mike Anderson Sue Uthe	13	Hannah Larsen	24	Kay Billings
2	Ben Haberl Kyle Nordeen	14	Meredith Mullenbach	25	Camden Harriman Lyla Palmer
4	Sue Valen	15	Veda Voga Asher Whipple	26	Paul Gallagher Georgia Voga
6	Gloria Hill Josie Reifschneider	16	Kim Mathison Gene Reinert	27	Elly Thompson Berniece Voga
7	Laura McIlrath Mary Mechaelsen	18	Michael Hill	28	Dallas Kray
9	Aiden Mensen Lane Rickerl		Greg Jacobson Jodie Rickerl Evan Skartvedt		
11	Jessica Reinert				



Faith is essentially reasonable.
It trusts in the character
and promises of God.
—E. Chris Curvin

*Let the church office know if
we're missing your birthday
or anniversary so we can
celebrate with you!*



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

1	Brad & Julie Skaar	17	Lee & Jodie Rickerl
2	Dave & Carol Ann Morris	22	Duane & Shirley Wheeler
3	Dick & Arlene Willis	24	Jeff & Charlotte Loots
5	Dan & Mayumi Oakland	25	Larry & Claudia Fuhrman
8	Chris & Kelly Dahl	27	A.J. & Amber Christian
12	Bob & Gayle Tate		

october 2026



Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Church activities are subject to change. See the current Google Calendar on our church website: immanuelstorycity.org



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

These are the weekly gatherings and activities that form the rhythm of immanuel Lutheran Church.

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8am	Radio Broadcast
8:30am	Education Hour
9:30am	Worship
10:30am	Fellowship

Mondays

8:30am	Women's Bible Study
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Tuesdays

9:30am	Staff Meeting
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Wednesdays

6pm - 8pm	EPIC Youth Program
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Saturdays

8am	Men of Immanuel
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CALENDAR

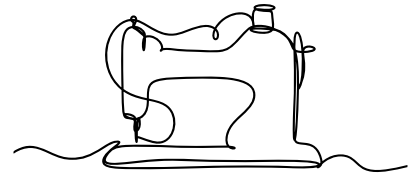
1	Quilters	9am//Social Hall
3	Social Hall Reserved	9am - 5pm
4	First Communion for 5 th graders	9:30am
4 - 7	LCMC Annual Gathering & Convention	Des Moines
8	Deacons//Trustees//Board of Ed Meetings Church Council Meeting	6:30pm 7:45pm
11	Kingdom Kids sing in worship	9:30am
15	Winter Newsletter Submission Deadline	
18	Service of Holy Communion	10:30am
25	Reformation Sunday	

OCTOBER EVENT SPOTLIGHTS

1 **Quilters**

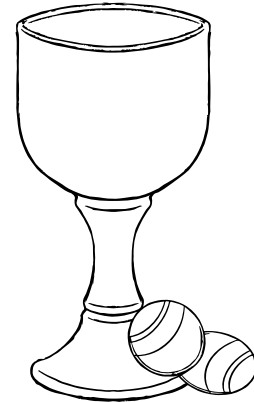
9am - noon //Social Hall

No quilting experience needed. Bring a snack to share for coffee hour! Donations of bed sheets and pillowcases (80 - 100% cotton), fabric, and financial gifts are always needed. Contact Julie Thompson for more information



4 **First Communion for our 5th graders on World Communion Sunday**

Our 5th graders will learn about Communion during EPIC on September 30. Then, they will share Holy Communion with the Immanuel congregation for the first time on Sunday, October 4. This first Sunday in October is also observed as World Communion Sunday.



"Christianity was never intended to be a solo walk with God," says pastor Jeremy Basset. "A conversion to Christianity is also incorporation in the body of Christ, the church."

That's a fitting reminder as we observe World Communion Sunday in October. Christians don't take Holy Communion alone; the very name of this sacrament refers to unity with God and others. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't learn Scripture or Christian theology and history alone. We can't have Christian fellowship by ourselves.

The New Testament is clear that one cannot be a solitary Christian. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30) and "belong to the family of believers" (Galatians 6:10, NIV). As you gather for worship and receive Holy Communion, thank God for "our common salvation" (Jude 3, ESV) granted to all followers of Jesus.

