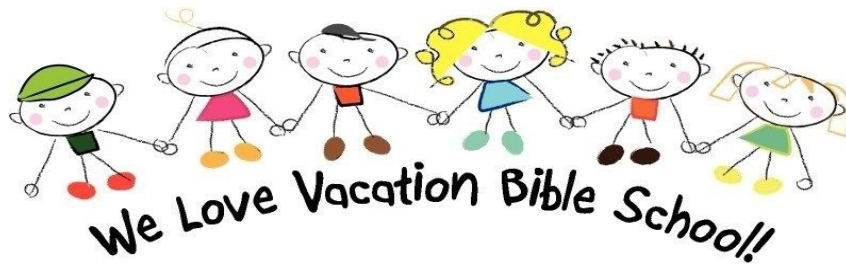


# IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS

## JUNE 2025



### 2025 VBS at Immanuel

Immanuel invites children 3 years old through 6<sup>th</sup> grade to sign up for our 2025 Vacation Bible School. Every year we gather about 50 children from our congregation and our community for a few days of fun and fellowship and of celebrating and sharing the good news of Jesus. This year, we are hosting 3 days of VBS on June 10, 11, and 12 (Tuesday through Thursday). Our VBS day will run from 9:00 A.M. to noon. Our theme is "Who Is Jesus?" Our goal is to have children be able to provide a confident answer to that question by the end of day three. Our 3 days together will be packed with songs and stories, games and crafts, puppets and snacks. Sign-up sheets are available in the Church office.

**VBS SNACKS:** If you would like to purchase snacks or bake cookies for VBS July 10, 11, or 12, there are sign up sheets in the church office. If you would like make a monetary donation to purchase snack items, you can do that also in the office. If you have any questions, contact Sandy Nelsen, 755-7373 or 579-2171. **Thank you.**

### WORSHIP in JUNE

Date	Message	
May 31-June 1 Easter 7	Life is a Campout 2 Corinthians 5:1-10	
June 7-8 Pentecost	Fear and Love 2 Corinthians 5:11-21	Communion
June 14-15 Trinity	Grief and Grace 2 Corinthians 6:1-13	
June 21-22 Pentecost 2	Christians in the World 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1	Communion
June 28-29 Pentecost 3	A Life Without Regret 2 Corinthians 7:2-13a	



## Pastors' CORNER

Dear Friends in Christ,

Immanuel is part of the Heartland District of LCMC which includes over 60 LCMC congregations in Nebraska, Kansas, Western Iowa, and South Dakota. Every year the district has an annual gathering where congregational leaders get together to discuss the challenges and resources that we have in our mission together.

This year the theme of the Heartland District Annual Gathering is "Doing Ministry on the Frontier of the Clergy Shortage." There is no shortage of pastors in major cities. But out here in the small towns of the Midwest and the Great Plains there is a shortage of trained pastors. It seems that a number of small congregations are looking to join LCMC because they have heard that LCMC congregations have more freedom to call and ordain their own pastors.

Freedom is a good thing. But it is also risky. LCMC congregations don't have to wait for some headquarters to give them a pastor. But it also means that we have to be careful to call pastors who will be faithful to the foundations of our congregations. The New Testament warns that there are plenty of preachers out there who would like to transform congregations according to their own theological, political, or personal agendas. If a congregation is built on a foundation of the Gospel of Jesus, then building another kind of structure on that foundation will cause a congregation to tear itself apart. And that is what has happened in some places.

So, what are congregations to do when there are not enough solid Lutheran pastors around for small congregations in rural areas? Two things. First, make new pastors. One of the signs of a healthy congregation is that it is raising up new leadership. If we are not producing new pastors and lay leaders, then something is wrong with us. My own call to ministry came to me because I grew up in a congregation with a pastor and they clearly enjoyed each other. They worked well together. That all fell apart when they called their next pastor.

Fortunately, there are several seminaries providing excellent training for new pastors. I know graduates from Institute of Lutheran Theology, from Luther House of Study, and from St. Paul Lutheran Seminary. I know these graduates to be faithful and well-prepared pastors. That wasn't always the case for the graduates from the seminaries I knew when I was a brand-new pastor.

The second part of the answer is to develop more lay leaders so that we can share trained pastors more generously among congregations. Again, healthy congregations work at training lay leaders so that pastors aren't doing all the work of ministry. I confess that I haven't always been very good at sharing ministry. But the future of the Church is clearly more de-centralized and more collaborative.

I am still excited about the future of the Church of Jesus and about the future of LCMC in particular. We have challenges, but these challenges can help us become more like the Church the Holy Spirit is calling us to be.

