



Immanuel Lutheran Church

Quarter 3, 2026

9 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. Sunday Service



Message by Pastor Eugene DeVries



Bible Study:

Mondays at 7p

Monday Night Service:

at 7p

(last service is August 31)

Choir:

Nothing scheduled for
2026



God's Favorite Fruit

When we read about the Pharisees in the New Testament, we automatically think, "Bad Guys." And it's true. The Pharisees set themselves up as enemies of Jesus. Yet they lived outwardly holy lives. You would have been happy to live next door to a Pharisee. They would have kept their yard looking nice. You would trust them to watch your house when you went on vacation. No Pharisee would ever be caught telling lies or defrauding their neighbor. They prided themselves on their super obedience to God's law. However, when the Pharisees showed up to the Jordan River, John the Baptist called them a "brood of vipers." He would not have baptized any Pharisee that day. Instead, he commanded them to "produce fruit in keeping with repentance." (Mt 3:8)

Repentance means sorrow for sin and turning to God in faith. So the fruit of repentance is first and foremost to stop doing things that God hates. Stop sinning. More than that, God wants us to keep his commandments. The law cannot save us. But since Jesus has saved us, we want to keep God's law. We want to worship God above all and honor His divine name. We want to help our neighbor, honor marriage, and speak the truth.

A real Pharisee would scoff at these suggestions. He would say, "I'm already doing all those things. In fact, I'm better at them than you!" And he might even be right. However, he's still missing one thing: faith. Obedience counts for nothing when it is motivated by sinful pride. The true fruit of repentance begins with trust in Jesus. It begins with humility and confession and the realization that all our righteous deeds are like filthy rags in the sight of God. God is more pleased by a little child who does simple chores than with all the sparkling good works of the Pharisees combined. Good works produced by faith in Jesus are God's favorite fruit.

Pastor Eugene DeVries

Sunday School—9 a.m. Sunday Mornings

Teachers:

Pre-School & Kindergarten:

Amanda Weber

Grades 1-3:

Deb Plamann

Grades 4-8:

Barbara DeVries



We will start on Sunday, **September 20** at 9 a.m. All Children 3 years old through 8th grade are welcome to join us.

*"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."*

2026 Church Board Officers:

Chairman: Kori Leske

Vice-Chair: Bruce Trick

Secretary: Mike Brekke

Treasurer: Matthew Forcier

Financial Secretary: Brian Gauer

Delegate: Lynn Mackedanz

Trustees: Chris Wersal
Dylan Weber
Mike Heine

Elders: Ryan Palmer
Steven Plamann
Jason Horrmann

Finance Committee:
Steve Hellwig
Michael Thompson
Andy Weber

Cemetery Board: Jeremy Hoff
Mike Yerks
Harold Plath

School Board: Jay Mackedanz
Jon Hoff
Ted Grof

The **Quarterly Voter's/ Congregational Meeting** was Tuesday, July 21, 2026.

Pastor's/Elder's Report: Pastor continues to see 7 shut-ins from Immanuel and 4 from Zion. We have had some members hospitalized in the cities and the LIMA Chaplin has been assisting with visiting our members.

Last Monday night service for the year is August 31st.

Cemetery's Report: The survey results regarding the columbarium was shared with 17 "no" and 12 "yes" along with 2 "undecided". At this point in time it will not be pursued. The decorations have been removed from the cemetery.

Trustees: The furnace has been cleaned/fixed. Still continuing to try and determine what is wrong with the organ. Unable to reproduce the problem. A new organ would be over \$40,000. A company is coming out to look at the water pressure. It was brought to the attention there are several holes in the parking lot that need to be addressed. Along with some trees that also need to be trimmed. The shed by the old school will be torn down.

School Board Report: Over 100 trees were planted by the new school. A \$25,000 anonymous donation was given to the school for building improvements. With this generous donation, the floors in the lunchroom, hallway and bathrooms were all given an epoxy floor coating. The Accreditation is currently being worked on.

