



IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS-October 2026

Tanzanian Happenings



Part 2

In last month's issue of Tanzanian Happenings, we introduced 3 relatively new pastors working in Kidugala. We discussed our visits to the Kidugala Health Center, the primary and secondary schools, and several wells that Immanuel has drilled in the region. This part 2 will cover the meetings with the SOCCOS and AMCOS boards and respond to a question often asked at Immanuel; "Has Kidugala improved its agricultural production in the last several years (at least partially due to Immanuel's influence) and if so, how much".

In a joint meeting we met with the SOCCOS (micro-loans) and AMCOS (cooperative buying and selling) boards. These boards confirmed due to the change of leadership, poorer communication, enhanced fees and the other actions of Iringa Hope that they are both moving away from Iringa Hope. HEKIMA, Kidugala's SOCCOS named after Harlan Immanuel, is doing very well with their loans and membership. The AMCOS of Kidugala is struggling though and is exploring different purchasing and distribution partnerships to service their membership. We are thankful for the assistance that Iringa Hope has given to this project that Immanuel had so much to do with the start of, but we also allow these Kidugala boards to move in directions that they feel is best for their future. We will be speaking with Iringa Hope to gain more information and will continue to monitor how these changes develop.

In tackling the often-asked question of how Kidugala has improved on agricultural production, I can best answer that by pulling information from the 2026 travel teams interviews with three maize (white corn) producers. Agricultural production in the Kidugala region is diverse with maize, edible beans, sunflowers, avocados, vegetables, chickens, pigs, and bits of cattle, fish, dairy and a few other products. Even though Immanuel has done some work with pig production in Kidugala, maize is by far the number one crop and enhancing maize and bean production has been the focus at this point.

A bit of a recap; Immanuel started working with Iringa Hope in 2010 and they agreed to collaborate with us to bring advanced maize and bean production classes and ideas to Kidugala. After first turning us down because we were 4 hours away, they agreed to travel to Kidugala 6 times per year and deliver classes on tillage, planting technic, fertility, pest control, storage and marketing in maize and beans. Those classes continued for 6 years at a cost of \$3000/ year to Immanuel. So, we interviewed three good maize producers that have been involved with this program either from the start or shortly after. One must realize that not all producers have taken advantage of this educational opportunity, but Immanuel has had 10-12 display plots at each of the preaching points that the congregants assist with each year from 2015 thru 2026 hoping that the newer production practices would continue to spread throughout the region and thus greatly increase the production. This was done in conjunction with access to micro loans, which assisted them with the financing needed to buy the additional crop inputs needed.

Here is the summary of the interviews:

Asking those interviewed about their maize yields in 2010 the common response was 40 -50 tins (their unit of measurement) per acre, that is equivalent to 24-30 bushels/ acre. This yield had been relatively constant for decades being topped out by our friends saving their own seed from the previous year's crop and the use of very little fertilizer. When asked about the year 2026 yield they replied it is very good, but they hadn't finished their harvest. So, we asked them to respond to the question of what the yield was in 2025, which wasn't a very good year for maize yields due to untimely rains. The response for 2025 was 80 to 120 tins/ acre (48-72 bushels/ acre) with a top of 180 tins/ acre (108 bushels/ acre). I believe that as our friends in Kidugala continue, they can still push their maize yields, but the improvement from 40 to 120 tins or 24 to 72 bushels/ acre is a tremendous improvement. I see the stage set for further improvement in their production. Not if, but when their yields hit 250 tins/ acre I will try to inform Immanuel.

Part 3 or Tanzanian Happenings will explain the discussion involved in cooperatively building a vocational school in Kidugala. Stay tuned.

Rick

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for the recognition of the 35th anniversary of my ordination. 35 years ago, I was in my first month of serving as a pastor. Everything was new to me. The job description was pretty straightforward: lead worship and preach the Gospel of Jesus; teach the faith and care for people; baptize, marry, and bury; oversee the administration of the congregation; and so on. Seminary had given me lots of good ideas about pastoral ministry, but I still had lots to learn. 35 years of serving 3 great congregations has taught me a lot. I have learned a lot from faithful church members and I have learned a lot from my own mistakes.

I hope that I have served with some of the same joy and enthusiasm that my pastor displayed in his ministry. I hope that I have preached and taught in a way that has communicated the joy and the wonder of the good news of Jesus. And I hope that I will continue to learn more about following and serving Jesus.

