



# IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS



## Tanzania Happenings

The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Immanuel's partnership with Kidugala is upon us. In the last 20 years Immanuel has had members in Kidugala numerous times to help develop a strong relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ in southern Tanzania. Patty Allen, Pastor Phil and I returned recently from the trip that marked the 16<sup>th</sup> trip that Immanuel's travelers have made since 2005 with the years 2006, 2018, and COVID years as skip years. While in Kidugala we took part in a celebration to dedicate one of Kidugala's preaching points, Masalwa, as a full parish. They have been working on this for nearly 10 years and finally it was dedicated on the Sunday that we were there. It was a huge celebration with the bishop in all his attire, 20 some pastors in their white vestments, 8 choirs and a brass band. They dedicated the new church office and the church. At the church service we were asked to introduce ourselves and Pastor Phil spoke on how thrilled we were to be connected to Masalwa and the Kidugala parish and to be here during this great three-hour celebration. It was a fun time to be able to visit with friends from all over the region that we had met throughout the years.

Throughout the trip we had many great conversations and meetings. We spoke with primary and secondary school headmasters about their schools, our educational projects and the needs surrounding them. We addressed the administration of the Kidugala Lutheran Seminary, the highly respected secondary school that students from all over Tanzania attend but very few from Kidugala. They reiterated their thanks for bringing good water to their school and for supporting 6 bright students into the seminary with scholarships in a new educational project started this year. We visited with them about their new alumni program and their plans for the future of the seminary. We also visited with the leadership of the Kidugala Bible School, which is a highly rated school teaching pastors and evangelists for service in the Gospel. It was a great discussion centered mainly on the need to train more evangelists to serve in the kingdom. We met with the Kidugala evangelists which is always a highlight for the travelers. That is where we get a chance to speak of the community and preaching point needs. Many items were discussed including water needs, evangelists training, vocational training, possible modifications to educational support programs that we have had in place for over a decade plus new projects to name just a few of the discussions.

We only had a chance to visit the last two wells that were drilled by Immanuel and friends. All involved wanted us to send many thanks back to Immanuel. There certainly is still need for water with the Bible school being probably the location with the biggest need.

We traveled to Palangavanu where we met with a former pastor of Kidugala, Pastor Sebastian. We visited their school for students with disabilities and enjoyed hearing about their hopes of the future expanding that service to handle children of disabilities to a wider community. It was a great conversation.

We ventured to Njombe which is a regular event to do a bit of shopping for items for the TZ auction held each winter and visit the bishop. One might think the trip to the bishop would be a bit dry, but he loves Immanuel and what Immanuel is doing in the southern diocese of Tanzania, so the conversation is quite entertaining.

The second to the last meeting that we had was with HEKEMA (the microloan SOCCOS) and the Kidugala AMCOS (the cooperative organization). HEKEMA is doing well and quite active, but AMCOS is struggling. This is concerning to see this struggle since in 2010 Immanuel was instrumental in bringing Iringa Hope (which the SOCCOS and AMCOS are a part of) to Kidugala and in 2019 Immanuel helped bring Iringa Hope to the southern TZ diocese. We have reached out to the former manager of Iringa Hope who did a great job and asked her to help us identify any weaknesses and to strategize how they may be addressed to get them thriving again.

The last get together was a farewell with Pastor Wallace (the superintendent of the Seminary and Bible school and the person who manages our well drilling projects on that end) and his leadership team. This get together had a lot of laughs and gift giving. The next morning, we were ready to leave Kidugala at 3:00 AM. A short night, but a great trip. It was good to meet friends, pray with them, collaborate on projects and share life in Christ together. The people of Kidugala and Immanuel's Tanzania Committee are so thankful for the support that members and friends of Immanuel have given this fruitful international mission in enhancing the life and faith of those involved at both ends. The Gospel is spread as we work together as one.

Asante Sana (thank you very much)

Rick



Dear Friends in Christ,

I am grateful to you for allowing me to travel to Ethiopia and Tanzania this past month. And I thank the Danish Dolls for paying for my airfare with proceeds from the Aebelskiver Dinners.