Joint Council Meeting with Zion

Tuesday, September 8 at 7p.m. at Immanuel

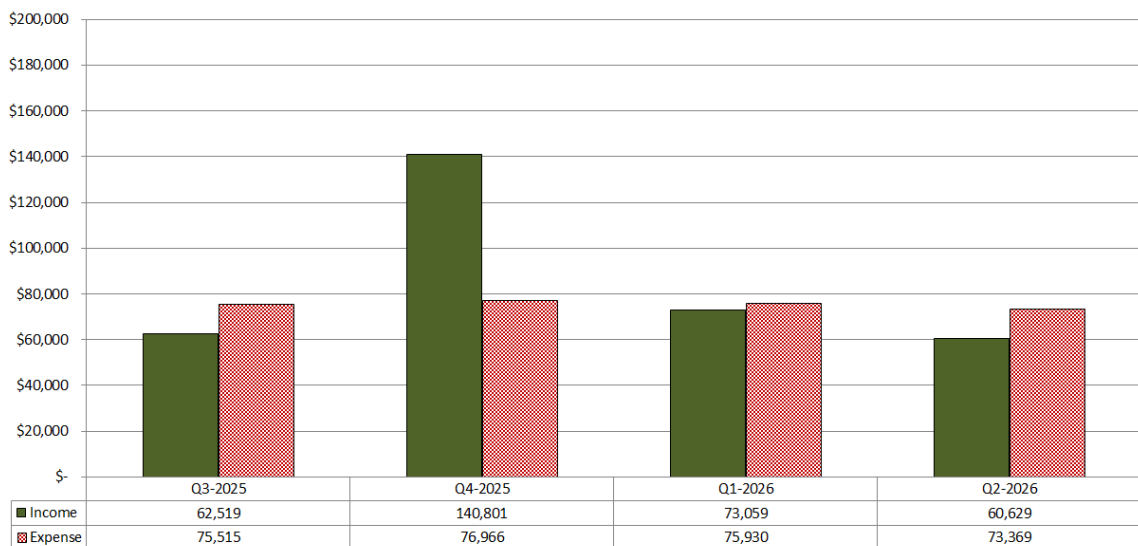
~~~~~

**Next Voter's/Congregational Meeting is**

Tuesday, October 20, 2026 at 7 p.m.

**Everyone Welcome!**

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Quarterly Income compared to Expenses



## Ladies Aid

Page 3

### 2026 Officers:

**President:** Barbara DeVries

**VP/Secretary:** Cindy Rusch

**Treasurer:** Marilyn Rusch

*Meetings at 6:30*

*September 2*

*October 7*

Collecting items in

October  
**MLC Food Shelf**

November  
**Belle Plaine**

Ladies Aid meets the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. All women are invited to join us.

Activities that we have participated in the last quarter are sending cards and gifts to shut-ins, a donation was made to the school kid's Ark trip and purchasing additional blue hymnals for the meeting room.

We hosted a salad luncheon in May and everything was delicious. We supplied lunch and cookies for the workers for the July blood drive at Peace Lutheran. The group plans on going to the Looney Lutherans at Peace Lutheran Church in August.

Consider joining us throughout the year. Some months we have a guest speaker and some months we go on a field trip. Every meeting we share a devotion and sing a hymn along with the business portion and share fellowship and a dessert.

MLC Auxiliary is Saturday, October 24 at the college.



## Ladies Executive Board

### 2026 Officers:

**President:** Donna Telecky

**VP:** LuAnn Yerks

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Wanda Gauer

**Directors:** Marilyn Rusch, Ashley Weber, Sharon Smith

The next meeting is scheduled for  
**Tuesday, January 12, 2027, at 6:30 p.m.**

**Elections will be held for Vice-President and Director.  
Please consider volunteering for a position.**

## Fellowship Committee

### Next Meeting:

Pending  
Everyone Welcome!

Chair: Pastor DeVries

Secretary: Julie Thompson

Treasurer: Julie Thompson

Thank you to all who attended the Outdoor service! We had 211 in attendance. Children from VBS sang their songs they learned and a joint choir provided special music.

And congratulations to **Miss Julia Ewart**, as she was installed as our teacher for grades 3, 4, 5. An Emergency Call was extended to her. She is a senior at MLC.



*Anyone is welcome to join the Fellowship Committee to help plan various activities for our congregation. If any questions, please feel free to contact one of the officers.*

**Officers for 2025/2026:**

President: Amy Smith  
 VP: Beth Podratz  
 Secretary: Kristin Koehnen  
 Treasurer: Eileen Prieve  
 Teacher Appreciation:  
 Elizabeth Grof  
 Fundraising Chair: Jessi Boike

**Meetings:**

Second Monday of  
 the month at  
 6:30 p.m.



The following fundraisers are being coordinated throughout the year. This will assist in purchasing non-budgetary items. Information will be sent out closer to their respective dates.

- Fall Mums through Gertgens (August)
- Pampered Chef (August 1 to August 22)
- Fieldgate Cheese
- Kwik Trip Car Wash

***Thank you all for your support!!***

The PTF also donated \$200 to each teacher to purchase new items for their classrooms.