4 - 7 **LCMC Annual Gathering & Convention**

Our pastors, staff, and LCMC delegates will travel to Des Moines for this year's LCMC Annual Gathering and Convention, hosted by Lutheran Church of Hope. It will be a meaningful time of worship, fellowship, and gathering fresh ideas to bless our church and community.



11 Kingdom Kids Sing in Worship

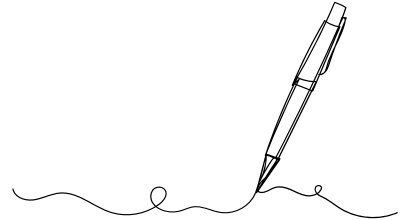
9:30am

Our Kingdom Kids (ages 3 through 1st graders) will sing during the worship service. Contact Kingdom Kids Director Nicole Engelhardt with questions.



15 Winter Newsletter Submission Deadline

Any articles, pictures, or other newsletter submissions for our WINTER Quarterly Newsletter (*November - December - January*) are due to the church office by October 15th.



25 Reformation Sunday

Reformation Day is celebrated by many Protestant churches on October 31. It commemorates the Reformation and honors leaders such as Martin Luther, whose courage and conviction helped shape church history.



Luther's life was threatened because he spoke out against practices he believed did not reflect the true mission of the Church. Forced into hiding, he found refuge at Wartburg Castle as the guest of the ruler of Saxony.

While there, Luther took on an enormous task: translating the Bible from the original languages into German. This was no simple project. At the time, Germany was made up of many regional dialects, making communication difficult from one area to another.

Luther wanted ordinary people to clearly understand God's Word. To make sure his translation used everyday language, he is said to have listened carefully to common speech, even consulting the castle's butcher for familiar expressions and wording.

Luther's translation became a tremendous gift to the German people. Not only did it place Scripture into the hands of everyday readers, but the language he used also helped unify the many German dialects. In that sense, Martin Luther is often considered one of the fathers of the modern German language.

Pastor Appreciation Month

Let's show our love and gratitude for our pastors this month! Drop off a note of thanks, share a favorite sermon memory or simply tell them how they've made a difference.



TBD Annual Congregational Meeting

All confirmed, active members are encouraged to attend and vote. Items on the agenda include the election of council, committee members and delegates, ministry highlights, missions commitment, Endowment Fund updates, and pastoral compensation for the next year. Submissions for the annual report (including reports and pictures) are due to the church office by October 4th.

Church Nursery on Sundays

8:30am - 10:30am

We are blessed to have a staffed nursery almost every Sunday! The nursery is available for all children aged 4 and under, located across from the bathrooms, next to the pastors' offices. When the nursery is staffed, parents are asked to sign in when they bring their children to the nursery, and then then sign out when they return to pick them up.



Steady Hands Ministry

select Thursdays

If you need someone to talk to, a listening ear, spiritual guidance, or prayer support, Immanuel offers free counseling for members and the Roland-Story community.



To schedule a mentoring session at the church, contact Kim Combes at 515.291.4014. He is typically available two Thursdays each month from 3-7 P.M.

Holy Communion on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the Month

We celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month during worship, and again on the third Sunday in a more intimate gathering around the altar. If you're watching online, simply gather bread, crackers, wine, juice, or whatever you have available.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Jessica Blomberg	14	Sara Anderson	24	Caimin Edens
3	Don Hoffmann Halli Oberender Rick Richie	15	Wyatt Lelis Natalie Whipple	26	Keira Wright
4	Jacob Eilers	16	Tom Christian Mike Valen	27	Will Halverson Joe Thomas
7	Treanna Richie	18	Luke Wyatt	28	Parker Mullenbach Dick Willis
8	David Teigland Danni Whipple	19	Amber Christian	29	Lily Rathmacher Merlin Wendt
10	Joel Halverson Karsyn Lande	21	Ann Lelis	30	Josiah Potratz
13	Eli Dahl Masen Wright	22	Sandra Kowalik Greg Thompson	31	Brooks Christian

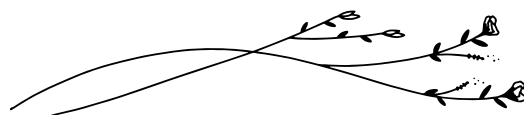


Let the church office know if we're missing your birthday or anniversary so we can celebrate with you!



