



Quarterly Caller 2026 February, March & April Issue

“The Season of Epiphany”

During the season of Christmas, we celebrated the great mystery that Jesus is God in human flesh, that He is fully divine and fully human and yet one person. Our Lord is Son of God and Son of man, with both heavenly and earthly parentage.

We see the true divinity and true humanity of Jesus illustrated in Epiphany. While sitting in the temple He amazed the teachers with His questions, understanding and answers. He had a grasp of the Scriptures unlike any other child His age. He demonstrated great wisdom. Furthermore, when Joseph and Mary found Him and questioned Him about what He was doing, Jesus spoke to them plainly of His divine identity and mission. His first recorded words are "Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" Jesus' true Father was in heaven. Our Savior was begotten of the Father before all worlds. He is "very God of very God, begotten not made." And when Christ became man, it was the Holy Spirit of the Father who miraculously conceived Him in the womb of the Virgin Mary. That is why it was necessary for Jesus to be in the temple; it was His Father's house and therefore also His own house. There our young Lord discussed the words of God; for He Himself was the Word made flesh, sent by the Father to redeem the world.

As Christians you also have parentage that is both earthly and heavenly. For you have been baptized into Christ; you are members of His body. And so your lineage is just like His. You have a spiritual mother on earth like the Virgin Mary, namely the holy Church. For it was from the Church that you were given a new birth into fellowship with God through Christ. This blessed mother has fed you with the pure milk of the Word and continues to nurture you even to this day.

You also have a Father in heaven, the same Father of our Lord Jesus. For it was the heavenly Father who caused you to be conceived as Christians in the womb of the Church and who gave your life by His Holy Spirit. He continues to breed faith in you by His preaching and His Sacraments. And as you come to His holy house to hear His words of life, He invites you to address Him as "Father," "Our Father who art in heaven . . ."

So then, brothers and sisters of Christ, let us now be about our Father's temple business in this new year. Let us, by the mercies of God, offer up our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God in Christ. Let us eagerly seek the Lord in His holy house, hearing and receiving His words, treasuring them up in our hearts. And let us grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord, until we finally come to the stature of the fullness of Christ on the Last Day.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit +

Pastor Allan Ree

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, BROWNTON, MN

VOTERS MEETING SUNDAY JANUARY 18, 2026

Members present = 58

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kevin Miller.

Pastor Reed opened the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting agenda was presented – MMSC to accept.

Chairman, Kevin Miller presented the list of open positions that will need to be filled and there are enough just volunteers to fill these positions. Therefore, he is requesting a vote to assign these positions to those individuals without a vote. MMSC to accept.

Ballots for salary adjustments were collected for counting.

The Secretary's meeting minutes from the Voters meeting on October 19, 2025, were presented and reviewed by those in attendance. MMSC to accept.

Treasure's Report – presented by Don Albrecht. See attached report for details. Balance at year end = \$26,340.70. See the attached report for year-end balances for each fund and transfer amounts from the trust into each specific fund. A question was asked regarding specific expenses that fall under the Gift & Memorial line. Don explained that this includes, Pastoral gifts, the Flood Victim fund raising (from VBS), Missionary (\$10K) and Seminary (\$5K) funds given. Note that the profits from the German Dinner will be transferred to the Preschool Fund. MMSC to accept report.

Trust Fund Treasurer's Report – presented by Kevin Miller. See attached report for details regarding this fund. Trust Fund balance year end 2025, \$1,785,579.46. A huge "Thank you" for the dollars donated to this fund! Many of the projects that were completed this past year would not have been possible without your generosity! A list of those projects is included in the report attached. Another huge "Thank you" to Lori Cacka for her role in managing this fund. She does an amazing job! MMSC to accept this report.

Board of Deacons report – presented by Pastor Reed. See attached report for details regarding worship attendance, confirmations, weddings, membership transfers, deaths and baptisms. MMSC to accept this report.

Board of Trustees report – presented by Jeff Ribar. See attached report for a list of all projects. Pans under the coffee maker is complete. Jeff shared information regarding the security system that is being investigated to secure the church and preschool areas. This system would include cameras in the Narthex, on all sides of the church, the education wing and main doors. Total cost of the system (including updates to the bar locks on the doors) = \$21,432.65 plus a monthly fee of \$76.96 for data storage and smoke detection. This may also result in a reduction in insurance premiums. MMSC to move forward with this security project.

