

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER



In the waiting...God is working.

JUNE-JULY 2026
Volume 40, Issue 9



From Your Pastor

There is a commercial which asks, "What's in your wallet?" I'm not here asking you to consider what is in your wallet, but please do think about *who is in your heart* and *who is your greatest treasure*? Now there are all kinds of answers to those questions. Here is an example of an answer which isn't right.

The story begins on a Sunday morning, a good many years ago (as the prices indicate). Before the family got in the car to go to church, the father gave two dimes to his young son. The boy was told, "One of the dimes is for Jesus and is to be put into the Sunday collection plate, while the other dime is yours for an ice cream cone when we come home from church."

The boy nodded his head to show he understood his father's instructions. Somewhere between the kitchen and car, one of the dimes was lost. Since there wasn't time for the family to do a thorough search, the lost dime was left behind. As he settled into the back seat of the family four-door, the boy looked up to heaven and, with a great sigh, said, "Well God, there goes Your dime."

I leave it to you to judge if Jesus or ice cream was at the center of that boy's heart.

Now you know and I know that Jesus should be our Treasure, and He should always be at the center of our hearts. We know that, but our hearts keep saying, "Truly, keeping the Lord first is something you ought to do, but the truth is you have got some pretty major things going on in your life right now."

Your heart continues: "You've got responsibilities. You've got a family who needs you, you've got to make a living. House payments and taxes can't be put on the back burner, can they? Yes, the Lord should be at the center of your heart, but He's not going to foreclose on you if you put Him off, and He's not going to place a penalty on you if you miss your Sunday offering. It boils down to this: other things need to be taken care of, and you have to dedicate your energy to them."

Well, I won't try to argue with that kind of logic. Instead, I'll turn that privilege over to the great Civil War General Stonewall Jackson. A busy man with great responsibilities, one of his friends spoke to him about how hard it was to keep God first and to pray without ceasing. Jackson said we need to train ourselves to the proper priorities. He replied this way:

"When we take our meals, there is the grace. When I take a drink of water, I always pause, as my palate receives the refreshment, to lift up my heart to God in thanks and prayer for the water of life. Whenever I drop a letter into the box at the post office, I send a petition along with it for God's blessings upon its mission and upon the person to whom it is sent. When I break the seal of a letter just received, I stop to pray to God that He may prepare me for its contents and make it a message of good. When I go to my classroom and await the arrangement of the cadets in their places, that is my time to intercede with God for them. And so of every other familiar act of the day."

Jackson's proper priority kept Jesus at the center of his heart. Yes, other things needed to be done; other responsibilities needed to be taken care of, but all these things he did in the Name of Jesus, who always remained his Treasure.

With the hymnwriter we pray:

"Your kingdom, O God,
is my glorious treasure,
My pearl of incomp'able worth.
Its value exceeds ev'ry standard of measure,
Surpassing the wealth of the earth.
Lord, give me Your grace
and the pow'r of the Spirit
To value this treasure aright
That, never allured by the world, I inherit
Your kingdom of glory and light."
In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Your fellow-servant for Christ,

Pastor Mahuken

Mother's Day 2026

On May 10, 2026, the children invited their mothers to join them at Sunday School for breakfast and flowers. Thanks to everyone who joined us!



Join Us in Celebrating

Pastor Mahnken

35 Years in the Ministry



June 28, 2026
 Worship Service 9:00 a.m.
 Catered Luncheon by Staley's at 12:00 noon
 Free will offering

Please RSVP by June 25 to the Church Office 712-676-2235 if you plan to join us for the meal.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
 501 Glad Street, Schleswig, Iowa

We welcome you to rejoice with us and give thanks to God for this special milestone!

IN APPRECIATION OF OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Gracewell is proud to present this certificate of recognition to

Immanuel Schleswig

With sincere gratitude for their invaluable contribution and commitment to our residents.

