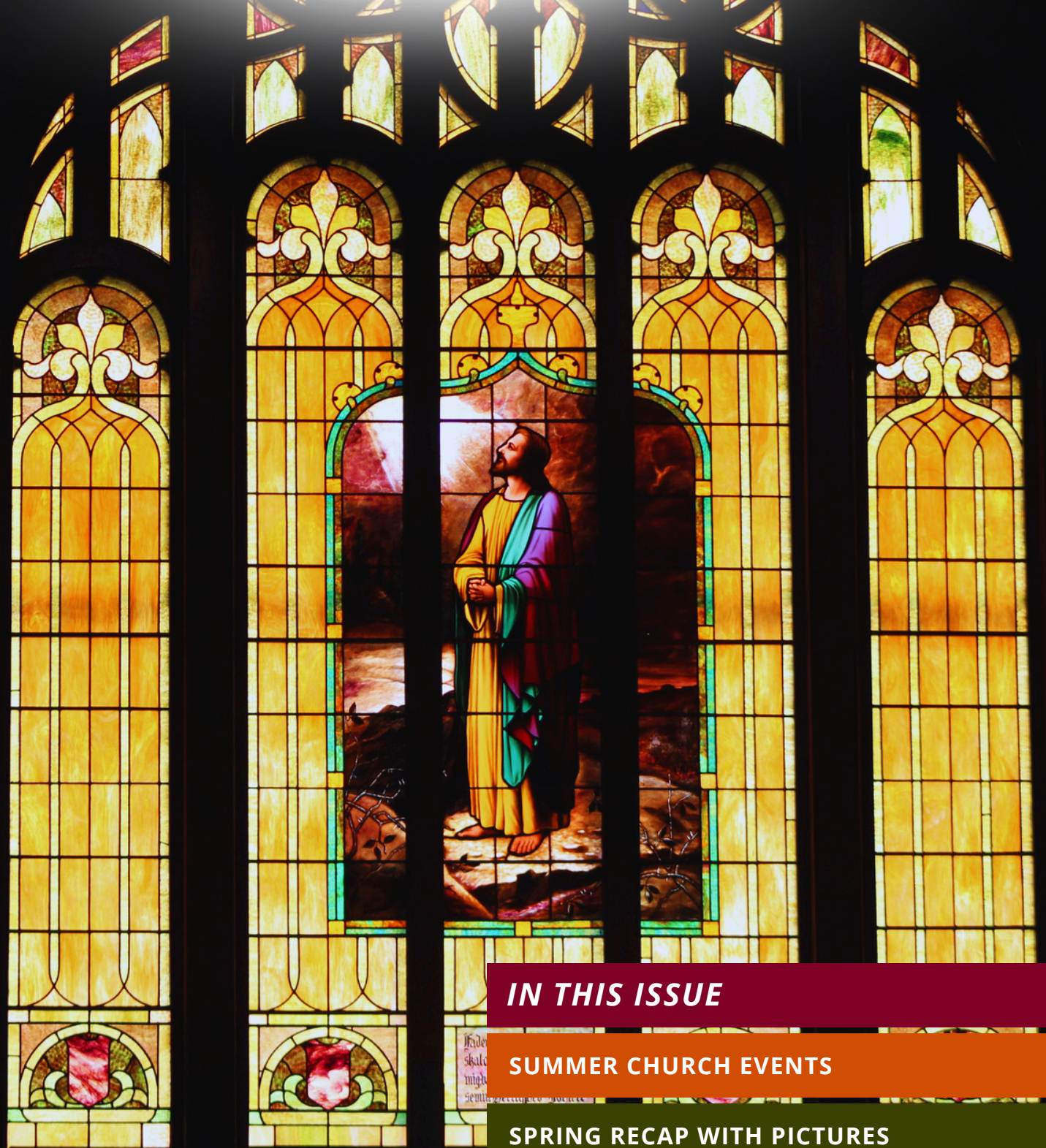


THE



# IMMANUEL INFORMER

A publication of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church



## *IN THIS ISSUE*

SUMMER CHURCH EVENTS

SPRING 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

#### BOARD OF DEACONS

Frank Baedke  
Kelly Dahl  
Patty Rathmacher  
Julie Skaar  
Brad Waline

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Katie Brouwer  
Brandi Hill  
Jana Larsen  
Lily Rathmacher  
Jaynee Christian  
*(Sunday School Superintendent)*

#### YOUTH BOARD

Conner Freerks  
Gracie Haberl (youth rep)  
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

**Pastor Allison Potratz**  
YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES  
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**Conner Freerks**  
YOUTH MINISTRY LEADER  
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SEMINARY INTERN  
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OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR & ACCOMPANIST  
office@immanuelstorycity.org

**Tyler Oberender**  
CUSTODIAN

**Ben Carlson**  
TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR  
tech@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

### summer Sunday Schedule

- 8:00 A.M. RADIO BROADCAST**  
(KASI, 1430 A.M.)
- 9:30 A.M. WORSHIP**  
**LIVE STREAM**
- 10:30 A.M. FELLOWSHIP (SOCIAL HALL)**



*As summer begins, we shift into a new rhythm each week. Whether you're traveling or enjoying a slower pace, we invite you to continue gathering for worship, prayer and community. We are grateful for the chance to praise God together in every season. From worship and study to service and fellowship, there are many ways to stay connected this summer.*



## **REFLECTIONS ON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

**by Pastor Andrew Potratz**

Do you see the "THRIVE 125" logo on the back of t-shirts or in other places around Immanuel? In 2023, our council and congregation put together a VISION for Immanuel. This was a multi-year process of asking questions, discerning our current challenges and opportunities, and discerning God's direction for Immanuel. This Vision for Immanuel is about abundant life in Jesus. It's about thriving, not just surviving. And it's bigger than us! Our role as a local church goes beyond what happens in the building, and we exist for the benefit of God's Kingdom and God's work in a variety of ways.

One tremendous need that faces our world (and Iowa too!) is the need for more whole and healthy pastors. Our association, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC), consists now of over 1000 congregations, with around 900 being here in the United States. Iowa is home to 79 of these congregations. As an association, LCMC is running around a 10-15% vacancy for pastoral positions. This means that churches are looking to fill roles (part time or full time), or have given up looking for a pastor and are getting by on lay leadership and/or pulpit supply. Other Lutheran denominations are facing a vacancy rate of anywhere between 20-40%. What is the future for these congregations? Where do they look to find a pastor who is whole and healthy?

In 2024, Immanuel began the "THRIVE Community Internship Program" as a way to step into this bigger need in an intentional way. We joined a handful of LCMC congregations from North Carolina to San Diego in creating space to train and equip future pastors and church leaders for ministry. The program was developed jointly between the Deacons and myself. What is operating today was approved by the Deacons and by the church Council in spring of 2024, and is regularly overseen by the Deacons and pastoral staff.

We felt (and still do feel) a strong sense of calling to engage with this Kingdom need. This program is missional in nature, recognizing that any intern that comes through our program will have the potential to lead and shepherd hundreds, or even thousands of Christians on their faith journeys in the coming years. This speaks directly to our mission of "making Christ known to all!"

In the first two years, we have had a total of four interns. Three have been in formal roles with Immanuel (Conner, Grant, and Isaac), and one served more informally (Kayla). Due to generous designated giving, this program has been funded separately from our general fund. These formal interns have job scopes that meet both their seminary internship requirements and needs of Immanuel. Their roles are discerned and developed through the Deacons and pastors, and approved on a time-defined contract basis by the Deacons and the Council. As you have seen on Sundays, interns are given real opportunities to grow in their worship-related competencies. However, what you may not see is how valuable they have been to our youth ministry and other congregational engagement through their teaching, projects, and visits to many in our congregation. I see them growing. Serving. Learning. And humbly discerning how and where God has called them to be part of the Kingdom of God.

How can you engage? Each person that God calls to Immanuel for a season has an opportunity to experience the community that many of us have come to love at Immanuel. I encourage you to pray for our interns. Go out of your way to get to know them and encourage them. Consider having them over for a meal, a cup of coffee, or even a basketball or football game. Our heart is that each person that God calls to this program will be better off because of it: in their faith, in their leadership, in their sense of what a healthy Christian community looks like, and in their sense of calling. Be a part of it! Let's help them THRIVE! ☀️

## *A restful faith*

A seminary professor was discussing ways — besides reading — to encounter Scripture. “The idea was to ‘experience’ it as though we were there,” recalls Stan Purdum, then a student. The professor asked students to relax in lounge chairs, close their eyes and imagine they were along the Sea of Galilee as Jesus fed the 5,000. In a soothing voice, he invited participants to smell the lake, feel the breeze on their faces, taste the bread the disciples were distributing and hear Jesus’ voice.

“Somewhere in that, I got too comfortable,” says Purdum. “Suddenly the exercise was over, and the professor was asking for feedback. The classmate next to me raised his hand and said, ‘I was really getting into it until Simon Peter here [pointing at me], started snoring in my ear.’”

The class had a good chuckle, and Purdum gained a new perspective. “Spirituality isn’t just something to understand but also something to experience. If nothing else, that day I experienced my faith as very restful!”

# 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'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 those who call Immanuel their "home" to be mobilized in new ways to pray, serve, give, and invest in this local church for the sake of Story City, central Iowa, and our mission partners.
- We pray for Milianna and Pastor Allison as they travel to Tennessee for the Kerygma Summit (April 30 - May 2). Pray for safe travels and for an uplifting weekend with theological scholars, professors and ministry leaders.
- We pray for our pastoral interns - that they would grow, Thrive, and be joyful leaders in the Kingdom of God.
- We pray for Conner Freerks and his upcoming heart surgery.
- 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.

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:

Handwriting practice lines for prayer requests.

praise reports

my mood for the day:

my personal prayer requests:

Handwriting practice lines for personal prayer requests.





***"Anyone who says they have only one life to live must not know how to read a book."***

-author unknown, from **Great Bookish Quotes**  
by the America Library Association

Don't miss the opportunities these new books provide for experiencing life in 1<sup>st</sup> century Rome, the gold rush days in the Yukon, a Toronto children's home during WWII, or a French refugee community in America after the French Revolution. Gain a new perspective on your own life by experiencing someone else's through the pages of a book

**Treasures of the North, Ashes and Ice, and Rivers of Gold**, the "Yukon Quest" series by Tracie Peterson. Follow three young women to Alaska during the Yukon gold rush - one seeking to escape, one hoping for a reunion with family, and one searching for friends who had long presumed her dead. All find unexpected blessings despite the many hardships of this rugged land.