**HELPING HANDS for IGLS** -- Immanuel Grace Lutheran School looking for your help with supplies for our classrooms! There are "**Helping Hands**" Envelopes located in the church entryway of identified items needed for the rooms. Please take an envelope and place either cash or check inside and return it to Julie Thompson by August 30, 2026.

*We appreciate all your help! Thank you.*

**LWMS**

The 64<sup>th</sup> LWMS rally will be held June 24-27, 2027 in Lansing, Michigan.

In Spring of 2027, we will host the Spring Crow River Circuit Rally.



## **McLeod County Fair August 20 to 23**

If you are able to help cover a shift, sign up on the sign-up sheet in entry way or please contact Teresa Ross at 320-305-9662

**Thrivent Policy Members****Thrivent Coordinator:**

Julie Thompson  
 Register on line:

[www.Thrivent.com](http://www.Thrivent.com)



Do you have a Thrivent Policy?

If so, are you aware of the programs at no cost to you that could benefit the church and/or the school?

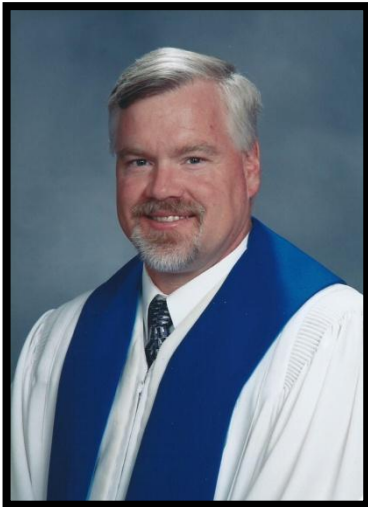
"Choice Dollars" can be designated to the church or school at no cost to you.

"Action Teams" when approved, provides \$250 of seed money to be used towards an event, again at no cost to you.

***Applied for and approved:***

*Vacation Bible School  
 Outdoor Service*

# Congratulations to Pastor Reich



The members of Trinity Lutheran and St. John's Lutheran Churches invite you to join in and give thanks to God for the 36 years in the ministry of **Pastor Daniel Reich** as he retires from full-time ministry on Sunday, **September 6, 2026**.

During his years of service, Pastor Reich served at:

|                                                           |                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Good Shepherd Lutheran Church – Jacksonville, FL          | 1988-1989 (Vicar) |
| Redeemer Lutheran Church – Pierre, SD                     | 1990-1997         |
| Grace Lutheran Church – Spring Hill, FL                   | 1997-2001         |
| <b>Immanuel &amp; Zion Lutheran Churches – Hutchinson</b> | <b>2001-2014</b>  |
| Trinity Lutheran Church – Lake City, MN                   | 2014-2026         |
| St. John's Lutheran Church – Bear Valley, MN              | 2020-2026         |

The worship service begins at 10:00 a.m. followed by a meal at Trinity Lutheran Church. (35933 County Road 17, Lake City, MN) All are invited to join and wish Pastor and Leanne the Lord's blessings in retirement.

If you plan to attend the meal, please RSVP to:

Dan Pritzl, Chairman of Trinity Lutheran  
201 North Tenth Street  
Lake City, MN 55041  
[m.dan.p@live.com](mailto:m.dan.p@live.com)



If you wish to send the Reiches a card or a note, please send to:

C/o Dan Pritzl  
201 North Tenth Street  
Lake City, MN 55041



Pastor and Leanne with  
their sons  
Nathan, David and Jacob



**Preschool – 3 year olds**  
Miss Amanda Lokensgard

**Preschool – 4 year olds**  
Mrs. Nikki Dragt

**Kindergarten**  
Mrs. Mallory Eckstrand

**1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
Mrs. Rachel Markgraf

**3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Ms. Julia Ewart

**6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades**  
Mr. Joel Holz

**Principal**  
Mr. Joel Holz

## School Board Officers:

Ryan Bushman

Ted Grof

Jon Hoff

Jay Mackedanz

Jason Kiecker

## School Building Committee:

Jay Mackedanz

Bruce Trick

Steve Wendorff

Brian Lokensgard

Jon Hoff

Lance Hartkopf

Welcome



