



IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS-September 2026



Tanzanian Happenings 2026 Mission Trip (Part 1)

Immanuel's 2026 mission trip started off on Tuesday July 21st and arrived in Kidugala, Tanzania on Thursday evening. Patty Allen, Jared Walters, and I dove right into it the next morning. Many things about this trip were similar, but a few were quite different. The roads... they continue to improve on the way to Kidugala, welcomed continued improvement. The vehicle that we were picked up in was also an improvement thanks to Kidugala's German friends that gifted the seminary a new Land Rover! But the biggest difference was the introduction of Pastor Jared to Kidugala. Kidugala loved Pastor Jared, kind of like Pastor Phil only younger and with a whole lot more candy! We handed out 9 BIG bags of candy and had a huge youth following! I believe he was just bribing smiles out of the kids...and it worked! We all appreciated his sermon and assistance with communion at both Kidugala services totaling nearly 600 congregants. Patty and I enjoyed getting to know Pastor Jared's personality, talents, excitement over Immanuel's mission in Kidugala, and opportunities to listen in on some theological discussions with local pastors. Speaking of local pastors, there are three that serve the Kidugala parish currently. Pastor Amani is the district pastor as well as being considered the head pastor of Kidugala, he has been in Kidugala only several months. Pastor Nganisy is one of two parish pastors and has some teaching responsibilities at the Kidugala Bible School. She has been there nearly two years but was on maternity leave out of the region when we visited last year. Pastor Noel is the second parish pastor and has also been there only a few months. All of these current pastors speak English quite well though so there isn't a need for interpretation between us and the pastoral team and they acted as our interpreters during our visit. Even though all three were familiar with Immanuel's projects, they were short on history and unfamiliar with Immanuel's heart for the community. So, this year's travel team spent extra time during the first two meetings with the partnership committee, and the evangelists group bringing them needed details. I believe in the last 21 years we have worked with 5 bishops of the southern diocese, 6-7 district pastors and at least 9-10 parish pastors.

This year Immanuel's travel team visited four out of the five primary schools. Each of the headmasters were glad to visit with us about their schools and challenges that they face. We had the opportunity to meet almost all the primary orphans that Immanuel supports and had fun asking what they would like to be and taking videos of them. As we left each school, we presented them with a gift of soccer balls. We made sure that the primary school that we didn't visit received soccer balls via the local evangelist. We visited two of the three secondary schools in the area. During these visits we had an opportunity to talk with some of the students that receive scholarship support from Immanuel's secondary scholarship program and hand out some Frisbees for the students' enjoyment.

We saw five wells that Immanuel had established while in the region. All were functioning quite well except one. That well services two schools and we heard how different water was when it was functioning, we asked that the issue be addressed shortly. We were able to interview a staff member from the Kidugala Bible School where well #13 was drilled and he spoke of the huge difference that the well makes in the lives of those evangelists and pastoral students studying and living at this boarding school. Many wished us to pass on thanks to Immanuel for our consideration of their water needs.

We visited the Kidugala Health Care Center, and they seem to be doing well, although doctors are short in rural areas, so they have asked Dr. Zacharia (who is ready to retire but doing a great job) to stay on for some time. The current project at the center is the building of a mortuary. Typically, Immanuel supports the health center with a small contribution annually and this will be addressed at the next Tanzania Committee meeting.

Future parts of the report will focus on an answer to the question of how much agricultural improvement Kidugala has had since 2010 and the report on the discussions pertaining to the proposed Kidugala Vocational School.

Mungu Akubariki, (God be with you all)

Rick

Dear Friends in Christ,

We probably wouldn't have Labor Day if not for Martin Luther. It was Luther who recovered the dignity of labor. Before Luther the world looked down on manual labor as a curse of a fallen world. The blessed were those who were free from labor because of wealth or position. People in business were considered immoral because they dealt with filthy money and sought a profit. The spiritual removed themselves from commerce and industry and devoted themselves to prayer and contemplation. Priests, monks, and nuns served God. Common people were stuck in the world of greed and money.