April 2025

Mary Schelt *Lampert Baker*

CAMP OKOBOJI Quilt Auction

Saturday, June 20, 2026
 Auction starts at 12:30 p.m.
 CAMP OKOBOJI | 1531 EDGEWOOD DRIVE | MILFORD

Craft Fair
 Lunch | 11:00 a.m. - Free Will Donation

View the quilts online at www.campokoboji.org
 or on site Friday, June 19 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
 or Saturday from 9:00 a.m. - Noon.
 Services donated by Todd Hattermann (Paullina)

Proceeds will go to the purchase of new twin mattresses

CAN'T MAKE IT?
 Proxy bidding is available by calling the camp office at 712-337-3325



June 1.....	Lowell Lee Liam Palmer
June 2.....	Dorothy Ruser
June 4.....	Austin Hennings Charlee Rohlf
June 5.....	Dennis Bruhn Josie Jepsen Derek Rothe
June 6.....	Dalton Fredericks Aden Hennings Shawn McFarland Jada Vandenburg
June 7.....	Karla Gross
June 8.....	Dianna Jepsen Gage Miller Summer Walker
June 9.....	Theresa Beeck
June 10.....	Trey Kluender
June 11.....	Robin Ellerbeck Oliver Nahnsen
June 12.....	Rhett Jepsen
June 14.....	Sophia Morgan Barb Pedersen
June 15.....	Mike Hargens
June 16.....	Autumn Johannsen
June 17.....	Ashley Hanke Cara Jorgensen
June 18.....	Kyle Bubke Rachel Mentink Kay Riessen
June 19.....	Brittany Bremser
June 20.....	Grant Clausen Kevin Richardson Darren Wessel
June 21.....	Dakin Schultz Kelly Wessel
June 22.....	Peyton Hanke
June 23.....	Loren Jepsen
June 24.....	Jacee Jepsen
June 25.....	Calli Korner Dakota Thomsen
June 26.....	Lylian Morgan Shelley Segebart
June 27.....	Nancy Kline
June 28.....	Laura Ernst Kelly Korner Brad Riessen
June 29.....	Kassidi Hennings

Austin & Kassidi Hennings	June 3, 2023
Don & Peggy Wunschel	June 3, 1967
Connor & Madison Krajicek.....	June 4, 2022
Travis & Lynette Aldag.....	June 6, 2016
Mike & Tracy Beeck	June 6, 1992
Dale & Jackie Petersen.....	June 6, 1970
Josh & Megan Maack (1 st)	June 7, 2025
Craig & Val Teut (40 th).....	June 7, 1986
Peter & Josie Bekkerus.....	June 8, 2024
Jordan & Madison Richardson	June 8, 2024
Loren & Debbie Goettsch.....	June 10, 2017
Jared & Kayla Clark.....	June 12, 2010
Michael & Gail Hatfield	June 12, 1993
Matthew & Kirsten Maschmann.....	June 12, 2021
Jon Jr. & Dorothy Pingel	June 12, 1994
Joel & Sandy Bubke	June 14, 1994
Dick & Jolene Streck	June 15, 1971
Nick & Deidra Brown	June 16, 2012
Zach & Tricia Bielenberg.....	June 17, 2016
Jerry & Barb Ernst	June 21, 1975
James Jr. & Melinda Fredericks.....	June 22, 1991
Luke & Alexa Lenhart	June 22, 2019
Bryan & Brenda Brinkley.....	June 23, 1990
Dennis & Lori Kline	June 23, 1984
Chris & Kathy Sands	June 24, 1961
Chanc & Jackie Palmer	June 25, 2011
Larry & Anne Abbe (50 th).....	June 26, 1976
Ryan & Jennifer Doxsey.....	June 26, 2011
Eric & Renae Schneider.....	June 26, 2004
Todd & Kris Schultz	June 26, 1992

Please notify the office of any omissions or corrections.

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Vacation Bible School !!!



Sessions for children that just completed Preschool-6th Grade

Monday-Thursday
July 6-9

5:00 p.m. Supper
5:30-8:00 p.m. VBS

Grab your backpack and get ready to embark on a Tropical Trek where we will learn how Jesus came to seek and save the lost based on Luke 19:10!

As we travel to fun and exciting places, like a dormant volcano and island caves, we'll discover how God finds us and helps us in every challenge we face in life.





