

IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS August 2026



Well.... If you are the type that loves a short report, this one is for you. By the time this Insight shows up in your mailbox the 2026 Immanuel travel team of Patty Allen, Jared Walters and I will be in the region of Kidugala Tanzania. The main project that we will be working on is cooperatively building a needed vocational tech school for the entire area. This school would be centered in the middle of Kidugala about a block from the Kidugala church. There certainly are many other items on the list to do and check on, but the potential building project is the biggy, bringing together several different groups. The TZ Committee and travel team ask for prayers for Jared in his preaching to members of the Kidugala parish and that what we do representing Immanuel will be glorifying to our Lord Jesus. We will have much more to report once home.

Mungu Akubariki (God be with you all)

Rick



THE HALLELUJAH GOLF OPEN: Fairways and Fellowship



Our annual golf outing will be September 13 at 2:00 pm with a meal following. We do need golf carts. If anyone has one we could use, please let us know at the church office at 755-5207. Will have signup sheets closer to the outing. So please save the date and come and join us!!

Thank You, Sharon!

Sunday, July 26 will be **Sharon Davidson's** last Sunday with us as our church pianist. We are so thankful for all that Sharon has done for our church family over the past few years. Her beautiful music and dedication have been a wonderful blessing to us all.

Sharon, we truly appreciate you and all the time, talent, and love you have shared with our congregation. You will be greatly missed!

We wish you all the very best as you begin this next chapter of your life. May God bless you and guide you wherever your journey takes you!

*Thank
you!*

Dear friends in Christ,

A friend shared the following note with me.

“Can I be a Christian without going to Church? Of course! Just as easily as being a student who does not go to school or a soldier who does not join the armed forces or a tuba player with a band or a citizen who does not vote or pay taxes or a ball player without a team. Yes, you can be a Christian without going to Church, but it’s kind of meaningless, isn’t it?”

Of course, we can pray and read Scripture on our own. We certainly need a regular personal devotional life of prayer and reading Scripture. Certainly, we can experience the presence of God in nature and in solitude. But there are things Christians cannot do on our own.

For one, we can’t praise God all alone. Biblically speaking, to praise God is to publicly express to the world the value of Jesus in our lives. If we never go public with our praise of Jesus or if we only go public when it is convenient for us, then, no matter what we say to God, we are publicly stating that we value other things over following Jesus.

For another thing, we can’t truly understand and apply God’s Word all alone. Certainly, we can read God’s Word alone, but without the community of the Church, we will have a very narrow understanding of God’s Word. When I prepare to preach to the Church, I am not relying on my own private interpretation. I am drawing upon the wisdom of the Church over centuries of time. I am relying on the wisdom of the consensus of the faithful, the scholarship of Luther and others, and years of Bible study conversation with fellow Christians who have challenged and enriched my understanding.

And finally, we cannot encourage our fellow Christians if we don’t engage with them. It is not easy to keep one’s faith strong in our increasingly hostile world. People all around us are struggling. And sometimes, what they need to see and hear is someone just like you showing the world what Jesus means to you. You are important to the Church.

Certainly, going to Church does not equal being a Christian. But being a Christian certainly implies being connected to the Church and acting as part of the Body of Christ.

This month our Sunday morning Adult Bible Class is beginning a study of the story of Samuel, Saul, and David in the Old Testament books of Samuel. Not only is the story a classic of ancient literature and drama, but it is filled with insight into power and pride and politics in our world today. I know we will learn things we haven’t noticed before. All are welcome to join us.

Yours in Christ, Phil Nielsen

Save the Date!

Pastor Phil’s 35th Ordination Anniversary Potluck

Sunday, September 13

11:00 AM



Please join us as we celebrate **Pastor Phil’s 35 years of ordained ministry!** We will gather for a special potluck celebration.

More details will follow in the September issue of the *Insights*.

We hope you’ll join us for this special celebration!



Larry and Nancy Gessmann will be married 51 years on August 9

Larry and Peg Haas will be married 55 years on August 21

Roger Andersen will be 78 on August 3

Mert Kastens will be 85 on August 15

Maggie Hatcher will be 88 on August 18

Ann Holt will be 75 on August 20

Vernice Vrtiska will be 92 on August 20

Sue Grummert will be 79 on August 21

Judy Ahrenholtz will be 75 on August 22

Rozan Weigel will be 77 on August 26

OUR SYMPATHIES go out to the Connie Schweiso and family. Roger passed away on June 24. A Celebration of Life was held on July 22 at Immanuel.



OUR PRAYER LIST: Gayl Jensen, Angel Stern, Judy and Dave Pedersen, Phil Miller, Shirley Haner, Ellie Nelson, Pat Pattison, Phil Smith, Arlynn Gittins, Kay Koos, Connie & Ed Benson, Jeann Nelson (Julie Vorm's sister), Larry Andersen (Connie Behrens' brother), Grace Ashdown (Randi McEvoy's sister-in-law), Tracy Klein (Larry Klein's son), Dan Abendroth (Sandy Sisson's brother), Dave and Kim Burmeister, Howard Jensen (Brother of Dalton Jensen), Waylon Heth (Friend of Dave and Diana Greve), Jeff Albert (Dave & Diana Greve's niece's fiancé'), Roy Hicks (Karen Plewes' stepson), and Marilyn Torgersen (Judi Pedersen's sister).