**A Refugee Assured** by Jocelyn Green. An epic novel of historical fiction set during and after the French Revolution. A young lace-maker finds her life in peril because of her associations with French royalty, but escaping to post-Revolutionary America proves to have its dangers too. With little more than her faith to rely on, she searches for the peace and safety she once knew.

**To Find Her Place** by Susan Anne Mason. Social worker Jane Linder feels she has found her calling when she temporarily assumes the duties of acting directress of the Toronto Children's Aid Society. Garrett Wilder, hired by the board to audit the books and evaluate the program, sees this as an opportunity to position himself for the director's job as well. Forced to work side by side, they struggle to put their differences aside and the children's best interest first in order to find God's will in their resolution.

**The Sisters of Corinth** by Angela Hunt. Two sisters from a wealthy 1<sup>st</sup> century Roman family - one determined to obtain as much wealth and status as she can, the other, a devoted follower of Yeshua - provide a striking look at the difficulties and sacrifices early Christians faced, and the amazing passion and conviction with which they did.

New to nonfiction:

**Truth Matters, Life Matters More** by Hank Hanegraff. "The Unexpected Beauty of an Authentic Christian Life."

**Good Girls, Bad Girls of the New Testament** by T.J. Wray. "Their Enduring Lessons."





## attendance

### SUNDAY IN- PERSON

February Average: 170

March Average: 174

April Average: TBD

### SUNDAY IN-PERSON AVERAGE: 172

### \*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

Tracy Stone (non-member but visitor of Immanuel) passed away on January 5; funeral service held at Immanuel on January 24.

Evelyn Hovick passed away on March 10; funeral service was held at Immanuel on March 23.

Annalisa Jones Hurtado (non-member) passed away on March 14; funeral service was held at Immanuel on March 28.

## Other Pastoral Acts

Baptism of Emberly Rose Concannon, daughter of Brody and Cassandra Concannon on February 15; sponsors are Sean and Michaela Schneider.



## in our prayers

- our President and administration
- the families of Tracy Stone, Evelyn Hovick and Annalisa Jones Hurtado
- those impacted by natural disasters
- the Christians who are currently being killed and persecuted in Nigeria
- 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?



Children at the altar. The Kingdom Kids and Young Disciples praised God through song in February and March. They will sing for the last time this school year on May 17.

## Sunday School Curriculum

### Curriculum: Study of Solomon

God gives us directions to follow, listens to our requests, is worthy of our worship, and HE gives us true wisdom.

**April 19:** Adonijah tries to be King; Solomon asks for wisdom.

**April 26:** Solomon builds a temple.

**May 3:** Solomon's wise ruling.

**May 10:** The Queen of Sheeba visits.  
*(Mother's Day)*

**May 17:** Final Sunday School of the year! Classroom celebrations. Both Kingdom Kids and Young Disciples will sing during worship.



Thanks to the gals at EPIC for helping put together Easter cards to hand out!

# Palm Sunday

Making palm crosses, crafts, and singing in worship!



# Maundy Thursday

Senior Choir shares an anthem; sharing in Holy Communion.



# Good Friday

Bradey Haberl shares special music; Confirmation students lead the service.



# Easter Sunday

Holy Communion; Senior Choir anthem; Children's Message.



# MAY

## 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						

2026



## weekly events

DAY	TIME	EVENT
MONDAYS	8:30 A.M.	Women's Bible Study
TUESDAYS	9:30 A.M.	Staff Meeting
SATURDAYS	8 A.M.	Men of Immanuel
SUNDAYS	8:00 A.M. 9:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	Radio Broadcast Worship Fellowship

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

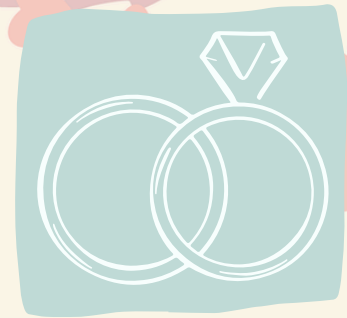
DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun., May 3	--	Communion Sunday
Tues., May 5	6 - 9 P.M.	Social Hall Reserved (PEO)
Wed., May 6	6 - 8 P.M.	EPIC - girls only (off campus)
Thurs., May 7	9 A.M. - noon	Quilting (Social Hall)
Sun., May 10	--	Mother's Day
Mon., May 11	10 A.M.	Myrtle's Closet Open
Thurs., May 14	6:30 P.M. 7:45 P.M.	Deacons/Trustees/Board of Ed Meetings Church Council Meeting
Sun., May 17	-- 10:30 A.M. 5 P.M.	Last Day of Sunday School Service of Holy Communion Dinner & Discussion (RSVP required) (Social Hall)
Sat., May 23	--	Social Hall Reserved (bridal shower)
Sun., May 24	-- 2 P.M.	Graduation Sunday RS Graduation at High School
Mon., May 25	--	Memorial Day - Office Closed
Wed., May 27	5:45 P.M.	Myrtle's Closet Open



## *birthdays*

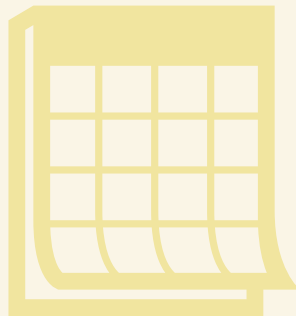
- 5/1:** Ted Christian  
Brenda Whipple
- 5/3:** Collin Brouwer
- 5/5:** Brian Clark  
Finley Oberender
- 5/6:** Shelly Rivera
- 5/8:** Sean Edens  
Hazel Nordeen
- 5/9:** Douglas Ostrem
- 5/11:** Carli Edwards
- 5/14:** Doug Mechaelsen
- 5/15:** Lori Ostrem
- 5/17:** Brian Wakefield
- 5/18:** Gil Christian  
Greg Sindt
- 5/19:** Reid Brouwer  
Mya Oberender  
Charlie Severson
- 5/22:** Gunnar Wyatt
- 5/23:** Allison Potratz
- 5/24:** Nate Horman  
Jo Lake  
Bob Rivera  
Cecilia Skarin

- 5/25:** Jessica Haskin  
Julie Skaar
- 5/26:** Shirley Frette
- 5/27:** Lucas Messerly  
Henry Severson
- 5/28:** Brent Christian  
Mike Isebrand
- 5/29:** Dorothy Dahnke  
Brad Skaar
- 5/30:** Megan Thomas
- 5/31:** Frank Baedke  
Carol Jewell



## *anniversaries*

- 5/7:** Kevin & Stephanie Amundson
- 5/8:** Roger & Lois Oakland
- 5/17:** Grant & Laura Severson  
Brian & Melanie Wakefield  
Trent & Tosha Whipple
- 5/18:** ER & Jo Lake
- 5/20:** Paul & Debra Gallagher
- 5/29:** Gene & Jessica Reinert



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

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

# JUNE

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				

2026



## weekly events

DAY	TIME	EVENT
<b>TUESDAYS</b>	8:30 A.M. 9:30 A.M.	Women's Bible Study Staff Meeting
<b>SUNDAYS</b>	8:00 A.M. 9:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	Radio Broadcast Worship Fellowship

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

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Thurs., June 4	9 A.M. - noon	Bake Sale Drop Off!
Fri., June 5	9 A.M. - 5 P.M.	Bake Sale Drop Off and Set Up!
Sat., June 6	8:30 A.M.	Bake Sale and Coffee Bar (until sold out!)
Sun., June 7	-- 6:30 P.M.	Communion Sunday Adult Ed: The Nicene Creed
June 8 - 10	9 A.M. - noon	Vacation Bible School
Thurs., June 11	6:30 P.M. 7:45 P.M.	Deacons/Trustees/Board of Ed Meetings Church Council Meeting
Sun., June 14	6:30 P.M.	Adult Ed: The Nicene Creed
Tues., June 16	6 - 9 P.M.	Social Hall Reserved (PEO)
Sun., June 21	-- 10:30 A.M. 6:30 P.M.	Father's Day Service of Holy Communion Adult Ed: The Nicene Creed



## *birthdays*

- 6/1:** Kathy Thorson  
**6/2:** Linda Thompson  
**6/4:** Kale Lande  
**6/5:** Jo Gregg  
**6/8:** Mike Wright  
**6/9:** Jane Moore  
**6/11:** Shirley Peterson  
**6/12:** Philip Anderson  
**6/13:** Myles McIlrath  
Brooklyn Richardson  
**6/14:** Reid Mader  
**6/15:** Judy Hested  
Regan Reifschneider  
Doradene Thompson  
**6/17:** Marilyn Barquist  
Al Hermanson  
**6/18:** Clara Wendt  
**6/21:** Carol Baedke  
Marcy Johnson

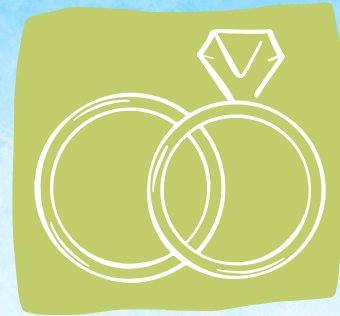
**6/23:** Tyler Oberender  
Tyler Thompson

**6/24:** Ben Winecoff

**6/25:** Craig Sargent

**6/26:** Rachel Winecoff

**6/28:** Heston McIlrath



## *anniversaries*

- 6/2:** Andrew & Allison Potratz  
**6/3:** Zach & Alexa Meek  
**6/6:** Jim & Sue Twedt  
**6/8:** Duane & Shelli Hassebrock  
**6/11:** Mike & Kay Billings  
**6/12:** Frank & Carol Baedke (*50<sup>th</sup> anniversary!*)  
Mike & Ashlee Mullenbach  
**6/14:** Nate & Kendra Watson  
**6/16:** Brandon & Carly Palmer  
**6/17:** Joseph & Megan Thomas  
**6/22:** Joel & Kathy Gabrielson  
**6/23:** Don & Doretta Hoffmann  
**6/24:** Joel & Sarah Halverson  
Gary & Judy Hested  
**6/25:** Jerry & Janet Handsaker  
John & Sandra Kowalik  
**6/28:** Doug & Mary Mechaelsen  
Steve & Deb Olson  
Brad & Kim Wyatt  
**6/30:** Rick & Treanna Richie