The Trustees would also like to Thank Mona for the Trustee booklet which will be used as a guide for the tasks that the Trustees have responsibility to complete. Much appreciated!

Board of Education – See attached report.

Office Manager Report – Presented by Mona Geier. January has been very busy. Work continues on key documentation booklets for Trustees, Officers and will soon begin work on Treasurer's duties. In October the church along with the Preschool hosted a food drive. What a surprising result when the food bins were filled and found to be empty again the following day. This reiterates the needs of our community. In a 3 month period, 425 lbs. of food were collected and distributed, with total of 2025 of 530#. Using the average pounds of food donated over the last 3 years to be 318# which will be the goal our 2026. Cash can also be collected as it goes a long way in the Food Shelf. Very rewarding project! Church Pictorial and Address directory project will take place in 2026. Mona will be working with Unique Church Solutions on this project with a proposed timeframe of May 2026. Volunteers are needed to help orchestrate this project. Please let Mona know if you are interested.

A BIG thank you, to Duane Paehlke for his weekly camera work and cleaning the pews!!

Noah's Ark Preschool – presented by Vicki Herrmann. See report attached. Vicki reviewed all the projects at the preschool and the 35th year celebration. Current enrollment = 21 students. She will again be applying for the 4 Star Parent Aware Rated Program. The Big Ticket Raffle fund raiser is happening again this spring. The outdoor classroom is in need of a permanent shade structure and summer maintenance (keeping the weeds out). The van used to transport the students will need replacement sometime soon as it has 93,000miles on it. A huge thank you to the Adopt-A-Student program, all helpers and van drivers, area day-care providers, current board members and the support from everyone to continue this mission. MMSC to accept this report.

Old Business.

Organ update – Al B. provide an update on the organ. Everything is done! Thanks to all who helped with this project. Minor finishing work may need to be done but all is working. Chimes are gone but will be back. Will need the 3rd payment at that time.

A decision regarding the remaining/left over wires will need to be made.

Also more individuals will need to be trained on the use of the organ
Floor by the blower downstairs has deteriorated – replacement costs ~ \$2K - \$3K
Transfiguration Sunday – Pastor Reed - Transfiguration Sunday will be February
15th and a review of the 1955 original installation celebration with 3 hymns and
Organist.

MMSC to adjourn the meeting.

At this time there was a recess of the Voters Meeting to for the Cemetery Board meeting. The meeting was called to order by Kevin Nordby. Cemetery report is on page 10 of the attached report. Transfer of \$6000 from the Trust fund being used for the purchase of a lawn mower and weed whip. We are also in need of a trimmer. There is a need to add more ribbons. Lawn care costs will equal about \$11,000 for 2026. A question was asked regarding the calculations on the report. This was reviewed and updated in the attached report. MMSC to adjourn Cemetery Board Meeting.

MMSC to resume Voters meeting.

New Business

Congregational Mission Intent Form – Pastor Reed

The Council approved the Mission Intent form distribution at 50% for the District and 50% for the Synod. MMSC to accept this distribution.

Lay Delegate Selection – Pastor Reed - One layman delegate selected for the Synodical Convention. Our delegate – Al Buckentin – MMSC.

Synod Nominations: Pastor Reed will be entering the votes as indicated below MMSC

Nomination for Synod Present – Matthew Harrison

Nomination for Regional Vice President – Nabil Nour

Appointment of 2026 Immanuel Officers:

The following individuals were appointed to serve Immanuel in 2026

MMSC to accept these appointments.

Treasure Apprentice: Andrea Matheny

Financial Secretaries: Korine (Schuette) Oie, Jeremy

Assistant to Head Usher: Spencer Glaeser

Sondergaard, Kim Ribar

Deacons: Jason Hochsprung & Matt Buckentin

Board of Education: Brenda Reed

Trustee: Jay Heil

Cemetery Board: Mark Mathwig

Kevin shared Pastor Reed's upcoming visit to the Holy Land with the Voters in attendance. Anyone that would like to contribute to this trip may do so by placing the donation in an envelope indicating its purpose and dropping it in the collect plate or at the church office.

Audit Team – Kay Husfeldt wanted to thank Don Albrecht, Lori Cack and Mona Geier for their help and organization during the recent audit. Their organizational skills and ability to answer questions quickly and precisely was very much appreciated. Our congregation is blessed to have them in these roles and taking care of our dollars.