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

2	Nate & Carrie Horman	11	Edgar & Jaynee Christian
4	Mike & Linda Anderson	21	Ben & Kayla Haberl
5	Merlin & Clara Wendt	25	Don & Cathy Braathun
9	Eric & Jocelyn Lowe	28	Brent & Wana Johnson



*"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."
—L.M. Montgomery, in Anne of Green Gables*

ways to give your time



SHARE YOUR TIME SERVING OUR CHURCH & COMMUNITY

Church Leadership

Much of Immanuel's leadership happens behind the scenes, but nothing "just happens." Every ministry, project, and decision begins with someone willing to step up, offer an idea, and help move it forward. If you feel called to serve, consider using your time and your gifts on a board or the Church Council. Your voice and leadership matter. Contact Pastor Andrew for more information about serving on a board or church council.

Give your time by sharing your talent and tithing

What do you spend your time on during the average week? How much time do you dedicate to serving someone else? Praying for someone else? Giving your time is often hand in hand with giving your talent and your tithing. Can you spare some for Jesus this week? Ask Him where and how you can spend some of the time He's given you.

Simply Pray and Pray Simply

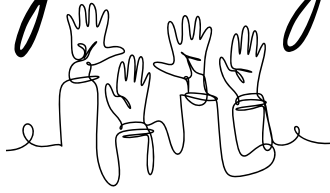
Yes, it's that simple. If you have time to pray for our church body, staff, leadership, and everyone who walks through our doors or joins us online, it makes a tremendous difference. We don't always ask one another for prayer, but the truth is that we ALL need it.

Pray for Immanuel. Pray specifically for God to provide the staff and volunteers needed to carry out His plans; to restore in us the energy and Spirit-filled drive to share the life-giving power of Jesus; for every person who enters our building to experience His love; for the safety of our youth as they navigate a world that does not know Him; for hearts to be changed; for a full surrender of the world to the God who created it; for His will to be done.

It may sound like a BIG ask, but we invite you to simply pray—and pray simply.

If you'd like to join our prayer chain and receive emails when someone needs prayer, contact the church office. And if you have a prayer request to share, reach out to the office or one of the pastors; you may remain anonymous.

ways to give your talent



worship volunteers



SHARE YOUR UNIQUE TALENTS WITH OUR CHURCH & COMMUNITY

Lend a hand in our interactive ministries that benefit the community

We have ministries inside the church walls and beyond that could use your unique talents (*this is not a complete list*):

- EPIC Youth Program - help prepare and serve dinner; lead worship; mentor the Middle School and High Schoolers
- Myrtle's Closet - help parents shop in our baby and toddler clothing closet; fold and inventory clothing and other donations
- Ministry of Comfort (Quilters) - making quilts and tying quilts to be given to people who need a blanket (shipped statewide and worldwide)
- Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry - donate non-perishable food and toiletry items; volunteer on Saturday mornings in the pantry
- Care & Visitation Team - pray, visit, serve communion, or mail cards to people in our congregation who need a friend or Christian advocate

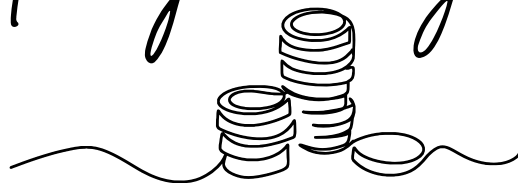
Special Projects

God has gifted each of us uniquely, and 1 Peter 4:10 reminds us to use those gifts to serve others. If you enjoy woodworking, painting, quilting, cooking, writing, history, scrapbooking, gardening, or playing an instrument, you can bless the church and community! Pastor Andrew would love to talk to you about your gifts and how your gifts can be used for sharing Jesus!

Volunteer for Worship or "behind the scenes"

It takes many hands to fully prepare for our worship services each week. Even before we open the church doors, work has been happening - from filling the communion trays, rehearsing songs, checking the microphones, changing the banner, and getting the coffee ready. As members of Immanuel, it is a privilege to share and support the many duties that it takes for a church to run smoothly. Join one of our volunteer teams (sacristy, hospitality, tech, welcome, acolyte, and worship) to get plugged in to helping with weekly worship - whether for a month at a time, or once a year. Not sure where you might fit in? Let one of the pastors or Deacons know! You can sign up anytime on the Sign-Up Genius link or by contacting the church office.

ways to give your tithe



give online



SHARE YOUR FINANCIAL GIFTS WITH OUR CHURCH & COMMUNITY

Give back to God what's His - Tithing to Bless the Community

Your tithes and offerings help sustain Immanuel's ministry and our missions that bless our community. If you don't currently give, we invite you to consider supporting the church in any amount. You can contribute by cash, check, online giving, or by setting up a one-time or recurring gift. You may also designate your gift to a specific mission. Find something meaningful to support—every gift makes a difference. Contact Carol Lake for assistance on giving.

