

Quarterly Caller 2026

August, September & October Issue

Vacation

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

(Matthew 11:28-30)

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on ... whatever? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life, says Jesus.

Summer is definitely here. Families are heading for needed vacation from school, work and routine life. Beaches, mountains, farms and family await those who understand that importance of stepping out of routine to rest. Monday through Friday are days of work whether it be a job, school or just life. Saturdays often become chore days as we struggle to keep up the house and yard while running errands and hauling kids to every sport or activity imaginable making it hardly a day of rest. Then there is Sunday which to a Christian also includes heading to the local House of Worship. God created the Sabbath as a designated day of rest for His People. This would indicate that our Father thought it important enough to incorporate in to each week. Unfortunately, people have decided to cram pack Monday through Sunday to the hilt and run themselves ragged in the process. But alas, summer has come - the season of rest and restoration.

During the summer months when life seems to slow down with school out and offices sparse with many people taking time off, churches notoriously experience their lowest attendance. Why is that? People in pursuit of rest who decide they need a break from God. That is almost like wanting something to eat but leaving the kitchen and going to the bathroom to look for it. If your method and mode of serving God in His House has become work, then maybe you are doing it all wrong. Burned out on Jesus? It happens when the practice of religion overtakes the experience of the relationship! Our relationship with Jesus Christ is the reason we live! Everything including rest is found in Jesus! Serving God is an amazing lifelong commitment that provides the rest for our soul that we desperately need. It is when we pack our life with earthly activities and forget to walk, commune, communicate, love, worship with Jesus that we become overwrought and burned out. Ever notice that after a long vacation, it also takes time to recover from the trip. Ah-ha. "The unforced rhythms of grace" can allow you to live in such a way that a vacation is a change of scenery and not a change of lifestyle! Going on vacation should create a longing to return to join in the fellowship of other Believers to worship and welcome the Presence of God.

Take time to relax and recreate with the One who has loved and cared for you so much that takes no vacation, but continues to labor, delivering to you the fruits of the cross in Word and Sacrament!

We bless the Lord!!!
Pastor Reed

**IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, BROWNTON, MN
VOTERS MEETING SUNDAY JULY 26, 2026**

Members present – 59

Chairman Kevin Miller called the meeting to order.

Pastor Reed opened the meeting with a prayer.

After a review of the agenda, it was approved MMSC.

No changes noted on the Secretary minutes from the April Voters meeting. Approved.

Treasure's Report was presented by Angie R. (see Treasurer's report) With an ending balance of \$9552.74 as of 6/30/26. Two of the most significant expenses were identified as the two payments to Mission (\$10K) and the Seminary (\$5K). No changes identified. Report Approved.

Trust Fund Treasurer's Report was presented by Lori Cacka. (see Trust Fund Report). The Lutheran Church Extension Fund investments matured and were renewed in June at 4.25%. Current interest dollars total \$23,736.65. Some of these dollars have already been allocated to projects/bills. No questions or changes requested.

Deacons Report was presented by Pastor Reed. There were no membership changes this quarter. A Thank You card was received from the Seminary thanking us for our generosity. It helps to make missions possible. It also helps the Seminary as we look forward to our next Pastorship. Other items include helping our community. A recent fire at one of the neighbors creates an opportunity to help. The Board of Deacons will be discussing how we can reach out and offer help in these situations. Please be sure to make the church aware of these situations. Also looking at the pre-school for ways to help and impact the community. There is also need to fill the open position of Assistant Head Usher, which is open. The position is being reviewed for possible changes.

