



# THE IMMANUEL INFORMER

A publication of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church



## *IN THIS ISSUE*

LENT & EASTER CHURCH EVENTS

WINTER REVIEW WITH PICTURES

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



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



## 2025/2026 IMMANUEL COUNCIL & BOARD MEMBERS

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**Secretary:** Lori Whipple  
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**Amanda Tebben**  
NURSERY COORDINATOR

## Contact

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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. SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR**  
(CONFIRMATION & ADULT BIBLE STUDY)

**9:30 A.M. WORSHIP**  
**LIVE STREAM**

**10:30 A.M. COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**





# IMMANUEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Gracious God, as we spring forward into a new season, awaken our hearts to your presence. Even when our bodies feel weary, renew our spirits with your joy. Help us to use every moment you give us for your glory, trusting that your light shines brighter than any lost hour of sleep.*



# FOLLOWING SIGNS - THE FIVE SOLAS

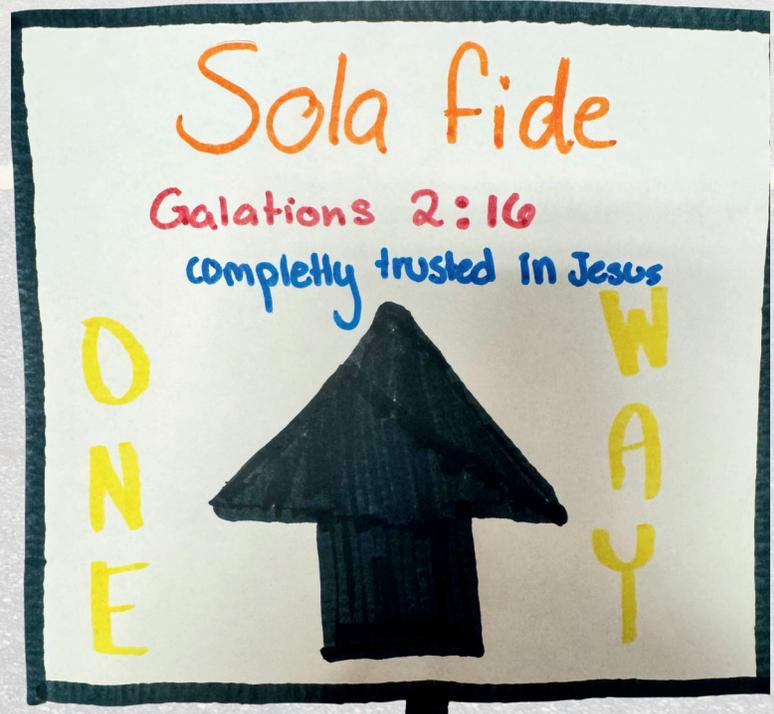
PASTOR'S ARTICLE

by Pastor Allison Potratz

I don't know about you, but I am ready for warm weather! I am ready to plant flowers, go on walks with my dogs, feel the warm air on my skin, and spend time outdoors. When was the last time you went on a hike in the beauty of God's creation? Were you prepared for your destination? Whether that be with a compass, water, snacks, a flashlight, a map, or a charged phone? How did you make sure you didn't get lost? Can you imagine hiking in the mountains in Colorado with no cell service, no maps, no trail signs, no snacks, and very little water? I can, because it has happened to me! Instead of signs, we followed blue markings on trees! Hiking trails usually have signs to prevent hikers from getting lost and to keep them traveling in the right direction.

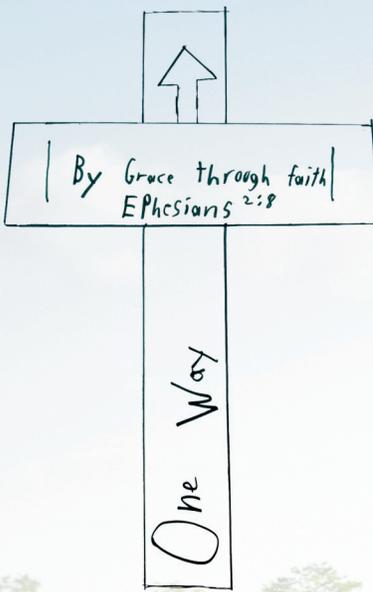
Throughout history, there have been times when Christians have strayed from the truth of God's Word and gotten lost by following ideas that do not align with the truth of Scripture. Over the last 2,000 years, faithful Christians have fought for the Church to stay on the path that God laid out for us in the Bible. Faithful people, like Martin Luther, have tried to keep believers on the right path by making signposts that point to Jesus and the Bible.

These signs take the form of creeds and confessions. The true teaching of the Bible is incredibly important to our faith journey, and it is the path we must follow in order to stay on track with the truth of God's Word. Out of the Lutheran Reformation came five signs, or truths, that help point us back to the true teaching of the Bible. They are called the Five Solas. Sola is Latin for "alone" or "only." They are like signposts that keep us on the true path of Jesus Christ.



## These five solas are:

- **Sola Scriptura** - *By Scripture Alone* - The Bible is God's Word and we should turn to the Bible of our instruction about God.
- **Sola Fide** - *By Faith Alone* - We cannot earn our way to heaven by doing good things, we are saved from our sin only through faith in Jesus Christ.
- **Sola Gratia** - *By Grace Alone* - We are only saved from our sin by God's free gift of grace, even though we don't deserve it. We can't buy God's love, nor can we earn it.
- **Solus Christus** - *Through Christ Alone* - Jesus alone is the King of our lives. It's through Jesus that we're saved from our sins, and it's through Jesus that we really know God. There is no salvation or eternal life apart from Jesus.
- **Soli Deo Gloria** - *To the Glory of God Alone* - God is above all things, and everything we do is to bring glory to God alone.



These five solas are essential teachings that are meant to keep us on the right path, focusing on the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. In December, the Confirmation students learned about these five solas and were tasked with making "road signs" that would represent one of these five solas. Imagine if you were driving down the road of life and you saw these road signs, how would they help you stay focused on the truth of who Jesus is, how we receive forgiveness and salvation, and challenge you to put God first in your life? The Confirmation students would like to challenge you to open your eyes to the world around you and see how you are fixing your eyes only on Jesus Christ and his forgiveness, grace, and salvation. ☦

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." *Hebrews 12:1-2*

# What Can I Pray About?

- We pray that God would empower and sustain the ministry of Immanuel, it's members, it's leaders, and those that are blessed by Immanuel in our community.
- We pray that God would empower and sustain the ministry of Immanuel, it's members, it's leaders, and those that are blessed by Immanuel in our community.
- 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 the Lord to provide all that Immanuel needs from the time, talents, and support of our church family. May the LORD teach us to be faithful stewards of what He has blessed us with.
- We pray for our Lent and Easter seasons, that all who we minister to might better understand the Gospel, Grace, and Abundant Life.
- 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 Haiti, Ukraine, Iran, and Venezuela.
- 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.

**PRAY MORE**  
*worry less*

MY PRAYERS

MY PRAISES



# prayer journal

[ Philippians 4:6 ]

today is...

- 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

verse for today:

month

year

today i am grateful for

answered prayers:

prayer requests:

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.....

praise reports

my mood for the day:

my personal prayer requests:

.....

.....





Whether you flee to warmer climes or hunker down to hibernate here at home, now is the time to have a good book at your side. Spring is right around the corner (we hope!) so before you get busy again, reread an old favorite, choose something new by a favorite author, or be adventurous and find something that's completely different to you. Put down the remote, pick up the book, exercise your brain - READ!

These are some of the recent additions to our church library:

**Land of Dreams** by Lauraine Snelling with Kiersti Giron. Fans of Snelling's family sagas will enjoy this first volume of her "Home to Green Creek" series. Set in Decorah, Iowa, it chronicles the story of a young Norwegian woman who loses her family but discovers the power of a loving, compassionate heart in finding a new one.

**Authentically Izzy** by Pepper Basham. A new author to our shelves, Ms. Basham has crafted a moder-day romance told entirely through emails. Meet the down-to-earth Izzy and the loving family members who each in their own way want only to see Izzy find the happiness she is so deserving of, even if it means encouraging her to leave their family circle for an adventure she'd never dreamed possible.

**An Uncommon Protector** by Shelley Shepard Gray. Laurel Tracy desperately needs help and protection in order to save her ranch, the only thing she has left after the Civil War, but is she desperate enough to risk buying the freedom of a convicted prisoner in return for a year's worth of work? Read to find out if a woman's intuition and a man's sense of honor can combine to solve her problem.

**Make You Feel My Love** by Robin Lee Hatcher. An old violin links two young women living a hundred years apart, and their stories of neglect and abuse at the hands of those who supposedly loved them. See how God heals and restores hope to their tender hearts and helps them welcome love back into their lives.

New nonfiction:

**The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak** "Lessons on Faith from Nine Biblical Families" by Shannon Bream.

**Sharper than Any Two-Edged Sword** "Ordinary Men Doing God's Extraordinary Work", by Warren Hardig, Men for Missions Global Ambassador.

**Waymaker** "Finding the Way to the Life You've Always Dreamed Of" by Ann Voskamp.





## attendance

### SUNDAY IN- PERSON

November Average: 147

December Average: 141

January Average: 132

### SUNDAY IN-PERSON AVERAGE: 140

### \*SUNDAY ONLINE (FACEBOOK) AVERAGE: 30

*\*THIS ACCOUNTS FOR THOSE WATCHING  
LIVE - NOT THOSE WHO VIEW THE SERVICE  
AFTER THE LIVESTREAM HAS ENDED.*



*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.*



## deaths & memorials

Margaret Thompson passed away on November 12; funeral service was held at Immanuel on November 17.