Pastor closed this portion of the meeting with the singing of the meal prayer (preparation of the potluck).

Chairman Kevin Miller presented the results of the salary adjustments ballots. Results:

Pastor Reed 5%, Vicki Herrman 5%, Mona Geier 18% and Ashle Benson 5%. MMSC to accept.

Motion to destroy the ballots – MMCS and accepted to destroy ballots.

There being no further business, Chairman Kevin Miller asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. MMSC to adjourn. A potluck chicken dinner was served in the church basement.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary, Sheila Bussler



LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Stewardship Newsletter article

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship Stewardship

Stewardship in the Body of Christ

LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article- January 2026

“And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new. Also, He said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true’ (Revelation 21:5).

In January there is a great deal of “new” talk. Parties are held to ring in the “new” year. “New” year’s resolutions are made to set a “new” course of life in the “new” year. There is date forgetfulness as checks and other forms are filled out without using the “new” year on the dateline.

We use all this “new” talk because there is very often so much wrong with the old in us. We think back to the “new” resolutions from the previous year that only lasted a few weeks. That “new” person did not shed any pounds and instead, picked up a few. The “new” habits of going to the gym were soon replaced by even more time on the couch binging on Netflix. The “new” person who does not lose their temper, use sarcasm as a lethal weapon and spend more money than necessary, but who worships, prays and serves the Lord and the neighbor, never seemed to stick around. We need “new” talk because the Old Adam is alive and well within every one of us.

But this promise of “new” is a matter of stewardship. It is the Lord Himself who makes the promise of all things being new. These words recorded by St. John are not pious wishes or hopeless promises. They do what they say. YOU, that one baptized into Jesus’ death and resurrection, are NEW! These words are indeed trustworthy and true. This “new” comes to you in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It comes free of charge, even without our prayer.

This stewardship of “new” is not a vague, someday kind of stewardship either. You are NEW now! Forgiven. Reborn from above. The old is gone, nailed to Calvary’s cross and buried and rotting in a tomb that was only borrowed by Jesus for His resurrection rest. The Gospel is what makes us NEW every morning. Remembering your baptism, you are new. Confessing your sins and receiving absolution makes you new. Hearing the Gospel filling your ears makes you new. Feasting on Christ’s body and blood in the Holy Supper makes you new.

These mercies, totally undeserved as they are, are entrusted to us to steward TODAY even as we long for the Last Day. But we know how often we fail in this stewardship. We hoard God’s creation as if it belongs to us. We belittle and devalue our neighbor because they look or sound or act in a way that we do not like. We seek to make the Holy Word of God softer and more palatable for those, or even ourselves, who refuse to confess sin as sin and repent. We value our comfort over truth, our reputation over faithfulness and our treasure over making sure that people get to hear of the Jesus who has done so much for the world and us.

We, as stewards of the Gospel, need to be made new every day. This is exactly what the Lord does. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel last year, so He gives us a new year. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel yesterday, and He gives us a new day. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel in the last few minutes, and yet in mercy our newness comes with each tick of the clock! Because that is how the Lord works.

As we see this working of all new things in us, it then calls us to be stewards of this newness to the world. This starts right in our own homes. It radiates out to our neighbors. It beams out from our congregations. This newness is teamed at the circuit, district and Synod levels all to shine the newness of the Gospel to those who need it.

Your new talk starts in the newness of the Gospel. Steward this treasure in this new year and this new day. It starts with a new you in Jesus. This is indeed trustworthy and true.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR CHURCH OFFICE

Office Report – December

December was a very busy month, with the preparation of Christmas bulletins and the completion of all year-end responsibilities. These tasks included mailing year-end contribution statements, organizing and preparing the Annual Reports, and managing several ongoing administrative projects.

Progress continued key documentation projects. Work is ongoing on the **Board of Education Task Booklet** and the **Officers Booklet**, and the **Trustees Booklet** has been completed but updates will continue as things change.

Looking ahead to the coming year, I will be working with **Angie Radke** to develop a **Treasurer's Duties Booklet** to further support continuity and clarity in that role.

