



# IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS April 2026



## Happenings

The annual Tanzania Soup Supper and Auction was an amazing night at Immanuel. A huge thank you goes out for all involved and there were many. Thanks to the soup makers, judges, tellers, host and hostess, kitchen help, desert makers, photographer, contributors to the auction, bidders and buyers and Craig, our auctioneer, who certainly adds to the fun and festivities. I may have forgotten someone, but that was already a major run on sentence.... Great job done by all to bring in over \$13,000 from the soup supper and auction this year! The auction supports the primary school orphans in Kidugala, many of which would not have the opportunity to even learn how to read and write. Most of these orphans prior to Immanuel's orphan project would stay home and watch the elderly in their guardian's home or work in the fields. Several hundred students in the Kidugala area have gone through this program. Asante Sana (thank you very much) Immanuel and Friends of Immanuel.

It was more noticeable than ever to see the number of what I call Friends of Immanuel (nonmembers of Immanuel) participate by contributing auction items, buying items or contributing funds, and simply there to enjoy the fellowship and support the cause. After asking for a show of hands, I would estimate nearly 20% of the crowd was nonmembers. My observation is that they represented 10-12 churches and came from at least 3 states. Tuhongidze Hilo (thank you very much in Bena-the tribal language).

The winner of the best soup by the judges was Donna Nelson with "Crème De Maiz".

The winner of the best decorated table was Kris Olson-Harmon with "Barbie Q".

The winner of the People's Choice Award was Val Seevers with "Loaded Baked Potato".

Excellent job to all the soup makers and congrats to the winners!

The tower for well #13 has been finished following several delays, such as the death of the worker that normally builds the towers. The committee is now waiting for the details of the costs to buy the pump, tanks, and installation. We hope to have it up and running soon.

Pastor Neto was promoted to the vice-principle of the Kidugala Bible School. Prior to his promotion he was teaching Evangelists and Pastors part time and working part time as a Kidugala pastor. Recently we got word that he has been replaced by Pastor Noel Lukilo (I am thankful that I can easily pronounce his first and LAST name). We wish him well at Kidugala and I look forward to meeting him face to face.

Thank you again for all your support Immanuel!

Rick

## IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS



# FROM THE *Pastor's Desk*



Dear Friends in Christ,

One of the things I truly enjoy about being a pastor is teaching that first Communion class to children around the age of ten. It is a real delight to explain to them what a precious gift Communion is. Unfortunately, there has been a lot of confusion and controversy among Christians about Communion. Many Christians have tried to turn Communion into a work that we do to merit grace or to make ourselves more spiritual.

But Lutherans have been insistent that Communion is a gift of the Gospel and not a work of the Law. As Mark 10:45 says, Jesus came to give his life as a ransom for many. Jesus came to give his life as a gift to us, a gift that gives us forgiveness and worth and justification. Communion is the way that we come to personally receive that gift. When we take the bread as the Body of Christ and the cup as the Blood of Christ, we are receiving the gift that Jesus gave us in his death on the cross. We are accepting the ransom payment.

That is why I always tell those children, that when you receive the Body of Christ and the Blood of Christ, it is NEVER appropriate to say "thank you" to the pastor or the Communion assistant. They didn't die for you. They are just doing what Jesus called them to do. If you want to say "thank you," be sure you say, "Thank you, Jesus." He is the one who gave his life for you. He is the one who is giving you his Body and Blood.

Or you may also say, "Amen," which means "So be it" or "Yah, sure you betcha" or "This is most certainly true." That is the traditional response to receiving the gifts of Jesus in Communion. Another response would be to say, "Hallelujah," which means "Praise be to God." If you truly believe you are receiving the gifts of Jesus, you should say something, whether, it is "Amen," or "Hallelujah," or "Thanks be to God," or "Thank you, Jesus." Just don't thank me. I am just doing my job.