Clarion Thompson passed away on December 8; funeral service was held at Immanuel on December 14.

James Concannon passed away on January 4; funeral service was held at Immanuel on January 9.

## Other Pastoral Acts

Baptism of Bayler Paige Krogman, daughter of Alyson & Kyler Krogman; sponsors are Thomas & Emily Olive, Erin & Travis Brown.



## in our prayers

- our President and administration
- the families of Margaret Thompson, Clarion Thompson, and James Concannon
- those impacted by natural disasters
- those fighting or recovering from illness, chronic illness and diseases and cancer
- our congregation as we navigate new expansions to our ministry
- our government and our military leaders
- law enforcement, healthcare workers, teachers and students

*Please call or email our church office to share your prayer requests and praises. If you would like to talk to a pastor about your concerns, please ask! You may remain anonymous if you'd like. You can also join our email prayer chain to receive a notice when someone requests prayer.*

*How can we pray for you?*

# Event Pictures from October and November



The Rathmacher small group likes faith, food and fun. We enjoyed a meal together and finished with a costume party.



Oh, the weather outside was frightful, but the Christmas Luncheon and Bake Sale were both delicious and delightful! Because of the winter weather on Saturday, we moved our event until Sunday after church, and we all had a scrumptious fellowship time. Thank you all!

Thank you to our First Graders and Third Graders for being gracious greeters in October and November.

# EPIC

WEDNESDAYS || 6 - 8 P.M.  
5TH GRADE - 12TH GRADE  
PIZZA || WORSHIP || SMALL GROUPS

In November the Middle School EPIC students had a service project night where they made snack bags for students at the elementary school and care kits for Loaves and Fishes. We made over 50 care kits full of kleenex's, cough drops, chapstick, hot chocolate, mints, and cans of soup. We were also able to bless every teacher at the elementary school with bags full of extra snacks to give students who forgot to bring their snack that day.



In December the High School EPIC students had a service project night where they made tie blankets for Myrtle's Closet. They are excited to bless families in need through this wonderful ministry!

Below are photos of the kids in a contest between groups to wrap Christmas presents while wearing snow gloves!



# Event Pictures from December

The PreK and Kindergarten getting ready for the Christmas program. How many angel wings has Lois pinned on?





# Event Pictures from January



In January, Em Quang taught a group of ladies how to make homemade pork eggrolls - and the church smelled so heavenly - what a fun morning of fellowship and enjoying a great snack!



♥  
Thank  
you!

Thank you to Dean Kohlmeyer for installing wheels on our designated "Puzzle Table", given by Chuck & Laura Carlson. This table is now able to be rolled to various rooms in the church for some puzzling fun! If you have any puzzles you'd like to donate or swap from the table, feel free to do so.



We held our annual Family Sunday School on January 25. There was a great turnout. There were several activities including; crafts, bingo snacks, card making and sewing felt hearts. Sewing the hearts was a favorite. The cards and hearts will be given to residents at Bethany Life as part of our Spring Mission project.

## Sunday School Curriculum

### January:

Studied about the conversion of Saul to Paul. We took a Sunday to teach about tithing.

### February:

The early life of Jesus; John the Baptist.  
 8. Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist  
 15. Jesus in the wilderness  
 22. Jesus in neglected at Nazareth.

### March:

Gospels on Easter; Jesus is anointed at Bethany  
 8. Jesus prays in Gethsemane  
 15. Spring Break -No Sunday School  
 22. Jesus is Alive!  
 29. Palm Sunday Activities

### April:

Finish Gospels on Easter  
 5. Easter - no Sunday School  
 12. Jesus appears to His disciples.  
 Begin study of Solomon  
 19. Adonijah. Solomon asks for wisdom  
 26. Solomon built a temple

February

2026



weekly events

month at a glance

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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

DAY	TIME	EVENT
MONDAYS	8:30 A.M.	Women's Bible Study
TUESDAYS	9:30 A.M.	Staff Meeting
WEDNESDAYS	2 P.M. 6 - 8 P.M.	Life School Musical Rehearsal EPIC Youth Program
SATURDAYS	8 A.M.	Men of Immanuel
SUNDAYS	8:00 A.M. 8:30 A.M. 9:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M. 12:30 P.M.	Radio Broadcast Education Hour Worship Fellowship Life School Musical Rehearsal



Love one another.  
1 JOHN 4:7

**Church activities are subject to change. Check out our fully updated calendar on our website: [immanuelstorycity.org](http://immanuelstorycity.org)**

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun., Feb. 1	--	Communion Sunday
Mon., Feb. 2	10 - 11:30 A.M.	Myrtle's Closet Open
Wed., Feb. 4	5:45 - 7 P.M.	Myrtle's Closet Open
Thurs., Feb. 5	9 A.M. - noon	Quilting (Social Hall)
Sun., Feb. 8	-- 2 P.M.	"Souper" Bowl Sunday//Young Disciples Sing Sunday School Valentine's Visit at Bethany Life
Thurs., Feb. 12	6:30//7:45 P.M.	Deacons & Trustees Meetings//Church Council Meeting
Sun., Feb. 15	-- 10:30 A.M.	Kingdom Kids Sing Service of Holy Communion after worship
Wed., Feb. 18	-- 5:45 P.M. 6:30 P.M. 7:15 P.M.	Ash Wednesday Lenten Supper (Social Hall) Lent Worship EPIC//Lent Bible Study
Wed., Feb. 25	5:45 P.M. 6:30 P.M. 7:15 P.M.	Lenten Supper (Social Hall) Lent Worship EPIC//Lent Bible Study



*birthdays*

**2/4:** Murphy Thomas

**2/5:** Brooks Horman

**2/6:** Chris Engelhardt

**2/7:** Hayden Watson

**2/8:** Ryan Charlson

**2/9:** Jonie Wheeler

**2/11:** Mary Danielson  
Joel Gabrielson

**2/13:** Miriam Skartvedt

**2/15:** Chris Dahl

**2/16:** Edgar Christian  
Carrie Horman  
Colleen Johnson  
Mavis Leerberg

**2/17:** Brielle Wakefield

**2/18:** Alaina Christian

**2/19:** Jo Mortvedt  
Laura Severson

**2/20:** Reid Whipple

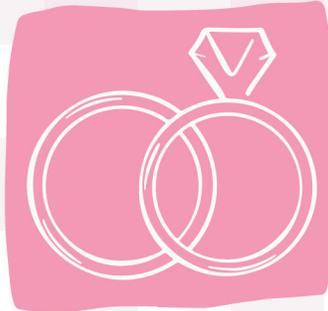
**2/23:** Wana Johnson

**2/24:** Doretta Hoffmann

**2/25:** Tami Marienau

**2/26:** Zayne Leeman  
Eric Lowe  
Jocelyn Lowe

**2/29:** Jack Brouwer



*anniversaries*

**2/9:** Paul & Paula Voga

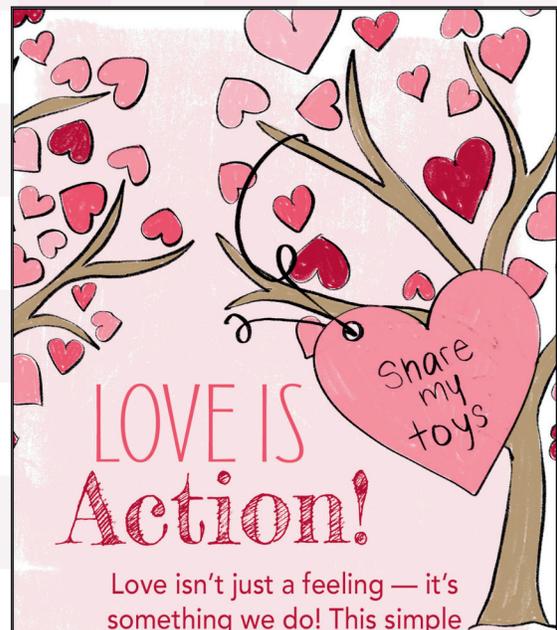
**2/13:** Bob & Shelly Rivera

**2/14:** Roger & Fran Christian  
Dion & Brenda Whipple



***Are we missing your birthday or anniversary on our calendar?***

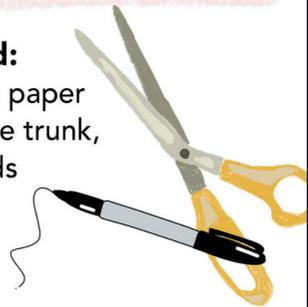
*Contact the church office to update your records so we can celebrate with you!*



Love isn't just a feeling — it's something we do! This simple activity reminds us that acts of love, big or small, can grow and bless others.

**What you need:**

- Construction paper (brown for the trunk, pinks and reds for hearts)
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Markers or crayons



**What you do:**

1. Cut a large tree trunk and branches out of brown paper and glue it onto a sheet of paper or poster board.
2. Use colorful paper to cut several hearts — these will be your "leaves."
3. On each heart, write loving actions like "share my toys," "pray for others," or "help clean up."
4. Glue the hearts onto the branches to create a full, love-filled tree.
5. Hang it somewhere visible as a reminder to put love into action every day!