According to Luther, in God's sight the labors of monks and priests was in no way superior to the world of a farmer or housekeeper. Scrubbing floors and changing diapers and banking and farming was just as God pleasing as preaching. Expecting a profit from one's work was not immoral. It was God's way of supporting those who provide the goods and services needed by the world. This honoring of the labor of the common people was one of the ways the Lutheran Reformation led to the development of the modern world and things like democracy and capitalism.

We work because we need to provide for ourselves and our families. But we also work because God has called us to work to provide goods and services for the world of people that God cares about. At the beginning of our work, we recognize that every generous act of service and every gift of labor come from the same source which is God. We can work only because God did the work of creation and continues to provide life, health, and gifts of creation. And God did it all without demanding payment from us.

God has called us to work, not as a curse, but as a means of fulfilling God's purposes in the world, to provide goods and services needed by the people God has created. We are doing the work of God when we tend the produce of the earth, when we create the materials and machinery needed by others, when we provide financial services, when we care for and teach children, when we cut hair, sell groceries and prepare food, when we sell and maintain cars, when we nurse the sick and the elderly, and when we do whatever else is needed. Whenever you do something that someone else needs, you are doing the holy work of God. And God has called us to do it for God's glory and for the good of God's people.

Someone has said that our calling from God is where our joy meets the world's need. God calls us to do the work that we feel best uses our strengths, abilities, and desires and that serves the needs of our neighbors. And God is pleased when we do that work with joy.

Yours in Christ, Phil Nielsen

Fall Educational Programs

JAM (Jesus and Me) begins Sunday, September 13. Children 3 years old up through 2nd 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 2, from 3:30 to 5:00 for students in grades 3 through 5. The goal of GROW is to introduce students to the Bible as the story of God's plan to save the world. GROW meets each Wednesday that school is in session.

CONFIRMATION begins Wednesday, September 2, for students in grades 6 to 8. Students in 6th grade will get a review of the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. Students in 7th and 8th grades will study the Apostles Creed and the Sacraments. 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 2, 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.



Galan and Janet Johannsen will be married 60 years on September 2

Duane and Vickie Errett will be married 48 years on September 9

Lyle and Connie Behrens will be married 57 years on September 20



Aaron Anliker will turn 86 on September 4

Pat Pattison will turn 94 on September 7

Shelia Mills will turn 79 on September 8

Bonnie Ickes will turn 77 on September 10

Betty Larsen will turn 84 on September 18

George Applegate will turn 75 on September 21

Debbie Stendrup will turn 75 on September 21

Kay Koos will turn 86 on September 25

Ken Carstens will turn 81 on September 26

Hertha Haas will turn 93 on September 26

Pat Schug will turn 83 on September 26

Ken Olson will turn 78 on September 28

Connie Schwieso will turn 81 on September 30



CAREGIVER'S COMPASS

Meets on the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be at 9:30 on September 8 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.

Pastor Phil's 35th Ordination Anniversary Potluck Brunch

Sunday, September 13
10:30 pm



Please join us as we celebrate **Pastor Phil's 35 years of ordained ministry!** Bring your favorite breakfast item for the Potluck Brunch (Egg Casseroles, French toast casserole, muffins, cinnamon rolls, fruit, etc.

We hope you'll join us for this special celebration!

THANK YOU to Aubrey Petsche for joining our staff as a pianist for worship.



CONGRATULATIONS go out to Reid and Linda Mosher on the marriage of their son Dean to Kayla Kelly on August 21.

OUR PRAYER LIST: Harry Priest, Gayl Jensen, Duane Larsen, Judy and Dave Pederesen, Phil Miller, Shirley Haner, Ellie Nelson, Ruthe and Pat Pattison, Phil Smith, Arlynn Gittins, Kay Koos, Connie & Ed Benson, Jeann Nelson (Julie Vorm's sister), 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, 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).