Subject: McLeod County Food Shelf

In October, we began a partnership with Noah's Ark Preschool to host a Food Shelf Drive. We had great success, since then, we have collected 425 pounds of food in just three months. For the full year, our total came to 530 pounds. We would like to extend a special thank-you to Al and Karen Buckentin for faithfully delivering all of the donated food to the food shelf on our behalf. We are also very grateful to the members of Immanuel, the preschool families, and the surrounding community for your generous donations.

We know that several families within our community were able to benefit directly from this food collection, and we are truly thankful that these resources were available to them when needed.

Looking ahead to **2026**, we plan to establish a **yearly food-collection goal**. I asked the **Church Council** to help determine what an appropriate goal should be. For the last 3 years we average 318 lbs. so they said to take the average and make that the goal.

For reference, here are our recent food collection totals:

- **2023:** 190 lbs
- **2024:** 232 lbs
- **2025:** 530 lbs

These numbers show steady growth, and setting a clear goal for 2026 could help us continue to expand this ministry and better serve those in need.

So, for the 2026 goal the average comes in at 318lbs for the McLeod County Food Shelf. The Goal is 318lbs.

Cash donations are always welcome because cash donations goes a long way when it comes to the Food Shelf.

A goal chart will be posted near the bulletin board by the preschool/office entrance, and I will record the pounds collected each month so everyone can see our progress throughout the year.

Thank you again for your kindness and generosity in supporting this important ministry.

Subject: Address Book or Pictorial

I have been approached by two different groups requesting either a Church Address Book or a Pictorial Directory. This matter was discussed with the Church Council, and Council agreed to proceed with creating a **Pictorial Directory** that will include photos along with addresses and phone numbers. I will be contacting **Unique Church Solutions**, who reached out to us last year, to inquire about available dates and details for producing the directory. We are tentatively looking at **sometime in May**, pending availability. Additional information will be shared with the congregations as details are finalized.

That's it for now. Until next time!

Blessings,

Mona Geier

Immanuel Office Manager

Special Happening at Immanuel

The Worship Service is on every Sunday at 9:00am.

Holy Communion is on the 1st and Last Sunday of the Month.

February

February 3rd | 6:30 pm-Deacon's Meeting

February 15th | Organ Re-Dedication Sunday

February 18th | 1:30 pm- Afternoon Worship Service
with Holy Communion

6:45 pm – Ash Wednesday Service

February 25th | 5:30 pm – Lenten Supper | Noah's Ark
Hosting – Crockpot Lasagna

March

March 3rd | 6:30 pm-Deacon's Meeting

March 4th | 5:30 pm – Lenten Supper | Board of Ed Hosting – Sloppy Joes
(BBQ)

6:45 pm – Lenten Service

March 11th | 5:30 pm – Lenten Supper | Ladies Aid Hosting – Hotdish Variety

6:45 pm – Lenten Service

March 18th | 5:30 pm – Lenten Supper | Noah's Ark Hosting – Egg Bake &
French Toast Bake

6:45 pm – Lenten Service

March 25th | 5:30 pm – Lenten Supper | Youth Group Hosting – Bake Ziti

6:45 pm – Lenten Service

March 9th | **10:00 am** – Palm Sunday/Confirmation Sunday



Stay Updated!

Listen to the Lutheran Hour Broadcast

A Message of Hope on The Lutheran Hour

Hear the Good News of the Gospel on the Lutheran Hour each Sunday at 7:00 am on KGLB 1310 AM and KGLB 96.1 FM Radio. During the month of February, you will hear the following sermon topics:

Feb 1 Rotten Tomatoes with Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler**. Boasting gone wrong – it's the rotten fruit of rightful praise. It happens when we forget that everything we have is a gift, even the things we think we've earned and deserved. 1 Corinthians 1: 30-31

Feb 8 Type C with Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler**. In the Bible, the Holy Spirit meets us, gives us the mind of Christ, and leads us back into the world as children of God. 1 Corinthians 2:12

Feb 15 Up and Down the Mountain with Guest Speaker: **Rev. Michael Schutz**. Many voices compete for our attention, but above all, listen to the voice of Jesus and hear what He's done for you. Matthew 17:1-9

Feb 22 As Through Fire with Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler**. To be baptized into Christ, to trust in Him, is to die with Him, to be raised by Him, to pass through the fire under His shelter. 1 Corinthians 3:13

2026 Sponsor Campaign Report

Our 2026 Sponsor Campaign continues. As of 1/20/26 we have received \$3,930.00 or 77.1 % towards our goal of raising \$5,096.00 for the 52 broadcasts in 2026. You are Invited to become a 2026 KGLB Lutheran Hour Broadcast Supporter. Any gift amount helps. Sponsor one broadcast (\$98.00) or broadcasts by sending your gift (payable to KGLB Lutheran Hour Broadcast) to: KGLB Lutheran Hour Broadcast Supporters, % First Lutheran Church, 925 13 th Street East, Glencoe, MN 55336. Questions? Please contact Rich at 320-779-0123 or e-mail at richstreufert@embarqmail.com.. Thank you for your support!