Trustee Report was presented by Jason Buxcel. The following items were/are included:

Accomplishments	2026 Summer/Fall Projects
Additional Security camera install. Parts for Narthex doors	Seal coat tar parking lot - Jason B. is doing the project
Training on Security cameras complete	Replace appliance parsonage. Bid in May - \$3500
Video doorbell installed at east entrance	Look into replacing accordion door in kitchen
Preschool carpet shampooed	Repair cross for outdoor preschool area
Preschool, east education entrance, teacher room waxed	Get bids for repairing the ceiling in the office hallway/lights
Rain gutter extended to barrel for outdoor preschool	Get bids for replacing concrete sections E parking lot
Weeds in landscaping & parking lot sprayed	Get bids for replacing entrance flooring in parsonage
Checked oxygen tank	Paint preschool bathrooms
Elevator - completed annual check - no repairs needed	Fix sink in kitchen

(Respectfully submitted, Immanuel Board of Trustees, Jason Buxcel)

Quarter 2 Board of Education Report

Vacation Bible School – Presented by Brenda Reed, who thanked all the volunteers! This summer we continued our partnership with the VBS Co-op to collaborate on the planning, share decorations and help keep costs down. We hosted our Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God VBS from June 22 to 25 and were excited to welcome more than 40 children through the week. We wrapped up the VBS with a special closing service where the children shared what they learned, sang songs and celebrated a wonderful week together. Be sure to watch for a VBS recap video that will be shared on Rally Sunday.

Mission Project – Through our VBS mission project, we collected **51#** of food and **\$267** in donations, along with the offering received during the Thursday closing service. Dollars go a long way at the Food Shelf. All proceeds were donated to the McLeod County Emergency Food Shelf.

Looking ahead – Rally Sunday is set for September 13th due to Labor Day. We will once again kick off the Sunday School year with a party for the children and their families to meet the teachers, enjoy games and activities, and celebrate the start of another year. We encourage the congregation to join us and see the exciting things happening in our Sunday School program.

Curriculum will continue using The Bible in a Year – taking the students through the Bible and engaging stories.

Registration for Sunday School is now open. Postcards have been mailed to families and posters with QR codes for online registration will be displayed throughout the church.

Quarter 2 - Preschool Report - Presented by Mona G.

Exciting things are happening at the preschool!

Registration packets have been mailed. The classroom has been scrubbed from top to bottom, and home visits will be kicking off soon. There are openings available. Please register if you haven't yet.

Transportation – continues to be one the most important parts of our preschool ministry. Currently exploring options to replace our aging van and investigated hiring additional transportation services, which have unfortunately proven to be very expensive. We are incredibly grateful for our dedicated volunteer drivers and always looking to add more drivers to our team.

We are also excited to be making improvements to our outdoor learning space thanks to generous memorial donations. We are establishing regular maintenance routines to help keep our playground and outdoor areas safe, welcoming and enjoyable.

Noah's Ark Preschool relies on the generosity of our congregation and community. If you would like to support our program, we maintain an Amazon Wish List, a donation list outside of the classroom and we always appreciate gift cards to Walmart, Target, Aldi, Dollar Tree, Menards and other local retailers. Check our Facebook page for updates throughout the year.

We are gearing up for our first fundraiser of the school year. The ever-popular Kwik Trip Car Wash cards. More details are coming at the end of August.

In this edition of the Caller, we are excited to introduce our Adopt-A-Student program. This ministry gives members of our congregation the opportunity to help support a preschool family in need. It's a meaningful way to make a lasting difference in the life of a child and their family.

As always, we are deeply grateful for the continued support of our preschool community. Your prayers, generosity and involvement all make a difference. We look forward to another wonderful Year.

(Respectfully submitted, Immanuel Preschool Director/Teacher – Vicki Herrmann)

Quarter 2 Office Report - Presented by Mona G.

Projects – Church Directory Update

Project went well. We had **223** households in our congregation and of those **110** households signed up to have their pictures taken and **29** households submitted their own photos. That gave us a total of **139** participating households, with **84** not participating. I was very pleased with the turnout.

We received 8 directory credits which were used as follows: 3 for spiral binding, 2 for Minister and Staff pages, 1 to cover the fee for a shut-in who submitted a photo and 2 were used to purchase a CD containing all of the directory photos.