# july

month at a glance

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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2026



## weekly events

DAY	TIME	EVENT
<b>TUESDAYS</b>	8:30 A.M. 9:30 A.M.	Women's Bible Study Staff Meeting
<b>SUNDAYS</b>	8:00 A.M. 9:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	Radio Broadcast Worship Fellowship

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

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Wed., July 1	6:30 P.M.	Adult Ed: "Walk as Jesus Walked"
Thurs., July 2	9 A.M. - noon	Quilting (Social Hall)
Sat., July 4	--	Independence Day! Happy 250 <sup>th</sup> Birthday, America!
Sun., July 5	--	Communion Sunday
Wed., July 8	6:30 P.M.	Adult Ed: "Walk as Jesus Walked"
Thurs., July 9	6:30 P.M. 7:45 P.M.	Deacons/Trustees/Board of Ed Meetings Church Council Meeting
Wed., July 15	-- 6:30 P.M.	Fall Quarterly Newsletter Submission Deadline Adult Ed: "Walk as Jesus Walked"
Sun., July 19	10:30 A.M.	Service of Holy Communion
Wed., July 22	6:30 P.M.	Adult Ed: "Walk as Jesus Walked"
Wed., July 29	6:30 P.M.	Adult Ed: "Walk as Jesus Walked"



## *birthdays*

**7/2:** Ole Skaar, Jr  
**7/4:** Grant Severson  
Brad Waline  
**7/5:** Lane Brouwer  
**7/7:** Lori Whipple  
**7/9:** Karen Hermanson  
Adam McIlrath  
Annabelle Potratz  
**7/11:** Aubrey Johnson  
**7/12:** Jeff Loots  
**7/13:** Joshua Dahl  
John Rathmacher  
**7/14:** Reagan Harriman  
Carly Palmer  
**7/16:** Joel Danielson  
**7/17:** Lana McCoy  
Julie Thompson  
**7/19:** Dave Quam  
**7/21:** Sammy Potratz  
**7/22:** Deb Olson  
**7/25:** Marv Braland  
Anthony Christian  
Cathy Isebrand

**7/26:** Ilsa Palmer  
Mya Palmer

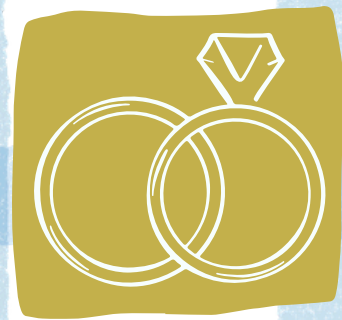
**7/27:** Brandi Hill  
Jason Loots  
Clay Rickerl

**7/28:** Kase Reifschneider  
McKena Rickerl

**7/29:** Clayton Gabrielson  
Dakoda Zerr  
Elijah Zerr

**7/30:** Isaac Dahl  
Harper Hill  
Hyla Hill  
Lisa McIlrath

**7/31:** Linda Anderson  
Colt Lelis



## *anniversaries*

**7/12:** Tyler & Halli Oberender  
**7/13:** Tyler & Natalie Whipple  
**7/16:** Ben & Kiana Harriman  
**7/18:** Dave & Linda Donohue  
**7/20:** Kyle & Ashley Nordeen  
Gary & Sue Uthe  
**7/22:** John & Corine Nordeen  
**7/23:** Collin & Katie Brouwer  
**7/24:** Tim & Tami Marienau  
**7/27:** Ken & Janet Stock  
**7/28:** Chris & Brandi Hill  
**7/29:** Bruce & Jo Mortvedt

# CARRY THE FLAME

2025 - 2026 SERMON SERIES

DEEPER faith  
DEEPER hope  
DEEPER love

1 CORINTHIANS 13



## MERLE & PHYLLIS FRETTE SCHOLARSHIP

### 2026 RECIPIENTS

Ava Charlson, *Loyola University Chicago*  
Ali Charlson, *University of Iowa*  
Bradey Haberl, *Iowa State University*  
Kamryn Lande, *University of Northern Iowa*  
Heston McIlrath, *DMACC*  
Keely Oberender, *Dordt University*  
Andrew Potratz, *The Master's Institute*  
Joseph Reinert, *University of Northern Iowa*  
Brooklyn Richardson, *Grand View University*  
Grant Severson, *The Master's Institute*  
Adalyn Sporleder, *Wartburg College*

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!*



## 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

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.

# 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.*

# 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

# CARE & VISITATION MINISTRY TEAM



The post-Easter season is a perfect time to connect with those in our congregation who appreciate visits! Our care and visitation team is always open to more members. The work that we do is invaluable to the church, and is essential if we are to "love our neighbor" as Jesus calls us all to do! Please connect with Pastor Andrew if you are interested in joining this ministry team. All training is provided!

*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.*

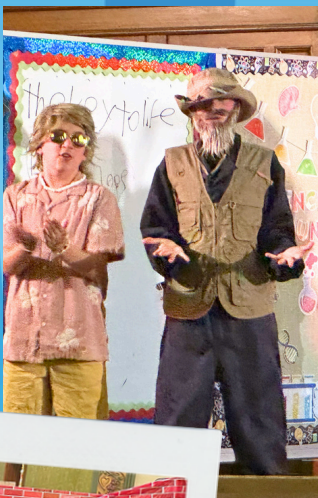
**Would you like to receive regular visits from someone on our Care and Visitation team?** Just ask! We have 15+ people who, alongside our pastors, serve and minister this way. Please contact the office for any visit requests, to join this ministry team, or to learn more.



# THANK YOU!



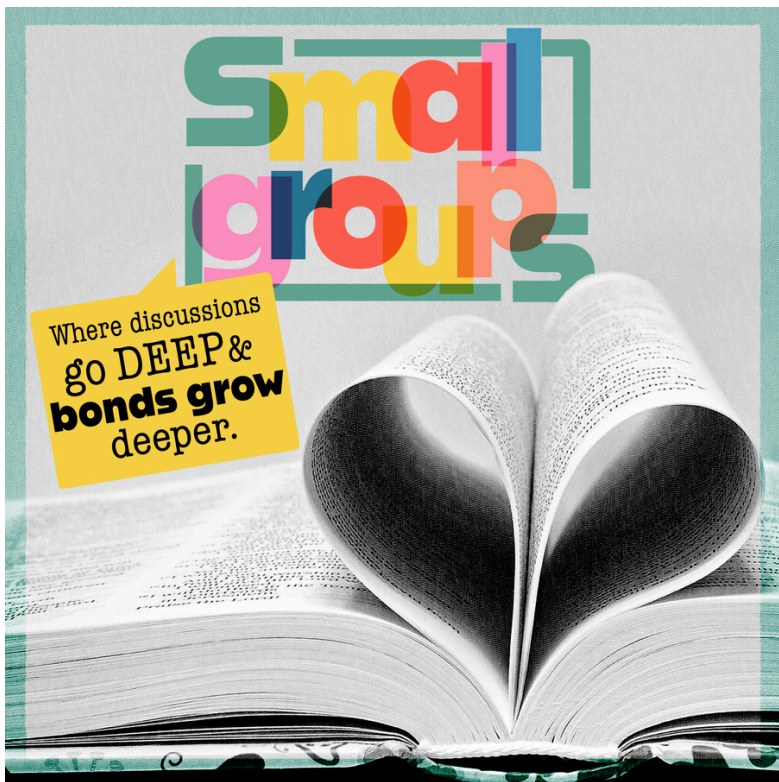
Thank you to everyone who attended our musical, "Life School Musical", this year! Because of your generosity, \$457 has been donated to World Vision to support children in the US and all over the world! Our donation included 12 Bibles and 5 bed nets, as well as money to be given towards school and Sunday School supplies, and sign language training for children.



Cast of "Life School Musical"

We look forward to producing more musicals in the future!



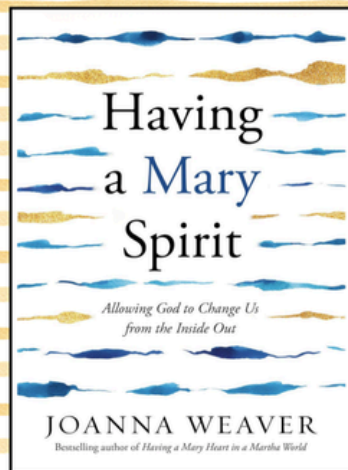


# Women's Bible Study

led by Pastor Allison

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

BEGINNING JUNE 2



## 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.

Be looking for information this summer about our Fall 2026 kickoff series! Do you want to start a small group? We can train you! Do you want to join a group? We can help you find one! Do you need ideas or resources for your current group? Contact Pastor Andrew!



## ADULT EDUCATION Summer 2026

This summer, we're offering three stand-alone mini-series—great opportunities to grow in faith and study Scripture together. Each series meets here at the church, and all materials are provided, so you can simply come as you are. Whether you're able to join us for one series or all three, we'd love to learn, reflect, and connect with you throughout the summer.

June Study: The Nicene Creed  
July Study: Walk as Jesus Walked  
August Study: The Trinity

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

*meets through May*

## Men of Immanuel

BIBLE STUDY || COFFEE || DONUTS || FELLOWSHIP



join the  
TEAM

serving is  
BETTER TOGETHER

## VOLUNTEER TEAMS

Please contact the team leader about volunteering or sign up directly on the Sign-Up Genius links on our website, weekly email, or lobby kiosks.