Yours in Christ, *Phil Nielsen*

**Happy Birthday to:**

Larry Klein will be 81 on June 4  
 Kathy Voge will be 83 on June 9.  
 Suzann Olson will be 81 on June 12.  
 Sandy Stormer will be 84 on June 14.  
 Karma Petersen will be 83 on June 18.  
 Barbara Sorensen will be 85 on June 29.  
 Karen Brasch will be 84 on June 29.

**Happy Anniversary to:**

Diane & Mert Kastens will celebrate their 61st anniversary June 5.  
 Kay & David Koos will celebrate their 64th anniversary June 10.  
 Linda & Art Andersen will celebrate their 59th anniversary June 24.



**OUR SYMPATHY** to the family of Joyce Nielsen who died May 13 and her funeral was May 21 at Immanuel.

**OUR SYMPATHY** to the family of Myrna Poldberg who died May 15. Her funeral was at Bethlehem, Jacksonville, on May 20. Myrna's daughter is Angie Madsen.

**OUR SYMPATHY** to the family of Wade Millls who died May 15. His funeral will be June 14, at 11:00 at Immanuel. Wade is the son of Ed and Shelia Mills, brother to Sherry and Gaige Lytle.

**ON OUR PRAYER LIST:** Derald Kumm, Brody Nelson, Camden King, Bob Stern, Linda Christensen, Larry Haas, Ruthe & Pat Pattison, Christine Jones, Ellie Nelson, Phil Smith, Arlynn Gittins, Kayla Weis, Kay Koos, Connie Benson, Megan Leslie (Steve Allen's niece), Ken Johannsen (Seth Johannsen's father), Dan Abendroth (Sandy Sisson's brother), Denny Porter (Sue Olson's brother-in-law), Dave Burmeister (Sue Olson's son-in-law), and Pastor Joseph Lali (Kelly Mure's uncle in Ethiopia).





## Doing Ministry on the Frontier of the Clergy Shortage

The shortage of trained pastors in rural regions is growing. How can we meet the challenges of this time? The Heartland District invites you to join together with your ministry partners from Nebraska, Kansas, and surrounding areas to find encouragement and insight for the challenges ahead. Working together we can become more of the Church that the Holy Spirit is calling us to be in these times.

Dr. Dawn Spies will speak on "Leading through Church Conflict." Pastor Randy Freund will speak on "Creative Ways of Filling Pulpits." There will be breakout sessions on "Multi-point Ministry," "The Difference between certified calls and contract calls in LCMC," "Intentional Interim Ministry," "Thinking Outside the Box: Lay Ministry and More," "Finding Your Next Pastor," and "Care of Souls."

The gathering begins Friday July 25 at 2:00 p.m. and concludes Saturday, July 26 at 3:00 p.m. Friday evening will feature a Traditional Estonian Christmas dinner with a presentation about our partnership with the Lutheran Church in Estonia. Registration can be completed online at <https://bit.ly/HDgathering2025>

**Vacuum Cleaners available:** 2 brand new vacuum cleaners are available from the church

	WORSHIP & GIVING			
	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Refugee</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>May 3-4</b>	17 + 124 = 141	\$ 6,325.14	\$ 325.00	\$ 6,650.14
<b>May 10-11</b>	16 + 113 = 129	\$ 3,220.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 3,320.00
<b>May 17-18</b>	25 + 114 = 139	\$ 3,145.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 3,195.00
<b>May 24-25</b>	21 + 106 = 127	\$ 2,337.00	\$ 210.00	\$ 2,547.00
Building Fund for the month:	\$ 20.00			



**WORSHIP SERVICES** at Immanuel are streamed on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/ilcharlan](http://www.facebook.com/ilcharlan)) Sunday mornings. They are also recorded for viewing on HMU channel 15 (9:30 a.m. Sunday and 5:00 p.m. Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday) and on FMCTC channel 48 (4:00 p.m. Wednesday). Our worship is also posted on [www.harlanimmanuel.org/sermons.html](http://www.harlanimmanuel.org/sermons.html).



## MAY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

The Immanuel Council met May 13 with 9 of 12 members present. Craig Olson led devotions from "Why Lutheran Theology." Vicki Strissel will lead devotions in June.

Scott Shannon, Craig Olson, Kirk Jacobsen, John Taggs, Vicki Strissel, Dave Greve all volunteered for deacon duties in June and July.

**Treasurer's Report:** April income was \$25,683 and expenses were \$25,339 including \$2,000 in camp scholarships and \$1,964 in utilities. We sent another \$1000 in food aid to the Sherkole Refugee Camp in Ethiopia. General Fund balance is at \$70,913 with an additional \$25,000 in a CD. Capital Savings account is \$81,575. Tanzania Team received a major donation to bring their balance to \$65,096.