We have now received the proof copy of the church directory. I will be meeting with the directory team to carefully review it and make sure there are no errors. If no corrections are needed, I will submit the final approval, and it will take approximately 20 days for the directories to be printed and delivered. If corrections are required, the delivery time will be extended. If you submitted a printed photo for the directory, you may stop by the office to pick it up anytime. If you prefer, we can return it to you when the directories arrive.

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this project a success!

Sunday School Postcards. – The Sunday School Board and I teamed up on a new outreach effort for this fall. We will be mailing postcards to families with children 3 years old through 4th grade. The postcards will include information about Sunday School, along with a QR code for online registration.

Sunday school attendance has declined in recent years and we hope this outreach will encourage more families to register and join us as we share God's work with our children.

Please keep this outreach effort in your prayers as we prepare for another exciting year of Sunday School.

(Respectfully submitted, Immanuel Office Manager, Mona Geier)

Old Business

Proposed improvements for the organ. (See attached sheet). There are approximately \$1250 remaining on items to be complete (cost is already included in the dollars approved for the organ).

New Business

***Nominating Committee New Appointments**

Lori Cacka, Jeff Ribar, Brenda Reed

***Continuing as members:**

Barb Zaske, Diana Klabunde, Nathan Zimmerman

Recess for the Cemetery Board Meeting.

Cemetery Board meeting was called to order by Kevin Nordby. Primary point of discussion was regarding the possibility of seal-coating the cemetery roadways. Total cost ~\$17,880. Voters agreed to the cemetery board to go forward with the project. MMSC Shared cost options will be discussed by the Voters when Voters meeting has resumed. No further business the Cemetery Board meeting was adjourned. MMCS

Voters meeting resumed:

After much discussion regarding the church sharing the cost of seal-coating the cemetery road the following motion was made: The church pay for half of the costs to seal-coat the cemetery eventually, but a date has not yet been determined as to when those dollars

will be made available to the Cemetery board. The Cemetery board will pay for the seal-coating and the church will reimburse them when funds have been prioritized. MMSC approved.

There was more discussion regarding the need to establish a committee to help establish prioritized spending (create criteria to be used in that prioritization) and to possibly establish short-term and long-term spending. An example could be 1 year, 3 year and 5-year plan. Pastor Reed suggested that the Deacons discuss this at their next meeting and report back.

There being no further business, Chairman Kevin Miller, asked for a motion to adjourn. MMSC Approved.

Pastor 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 Stewardship

Stewardship in the Body of Christ

August 2026 Stewardship Newsletter Article

"Maturing stewards do the right things for the right reasons and strive for excellence in all they do."

Many people refer to the days of August as the "dog days of summer." Temperatures in August in most parts of our country can be pretty uncomfortable. But what may seem like a curse to some is actually a blessing to others. In the corn growing regions of our country farmers welcome the heat. Many claim that on a hot summer night you can actually hear the corn grow.

Heat and cold, like summer and winter, remind us that we are easily dissatisfied with things as they are right now. We have a chronic longing for something better. And, chances are very good that when we get what we are longing for, it's still not enough.

St. Paul learned the secret of contentment and shared it with Christians of all ages in Philippians 4:11b-13: "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength." St. Paul could have added being content regardless of the season of the year.

Maturing stewards, like St. Paul, learn to be content with what the Lord provides, trusting that he will provide for our needs, but not necessarily for our greeds. Maturing stewards learn the difference between needs and greeds and receive blessings from the hands of a good and gracious God with thanksgiving and then use them in ways that honor him and benefit others.

So, thank God for August and the blessings it brings. Each day and each month God's blessings are new. We join the hymn writer in praising God with these words: "Every morning mercies new fall as fresh as morning dew; Every morning let us pay tribute with the early day; for Thy mercies, Lord, are sure, Thy compassion doth endure." (TLH, 537, verse 1)

When it comes to receiving God's abundant gifts with thanksgiving, ***maturing stewards do the right things for the right reasons and strive for excellence in all they do!***

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR CHURCH OFFICE

REPORT IS IN THE SECRETARY MINUTES!

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.

August

Aug 4th | 6:30 pm-Deacon's Meeting
Aug 19th | | 1:30 pm – Wednesday Afternoon Service/Holy Communion
Aug 26th | 6:30 pm – Parents Confirmation Meeting

September

Sept 1st | 6:30 pm-Deacon's Meeting
Sept 8th | 6:30 pm – German Dinner Committee Meeting
Sept 13th | 9:00 am – Rally Sunday
Sept 16th | 1:30 pm – Wednesday Afternoon Service/Holy Communion
Sept 20th | 9:00 am – Catechisms Presentation to the 1st Graders
Sept 24th | 6:30 pm – Nominating Committee Meeting
Sept 27th | 9:00 am – LWML Sunday & Bibles Presentation to the 3rd graders



Have You Listened to the Message of Hope?

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 Archives August, you will hear recorded sermons from past years.

Aug 2 | "Why Jesus Told Parables" with Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Effective communicators tell stories to make a point. Hear how Jesus' parables point us to Himself. (Mark 4)

Aug 9 | "Extreme Neighborliness" with former Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz. Jesus is the ultimate "Good Samaritan," the unlikely Rescuer who binds our wounds, carries us to safety, and pays the price through His cross. (Luke 10:25-37)

Aug 16 | "Look at Me" with Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. God hears our cry for justice, not as an indifferent judge, but as our merciful heavenly Father. (Luke 18:1-8)

Aug 23 | "Real Riches" with former Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Ken Klaus. It's not wrong to have possessions, but to love anything in such a way that it takes the place of God is spiritually deadly. (Luke 12:15)

Aug 30 | Tell Me a Story" with Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer. God lavishly sows the seed of His Word. Responses vary. (Mark 4:1-20, 26-34) 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

REPORT IS IN THE SECRETARY MINUTES!

Noah's Ark Preschool

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

Noah's Ark Preschool News

Noah's Ark Preschool Adopt-A-Student Program

The Adopt-A-Student program provides financial and spiritual assistance for families who want the Christian preschool education but are unable to make full or partial tuition and or transportation payments. At Noah's Ark we want to ensure that no child is turned away due to the family's financial inability to pay. Some families are in financial need because of factors such as unemployment, illness in the family, large family size, etc. Your gift benefits not only needy family but also our preschool.

We ask that if you can afford to do so, please consider helping a student with tuition, transportation, snack fees and or supplies (backpack, binder etc). Any donations are accepted for this worthy cause. If interested in being a part of the program, please fill out the attached form and return to the director via mail or the preschool box in the church office.

Thank you for your interest in the Adopt-A-Student program. Your gift will enable a child to Grow and Learn as they Discover God's Love!

All gifts are tax deductible.

Our tuition rates for the month and year are as follows:

2 days a week \$85/month \$765/year

3 days a week \$105/month \$945/year

4 days a week \$125/month \$1125/year

Transportation depends on how many days a week they attend class and how often they ride.

Fees for a month range from \$25.00-\$50.00/month.

Other expenses a family may incur?

- Students must have a full-sized backpack, and a 3-ring binder. (Extra binders & backpacks could be kept at school)
- We ask for donations of food and or money for the German Dinner and Lenten Suppers

The preschool supplies each child with the following:

Plastic folder, full size spiral notebook, scissors, glue sticks, markers, crayons, paper etc.

Any of these items can be donated as well.

Name_____

Address_____

Phone number:_____

Our gift is in memory of_____

Our gift is in honor of_____

_____/We wish to remain anonymous (please check if applicable)

You may choose to make a one-time donation, pay their monthly tuition or transportation, and/or purchase needed supplies.

Please return this form to the director and he/she will contact you regarding your support!

Thanks for helping those in need!

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
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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."