Team	Leader
<b>Sacristy</b>	Mary Mechaelsen
<b>Hospitality</b>	Karen Hermanson
<b>Tech</b>	Brad Waline
<b>Welcome</b>	Collin Brouwer
<b>Acolyte</b>	EPIC/Youth Pastor
<b>Worship</b>	Board of Deacons

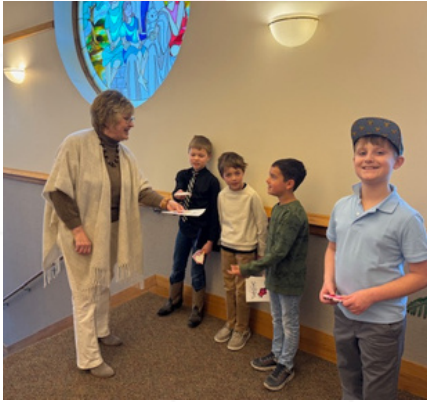
**Changes to our Volunteering:** For many years, our worship service volunteers have been identified and coordinated through one person. To further promote, improve and grow the engagement of our membership in volunteering (tithing of their time), we are transitioning to Volunteer Teams. This change took effect on April 19, 2026.

The basis and most importantly the foundation of this change is found in Immanuel's Constitution. With regard to membership, Section C.7.04.c. reads:

*"It shall be a privilege and duty of members of this congregation to support the work of this congregation and the association-wide organization of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ through contributions of their time, abilities and financial support as biblical stewards."*

Sign-up Genius is loaded with worship services through September, allowing volunteers to fill open slots months in advance. Sign up anytime on your phone, computer, or use the kiosks in the lobby. Contact Milianna Carlson or Mary Mechaelsen with questions or if you need assistance using Sign-up Genius. Thank you for promoting volunteerism and serving Immanuel!





Staff



Staff

# Thank you

## TO OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND EDUCATIONAL LEADERS

The Board of Education is very grateful for our dedicated Sunday School teachers, educational leaders, volunteers and staff. God shines brightly through all you do for our education department. Around thirty people are involved each week to make things run smoothly. **You are important. You make a difference in so many lives. You are amazing. And you are incredibly appreciated!**



5<sup>th</sup> Grade & EPIC HS



2<sup>nd</sup> grade



Librarian



Staff

*We encourage all families to take some time to make a card, send an email or just thank this great group of people for all they do. They don't just show up on a Sunday morning or Wednesday evening. They pray for your children and commit their time to spread God's love.*



Pre K/Kindergarten



Kingdom Kids Music



Board of Education



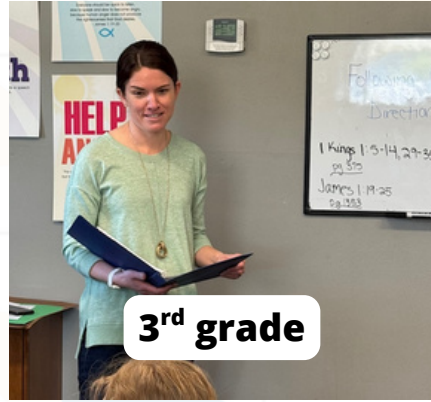
Staff



**1<sup>st</sup> Grade**



**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**



**3<sup>rd</sup> grade**



**3 & 4 Year Olds**

*Thank you*     
**VOLUNTEERS!**

*Join us for cake in the Social Hall after worship (and the congregation meeting) on Sunday, May 17th to honor these faithful men and women!*



**Young Disciples Music**



**Staff**



**Adult Sunday School/Interns**



**EPIC High School**



**EPIC Leaders**



**EPIC Leaders**



**Pre K/Kindergarten**



**Confirmation Teacher**



**Staff**

MISSION OF COMFORT  
WOMEN'S MINISTRY

## Quilt Tying Work Days

MAY 7 // JULY 2 // AUG 6

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.

Found an extra supply of sheets and pillowcases? Quilters can help you out! Donate them to the church! We use them as backs for over 150 quilts we produce each year. They also become part of many quilt tops prayerfully constructed for the many people in need of comfort locally and around the world.

We also take donations of cotton fabric and jeans to construct quilts for local Myrtle's Closet (*children's fabrics used in quilts for siblings of babies served*) and Hope Ministries.

And most importantly, we need your financial donations to ship Lutheran World Relief quilts (\$2.25/quilt) in September and purchase the batting (\$150 for 25 quilts) that completes the comfort aspect of the quilts.

Faithfully, our congregations' mission has provided Quilts of Comfort for thousands of people both locally and all over the world for well over 50 years. Become part of this mission by donating your time to tie quilts, cut blocks, supply fabric, or make periodic financial donations to continue this long serving tradition of caring for others in need.

# EPIC

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

Our EPIC season wraps up on May 6 (girls only) with an outing to Perfect Games. We will share any EPIC events for the summer via email!



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.*



**Confirmation Sunday**, a rite many churches, including Immanuel, celebrate each spring - and it has biblical roots. In Acts 8, Peter and John are sent to lay their hands on new believers and pray for them to receive the Holy Spirit. In the early church, new Christians — usually adult converts — received baptism and confirmation as one ceremony. As more children were brought for baptism, pastors and priests would baptize, but only bishops would “confirm” a baptism, or make it official. Thus, the baptized were granted full membership in the church through confirmation. Now confirmation allows young people, often after intensive Christian education, to profess for themselves the faith into which they were baptized.

Confirmation serves as an important faith milestone, as young adults purposefully embrace a life of discipleship. Please continue to encourage and pray for these students as they journey life as a Christian in our schools and community, and as they become active and voting members at Immanuel Lutheran Church. **The following students were Confirmed at Immanuel on Sunday, April 26, 2026:** Teddy Christian, Joshua Dahl, Harper Hill, Zayne Leeman, Clay Rickerl, and Jerry Severson.



**Pictured left to right:** Pastor Allison Potratz, Jerry Severson, Zayne Leeman, Harper Hill, Teddy Christian, Joshua Dahl, Clay Rickerl, Pastor Andrew Potratz





# HAPPY Mother's DAY

Mother's Day (Sunday, May 10) invites us to honor the women who have nurtured, guided and loved us. We celebrate not perfection, but faithfulness shown in countless quiet moments. May we give thanks for the love that shapes hearts and points us toward God's grace.



VOLUNTEER WITH  
MYRTLE'S CLOSET!

Help parents shop for  
baby clothes & diapers!  
Training available for  
new volunteers.



# Myrtle's Closet

## SUMMER '26 SHOPPING DATES

(10:00 TO 11:30 A.M.)


MONDAY, MAY 11

(5:45 TO 7 P.M.)


WEDNESDAY, MAY 27




PLEASE CHECK OUR FACEBOOK PAGE  
FOR MORE SHOPPING DATES AVAILABLE  
THIS SUMMER!



## The Last Day of Sunday School is Sunday, May 17



Kingdom Kids and Young Disciples  
will sing during worship!



# SPECIAL Congregational MEETING

*Sunday, May 17th After Worship*

The Immanuel Church Council has set Sunday, May 17, 2026 as the date for a special Congregational Meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on a proposal from the Board of Trustees to spend \$22,000 on updates to our Church's security system. These updates would include additional cameras and door locking/monitoring capabilities.

# Graduates of 2026

All 2026 graduates (*high school, college, higher education, training programs*) are invited to submit the following information to the church office by **Monday, May 18th** for inclusion in our Graduation Sunday (*Sun., May 24*) announcements AND our upcoming fall quarterly newsletter: **1) Name of Graduate; 2) School Name & Major, Minor, Degree or Certificates; 3) Future Plans; 4) Photo (optional).**

JOIN US AT IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH FOR

# dinner & discussion

**Sunday, May 17 at 5 P.M.**

## What Islam teaches about Jews & Christians

presented by Dr. Stephen Kirby

**FREE EVENT - RESERVATIONS REQUIRED - LIMITED SEATING**

*Event includes supper, presentation, and Q & A*

Dr. Stephen M. Kirby is retired after spending over 31 years in law enforcement, most of that time with the Los Angeles Police Department. Steve is the author of six books, and numerous articles about Islam. His latest book was written at the request of the Center for Security Policy. His books are available at Amazon.com. His website is [IslamSeries.org](http://IslamSeries.org) and Steve can be contacted at [IslamSeries@gmail.com](mailto:IslamSeries@gmail.com).



DR. STEPHEN KIRBY

**[CLICK HERE TO  
RESERVE A SEAT](#)**



QR RESERVATIONS

SPONSORED BY THE IMMANUEL DEACON BOARD

## MONDAY, MAY 25

*We remember, O Lord, the men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country. Help us never to breathe the air of freedom, claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship without deep gratitude for those who gave "the last full measure of devotion" for our sake. Amen.*



## MEMORIAL DAY

We Remember. We Honor. We Give Thanks.

# CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

*Week of May 25 - 29*

WE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, MAY 25.  
OPEN TUESDAY - THURSDAY  
FROM 9 A.M. TO NOON

*call or leave us a message*

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

*email us anytime*

OFFICE@IMMANUELSTORYCITY.ORG



**SCANDI  
NAVIAN  
DAYS**

## Bake Sale & Coffee Bar

HOMEMADE TREATS & SCANDINAVIAN GOODIES, JUICE & MAKE-YOUR-OWN ICED COFFEE



**Saturday, June 6 || 8:30 a.m - noon (or sold out!)**  
church lobby



**SCANDI  
NAVIAN  
DAYS**

## mini golf

(on the tennis courts)

FRI., JUNE 5 (6 - 9 P.M.) & SAT., JUNE 6 (12 - 5 P.M.)

Free-will donations will go towards purchasing Bibles for new students at Immanuel-based programming!

There will be MANY opportunities for you to get involved with our Bake Sale and Coffee Bar during Scandinavian Days (Saturday, June 6)! We'll need bakers, crafters, coffee enthusiasts, thrifty shoppers, and volunteers to run the event.

***Volunteer sign ups coming soon!***





summer 2026 sermon series

God's

# Wisdom

for an unwise world

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways submit to him,  
and he will make your paths straight.*

**PROVERBS 3:5-6**

# ADULT EDUCATION

## Summer 2026

JUNE STUDY

### The Nicene Creed

Join us for a study on what we believe! Over three weeks, we'll go through the Nicene Creed and how each line serves as a core piece of our Christian faith. Our faith is certainly more than this creed, but it is most certainly not less!

Sundays, June 7, 14, and 21 @ 6:30 P.M.

# ADULT EDUCATION

## Summer 2026

JULY STUDY

### Walk as Jesus Walked

Ray Vander Laan's 5-week video series, *Walk as Jesus Walked*, was filmed in the Holy Land to deepen our understanding of Scripture and its historical setting. It explores how Christians are called to live lives of encouragement in a world often centered on comfort and pleasure.