- July 1.....Madison Krajicek
- July 2.....Ashley Beeck
- July 3.....Bruce Namanny
- July 5.....Don Clausen
Curtis Korner
Seth Pingel
Tim Stoppel
Carter Weiss
- July 6.....Garrett Beeck
Dennis Kline
- July 7.....Ezden Hargens
Stratton Stoppel
Julie Teut
- July 8.....Barb Moeller
Brandy Porter
- July 9.....Stacey Dimig
Dration Palmer
- July 10.....Theodore Aldag
Trevis Beeck
Megan Reetz
Emily Segebart
- July 11.....Haley Ernst
Whitney Ernst
Henessey Harm
- July 12.....Stephanie Prussing
Stefan Wunschel
- July 13.....Laura Beeck
- July 14.....Edna Mae Johannsen
- July 15.....Kristin Palmersheim
Charles Rohlf
Lowell Teut
Ross Wood
- July 16.....Eileen Hennings
Clayton Stoppel
- July 17.....Kyler Bruhn
Bryli Bubke
Madison Cruz
Leroy Hight
Winsor Johannsen
Eric Schneider
- July 18.....Jordan Richardson
Pastor Steve Schulz
- July 19.....Janette Clausen
Harry Riessen
- July 20.....Pastor Kurt Kaiser
Gavin Schneider
- July 22.....John Hennings
Cathy Namanny
Katie Segebart
- July 23.....Kyle Jepsen
- July 24.....Andrew Bachman
Dennis Gierstorf
- July 26.....Lukas Bornhoff
Angela Korner
- July 27.....Alyssa Dimig
Adam Nahnsen
Brock Schneider
Renae Schneider
- July 29.....Matthew Riessen
Andres Velasquez
- July 30.....Grace Langholdt
Rick Lorenzen
Adam Schoenfeld
Kyle Schultz
- July 31.....Delores Bumann (94)
Donavon Gierstorf
Ava Jacobson
Lori Segebart

- Dane & Kasey Lee..... July 5, 2014
- Francisco & Madison Cruz..... July 6, 2019
- John & Janice Hennings..... July 6, 1996
- Bret & Shandi Steinkuehler..... July 7, 2007
- Cody & Tiffany Friedrichsen..... July 8, 2016
- Devin & Kelsi Jepsen..... July 10, 2010
- Gerald & Grace Langholdt..... July 12, 1964
- David & Lisa Jepsen..... July 13, 2002
- Austin & Heather Aldag..... July 15, 2018
- Loren & Janice Jepsen..... July 15, 1967
- Jake & Tiffany Schneider..... July 16, 2005
- Brad & Monica Detlefsen..... July 17, 1999
- Jason & Carrie Bubke..... July 19, 2008
- Mark & Theresa Beeck..... July 25, 1992
- Bruce & Cathy Namanny..... July 30, 1988
- Jeramie & Jaime Streck..... July 31, 1999

Please notify the office of any omissions or corrections.

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CONGRATULATIONS!

Immanuel's 2026 High School Graduates



Linkin Beeck



McKinzie Hargens



Lylian Morgan



Blaze Palmer



Brock Schneider



Tyson Stoppel



Stewarding God's Gifts:
A Plan to Care for Your Family and Support the Ministries You Love

Have you put off making a plan for what God has entrusted to you?

Your home, savings, land, and other resources are gifts from God, given to you to care for your family and bless His Church. But many of us have not yet made a plan for how those gifts will be used when we are called Home. This webinar will help you take a faithful first step. Led by LCMS Foundation gift planning counselor Leon Schoenfeld (Iowa District West), this session will explore ways to steward your resources in a manner that honors your faith, provides for your loved ones, and supports the ministries you care about.

In this webinar, you will:

- Understand what it means to steward your assets as a Christian
- Learn the difference between gift planning and estate planning
- See how thoughtful planning can care for family while also supporting ministry
- Walk away with simple, practical next steps



Register today to begin putting a faithful plan in place for your family and the work of the Church.

Register for the webinar today!

