



IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS May 2026



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

On Sunday May 10, Immanuel will celebrate our members who are graduating from high school. They will be recognized during the 9:00 am service. Before the service, the seniors and their families are invited to a breakfast in the Fellowship Hall hosted by the Fellowship & Education Team. If you are interested in giving a card or gift to any of the senior students, gift/card bags for each senior will be at the church from April 26 to May 10..

Our graduating seniors are:

Gabriel Arkfeld son of Jon and Jami Arkfeld

Mikayla Jensen daughter of Dan Jensen and Susan Jensen

Harrison Kjergaard son of Brian and Paula Kjergaard

Owen Neve son of Darth and Mindy Neve

Grant Petersen son of Andy Petersen and Mary Petersen

Jonas Reynolds son of Jeff and Janell Leinen, Bob Reynolds

Baleigh Sette daughter of Winter and Jon Sette

Emeri and Kori Smith daughters of Vicki Strissel and Brad Smith

Angelica Stern daughter of Bob and LaVera Stern

Carly Torneten daughter of Terry and Stacy Torneten

Kennedy Nippert daughter of Aaron and Andrea Nippert

2026 VBS at Immanuel: Camp Creation

Immanuel invites children 4 years old through 6th grade to sign up for our 2026 Vacation Bible School. Every year we gather about 50 children from our congregation and our community for a few days of fun and fellowship to celebrate and share the good news of Jesus. This year we are hosting 3 days of VBS on June 16, 17, and 18 (Tuesday through Thursday). Our VBS day will run from 9:00 A.M. to noon. Our theme is "Camp Creation." Our goal is that children will experience the goodness and greatness of our God as seen through the wonders of God's creation. 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'S INSIGHTS**FROM THE**
Pastor's Desk

May 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

Immanuel Lutheran Church has called Jared Walters to serve as our pastoral intern for the next one to two years. He will be working with us half-time as he continues his studies at the Institute of Lutheran Theology Christ College.

There has been a lot of discussion among church leaders about the growing shortage of pastors. Retirements and resignations have outpaced ordinations for quite a few years. It seems that professional ministry in the Church has become less attractive to people.

However, I have found the calling to be a pastor to be very rewarding and enjoyable. Pastoral ministry is full of great variety and opportunities for creativity. There is great pleasure in studying the Scriptures both with others and for sermon preparation. There are meaningful conversations with people about the real issues of life. There are opportunities to be part of big moments in life – baptisms, weddings, funerals. And there is the opportunity to mentor those who are interested in serving the Church.

I served as a pastoral mentor to a seminary student before I came to Immanuel, but this is the first time I have had the opportunity to work with a pastoral intern. I am excited that Immanuel has stepped up to do our part to encourage the next generation of pastoral leaders for the Church. I look forward to Jared's ministry with us at Immanuel.

I am also excited that Evan Nielsen has recently enrolled at another LCMC-affiliated seminary called The Master's Institute. As I move toward my own retirement, I am greatly encouraged by the young pastors that I have met who are stepping up to lead in LCMC. The Church has a great future, and I am pleased that Immanuel has encouraged young people toward the ministry of the Gospel. Thank you for your part in making Immanuel a hopeful and encouraging congregation.

Yours in Christ, Phil Nielsen

**Greetings!**

There should not be much need for an introduction, but I am the new Pastoral Intern here at ILC. I am delighted to serve you all after returning from a combat deployment with the U.S. Army. On my deployment, I visited Ireland, Kuwait, Iraq, and Syria. During my deployment, I was a heavy-weapons infantryman running combat missions from Iraq to Syria. Alongside the missions, I was elected as a Distinctive Faith Group Leader for the Lutheran body. With that, I provided liturgical and sacramental services in Iraq every Sunday. With my very busy schedule, I wanted to keep my mind sharp and continue to take 1 class every semester. I learned about Anthropology and am currently working on a research paper called *"Iraq, Syria, and Jesus: An Experience of War and Theology."* Now that I am back here, I am continuing my classes at the Institute of Lutheran Theology and am dedicated to you as your pastoral intern. Thank you, and God bless you all!