Our Mission

Help us spread the Gospel message in the KGLB Radio listening area. The KGLB Radio Lutheran Hour broadcast is a congregational outreach ministry supporting congregations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in the KGLB listening area by inviting listeners (at the end of each broadcast) to attend a "Church of the Lutheran Hour" in their area. It is independently funded by generous Christians, church groups and congregations who want to spread the pure and powerful message of the Savior's love in their communities.

Weekly biblical message of faith and hope to accompany you on life's journey.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6 ESV

Board of Education

Nothing new since the Annual Report.

Board of Education: Anna Draeger, Britt Buxcel, Brittany Glaeser, and Kourtney Meister

Noah's Ark Preschool

700 Division St. P.O. Box 147 Brownton, MN 55312 320-328-5325

Noah's Ark Preschool News

This past fall Noah's Ark Preschool began its 35th year with an enrollment of 21 students of which 3 are members of Immanuel and 15 belong to other churches and 3 have no church home. The preschool continues to provide a special mission opportunity by providing the message of God's love to these small children and their families. We do this through our BIG IDEAS, bible stories and bible verses shared each month.

Preschool highlights for 2025

- 4 Star Parent Aware Rated Program
- Planted tulips (Buried Treasure!) in the outdoor classroom with the help of Nancy Sweely
- Received a \$1000 McLeod Cooperative Grant to purchase materials for multi-sensory tables
- Received a \$1500 Childcare Aware Regional Grant to purchase supplies for take home family activities
- Partnered with Immanuel to encourage food shelf donations
- Started the free book library/exchange by the preschool

Preschool future goals and needs

- Continue to improve the outdoor classroom by coming up with a summer maintenance plan and build more permanent shade structures
- Remain a 4 Star Parent Aware Program
- Start looking at replacing the preschool van (currently it is around 93,000 miles)

There are many ways to be involved in preschool such as participating in fundraisers, donating to the **BIG-TICKET RAFFLE**, checking our wish list in the entry, and continuing to send memorials to the preschool. Memorials, donations and grants are the only income the preschool has to replace, update or add new materials to the classroom.

Special thank you to those who participated in the Adopt-A-Student program this past year. This continues to be an integral feature of our program which enables all families to participate. The board and I would also like to thank the many supporters and volunteers of the preschool, those who helped with the outdoor classroom, the Tot Shop, left supplies from my wish list, volunteered in the classroom and especially our van drivers, Karen, Diana, Kathy, Melanie, Lori and Jan. I would also like to give a special shout out to our local daycare providers who are our direct link to the preschool; Kim Ribar, Angie Silfverston, and Laura Hochsprung. I would also like to say a personal thank you to our current board members; Anna Draeger, Ashlei Kraemer, Nicole Mrkvicka, Kim Ribar, Holly Sanken, and Chelsea Ziegenhagen. As you can see, it takes a village to run the preschool and here at Immanuel we are lucky enough to have that.

Thank you for your continued support of this special mission!

Vicki Herrmann - Director/Teacher

Noah's Ark Preschool



Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Pastor: Rev. R. Allan Reed
700 Division St., P. O. Box 147
Brownton, MN 55312-0147

February, March & April Issue

A Monthly Newsletter of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church

700 Division St. P.O. Box 147, Brownton, MN 55312-0147

www.immanuelutheranbrownton.org

Pastor's Office and **Church Office**: 320.328.5522

Noah's Ark Preschool: (Vicki Herrmann) 320.510.2726

Publication by Church Office Manager: (Mona Geier) 320 510 0920

Mission Statement of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Brownton

"Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church is a fellowship of believers in Jesus Christ seeking to nurture individuals and families in their Christian faith, teaching them a caring ministry to each other, our community, and the world by sharing the message of Jesus through word and deed."