The trip to Ethiopia didn't go exactly as planned as we were unable to get permission to enter the refugee camps. We were, however, able to meet with 19 Mabaan people who live in the refugee camps in Ethiopia near the border of South Sudan. We were able to ask questions and hear them talk about what life is like in the camps. We were also able to share our hopes for our relationship with those in the camps.

The elders who met with us expressed their gratitude for our interest in providing food assistance. They were clearly very happy that someone from America was taking interest in their lives. They feel stuck between their homeland which is in the midst of violent political conflict and the rest of the world which seems to have no place for them. Some have been able to escape the camps, but those exits are not very open right now.

Ethiopia, the United Nations, and NGOs (non-governmental organizations) are trying to provide some assistance to the refugees, but it is not enough. Monthly food rations last only two weeks and sometimes come late. A doctor writes prescriptions, but there is no medicine available in the camp and no money to buy medications from the nearest town. There are schools, but the teachers aren't well trained. There is farmland, but no money to rent it and buy seed and no legal guarantee that the refugees can actually harvest what they grow. There is water to drink, but it is river water and not very safe to drink.

What we are giving is just a small gesture of support. There are well over 20,000 people in these two camps. But it is possible that we are the only Church doing anything for them at this point. Having met the leaders who are trying to help us bring food to the hungry in these camps, I trust that they will do the best that they can. But there is no way we can satisfy all who are hungry with only \$1000 worth of food each month.

I am very grateful to all who have donated toward our refugee food aid fund. We have received over \$11,000 this year. We will be sending \$1000 each month and maybe more going forward as we assess the income to the fund. It is a small gesture, but it is also a gesture of hope. The hope is that our Mabaan friends in the camps can work with the Ethiopian government and some NGOs so that we can also supply funds that will support the drilling of wells and the renting and farming of land.

It seems to me that the Holy Spirit has called us to this work of compassion. Compassion is a blessing both to those who receive it and to those who give it. I pray that this relationship will be a blessing to us all.

Yours in Christ, *Phil Nielsen*

## Worship in September 2025

Date:	Message:	
September 6-7 Pentecost 13	"Power and Weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:1-10)	Communion Bibles for Students JAM begins for children
September 13-14 Pentecost 14	"Joyful Prayer" (Philippians 1:1-11)	
September 20-21 Pentecost 15	"Unstoppable" (Philippians 1:12-18)	Communion
September 27-28 Pentecost 16	"Lives Worthy of the Gospel" (Philippians 1:18-30)	

**Happy Birthday to the following:**

Roger Schwieso will be 90 on September 1

Pat Pattison will be 93 on September 7

Roger Christensen will be 86 on September 14

Betty Larsen will be 83 on September 18

Kay Koos will be 85 on September 25

Ken Carstens will be 80 on September 26

Hertha Haas will be 92 on September 26

Pat Schug will be 82 on September 26

Connie Schwieso will be 80 on September 30

**Happy Anniversary to:**

Lyle and Connie Behrens will celebrate their 56th anniversary September 20th

**OUR SYMPATHY** to the family of Bert Hillers who died on August 18. His visitation will be here at Immanuel Sunday, August 24 from 2-4. Funeral will be Monday, August 25 at 11:00 at Immanuel.



**Our Sympathy** to the family of Shirley Knudtson who died on July 28. Her Funeral was at Immanuel on Saturday, August 2.

**ON OUR PRAYER LIST:** Sherry Lytle, Ellie Nelson, Linda Christensen, Ruthe & Pat Pattison, Dave Pedersen, Phil Smith, Arlynn Gittins, Kayla Weis, Kay Koos, Connie & Ed 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, Julie and Lee Kaufman (father and mother of Kayla Weis and Mary Hoch), Larry Gittins.

Jared Walters, Jesse Hansen, Christian Brownlee and Titan Coleman (Dave Pedersen's great grandson) serving in the Iowa National Guard on deployment.

For those who would like to write to Jared Walters and Jesse Hansen there addresses are:

SPC Walters, Jared  
Task Force Elkhound  
D Co. I-168 IN BN  
LSA Hooligan  
APO AE 09316



SGT Jesse Hansen  
TF Nyala, 2/34 IBCT  
APO, AE 09330

**Thank you** on behalf of the Catherine Glenn family, to all those who called, texted, sent cards, memorials or said a silent prayer for our family at the time of Mom's death and funeral. We'd especially like to thank Pastor Phil for the wonderful funeral service at the Grand Junction, Iowa, United Methodist Church on Saturday, July 19.

