

## **The Good Shepherd**

**"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. ... I am the good shepherd; and I know My own, and My own know Me, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice; and they shall become one flock with one shepherd." (John 10:11-16)**

Do the verses above tell you to do anything? They tell you that Jesus has. There is no command here, just the comforting message that He has you in His sight and under His care. He is the One who does whatever He needs to do to keep you safe in His presence. He doesn't go all the way to dying for you, He starts with that, on the cross. He forgives you all of your sins. Before you could ask, He paid for you and forgave you. He feeds you with His Word and promises. He comforts you with the news that you are His and He is yours, and nothing can change that. Just listen to His voice - which you can hear - and trust Him and walk with Him.

He will feed you His heavenly food - His body and blood - to strengthen you and cleanse you and comfort you. He will guide you steps. He will show you the way to walk - a way which is narrow, not heavily traveled, and not always pleasant. He will keep you because He loves you - and because He is the good Shepherd.

We live in different times. The world around us is rich, and has more to tempt us than ever before. There are more distractions. There are more voices telling us that we should listen to them and follow them. There are voices in the world telling us that there is a better way, a new way - and those voices inside of us that always question how we can be so sure that this is right when everyone else is clearly going another way, and seem to be so prosperous and effective and well-received in doing so. So many invitations to doubt. So many invitations to sin. So many pressures, both big and small, to get us to compromise, be reasonable, join in and grab from the abundance of the world around us with both hands.

It has always been something like this for the people of God, and yet we live in different times. We need to listen to the message of the good Shepherd. He has us. We are secure. Those who are not with us are truly against us. They are not with us because they are not hearing the voice of the Shepherd. We should love them. We should pray for them. We should invite them in - but the door of the sheep-fold is Jesus: Not the latest program for church growth, not the newest fad in worship, nor any of the trappings of success. We have our entire hope in Jesus. He gives everlasting life, and eternal protection, and true security because it does not start with us or depend on us, but it comes from Him and depends on Him. He is the good Shepherd.

***We bless The Shepherd!!!***

Pastor Reed

**IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRONWTON, MN**  
**VOTERS MEETING SUNDAY APRIL 19, 2026**

Members present = 49

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.

Review of secretary's minutes from January Voters meeting. No additions or corrections. MMSC Minutes accepted.

**Treasurer's Report** - Angie Radtke. Balance at end of March = \$22,149. 70. A large payout from General fund was for the security systems and the remaining balance of the organ. MMSC to accept report.

**Trust Fund Treasurer's Report** – Lori Cacka. Current funds from interest available for spending is: \$26,888.03. One of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund investments will expire in June. Lori and Pastor Reed are working with LCEF to renew. New interest rate for this fund is anticipated to go from 6.25% to possibly 4.5%. Discussions continue.

**Board of Deacons Report:** Pastor Reed.

\*Transfer In: Adam Klever from St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Henning, MN.

\*Adult Baptism & Adult Confirmation: Mackenzie Dahlke

\*Adult Confirmation – Isabell Willcok

MMSC to accept these individuals into the congregation.

The Deacons continue to look for ways to engage and involve people in the congregation. Pastor Reed is reaching out to Lutheran School Heads to explore educational opportunities.

**Board of Trustees Report:** Jeff Ribar.

1. Council recommends seal coating of north parking lot (cost ~\$7000). MMSC
2. Council recommends redoing of ceiling education hallway – moved to next qtr.
3. Council approves/recommends replacing appliances at the parsonage in the near future (while Pastor is on vacation). MMSC
4. Security system/Safety – Cameras and smoke detectors are in place. Upcoming training on system. Another camera and monitors requested.
5. Misc. – Grab bars in ladies rest rooms has been completed. Closets now available for medical and miscellaneous materials. Fixed thermos in balcony. Need to wax floors in teacher room.
6. Over the counter accordion door for over the kitchen counter being investigated.

**Board of Education** – Brenda Reed

Thanks to Anna Draeger for her previous role and welcome to Brenda Reed.

Enrollment averages 10 – 15 children. Curriculum "Bible in a Year".

Fund raisers and activities – Bak Sale, Palms on Palm Sunday, Bible Bingo next week and a trip to the park.

VBS – June 22 – 25, 2026

Thank you to the congregation and council for all their support.

**Office Manager's /Noah's Ark Report - Mona Geier**

\***Noah's Ark** – BIG Prize raffle going on – approximately 50 prizes to be given away.

Van is starting to require more maintenance. Council is looking into possible replacement – Al B. is coordinating per council's request.

Outdoor classrooms have families to help provide shade and keep the area free from weeds.

\***Office Manager** – Busy few months with Organ dedications, 3 funerals, Lenten services, confirmations and Easter. Things are starting to slow down a bit. Mona has completed the Officers Booklet, and they are available in the office.

\*\*Church Pictorial Directory - Committee has been organized: Mono Geier, Jeanie Von Berge, Julie Ziemann, Kim Schuette, Deb Draeger and Sheila Bussler. Days of pictures are currently scheduled as May 19, 29 and June 2. Please sign up online or contact Mona in the office.

A change has been made to the website. The "Wedding" section is now available in the YouTube tab and a section that provides with the church has to offer is now available on the site.

### **New Business – Kevin M.**

1. Council recommends allocating funds from the Orlin Knick estate for missions, including a \$10,000 donation to the Mission Central and \$5000 to Concordia Seminary Students and missionaries in 2026. MMSC
2. Councils approved the Ladies Aid Kitchen Equipment Proposal. MMCS
3. Danielle Uecker as been appointed as Treasurer Apprentice by Chairman Kevin M. Welcome Danielle.
4. We continue to look for an Assistant Usher.

There being no further business and request for adjournment was requested by Kevin M. MMSC.

Pastor Reed closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Secretary Sheila Bussler



## **LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article**

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Stewardship Newsletter article

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship) Stewardship

*Stewardship in the Body of Christ*

### **LCMS Stewardship- Follow Him in Generosity**

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. "For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you" (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job is already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus' generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: "The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity" (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each "as he has decided in his heart," as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly that they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

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## **WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR CHURCH OFFICE**

### **Office Report**

**Reminder:** The deadline for **Lutheran Witness renewals** is **May 31st**. The cost this year is **\$27.82**.

### **Projects:**

#### **Church Directory:**

We are now fully into the **Church Directory**, which will take place in May and June. Currently, we have scheduled photography dates for **May 19th and 20th** and we reach our qualification to get a 3<sup>rd</sup> day which will be **June 2nd**. If we fill up June 2<sup>nd</sup> we will then add another day for pictures.

A committee has been formed to assist with this project, including **Sheila Bussler, Julie Zieman, Kim Schuette, Jeanie Von Berge, and Deb Draeger**. We met with the representative, **Robert Newmann**, on April 7th to review the process and responsibilities.

We encourage everyone to schedule their professional photography session. Each participating household will receive a **complimentary 8x10 portrait** and a **church directory**.

Families may also submit a personal or family photo for inclusion in the directory. Submitted photos will be included at a cost of **\$15.00 per photo**. Each person submitting a photograph or image will receive a directory.

If you do submit a photo just a reminder that there are specific requirements for submitting photos, please contact the church office for details on what is needed.

We have already had people signing up. As of Friday **May 19th & May 20th** date is closed so you can still sign up on **June 2nd**. We currently have **224 households** in our church.

You may schedule your appointment **online**, by calling, or by stopping into the **church office** for assistance. Instructions are available on the table in the **narthex** if you would like guidance on how to sign up.

#### **Please Note:**

If you are scheduling your own appointment and have **five or more family members**, please reserve **two time slots**. We want to ensure that larger families have enough time for their photos without feeling rushed.

If you do want to have a full family picture taken and one of your family isn’t a member of Immanuel, they can still sign up and you just need a coupon and you can pick those up here in the office.

#### **Let’s try for 100% Participation!**

That’s it for now. Until next time!

Blessings,

**Mona Geier** | *Immanuel Office Manager*

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## Special Happening at Immanuel

The Worship Service is on every Sunday at 9:00am.  
Holy Communion is on the 1<sup>st</sup> and Last Sunday of the Month.