WORSHIP & GIVING

	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>GENERAL</u>	<u>REFUGEES</u>
July 24-25	21 + 118 = 139	\$ 2705.25	\$ 180.00
August 1-2	25 + 97 = 122	\$ 4343.00	\$ 315.00
August 8-9	16 + 115 = 131	\$ 3755.00	\$ 145.00
August 15-16	22 + 89 = 111	\$5212.01	\$
August 22-23	23 + 123 = 146	\$ 3452.00	\$ 20.00

Sharing Cupboard (Food Pantry) \$65.00

Direct Deposit \$2335.00

Building \$180.00

DECORATING COMPETITION

For Breast Cancer Awareness Month,
I am asking all women of Immanuel to consider participating in an "up lifting" decorating competition. This competition will end the end of September. Please see Julie Vorm for details



BELL CHOIR

Have you ever thought it might be fun to ring bells with Immanuel's Bell Choir, but aren't necessarily musically inclined? There are basically only 2 skills needed to play bells in our choir:

1. Be able to count to 4
 2. Be able to tell the difference between the colors pink, blue, orange and green
- We practice each Wednesday at 5:30, beginning September 16th. We perform, as a general rule, the second Sunday of each month, beginning October 11th.
If you are interested in joining this fun group of ladies, or would just like a little more information, please contact me at 712-579-2261, or catch me at church on Sunday.

Donna Nelson

A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS (To put in our shoes boxes.)

Headbands & hairbows, a note that's written
No Candy please but
warm hats and mittens
Blank paper notebooks
And other school things
Read on for more of our favorite things!

Bright colored pencils,
kits made for sewing
Whistles & bells.
and baseballs for throwing
Backpacks that are made with
Simple drawstrings
Shoe boxes are one of
Our favorite things!
Pillowcase dresses
Wash clothes & bar coaps
A Box full of tools &
Fun toys like jump ropes
New water bottles
& kits made for fishing!

Have you packed some our our Favorite things??

November will be here sooner that we know so please pray about packing a few shoeboxes to give to a child this year.

Thanks, Julie Vorm



WORLD'S BEST INTERN

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

This last month I had the opportunity to travel to Tanzania and spend time with our brothers and sisters in Christ there. One of the things that struck me most was that this was not simply a story about us traveling across the world to serve others; it was a reminder that Christ was already at work long before we arrived. Though thousands of miles, different languages, and different cultures separate us, we share the same Savior, the same Gospel, and the same hope in Christ. When we gathered around God's Word, those differences seemed much smaller. The people I met in Tanzania are not strangers in some distant place, but fellow members of Christ's Church.

That truth was especially meaningful as I preached about Christ as our fortress. Our fortress is not the strength of our own faith or our ability to stand firm, but Christ Himself, who gave His life for us upon the cross and rose again to secure our salvation. Seeing the faith of our brothers and sisters in Tanzania reminded me that this same Christ is sustaining His people all around the world. I came home thankful not simply for what we were able to do, but for the opportunity to see what **Christ is already doing**. From Harlan to Kidugala, we are united by the same Lord, gathered around the same Word, and held secure by the same Savior.

Yours in Christ,

Worship in September 2026

Date:	Message:	
September 5-6	"Time and Money" (James 4:13-5:12)	Communion
September 12-13	"Faith-Filled Prayers" (James 5:13-20)	JAM begins
September 19-20	"The Mystery of Creation" (Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31)	Communion
September 26-27	"Beyond Knowledge to Action" Matthew 21:23-32	

Hallelujah Open & Fairway and Fellowship (Time Change)

Join us for our church golf outing on **Sunday, September 13, at the Shelby County North Course!**

Sign-in: 1:30 PM

Shotgun Start: 2:00 PM

Meal: Following golf, approximately \$7-\$9 per person

If you are not a Course member, you will need to pay a reduced green fee.

A sign-up sheet is available on the church bulletin board, or you can call the church office to sign up.

Don't have a foursome? **No problem!** We can pair you with another group.

If you have an extra golf cart available, please let us know.

Come enjoy a fun afternoon of **golf, fellowship, and food!**





Ladies of Immanuel:

Have you ever made a Vintage Handkerchief Angel? This is your chance!!