Yours in Christ, Phil Nielsen



## Congregational Meeting, Sunday April 12

The Church Council has called for a congregational meeting to vote on a recommendation to call Jared Walters to serve a ministry internship at Immanuel. Jared is in the Bachelor of Ministry program at the Institute of Lutheran Theology. As part of his course work, he is required to do a practicum in ministry. This internship would be part-time for a term of 1 to 2 years. Immanuel would provide local housing and a stipend. Jared would shadow our pastor, assist in worship leadership with some preaching, participate on council and committee meetings, assist in pastoral care, assist in teaching, and help lead LYO, among other things.

The congregational meeting is called for Sunday, April 12, immediately following worship in the sanctuary. All active confirmed members of Immanuel are encouraged to attend.



Lois Troll will be 93 on April 11

Judith Juhler will be 91 on April 23

Nancy Christensen will be 84 on April 25

Emmert Andersen will be 88 on April 27

## Elm Crest Volunteers Needed

There is a lot of loneliness in our society today. And this includes among those living in nursing home and assisted living communities. Some residents don't have family or don't have family nearby. Some rarely receive a visit from anybody. Care home staff can only do so much. There is always a need for more volunteers. Since COVID the number of volunteers in our nursing homes has declined significantly.

Elm Crest Senior Living invites volunteers from our community to visit with Elm Crest residents. Chaplain Jerry Greenwalt can provide a brief orientation and line volunteers up with residents who have expressed interest in having visits with community members. Every resident is a story waiting to be told. Every resident would love to have someone take an interest in the life that they have lived. Many residents are interested in what is going on in the world around them. And many residents are extremely grateful for even a brief visit from someone who takes a little time for them. It is a great feeling to know that you have given someone a sense of value by the gift of a little time.

## IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS

**OUR SYMPATHIES** go out to family of Sherry Lytle. She passed away on March 9. Funeral services were held here at Immanuel on March 13th.

**OUR SYMPATHY** to Steve and Patty Allen and family at the loss of Steve's mother. She passed away on February 28. Services will be

**OUR PRAYER LIST:** Phil Miller, Sally Nairn, Shirley Haner, Hertha Haas, Ellie Nelson, Pat Pattison, Phil Smith, Arlynn Gittins, Kayla Weis, Kay Koos, Connie & Ed Benson, Grace Ashdown (Randi McEvoy's sister-in-law), Tracy Klein (Larry Klein's son), Dan Abendroth (Sandy Sisson's brother), Dave and Kim Burmeister, Lindsay Beatty (Brother-in-Law of Todd & Angie Madsen), Waylon Heth (Friend of Dave and Diana Greve), Howard Jensen (Friend of Dave and Diana Greve), Roy Hicks (Karen Plewes' stepson), and Marilyn Torgersen (Judi Pedersen's sister).

Titan Coleman (Dave Pedersen's great nephew), Koby Redler (Cousin of Kevin Osborn) serving in the Iowa National Guard on deployment.



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The mission of **Operation Christmas Child** is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world, and together with the churches worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Here are a few suggested items to include in a shoebox: School supplies, Hygiene Items, Accessories such as socks, hats, t-shirt, flip flops, hair bands, sunglasses. For younger kids stickers, blocks, picture books, finger puppets. Older kids, small tools, rulers, sewing kits, fabric, tape measures, scissors, jewelry. toys such as stuffed animals, dolls, balls, puzzles jump ropes. The possibilities are endless as to what you can put in a shoebox.





### ILCW EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

March 11, 2026

The ILCW Executive Board met March 11 with Sandy Nelsen, Kathy Block, Janet Johannsen via phone, Sharon Daberkow, Joyce Folley and Jean Whitfield present. Sandy called meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Minutes had been reviewed. Sharon motioned to approve. Jean seconded. Ayes all

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Kathy reported \$21.35 for quilt tags was paid to Jean. February ending balance was \$1406.77. No bills at present.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** **Correspondence-**Thank You received from LC Clinic in Atlantic and New Hope in Carroll for the charity donations sent in January. View on Narthex bulletin board. **Community-**Sharon requested need for May Basket items such as prepacked puddings, crackers- individually wrapped cookies. Can leave in church office.

**OLD BUSINESS:** **Easter Lilies-**25 have been paid for and had one \$15 donation. Two or 3 people needed to display on Saturday April 4. Sandy and Kathy volunteered.

**NEW BUSINESS:** **Bazaar-** June 3 will be new date for the bazaar. Menu was discussed. Sign up sheets for food will be on narthex table in the near future.

There being no further business adjourned to the Fellowship Hall.

Janet Johannsen, Secretary

### ILCW GATHERING

Eighteen attending. Sharon served treats. Joyce gave program on "Are You Charged Up?" Batteries make things work again. If a person isn't shining, they may need A batteries for attention, affection or acceptance, C batteries for caring or D batteries for direction. If you need to be recharged spiritually, words from Psalm 71 promises His forgiveness and His love. Joyce handed out a listing of several passages from the Bible to get recharged through those verses. No matter what we face or how we feel, God is there to strengthen us. All read a prayer together and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Upcoming dates: Next meeting 9:30 April 8—Becky program, Joyce treats

April 27—Mission Quilters 1:00

April 28—Bunco 2:00

**ILCW** will gather Wednesday, April 8, at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Becky has been planning her program "**Growing Up Lutheran, Peeking in the Past**". Even if you didn't grow up Lutheran, I'm sure it will bring back some great memories. Joyce and Sandy are working on refreshments and there is always good Lutheran coffee or tea and you can enjoy visiting with friends. Hope to see you there. Everyone is welcome.

## ILCW



“A Look Back” will be the program title for the May 13th meeting. All attending please bring one china/other place setting; fancy, plain, heirloom (mother’s grandmother’s,

great-grandmother’s), stoneware, ceramic, porcelain, whatever is special to you or brings back a fond memory. Desserts and coffee/tea will be provided.

Questions, contact Linda Mosher.

(Please bring your place setting in a sack/bag to be “revealed” at a certain time in the program.)

### CAREGIVER’S COMPASS GROUP

The Caregiver’s Compass Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be on April 14 at 9:30 am at Immanuel. We are a supportive care group that offers friendship and a safe place as we navigate health issues, losses, and the new purpose we now face.



### ILCW May Baskets



ILCW Members will be making May Baskets in April. If you wish to donate some small items for the baskets, there will be a basket in the narthex for the donations. Thank you! If you have any questions, please call Vicki Carstens at 712-579-0722.

### WORSHIP & GIVING

	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>				<u>GENERAL</u>	<u>REFUGEES</u>	
February 25 (Wed.)	31	+	0	=	31	\$ 473.00	\$0
February 28-Mar. 1	??	+	??	=	??	\$5417.00	\$ 145.00
March 4 (Wed.)	47	+	0	=	47	\$ 392.00	\$0
March 7-8	31	+	117	=	148	\$5885.00	\$ 170.00
March 11(Wed.)	43	+	0	=	43	\$1070.00	\$0
March 14-15	26	+	86	=	112	\$2425.00	\$1911.46
March 18	125	+	0	=	125	\$ 370.00	\$0
March 21-22	??	+	??	=	??	\$5830.00	\$ 170.00
Building	\$0						
Sharing Cupboard (Food Pantry)	\$165.00						
Direct Deposit	\$2092.00						

## MARCH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

The Immanuel Council met March 10 with 7 of 12 members present. Joey Hansen led devotions. Vicki Strissel will lead devotions in April. Vicki, Kirk, Dave, Scott, Craig, Joey volunteered for Deacon on Duty.

**Treasurer's Report** given by Joey Hansen: February income was \$19,961.31 with expenditures of \$42,119.43 leaving us a negative of \$22,158.12. We paid our annual insurance premium of \$14,139 and utilities of \$2,899.46. General fund balance is \$54,310.93 plus \$56,000 in general fund CDs. Capital Savings account is \$87,424.90.

**Worship/Evangelism:** The Kid's Cozy Corner is done with the exception of the monitor for live stream of the service. Pastor is getting bids on a monitor. Thank you to Mary Taggs for her work making it come together.

**Fellowship/Education:** Had 27 children one week at GROW.

**Outreach/Stewardship:** March Mission Partner is Shelby County Community Outreach. April Mission Partners are Ingham-Okoboji and Riverside Bible Camps.

**Property:** Replaced fan motor in the furnace for the chapel and offices.

**Executive:** Trent Svendsen asked to resign from council with conflict in scheduling and activities for his children. Council agreed on a person to ask to fill out the term. Council put together an internship agreement for Jared Walters. Council called for a congregational meeting on Sunday, April 12 to vote on the agreement.

**Pastor's:** Council approved membership for Craig Clemons. Council approved a camp scholarship for a Lutheran Camp at Strawberry Point, IA. Council accepted a request to host the Home for the Holidays program this December.

**Old Business:** More discussion on RAGBRAI.

**New Business:** Request for a car service to bring those to church who cannot drive. If we could find 12 volunteers to each take a month of the year, we would probably have several people happy to use it.



### Worship in April 2025

April 2 Maundy Thursday	"Do This to Remember Me" I Corinthians 11:23-26	7 p.m. Communion
April 3 Good Friday	"It Is Finished" John 19	7 p.m. Service of Shadows
April 5 Resurrection of our Lord	"Mystery at the Tomb" John 20:1-18	7 a.m. Communion 8 a.m. Breakfast 9 a.m. Communion
April 11-12 Easter 2	"A Living Hope" I Peter 1:3-9	
April 18-19 Easter 3	"Ransomed Foreigners" I Peter 1:17-23	Communion
April 25-26 Easter 4	"The Chosen People" I Peter 2:1-10	

## Answering the Call

Jesus' command to feed the hungry is a profound call to action for all believers. It emphasizes that caring for those in need is not only a moral duty but also a reflection of one's faith and relationship with God. By feeding the hungry, we fulfill a fundamental aspect of Christian teaching and demonstrate love and compassion in action.

Immanuel has been blessed with the relationships we have forged with our South Sudanese brothers and sisters in Christ who have come to the USA and Harlan from the Sherkole and Tsore Refugee Camps in western Ethiopia. Our South Sudanese friends have many family members that are still in the camps. The conditions there have become dire. The United Nations monthly food ration supplied to each person in the camp is 2.2 lbs. of ground corn. A person cannot survive with this level of nutrition; therefore, hunger and malnutrition are the result. Our South Sudanese friends who were fortunate to come to this country send every extra dollar they can back to family in the camps to supplement their nutritional needs. Unfortunately, there are many people in the camps that do not have family members in the United States sending them money to buy food. These are the people who we are targeting to help.

One year ago, members of Immanuel were invited to make a monthly contribution toward food assistance in the Refugee Camps in western Ethiopia. We were hoping we could send \$1,000 per month for food relief for the neediest of the needy. Your response was overwhelming. In 2025 23 members of Immanuel committed to giving \$14,536 to this mission. We received \$25,688 in total. In the past 12 months we have sent \$14,000 to those in most need in the camps.

This past August Pastor Phil, Patty Allen, and Rick Chipman travelled to Ethiopia and met with 19 South Sudanese elders who live in the camps and desire to help those who have no one sending them money for food. Immanuel is now working with a committee made up of representatives of each of the five churches in the refugee camps. This committee is committed to seeing the dollars we send are used for additional food for those in most need. Your contributions are reaching those who need it most.

We are very grateful to everyone who contributed to our Refugee mission last year. Our desire is to send money every month. We once again invite the members of Immanuel to make a contribution this year to keep this mission going. You may do so by filling out a paper in the church office with the amount you desire to give and mark it "Refugee". Please indicate if your gift is a pledge to give each month or a one-time contribution that is to be divided over a 12- month period. There is a great deal of violence and unrest in our world today. We request your prayers for all refugees and for those people in countries that are experiencing the horrors of war and violence.





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Staff:

Pastor Phil Nielsen  
Office Manager: Diana Greve  
Custodian: Slava Aleev

# APRIL 2026

© AGU RESOURCE CENTER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			3:30 GROW <b>1</b> NO WOMEN'S BIBLE STU 5:15 Bells 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 LYO	 <b>2</b> 9:00-3:30 WIC 10:30 Pastor @ Westridge 7:00 Worship	 <b>3</b> 10:00 Pastor @ ElmCrest 8:30-12:30 4-H 7:00 Worship	<b>4</b> No Worship
 <b>5</b> 7:00 Communion 8:00 Breakfast 9:00 Communion	<b>6</b> 6:00-8:00 Garden Club 6:30 Rehearsals	<b>7</b> 9:00 CF Quilters 5-9:00 Scout Districts 6:30 Rehearsals	<b>8</b> 9:00 ILCW Bd Mtg 9:30 ILCW Gathering 3:30 GROW 5:15 Bells NO CONFIRMATION 6:30 LYO	<b>9</b> 6:30 Rehearsals	<b>10</b> Homeschool Game Club 5:30-8:00	<b>11</b> 5:00 Worship
<b>12</b> 8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 4:30 Scouts 5:30 Scout Leaders	<b>13</b> 6:30 Rehearsals	<b>14</b> 9:00 CF Quilters 9:30 Caregivers Compass 10:00 Pastor @ ElmCrest 6:30 Exec Board 7:00 Church Council	<b>15</b> 4:00 Women's Bible Stu 5:15 Bells	<b>16</b> 9:00-3:30 WIC 9:30 Pastor @ Salem 6:30 Rehearsals	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 5:00 Communion
<b>19</b> 8:00 Choir 9:00 Communion/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 4:30 Scouts	<b>20</b> 6:30 Rehearsals	<b>21</b> 9:00 CF Quilters 10:00 Pastor @ Hansen House 6:30 Rehearsals	<b>22</b> 3:30 GROW 4:00 Women's Bible Stu 5:15 Bells 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 LYO	<b>23</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:30 Rehearsals	<b>24</b> Homeschool Game Club 5:30-8:00	<b>25</b> 11-1 Kori & Emeri Grad.Party 5:00 Worship
<b>26</b> 8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 4:30 Scouts	<b>27</b> 1:00 Mission Quilters	<b>28</b> 9:00 CF Quilters 2:00 Bunco	<b>29</b> 3:30 GROW 4:00 Women's Bible Stu 5:15 Bells 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 LYO	<b>30</b> ASSEMBLE NEWSLETTER		

## Worship and Fellowship Servants Schedule April-May 2026

	April 11-12	April 18-19	April 25-26	May 2-3	May 9-10
<b>Acolytes</b>	Leah Svendsen Will Chipman	Cora Clay Trinity Haas	Gavin Herbst Kolton Jensen	Truman Kjergaard Pyper Montgomery	Zoey Olson Maggie Petersen
<b>Saturday Greeter/Usher</b>	Alan Ahrenholtz	Patty Allen	Allan/Myrna Andersen	Linda Andersen	Rick/Cheryl Andersen
<b>Sunday Greeter/Usher</b>	Denise Barnes Lee Berkley	Chris & Jen Booth	Marty Burchett Ross Burchett	Julie Carter Lori Christensen	Charlie & Jonelle Conrad
<b>(Saturday) Altar Guild</b>		Kayla Jacobs		Sandy Nelsen	
<b>(Sunday) Altar Guild</b>		Cora Chapman Peg Haas		Janet Johannsen Donna Nelson	
<b>Scripture Reader (Sun)</b>	Hope Chipman	Rick Chipman	Vickie Errett	Dave Greve	Hertha Haas
<b>Communion Servers (Sun)</b>		Megan Shannon Callie Retallic		Lindsey Vorm Jan Applegate	
<b>Coffee Hosts (Sun)</b>	LaVera, Angel and Katie Stern	Terry & Stacy Torneten	Calvin Twenhafel Jason Weis	Jan Applegate Vicki Carstens	Cheryl & Rick Chipman
<b>Sound</b>	Kayla Weis	Kayla Weis	Kayla Weis	DeAnn Nielsen	DeAnn Nielsen
<b>Video</b>	Mark Schechinger	Mark Schechinger	Mark Schechinger	Grant Chipman	Grant Chipman
<b>Projection</b>	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat) Teri Johnson (Sun)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat) Teri Johnson (Sun)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat) Teri Johnson (Sun)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat) Teri Johnson (Sun)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat) Teri Johnson (Sun)
<b>Council Person</b>	Joey Hansen				