Worship in August 2026

August 1-2 Pentecost 10	James 2:14-26 James vs. Paul or Faith vs. Works	Communion
August 8-9 Pentecost 11	James 3:1-12 Taming the Tongue	
August 15-16 Pentecost 12	Matthew 14:13-21 Feasting on Grace	Communion
August 22-23 Pentecost 13	James 3:13-4:3 True Wisdom	
August 29-30 Pentecost 14	James 4:4-12 Friendship with the World	



ILCW

There was not an ILCW meeting in July.

Next ILCW Board and Gathering is August 12 at 5:30 to give working women a chance to participate in ILCW. It will be a fun meeting with Vicki doing "mixers." Hors d'oeuvres will be served.



CAREGIVER'S COMPASS GROUP

Meets on the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be August 11 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Harlan. 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. Please come and join us.



WORSHIP & GIVING

	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>GENERAL</u>	<u>REFUGEES</u>
June 27-28	+ 108 = 108	\$ 2975.00	\$ 10.00
July 4-5	21 + 108 = 129	\$ 4695.07	\$ 270.00
July 11-12	19 + 87 = 106	\$ 5362.00	\$
July 18-19	19 + 85 = 104	\$ 3210.00	\$ 50.00
Sharing Cupboard (Food Pantry) \$545.00			
Direct Deposit \$2387.00			
VBS \$49.86			
TZ \$1910.00			
TZ Orphans \$50.00			
Building \$75.00			



SHOE DRIVE

THANK YOU! Thank you to all Immanuel Lutherans and friends who donated shoes in the past three months. Last Friday, two Immanuel youth helped load 3423 pairs of shoes onto a truck. When the truck reaches New York, the shoes will be loaded onto a ship and taken to microentrepreneurs in developing nations where impoverished people start, maintain and grow businesses in countries such as Haiti, Honduras and other nations in Central America and Africa. The proceeds from their shoe sales are used to feed, clothe and house their families. One budding entrepreneur in Haiti even earned enough to send her son to law school. Thank you again! You have made a difference in the lives of so many!



WORLD'S BEST INTERN

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend the LCMC Heartland District Gathering, where I enjoyed a weekend of learning, fellowship, and encouragement alongside pastors and church leaders from across the district. It was a blessing to meet many new pastors and reconnect with one of my professors, Dr. Leon Miles, in person. I also attended an informational training about LCMC that explained who we are as an association, the resources available to congregations, and the process for churches interested in joining LCMC.

One of the sessions I found especially meaningful was led by Julie Smith, LCMC's Service Coordinator, who spoke about the identity and values of LCMC. Her presentation centered on the basics of what it means to be Lutheran, emphasizing Luther's *Small Catechism* as a lifelong guide for Christian living rather than simply a confirmation resource. She encouraged us to keep the Catechism close to heart, allowing its faithful summary of God's Word to shape our daily lives. I am grateful for the opportunity to attend this gathering and look forward to sharing what I learned as we continue growing together in faith and service to Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Jared Walters



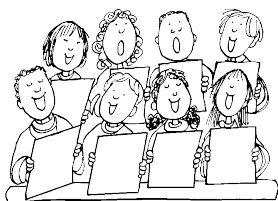
Now is the perfect time to buy school supplies to pack in a shoe box. Notebook, pencils, pens, crayons, colored pencils, blunt scissors a pencil pouch or any other none liquid item you would think a child would like to receive.

THANK YOU

Thank you to our church family for the prayers, hugs, cards and kind words about our dear mother, grandmother and great grandma ,Phyllis Miller, following her passing into the arms of our Lord and Saviour!

Julie, Lindsey, Adriana and Ariel Vorm.





ILCW Gathering WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 5:30 p.m.

ILCW (Immanuel Lutheran Church Women) will gather Wednesday, August 12, at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. This is so the gals who aren't able to make it to our morning gatherings can come. The board will be providing appetizers. Vicki Carstens is working on her program, "EXPLORE IOWA". She will share some places in Iowa where she has been and may not be known to most. Others are welcome to share unique places where they have been. Sounds like some ideas for road trips. She will also have a couple fun activities to learn more about each other. This once a year 5:30 gathering is always enjoyed and a great way to see friends and make new friends. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!! Everyone is welcome.



CHOIR NEWS!!

Immanuel's Choir is looking for new (and old) members! Calling any interested individuals; high school age and up! Rehearsals will begin in September and will meet each Sunday at 8:00-8:45.

(as the Christmas season gets closer, we may need an evening rehearsal) Please consider joining this great group of people!!