# March

# 2026



## weekly events

### month at a glance

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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				



DAY	TIME	EVENT
<b>MONDAYS</b>	8:30 A.M.	Women's Bible Study
<b>TUESDAYS</b>	9:30 A.M.	Staff Meeting
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	2 P.M.	Life School Musical Rehearsal
	5:45 P.M.	Lenten Supper (Social Hall)
	6:30 P.M.	Lent Worship
<b>SATURDAYS</b>	7:15 P.M.	EPIC//Lent Bible Study
	8 A.M.	Men of Immanuel
	8:00 A.M.	Radio Broadcast
<b>SUNDAYS</b>	8:30 A.M.	Education Hour
	9:30 A.M.	Worship
	10:30 A.M.	Fellowship
	12:30 P.M.	Life School Musical Rehearsal

**Church activities are subject to change. Check out our fully updated calendar on our website: [immanuelstorycity.org](http://immanuelstorycity.org)**

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun., March 1	--	Communion Sunday
Thurs., March 5	9 A.M. - Noon	Quilters (Social Hall)
Sun., March 8	--	Daylight Saving Time Begins
Mon., March 9	10 - 11:30 A.M.	Myrtle's Closet Open
Tues., March 10	6 - 9 P.M.	Social Hall Reserved
Wed., March 11	7:30 P.M.	Senior Choir Rehearsal
Thurs., Mar. 12	6:30//7:45 P.M.	Deacons and Trustees Meetings//Council Meeting
Sun., March 15	--	No Sunday School/Life School Musical Rehearsal ( <i>Spring Break</i> )
	10:30 A.M.	Service of Holy Communion after worship
Wed., March 18	--	No EPIC or Choir ( <i>Spring Break</i> )
March 19 & 20	--	Church Office Closed ( <i>Spring Break</i> )
Wed., March 25	7:30 P.M.	Senior Choir Rehearsal
Sun., March 29	--	Palm Sunday - all choirs sing
Mon., March 30	5:45 P.M.	Myrtle's Closet Open



## *birthdays*

**3/1:** Kayla Cook  
John Kowalik  
Courtney Larsen

**3/2:** A.J. Christian

**3/6:** Bayler Krogman

**3/7:** Stephanie Amundson  
Claudia Fuhrman  
Roger Olsen

**3/10:** Ben Carlson  
Ben Harriman  
Jaynee Christian  
Marsha Taylor

**3/11:** Keely Oberender

**3/12:** Sue Trampel

**3/14:** Mike Ness  
Luke Winecoff

**3/15:** Sue Frette  
Lana Voga

**3/19:** Ava Charlson

**3/20:** Bev Petzenhauser  
Kennedy Whitaker

**3/21:** Sandy Jacobson  
Chris McIlrath  
Dan Oakland  
Caden Sporleder  
Bodie Hermanson

**3/22:** Debra Gallagher

**3/24:** Karla Concannon  
Patty Sindt  
Donna Teigland

**3/25:** Sarah Halverson

**3/26:** Stefanie Charlson

**3/27:** Brice Haskin  
Amelia Schaufenbuel

**3/28:** Haidyn Oberender  
Jim Oberender  
Kim Severson

**3/30:** Cathy Braathun  
Elsey Haberl  
Mike Petzenhauser

**3/31:** Ed Frette  
Shirley Wheeler



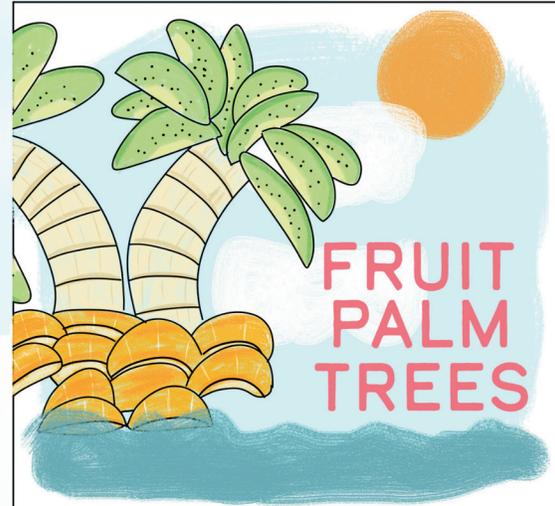
## *anniversaries*

**3/2:** Greg & Lana Voga

**3/11:** Chuck & Laura Carlson

**3/16:** Jason & Laura Loots

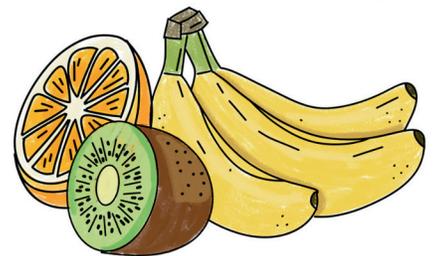
**3/22:** Kent & Lisa Handeland



These cheerful "palm trees" make a bright reminder of the celebration that greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem.

### **What you need:**

- Bananas (for the tree trunks)
- Kiwis or green grapes (for the palm leaves)
- Mandarin oranges (for the ground)



### **What you do:**

1. Slice bananas in half lengthwise and place vertically on a plate.
2. Arrange kiwi slices or grapes at the top to form palm fronds.
3. Add oranges at the base.
4. Serve immediately or chill until ready to serve.

### **Scripture Tie-In:**

"Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord!"

—Matthew 21:9 (NIV)

# APRIL 2026

## month at a glance

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			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
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## weekly events

DAY	TIME	EVENT
<b>MONDAYS</b>	8:30 A.M.	Women's Bible Study
<b>TUESDAYS</b>	9:30 A.M.	Staff Meeting
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	6 - 8 P.M.	EPIC Youth Program
<b>SUNDAYS</b>	8:00 A.M.	Radio Broadcast
	8:30 A.M.	Education Hour
	9:30 A.M.	Worship
	10:30 A.M.	Fellowship
<b>SATURDAYS</b>	8 A.M.	Men of Immanuel

**Church activities are subject to change. Check out our fully updated calendar on our website: [immanuelstorycity.org](http://immanuelstorycity.org)**

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Wed., Apr. 1	2:00//7:30 P.M.	Life School Musical Rehearsal//Senior Choir Rehearsal
Thurs., Apr. 2	9 A.M.//7 P.M.	Quilting (Social Hall)//Maundy Thursday Service
Fri., April 3	7:00 P.M.	Good Friday Service
Sun., April 5	7:00//9:30 A.M.	"Sonrise" Service//Easter Resurrection Service
Tues., April 7	4 - 6 P.M.	Life School Musical Dress Rehearsal
Wed., April 8	2 - 4 P.M.	Life School Musical Dress Rehearsal
Thurs., April 9	6:30//7:45 P.M.	Deacons and Trustees Meeting//Council Meeting
Sat., April 11	1:30 P.M.	Life School Musical Performance
Sun., April 12	4 P.M.	Life School Musical Performance
Mon., April 13	10 - 11:30 A.M.	Myrtle's Closet Open
Tues., April 14	6 - 9 P.M.	Social Hall Reserved
Wed., April 15	--	Summer Quarterly Newsletter Submissions Due
Sun., April 19	--	Service of Holy Communion after worship
Sun., April 26	9:30//11 A.M.	Confirmation Sunday//Social Hall Reserved
Wed., April 29	5:45 P.M.	Myrtle's Closet Open



## *birthdays*

- 4/2:** Bristol Whipple
- 4/3:** Kathy Gabrielson
- 4/4:** Tosha Whipple  
Leo Hermanson
- 4/5:** Madison Martindale  
Alexa Meek  
Don Munsen  
Dion Whipple
- 4/6:** Ali Charlson  
Bradey Haberl
- 4/7:** Gracey Haberl  
Rhys Whipple
- 4/8:** Tucker Whitaker  
Hans Hermanson
- 4/9:** Laura Loots  
Karen Soderstrum
- 4/10:** Jerilyn Rasmusson
- 4/11:** Pete Hermanson  
Jim Twedt  
MacKenzie Chick
- 4/12:** Linda Donohue  
Jerry Handsaker  
Vicki Johnson  
Adalyn Sporleder
- 4/14:** Kari Martindale
- 4/15:** Courtney Mensen  
Lucy Ostrem
- 4/16:** Kent Handeland
- 4/17:** Ezra Edens  
Janet Handsaker  
Kiana Harriman  
Bruce Mortvedt

**4/19:** Lois Oakland  
Patty Rathmacher  
Brad Wyatt

**4/21:** Gary Hested  
Carol Ann Morris  
Eloise Thorson

**4/22:** Linda Doyle

**4/23:** Don Braathun  
Jo Reinert

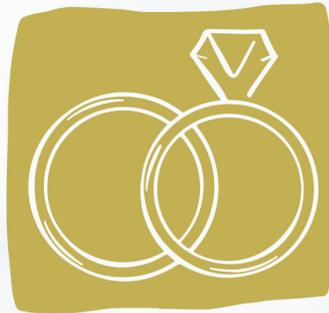
**4/24:** Melanie Wakefield

**4/25:** Roger Christian

**4/27:** Erik Christian  
Jon Mehl  
Lori Olson

**4/28:** Steve McCoy  
Kim Wyatt

**4/29:** Harper Nordeen



## *anniversaries*

**4/7:** Marv & Sue Braland

**4/8:** Ryan & Ann Lelis  
Matt & Kim Sporleder

**4/13:** Joel & Mary Danielson

**4/20:** Dan & Jonie Wheeler

**4/22:** Jake & Cassie Edwards

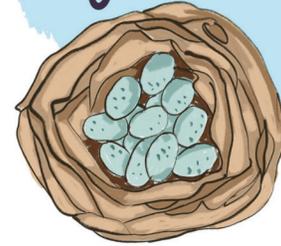
**4/26:** Brent & Diane Christian

**4/29:** Mike & Cathy Isebrand

**4/30:** Sean & Ashley Edens



# Springing to LIFE



New life defines the season of spring. Make this Easter craft that symbolizes rebirth.