**Worship/Evangelism** – We will contact Bonsall's to replace the TV screen in the chapel and purchase new choir microphones. We will also contact FSC to replace the chapel computer. Pastor will be gone June 21 and we will seek volunteers to read the sermon and lead the worship. Pastor will be gone July 12-13 and we plan to use a video sermon that weekend.

**Outreach/Stewardship** – June Mission Partner will be Shelby County Community Outreach for \$3000. Shelby County Community Outreach provides a wide array of services to assist people in our community with basic needs.

**Property:** Thanks to Donna Nelson for painting the new library room. Now we need someone to pick out carpeting and window treatments.

**Executive:** We are still short of keys for the outside doors. These keys cannot be duplicated. We will need to create a sign-out system for keys and for the Hy-Vee charge card.

**Pastor:** Recommended Nate and Lauren Botine for membership. They come from Lutheran churches in Storm Lake and Irwin. Approved.

**Old Business:** The HVAC project for the west rooms on the first floor is actually \$21,232. We will look for a second bid. Also looking at a second company for the sewer line repair.

**New Business:** We have an offer of a donation of 6 new LED panels to replace the 9 globe fixtures in the chapel. We will consider it. We will also look for someone to strip and wax floors.

**ILCW**

**June 11th gathering will be at 1:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. We hope that you can join us to hear Linda Hopp's program "TANZANIA FABRIC, FACTS & FUN RETREAT". Everyone is welcome. Enjoy visiting with friends, making new friends, and of course good treats. There is no ILCW in July and August 13 we will gather at 5:15.

**ILCW EXECUTIVE BOARD May 14, 2025**

The ILCW Executive Board met Wednesday May 14 in the narthex with Sandy Nelsen, Kathy Block, Janet Johannsen, Jean Whitfield, Sally Nairn and Julie Vorm present. Sandy called meeting to order at 9:00.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** After review of April minutes, Jean motioned, Kathy seconded to approve. Ayes all.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Disbursements were \$152 to Julie Vorm for quilt batting, \$300 to Floral Elegance for Easter lilies and \$73 for stamps. Receipts were \$300 from sale of 20 lilies and a \$20 donation. Ending balance for April is \$1884.32.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: Community Committee:** 21 May Day bags were assembled and will be distributed today to homebound Super Seniors.

**OLD BUSINESS:** VBS will be June 10, 11 & 12. A signup sheet for snacks and helpers will be on narthex table. Monetary donations also accepted for ILCW to purchase snacks.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Due to VBS in the morning on June 11, ILCW Board meeting will be at 12:30. Gathering will be at 1:00. Sharon asked Linda Hopp to present a program on "Tanzania's Fabric, Facts and Fun Retreat". Kathy will provide treats. **No board meeting or Gathering in July. August 13 is our 5:15 Gathering** to allow working people to attend. Sally suggested changing the menu from sweets to savory. All agreed. **Camp:** 9 people signed up to attend camp.

With no further business, Jean motioned to adjourn. Sally seconded.

Janet Johannsen, Secretary

**ILCW GATHERING**

Sandy opened the meeting with 17 attending. This is 20<sup>th</sup> year of partnership with Tanzania. Peg Haas told of 1 to 3 Tanzania people coming in August. It's been suggested the Tanzania clothing Cheryl Chipman has been worn by volunteer members of ILC on a Sunday they are here. Jean Whitfield's program was on "Childhood Collections." She started collecting thimbles at age 7 or 8. Her Mother collected things and encouraged Jean to do the same. On vacations she would seek out a thimble that was unique to that area--not just having a name imprinted but rather a symbol attached. Amazing what can be put on a thimble--guitar players, Santa, etc. Almost 100 thimbles were on display--more still at home. Thimbles dating back 30,000 years were shaped from bone/rocks. Those made specifically for sewing date back 2,000 years. Over the centuries they were made from bronze, glass, horn, ivory, silver, wood, metal alloys and porcelain. Thimbles also known to measure things: gun powder & liquid spirits. Women of the night also used as a window knocker to announce their presence. Teachers used to tap on head of misbehaving student. In 1979 Christie's Auction House sold a dental porcelain thimble for \$18,000. Jean also collects Mickey Mouse, Precious Moments and poodles. Thanks Jean-amazing collection.