Wednesdays, July 1, 9, 15, 22 & 29 @ 6:30 P.M.

SAVE THE DATE FOR



FOR CHILDREN ENTERING PRESCHOOL THROUGH 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE.

REGISTRATION AND VOLUNTEER SIGN UPS

WILL BE AVAILABLE IN MAY.

# ADULT EDUCATION

## Summer 2026

AUGUST STUDY

### The Trinity

A three-week study and theology series on the Trinity. How do we understand God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit? And why does it matter!?

Dates are to be determined!

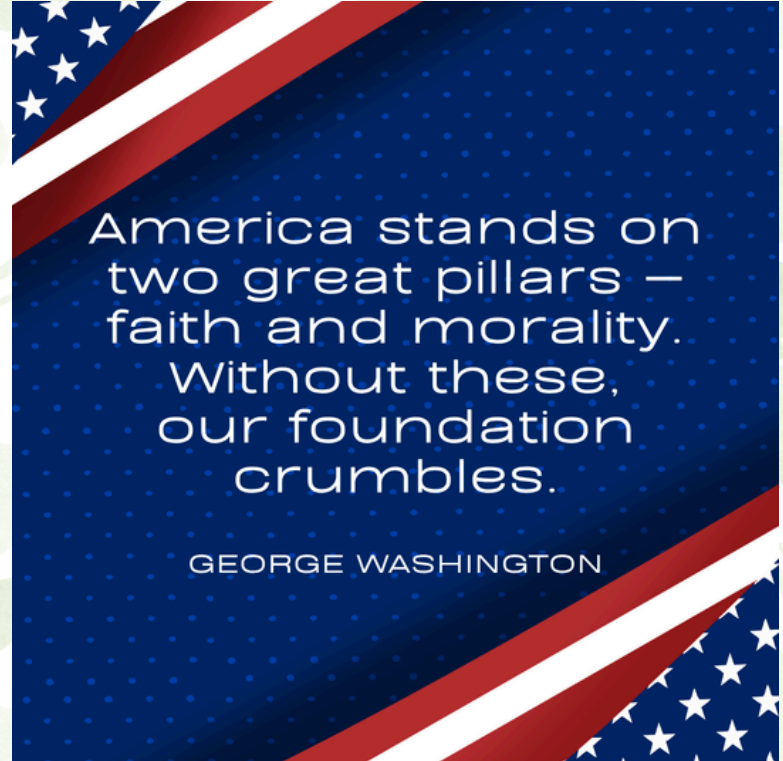
HAPPY  
**Father's**  
DAY

God, you are the perfect Father of all, the model of unconditional love. For fathers and father-figures on Father's Day (Sunday, June 21), we give thanks. And, God, for all the ways you guide, direct, teach and protect us in love, we praise you.



Happy  
**FOURTH**  
**JULY**

As we celebrate Independence Day, we thank God for the blessings of freedom—and the hope we have in Christ, who sets us truly free. “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” —John 8:36



America stands on two great pillars – faith and morality. Without these, our foundation crumbles.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

## **FREEDOM WORTH GUARDING - CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF AMERICA!**

Because many Americans have never known life without freedom, it can be easy to take our liberties for granted. The Israelites, however, knew the harsh reality of slavery. Yet even after God led them out of Egypt, they struggled to embrace their newfound freedom. Faced with uncertainty, they grew fearful and complained against Moses and Aaron, longing for the familiarity of their former bondage rather than trusting God’s provision.

Their story feels surprisingly familiar. As Christians, we have been set free through a far greater deliverance. Our freedom was secured at a great cost through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And yet, we sometimes drift back toward old habits, attitudes and patterns that once held us captive.

Scripture reminds us to stand firm in the freedom we have been given. As Paul writes in Galatians 5:1 (NKJV), “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”

True freedom is not simply the absence of restraint. It is the opportunity to live fully in God’s grace, walking in obedience, joy and purpose. This kind of freedom is worth celebrating, protecting and living out every day.



Church Newsletter

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Any articles, pictures, or other newsletter submissions for our **FALL Quarterly Newsletter** (August - September - October) are due to the church office by **July 15th**.

Contact Milianna with questions.

# 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.



This summer we have several students attending the Youth Works Mission Trip in Lake Traverse, South Dakota! We will have the opportunity to learn about the Dakota people's history, culture, and traditions while building meaningful relationships within the community.



Throughout the week, teams will partner with local organizations, serve at area nursing homes, and participate in painting, beautification, and minor repair projects. These efforts support local homeowners and tribal partners while offering hands-on ways to serve, learn, and walk alongside the community with humility and respect. We will also get to enjoy Nicolette Tower and Interpretive Center, Sica State Park, and take a cooking class from a local community member. Please be in prayer for our group as we spend a week away serving for the greater Kingdom of God!



**Minutes of the Joint Council Meeting**  
Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church  
February 12, 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, Kelly Dahl, Sean Edens, John Nordeen, Brandi Hill, Jaynee Christian, Bryce Haskins, Jana Larsen, Katie Brouwer

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

1. Opening prayer were given by Pastor Andrew.
2. Approval of previous meeting minutes. Sean moved that the January minutes be approved and Jaynee 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 Steve seconded. Approved unanimously.
4. Report of Boards (see below for full reports)
  - a. Board of Ed: Pastor Allison
  - b. Deacons: Kelly Dahl
  - c. Trustees: Ben Haberl
  - d. Youth Board: Pastor Allison
5. Old Business
  - a. Nominating Committee. No additional information or discussion.
  - b. Safety Conversations. Sean has provided a facility plan to the Trustees. Exec team looked at different policies at different tiers. Their decision was that there was no desire to have a policy of extreme measures, relying on our local and county officials present. Doug will start working on procedures for review and approval.
6. New Business
  - a. Intern Contract. Deacons moved for an intern contract for Grant Severson for the period of June 1, 2026 through May 28, 2027 for 20 hours for \$2,000 per month. John offered a second. Approved unanimously.
  - b. Missionary Support for Haiti. Mission Committee and Deacons approved sending money directly to Haiti Opportunities rather than running through the Oakland's 501c(3). Discussion was held. Since we are changing who we send the money to Chuck moved and Ben seconded to make this change. Approved unanimously.
  - c. THRIVE Discussion Updates. Andrew gave the background of THRIVE.
    - i. Board of Education
      1. Thriving People.
        - a. Strengthening faith of children and how can we measure
        - b. Learning faith essentials
        - c. Creating a safe and welcoming environment
        - d. Communication to teachers and parents
        - e. Collect parent and teacher feedback annually
        - f. Evaluating safety plan
        - g. Equipping and appreciating volunteers
    - ii. Trustees
      1. One year plan
        - a. Water in balcony
        - b. Fans
      2. Two-year plan
        - a. Wallpaper and painting sanctuary
      3. Five-year plan
        - a. Ceiling and carpet in the sanctuary
    - iii. Deacons
      1. Priority to get congregation to participate and provide initiatives
    - iv. Executive Board
      1. One-year plan – record retention improvement
      2. One-to-two year plan – safety plan
      3. Two-year plan - Move towards Youth Director to general budget
      4. Five-year plan - vision but begins in year one to improve giving
    - v. Additional ideas:
      1. Sunday School rooms

Doug adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM. Ben moved that the meeting be adjourned and Julie seconded. Next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2026. Devotions will be given by the Deacons.

Pastor Andrew closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Whipple, Secretary

## Board of Education February 12, 2026

PRESENT:  
Allison, Jana, Katie, Jaynee, Lily, Brandi

OPENING PRAYER

PREVIOUS MINUTES:  
Minutes from the previous meeting approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:  
Current balance – \$6,466.98

RECAP OF LAST MONTH

- Family Sunday School—successful turnout, kids enjoyed making the heart.
- February early recap:
- Delivered hearts/cards to Bethany—pics to Milianna
  - 3 and 4 y/o and 5th graders greeted
  - YD sang 2/8

UPCOMING EVENTS / REMINDERS FOR MILIANNA

- KK sing 2/15/26
- Lenten supper serving 3/4/26
  - Beefburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, chips, cookies, lemonade
  - Reminder for Sunday school families to provide a donation for meal and to come help serve—QR code?
  - Serve at 5:45pm, Board of Ed arrive 5pm
- Palm Sunday—Jaynee to order palms and/or discuss with Milianna
- Easter April 5th
- April: 6th/7th graders to greet; find a time for the confirmands to greet

OTHER

- Visioning Process

CLOSING PRAYER

## Trustees Meeting February 12, 2026

Attendee: Sean Edens, Brice Haskins, Ben Haberl and Steve Skartvedt

- Approved previous minutes
  - Moved by Ben and 2nd by Steve
- Approved treasurer report
  - Steve moved to approve and 2nd by Ben
- Approved Bills
  - Steve made motion to approve and Sean 2nd
- Steve made a motion to approve reimbursement for a camper and Sean 2nd

Discussions:

- April meeting is set to review/approve Freddy scholarships
- Spring work day
  - March 21st primary
  - March 28th 2nd option
- Narthex rain damage quote
- Winkler came and is going to provide a quote
- Kevin Traditions hasn't gotten back
- Balcony - Tyler is going to come and look with his lift
- Facility checklist - Sean will perform 1st evaluation
- Sean moved to get a new quote on camera system and Brice 2nd-Approved
- TV for kitchen - Waiting for Frank Baedke to come back in March
- Getting estimate from Jon Mehl on storage room remodel
- Thrive Discussion
  - 1 year goal
    - balcony plaster fix
    - Fans in sanctuary
  - 2 year goal
    - Wall paper and painting Sanctuary
  - 5 year goal
    - Ceiling and carpet

## Youth Board/EPIC Leader Combined Meeting - January 11, 2026

Present: Allison, Andrew, Conner, Isaac, Grant, Sarah, Joel, Gracey, Blake

EPIC:

- 1st Semester Reflection—we reflected on the highs and lows of our 1st semester of EPIC.
- Calendar—We reviewed the upcoming calendar, lesson plans, and made a new phone policy where students put their cell phones in bins when they come in for dinner and they receive them at the end of the night.
- Go over plans for Lent and expectations
  - Dinner at 5:45
  - Service at 6:30 (please sit near your students, and keep them off their phones), studying the Psalms
  - Small groups from 7:15-8
  - Whoever is preaching that night will be required to come up with questions for the small group portion of the evening and turn them in to Allison by the Monday before so she can add more to the lessons.
- Lent Meal—serving on Ash Wednesday, will be served by the Youth Mission Trip group to raise extra funds for the trip. We are serving walking tacos.
- Discipleship Program—Conner has struggled to get his group together because of sickness.