FUN...FELLOWSHIP...WORSHIPPING THROUGH SONG!!! There will be a 'meet and greet', pass out music/folders on Tuesday, August 25th, at 6 pm (with treats). Plan on taking a half hour to briefly go over the year's music, MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!!! (any questions, contact Linda Mosher)



PEDERSEN MEAL TRAIN UPDATE

A Meal Train has been set up for Dave and Judy Pedersen. Judy has recently has seen a cardiologist and will have a stint placed in her heart. Also, Dave will be having valve replacement surgery instead of shoulder surgery. Because of dietary needs, meals should be diabetic-friendly. The meals have changed to every other day. If you don't have time to make a meal, gift cards work also. Anything except Subway.



If you are unsure how to sign up using the QR/scan code, please contact Diana at the church office, and she will gladly help get you set up.



They have been very appreciative for the meals they have received. Thank you for your care, prayers, and support for Dave and Judy during this time. Web Sight: mealrain.com/ee6rre



JULY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

The Immanuel Council met July 14 with 9 of 12 members present. Joey led devotions on the gift of a pet. Vicki will lead devotions in September.

Vicki, Scott, Joey, Kirk, Shane, Craig, and Alex volunteered for council member Sunday duties.

Treasurer's Report given by Joey Hansen

June income was \$30,477 with expenditures of \$26,035 for a net gain of \$4,441.

Year to date we are at a positive net gain of \$281.

First half 2026 income was ahead of 2025 by \$20,756. First half 2026 expenses were ahead of 2025 by \$25,752.

General fund balance is \$67,471 plus \$56,849 in CDs. Capital savings balance is \$90,722.

Outreach/Stewardship – Dave Greve

July Mission Partner is our West Central Community Action for \$1,000.

Property – Ken Nielsen

Sidewalk on northside is now handicap accessible.

Executive – Scott Shannon

Photo album has pictures of 143. We are still hoping for another 20. We can print it for less than \$1000.

We plan to have the fellowship hall buffed the week of July 26.

We will try a robo vacuum for the sanctuary.

There will be NO Executive Board and Council meetings in August.

Will form a team to draft a checklist of custodial priorities.

Pastor –

Jared presented thoughts about frequency of Communion. Discussion followed.

Pastor recommended Helen Purcell for membership. Approved.





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LCMC
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www.harlanimmanuel.org

Staff:

Pastor Phil Nielsen

Office Manager: Diana Greve

Custodian: Slava Aleev

AUGUST 2026

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 5:00 Communion
2 9:00 Communion 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class	3	4 9:00 CF Quilters TZ Team Returns	5	6 9:00-3:30 WIC	7	8 5:00 Worship
9 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class	10	11 9:00 CF Quilters 9:30 Caregiver Compass	12 5:00 ILCW Board 5:30 ILCW Gathering	13	14 Homeschool Game Club 5:30-8:00	15 5:00 Communion
16 9:00 Communion 10:00 Fellowship Coffee No Adult Bible Class	17 6:00-7:30 Girl Scouts	18 9:00 CF Quilters	19	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9:00-3:30 WIC	21	22 5:00 Worship
23 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class	24 1:00 Mission Quilters 6:00-7:30 Girl Scouts School Starts	25 9:00 CF Quilters 2:00 Bunco 6:00 TZ Team /Ed.	26	27 ASSEMBLE NEWSLETTER	28 Homeschool Game Club 5:30-8:00	29 5:00 Worship
30 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class	31 6:00-7:30 Girl Scouts					

Worship and Fellowship Servants Schedule August-2026

	August 1-2	August 8-9	August 15-16	August 22-23	August 29-30
Acolytes	Truman Kjergaard Will Chipman	Cora Clay Pyper Montgomery	Gavin Herbst Zoey Olson	Kolton Jensen Peter Adem	Truman Kjergaard Harper Petsche
Saturday Greeter/Usher	Betty Larsen	Randi McEvoy	Sharon Oman	Orvetta Priest	Terry And Shelly Saunders
Sunday Greeter/Usher	Kenny & Shirley Olson	Liz and Shane Pitts	Callie Retallic Julie Vorm	Mark and Deb Schechinger	John and Gaylen Petsche
(Saturday) Altar Guild	Cheryl Nielsen		Sandy Nelsen		
(Sunday) Altar Guild	Samantha Allen Cora Chapman		Hope Chipman Janet Johannsen		
Scripture Reader (Sun)	Judi Olson	Kayla Weis	Jen Booth	Marty Burchett	Vicki Carstens
Communion Servers (Sun)	Kirk Jacobsen Janell Leinen		Gaige Lytle Elaine Miller		
Coffee Hosts (Sun)	Gaige Lytle Kris Olson-Harmon	Scott and Megan Shannon	Jeff & Erin Hastert	Calvin Twenhafel Rich and Sharon Daberkow	Ken and Vicki Carstens
Sound	Seth Johannsen	Seth Johannsen	Seth Johannsen	Seth Johannsen	Set Johannsen
Video	Grant Chipman	Grant Chipman	Grant Chipman	Grant Chipman	Grant Chipman
Projection	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)
Council Person	Dave Greve	Craig Olson	Kirk Jacobsen	Vicki Strissel	Scott Shannon