## **SAVE THE DATE**

**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Immanuel/Kidugala Partnership**

**August 17, 2025**

**9:00 AM Celebration Worship**

**10:15 AM Program with Ambassadors**

**11:00 AM Catered Meal at Immanuel's Fellowship Hall**

**Join us to celebrate with our Kidugala Ambassadors**

20 years ago, Cheryl Chipman traveled to Tanzania to connect with our sister parish in Kidugala. And thus began a friendship and a partnership that has blessed people here and in Tanzania. We have sent numerous ambassadors to Kidugala and welcomed back several groups of ambassadors from Kidugala. God has blessed our gifts to enable our Kidugala partners to help orphans attend school, equip the community medical clinic, make agricultural improvements, connect Kidugala with a microloan program, drill wells, provide Bibles to confirmation students, bikes for evangelists, and so much more. Our Kidugala friends have blessed us with the prayers, their friendship, their example of joyful faith.

We are working to enable up to 3 ambassadors to come to Harlan this August. There will be opportunities to invite them into the life of our community and congregation. Pastor Phil is hoping to teach us a song in Swahili this summer so that we can surprise our guests.

**THANK YOU** everyone for helping make my 85th birthday so much fun and memorable! I very much appreciate having so many come to the party. I also thank you for all the cards, phone calls, gifts, etc. that I will be remembering for many years to come! **Bert Hillers**



Immanuel  
Lutheran Church  
LCMC  
1700 19th Street  
Harlan, IA 51537

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HARLAN, IOWA 51537

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Office Hours: 9-1(M-F)

Office Email: [ilc@fmctc.com](mailto:ilc@fmctc.com)

Pastor Phil's Cell Number: 712-579-2098

Home Number: 712-766-3178

E-mail: [peacephillip@gmail.com](mailto:peacephillip@gmail.com)

[www.harlanimmanuel.org](http://www.harlanimmanuel.org)

Staff:

Pastor Phil Nielsen

Office Manager: Diane Greve

Custodian: Slava Aleev



# June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00 Communion 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class	<b>2</b> 6:00 TZ Team	<b>3</b> 9:00 CF Quilters	<b>4</b> 4:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>5</b> 9:00 – 3:30 WIC 10:30 Westridge Group	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 5:00 Communion
<b>PENTECOST 8</b> 9:00 Communion 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:00 – 12 <b>Vacation Bible School</b> 6:30 Exec. Board 7:00 Church Council	<b>11</b> 9:00 – 12 <b>Vacation Bible School</b> 12:30 ILCW Board 1:00 ILCW Gathering 4:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>12</b> 9:00 – 12 <b>Vacation Bible School</b>	<b>13</b> 7-9:00 Wade Mills Visitation	<b>14</b> 11:00 Wade Mills Funeral 5:00 Worship
<b>HOLY TRINITY 15</b> 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:00 CF Quilters	<b>18</b> 4:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 5:00 Communion
<b>22</b> 9:00 Communion 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:00 CF Quilters 2:00 Bunco	<b>25</b> 4:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>26</b> 9:00 – 3:30 WIC NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 5:00 Worship
<b>29</b> 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class So. Sudan Fellowship	<b>30</b> 1:00 Mission Quilters					

# Worship and Fellowship Servants Schedule

	May 31-June1	June 7-8	June 14-15	June 21-22	June 28-29
Acolytes	Rex Swanson Abbey Brue	Collin Burchett Will Chipman	Cora Clay Trinity Haas	Gavin Herbst Kolton Jensen	Truman Kjergaard Pyper Montgomery
Saturday Greeter/Usher	Maggie Hatcher	Darlene Hess	Ken Hursey	Al/Bonnie Ickes	Kirk Jacobsen
Saturday Altar Guild		Maggie Hatcher		Kayla Jacobs	
Sunday Greeters/Ushers	John & Judy Davis	James/Joyce Folley	Larry/Nancy Gessman	Ty/Amy Haas	Tim/Kristi/Caden Herbst
Sunday Altar Guild		Peg Haas Janet Johannsen		Donna Nelson Kate Petersen	
Scripture Reader (Sunday)	Jennifer Malone	Elaine Miller	Linda Mosher	Sandy Nelsen	Donna Nelson
Communion Servers (Sunday)		DeAnn Nielsen Brooke or Andrew Reinert		Megan Shannon Lindsey Vorm	
Coffee Hosts (Sunday)	Jeff & Erin Hastert Matt & Mary Hoch	Elaine/Jill Miller	Galen/Janet Johannsen	Sandy Nelsen Karma Petersen	Greg/Donna Nelson
Sound	Rick Chipman	Rick Chipman	Rick Chipman	Rick Chipman	Rick Chipman
Video	Rick Chipman	Rick Chipman	Rick Chipman	Rick Chipman	Rick Chipman
Projection	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) DeAnn Nielsen (Sun.)	Al Ickes (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Cheryl Nielsen(Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)
Council Person	Scott Shannon	Craig Olson	Kirk Jacobsen	John Taggs	Vicki Strissel