



IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS July 2026



Tanzanian Happenings

The Immanuel TZ Committee is pleased to state that well #13, located near and servicing the Kidugala Bible School is completely finished and fully operational. This well was drilled several months ago but ran into some delays in the water tower construction, but it has been completed and is supplying the Bible School which educates and houses evangelist and pastoral students with an abundance of quality water. This is a resource that has not been readily available for this respected institution since before Immanuel was traveling there. Kidugala wishes to thank Immanuel and friends of Immanuel for your support of this long needed well project.

After many months of saying that Immanuel would not be traveling to Kidugala, Tanzania this year.... guess what?? Patty Allen, Jared Walters and I will be leaving on July 21st and returning on August 4th. This trip was prompted by a unanimous vote by the TZ Committee to further explore the cooperative building of a vocational school in Kidugala. This school has been a thought since 2010 when the Immanuel travel team had its first discussions on the subject. This project has been spoken about to some degree most every year that Immanuel has traveled to Kidugala since 2010. As a very acceptable location has finally come available, the committee financials have been improving due to the generous support of Immanuel and friends of Immanuel, this potential project needs face-to-face discussions before proceeding. The TZ Committee and the 2026 travel team asks for your prayers for this project and for the travelers.

This 2026 trip will include not only vocational school discussions, but a trip to Njombe to visit friends and the bishop, visit the health care center, check on orphans in their school environment, check on agricultural improvements, meet with the board of HEKIMA (micro loans), and visit well #13 among other items on the agenda. We also hope to visit Pastor Wallace's home congregation and have a day safari at Rwaha animal park on the way home. Stay tuned for a trip report upon our return.

Mungu Akubariki (God be with you all)

Rick



Immanuel Photo Directory



We will be publishing a new photo directory later this summer. We'd like to have 150 households represented in our directory. There are still 40 of our regular attenders who have not submitted a picture. If you would be willing, we have a camera on hand each weekend and can take your picture. Or you can send one to ilc@fmctc.com. Members old and new truly appreciate being able to put faces to names in our directory.

FROM THE *Pastor's Desk*

Dear Friends in Christ,

When we Christians talk about God, we are talking about the mystery that created the universe. God is way beyond our understanding or imagination. I can't begin to understand what theoretical physicists are talking about when they talk about quantum mechanics or string theory. But I do know this that even the most intelligent physicist cannot begin to explain who God is.

And yet, we can begin to imagine something about God when we study the creation around us. According to Psalm 19, the heavens declare the glory of God. According to Romans 1, God's eternal power and divine nature have been clearly understood from what has been made. The immensity of the universe speaks of God's infinity. The complexity of our DNA speaks of God's intelligence. The cuteness of a puppy speaks of God's playfulness. The love of a parent for a child speaks of God's heart of love. The violence of our world speaks of the judgment of God.

But just looking at creation leaves us think of God as distant and perhaps ultimately uncaring. It is the gift of Jesus that opens our eyes to see God as gracious and passionate, tender and truthful. Without Jesus we have no hope of a life or relationship with God. But Jesus came to show us the invisible God lived out in his life. He showed us that God is a just God who hates sin, but loves sinners. Surprise! He showed us that God suffers for our sake and that death is not the final word on our lives.

Anybody can understand God's power in nature. But we Christians are the ones entrusted with the good news of God's love in Jesus to share with the world. We can do it in small ways on our own. But we do it most clearly when we join together to be the Church, the people gathered around the Gospel of Jesus like it is the most valuable truth in the world – because it is. Our neighbors may not pick up a Bible to read, but many of them will accept an invitation to Church. And when they come to Church, I pray they will see a people made humble and hopeful by the good news of Jesus.

Yours in Christ, **Phil Nielsen**



Worship in July 2026

July 4-5	Good Religion vs. Bad Religion James 1:19-27	Communion
July 11-12	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 Sowing Seeds of Truth	
July 18-19	Fortress of Faith Matthew 13:24-30	Communion
July 25-26	Rich and Poor Together? James 2:1-13	



Richard Daberkow will be 82 on July 1
 Gary Jahn will be 77 on July 6
 Carolyn Hursey will be 85 on July 7
 Maxine Hillers will be 83 on July 9
 Harry Priest will be 81 on July 12
 Al Ickes will be 78 on July 22
 Linda Mosher will be 75 on July 25
 Marilyn Burger will be 91 on July 29
 Sharon Daberkow will be 82 on July 30



Jim and Becky Chipman will be married 51 years on July 19.