### What you need:

- Brown paper lunch bag
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Glue stick
- Jellybeans



### What you do:

1. From the bag's bottom, cut two 2-inch circles. Set aside.
2. From the sides, cut two 10-inch circles.
3. Draw a thin spiral on each large circle and cut along the lines. Crinkle spirals gently.
4. Starting at the center, wrap one spiral into a nest. Glue every few inches to hold it.
5. Glue one small circle to the bottom of the nest.
6. Repeat with the other spiral. Fill nests with jellybeans and give to a friend!



# CARRY THE FLAME

2025 - 2026 SERMON SERIES

DEEPER faith  
DEEPER hope  
DEEPER love

1 CORINTHIANS 13

## Consider *sponsoring* 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!*



## INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Any weather-related early dismissals or cancellations at Roland-Story schools result in the cancellation of church activities.

Worship services will *typically* not be cancelled in the case of inclement weather.

*Please use your own discretion, especially during "no travel" advisories.*

We will post information on our Immanuel Facebook page, website, and/or send an email out to alert you of any cancelled worship service or other activities.

# Sign Up ✓

TO SERVE  
this year  
@ IMMANUEL

**ALL AGES ARE WELCOME TO VOLUNTEER  
FOR WORSHIP & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES!**

SIGN UP IN THE LOBBY, ONLINE, OR WITH THE CHURCH OFFICE.

We celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion on the **first Sunday of the month during worship**, and the **third Sunday of the month after worship** (*in a more intimate setting*).

**Watching worship online?**

Gather bread, crackers, wine or juice, or whatever you have on hand.

# Holy Communion at Immanuel



# CONGREGATIONAL »»» reminder «««

Any concerns regarding church-related business or operations (*including elements of worship, ministries, leadership or staff*) are to be directed to church council president, Doug Mechaelsen, or vice president, John Nordeen.

These concerns can then be addressed by the members of the Immanuel church council.

## steady hands MINISTRY

*with mentor Kim Combes*



Sessions will be scheduled at the church on select Thursdays between 3 - 7 P.M.

Contact Kim to set up your free mentoring session at 515.291.4014

## Church Nursery

The Immanuel Nursery is available for children aged 4 and under, located across from the bathrooms, next to the pastors' offices.

*When the nursery is staffed, parents must sign in when they bring their children to the nursery and then sign out when they return to pick them up.*

## CARE & VISITATION MINISTRY TEAM



Over these winter months, many of our older church family are not able to get out as much or join us for Sunday worship. The Care and Visitation team is an important part of our ministry that helps keep those connected who cannot regularly be here, that connects and prays with those who are undergoing difficult life circumstances, and that gives us a better presence in our area retirement and care facilities.

**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

WEDNESDAYS || 6 - 8 P.M.  
5TH GRADE - 12TH GRADE  
PIZZA || WORSHIP || SMALL GROUPS

## Share a slice of our EPIC expenses!

Our EPIC youth group's weekly pizza meal costs **\$135** to feed our **60** students and leaders. If you can sponsor a week of pizza or contribute toward our EPIC fund to share a *slice* of our pizza meal expenses, we'd be grateful for your support. Donations can be made through the church office or designated in your giving.

*Thank you for investing in our youth and their growing faith!*

## Camperships

Immanuel is blessed to provide camperships to all Immanuel members and any first-time camper after the minimum deposit is paid. Contact the Church Office directly for this code or more information.

*Are you sending a first-time camper or would like a campership for family camp? Contact the Church Office to submit your request to our Board of Trustees.*

## Immanuel Youth Mission Trip

>>> JULY 5 - 10, 2026 <<<

LAKE TRAVERSE,  
SOUTH DAKOTA

STORY CITY,  
IOWA

We are raising the  
remaining **\$1,300** for  
our trip this summer!

Give online using the QR code and  
select "Youth Mission Trip Fund" or  
drop off a check to the church office.



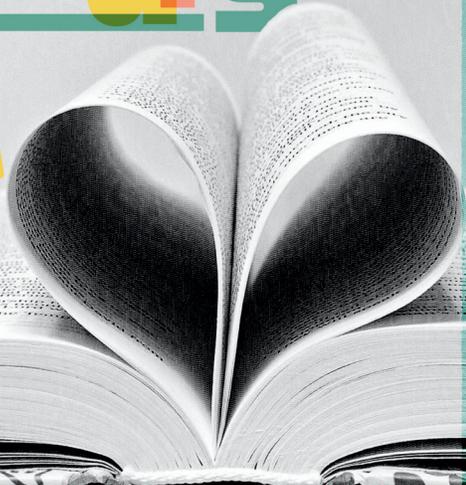
SATURDAYS || 8:00 A.M. || SOCIAL HALL

## Men of Immanuel

BIBLE STUDY || COFFEE || DONUTS || FELLOWSHIP

# Small groups

Where discussions go **DEEP** & bonds grow deeper.



## Small Groups at Immanuel JOIN ONE OR START YOUR OWN!

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.

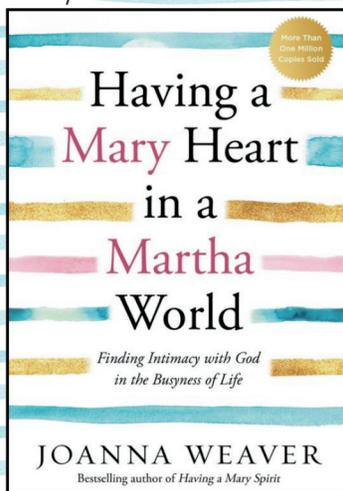
Do you want to start a small group? Join a group? Or do you need ideas or resources to help lead your current group? Contact Pastor Andrew!

## Women's Bible Study

led by Pastor Allison

Mondays @ 8:30 A.M. in the Cornerstone Room

WINTER/SPRING 2026 STUDY



MISSION OF COMFORT  
WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Quilt Tying Work Days

FEB. 5 // MAR. 5 // APR. 2  
9 A.M. - 12 P.M.  
IMMANUEL SOCIAL HALL

No quilting experience needed. Bring a snack to share during coffee hour! Donations of bed sheets (fitted & bottom sheets, 80 - 100% cotton) and fabric can be dropped off to the church office.

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAYS @ 8:30 A.M.

Join us on Sundays during the Sunday School hour and dig deeper into our HOPE in Christ! Our adult class will continue to do Bible studies related to our Sunday's worship Scriptures and sermon themes. No preparation is needed for you to join! Just bring your Bible (or borrow one here), and a desire to dig deeper into God's Word.



Myrtle's Volunteers hosted fellowship time on January 11<sup>th</sup> in honor of the Closet's 3rd Birthday - complete with birthday cake! Thanks for supporting this mission!



# LIFE

## Myrtle's Closet Serves families just like yours!

**90% are married, 100% are prolife.**  
We are VERY THANKFUL for your donations of baby clothing, quilts, toys and monetary donations, but we desperately need volunteers - even an hour of your time is a blessing! You can help Myrtle's Closet by:

**1) Sorting donations** (like clothing items, toys, blankets) on your own schedule so our closet stays organized

**OR**

**2) Assisting clients** (mostly moms!) with their shopping needs in the closet - picking out clothes and packing them up for them to take home.

Currently, we only have four people that regularly volunteer. We need more helpers to run the Closet smoothly and have a rotating group of volunteers. We have perfected a shopping system and having four volunteers during each shopping session works better. Can you help during one of our shopping days in 2026 (*we're open 2 to 4 times a month*)? Sign up with a friend or spouse and serve families in a meaningful way - celebrating life **ONE BABY AT A TIME.**



## Myrtle's Closet

### SPRING '26 SHOPPING DATES

(10:00 TO 11:30 A.M.)  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 9**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 13**

(5:45 - 7:00 P.M.)  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 30**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29**

**VOLUNTEER WITH MYRTLE'S CLOSET!**  
 Help parents shop for baby clothes & diapers!  
 Training available for new volunteers.




FEBRUARY 8

# Scout Sunday

A SCOUT IS TRUSTWORTHY, LOYAL, HELPFUL,  
FRIENDLY, COURTEOUS, KIND, OBEDIENT, CHEERFUL,  
THRIFTY, BRAVE, CLEAN, AND REVERENT.



You're invited to wear a favorite team shirt or jersey to church on Sunday, February 8th! Bring a can of soup or box of soup crackers to donate to the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry! *Help us fill the cart!*

**Valentine's Visit at Bethany Life**

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup> 2 PM

---

We would like to invite all Sunday School children to join us at Bethany Life to deliver Valentines and read to the residents!

**Happy Valentine's Day**

FEBRUARY 14

"We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19, NIV). This month, let's share God's love in simple ways — a kind note, a prayer, a helping hand. Look for ways to bless someone around you!