Youth Budget: \$2,736.53

- Pizza plans—we are encouraging congregation members to sponsor a slice/night of pizza.


Mission Trip:

- Parent/Student meeting set for January 18th
- Need to raise \$1,272.33

## Immanuel Deacon Meeting Minutes (2/12/26) - 6:30 Meeting

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

1. Patty opened the meeting in prayer
2. Andrew gave updates on congregational prayer requests
3. Previous minutes were approved
4. Ministry Updates
  - a. Myrtle's Updates -A Quilt Raffle will be done as a fundraiser with \$5 raffle tickets available for purchase at church and Lenten meals. The raffle drawing will be done around Easter.
  - b. Steady Hands Updates: Kim has had a full schedule. He is generally busy from 2-7:30, two Thursdays per month. Patty will reach out to Kim and ask if he's interested in a giving a temple talk in April or May regarding Steady Hands Ministry.
  - c. THRIVE Internship Program:
    - i. Grant has been meeting with a small group of men for discipleship as part of his seminary leadership project.
    - ii. Isaac is continuing to work on his leadership project—a three-week study on building healthy leaders in ministry.
    - iii. Conner's surgery has been rescheduled for June.
    - iv. Andrew plans to list our internship program as an opportunity for seminary interns.
5. Old Business and Discussion
  - a. Funds
    - i. Ministry Fund Balance 2/1/26: \$40,490.91
    - ii. Johnson fund balance 2/1/26: \$187,876.79
    - iii. THRIVE fund balance 2/1/26: \$64,456.67
  - b. Recap events
    - i. Steve Kirby will present a discussion on Islam on May 17 at 5pm
  - c. Ongoing Emphasis/Projects:
    - i. Welcome Team Plans and Volunteers: Continued discussion on encouraging members to engage as volunteers. A couple ideas included having ministry area spotlights/temple talk to teach the congregation about volunteer slots. We also discussed offering a lunch and learn event for members interested in engaging as volunteers.
  - d. Winter / Spring Discipleship Discussions
    - i. LENT: Andrew will lead Adult Discussions after Lent. Themes will fall in step with the type of Psalm that we're looking at for that week. We will take an additional Psalm or two and study/discuss/interact with those texts.
  - e. New Business
    - i. Per Nilsen - May 3 Preaching and sharing about MI
    - ii. Grant Internship Contract: Brad moved to approve Grant's internship contract. Julie seconds the motion. Motion passed and will be presented to the joint council.
    - iii. Haiti Support: The mission committee desires to continue supporting Chris Stone's ministry in Haiti. Andrew will present this information to the larger council for consensus.
    - iv. THRIVE Vision Discussed for a few minutes.



**“A life without love is like a year without summer.”**  
—Swedish proverb

## Minutes of the Joint Council Meeting: Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

March 12, 2026 7:45 PM In Person in the Social Hall

Present: Pastor Allison, Pastor Andrew, Doug Mechaelsen, Lori Whipple, Patty Rathmacher, Julie Skaar, Steve Skartvedt, Ben Haberl, Kelly Dahl, John Nordeen, Brice Haskins, Jana Larsen, Katie Brouwer, Brad Waline, Frank Baedke, Lily Rathmacher

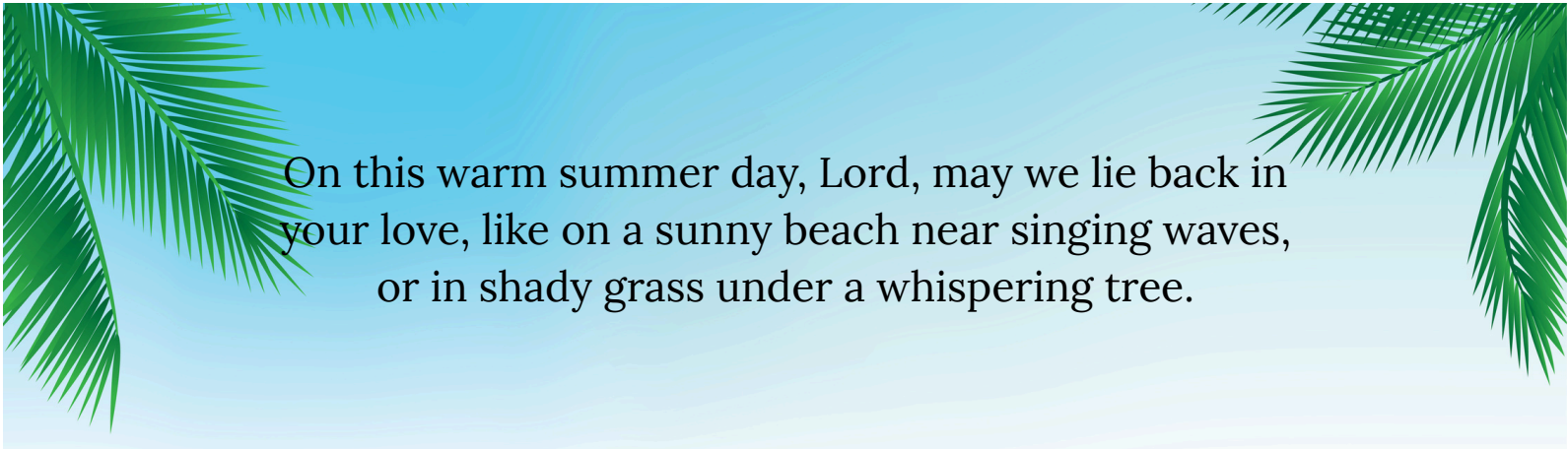
President Doug Mechaelsen called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM.

1. Opening prayer were given by Patty.
2. Approval of previous meeting minutes. Ben moved that the February minutes be approved and Steve seconded. Approved unanimously.
3. Treasurer's Report was presented by using documents emailed to council by Chuck Carlson. Brice moved that the Treasurer's report be approved and Ben seconded. Approved unanimously.
4. Report of Boards (see below for full reports)
  - a. Youth Board: Pastor Allison.
    - i. Met with Youth Board Wednesday March 11th just touching base on EPIC.
    - ii. Confirmation is April 26th.
    - iii. Mission trip July 5-10 with eight kids now going and three chaperones.
    - iv. Allison will work with the 8th graders on Good Friday service.
  - b. Board of Ed: Pastor Allison
  - c. Deacons: Kelly Dahl
  - d. Trustees: Ben Haberl
5. Old Business
  - a. Nominating Committee. Doug has not heard any objections to the suggestion that the nominating committee being composed of those individuals going off their boards. Doug and Lori will bring the names of those members who will be going off their boards to the next meeting.
  - b. Safety Conversations. Property checklist has been created by the Trustees. Doug has created a first draft of procedures.
  - c. THRIVE document updates. Andrew included in the meeting notes email an updated document which includes the actions proposed by the various boards last meeting. Doug encouraged every board to provide when actions have taken place.
6. New Business
  - a. Mutual Ministry committee will meet after this meeting.

Doug adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM. Steve moved that the meeting be adjourned and John seconded. Next meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2026. Devotions will be given by the Trustees.

Patty Rathmacher closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Whipple, Secretary



On this warm summer day, Lord, may we lie back in  
your love, like on a sunny beach near singing waves,  
or in shady grass under a whispering tree.

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

Attendants: Steve Skartvedt, Brice Haskin, and Ben Haberl

OPENING PRAYER

Approved Previous notes

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Minutes from the previous meeting approved.

Approved Bills

TREASURER'S REPORT: Current balance – \$6,395.92

Approved Treasurer Report

RECAP OF LAST MONTH

- Delivered hearts/cards to Bethany–pics to Milianna
- 3 and 4 y/o and 5th graders greeted
- YD sang 2/8/26
- KK 2/15/26
- Just hosted our Lenten supper, great turnout

Old Business

- Back door glass fixed
- Side walk rescheduled
- Lobby wall is done
- Still working on Balcony water issues
- Alleyway lights - Tyler is going to work on the lights.
- Security
  - Reviewed current quote
  - Getting 2nd quote
  - Plan to provide recommendation during the April meeting
- TV in Kitchen - Still in the works
- Church organization
  - Reviewed Board of Ed requests and visited rooms
  - Room function and organization with the monthly audit
  - 5S process to go through each room

UPCOMING EVENTS / REMINDERS FOR MILIANNA

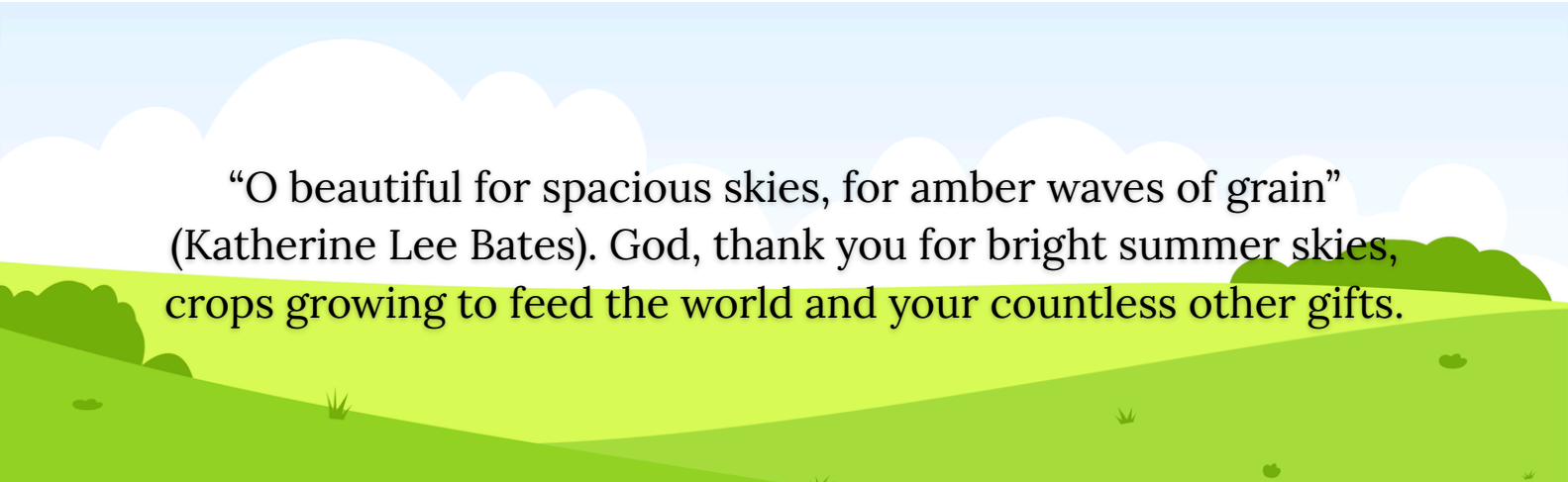
- Palm Sunday–Jaynee ordered palms, play games
- All kids sing Palm Sunday
- No Sunday School, but yes on the 22nd
- Easter April 5th
- April: 6th/7th graders to greet; find a time for the confirmands to greet – Maybe Palm Sunday
- Kid's Musical performance April 11th and 12th