June 16, 2026

11:30 AM-12:30 PM CDT

Online Webinar



Leon Schoenfeld
Gift Planning Counselor
Phone: 712-630-7481
Leon.Schoenfeld@LFD.org

LCMSFoundation
GIFT PLANNING FOR YOUR FAMILY & MINISTRY



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH DES MOINES

SATURDAY, JUNE 20TH, 2026

2026 IOWA MARCH FOR LIFE LCMS RALLY

9 AM - MATINS PRAYER SERVICE

10 AM - SPEAKER

11 AM - LUNCH

12 PM - RALLY AND MARCH AT STATE CAPITOL



**3223 UNIVERSITY AVE
DES MOINES, IA 50311**

GUEST SPEAKER
MR. MARTIN CANNON







**We show up.
We confess Christ.
We are Lutheran.**

**RSVP VIA QR CODE OR EMAIL
PASTORCKROONBLAWD@GMAIL.COM**

LUTHERAN CHURCH



SUPPORT OUR LUTHERAN SCHOOL FAMILIES



"The STO program is and will continue to be a vital part of being able to afford a solid Lutheran education as a foundation of our children's lives in Christ."
- ILSTO FAMILY

WHY?

650 students applied for tuition assistance this spring

2025 giving was down meaning less assistance is available

OVER 100+ students than all of last year

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Make a tax deductible donation and receive a 75% tax credit on your Iowa State income tax
- Grain donation
- Stock donation
- Share this flyer

DONATE NOW

Invest Together in Faith

Now is the time to make the most of the blessings God has entrusted to you. With Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), you gain a trusted partner who shares your Lutheran values, helping you achieve financial growth while making a meaningful difference in the LCMS community.



View rates and terms at lcef.org/OurRates

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF Investments are not FDIC insured, are not a federally insured savings or deposit account or insured by any state or federal agency. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks.

~ **THE LWML INVITES**
ALL LADIES ~ 

The District Convention at Camp Okoboji will be June 11 through 13. Our delegates are Cheryl and Loretta. We voted to pay for their expenses. A slide presentation was given by Chris on the National Mission Grants that will be voted on at the convention. We voted on our own preferences at the meeting.

There will be a celebration for Pastor Mahnken's 35 years in the Ministry. This will be held on June 28th with a meal catered by Staley's. More information will be coming regarding how we can help.

We presented gifts to our Confirmands, graduating High School Seniors and the Preschool Graduates.

Visits were made to our Immanuel members residing in care facilities.

Submitted by Donna Harm, Secretary

From Your library . . .
"Have we got a book for you!"



Stop in the Name of God
by Charlie Kirk

This book will help you understand why honoring the Sabbath will transform your life. This book isn't a rejection of modern life but a rebellion against busyness and a pathway to genuine connection, peace and presence. Charlie Kirk guides you on how to unplug, recharge, and reconnect with God, family, and yourself in a way that nurtures your soul. We live in a world dominated by screens and constant noise and he presents the Sabbath as a radical act of resistance. The Sabbath restores balance, reduces anxiety and nourishes your soul. It's a day of rest—a life line to what really matters.

The original Sabbath began in the Garden of Eden. It was a declaration that the world is God's not ours—that time is not a possession but a gift. "And on the seventh day God finished His work that He had done and He rested." (Genesis 2:2) This day doesn't only mark remembrance but it's marked rest. A true Sabbath is a day set apart. A day of reorienting our lives to God and stands as a bold rebuke to the worship of stuff.

Church attendance and Sabbath observance have collapsed. Church attendance in the U.S. has fallen below 50% for the first time in recorded history. Worship is not merely what we sing on Sundays, it's recorded by what excites our hearts, shapes our calendars and directs our sacrifice.

This is what the Sabbath is for: Reconnecting with what's eternal. One psalm at a time, you quiet the static and tune your soul to God's voice. No pressure, just presence. You stop running. Stop working. Stop striving. You are not God, but you are His. So rest. Not because you must. But because He did.

Everyone should read this book, once you start you can't put it down.

—Submitted by Carol Neddermeyer



LWML Iowa West District
42nd Biennial Convention

June 11-13, 2026 Camp Okoboji—Milford



Keynote Speaker
 Linda Reiser
 Past LWML President








Proclaimer
 Rev. Ben Dose
 Trinity Lutheran Church
 Algona, Iowa &
 St. John, Burt, Iowa



Bible Study Leader
 Deaconess Betty Knapp

Celebrate the Lord
and share the light of Christ!