Yours in Christ,

Jared Walters



IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS

HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY

Lynette Miller will be 87 on May 1

Loyal Moore will 100 on May 1

Mark Knoell will be 81 on May 2

Verna Christensen will be 88 on May 6

Lois Hansen will be 79 on May 7

Cheryl Nielsen will be 80 on May 11

Bonnie Grabill will be 90 on May 20

Dalton Jensen will be 75 on May 22

Lois Sick will be 94 on May 22

Jerry and Cathy Murray will be married 45 years on May 2

Harry and Orvetta Priest will be married 61 years on May 16

Steve and Patty Allen will be married 50 years on May 22

Ken and Shirley Olson will be married 56 years on May 23

Pat and Ruthe Pattison will be married 70 years on May 27

TZ SOUP AND AUCTIONS **PEOPLES CHOICE AWARD**-Val Seevers with:

LOADED BAKED POTATO SOUP (serves 8)

4 Potatoes, scrubbed	2 cups chicken stock
8 bacon slices	1 tsp salt, plus more to taste
4 tbsp unsalted butter	½ tsp garlic salt, plus more to taste
2 Garlic cloves, minced	½ tsp black pepper
¼ cup yellow onion	1 cup mild cheddar cheese
1/3 cup all-purpose flour	1 cup sharp cheddar cheese
2 cups low fat milk	1 cup sour cream
1 cup half and half	fresh chives, for garnish



1. Pierce the potatoes multiple times with a fork, then microwave them for 12 to 15 minutes, or until tender. Carefully halve the potatoes and let cool. Once cool enough to handle, remove the skins, and cut into chunks. 2. Meanwhile, cook the bacon in a skillet over medium-high heat until crisp. Transfer to a paper towel-lined plate to drain and cool. Reserve up to 1 tablespoon of the bacon fat from the pan, discarding the rest. Once the bacon has cooled, crumble it into small pieces. 3. In a large pot, melt the butter over medium-low heat. Add the reserved bacon fat, garlic and onion and cook for 2 to 3 minutes, or until the onion is tender. Slowly whisk the flour into the pan and stir for 1 to 2 minutes. Slowly whisk in the milk and ½ and ½. Keep whisking until smooth. Gradually add the chicken stock. Bring to a light simmer and whisk in the kosher salt, garlic salt and pepper. Keep at a light simmer until the mixture has thickened slightly, 5 to 7 minutes. 4. If you'd like to use cheeses and bacon to garnish, reserve ¼ cup of each. Stir in the remaining cheeses, remaining bacon, and the sour cream. Remove the pot from the heat. Scoop potato chunks into the pan, breaking them into small pieces or leaving them chunky, depending on your preference. Serve hot, topped with your favorite garnishes, like cheese, bacon and chives.

IMMANUEL SPRING BAZAAR ~ WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 11-1

MENU: Chicken salad on a Croissant, fruit, Chips, dessert, and beverage

Tickets: \$15. Purchase at church or at the door. Carry-out available.

Crafts, Quilts, and Bake Sale.

Last year ILCW was able to donate \$4,000 to several needy groups. This is because of the income from the bazaar. We know that there are those who would like to help, but they are unable to work at the bazaar because of their work, family, health issues etc. An **ENVELOPE IS ENCLOSED** to give you the opportunity to contribute to defray food cost and ensure we can continue to donate to those groups needing our support. It can be mailed, left in the office, or put in the offering plate. Checks should be made out to ILCW. **All donations are welcome.**

Also needed:

Poke cake for the dessert Recipe (in Church office)

Craft items for the country store.

Items for the bake sale.

Workers

All women are members of Immanuel Lutheran Church Women.

Thank you for your support.