Dalton and Gayle Jensen will be married 54 years on July 22.

OUR SYMPATHIES go out to the family of Arlene Warner. Arlene passed away on May 30. Services were held for Arlene at Immanuel on June 8.



OUR PRAYER LIST: Roger Schweiso, 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, Lindsay Beatty (Brother-in-Law of Todd & Angie Madsen), Jacque Baxter (Sister of Diana Greve), Howard Jensen (Brother of Dalton Jensen), Waylon Heth (Friend of Dave and Diana Greve), Roy Hicks (Karen Plewes' stepson), and Marilyn Torgersen (Judi Pedersen's sister).

VBS 2026 Camp Creation

We hosted almost 50 kids at VBS learning about the wonders of God's creation. Pastor Phil led opening and closing each day. Becky Chipman led the Bible story. DeAnn Nielsen led crafts. Jared Walters led games, served as puppeteer and mad chemist. Sandy Nelsen and crew provided snacks. All told we had about 20 helpers. Thanks to everyone who made it a great VBS.



Heartland District Gathering

The Heartland District of LCMC is gathering July 17 to 18 at Peace Lutheran Church in Fremont, Nebraska. All sessions are open to clergy and church members! The gathering opens Friday evening with dinner and a vespers worship service. Saturday morning begins with worship and communion, followed by Keynote Speaker and National LCMC Service Coordinator Rev. Julie Smith. Julie's topic will be "Back to Basics: The Small Catechism and Our Core Values." Breakout sessions will follow, with topics on connecting children's ministry to worship, equipping lay people to lead worship, mentoring lay preachers, and raising the next generation of pastors. The Heartland District business meeting closes the Saturday gathering. There will be many opportunities for fellowship with friends old and new as you meet over Friday dinner, Saturday lunch, and generous break times!



WORSHIP & GIVING

	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>					<u>GENERAL</u>	<u>REFUGEES</u>
May 31	24	+	96	=	120	\$ 4954.00	\$ 0
June 6-7	20	+	98	=	118	\$ 4360.00	\$ 0
June 13-14	23	+	99	=	122	\$ 5621.00	\$ 220.00
June 20-21	17	+	109	=	126	\$ 5635.00	\$ 40.00

Sharing Cupboard (Food Pantry) \$ 40.00

Direct Deposit \$1997

VBS \$50.00

WORLD'S BEST INTERN



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

I have been reflecting on the incredible gift that Christ has given to His Church through Holy Communion. Each time we gather at the Lord's Table, we are reminded of the depth of His love for us—a love that led Him to the cross for our salvation. The Greek word *agape* describes this kind of love: a selfless, sacrificial love that seeks the good of others before oneself. This is the love Christ demonstrated when He willingly gave His body and shed His blood for the forgiveness of our sins. In Holy Communion, we do not merely remember that sacrifice; we receive the very gifts Christ won for us through it—His forgiveness, peace, and assurance that we belong to Him.

Because Christ's love and sacrifice are so central to our faith, many Lutheran congregations celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday. We should recognize that just as we need to hear God's Word every week, we also need the comfort and strength that Christ gives through His Supper. After all, we would never suggest reading Scripture only twice a month so that it remains "special." We gather around God's Word every week because we need His promises every week. In the same way, we come to the Lord's Table often because we need the grace, forgiveness, and encouragement that Christ freely gives. The value of Holy Communion is not found in its rarity, but in the Savior who invites us to receive His gifts and experience His *agape* love again and again.

Yours in Christ,
Jared R. Walters

ἀγάπη



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Let's think Christmas in July!! Now is the time to start looking for items to fill the shoeboxes!!

PACK IN EACH BOX:

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Lord, may this child grow in the knowledge of you.-2 Peter 3:18

STUFFED ANIMAL OR DOLL

Lord, please comfort this child with your steadfast love.-Psalm 119:76

TOYS, GAMES, & OTHER FUN ITEMS

Lord, may this child take joy in you. Habakkuk 3:18

CLOTHING/SHOES/ACCESSORIES

Lord, may this child trust you to meet all their needs..- Philippians 4:19

SOAP & OTHER HYGIENE ITEMS

Lord, may this child know the power of your blood that washes sins as white as snow. Isaiah 1:18

PRAYER!