God bless,

Mark Glenn & Tricia McCarty (Albuquerque, NM)

Marcia & Mark Winder (Skiatook, OK)

Gary & Sara Glenn (Iowa City, IA)

Sharon & Randy Kroger (Harlan, IA)

Mike & Deb Glenn (Omaha, NE)



**The Hallelujah Open!** is being revived and revised. Instead of a competition between churches, it will be a 4-person best ball scramble for members and friends of Immanuel. We will golf at the North Course on Sunday, September 14, at 2:00 p.m. Sign up as individuals or as teams. Also, if you have a cart to use or a cart to loan, please sign up on the list of carts available. Come enjoy fellowship on the golf course.

**Tax-Efficient Charitable Giving Strategies Based on Your Age**

Depending on your age and the types of accounts you hold, there are several ways to maximize the impact of your charitable giving while minimizing your tax burden. Here are three key strategies to consider:

**1. If you are under age 70½ and have appreciated investments**

Strategy: Donate appreciated securities from a taxable brokerage account directly to the charity without cashing them out.

Advantages:

- By donating long-term appreciated investments directly to a qualified charity, you avoid paying capital gains tax on the appreciation.

If you itemize deductions, you can deduct the full fair market value of the donated asset (up to 30% of your adjusted gross income).

**2. If you are over age 70½ and eligible for Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)**

Strategy: Make Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) directly from an IRA.

Advantages:

- QCDs (up to \$108,000 per year per person) are not included in your taxable income.
- QCDs reduce your adjusted gross income which can lead to fewer taxes on Social Security benefits and lower Medicare premiums.

You get the tax benefit even if you take the standard deduction.

Ideal for: IRA owners over age 70½ who want a simple, tax-efficient way to give to charity.

**3. If you are RMD age and must take Required Minimum Distributions from your IRA**

Strategy: Use QCDs to satisfy all or part of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

Advantage:

QCDs count toward your RMD but are not taxed, unlike regular RMDs.

Ideal for: Retirees subject to RMDs looking to reduce taxes while giving generously.

Note: Beginning in the 2026 tax year, the IRS will allow non-itemizers to deduct cash/check donations to charity up to \$1000 for single filers and \$2000 for couples filing jointly.

These strategies require careful planning and timely execution—especially QCDs, which must go directly from your IRA to the charity to qualify. Talk with your financial advisor or tax professional to see which approach fits best with your goals. Any questions about how to use these strategies to give to Immanuel, talk to Melanie Ohms or Pastor Phil.

**WORSHIP & GIVING**

	<u>Attendance</u>				<u>General</u>	<u>Refugee</u>
<b>August 2-3</b>	0	+	115	= 115	\$ 3975.00	\$ 410.00
<b>August 9-10</b>	19	+	97	= 116	\$ 4975.00	\$ 50.00
<b>August 16-17</b>	24	+	120	= 144	\$ 3601.00	\$ 270.00

Building \$20.00



### ILCW HARVEST BAZAAR/LUNCHEON NEEDS OCTOBER 15 11:00-1-00

- If you have extra green peppers or onions in your garden, that are ingredients for our casserole, they would be appreciated. They can be left in the church office.
- Craft items for the Country Store and items for the bake sales. We know that we have GREAT bakers.
  - Bake a Harvest Cake. Recipes are available in the office.
- Make a jello salad, purchase bags of coleslaw mix, Hidden Valley Coleslaw dressing, 16 oz. Cool Whip.

Workers the day of the bazaar.



**FREE ITEMS** Make sure you check out the free books, videos, etc. outside the Library.



**ILC REFUGEE FUND** welcomes gifts to provide food to refugees from South Sudan in the Sherkole Camp in Ethiopia. If you would like to participate regularly in this project, there is a small form available to register your estimated intention so that we can budget our funds consistently. Completed forms may be turned in to the church office. Or you can call or email the office with your estimate of giving.