Sandy Nelsen 579-2171 Janet Johannsen 712-249-0581 Joyce Folley 579-1837

WORSHIP & GIVING

	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>				<u>GENERAL</u>	<u>REFUGEES</u>
March 25 (Wed)	44		=	44	\$ 545.00	
March 28-29(Palm)	23	+	138	=	161	\$ 20.00
April 2(Maundy Thu)	80		=	80	\$ 887.00	
April 3(Good Frid)	54		=	54	\$385.00	
April 5 (Easter)	46	+	256	=	302	\$ 375.00
April 11-12	22	+	119	=	141	\$ 270.00
April 18-19	18	+	110	=	128	\$0
April 25-26	33	+	119	=	152	\$1920.00

Sharing Cupboard (Food Pantry)
\$80.00

Direct Deposit \$2498.00

Building Fund \$375.00

Worship in May 2026



May 2-3 Easter 5	Unjust Suffering I Peter 2:11-25	Communion GROW Choir sings Recognition of New Members
May 9-10 Easter 6	An Account for the Hope I Peter 3:13-22	Grad Recognition JAM Choir sings
May 16-17 Easter 7	Fiery Trials I Peter 4:12-17, 5:6-11	Communion Choir sings
May 23-24 Pentecost	Fear to Faith John 20:19-23	
May 30-31	The Mystery of God Matthew 28:16-20	



ILCW

ILCW will meet on May 13th at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

“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. (If you do not have a place setting, please bring a tableware item that is special to you). Desserts and coffee/tea will be provided. Questions, contact Linda Mosher.



Love is the greatest gift of kindness!

Some suggestions this month for "Operation Christmas Child" are: consider packing a shoebox for a 10-14 year old boy. This is the age group that receives the least amount of boxes. A ball or farmer hat, tools, fishing supplies, games, school supplies, socks or anything you think a boy in this age group would like to receive!

Grab a box and fill it up to Bless a child!!!



Membership Updates

We are currently updating our membership records. There are envelopes with your name on them located on the table at the back of the church.

Please take a moment to complete the enclosed paperwork and return it either by using the postage-paid envelope or by bringing it to the church office. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

CAREGIVER'S COMPASS GROUP

The Caregiver’s Compass Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be on May 12 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.



SHOES, SHOES, SHOES

! If you have gently worn, used or new shoes taking up space in your closet, those shoes can be re-purposed and shipped to developing nations where many cannot find jobs. Micro-entrepreneurs can be supplied with merchandise to sell in their local market places, creating small self sustaining businesses. In addition re-purposing the shoes reduces our carbon footprint, reduces the need for raw materials, and consequently helps protect our environment. If you have any type/size of shoes that you are willing to donate, they can be placed in the donation box across from the chapel. What an easy way to help others.



Adult Bible Class

This summer the Sunday morning Adult Bible Class will discuss a popular critique of the Christian faith that has gone around on the internet. A former pastor has listed 14 objections to traditional Christianity and the Church. We will discuss what we can learn from his critique and how we can respond to these common arguments people make against contemporary American Christianity. Everyone is welcome.



ILCW EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

April 8, 2026



The ILCW Executive Board met April 8 with Sandy Nelsen, Kathy Block, Janet Johannsen via phone, Sharon Daberkow, Jean Whitfield, Julie Vorm and Joyce Folley present. Sandy called meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kathy reported income of \$300 from funeral and \$375 from sale of Easter lilies plus a \$15 donation brings March balance to \$2096.77. A bill of \$37.74 was presented by Jean for salt, pepper, creamer and Dawn soap.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: **Community-**Sharon reported May baskets would be assembled/delivered after the May meeting. Items for the baskets or a monetary donation can be left in the church office. **Mission Quilters-**Five quilts were done at last meeting. **Mon. May 25 is Memorial Day so quilters will meet Tues, May 26 at 9:00 AM.**

OLD BUSINESS: **"Spring Bazaar"** will be June 3 from 11-1 with a picnic theme. Tickets for sale in the church office or at the door for \$15. Country Store, bake sale and quilt sale will begin at 10:30 in the narthex. There being no further business, adjourned to Fellowship Hall for Gathering.

NEW BUSINESS: **Bible School-**will be June 16-19 from 9 AM to noon. ILCW will provide snacks.