The ministry of the Word is a great privilege and joy. It is also a heavy burden. Every church I have served has struggled with declining membership and participation. At times it feels like nothing we do really matters. But I am still convinced that the Gospel is the power to save. And I feel a heavy responsibility to deliver it faithfully.

It is tempting to judge faithfulness by the numbers, but the Kingdom of God has never been about numbers and worldly success. Jesus told parables like the Parable of the Sower to say that the Kingdom of God comes stealthily and mysteriously. The Kingdom of God came through the cross which was judged by the world to be a complete failure. We can have hope that even when it seems that our efforts are not all that successful, the Word of God still works like seeds hidden in the soil.

Yours in Christ, Phil Nielsen

Worship in October 2026

October 3-4	Two Become One Genesis 2:15-25	Communion
October 10-11	The Rebellion Genesis 3:1-8	Bells
October 17-18	Abraham, Friend of God Genesis 22:1-14	Communion
October 24-25 Reformation/Confirmation	The Reforming Church John 8:31-36	Confirmation Choir

ILC Fall Olympics



All are invited to the ILC Fall Olympics on Sunday, October 11, from 2 to 4 p.m. Everyone is invited to participate or just to spectate as teams vie for the gold in events like volleyball, shuffleboard, foosball, table tennis, cornhole, and "stump the pastor." Concessions will be available for free.

First Communion Class



First Communion Class is offered to 5th graders and other young people to help them prepare for receiving their first Communion. Parents are encouraged to join them for the classes which will meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 October 14, 21, and 28.



James Burmeister will be 85 on October 10
 Phil Miller will be 83 on October 13
 Carl Nielsen will be 82 on October 13
 Sandy Nelsen will be 82 on October 16
 Wayne Nelson will be 78 on October 20
 Linda Norgaard will be 87 on October 21
 Orvetta Priest will be 82 on October 29



OUR PRAYER LIST: Al Ickes, Harry Priest, Gayl Jensen, Dwayne Larsen, Judy and Dave Pedersen, Phil Miller, Shirley Haner, Ellie Nelson, Ruthe and Pat Pattison, Phil Smith, Arlynn Gittins, Kay Koos, Connie & Ed Benson, Annette Meyer (Ryan Meyer's mother), Amanda Davidson (Lois Hansen's granddaughter), Jeann Nelson (Julie Vorm's sister), Larry Andersen (Connie Behrens' brother), Gail 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), Rowly Burton (Friend of Dave and Diana Greve), Roy Hicks (Karen Plewes' stepson), and Marilyn Torgersen (Judi Pedersen's sister).



Allan and Myrna Andersen will be married 58 years on October 5
 Ken and Carolyn Hursey will be married 59 years on October 7
 Warren and Sue Grummert will be married 59 years on October 28
 Rick and Cheryl Chipman will be married 50 years on October 29

Confirmation Sunday, October 26

On Sunday, October 26, we will celebrate the confirmation of faith of 4 young people: Will Chipman (son of Eric and Hope Chipman), Kolton Jensen (son of Dan and Krista Jensen and Susan Jensen), Gavin Herbst (son of Tim and Kristi Herbst), Zoey Olson (daughter of Julie Olson). Here are some of their thoughts on their faith:

Will Chipman: "Christians are called to live as disciples of Jesus by praising and worshipping God. The Holy Spirit has brought me to faith by showing me the glory of God. I seek to follow Jesus because he saved me."