-  Thursday Evening Church Service
-  Mission Walk
-  Servant Events
-  Variety Show
-  Sisters in Christ Prayer Partners





Today's the day. We complete our school year. The pitter patter of feet in the hall and the noise with no volume control will cease for the summer. Pastor will be able to write his sermons without hearing us being squirrely next door. Smile. I won't lie, everyone in this room is ready for the freedom of summer vacation. We enjoy the late nights, the children chasing fireflies, and the attire of shorts and t-shirts. Yet, as we step into hot humid days, it's worth a moment to pause and consider what God has done.

God has grown us. Whether you are a child or an adult, everyone in the preschool classroom has changed in some capacity. We've watched children who weren't comfortable praying out loud begin to speak to Jesus with ease. We've heard children talking about Jesus, sharing where they've seen Him working, and recount His Word throughout their day. And one of the most amazing things we witnessed was the children, with no prompting, drop to their knees and begin to worship the King. (I'm still speechless over the day that happened.) We never know how the Holy Spirit will move in someone's life. All we can do is ask for Him to move as He chooses while we watch it happen. Oh, we can do our part by walking in obedience, but He is the One to receive the glory and praise.

I am just finishing up a devotional on distractions. God has been convincing me lately about how quickly I become distracted by life and lose focus on what's truly important. Him. As we work with children, it's always a bit comical to watch someone who can end up picking at glue or zeroing in on the paint on their fingers,

that they are no longer able to complete the assigned task. It's as if the paint **MUST** be removed before they can move forward. Aren't we similar creatures in our spiritual lives? We can zero in on the gossip someone shared or the tractor tire that needs repaired, and then lose sight of our bigger calling. What is that calling? Well, I believe it is living loved by our Savior. Regardless of where we are or what life's circumstances throw our way. Perhaps the tire deflated because the mechanic needs an encouraging word. Is it possible hearing gossip is meant to remind us of the value of living in the Truth? If we can remember in those moments to model the children's responses, pray, worship, and share Jesus with others around us. They are modeling the Savior. We can too.

I pray you all enjoy your summer. Please pray for our little graduates as they transition to TK or kindergarten next fall. Your prayers are also appreciated for our incoming three year olds next fall. We pray everyone finds a preschool family who points them to Jesus.

Blessings,
Mrs. Gustafson



(These pictures are from our Graduation ceremony held on Wednesday, May 13, 2026.)





"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." Galatians 6:10

Pastors' wives across the LCMS carry a quiet but significant vocation, often serving in a "glass house" while supporting their families, congregations, and husbands in ministry. Many shoulder heavy burdens without nearby family or a safe place to be understood. This year, we're partnering with you to provide confidential, supportive spaces for these women. We invite you to join us in making a meaningful difference for those who give so much.

THE SPRING 2026 GROW & GO CHALLENGE

We love your pastor's wife—we know you do, too! Join us to show her some love and help grow Lutheran Family Service's ongoing, Christ-centered care for her and many others like her. We'll send a VISA gift card to present to your pastor's wife, along with your own appreciation, when at least 10 households from your church make a gift of \$10 or more before June 30 as part of our Spring Appeal.

Your gifts will be used by LFS to extend the ministry of love, mercy, and care we are called to accomplish together—growing support created especially for women who are married to our pastors within the LCMS, including *KOINONIA Support Groups, Marriage Enrichment, and Individual Counseling Services*. The cost for LFS to provide these programs throughout the year, which support and care for pastors' wives, is \$43,000.

The 2026 LFS Spring Grow & Go Challenge provides a fun and unique way for you and other LCMS members to remind your current pastor's wife how important she is to you and to the ministry, while growing Christian care for these special women throughout our Synod—a double blessing!

For more information see the table in the Narthex or check the following link:
<https://lutheranfamilyservice.networkforgood.com/>



**Registration for
 Camp Okobojo 2026
 is still OPEN!**

THANKS to volunteers and groups who give so generously of their time and talents in serving Camp Okobojo.

- Many, Many Thanks to the volunteers that joined us for volunteer weekend!
- I can't thank enough the volunteers that helped us with the Wittenberg Academy Family Retreat this year—we can't do it without you, thank you!

Camp Wants and Needs

- New toasters
- New coffee makers
- Garden Hoses (at least 50 feet long)
- Milwaukee 18 Volt 6 amp
- 20' step ladder
- Lifejackets (2XL and 3XL)
- Stand-Up paddleboards
- Gift cards (Ace Hardware, Amazon, Bomgaars, Hobby Lobby, Menards, Walmart, VISA)
- Thrivent Action Team Cards (contact Kellie for potential project 712-337-3325)
- Also check out our Amazon wishlist https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2U3MCM8Z6HGPY?ref=wl_share



May 6 was a very special day when the Lord brought our "Barn Cleaners" to Mission Central to clean the Barn Museum and Wayside Chapel. Twice a year, a group of hearty volunteers gathers to completely clean these buildings!

A simple "thank you" seems so inadequate to express our deep appreciation for these fine folks. They are truly blessings from God, and we cherish them and their dedicated commitment.



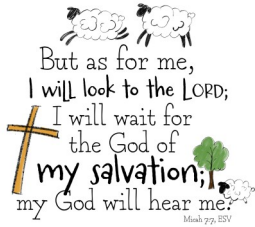


JUNE 2026

Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Schleswig, Iowa



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Primary Elections 7 a.m.—8 p.m. 	3 6:30 Bible Study	4 1:30 p.m. LWML Meeting	5	6 5 p.m. Worship w/HC
7 9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC 1 p.m. Schleswig Sharks 4-H 	8	9 7:00 p.m. Elders' Meeting	10 6:30 Bible Study	11 9 a.m. Quilting <-LWML IWD Convention @ Camp Okoboji->	12 	13 5 p.m. Worship w/HC
14 Flag Day 9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC 	15	16 6:30 p.m. Library potluck	17 6:30 Bible Study	18	19	20 5 p.m. Worship w/HC
21 Father's Day First Day of Summer 9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC 	22 	23	24 6:30 Bible Study	25 9 a.m. Quilting	26 5:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal	27 3:00 Kluver/Stover Wedding 5 p.m. Worship w/HC
28 9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC 12 p.m. Pastor Mahnken's 35th Ordination Celebration (RSVP for meal)	29 7 pm Church Council Meeting	30 6:30 p.m. Schleswig Youth Rec cookout				



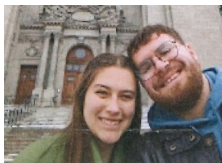
JULY 2026

Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Schleswig, Iowa



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			<p>1 6:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>2 1:30 p.m. LWML Meeting</p>	<p>3 Church offices closed</p>	<p>4 Independence Day</p> <p>No Worship</p>																																																	
<p>5 9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 6:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5 p.m. Worship w/HC</p>																																																	
<p>VBS Week July 6-9 Monday-Thursday: 5:00 supper; VBS class 5:30 pm—8:00 pm</p>																																																							
<p>12 9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & Voters' Meeting</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 No Bible Study</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5 p.m. Worship w/HC</p>																																																	
<p>19 9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 <i>Messenger Deadline for August issue</i></p>	<p>22 6:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>23 9 a.m. Quilting</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>5 p.m. Worship w/HC</p>																																																	
<p>26 9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC</p> <p>12 p.m. Riessen Reunion</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 6:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>August</p> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	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					
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Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church:

As the semester is coming to a close, I am beginning to realize how quickly my seminary formation is going to fly by. In another year from now, I will be going out to vicarage with my future wife, Natasha, and preaching will become a regular phenomenon. Truly I do not feel worthy of anything that God has placed before me, including this formation, preaching, and even your support. Nevertheless, I am beyond thankful to you all for supporting me in my seminary journey.

Regarding my health, as you last read, I am doing much better. I still technically have chronic pleural effusion, which is liquid around my left lung, and it can cause occasional discomfort. Your prayers and support for me during this time of recovery are greatly appreciated.

Since I don't believe I have introduced Natasha yet to you all, I would like to take this opportunity now to do so. She is a student at Concordia River Forest, my alma mater, studying Spanish as her major, and theology as her minor. She is born and raised in Rochester, Minnesota, and like me, a convert to Lutheranism. She is the greatest gift God has given to me, and I am ever thankful to Him for her. We are getting married in January of 2027 and are excited to finally be together after almost 2 years of long distance.