Janet Johannsen, Secretary

ILCW GATHERING

Twenty attended. Sandy and Joyce served Danish coffee cake and fruit. The "Spring Bazaar" was discussed and signup sheets were passed around for numerous jobs and food donations. Linda presented humor supplied by Sandy Stormer. Linda also had notes from Our Iowa magazine and Laughing with Lutherans. Becky presented the program 'Growing Up Lutheran—Peeking in the Past.' Church was the main social life of families back in the day. Songs were remembered from Sunday School. It was always exciting to put pennies in a little church bank to celebrate the number of years of your birthday. At one time there were 150 kids in Immanuel attending Sunday School. Confirmation class was Saturday AM for 2-3 hours. Luther League was visiting other churches-getting together with that churches' young people. Thanks Becky for the memories. Cheryl closed with prayers for families and Lord's Prayer in unison closed the meeting.

DATES TO REMEMBER: **MAY 13 ILCW Board 9 am; Gathering 9:30; Linda program--Kathy refreshments MAY 26--Mission Quilters 9 am; BUNCO 2:00**

JUNE 3—SPRING BAZAAR 11:00-1:00

JUNE 10—ILCW BOARD 9 am; Gathering 9:30; Jean program—Julie refreshments

OUR PRAYER LIST: Steve Allen, Phil Miller, Sally Nairn, Shirley Haner, Hertha Haas, Ellie Nelson, Pat Pattison, Phil Smith, Arlynn Gittins, Kayla Weis, Kay Koos, Connie & Ed Benson, 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), Waylon Heth (Friend of Dave and Diana Greve), Howard Jensen (Brother of Dalton Jensen), Jacque Baxter (Sister of 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.

*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*

APRIL COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

The Immanuel Council met April 14 with 8 of 11 members present. Joey Hansen led devotions from Psalm 118:24. Vicki Strissel will lead devotions in May. Dave, Joey, Kirk, Alex, Craig, and Scott volunteered for Deacon on Duty.

Approved minutes of the April 12 congregational meeting which approved a budget amendment to pay for our pastoral intern, Jared Walters.

Treasurer's Report given by Joey Hansen: March income was \$31,589 with expenses of \$26,774 for a net gain of \$4,818. Utilities have been very high. YTD income is \$84,184 and expenses are \$91,041 for a net loss of \$6,857. General fund balance is \$59,904 plus two CDs of \$56,000 totaling \$115,905. Capital Savings account is \$88,280. Refugee Food Aid has \$13,535.

Worship/Evangelism: Discussion about chaos of unsupervised children in the Kid's Comfy Corner and the Playroom. We are grateful for all the children. Suggested some notes for the bulletin. Discussion about encouraging evangelism and inviting the unchurched.

Fellowship/Education: Jam ends their spring session on May 10 and will sing that Sunday. GROW ends on April 29 and will sing on May 3. Graduate Recognition will be May 10 with a breakfast for grads and their families. VBS is set for June 16-18 from 9 to noon for 4-year-olds to 6th graders. Theme will be Camp Creation. May 3 New Member recognition Sunday and also the Immanuel/South Sudan potluck at Prairie Rose Lake.

Outreach/Stewardship: April Mission partners were our church camps. May Mission partner is the Lutheran Church in Estonia.

Property: Ryan Eggers scoped the sewer line and the blockage is right at the street and it is bad. We will need to dig up from the asphalt to the street for a new line and then sleeving under the street. No pavement or asphalt need to be taken up. Cost will be \$27,800 to come from the Capital Savings Fund. Fixed a very leaky faucet in the secret bathroom. Thanks to Seth Johannsen for spotting it.

Executive: Still seeking a person to fill out the final year of a council term. We have asked a second person. No new information on RAGBRAI. We have been asked by the city to let them assign groups, but haven't heard anything. A motion was made and seconded to begin Jared's internship on Thursday, April 16. We will be looking at a possible apartment for Jared and Kaitlyn.

Old Business – Discussion about rides to church. It is included in the updating of Time and Talent sheets.

New Business - ILC has a strong program for women, but not much for men. How can we develop a fellowship program for men? A couple of our homebound members have asked about whether it is possible to see the handbells playing. A second camera can be added to the system, but they are not cheap. Maybe a memorial gift?