On September 9th at the ILCW Gathering

Dolly Burgin will bring her many years of experience to our meeting to make a Vintage Angel. Please bring an old/new hanky (if you do not have one, one will be provided for you.) and you can enjoy creating your own Angel. ILCW Gathering will be held September 9th at 9:30. Hope to see you there

**ILCW meeting will be held at 9:00
before the gathering.**



ILCW BOARD MINUTES

August 12, 2026

The ILCW Executive Board met August 12 with Sandy Nelsen, Kathy Block, Janet Johannsen, Sharon Daberkow and Julie Vorm present. Sandy called meeting to order at 4:30, prior to Gathering at 5:30.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes from the June 10 meeting were reviewed. Sharon motioned and Julie seconded to approve. Ayes all.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kathy reported \$300 went to Ingham Bible Camp for registrations, Jean Whitfield presented bill of \$668.93 for printed napkins for special occasion use and funeral donation of \$150 from Schwieso's brought July ending balance to \$5506.02.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Women's Day Away—October 17--9:00-5:45: Retreat at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp (Milford IA). "Following Jesus With Hope" w/speaker Laura Fever, pontoon rides, pampering stations, banquet meal, free time to fill the day. Cost \$49 pre-registration required for catered meal etc. (\$15 non-refundable at registration.)

THANK YOU to Jean Whitfield for the "welcoming" flower pots at the Front doors and also the North entrance doors. They are beautiful!

Janet Johannsen, Secretary

ILCW GATHERING

Sixteen attended. The board provided a variety of hors d'oeuvres which were delicious. Vicki Carstens started program challenging our minds with Story Book Quiz. Following was a Command Performance mixer which got us all moving. Her program was "Little Known Places in Iowa" she has visited. These were all off the beaten path of heavy traffic and populated areas. In NE Iowa the Spillville Bily Clock Museum contains clocks made by hand from years 1913-1958 by brothers Frank & Joseph Bily. Eastern Iowa north of Dubuque is Balltown, (pop. 60), famous for longest family-owned restaurant in Iowa, Breitbach Country Dining. Started in 1852-bought by Breitbach Family in 1862 and now 6th generation owns despite 2 fires totally destroying it in 2007 & in 2009. SW of Iowa City, Stringtown, Amish territory. Leave your credit cards at home, cash/check only in stores. Grocery store is bulk packaging and prices are low compared to today's stores outside Amish community. A unique shopping experience! Ten miles NE of Muscatine is Wildcat Den State Park with it's many trails, waterfalls, the Old Grist Mill. Others attending mentioned places that were worth a trip. Just NE of Marshalltown, Matchstick Marvels in Gladbrook is a must stop. Finest detailed wood art created from ordinary wooden matchsticks since 1977--has used over 10 million matchsticks. The US Capitol & USS Iowa battleship are amazing! Open 7 days a week 1-5 pm April-Nov except major holidays. SE part of Oakland IA is Keast Daylily Gardens with 1000 registered varieties. Open w/tours in peak bloom season. The talented Brown Family in Le Mars perform professional quality variety shows throughout the year w/optional buffet dinner before each show. Beautiful restored bank building w/gift shop. Tickets required. Great program Vicki—many unique places in Iowa to visit. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Mission Quilters Sept. 2 11:00 Bunco Aug 25 2:00 ILCW Sept 9--9:30 Christmas Tea Dec 5--Group

1st August 2026.

PASTOR OF IMMANUEL CONGREGATION,
 PASTOR PHILLIP NIELSEN,
 KIDUGALA & IMMANUEL PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE,
 ALL THE CONGREGANTS AT IMMANUEL,
 1700 19th St,
 Harlan, IA 51537
 USA.



We greet you all by the Mighty name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**REF: OUR THANKSFULLNESS FOR THE RELATIONSHIP WE ARE HAVING IN SERVING
 OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IN DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF SERVICES**

Our dear brothers and sisters, We thank God for bringing us together in believing and serving Him, Although we are from different culture, nations and continents but the church crosses all physical and ideological boundaries and bring us together to be one in Jesus Christ.