Sponsor a worship bulletin

Sponsor any worship bulletin in honor or in memory of someone - perfect for birthdays, anniversaries, or special remembrances. Sponsorship is \$20 and includes a written and verbal announcement of your sponsorship on your sponsorship date. Your sponsorship helps us offset our printing and paper expenses. Contact the church office to schedule your sponsorship!

Thrivent Dollars

Are you a Thrivent member? If so, you have the opportunity each year to designate your Thrivent Choice dollars to Immanuel! This is a unique amount available for each Thrivent member based on the Thrivent products owned. While these dollars might not seem like a lot, they add up! Immanuel has received \$900 (year to date) from these Thrivent Choice funds.

To designate your Thrivent Choice dollars to Immanuel, you can do so through the Thrivent app, your web account portal, or by speaking with your Thrivent office.

Another way that Thrivent members can leverage their membership at Immanuel is through Thrivent Action Teams. Each Thrivent member can apply for two unique action teams each calendar year as seed money for local ministry, volunteer, or other church projects. Each project can be funded up to \$250! These have been used in the past for things like VBS, the Christmas Tea, and other outreach events or fundraisers. Thrivent members can apply for these online or by speaking with their local Thrivent office.

neighborhood news



HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE? CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE!

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

204 West Broad St. (mailing address PO Box 23), Story City, IA 50248

loavesnfishessc@gmail.com

All area churches take turns serving the pantry on Saturdays, If you would like to know more about donating or helping Immanuel serve, contact Brad & Karen Waline or the church office.

Most needed items (as of summer 2026):

- toilet paper, kleenex and paper towels
- women's deodorant
- shampoo and conditioner
- ketchup and mustard
- cereal
- diapers (sizes 5 & 6)



Norsemen Food Pantry

located at the RS Middle School

Open Every Sunday from 4 - 5 P.M.

Call (515) 388-4348 to donate or with questions

Little Free Pantry

located at 510 Pennsylvania in Story City & open 24/7!

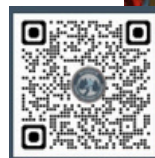
Take food or give food (non-perishable).

Riverside 5K & Quilt Day – Saturday, August 1

Spend the day at Riverside for our annual 5K & Quilt Day! Enjoy outdoor worship at 10:30 AM, lunch in the Dining Hall (free-will offering), swimming at the pool, and fellowship with Riverside friends and supporters.

The quilt auction and 5K proceeds support camperships and the ongoing ministry of Riverside as we continue our mission

“to know Jesus Christ and to make Christ known to all.”





ROLAND STORY

MORE
DETAILS
TO
COME!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026

DRIVE THRU FUNDRAISER

EVERY MEAL MAKES A DIFFERENCE.
EVERY DOLLAR SUPPORTS
RESIDENT CARE.

08.07.2026

START AT 4:00PM
ENDS AT 6:00PM

212 LAFAYETTE AVE
STORY CITY, IA 50248

The Households
of Bethany

\$10 DONATIONS



Bethany Life



STORY CITY DUCK RACE!

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19TH



DUCK RACE AT 6:00 P.M.
AT THE STORY CITY POOL



WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST 19TH

BBQ: 5:00 - 6:30 PM

FREE WILL DONATION - IN FRONT OF FAIRVIEW LODGE

CAROUSEL: 5:00 - 7:00 PM

RISE SPONSORED BY NORSEMAN REALTY TEAM

DUCK RACE 6:00 PM

STORY CITY POOL

KIDS CHUCK A DUCK 6:30 PM

STORY CITY POOL





604 LAFAYETTE AVE
STORY CITY, IOWA 50248

BUILDING STRONG RELATIONSHIPS IN CHRIST



AND MAKING HIM KNOWN TO ALL.

CALL: 1-515-733-4972

TEXT: 1-515-357-6982

OFFICE@IMMANUELSTORYCITY.ORG

IMMANUELSTORYCITY.ORG

IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICES 8:30 & 10:45 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM