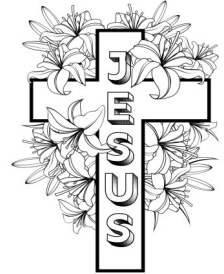




# IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS MAY 2025



## Worship in May 2025



May 3-4 Easter 3	YES 2 Corinthians 1:18-22	Communion Choir
May 10-11 Easter 4	The Aroma of Christ 2 Corinthians 2:1-17	
May 17-18 Easter 5	Unveiled Faces 2 Corinthians 3:1-18	Communion
May 24-25 Easter 6	Treasure in Clay Pots 2 Corinthians 4:1-18	
May 31-June 1 Easter 7	Life Is a Campout 2 Corinthians 5:1-10	



## 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.

## Immanuel Lutheran Church Women

**ILCW** will be gathering **May 14th** at 9:30 in the fellowship hall. Jean will be presenting a program about her "Childhood Collections". It's always fun and interesting to remember our childhood memories. Janet will be serving a delicious treat. We will deliver May baskets to our home bound and "Super Seniors". Hope to see you there. Everyone is welcome. Thank you to those who purchased an Easter lily to decorate the church sanctuary.



May 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

Ever since I attended a Bible study during my freshman year of college, 2 Corinthians has been my favorite book of the Bible. In his second letter to the Church in Corinth, the apostle Paul bared his soul. He was trying to rescue this congregation from false teachers who were leading them away from the Gospel.

And the false Gospel in Corinth sounds a lot like popular American Christianity today. We are surrounded by a health and wealth gospel. It is a gospel that says if you have enough faith, you can do anything you want. The Corinthian Christians were tempted to buy into the gospel of success and power. But as Paul noted in his letter, God works through our brokenness and weakness.

Many Christians today have an idealized view of the first generation of Christians. They worked so many miracles. They saw so many people come to faith. Their congregations were so on fire. Or so we have imagined, but the reality was quite different. In 2 Corinthians, the apostle Paul is incredibly honest about his own weaknesses and struggles. He talks about his anxieties for the Church in the first century. He talks about his suffering as an apostle. He warns us about so-called "super apostles" who have great success stories, but really are just in the business of religion for their own egos.

Many today have noted that the Church is in decline in the United States. We have problems like apathy and false teaching and hypocrisy. But the first-generation Church had all those same problems. The truth is that we are living in a great time to be the Church. We have all kinds of resources and support from brothers and sisters in faith from the past and the present day. We have all kinds of evidence of the reality of the power of the Gospel of Jesus to save sinners. We have great resources and freedom to share the Gospel with the world.

We just need to be honest with each other and with the world about our weakness. God doesn't need our strength. God has plenty of strength. What God needs is our weakness, so that people can see the Gospel of Jesus is not for the powerful but for the humble.

This summer, we will be reading through 2 Corinthians together as a church at worship. I believe that we will find it very encouraging for life in the world today.

Yours in Christ,

*Phil Nielsen*



### Happy Birthday to the following:

Loyal Moore will be 99 on May 1.  
 Lynette Miller will be 85 on May 1.  
 Verna Christensen will be 87 on May 6.  
 Barb Furst will be 80 on May 10.  
 Bert Hillers will be 85 on May 12.  
 Shirley Knudtson will be 99 on May 16.  
 Bonnie Grabill will be 89 on May 20.  
 Lois Sick will be 93 on May 22.

### Happy Anniversary to the following:

Harry & Orvetta Priest who will be celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary on April 16.

Ken & Sherry Olson who will be celebrating their 55th Wedding Anniversary on May 23.

Pat & Ruthe Pattison will be celebrating their 69th Wedding Anniversary on May 27th.

Bruce & Kay Havick who will be celebrating their 64th Wedding Anniversary on May 27.



**WELCOMED INTO THE CHURCH:** Lany Jo Palmer, daughter of Jake and Kari Palmer, sister of Jace, Levi, and Kily. Lany was born December 6, 2024 and was baptized at Immanuel on Sunday, April 27. Her sponsors are Dylan & Katie Petersen.



**A BIG THANK YOU** to all who provided food for our Lenten soup suppers and for our Easter breakfast. Your generous gifts created a wonderful atmosphere of fellowship and celebration.

### DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

**May 19**—1:00 PM Mission Quilters

**May 27**—2:00 PM BUNCO

**June 10, 11, 12**—9 AM—12 PM Vacation Bible School

**JUNE 23**—1:00 PM Mission Quilters





## WORSHIP & GIVING

	<u>Attendance</u>		<u>General</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Total</u>
Mar. 26		+ = 45	\$ 275.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 275.00
Mar. 29-30	22	+ 115 = 137	\$ 2,065.16	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,065.16
April 2		+ 44 = 163	\$ 341.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 341.00
April 5-6	21	+ 150 = 171	\$ 7,105.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 7,255.00
April 12-13	19	+ 134 = 153	\$ 3,665.00	\$ 55.00	\$ 3,720.00
April 17		+ 37 = 37	\$ 425.00	\$ 425.00	\$ 425.00
April 18		+ 50 = 50	\$ 1,227.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,227.00
April 20-Easter	44	+ 272 = 316	\$ 5,983.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 6,013.00
April 27	19	+ 181 = 200	\$ 2,210.05	\$ 50.00	\$ 2,260.05
Sudanese in Ethiopian Refugee Camp Monthly Donations					\$ 2,740.00



**OUR PRAYER LIST:** Brody Nelson, Joyce Nielsen, Camden King, Bob and Lavera Stern, Linda Christensen, Larry Haas, Ruthe and Pat Pattison, Christine Jones, Ellie Nelson, Phil Smith, Arlynn Gittens, Kayla Weis, Kay Koos, Connie Benson, Wade Mills (son of Ed & Sheila Mills), Megan Leslie (Steve Allen's niece), Ken Johannsen (Seth Johannsen's father), Dan Abendroth (Sandy Sisson's brother), Jim Halagarda (friend of Kirk Jacobsen), Denny Porter (brother-in-law of Sue Olson), Jacquelyn Teter (Lois Hansen's grand-daughter), Dave Burmeister (Sue Olson's son-in-law), Pastor Joseph Lali (Kelly Mure's Uncle in Ethiopia), Vivian Robinson (Rachel Block's cousin), Rhea Berger (Kirk Jacobsen's brother-in-law) and Myrna Poldberg (Angie Madsen's mother).

**CHRIST IN OUR HOME** devotional books for April-June are available on the table across from the chapel.

**Come**  
**WORSHIP WITH US!**

**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).



## APRIL COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

The Immanuel Council met April 8 with 10 of 12 members present. John Taggs led devotions from C.S. Lewis' "Screwtop Letters." Craig Olson will lead devotions in May.

Todd Madsen, Kirk Jacobsen, John Taggs, Joey Hansen, Dave Greve, Trent Svendsen, and Scott Shannon volunteered for deacon duties.

**Treasurer's Report:** March income was \$30,858 and expenses were \$39,380 including \$12,445 for insurance and \$2621 for utilities. General Fund balance is at \$69,947 with an additional \$25,000 in a CD. Capital Savings account is \$81,075.

**Fellowship/Education** – VBS was moved to June 10-12. Ages were expanded to 3-years old up through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Looking for adult and youth staff. Sessions will be 9:00 to noon.

**Outreach/Stewardship** – March mission grant was \$3000 to LCMC Asian Ministries in support of our partners in Myanmar after the earthquake. April mission grant was \$3,000 divided between Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp and Ingham/Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp. May mission grant will be \$3,000 divided between 3 LCMC-affiliated seminaries (ILT, Luther House, and St. Paul).

**Property:** First estimate on repairing the sewer line is \$30,000. Looking for a second estimate. The south parking lot could use resurfacing and should be done with a sewer line repair. Ken and Todd fixed the broken lock on the front door.

**Executive:** Bid for AC and heating for 3 rooms in education wing was \$16,889. The 2 outside units would be able to handle 4 rooms. Motion and second to go with the project for 4 rooms (childcare, all purpose, new library, and youth rooms) with AC and heat.

**Old Business:** Joey set up a monitor for camera system in the administrator's office.

**New Business:** Question was asked about Overflowing Blessings. Pastor explained that it is not meant to compete with our ILC/Kidugala partnership. Overflowing Blessings is an independent organization founded by member and non-members of Immanuel to use resources outside Immanuel and to support projects outside Kidugala. Some grants cannot go to churches. Some requests for assistance are beyond the scope of our partnership in Kidugala.



## ILCW EXECUTIVE BOARD

April 9, 2025

The ILCW Executive Board met Wednesday April 9 in the narthex with Sandy Nelsen, Kathy Block, Janet Johannsen, Sharon Daberkow, Jean Whitfield and Sally Nairn present. Sandy called meeting to order at 9.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** After review of March minutes, Sharon motioned and Jean seconded to approve. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jan Applegate reimbursed \$46.98 for placemats. A bill of \$152 presented for quilt batting to be paid to Julie. Jean motioned and Sharon seconded. Ayes all. March balance is \$2,089.32.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** **Hospitality:** 34 Easter cards were mailed. Stamps will be purchased. **Community:** May baskets will be assembled and distributed after May meeting.

**Kitchen:** Cleaning today after meeting. Jean presented KITCHEN EXPECTATIONS for those using our church kitchen. **Mission Quilts:** Four quilts were assembled by 5 quilters.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Sold 20 Easter lilies. Will order earlier next year when growers first start taking orders. Kathy and Sandy volunteered to help Sally decorate chancel on Saturday at 10 AM.

**NEW BUSINESS:** **Bazaar Date is October 15.** Vacation Bible School has requested ILCW to prepare snacks as in the past. **Vacation Bible School is June 10-11-12 from 9 AM to Noon.**

No further business so moved to Fellowship Hall for ILCW Gathering.

Janet Johannsen, Secretary

### ILCW GATHERING

Twenty-three in attendance for Joyce's program "I Thee Wed." Wedding photos and albums were brought by attendees and displayed. Beautiful table decorations made one think we were actually at a reception along with decorated cupcakes, lavender punch, coffee etc. Joyce told of how they met, wedding and their many moves. Each one of attendees told something of their meeting first time or wedding. Question asked: "If we were to renew vows--what would you say now?" "Til Death Do Us Part" was first written in 1862 in a church in England. Plight thee my Troth was also part of vows which means Pledge my Faithfulness. Joyce inquired at our local County Recorder the Iowa rules for marriage application. Must be 18 (16 or 17 w/guardian or parent approval), 1 witness and \$35 fee. Must apply in County where you want your license to be recorded. You can be married anywhere in Iowa. Shelby County in 1950 had 153 marriage applications issued, 1980-131, 2010-89 and 2024-81. Thank you Joyce for such a fun program and all the extras you did to make it a reception day. Sandy requested help in the kitchen cleaning and 11 or 12 ladies assisted. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**Upcoming:** May 14 next ILCW Board 9 AM; Gathering 9:30. Jean has program—Janet has treats

Mission Quilters: May 19 @1 PM (week early because of Memorial Day); June 23<sup>rd</sup> @1 PM

Bunco: May 27 @2 PM







# TANZANIA HAPPENINGS

## SAVE THE DATE

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

**August 17, 2025**

**9:00 A.M. Celebration at Church**

**10:15 A.M. Program with Ambassadors**

**11:00 A.M. Catered Meal**

**at Immanuel's Fellowship Hall**

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

Our hope is that the ambassadors arrive in Harlan to worship with us on the third of August and stay until the 20th of August. As we approach the arrival date more details will be available and sign-up sheets will be out if you wish to host them for a day. Stay tuned!

We received news this week of the passing of a good friend that was a former pastor at Kidugala. He was currently serving as the District Pastor at Makembako. Pastor Yohana was in Kidugala in 2019 when Immanuel's Travel Team was there. We have visited him in his other capacities with the church each and each subsequent visit thereafter. Furthermore, we certainly will miss his warm smile and contagious laugh on our next visit.

*Mungu Akubariki* (God Bless you all!)

TZ Team



**CHOIR THANK YOU:** As all of this year's choir performances come to an end this month, we, as a choir would like to extend a huge *thank you* to Immanuel members for their continued support of the choir. Many of you may or may not know, these fine choir voices are faithful attendees every Sunday morning beginning at 8:00 throughout the months of late August through early May. This is longer than most school sports programs!!!

We enjoy bringing the Word of the Lord to all of you through our anthems and our interpretation of each one. We hope you enjoy listening, and we will continue to bring you more praise and worship next fall.

On a personal note, as a Director, I could *NOT* ask for a better group of individuals to work with! All are faithful, energetic, fun, dedicated, and just plain good people. I am so fortunate to have all of them in my life and give special thanks for that 8 am hour (45 minutes) of rehearsal time each Sunday morning. Thank you all. Sincerely, *Linda Mosher*



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

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HARLAN, IOWA 51537

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Office: 755-5207

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: Rachel Nelsen-Block

Custodian: Slava Aleev



# MAY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				9-3:30 WIC		5:00 Communion
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:00 Choir 9:00 Communion/JAM 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Boy Scout Leaders		9:00 CF Quilters 6:00-9:00 Boy Scouts District 6:00 Worship Committee 7:30 Fellowship/Education	4:00 Women's Bible Study 6:30 LYO	6:00 Tanzania Committee		5:00 Worship
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:00 Worship/JAM 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts		9:00 CF Quilters 6:30 Executive Board 7:00 Church Council	9:00 ILCW Board Mtg 9:30 ILCW Gathering 4:00 Women's Bible Study 6:30 LYO	Newsletter Deadline 6:30 Ladies Homestead		5:00 Communion 2-8 pm M. Petersen F.H.
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:00 Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	1:00 Mission Quilters	9:00 CF Quilters	4:00 Women's Bible Study	ASSEMBLE NEWSLETTER 9-3:30 WIC		5:00 Worship 2-4 pm B. Hillers Birthday Party F. H.
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED 	9:00 CF Quilters 2:00 Bunco	4:00 Women's Bible Study			5:00 Worship J. Malone Bridal Shower

# Worship and Fellowship Servants Schedule

	May 3-4	May 10-11	May 17-18	May 24-25	May 31-June1	
Acolytes	Truman Kjergaard Pyper Montgomery	Cade Neve Zoey Olson	Jace Palmer Maggie Petersen	Harper Petsche Leah Svendsen	Rex Swanson Abbey Brue	
Saturday Greeter/Usher	Darlene Hess	Ken Hursey	Al & Bonnie Ickes	Kirk Jacobsen	Maggie Hatcher	
Saturday Altar Guild	Sandy Nelsen	x	Cheryl Nielsen	x		
Sunday Greeters/Ushers	Bob & Patty Brue Linda Brue	Ross Burchett Julie Carter Lori Christensen	Charlie & Jonelle Conrad Dale Conrad	Tom & Lisa Conry	John & Judy Davis	
Sunday Altar Guild	Mary Taggs Stacy Torneten	x	Kathy Block Cora Chapman	x		
Scripture Reader (Sunday)	Kayla Jacobs	Janet Johannsen	Mary Johnson	Roberta King	Jennifer Malone	
Communion Servers (Sunday)	Elaine Miller Donna Nelson	x	Verne Nelson Craig/Judi Olson	x		
Coffee Hosts (Sunday)	Calvin Twenhafel George & Jan Applegate	Vicki & Ken Carstens Jason Weis	Cheryl & Rick Chipman	Duane & Vickie Errett	Jeff & Erin Hastert Matt & Mary Hoch	
Sound	DeAnn Nielsen	DeAnn Nielsen	DeAnn Nielsen	DeAnn Nielsen	Rick Chipman	
Video	Grant Chipman	Grant Chipman	Grant Chipman	Grant Chipman	Rick 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	John Taggs	Joey Hansen	Dave Greve	Trent Svendsen		