### May

**May 5<sup>th</sup>** | 6:30 pm-Deacon's Meeting  
**May 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>** | Pastor gone to Conference  
**May 13<sup>th</sup>** | Noah's Ark Closing Program @ 7:00 pm  
**May 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>** | **Pictorial Directory | Picture Day**  
**starting at 2:00 pm**  
**May 20<sup>th</sup>** | 1:30 pm- Afternoon Worship Service  
with Holy Communion

### June

**June 2<sup>nd</sup>** | 6:30 pm-Deacon's Meeting  
**Pictorial Directory | Picture Day starting at 2:00 pm**  
**June 7<sup>th</sup>** | 9:00 am – Graduation Sunday  
**June 17<sup>th</sup>** | 1:30 pm – Wednesday Afternoon Service/Holy  
Communion  
**June 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>** | 6:00 pm – VBS  
**June 25<sup>th</sup>** | 6:30 pm – VBS Closing Program / Pie Social



### 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:*

- **May 3, 2026**  
**"Planning Is Everything"**  
**Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)**

*Offer up your plans to God in prayer and see what God does with them. Let your plans become prayers that lead you to praise. Psalm 146:3-4*

- **May 10, 2026**  
**"The King Who Reigns"**  
**Guest Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Jason Broge](#)**

*If Easter tells us that Jesus the King has won, then Ascension tells us the King is reigning, and His reign is good. Luke 24:36-53*

- **May 17, 2026**  
**"Don't Despise Small Beginnings"**  
**Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)**

*Our small efforts to become the people Jesus saved us to be might seem insignificant, but small efforts compound. Acts 1:14*

- **May 24, 2026**  
**"Misery Loves Company"**  
**Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)**

*It's often said, "Misery loves company." Christ comes to us in our misery with God's love and mercy. Acts 2:38*

### **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**

### **Board of Education – Quarter 1 Sunday School Report:**

We are grateful for the continued support of our students, families, teachers, and congregation as we nurture the faith of our children.

### **Board Membership:**

This quarter, we said goodbye to outgoing board member **Anna Draeger** and **thanked** her for four years of dedicated service. We also welcomed Brenda Reed as a new member, who has already been a wonderful addition to the team.

### **Enrollment & Attendance:**

Average Weekly Attendance: 10–15 students

### **Curriculum:**

We have been very pleased with our "**The Bible in a Year**" curriculum, which has exposed students to a wide range of Bible stories and figures and has been well received.

### **Quarter 1 Events:**

March 4: Lenten Supper – sloppy joe meal served with great fellowship  
 Palm Sunday: Children participated in the opening hymn with palm procession  
 Bake Sale: Raised \$357 to support Sunday School programs

### **End of Year Plans:**

Date: April 26, 2026  
 Activities: Bible Bingo, prizes, snacks, and (weather permitting) a trip to the park

### **Vacation Bible School:**

Dates: June 22–25, 2026  
 Theme: Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God

### **Looking Ahead:**

Complete the Sunday School year; Maintain attendance; Support teachers; Finalize VBS Preparations.

**Closing:**

We thank the Church Council and congregation for their continued prayers and support. It is a blessing to share God's Word with the children of our church.

Respectfully submitted,

**Board of Education:** *Britt Buxcel, Brittany Glaeser, Kourtney Meister & Brenda Reed*

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# Noah's Ark Preschool

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

## Noah's Ark Preschool News

**Raffle Update:**

Tickets are going fast, but there are still plenty available! You can purchase them from any preschool parent, from Vicki, or at the church office. It looks like we have over 50 prizes again this year—thank you for your generous donations and support!

**Van Replacement:**

Our current van has just over 96,000 miles and is beginning to require repairs. A plan is now being developed for its replacement.

**Registration:**

Enrollment for next year is currently at 23 students. Transportation continues to be a challenge for families, with requests coming from Hutchinson and Glencoe. This highlights both the importance of the van and the strength of our program.

**Outdoor Classroom:**

We are grateful to have a family willing to fund an outdoor shade project, which is greatly needed. We are also working with the Trustees on a summer maintenance plan.

**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

## May, June & July Issue

**A Monthly Newsletter of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church**

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

[www.immanuelutheranbrownton.org](http://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."*