My name is Julia Ewart (Ms. Ewart), and I am excited to be serving as the 3rd-5th grade teacher at Immanuel Grace this year.

I'm from Appleton, Wisconsin, where my parents still live- my dad serves as a pastor at The Core in downtown Appleton. I have one younger brother, four older siblings, and ten nieces and nephews, so I'm used to lots of chaos and fun! Outside of the classroom, I like to run, travel, read, and spend time with friends and family. I especially enjoy going on walks outside while it's still warm out!

I attended Martin Luther College and have been WELS my whole life- this is my first year teaching on an emergency call. After this year I plan to go back for my last year of college, graduate, and receive my assignment in the spring of 2028. I'm so grateful for the chance to serve the students and families of Immanuel Grace this year, and I'm looking forward to getting to know each of you!

Julia will be living in the teacherage.

We would like to welcome her here and help her fill her refrigerator and cupboards. Instead of a traditional pantry shower, **we will be having a door offering on Sunday, August 9** and present her with a gift card so that she can purchase items accordingly. *Thank you.*

## IGLS Fundraiser – Pampered Chef



*Pampered Chef fundraiser runs from August 1<sup>st</sup> to August 22<sup>nd</sup>*

*Booklets are also in the church entryway.*

**Or Scan the "QR" Code**

If any questions, contact Julie Thompson (583-6007) or Joyce Leske (320-469-2223) as she is our Pampered Chef Consultant.

## IGLS Fundraiser – Gertens

**To access the site and place an order for your fundraiser group:**

1. Go to [www.gertensfundraising.com](http://www.gertensfundraising.com)
2. Enter the Store ID code provided into the text field and click 'Enter ID to Continue'.
3. Please be sure to include "name of the seller" in the Seller's Name field. If customers will pick up their own orders on delivery day (September 16th) they can put Immanuel. If a customer would like their order to be delivered by a school family, please put the student's name here.

Store ID code for **Immanuel Grace Lutheran School: 591**

The site will open **July 31** and close at **10 PM on Monday, August 24.**



## Pre-School

3 & 4 year olds

Miss Amanda Lokensgard

Mrs. Nikki Dragt

Taylon Anfinson  
Adalynn Arries  
Charlotte Boike  
Nash Boike  
Beckett Buresh  
Burke Buxcel  
Clayton Cole  
Laney Drahos  
Immanuel Duesterhoeft  
Roman Exsted  
Anna Forcier  
Liam Grof  
Jordyn Haley  
Emma Hansen  
Cora Heine  
Maizy Johnson  
Evalynn Klein  
Leo Koglin  
Andrew Loher  
Everleigh Norris  
Riggs Nowak  
Reyna Olson  
Westyn Peterson  
Ellorie Plaisance  
Emmett Reading  
Tessa Shoutz  
Aaron Weber  
Brayden Whalen

## Kindergarten

Mrs. Mallory Eckstrand

Kenzer Beauchamp  
Hannah Duesterhoeft  
Reese Gauger  
Mack Hansen  
Evelyn Lyle  
Maxwell Moore  
Emmett Smith  
Harper Smith

## 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Mrs. Rachel Markgraf

### 1<sup>st</sup>

Wilhelmina Dolezal  
Margo Duehn  
Jason Forcier  
William Heine  
Aaron Kiecker  
Hazel Mackedanz  
Noah Moore  
Maverick Nowak  
Grace Pederson  
Noah Plotz  
Lillian Ulrich  
Rand Wilke

### 2<sup>nd</sup>

Emmirsyn Boike  
Brooklynn Carlson  
Alivia Cox  
Delilah Gutormson  
Brynlee Heinrichs  
Bryker Koehnen  
Cassie Lueck  
Kinsley Peik  
Roland Wilke

## 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Miss Julia Ewart

### 3<sup>rd</sup>

Paul Gatz  