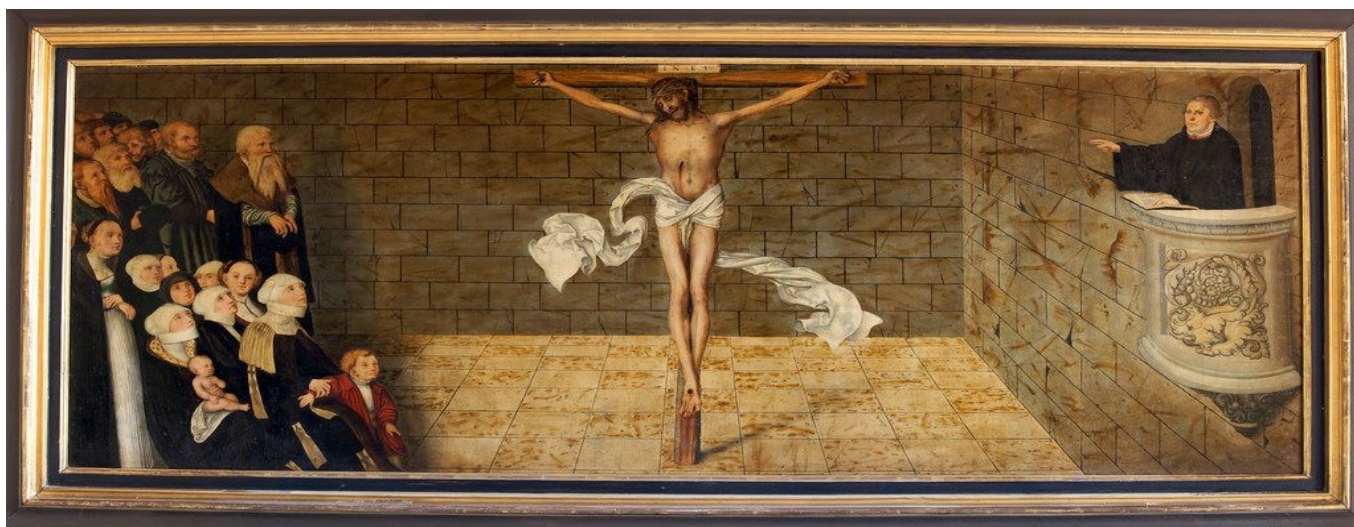
Gavin Herbst: "What makes me and you a Christian is believing in Jesus Christ. And believing that he came to earth, lived a perfect life, and then died on the cross for us."

I believe in Jesus because I see what he has done all around me and in me. I seek and follow Jesus because he is my friend and I want to get closer to him."

Kolton Jensen: "I believe there has to be a reason we're here. There is no way particles from space created everything. When I was at church camp the second to last night our counselor prayed for me and I felt Christ in me so that really made me believe in Christ."

Zoey Olson: "Being a Christian is all about believing in God and following Jesus. It means having a personal relationship with God, believing Jesus is God's Son who showed us how to live and offered a way to be close to God."





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

This painting is a part of the Reformation Altarpiece at St. Mary's Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Its meaning is theologically deep, but it should comfort our hearts. Starting with what we obviously see, we look at who is on the cross; He showed his love for those who followed him in the past and shows his love now. We see Jesus hanging from two pieces of wood. Nails running through his hands and his feet, a gash in his abdomen, and thorns across his brow.¹ Then you see the crowd of people listening, not just any people; it is men, women, and children.² Then we look at Luther. One hand on the Bible, and the other pointing to Christ.³ There is nothing else in this image. It's that simple. When I was a child and looked at Jesus' picture, I never understood what he did for us. I was too naive, but now that I know, I feel torn. I feel remorse for things that happened to him 2000 years ago. I regret what I have done in the past; I feel sorry for what others have done and what we might do in the future. The thing is that we can't help it; sin will always look good to the sinner, and we are the sinner. If you remember my sermon about Christ as our fortress, you will remember me mentioning that the devil's intentions are to disguise evil as something that only appears good.⁴ Focus your attention on Jesus; he is hanging on the cross because he wanted to call us his own. Look at the crowd; who has their attention? It is surely not Luther, but it is Christ. Luther is pointing to him and holding his hand on what proclaims the good that we can accept: the gospel that will heal our broken hearts.⁵ What makes this special to me is the placement of the painting. Christ is in between the preacher and the people, with all their eyes on Christ.⁶ The preacher does not replace Christ but rather proclaims what he did. The people don't gather around a great personality; they gather so that they might hear about Jesus. Jesus died on a cross, suffered the punishment of our sins, and when he rose from the dead, he ascended into heaven; he forgave the sins of the world and called us to faith in him.⁷ But if we are sinners, we will forget everything good in us. That is why we must continually fight temptation to one day live with him.

Yours in Christ,

Jared Walters

WORLD'S BEST INTERN

¹ 1 Corinthians 1:23 & 2:2; Galatians 6:14; John 3:14-15; 1 Peter 2:24

² Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 2:42; Colossians 3:16; Romans 12:4-5

³ Romans 10:17; 1 Corinthians 2:2 & 3:5-7; 2 Corinthians 5:20

⁴ Genesis 3:1-6; 2 Corinthians 11:14; Isaiah 5:20; Matthew 4:1-11

⁵ Ephesians 2:8-10; Galatians 2:20 & 5:6; Titus 3:4-8

⁶ 1 Timothy 2:5; John 14:6; 1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:20

⁷ 1 Peter 2:24; 1 John 2:2; Luke 23:46-47; John 3:16



ILCW EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

September 9, 2026

The ILCW Executive Board met September 9 with Sandy Nelsen, Kathy Block, Janet Johannsen, Sharon Daberkow, Jean Whitfield and Julie Vorm present. Sandy called meeting to order at 9 AM.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes from the August meeting were reviewed. Julie motioned and Kathy seconded to approve. Ayes all.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kathy reported a check of \$20.33 was issued to Jean for kitchen supplies. A refund from Stone Printing of \$305.60 was received because of their error in printing napkins. Donations received from Shirley Knudsen of \$526 and \$100 from Clemons funeral brought August ending balance to \$6417.29. There were no bills.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: **Hospitality-**91 cards have been sent since January 2026.