In our partnership we have seen God's blessings so far in different ways. Your prayers and financial support for God's Mission in our Parish especially in supporting our Preaching points plots, supporting orphans in primary and secondary schools to achieve their goals in education and many other things you do for Kidugala are God's blessings to us through Immanuel congregation. God bless you and enrich you with His blessings abundantly.

Also we would like to thank you for sending numerous ambassadors to Kidugala. Thank you for sending three ambassadors this year 2026; Rick Chipman, Patty Allen and Jared Walters. Although you weren't sure of this year's trip but God had this good plan of them coming to Kidugala, God bless all of you. We believe that this is the good way of making our partnership stronger by your ambassadors coming to us and our's coming to you at Immanuel.

Last year was meant for our ambassadors to come to Immanuel to celebrate our 20th anniversary of the Immanuel and Kidugala partnership, we looked forward for their trip to be a good experience and be a part of the celebration which was prepared by you. However due to some challenges they failed to come (REV. NETO MSIGWA & Miss UPENDO NGAILO) but thank God for Hilda who had a private invitation that she got the Visa and came as part of Kidugala Parish and she represented us well and we got your greetings when she came back. We pray that such challenges should not happen next time we plan to come to Immanuel.

May our God keep and strengthen our partnership so that we could serve Him and see Him working by bringing different people of different culture and nations together through our partnership.

Thanks for making Jared Walters, a young pastor part of the delegate to us this 2026. This increases the sustainability of our partnership.

We are happy and appreciate that the Kidugala vocational school building project has been accepted by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania-Southern Diocese and the Kidugala Parish. Thank you in advance for your following and planned support

God bless you.

Your's in Christ

Rev. Amani Daniel Kabelege

PASTOR OF KIDUGALA PARISH

CHAIR-PERSON OF THE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE



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Staff:

Pastor Phil Nielsen

Intern Jared Walters

Office Manager: Diana Greve

Custodian: Slava Aleev

SEPTEMBER 2026

© AGU RESOURCE CENTER

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

Worship and Fellowship Servants Schedule September-October 2026

	September 5-6	September 12-13	September 19-20	September 26-27	October 3-4
Acolytes	Pyper Montgomery Keegan Meyer	Leah Svendsen Avery Nippert	Cora Clay Adam Adem	Truman Kjergaard Alec Bruck	Pyper Montgomery Carter Clay
Saturday Greeter/Usher	Allan and Myrna Andersen	Art and Linda Andersen	James Burmeister	Linda Brue	Linda Christensen
Sunday Greeter/Usher	LaVera and Katie Stern	Calvin Twenhafel Steven Lewo	Issa Nege Santino Ngleo	Kari and Jaci Palmer	Aaron Anliker Mary Johnson
(Saturday) Altar Guild	Kayla Jacobs		Kaitlyn Walters		Betty Larsen Sue Grummert
(Sunday) Altar Guild	Cathy Murray Donna Nelson		Kate Petersen Vicki Strissel		Mary Taggs Stacy Torneten
Scripture Reader (Sun)	Becky Chipman	Rick Chipman	Hertha Haas	Dave Greve	Craig Clemons
Communion Servers (Sun)	Jeff and Penny Nelson		Craig and Judi Olson		Liz Pitts Callie Retallic
Coffee Hosts (Sun)	Shane and Liz Pitts		Janell Leinen Kris Olson Harmon	Rick and Cheryl Chipman	Lois Hansen Sandy Nelson
Sound	Gaige Lytle	Gaige Lytle	Gaige Lytle	Gaige Lytle	Seth Johannsen
Video	Alan Ahrenholtz	Alan Ahrenholtz	Alan Ahrenholtz	Alan Ahrenholtz	Mark Schechinger
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	Joey Hansen	Kirk Jacobsen	Shane Pitts (Joey Hansen)	Craig Olson	Kirk Jacobsen