**YOUNG DISCIPLES**  
Singing Schedule

February 8  
March 24  
May 17  
(2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Graders)

**KINGDOM KIDS**  
Singing Schedule

February 15  
March 24  
May 17  
(3&4 year olds through 1<sup>st</sup> Graders)

LENT 2026 SERMON SERIES

# PRAYING OUR WAY TO THE CROSS



## *The Psalms in Lent*

Wednesdays at 6:30 P.M. - February 18 through March 25

Join us for a meal in the Social Hall at 5:45 P.M. each week [freewill offering] before the service. EPIC and adult small groups will meet after worship with studies based on each week's Psalm.

# LENT 2026 WORSHIP & HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



ASH WEDNESDAY [6:30 P.M.]  
February 18

WEDNESDAY LENT WORSHIP [6:30 P.M.]  
February 25, March 4, 11, 18 and 25



PALM SUNDAY [9:30 A.M.]  
March 29

Kingdom Kids, Young Disciples and Senior Choir  
sing during worship



MAUNDY THURSDAY [7:00 P.M.]  
April 2

Senior Choir sings; service of Holy Communion



GOOD FRIDAY [7:00 P.M.]  
April 3

Youth-led service



“SONRISE” SERVICE [7:00 A.M.]  
EASTER RESURRECTION SERVICE [9:30 A.M.]  
April 5

Fellowship in the lobby inbetween services

# Lenten Meals

Meals served 5:45 - 6:15 P.M.  
[freewill offering]

- Feb. 18: Youth Mission Trip [tacos]
- Feb. 25: Rathmacher Small Group [TBD]
- March 4: Sunday School/BOE [TBD]
- March 11: Immanuel Volunteers Group [TBD]
- March 18: Myrtle's Closet [TBD]
- March 25: Men of Immanuel [French Toast & ham]



## Ash Wednesday

FEBRUARY 18  
6:30 P.M.

We turn our hearts toward Jesus and the journey to the cross. The Senior Choir will sing, we all share Holy Communion, and are marked with ashes to remind us that we are dust formed by God's own hands.

# Easter Plants



**Sponsor a plant for Easter Sunday!** Fill out the form in your bulletin and return with payment to the church office by **Sunday, March 22.**

**\$15 per plant** - lilies, begonias, mums, tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths will be available. Pick up after Easter worship on **April 5.**

## Immanuel Senior Choir SPRING 2026 REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

### REHEARSALS

- Wednesday, March 11 (7:30 - 8:30 P.M.)
- Wednesday, March 25 (7:30 - 8:30 P.M.)
- Wednesday, April 1 (7:30 - 8:30 P.M.)

### PERFORMANCES

- SUNDAY, MARCH 29**  
(PALM SUNDAY)
- THURSDAY, APRIL 2**  
(MAUNDY THURSDAY)
- SUNDAY, APRIL 5**  
(EASTER SUNDAY)

STUDENTS (6TH GRADE AND UP) AND ADULTS  
OF ALL AGES (AND SINGING EXPERIENCE!)  
ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE IMMANUEL SENIOR CHOIR!

# DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS MARCH 8



Spring forward in faith!  
CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS and  
join us on time for worship.

# CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Week of Spring Break (March 16 - 20)

WE WILL BE OPEN MONDAY - WEDNESDAY  
FROM 9 A.M. TO NOON  
& CLOSED THURSDAY & FRIDAY

*call or leave us a message*

515-733-4972 OR TEXT 515-357-6982

*email us anytime*

OFFICE@IMMANUELSTORYCITY.ORG



We remember the missionary heart of St. Patrick, who shared Christ's light with courage and compassion.

*"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*—Matthew 5:16 (NIV)

**Wherever you go, let your faith shine bright!**

## Spring Break

March 15 - 21, 2026



No Sunday School on Sunday, March 15. Adult Ed will still meet!

No EPIC or Choir on Wed., March 18.

Pastor Andrew will still lead Bible Study after worship!



### Palm Sunday

MARCH 29  
9:30 A.M.

We celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the Senior Choir, Young Disciples and Kingdom Kids share music during worship. We prepare our hearts for the journey to the cross and the empty tomb.



### Maundy Thursday

APRIL 2  
7:00 P.M.

Join us for a meaningful service as we remember Christ's humble service and sacrificial love. We share Holy Communion and the Senior Choir performs an anthem as we remember the Lord's Last Supper.





# Good Friday

APRIL 3  
7:00 P.M.

At this youth-led service, we pause and remember the weight of Christ's sacrifice through Scripture, music and prayer.



# Easter Treats

**Sign up with Karen Hermanson or on the Sign Up Genius link to provide treats or drinks for our fellowship time on Easter Sunday!**

You're invited to join us for fellowship time in the lobby between our 7 A.M. and 9:30 A.M. Easter services on **Sunday, April 5!**

# HAPPY Easter

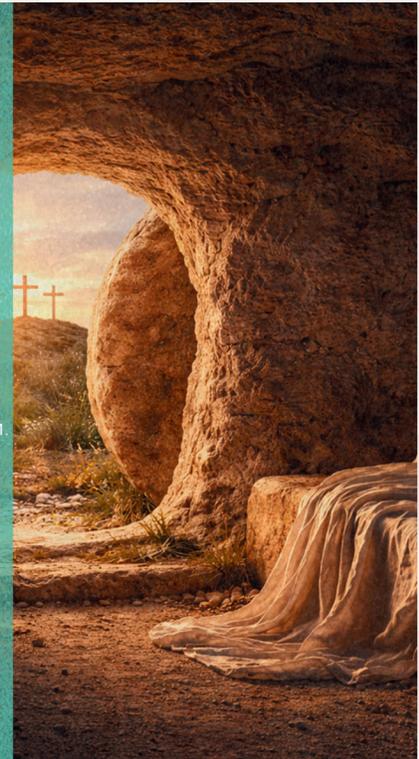
from the staff at  
Immanuel Lutheran  
Church



# Easter Sunday

APRIL 5  
7:00 A.M. and 9:30 A.M.

He is risen!  
Hallelujah!  
Join us for a special Easter Sunday - we share Holy Communion, and the Senior Choir sings at the 9:30 service. Join us for fellowship and treats in the lobby between services.



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.



presents

# LIFE SCHOOL MUSICAL

## PERFORMANCES

Saturday, April 11 at 1:30 P.M.

Sunday, April 12 at 4 P.M.

Free admission! Freewill offering will go towards a mission that the kids choose. Fellowship time with treats will follow in the Social Hall.

604 LAFAYETTE AVE. || STORY CITY, IA || [IMMANUELSTORYCITY.ORG](http://IMMANUELSTORYCITY.ORG)

Church Newsletter

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Any articles, pictures, or other newsletter submissions for our **SUMMER Quarterly Newsletter** (May - June - July) are due to the church office by **April 15th**.

Contact Milianna with questions.



## SAVE THE DATE!

*Confirmation Sunday*  
Sunday, April 26



Our confirmands will share their faith testimony during the worship service on Sunday, April 26.

*Confirmation serves as an important faith milestone, as young adults purposefully embrace a life of discipleship.*

**Please come and celebrate their Confirmation!**

We Christians simply cannot get over the reality of the Resurrection. For us, the fact that God raised Christ from the dead proves that Christ's way alone is God's answer to the sins and horrors of the world. The truths Christ taught when he walked on earth stand solid and irrefutable. The light he brought is the only light that never goes out, for it is the eternal light of God's glory. Christ's life is the clearest example of how God intends for us to live. His way is the way that makes the most sense for our lives on this earth. The saints throughout history have shown that again and again.

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

*Week of April 27 - May 1*

WE WILL BE OPEN MONDAY - WEDNESDAY  
FROM 9 A.M. TO NOON  
& CLOSED THURSDAY & FRIDAY

*call or leave us a message*

515-733-4972 OR TEXT 515-357-6982

*email us anytime*

OFFICE@IMMANUELSTORYCITY.ORG

The hope Christ offers is the only true and lasting hope. Ultimately, it is our assurance that life can be good and joy-filled for all. Consider the words St. Paul wrote to the church at Rome and apply them to your own life: "Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his" (Romans 6:4-5, NRSV).

If that is not a tremendous cause for abiding joy, then what is?

## Minutes of the Joint Council Meeting:

### Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

November 13, 2025 7:45 PM In Person in the Social Hall

**Present:** Pastor Allison, Pastor Andrew, Doug Mechaelsen, Lori Whipple, Chuck Carlson, Julie Skaar, Steve Skartvedt, Ben Haberl, Patty Rathmacher, Lily Rathmacher, Jana Larsen, Kelly Dahl, Jaynee Christian, Brandi Hill, Jim Oberender, Katie Brouwer, Frank Baedke, John Nordeen, Sean Edens, Issac Kubat-guest and Conner Freerks-guest

President Doug Mechaelsen called the meeting to order at 7:53 PM.