OLD BUSINESS: **Women's Day Away-Saturday Oct 17—9:00 to 5:45:** Retreat at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp. Info posted on narthex bulletin board.

Christmas Child Shoeboxes: Julie urged to keep collecting for shoeboxes which will be due in November. A program Sept. 26 in Council Bluffs with information about the boxes will be presented. If interested, contact Julie on place and time.

NEW BUSINESS: **October meeting** will be "Uplifting Experience" contest. See Julie **ASAP** for information and supplies. Entries to be collected at the October meeting.

CHRISTMAS TEA: **Saturday Dec 5--10 AM to Noon.** Group A in charge. Get started on your "hand work"—no quilts this time.

Bunco Sept 22-2:00 Mission Quilters Sept 21--1:00 Oct 14-Gathering -Julie program-Linda

ILCW

The October gathering will be on Wednesday Oct. 14th at 9:30 in the fellowship hall. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Julie will be presenting a program on this topic. Also the winner of the "Uplifting Competition" will be announced. If you would consider wearing something pink to the meeting. Linda has the lunch for the morning so look forward to that!



ILCW: T and J Breakfast Tea Social

November 11, 2026

9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

Hope to see Many in attendance!



WORSHIP & GIVING

	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>GENERAL</u>	<u>REFUGEES</u>
August 29-30	29 + 125 = 154	\$ 4013.00	\$ 70.00
September 5-6	22 + 116 = 138	\$ 5722.00	\$ 750.00
September 12-13	22 + 128 = 150	\$ 3565.00	\$ 70.00
September 19-20	18 + 121 = 139	\$ 3281.00	\$ 160.00

Sharing Cupboard (Food Pantry) \$105.00

Direct Deposit \$336.00 + \$2057.00

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



November is the month to have our shoe boxes packed and turned in. They will soon be available to pick up or you can use a shoe box or plastic container the size of a shoe box. Think about your child or grandchild and what they would like to find a shoe box when they open it. Let's all pray about this mission and get shopping and fill these boxes for a child in need.

CAREGIVER'S COMPASS



Meets on the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be at 9:30 on October 13 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.

SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

The Immanuel Council met September 8 with 11 of 12 members present. Vicki led on Philippians 4:8 and the difference between our circumstances and our response. Alex will lead devotions in October.

Vicki, Todd, Eric, Alex, Kirk, Craig, and Scott volunteered for council member Sunday duties.

Treasurer's Report (Joey Hansen)

July income was \$20,569 and expenses were \$24,809 leaving a net loss of \$4,239.

August income was \$19,655 and expenses were \$27,963 leaving a net loss of \$8,307.

Year to date is a net loss of \$12,266.

The Capital Savings Account paid out \$32,560 for the sewer repair project. Balance now stands at \$59,745.

General fund balance is \$56,788 plus \$56,849 in CDs which includes \$15,920 designated for the Refugee Food Aid Fund which continues to spend \$2000 each month.

Worship/Evangelism (Amy Kaster and Alex Monson)

We welcome Aubrey Petsche who is serving as our worship pianist in place of Sharon Davidson.

We welcome Dan McElwain who is serving as choir accompanist in place of Sharon Davidson.

Our sanctuary projector system is down and we are working at getting it prepared.

We are planning for another guest organist and recital for next spring.

Fellowship/Education (Kirk Jacobsen and Eric Chipman)

Discussion about a Fall Fellowship event (ILC Olympics?)

Discussion about a Men's Fellowship group.

Outreach/Stewardship (Dave Greve and Shane Pitts)

August Mission Partner was Open Door Mission in Omaha.

September Mission Partner was 2 LCMC-affiliated seminaries (ILT and Master's Institute)

Property (Todd Madsen)

Planting of a memorial tree was discussed.

Roof inspection report was received.

Spraying of the yard will be contracted.