**CAREGIVERS COMPASS** will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Our next gathering will be September 9th at 9:30 am at Immanuel Lutheran Church. 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.

Contact: Elaine Miller 712-579--0925, Joyce Folley 712-579-1837, or Jan Applegate 712-579-2160.





## ILCW

**ILCW EXECUTIVE BOARD****August 13, 2025**

The ILCW Executive Board met Wednesday Aug 13 in the narthex with Sandy Nelsen, Kathy Block, Janet Johannsen, Sharon Daberkow, Jean Whitfield, Julie Vorm and Sally Nairn present. Sandy called meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Sharon motioned to approve, Jean seconded. Ayes all.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Kathy reported receipts of \$250 from Havick and Towne funerals bringing July balance to \$2335.32. Jean presented a bill for \$80.42 for cleaning supplies to clean out 2 refrigerators and for batting for a quilt that will be for sale at the Harvest Bazaar. Sandy motioned to approve the bill and Sharon seconded.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** **Community:** Sharon reported that bingo was not held July 8 at Elm Crest because of Covid. **Hospitality:** Sandy reported that Jonelle has sent out 102 cards this year. **Kitchen:** Jean did extensive cleaning of 2 refrigerators after the big frig was repaired and items were removed from small frig back to kitchen frig.

**NEW BUSINESS: "Women's Day Away"** will take place at Ingham Lake Bible Camp, October 11, 2025. "Seeing Joy Every Day" is theme with guest speaker Kari Lantz from Lytton IA. There will be wonderful discussion sessions, banquet meal, worship and free time. Free time options are pontoon rides, crafts, nature walk and pampering stations. Registration forms are on the bulletin board.

**Harvest Bazaar** tickets/posters will be available at September ILCW Gathering along with sign-up sheets to provide Harvest Cake and other items for the meal. Bakers and crafters should be working on items for the Country Store and Bake Sale.

**Christmas Tea** on December 6, "Winter Wonderland Wedding Dress Review" will be hosted by Group B.

**Upcoming Events:** Mission Quilters Monday Sept 29 1:00. Bunco Tuesday Sept. 23 2:00. Next ILCW Gathering Sept 10 at 9:30: Becky Chipman program—Linda Mosher refreshments.

We adjourned and set up for the Special 5:15 Gathering with Charcuterie table refreshments. Twenty-four in attendance. Elaine Miller told of Caregivers Support meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues each month, 9:30 at the church. Cheryl Chipman told of Hilda coming from Tanzania Aug 20-Sept 4. She's a retired school teacher, speaking English and asked for volunteers to invite Hilda to different events or even family gatherings for her to experience life in the US. Becky Chipman informed us that Kelly Mure, who was a refugee at the age of 6, will be speaking of her life experiences at the Sept 10 Gathering. Linda Mosher read about Ole & Lena—laughter is good for the soul! Vicki Carstens had 4 really fun activities that challenged our minds. We also found out something about each of us that no one else knows (like who has ridden in a privately owned Lear jet? Who is 13th once removed a cousin to Princess Diana? And who was a belly dance instructor at one time? What happens at the Gathering stays at the Gathering. ☺ A fun evening enjoyed by all.

Janet Johannsen, Secretary



## AUGUST COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

The Immanuel Council met August 12 with 9 of 12 members present. Eric Chipman led devotions reflecting on tiredness and depletion. He prayed for those who are weary of life. September devotions will be led by Dave Greve.

Scott Shannon, John Taggs, Kirk Jacobsen, Todd Madsen, Joey Hansen, Eric Chipman, and Craig Olson volunteered for Sunday council duties.

**Treasurer's Report:** July income was \$24,981 and expenses were \$18,480 for a gain of \$6,501. YTD income is \$177,630 and expenses are \$165,851 for a gain of \$11,779. General Fund balance is \$84,241 plus \$25,000 totaling \$109,241 and the Capital Savings balance is at \$83,167. Tanzania Account is at \$66,365. \$11,573 has been donated for refugee food.

**Property:** Wiring is in place for HVAC. Main refrigerator is repaired. Clay Amado finished the waxing the floors. He would like a contract for maintenance.

**Executive** – It was suggested that we could install a key pad entry door by the kitchen so that we would not need to loan out so many outside door keys.