1. Devotions and opening prayer were given by Pastor Andrew. He reviewed the Immanuel Vision 1-2-5 Initiative and charged each board to take intentional time at their next board meetings talking about this. He would like to go over these ideas in February.
2. Approval of previous meeting minutes. Ben moved that the October minutes be approved and Jaynee seconded. Approved unanimously.
3. Treasurer's Report was given by Chuck Carlson using the documents submitted to council. Steve moved that the Treasurer's report be approved and Jim seconded. Approved unanimously.
4. Report of Boards (see below for full reports)
  - a. Deacons: Kelly Dahl
  - b. Board of Ed: Pastor Allison
  - c. Trustees: Ben Haberl
  - d. Youth Board: Pastor Allison. The Board met in mid-October and went over their goals and fund balances. They reviewed EPIC and what the needs are. The mission trip was discussed. Conner discussed his Youth Discipleship program. They were also asked to think about the Thrive Initiative.
5. Old Business
  - a. Nominating Committee. Council was asked to come each month with ideas for individuals to serve so we have a committee by next fall.
  - b. Safety Conversations. Joel had offered to take time to look into this. Laura Carlson has historical information on the grant which we ultimately did not apply for. Pastor Andrew and Doug will meet to begin a conversation.
6. New Business
  - a. Discussed whether lunch is necessary at council meetings. Chuck moved to no longer have an assigned lunch schedule and Jim seconded. Motion approved.
  - b. Steve stated that the monthly expense total will be printed in the bulletin with directions that details can be found on the slat wall.
  - c. Steve moved that the December council meeting be moved to Thursday, December 18. Chuck seconded and motion approved unanimously.

Doug adjourned the meeting at 9:16 PM. Chuck moved that the meeting be adjourned and Kelly seconded. Next meeting is scheduled for December 18, 2025 as voted on during this meeting. Devotions will be given by the Trustees.

Patty closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Whipple, Secretary

Nov 13, 2025 | Council meeting Trustee

**Attendees:** Ben Haberl, Sean Edens, Jim Oberender, Steve Skartvedt, Steve McMenamin

#### Notes:

- Sean New Chair
- Ben continue as Secretary
- Approved previous minutes
- Treasurer report was approved
- Approved the bills
- Jim and Steve working on fixing the Parsonage door
- Surge Protection
  - No update
  - Steve is going to follow up with electrician
- Tuck pointing finished
  - Narthex fixed some issues
  - Parsonage
  - North Bell tower
  - Going to do some leak checking
- Sidewalk
  - Thrasher hasn't called back
- Kevins Traditions
  - Looking at fixing interior paint in Narthex
- Snow removal
  - Tyler to push the parking areas
  - Volunteers to run the snow blower
- Staff compensation
  - Approved 3% raise for staff members
- Motion passed to bring to joint council
  - Provide monthly operating expense on the bulletin with instructions to the detail on the slat wall

#### Action items

Sean will do devotions in December

#### Board of Education - November 13, 2025

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

#### OPENING PRAYER

#### PREVIOUS MINUTES

- Minutes from the previous meeting approved.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

- Current balance – \$7,266.25

#### RECAP OF LAST MONTH

- Fall Mission Project—ending 10/12/25—very successful
- 4th graders greeted at church on September 21st
- Kingdom Kids Sing—Oct 12
- Young Disciples Sing—Oct 19th
- Pastor Appreciation Sunday—Oct 19
- 1st grade greeted in October

#### UPCOMING EVENTS / REMINDERS FOR MILIANNA

- Slat wall updated with this year's pictures
- 3rd graders are going to greet —Nov 16th
- Kingdom Kids and Young Disciples sing —Nov 16th
- Plan to make candles for Christmas program —Nov 30th.

#### OTHER

- Sunday School offering discussion
- Curriculum Video--kingdom kids will continue, reach out to other teachers for 2nd-5th to see—keep deciding if Grow Curriculum is going to work for Sunday School
- Supply closet re-organization—Good work Allison!
- Sunday school teacher gifts—Dec 7th—Gift card and caramels

#### CLOSING PRAYER

## Immanuel Deacon Meeting Minutes (11/13/25)

**Present:** Patty Rathmacher, Kelly Dahl, Brad Waline, Frank Baedke, Julie Skaar, Andrew Potratz

1. Patty opened the meeting in prayer.
2. Brad Waline made a motion for Patty to continue as board chair and Kelly as secretary. Motion passed.
3. Prayer requests from the communion cards were reviewed. Pastor Andrew reviewed prayer requests from families and individuals in the Immanuel community.
4. Previous meeting minutes were approved.
5. Ministry Updates were reviewed
  - a. Myrtle's Updates: The budget remains healthy; many families continue to use resources from this ministry.
  - b. Steady Hands Updates: Kim continues to stay busy meeting with those seeking his mentoring.
6. Old Business and Discussion
  - a. Funds
    - i. Ministry Fund Balance 11/1/25: \$27,711.33
    - ii. Johnson fund balance 11/1/25: 202,126,79
    - iii. THRIVE fund balance 11/1/25: \$66,772.81
  - b. Discussion of recent events
    - i. Em's celebration was wonderful and well attended.
    - ii. Trevor R. Lunch and Learn was well attended and received.
    - iii. Patty made a motion to approve 2 lunch and learn events in 2026, with topics to be determined. Julie seconded this motion. Motion passed.
    - iv. Annual Meeting Dinner: the annual meeting and dinner were well attended. There was plenty of food for those who attended.
  - c. Emergency Fund and non-monetary requests
    - i. Discussion on how to best minister to a family in need and possibly help financially
  - d. Ongoing Emphasis / Projects:
    - i. Welcome Team Plans / Discussion: Patty updated the deacons on the Immanuel Volunteer Process Meeting.
    - ii. Coffee Fellowship: Often the coffee fellowship volunteer is the last slot on the volunteer sign-up genius to be filled. We believe there is great value in having fellowship after church so we will continue to discuss and plan how to keep this volunteer slot filled.
    - iii. The interns will be plugged in for readings on Sundays, specifically the 3rd Sunday of the month.
    - iv. Mission Trip Scholarships for Adults: 3 adult leaders (Kim Peterson, Allison Potratz, Grant Severson). Patty moved to approve \$300 per leader for the summer youth mission trip from the ministry fund. Julie seconded the motion. Motion approved.

## Minutes of the Joint Council Meeting: Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church December 18, 2025 7:45 PM In Person in the Social Hall

**Present:** Pastor Allison, Pastor Andrew, Doug Mechaelsen, Lori Whipple, Chuck Carlson, Julie Skaar, Steve Skartvedt, Ben Haberl, Patty Rathmacher, Kelly Dahl, Jim Oberender, Katie Brouwer, Frank Baedke, Sean Edens, John Nordeen, Lily Rathmacher

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

1. Devotions and opening prayer were given by Sean.
2. Approval of previous meeting minutes. Sean moved that the November minutes be approved and John seconded. Approved unanimously.
3. Treasurer's Report was given by Chuck Carlson using the documents submitted to council. Steve moved that the Treasurer's report be approved and Jim seconded. Approved unanimously.
4. Report of Boards (see below for full reports)
  - a. Youth Board: Pastor Allison reported that the Youth Board has not met since last council meeting and should be meeting in January.
  - b. Board of Ed: Pastor Allison
  - c. Deacons: Kelly Dahl
  - d. Trustees: Ben Haberl
5. Old Business
  - a. Nominating Committee. It was suggested that members going off council could/should be on the nominating committee. It was also suggested that perhaps each board have someone on the nominating committee. No decision was made.
  - b. Safety Conversations. Doug reviewed the documents submitted to the council (Exhibit A). Sean and Brice will take the lead on safety regarding the building. He asked that all council members review and submit questions and concerns. Procedures will need to be written and decide whether technology needs would be required.
  - c. Revisit Inclement Weather Policy. Currently, the policy is that Sunday church service will always be held with everyone using their discretion but exceptions can and will be addressed as they come up. Discussed the need to reach out to individuals who would not be looking at social media. Doug asked that each council member reach out to Milianna with good contact information.
6. New Business
  - a. Approve Brice as Trustee. Brice agreed to fill the vacancy of Steve McMenam. Steve moved to appoint Brice Haskins to the Trustee Board and Chuck seconded. Approved unanimously.

Doug adjourned the meeting at 8:41 PM. Sean moved that the meeting be adjourned and Ben seconded. Next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2026. Devotions will be given by the Board of Education.

Sean closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Whipple, Secretary

## Immanuel Lutheran Church Safety/Security Charter

**Mission Statement:** To provide a safe and secure environment for all congregants, staff, and visitors during worship, events, and other activities, reflecting the church's core values of a welcoming and compassionate environment.

**Purpose and Scope:** To protect against a range of threats including medical emergencies, severe weather, fires, vandalism, and potential assailants, and to establish clear protocols for response and recovery.

**Authority:** The security team operates under the authority of the church leadership (e.g., pastor, or church council) and reports to a designated security director.

**Team Member Attributes:** Members are expected to demonstrate strong people skills, emotional stability, keen observation skills, and good judgment.

### Guiding Principles:

- **Integration:** Ensuring safety/security activities are integrated with the church's overall mission and ministries, maintaining a welcoming atmosphere.
- **Prevention and Preparedness:** Emphasizing proactive measures like risk assessments, security checklists, and regular training and drills.
- **Collaboration:** Working with local law enforcement and other emergency services.
- **Accountability:** Maintaining detailed records of all incidents and actions taken to ensure proper documentation and continuous improvement of safety/security measures.

## Exhibit A page 2

### Immanuel Lutheran Church Safety/Security Plan Key Components

#### Personnel and training:

- **Create a security team:** Organize and train a safety team that includes specific roles like welcome team, ushers, and outside coverage of sidewalks/parking.
- **Training Requirements:** Specifying the necessary training for all team members, which should be regular and relevant to their roles. Ensure all volunteers are properly trained to handle security responsibilities and understand emergency response procedures.
- **Screen volunteers:** Thoroughly screen all volunteers who will be working with children or have access to sensitive areas.
- **Roles and Responsibilities:** Delineating specific duties for different scenarios (e.g., medical, fire, weather, active threat) and assigning areas of responsibility to team members.