Executive (Scott Shannon)

Eric Chipman and Amy Kaster will serve on nominating committee.

Karma Petersen will be retiring from financial secretary team.

Pastor – Allan Warner was accepted in ILC membership.

Old Business – Worship Committee is asked to propose preparation for an increase in Communion frequency.





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LCMC
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Staff:

Pastor Phil Nielsen

Intern Jared Walters

Office Manager: Diana Greve

Custodian: Slava Aleev

OCTOBER 2026

© AGU RESOURCE CENTER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 9:00-3:30 WIC 10:30 Pastor @ Westridge	2 10:30 Pastor @ ElmCrest	3 5:00 Communion
4 8:00 Choir 9:00 Communion/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 4:30 Scouts LCMC Convention	5 10:30-12:30 SCUW 6:00-7:30 Girls Scouts LCMC Convention	6 9:00 CF Quilters 5:00-9:00 Scouts District LCMC Convention	7 3:30 GROW 4:00 Women's Bible Stu 5:30 Bells 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 First Communion 6:30 LYO LCMC Convention	8	9 Homeschool Game Club 5:30-8:00	10 5:00 Worship
11 8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 2:00-4:00 ILC Fall Olympics 4:30 Scouts 5:30 Scout Leaders	12	13 9:00 CF Quilters 9:30 Caregivers Compass 10:30 Pastor @ ElmCrest 6:30 Executive Board 7:00 Church Council	14 9:00 ILCW Board mtg. 9:30 ILCW Gathering 3:30 GROW 4:00 Women's Bible Stu 5:30 Bells 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 First Communion 6:30 LYO	15 9:00-3:30 WIC 9:30 Pastor @ Salem	16	17 5:00 Communion
18 8:00 Choir 9:00 Communion/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 4:30 Scouts	19 No Mission Quilts 6:00-7:30 Girls Scouts	20 9:00 CF Quilters 10:00 Pastor @ Hansen House 6:00 Worship Comm.	21 NO SCHOOL 4:00 Women's Bible Stu 5:30 Bells 6:30 First Communion	22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	23 Homeschool Game Club 5:30-8:00	24 5:00 Worship
25 8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 4:30 Scouts	26	27 9:00 CF Quilters 2:00 Bunco	28 3:30 GROW 4:00 Women's Bible Stu 5:30 Bells 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 LYO	29 ASSEMBLE NEWSLETTER	30	31  REFORMATION DAY 5:00 Communion

Worship and Fellowship Servants Schedule October-November 2026

	October 10-11	October 17-18	October 24-25	October 31-November 1	November 7-8
Acolytes	Harper Petsche Karsen Donahoo	Leah Svendsen Charlie Osborn	Cora Clay Camden King	Truman Kjergaard Easton Langer	Pyper Montgomery Abigail Meiners
Saturday Greeter/Usher	Linda Christensen	Warren & Sue Grummert	Maggie Hatcher	Darlene Hess	Al & Bonnie Ickes
Sunday Greeter/Usher	Chris & Jen Booth	Pam Borkowski Marty Burchett	Marilyn Burger Julie Vorm	Ken & Vickie Carstens	Rick & Cheryl Chipman
(Saturday) Altar Guild		Kayla Jacobs		Sandy Nelsen	
(Sunday) Altar Guild		Samantha Allen Cora Chapman		Hope Chipman Peg Haas	
Scripture Reader (Sun)	Lois Hansen	Nancy Ludwig	Elaine Miller	Alex Monson	Verne Nelson
Communion Servers (Sun)		Megan Shannon Kayla Weis		Lindsey Vorm Allan Warner	
Coffee Hosts (Sun)	Jeff & Erin Hastert	Shane & Liz Pitts	Callie Retallic Sandy Nelsen	LaVera & Katie Stern	Rich & Sharon Daberkow
Sound	Seth Johannsen	Seth Johannsen	Seth Johannsen	Kayla Weis	Kayla Weis
Video	Mark Schechinger	Mark Schechinger	Mark Schechinger	Dave Greve	Dave Greve
Projection	Kaitlyn Walters (Sat) Teri Johnson (Sun)	Kaitlyn Walters (Sat) Teri Johnson (Sun)	Kaitlyn Walters (Sat) Teri Johnson (Sun)	Kaitlyn Walters (Sat) Teri Johnson (Sun)	Kaitlyn Walters (Sat) Teri Johnson (Sun)
Council Person	Alex Monson	Vicki Strissel	Todd Madsen	Eric Chipman	Alex Monson