**Pastor's Report** – A request for a 4:00 p.m. wedding on December 27. That would cancel our Saturday evening service that evening. Phil will consult with the Saturday evening regulars. Pastor recommended Pam Borkowski and Samantha Allen as new members. Approved.



## Fall Educational Programs



**JAM** (Jesus and Me) begins Sunday, September 7. Children 3 years old up through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are invited to join the JAM team after the children's sermon. Thank you to Ken, Andrea, Jolie, and Ivy Nielsen for continuing to lead JAM. Your service to our little ones is a blessing to us all.

**GROW** (God Rocks our Wednesdays) begins Wednesday, September 3, from 3:30 to 5:00 for students in grades 3 through 6. The goal of GROW is to introduce students to the Bible as the story of God's plan to save the world.

**CONFIRMATION** begins Wednesday, September 3, for 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from 5:30 to 6:30. This year students will be studying the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer. The goal of the class is to prepare students to make a public affirmation of faith in Jesus and commitment to his Church.

**LYO** (Lutheran Youth Organization) begins Wednesday, September 3, from 6:30 to 8:00 for high school students. The goal of LYO is to provide high school students a community of faith that will encourage them to keep following Jesus.

**YOUTH** instrumentalists are invited to join together to work on music to share in worship. It will include solos and ensembles and accompaniments for some hymns. Ryan Meyer will lead this group. Stay tuned for the organizational meeting this fall.



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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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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: Diana Greve

Custodian: Slava Aleev

# September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		9:00 CF Quilters 6:00-9:00 Boy Scouts District 7:30 Fellowship & Ed. Committee	3:30 Grow 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 LYO			5:00 Communion
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:00 Choir 9:00 Communion/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts		9:00 CF Quilters 9:30 Caregivers Compass 6:30 Executive Board 7:00 Church Council	9:00 ILCW Board Meeting 9:30 ILCW Gathering 3:30 GROW 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 LYO			5:00 Worship
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 2:00 Hallelujah Open! 5:00 Boy Scouts		9:00 CF Quilters	5:15 Bell	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		5:00 Communion
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:00 Choir 9:00 Communion/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	6:00 TZ Team	9:00 CF Quilters 2:00 Bunco	3:30 GROW 4:00 Women's Bible Study 5:15 Bells 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 LYO	ASSEMBLE NEWSLETTER		5:00 Worship
28	29	30				
8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	1:00 Mission Quilters	9:00 CF Quilters				

# Worship and Fellowship Servants Schedule

	September 13-14	September 20-21	September 27-28	October 4-5	October 11-12
Acolytes	Harper Petsche Leah Svendsen	Rex Swanson Abbey Brue	Collin Burchett Will Chipman	Cora Clay Trinity Haas	Gavin Herbst Kolton Jensen
Saturday Greeter/Usher	Orvetta Priest	Terry & Shelly Saunders	Pat Schug	Deb Strendrup	Emmert Anderson
Saturday Altar Guild		Sandy Nelsen		Cheryl Nielsen	
Sunday Greeters/Usher	Mindy & Owen Neve	Neil & Melanie Ohms	Kevin & Jahde Osborn	Dylan & Katie Petersen	John & Gaylen Petsche
Sunday Altar Guild		Mary Taggs Stacy Torneten		Jan Applegate Kathy Block	
Scripture Reader (Sunday)	Vicki Carstens	Becky Chipman	Rick Chipman	Vickie Errett	Rich Furst
Communion Servers (Sunday)		Janet Johannsen Jennifer Malone		Elaine Miller Sandy Nelsen	
Coffee Hosts (Sunday)	Larry & Peg Haas	Lois Hansen Karen Plewes	Jeff & Erin Hastert	Galan & Janet Johannsen	Colin & Roberta King
Sound	DeAnn Nielsen	DeAnn Nielsen	DeAnn Nielsen	Seth Johannsen	Seth Johannsen
Video	Alan Ahrenholtz	Alan Ahrenholtz	Alan Ahrenholtz	Mark Schechinger	Mark Schechinger
Projection	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (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	John Taggs	Kirk Jacobsen	Todd Madsen	Joey Hansen	John Taggs