#### Facility and access control:

- **Lock doors:** Secure all doors that are not in use during services and events.
- **Monitor entrances:** Assign personnel to monitor and secure all entrances and exits, especially during services.
- **Install surveillance:** Use security cameras in strategic locations like walkways and entrances to monitor activity.

#### Emergency preparedness:

- **Develop an emergency plan:** Create a detailed safety/security plan that includes evacuation, take cover, or lockdown procedures and is known by all leaders.
- **Test security systems:** Regularly test and maintain security systems like alarms, cameras, and locks.
- **Liase with law enforcement:** Build a relationship with local law enforcement and inform them of Immanuel's security plan, and invite them for drills.

#### Communication:

- **Establish clear communication channels:** (such as equip the security team with cell phone text App (such as WhatsApp or Signal), radios or other communication devices for constant contact).
- **Use clear signage:** (ie. Place clear signage for visitors indicating emergency exits, entrance doors and certain safety or security protocols).

**Attendees:** Ben Haberl, Chuck Carlson, Steve Skartvedt, Sean Edens, Jim Oberender

### Notes:

- Previous Minutes approved
  - Steve made motion to approve
  - Jim second
- Treasurer report
  - Ben made motion to approve
  - Jim second
- Bills approved
  - Ben made motion to approve
  - Jim second
- Plaster in balcony
  - Sean and Steve to work with Eric Vermeer of 10Fold
- Camper scholarship
  - Steve made motion approve
  - Sean second
- Grant scholarship \$500
  - Jim made motion to approve
  - Sean second
- Wait to lift concrete in spring
- Surge protection installed and functioning
- Narthex
  - Seal came off and we got replaced
  - Getting quote from Kevin of Traditions about painting interior wall
- Moved Memorial \$1000 to the improvement fund

### Action items:

- Steve to check on how to hook a tv up in the kitchen for viewing service

### Immanuel Deacon Meeting Minutes (12/18/25) 6:30 Meeting

Present: Andrew Potratz, Kelly Dahl, Frank Bedke, Julie Skaar, Patty Rathmacher

- Call to order and Opening Prayer: Julie Skaar opened the meeting in prayer.
- Andrew reviewed prayer needs and health updates of some Immanuel members.
- Approve previous minutes: previous meeting minutes were approved.
- Ministry Updates (As Needed)
  - Myrtle's Updates: \$50 gift cards to Fareway given to families for an extra Christmas blessing. There will be a Fellowship celebration of Myrtle's closet in January
- Old Business and Discussion
  - Funds
    - Ministry Fund Balance 12/1/25: \$26, 989.02
    - Johnson fund balance 12/1/25: \$197, 376.79
    - THRIVE fund balance 12/1/25: \$65,988.62
  - Emergency Fund and non-monetary requests
    - Christmas blessing for someone in need: \$50 gift card to Fareway and a \$50 gift card to Kwik Star for a new Christian attending Immanuel.

- New Business
  - Kids Musical Budget: Julie moves to compensate Milianna to help lead the musical. Milianna may turn in up to 75 hours to be paid (her regular hourly pay) out of the ministry fund. Frank seconds the motion. Motion passes. Patty proposes \$2,000 to be paid out of the ministry fund to cover the cost of the "Life School Musical." This motion passes.
  - Winter / Spring Discipleship planning discussion.
  - Leadership projects: Grant is working on his leadership project. He plans to start a couple small discipleship groups. Isaac is planning to lead a "Building healthy leaders workshop"
  - Widowed members encouragement discussed
  - Laura C Proposal: Exodus 51 to be discussed in the future. Funding to be determined.
  - Conner leave payment discussion: Patty moves for Conner to have 50% of his internship stipend for up to eight weeks while on medical leave. Start date to be determined. Kelly seconds the motion. Motion passes.

### **Board of Education December 18, 2025**

PRESENT: Allison Potratz, Jana Larsen, Katie Brouwer  
OPENING PRAYER

PREVIOUS MINUTES  
Minutes from the previous meeting approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT  
Current balance – \$7,173.17

RECAP OF LAST MONTH

- Both kingdom kids and young disciples sang Nov 16
- Handed out teacher gifts
- Christmas programs were both fantastic, despite missing out on a couple weeks of good practices

UPCOMING EVENTS / REMINDERS FOR MILIANNA

- Family Sunday School ideas discussed
- Sunday School offering

OTHER

- Next Meeting January 8

CLOSING PRAYER

## **Minutes of the Joint Council Meeting: Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church January 8, 2026 7:45 PM In Person in the Social Hall**

**Present:** Pastor Allison, Pastor Andrew, Doug Mechaelsen, Lori Whipple, Chuck Carlson, Julie Skaar, Steve Skartvedt, Ben Haberl, Patty Rathmacher, Kelly Dahl, Jim Oberender, Sean Edens, John Nordeen, Lily Rathmacher, Brandi Hill, Brad Waline, Jaynee Christian

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

1. Devotions and opening prayer were given by Pastor Allison.
2. Approval of previous meeting minutes. Sean moved that the December minutes be approved and Steve seconded. Approved unanimously.
3. Treasurer's Report was given by Chuck Carlson using the documents submitted to council. Ben moved that the Treasurer's report be approved and Jaynee seconded. Approved unanimously.
4. Report of Boards (see below for full reports)
  - a. Trustees: Ben Haberl
  - b. Deacons: Kelly Dahl
  - c. Board of Ed: Pastor Allison
  - d. Youth Board: Pastor Allison. They will meet this Sunday.
5. Old Business
  - a. Nominating Committee. Discussed whether we want to consider the committee to be those board members going off to serve. Andrew suggested information be submitted to the congregation to make sure they understand the role. Doug would like those going off to decide whether or not he/she would like to serve on the Nominating Committee.
  - b. Safety Conversations. Sean and Brice worked on a monthly inspection sheet and presented to Trustees for review. Pastor Andrew stated that the north door does not always lock when someone goes out and not intentionally pulled shut. Trustees could look at the door or contact a locksmith. Doug reviewed the charter and asked for questions or comments. Trustees and Executive Board will draft a procedure after reviewing ones from other churches.
6. New Business
  - a. Jaynee reported that the Fundraising Account will purchase a new coffee pot for the kitchen.
  - b. Jaynee said that there has been a request for a new ladder to be used when putting up the Christmas tree.
  - c. Jaynee visited with Judy McIlrath about her use of the storage room in the social hall that needs to be repaired and asbestos removed. Judy volunteered to move everything out in order to have an estimate made.
  - d. Pastor Andrew reminded all boards that they are to come to the ...

Doug adjourned the meeting at 8:47 PM. Julie moved that the meeting be adjourned and Ben seconded. Next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2026. Devotions will be given by Pastor Andrew.

Pastor Allison closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Whipple, Secretary

**Board of Education  
January 8, 2026**

**Immanuel Deacon Meeting Minutes (1/8/26)  
6:30 Meeting**

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

Present: Kelly Dahl, Andrew Potratz, Patty Rathmacher, Julie Skaar, Frank Baedke, Brad Waline

OPENING PRAYER

PREVIOUS MINUTES. Minutes from the previous meeting approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Current balance – \$6,692.65

RECAP OF LAST MONTH

- Christmas programs were both fantastic, despite missing out on a couple weeks of good practices
- Off for holidays!

UPCOMING EVENTS / REMINDERS FOR MILIANNA

- Family Sunday School—January 25th, 2026
  - Song/welcome/prayer
  - Snacks will be available
  - Door decorations for Bethany Manor
    - Plan for 60 kids
  - Card to go with decoration
  - Extra crafts
  - Plan to deliver to Bethany if able
- Curriculum updates. Tithing, Saul
- YD sing 2/8/26; KK sing 2/15/26

OTHER

- Milianna can you assist us in making a card? Allison to send an email : )
- Lenten supper serving 3/4/26

CLOSING PRAYER

**Jan 8, 2026 | Trustee meeting**

**Attendees:** Ben Haberl, Jim Oberender, Steve Skartvedt, Sean Edens

Attached files:

**Notes**

- Approved previous minutes
  - Motion by Steve
  - 2nd by Jim
- Treasurer report approved
  - General Endowment 33k
- 16.5k into the improvement fund
  - Frette Endowment 40k
  - Jim moved to approve 2nd by Sean
- Bills Approved
  - Ben Moved to approve 2nd by Steve
- Wall repair
  - Kevin's tradition still waiting on a bid
  - Sean going to get bids from a couple others
- Balcony
  - Have Jasper come and inspect
  - Sean will work to get more pictures with drone
- Cameras
  - Still in process
- TV in kitchen
  - Steve has the TV in the kitchen
  - Working on installation
- Steve moved to close Jim 2nd

Action items

- Need to look into the alley door and locking issue.

1. Patty opened the meeting in prayer.
2. Communion card prayer requests were reviewed.
3. Meeting minutes from December 18 were approved.
4. Ministry Updates

- a. Myrtle's Updates: Fellowship this Sunday will be a 3 year ministry celebration of Myrtle's closet.
- b. THRIVE Internship Program: Grant has started his leadership project. He has initiated a small discipleship group of men. Isaac is planning to lead a 5ish week class on building healthy leaders.