Lord, above all else, we pray this child will come to know you as his or her Savior.-John 3:16



NO CAREGIVERS COMPASS GROUP IN JULY



ILCW SPRING BAZAAR

Thank You for the support of the annual ILCW Spring Bazaar and Luncheon. We appreciate those who came, worked, provided food items, gave a donation, made items for the bake sale or craft items. Without your involvement we would not be able to support our mission projects. THANK YOU!!!



PEDERSEN MEAL TRAIN

A Meal Train has been set up for Dave and Judy Pedersen. Judy has recently been in the hospital and ER and will be undergoing additional testing for her heart. Dave is also scheduled for shoulder surgery in August.

They would appreciate help with providing one meal per day. Because of dietary needs, meals should be diabetic-friendly.

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.

Thank you for your care, prayers, and support for Dave and Judy during this time.

Web Sight: mealtrain.com/ee6rre





ILCW EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

June 10, 2026

The ILCW Executive Board met June 10 with Sandy Nelsen, Kathy Block, Janet Johannsen, Sharon Daberkow and Jean Whitaker present. Sandy called meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes from the May meeting were reviewed. Kathy motioned to approve. Jean seconded. Ayes all.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kathy reported no May financial activity. June funeral donations were \$550.00, bazaar sales were \$3,763 plus \$90 in donations. Mail in donations were \$765. Expenses were purchase of stamps from US Post Office of \$78. Julie Vorm had bill of \$42.46 for bazaar tablecloths. KNOD advertising was \$38. Janet presented bill of \$181.62 for bazaar groceries. Thrivent credit card paid remainder of grocery bill. As of today, June balance is \$6693.57.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: **Correspondence-**Thank you's received for May goodie bags are posted on narthex bulletin board. **Mission Quilters-**Four quilts were assembled. Several larger quilts were sold at the bazaar. **Kitchen-**Jean reported church printed napkins were getting low. All agreed to reorder.

OLD BUSINESS: **VBS-**June 16,17,18- 9-noon. All snacks have been donated or purchased. Kitchen workers still needed. **Bazaar-** Positive comments from public on change to Spring and chicken salad and decorations outstanding.

NEW BUSINESS: **August 12 meeting is 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. NO MEETING IN JULY**

Janet Johannsen, Secretary

ILCW GATHERING

Fourteen attended. Sandy made announcements on Vacation Bible School and asked for signups for a couple months' ILCW programs. Reported a successful bazaar. Poke cake from bazaar was served and Janet provided fruit tray. Jean's program was "Original 21". Jean has many collections--thimbles- Mickey Mouse and Precious Moments are only 3. She had only a portion of her Precious Moments collection (approx. 1000 pieces) on display. She has acquired the "Original 21" porcelain figurines from many people on special occasions through the years. All but one of the original 21 have been retired making them very valuable. Sam Butcher is creator of the figurines starting in 1978. He was an artist from a young age. Growing up his family were non-believers. During college he married and his wife led him to be a believer and inspired him to create the precious wide-eyed characters. They had no money so he made cards to survive. They became popular and he then acquired a working partner and so began the porcelain figures. Their first works of art were signed as Jonathan & David. They were so popular Enesco contacted him and the figurines became sought after collectables. There is a Precious Moments Chapel and Museum and Garden in Carthage MO that's very interesting. Thanks Jean-awesome collection!

We closed with prayers for the two families with funerals this past week and the Lord's Prayer.

**No July meetings
5:30**

Mission Quilters July 20 1:00

Bunco July 28 2:00

ILCW August 12

JUNE COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

The Immanuel Council met June 9 with 8 of 12 members present. Craig led devotions from Pastor Laura Webb of Elk Horn Lutheran Church. Joey will lead devotions in July.

Vicki, Amy, Kirk, Craig, Scott, Alex, and Dave volunteered for council member Sunday duties.

Treasurer's Report given by Joey Hansen

May income was \$30,842.20 with expenditures of \$30,409.42 leaving us in a positive of \$433.38.
Overall – our general fund balance is \$61,861.50.60 and our capital savings balance is \$89,072.61.

Outreach/Stewardship – Dave Greve

June Mission Partner is our Refugee Food Aid Fund.

Property – Ken Nielsen and Todd Madsen

Sidewalk was finished. Ken was looking at making it handicap accessible.
We will spray dandelions this fall. We will spray round up in the south lot.