Madelynn Harbarth  
Britta Koehnen  
Breah Smith  
Vanessa Smith  
Oliver Ulrich  
Mason Wersal  
Adler Witte

### 4<sup>rd</sup>

Kilian Carlson  
Harper Clark  
Berkley Heinrichs  
Matthew Kiecker  
Rayna Markworth  
Easton Podratz  
Calix Vanoverbeke

### 5<sup>th</sup>

Hazel Erickson  
Emery Fox  
Sydney-Kay  
Fundingsland  
David Lyle  
Lily Mackedanz  
Callum Rosenow  
Wyatt Schaefer



## 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Mr. Joel Holz

### 6<sup>th</sup>

Audie Plocher  
Juniper Skelley  
Eliza Ulrich  
Gaven Wersal

### 7<sup>th</sup>

Hannah Fox  
Andrew Harbarth  
Boden Koehnen  
Caitlyn Kruse  
Aubree Mackedanz  
Brynlie Podratz  
Grace Schaefer

### 8<sup>th</sup>

Carson Dragt  
Everett Erickson  
Lilly Henschke  
Charlotte Lyle  
Evelyn Ulrich  
Edwin VonBerge

**Sunday, August 30**

**6 pm**

**Opening Service**

**Followed by**

**Back to School Night**



**School Starts**

**Monday,  
August 31**



**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
**20882 Walden Ave.**

Find us on the Web: [www.immanuelhutch.com](http://www.immanuelhutch.com)

*Monthly Calendar (under Church/calendar)*

*Weekly Bulletins (under Church/service)*



<https://www.facebook.com/immanuelhutch>

**Services are streamed live on Sundays at 10 a.m.**

Pastor Eugene DeVries

Phone: 320-587-4857

Cell: 320-405-6490

Email: [pastor@eugenedevries.com](mailto:pastor@eugenedevries.com)

Church Secretary: Julie Thompson

Phone: 320-583-6007

Email: [juliethompson@mchsi.com](mailto:juliethompson@mchsi.com)

Nuvera

Sunday Services are broadcasted

**Mondays at 10 a.m. and Sundays at 9 p.m.**

**NuTelecom—Channel 10 or Mediacom—Channel 107.3**



## Altar Guild:

August: Kari Paredes  
September: Marilyn Rusch and Paula Fox

October: Karen Plath and Betty Rusch

## Ushers:

August: Bruce Trick, Jon Hoff, Don Dettman, Andy Weber, Dylan Weber, Travis Gauer, Nolan Hoff, Justin Black, Brad Weber, Zach Markgraf, Samuel DeVries  
September: Kori Leske, Jay Mackedanz, Steve Wendorff, Mike Yerks, Craig Kohls, Carl Horrmann, Tom Schlueter, Lucas Plamann, Brian Fox, Tyson Fox  
October: Jeremy Prieve, Mike Thompson, Alex Prieve, Andy Prieve, Kyle Podratz, Brad Duesterhoeft, Ted Grof, Troy Melsha, Cody Suess, Jack Zeidler

## Congratulations to:



Ryan and Rebecca Palmer celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on July 16  
Elizabeth and Ted Grof celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on August 19  
Bruce and Julie Trick celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on August 28  
Nick and Mikkayla Pagel celebrating their 5<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on August 21  
Steve and Wendy Hellwig celebrating their 35<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on September 20



Congratulations to Alex Prieve and Jennah Brygger who will be married on August 8, 2026  
Congratulations to Natasha Tews and Travis DeWitte who will be married on September 25, 2026

## Our Sympathies to:



The Family of Elvera Timm who passed away on June 28, 2026.

## Congratulations to:



Nick and Mikkayla Pagel on the birth of their son, Haiden Matthew.

## Vacation Bible School



There were 63 children registered for VBS with about 24 volunteers. That is the highest enrollment in ten years.

*Thank you to all who helped!!*