OTHER

- Superintendent process
- Revising policies
- Sunday School Families and Teacher Surveys
- Katie Brouwer has been appointed to Board Chair
- Visioning Process–focusing on year 1 with many changes are coming
- After musical fellowship Board of Ed/Sunday School to assist, April 11/12

Chairs with arms in the back of the church

CLOSING PRAYER



**“O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain”  
(Katherine Lee Bates). God, thank you for bright summer skies,  
crops growing to feed the world and your countless other gifts.**

## Immanuel Deacon Meeting Minutes (3/12/26)

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

1. Patty opened the meeting in prayer
2. Andrew gave updates on congregational prayer requests
3. February deacon meeting minutes were approved.
4. Ministry Updates
  - a. Myrtle's Closet served 13 clients this past week, resources continue to be well utilized.
  - b. Steady Hands Updates: Patty will reach out to Kim to see if he is interested in doing a brief temple talk in May.
5. Old Business and Discussion
  - a. Funds
    - i. Ministry Fund Balance 3/1/26: \$39,910.14
    - ii. Johnson fund balance 3/1/26: \$183,126.79
    - iii. THRIVE fund balance 3/1/26: \$63,620.49
  - b. Recap events
    - i. Steve Kirby Islam discussion on May 17: 5-6:45pm
  - c. Ongoing Emphasis / Projects:
    - i. Welcome Team Plans / Discussion / Volunteer Coordination Update: Information to come on the Amplify System App, a church app that will go live this coming fall.
  - d. Discipleship Discussions
    - i. LENT Adult Classes will continue through March 25.
    - ii. Grant's MI Leadership Project - Nearing End
    - iii. Isaac is making progress on his Building Healthy Leaders class. He has two more weeks: March 15, 22.
    - iv. Grant and Andrew will each offer a class or mini-series during the summer
    - v. Possible parent study: John Rathmacher and Brad Skaar are looking at potential books to use to lead a parenting study.
6. New Business
  - a. Per Nilsen, a pastor from the Twin Cities, will be preaching on May 3. Julie made a motion for a \$200 honorarium. Brad seconds. Motion passed.
  - b. Review THRIVE Vision Updated Sheet: We continue to discuss ways to engage and invite Immanuel members to engage and serve in the family of God, including stewardship.
  - c. Intern contract discussion: Isaac's last date will be May 15. Conner would like to continue the discussion regarding returning to Immanuel in the fall after his surgery. We would like to meet with him about his educational and ministry goals going forward.
  - d. We plan to send a special invite for Holy Week services to members that we don't see often.
  - e. Easter Services will be the same as last year: 7am sunrise service and 9:30. There will be treats in the Narthex between services.



*When on vacation, be with us in spirit.  
The rest of the summer, be with us in person.*

# Minutes of the Joint Council Meeting: Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

April 9, 2026 7:45 PM In Person in the Social Hall

Present: Pastor Allison, Pastor Andrew, Doug Mechaelsen, Lori Whipple, Chuck Carlson, Patty Rathmacher, Julie Skaar, Ben Haberl, Kelly Dahl, Brice Haskins, Katie Brouwer, Frank Baedke, Lily Rathmacher, Jim Oberender, Sean Edens, Jaynee Christian

President Doug Mechaelsen called the meeting to order at 7:48 PM.

1. Opening prayer was given by Sean Edens.
2. Approval of previous meeting minutes. Sean moved that the March minutes be approved and Brice offered a seconded. 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 Ben offered a seconded. Approved unanimously.
4. Report of Boards (see below for full reports)
  - a. Board of Ed: Katie Brouwer
  - b. Deacons: Kelly Dahl
  - c. Trustees: Ben Haberl
    - i. A question was asked about whether the tv in the nursery could be used to broadcast the service. Sean will look into this.
  - d. Youth Board: Pastor Allison. No new update.
5. Old Business
  - a. Nominating Committee. Those going off the Deacon Board are Kelly Dahl and Brad Waline. Kelly is unable to serve again so agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee. Brad Waline will be approached about his intentions by Pastor Andrew. Trustees have Jim Oberender going off and he will be on the nominating committee. Brandi and Jana are going off the Board of Education and Katie will confirm their intentions. John Nordeen is not interested in serving as Vice President next year and Doug will check with him about his willingness to serve on the nominating committee.
  - b. Safety Conversations. Doug provided a summary of the safety procedures. He intends to have a proposal for next month.
  - c. Internship Program Updates. Pastor Andrew handed out a document regarding our internship program which began in late 2023.
6. New Business
  - a. Volunteer Coordination. Patty gave a brief update on the Welcome Team activity. She provided the names of those in leadership positions: Karen Hermanson-fellowship lunch; Brad Waline-tech schedule; Mary Mechaelson-sacristy; Patty Rathmacher-scripture readers; Colin Brouwer-welcome team. The new system for volunteerism is Amplify and should be operational by October.
  - b. Camera. A proposal from PerMar was received. This would include 12 new cameras with 7 outdoors and 5 indoors. This would also include six doors with sensors. The quote is for \$22,000 with a \$300 monthly maintenance fee. Doug asked for a motion to bring the proposal to the congregation and Brice moved and Ben offered a second. Approved unanimously. The congregational meeting will be May 17.
  - c. Remodeling Storage Room. Estimates are being requested to remove the asbestos flooring.
  - d. Jaynee offered that for Scandinavian Days we will hold a bake sale.

Doug adjourned the meeting at 9:41 PM. Lily moved that the meeting be adjourned and Sean offered a second. Next meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2026. Devotions will be given by the Board of Education.

Sean closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Whipple, Secretary

## Trustees - April 9, 2026

Attendants: Jim Oberender, Brice Haskins, Steve Skartvedt, Sean Edens, Ben Haberl, Chuck Carlson

Approved previous Minutes: Steve moved Brice second

Approved Treasurer report: Steve moved Jim second

Approved Bills: Steve moved Ben second

New business:

- RO filter system for Parsonage-Brice moved and Jim second and motion approved
- Mulch-Sean moved and Ben second and motion approved
- Sidewalk lift is done
- Balcony wall: Moisture checking and will monitor to see changes. Tyler still planning on bringing a lift
- Church inspection Checklist: Sean did the 1st inspection today and he will send out the 1st results
- Alleyway lights-Still in process but some have been fixed
- Board of ed Items-Setup meeting to review with Board of ed on details
- Cameras-Brice moved to approve and to take to joint council and Jim second. Motion approved
- TV in kitchen-Still in progress
- Storage Closet-Approved the wall repair plan for approval of the congregation. Brice moved and Steve second
- ACH feature approved to be used
- Frette Scholarships Approved 11 candidates at \$2750 each

## Board of Ed Meeting - April 9, 2026

Present: Allison Potratz, Lily Rathmacher, Jana Larsen, Jaynee Christian, Katie Brower

Approved previous minutes

Financials-\$7,039.17

Recap of Last Month:

- March 29th-Palm Sunday-kids did palm crosses and sang in worship. They all did a great job! We purchased 2 palm buds, and we can purchase that much again next year. We placed the order 3 weeks in advance from Everettes. 2nd Graders greeted in worship.
- Spring Break-In March we had spring break, so we had one week off from Sunday School. Check next year's schedule for spring break and palm sunday so we can plan for if we want to have Sunday School on the 2nd Sunday (low attendance).

## Immanuel Deacon Meeting Minutes (4/9/26) 6:00 Meeting

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

1. Patty opened the meeting in prayer
2. Approved previous minutes
3. Communion cards and prayer requests were reviewed.
4. Conner came to meet with the deacons. Conner provided an update on his experience this past year in his internship role. He has had a positive experience with the overall Immanuel community, the youth, and Andrew and Allison as mentors. As of now, his projected last day will be in June, following VBS. (Possibly June 14)
5. We held discussion regarding Conner's internship, roles, and overall job performance. We will spend the next month praying and discerning the future of Conner's internship position at Immanuel.
6. Ministry Updates
  - a. Myrtle's Closet will soon have more volunteer training with interested volunteers from a local church.
  - b. Steady Hands Updates: Kim Combs will come on May 17 to talk about the Steady Hands Ministry
7. Steve Kirby will present a discussion on Islam on May 17-5pm (20 people signed up so far)
8. Welcome Team Plans / Discussion / Volunteer Coordination Updates
  - a. Patty to present updates to the whole council on volunteer coordination efforts.
  - b. As part of a membership class, Andrew is considering including an emphasis on opportunities to grow and serve within our community.
9. Isaac's last internship date will be May 10.
10. Summer Sermon series is "God's Wisdom for an Unwise World"

Upcoming:

- Kids Musical April 11th and 12th-BOE is helping plan the fellowship times
- Confirmation Sunday-April 26th-students will greet people in the lobby after worship.
- Last day of Sunday School is May 17th-kids will sing that day
- Teacher Appreciation-We'd like to do a celebration during fellowship time on the 17th to say thank you to all of the Sunday School teachers, order a cake.
- Day Camp June 8th-10th

Other:

- Visioning
- Superintendent-Katie will talk to Lisa M. to see what role she is interested in.
- Budget Planning
- Need to fill 2 board of ed positions
- Revising Policies
- Review Parent/Teacher Surveys-we had 11 responses from parents.
  - Candy/Treats-would like to see less handed out during Sunday School.
  - 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.
  - Curriculum-We really liked The Story, maybe make a suggestion to Pastor Andrew/Deacons to choose a sermon series that we can structure the curriculum around.