Executive – Scott Shannon

We are hosting 2 groups for RAGBRAI on our lawn. No one in the building. We can monitor the building on the phone app.
Jared has put together a committee and framework for an internship committee to provide feedback, support, and reflection.
Agreed to pay for internet and garage at apartment for intern.
Shane Pitts will be joining council and the Outreach/Stewardship Committee.
We are going to schedule the fellowship hall to get buffed.
Discussion about custodian. We will do a weekly inspection and review at July meeting.

Pastor –

Has been good having Jared working with him and getting ready for VBS next week.
Picture directory – Emeri and Kori will bring the camera on Sundays and see who we can catch or families can submit. We need another 40 pictures added to make it more complete.

Old Business –

Discussed trading out the couches from the narthex and the youth room.
Men's group – will do a kickoff in the fall.

New Business –

Jared is going with Rick and Patty to Kidugala July 21st to August 4th to work on agreements regarding the building of a Vocational Tech School in Kidugala. ILC TZ team is providing the seed money to get it started.



Happy 4th of July!





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Staff:

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

JULY 2026

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	9:00-3:30 WIC 2 10:30 Pastor @ Westridge	10:00 Pastor @ ElmCrest 3	 4 5:00 Communion
9:00 Communion 5 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class	8:30-3:00 4-H 6	9:00 CF Quilters 7	8	9:00-5:00 4-H 9	9:00-11:00 4H 10	5:00 Worship 11 Pastor Gone
9:00 Worship 12 10:00 Fellowship Coffee No Adult Bible Class Darlene Arnold Celebration of Life 2-4	13	9:00 CF Quilters 14 10:00 Pastor @ ElmCrest 6:30 Executive Board 7:00 Church Council	15	9:00-3:30 WIC 16	Homeschool 17 Game Club 5:30-8:00 Pastor Gone	5:00 Communion 18 Pastor Gone
9:00 Communion 19 10:00 Fellowship Coffee No Adult Bible Class RAGBRAI Narcotics Anonymous 4-7 @ Fire Pit	20 1:00 Mission Quilts	9:00 CF Quilters 21 10:00 Pastor @ Hansen House	22	NEWSLETTER 23 DEADLINE	24	5:00 Worship 25
9:00 Worship 26 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class	27	9:00 CF Quilters 28 2:00 Bunco	29	ASSEMBLE 30 NEWSLETTER	Homeschool 31 Game Club 5:30-8:00	

Worship and Fellowship Servants Schedule July-August 2026

	July 4-5	July 11-12	July 18-19	July 25-26	August 1-2
Acolytes	Gavin Herbst Kolton Jensen	Cora Clay Pyper Montgomery	Zoey Olson Maggie Petersen	Harper Petsche Leah Svendsen	Truman Kjergaard Will Chipman
Saturday Greeter/Usher	Maggie Hatcher	Darlene Hess	Al & Bonnie Ickes	Gayl & Dalton Jensen	Betty Larsen
Sunday Greeter/Usher	Santino Ngelo Stephen Lewo	Alex Monson Calvin Twenhafel	Jeff & Penny Nelson	Craig & Judi Olson	Kenny & Shirley Olson
(Saturday) Altar Guild	Kayla Jacobs		Sandy Nelsen		Cheryl Nielsen
(Sunday) Altar Guild	Donna Nelson Kate Petersen		Mary Taggs Kathy Block		Samantha Allen Cora Chapman
Scripture Reader (Sun)	Donna Nelson	Scott Shannon	Craig Olson	DeAnn Nielsen	Judi Olson
Communion Servers (Sun)	Taylor Hansen Erin Hastert		Rich & Sharon Daberkow		Kirk Jacobsen Janell Leinen
Coffee Hosts (Sun)	Kris Olson-Harmon	Karma Petersen Callie Retallic	Shane & Liz Pitts	LaVera, Angel & Katie Stern	Gaige Lytle Jason Weis
Sound	Rick Chipman	Rick Chipman	Rick Chipman	TBA	Seth Johannsen
Video	Rick Chipman	Rick Chipman	Rick Chipman	TBA	Grant Chipman
Projection	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat) Teri Johnson (Sun)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat) Teri Johnson (Sun)	TBA (Sat) Teri Johnson (Sun)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat) Teri Johnson (Sun)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat) Teri Johnson (Sun)
Council Person	Craig Olson	Scott Shannon	Vicki Strissel	Alex Monson	Dave Greve