Immanuel
Lutheran Church
LCMC
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Harlan, IA 51537

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www.harlanimmanuel.org

Staff:

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

MAY 2026

© AGU RESOURCE CENTER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					 1	2 5:00 Communion 12:30-3:30 4H Workshop
8:00 Choir 9:00 Communion/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 4:30 Scouts 5:00 So. Sudan Potluck 3	4 Theatre Auditions Fellowship 5:30-8:00	5 9:00 CF Quilters 5-9:00 Scouts Districts Theatre Auditions 5:30-8:00 Fellowship 6:00 Worship/Evang.	6	7 9:00-3:30 WIC 10:30 Pastor@Westridge 5:30-8:00 Theatre Auditions	8 10:00 Pastor @ ElmCrest Homeschool Game Club 5:30-8:00	9 5:00 Worship
8:00 Choir 9:00Worship/JAM/ Senior Sunday 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 4:30 Scouts 5:30 Scout Leaders 10	11 Theatre Rehearsals 6:00-8:00 Fellowship	12 9:00 CF Quilters 9:30 Caregivers Compass 10:00 Pastor @ ElmCrest 6:00-8:00 Theatre Rehearsals 6:30 Executive Board 7:00 Church Council	13 9:00 ILCW Board Mtg 9:30 ILCW Gathering 4:00 Women's Bible Stu	14 Theatre rehearsals 6:00-8:00	15 Setup for Angel's Party 5:00-7:00 Will work with anyone on time if the need for something else	16 5:00 Communion 11:00-2:00 Angel Stern's Graduation Party
8:00 Choir 9:00 Communion 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 4:00-7:00 Grant Petersen s Grad Party 17	18 1:00 Mission Quilts Theatre rehearsals 6:00-8:00	19 9:00 CF Quilters Theatre Rehearsals 6:00-8:00 Fellowship	20	21 9:00-3:30 WIC 9:30 Pastor @ Salem Theatre Rehearsals 6:00-8:00 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22	23 9-?? Carly Torneton Grad. Party 5:00 Worship
9:00 Worship/New Member Recognition 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 4:30 Scouts 24	25 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED	26 9:00 CF Quilters 1:00 Mission Quilts 2:00 Bunco	27 5:00 LCMC Picnic Kimballton	28 ASSEMBLE NEWSLETTER	29 Homeschool Game Club 5:30-8:00	30 5:00 Worship
9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 4:30 Scouts 31						

Worship and Fellowship Servants Schedule April-May 2026

	May 9-10	May 16-17	May 23-24	May 30-31	June 6-7
Acolytes	Zoey Olson Maggie Petersen	Harper Petsche Leah Svendsen	Will Chipman Cora Clay	Kolton Jensen Gavin Herbst	Pyper Montgomery Truman Kjergaard
Saturday Greeter/Usher	Rick/Cheryl Andersen	Emmert Andersen	Connie Behrens	Karen Brasch	James Burmeister
Sunday Greeter/Usher	Charlie/Jonelle Conrad	Jim/Joyce Folley	Larry/Nancy Gessman	Galen Grabill Dale Conrad	Kristi/Tim Herbst
(Saturday) Altar Guild		Sandy Nelsen			Cheryl Nielsen
(Sunday) Altar Guild		Kate Petersen Vicki Strissel			Mary Taggs Stacy Torneten
Scripture Reader (Sun)	Hertha Haas	Lois Hansen	Tim Herbst	Janet Johannsen	Steven Lewo
Communion Servers (Sun)		Chris/Jen Booth			Jim/Becky Chipman
Coffee Hosts (Sun)	Cheryl/Rick Chipman	Duane/Vickie Errett	Larry/Peg Haas	Jeff/Erin Hastert	Galan/Janet Johannsen
Sound	DeAnn Nielsen	DeAnn Nielsen	DeAnn Nielsen	DeAnn Nielsen	Alan Ahrenholtz
Video	Grant Chipman	Grant Chipman	Grant Chipman	Grant Chipman	Alan Ahreholtz
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	Alex Monson	Kirk Jacobsen	Craig Olson	Kirk Jacobsen	Scott Shannon