5. Old Business and Discussion

- a. Funds
  - i. Ministry Fund Balance 1/1/26: \$24,690.71
  - ii. Johnson fund balance 1/1/26: \$192,626.79
  - iii. THRIVE fund balance 1/1/26: \$65,227.91

- b. Recap events

- i. Christmas Eve services were well attended. The tentative plan is to continue with the 4:30 and 7pm service times for next year.

- c. Welcome Team Plans / Discussion:

- i. The deacons will be reviewing membership rosters so that as we implement our new church app this fall our membership is up-to-date.
- ii. Jaynee is working on revamping our funeral volunteer system.
- iii. The welcome team is continuing to define and type up directions for each volunteer role related to worship services and fellowship.

- d. Winter / Spring Discipleship Discussions: Lent series on the Psalms. There will most likely be an adult study following the lent services led by Andrew. We spent some time brainstorming ideas for congregational discipleship. We plan to develop a simple congregational survey gauging interest in short term Bible studies or topical studies such as parenting.

6. New Business

- a. Cultural chat/lunch and learn: Exodus 51- date yet to be set.
- b. Cultural chat/lunch and learn: Steve Kirby speaking on the topic of Islam, tentatively to be scheduled in April



# Neighborhood News

**Have something to share?  
Contact the church office!**

## **NORSEMEN FOOD PANTRY**

*Located at the RS Middle School; Open Every Sunday 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!)*

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.

## Loaves & Fishes

Food Pantry

Despensa de alimentos

**Saturdays**

**10 am- Noon**

Serving Gilbert, Roland and Story City

204 West Broad St. (Mailing address-PO Box 23), Story City, IA 50248  
loavesnfishescc@gmail.com



## potluck & learn with **FRAUD FIGHTERS**

Bring a dish to share,  
learn how to avoid potential frauds and scams

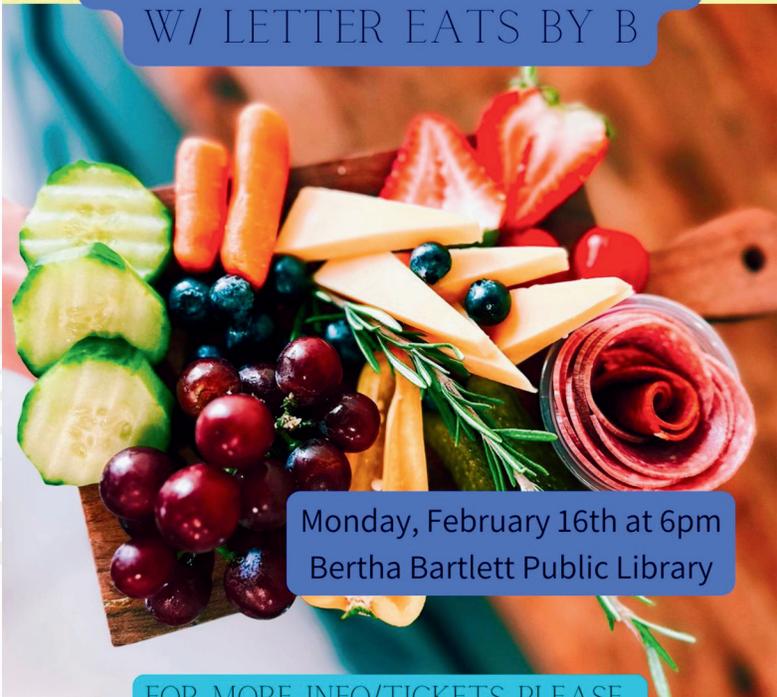


**FEBRUARY 10TH AT 11:30**  
**BERTHA BARTLETT PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Central Iowa RSVP volunteers work in collaboration with the Iowa Insurance Division to teach others how to shield their savings from scammers and fraudulent investments.



## CHARCUTERIE WORKSHOP W/ LETTER EATS BY B



Monday, February 16th at 6pm  
Bertha Bartlett Public Library

FOR MORE INFO/TICKETS PLEASE  
VISIT THE LINK IN DESCRIPTION



# Dale W. Henricks Auditorium **NAMING CEREMONY**



**Saturday, February 7, 2026**



**4:00pm**



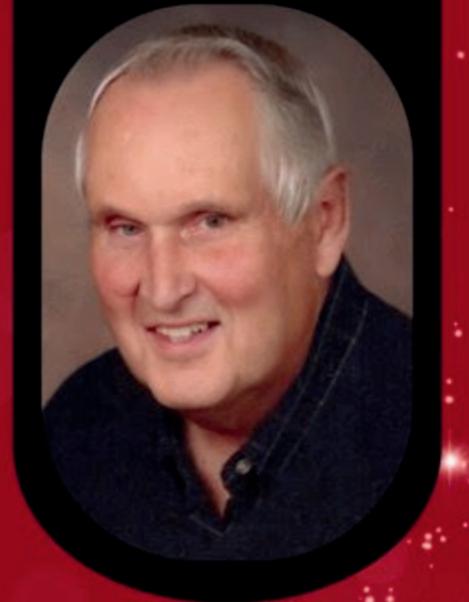
**High School Auditorium**

## **BACKGROUND**

Mr. Henricks has continued to serve our school and community ever since his time as Superintendent ended in 1999. Honoring Mr. Henricks' legacy as a long-tenured and impactful leader for our district is something we are excited to have the opportunity to do.

He was a major contributor to the fine arts and all extracurricular activities. He was not only instrumental in approving and overseeing the construction of the auditorium but also in establishing a core value for students to become involved in the many opportunities our school has to offer.

Just as an auditorium provides a stage for performance, celebration, and critical discourse, Mr. Henricks provided the foundation for generations of students to find their voice. May the performances held here inspire the same passion and integrity that characterized his service to our district.



# Marriage Retreat — WEEKEND —

## at Riverside Bible Camp

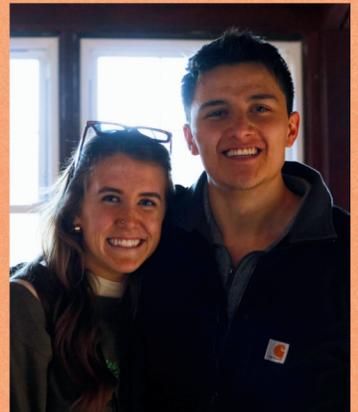
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27—SUNDAY, MARCH 1

### ENJOY A WEEKEND DEDICATED JUST TO YOU & YOUR SPOUSE!

God desires for couples to invest time in strengthening and celebrating their marriage, and this weekend is a great opportunity to do just that! Enjoy meaningful time together, as well as opportunities for rest, worship, laughter, fun, food, and time with our guest speakers.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Couples are invited to enjoy private housing at Riverside, or have the option to make nearby hotel reservations or commute to Riverside each day.

**REGISTRATION:** \$300/couple staying at camp; \$240/couple commuting. Cost includes programming, meals & snacks.



### MEET YOUR SPEAKERS:

This year's guest speakers are Jim & Dawn Anderson. Jim and Dawn have been married for over 51 years. They live in St Paul, MN, and have been partners in ministry throughout their marriage in both congregational and para-church leadership positions.

They are blessed with four adult children and six amazing grandchildren. Pastor Jim is currently the director of Harvest Impact Ministries, a consulting and resource ministry to churches and pastors and Pastor Dawn has served on several church staffs as a women's and prayer ministries director.



More information & registration   
[RiversideLBC.org/Marriage-Retreat](https://RiversideLBC.org/Marriage-Retreat)



3001 Riverside Rd., Story City, IA 50248 | (515) 733-5271



# SUMMER CAMPS

2026



Our summer camp experiences focus on providing campers with an incredibly fun, relational, and Christ-centered environment. Each program is designed to help campers experience the extravagant love of God and grow in faith in our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



A \$135 non-refundable deposit is necessary to secure your spot at camp. Camperships are available to make sure any kid who wants to be a camper can come to camp. Call our office for more information.



## ALPHA

(entering grades 3-4)  
June 14-16, June 17-19,  
July 12-14, July 15-17,  
July 26-28, July 29-31

## JUNIORS

(entering grades 4-6)  
June 14-19, June 14-16\*,  
June 17-19\*, July 12-17,  
July 26-31  
*\*half-week option*

## JUNIOR HIGH

(entering grades 6-9)  
June 7-12, June 21-26,  
July 5-10, August 2-7

## HIGH SCHOOL

(entering grades 10-12  
& just-graduated seniors)  
July 19-24

## S.I.L.A.S.

(entering grades 10-12  
& just-graduated seniors)  
July 26-August 7

## FAMILY CAMP

June 28-July 1

## BUCKAROOS HORSE CAMP

(entering grades 4-6)  
June 14-19, July 12-17,  
July 26-31

## RANCH HORSE CAMP

(entering grades 6-9)  
June 7-12, June 14-19,  
June 21-26, July 5-10,  
July 12-17, July 26-31,  
August 2-7

## TRAIL BLAZERS HORSE CAMP

(entering grades 6-9)  
June 7-12, June 21-26, July 5-10,  
August 2-7

## BASIC OR ADVANCED HORSEMANSHIP

(entering grades 10-12 & just-graduated seniors)  
July 19-24

## WILDERNESS ADVENTURE CAMP

(entering grades 10-12 & just-graduated seniors)  
June 14-19





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*AND MAKING HIM KNOWN TO ALL.*

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IMMANUEL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

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