Close in Prayer

# Neighborhood News



**Have something to share?  
Contact 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  
loavesnfishessc@gmail.com



### 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.



## RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

524 RIVER HILLS DRIVE  
STORY CITY IA

MAY 2ND 7AM-12PM

RAIN OR SHINE, FIND GREAT DEALS ON A RANGE OF ITEMS. ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARD SUMMER CAMP AND YOUTH PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIPS!



## 30<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL TREE SALE

**Saturday - May 2nd  
9:00 AM - 12:00 noon**

Former Lone Tree  
Nursery Site

**All trees \$75.00**

# Dementia Education

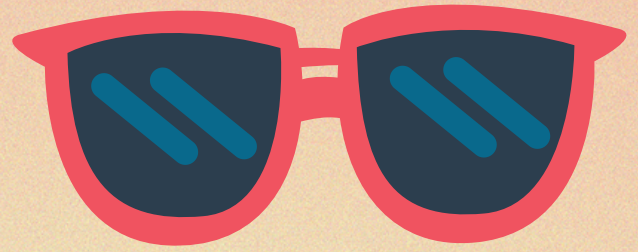
## May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm

Join us for a dementia education session with Betsy Warburton, founder of Dementia Support Works. With decades of experience, Betsy will share what to expect with dementia, offer practical strategies for daily challenges, and talk about how Dementia Support Works helps guide families through this journey.

Open to all—caregivers, family members, and community members are welcome.



**Bertha Bartlett Public Library**



JOIN US FOR

## MONDAY CHATS

w/ City Administrator Mark Jackson &  
Roland-Story Superintendent Josh Johnson



**MONDAY,  
MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>  
@ 8 AM**

BERTHA BARTLETT PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Cookbook Club

STOP INTO THE LIBRARY TO CHOOSE  
A RECIPE. BRING YOUR DISH TO OUR  
COOKBOOK CLUB POTLUCK.

**May 4<sup>th</sup>  
@ 6pm**

BERTHA BARTLETT PUBLIC LIBRARY

## KIDS' WRITING LAB

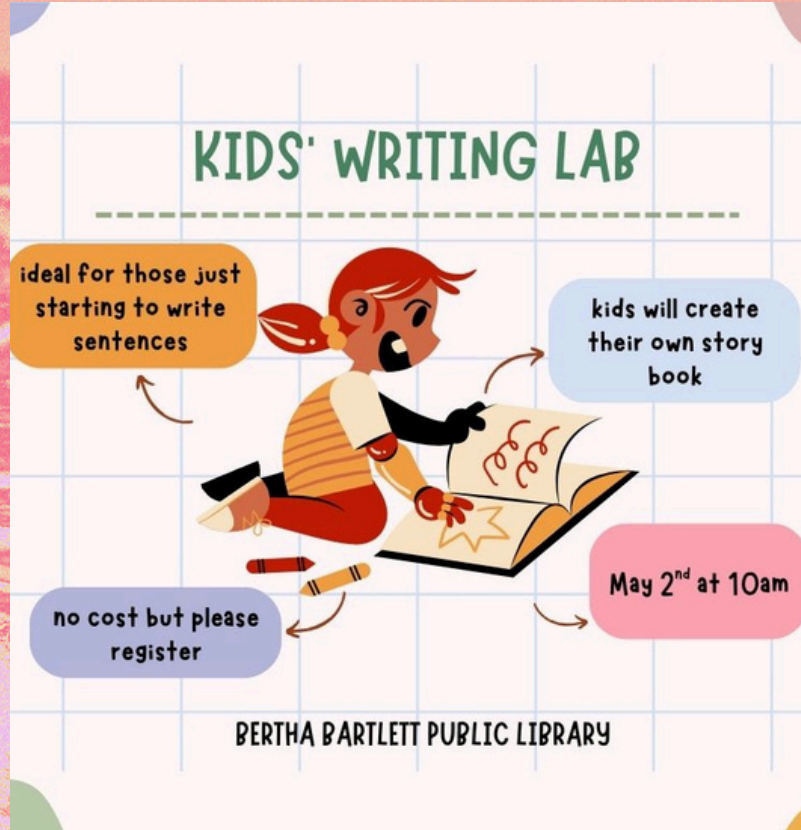
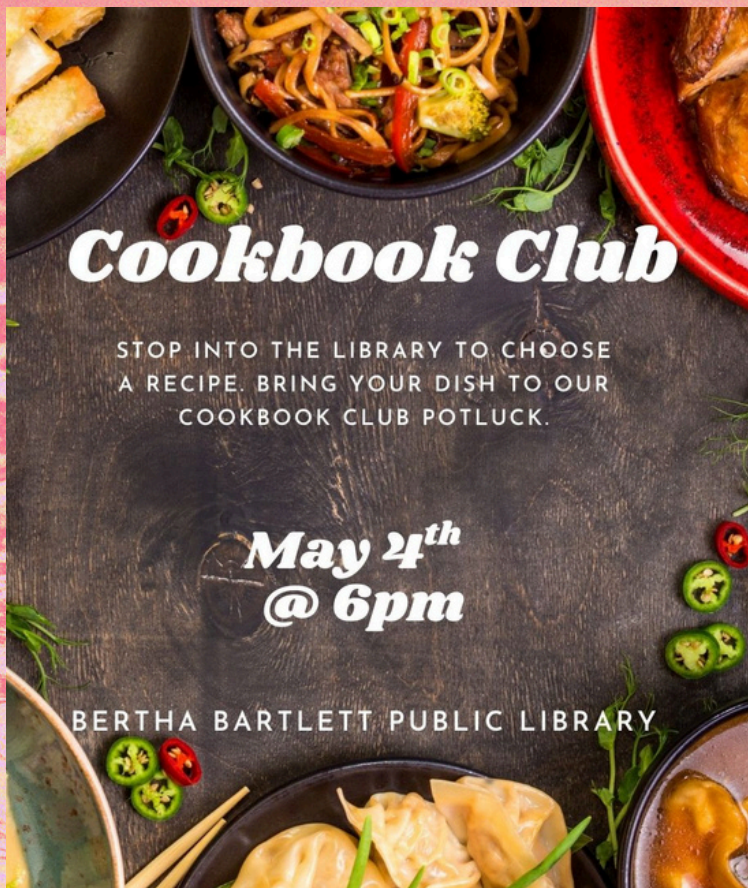
ideal for those just  
starting to write  
sentences

kids will create  
their own story  
book

no cost but please  
register

May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10am

BERTHA BARTLETT PUBLIC LIBRARY



# Purses with Personality

CLOTH, LEATHER, BEADED  
AND MESH BAGS  
1880s-1930s  
WITH SYLVIA MUNSEN



**Sunday, May 3rd**  
**2pm**  
**Bertha Bartlett**

**Public Library Meeting Room**

Step back in time and explore the elegance of vintage fashion at a special presentation by Sylvia Munsen. Sylvia will showcase highlights from her collection of over 70 pieces, including cloth and needlework bags, leather purses, intricate beaded designs, and fine mesh bags by Mandalian and Whiting & Davis—styles often seen in period productions like *Downton Abbey* and *The Great Gatsby*. In addition to the presentation, Sylvia will bring select pieces for guests to view in person.

**Attendees are also encouraged to bring a vintage purse or bag of their own—perhaps one passed down from a parent or grandparent—for Sylvia to help identify and share insights about with the group.**

A delightful assortment of light bites and refreshments will be served.

**Admission is \$10**, with all proceeds supporting the restoration of the historic 1859 log cabin. Scan the QR code to purchase tickets online. Tickets can be purchased in person at the Carriage House Museum or at the door on the day of the event.



**OPENING DAY**

**MONDAY, MAY 25<sup>TH</sup> 2026**

**Scandinavian Days 2026**

Friday, June 5th  
Saturday, June 6th

Greetings to My fellow Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

March 2026

I am excited to announce a new Bible memorization contest called the Psalm 119:11 Challenge. This contest is for anyone and any age. Contestants are paid up to \$10 cash for the first 10 bible verses they can successfully recite by memory. Then enter the Challenge and the top 10 winners who recite the most bible verses, win up to \$250. All verses must be followed up by what these verses mean to you personally.

This Challenge takes place during Scandinavian Days in Story City, IA June 6th, 2026 at North Park (Broad St and Forest Ave) from 12-4pm. Those who earn \$10 can spend their winnings on games and rides at the Park as well as numerous Food Trucks and Vendors. There are a lot of activities for all ages. Please check the [Storycitygcc.org](http://Storycitygcc.org) website for more 2026 Scandinavian Days information and Schedule of Events.

As challenges grow in this world for Christians, we need the Word of God in our hearts and minds more than ever. This Challenge is designed to promote and reward those who memorize the Word of God. Any Church with Youth Groups and Awana programs will have a head start in this contest. You will be going up against other central Iowa Church groups and Awana kids, so this is a chance to show off not only what you know but Who you put your faith and trust in.

Please bring your Bible and or a Bible Verse App on your phone. This will help you study each verse before you begin reciting them by memory. If you have your Bible verses written down before you come for the day as well as the Bible version you will be using, you will have a head start. For complete rules see the attached flyer.

Top 10 prizes are as follows:

- 1st place \$250
- 2nd place \$200
- 3rd place \$150
- 4th place \$100
- 5th place \$50
- 6th-10th place \$25 each

Any Top 10 Winners under age 18 must have Parent/Guardian collect winnings. You need not be present to win as checks can be mailed.

Psalm 119:11 is sponsored by Bible Faith Church, located at 4th & Garfield in Story City, IA. You're welcome to visit us at 10:30am on Sunday mornings for worship and fellowship. Propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thanks for spreading the word of this event and for posting this information at your church.

Grateful In Christ,

Larry Whitehill  
Outreach Director / Minister  
Bible Faith Church  
Story City, IA  
515-290-9636 Cell

**More information is posted on the slatwall in the Immanuel lobby.**

# 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

### BUCKAROO'S 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





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