Once again, thank you for all your support and prayers! It means more than you can see and witness. I hope this style of letter bares witness in some small way to you. Amen.
~Nicholas J. Vukalovich



Plan now for the 4th Annual
LCMS Lutheran Singles Retreat
Ages 21-41
Friday - Sunday, August 21-23
Camp Okoboji, Milford, Iowa
campokoboji.org
\$100 pays for everything
Register at faithwinterset.org
Questions?
Contact Dr. Keith Schweitzer
641/745-5143
keithlcms@gmail.com

AFRICAN RADIO MINISTRIES—NEWS

We celebrate God's work through you, our African Radio Ministries partners and the saints serving in God's vineyard in Africa.

April Kingdom Growth in Ethiopia:

- ♦ New Converts: 172
- ♦ Baptized: 40
- ♦ Calls: 90
- ♦ Bibles Provided: 64
- ♦ Listening Groups: 3
- ♦ Confirmed: 89
- ♦ in Confirmation: 772

No One is Beyond God's Grace

Henok is an inmate at Hosanna Prison in Ethiopia. Due to financial difficulties, he turned to crime, stealing bicycles, motorbikes, and cars, which eventually led to his imprisonment. Henok's sister, a judge, often faces criticism at work with remarks like, "You enforce the law, yet your brother is a notorious criminal." The family has endured much hardship because of Henok. She constantly prayed for God to change his life, and, in moments of despair, they even prayed for his life to end for the family's peace—but those prayers went unanswered. They also hoped he might find reconciliation with God, even if physically harmed, but that too did not happen.

While in prison, Henok came to faith in Jesus Christ and began studying the Bible. Upon hearing of his confirmation and baptism, his sister remarked, "It felt like my brother had risen from the dead like Lazarus." She expressed immense joy! A prison official said, "Through your ministry, you are helping us do our work. We see many lives being transformed by the Gospel you preach!"

April Kingdom Growth in West Africa:

- ♦ New Members: 16
- ♦ Baptisms: 21
- ♦ Calls: 125
- ♦ Listening Groups: 4
- ♦ Visitations: 95

4 New Christ-Followers in Guinea

"I am Koumba Sory and from a Muslim background. I am very thankful to God for His mercy upon my family and me. May the Holy Spirit continue to transform my life by listening to the preaching messages from the Lutheran pastors. I am convinced that Christ Jesus is the only way, truth, and life. I love listening to ARM Radio to be blessed by the Gospel messengers. Please pray for my parents to know Jesus."

Imam Studying the Bible in Foya, Liberia

The Imam, Mr. Muhammed Barrie, visited Rev. Emmanuel Tengbeh to talk about Jesus and the blessings of listening to the ARM programs. Mr. Barrie acknowledged that the Bible is true and that Christians are serving the true and living God. He is studying his Bible and asking for prayer to lead his Islamic people.

Your partners in the harvest.

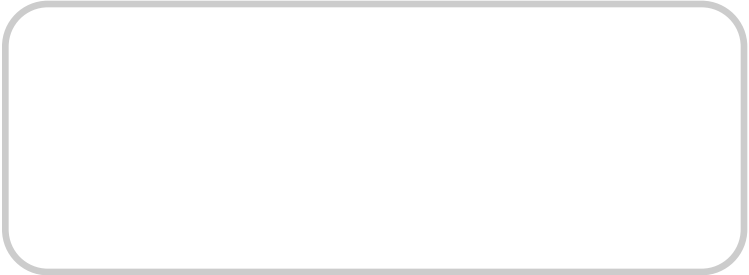
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+++++

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Home Ph.: 712-676-2242 Cell Ph.: 712-269-6364
Assisting Pastor: Kurt Kaiser
Cell Ph.: 712-269-8452**

**Office: Amanda Bruhn and Jodi Lorenzen
Preschool: Leslie Gustafson
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Ryan Jepsen 712-790-1603
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THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER



**OUR MISSION
STATEMENT:
"Together in Christ,
we grow through the
Word and
Sacraments, serving
our Lord and
sharing His saving
grace with all
people."**