



# THE MESSENGER



the newsletter of  
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lawrence, Kansas

Vol. 29 No. 8

[www.immanuellawrence.org](http://www.immanuellawrence.org)

August 2025

2104 Bob Billings Parkway  
Lawrence, Kansas  
66049-2722

Church Office: (785) 843-0620  
Officemanager@  
immanuellawrence.org  
M-F: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Facebook: @ImmanuelLutheran  
ChurchLawrenceKS

Website: [www.immanuellawrence.org](http://www.immanuellawrence.org)

Worship Service: Sunday—9:00 am

Sunday School and Bible Study for  
all: Sunday—10:30 am

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Wehling

Youth Coordinator:  
Tiffany McCandless

Office Manager:  
Lisa Fredrickson

Messenger Editors:  
Lisa Fredrickson  
and Jan Leines

2025 Council Officers  
Chuck Peterson ..... President  
Tammie George ..... V. President  
Kristie Rock ..... Secretary  
Roger Billings ..... Treasurer  
Pat McCandless ..... At-  
Emily Huffman ..... Large  
Greg Rahe ..... members

Spiritual Care Team  
Joel Thaemert  
Elois Allan, Marty Couchman,  
Mark Crabtree, Russ Dwyer  
Mike Gear, Kristel Lewis

Mission  
"To share God's love in  
Jesus Christ by word and deed with all  
people."

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### Curse Reversed

A common objection to Christianity is the fact that the world is a mess. Genocide, child slavery, starvation, earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, and terrorism—where did these evils come from? If God is so good and loving, how can he allow suffering and death?

The Bible answers the question this way:

In the beginning, God created a perfect world with no death or pain. He entrusted the care of the entire earth to Adam and Eve, the first humans, and gave them only one restriction: "of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Although they were warned of the consequences, Adam and Eve chose to rebel against God, which brought the curse of sin on the earth, introducing pain and death into God's originally perfect creation. Scripture tells us that "sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and death spread to all men because all sinned" (Romans 5:12). Now, the whole creation groans under the brokenness of sin (Romans 8:22).

But that's not the end of the story. God did not give up on His creation.

Already in Genesis (3:15), God promised to send a Deliverer, the "Seed of the woman," who would crush the head of the serpent (Satan). In the New Testament, we find out the identity of this Deliverer—he is Jesus, God's own Son, who gave his life to redeem us.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Jesus died for the sins of the world. In Him, we have forgiveness and new life. On the third day, He rose from the grave in victory over death and hell – a victory He freely gives to those who trust in Him. In Christ, the curse has been reversed!

Therefore, God sends us out into this broken world to proclaim the Gospel message of repentance and faith in Jesus. And to live out that Gospel by our words and actions which bring the light of God's grace into the darkness of sin and suffering. By this Gospel, God is making all things new again (Revelation 21:5).

Isaac Watts said it this way in stanza 3 of *Joy to the World*:

No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow Far as the curse is found.

So, we agree that the world is a mess. But we also know the curse of sin has been reversed through Jesus. Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory, through our Lord, Jesus Christ! (1 Corinthians 15:57)

Pastor Wehling

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
**Church Council Meeting Minutes**  
 July 10, 2025, 5:30 pm, Room 205

**Mission:** To share God's love in Jesus Christ by Word and Deed to all people.

**Attendees:** Pastor Andrew Wehling, Chuck Peterson, Kristie Rock, Tammie George, Roger Billings, Emily Huffman, Greg Rahe, Pat McCandless  
**Absent:** Mark Crabtree  
**Guests:** Tim Hetzler, Cristi Hansen

**Call to Order:** Chuck Peterson called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**Opening Prayer/Devotion:** Pastor Wehling opened the meeting with a devotion from the Small Catechism about God's will.

The minutes from June 12, 2025, were distributed by Kristie Rock in advance via email and approved.

## The Treasurer's Report - submitted by Roger Billings

- The monthly budget is on track.
- Pastor Radtke declined payment for his visiting Pastor services.
- Paper supply expenses have been allocated accurately to their proper funds in the report.
- The report reflects a memorial fund for Judy Weichman. She is not a member of the church, and she will decide on what to spend the \$1085.35 memorial.

**Tammie moved to approve the treasurer's report. Pat seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

- Concordia Plans provide health insurance, dental and vision premiums. There should be a drop in the price for 2026 as the self and spouse option will be used, instead of the family option.
- Hartford provides workers' compensation insurance. Estimated annual premiums should go down from \$2,375.52 for 2025 to \$1,803.00 for 2026.
- GuideOne Insurance provides insurance for the community auto, building insurance, and umbrella insurance. For 2026 the crime deductible will be raised to \$1,000, but premiums will not be raised. In 2026, GuideOne will exclude cyber incidents. Roger will check how much it would cost to cover cyber incidents.
- All insurance plans are automatically renewed.

## Pastor's Report

- Average worship attendance is about the same.
- Pastor suggests that people leave a review of the church on Google, also to 'check in' on Facebook when attending church so that others will learn about Immanuel.

- The college outreach team will meet July 11 to discuss possibilities for training in outreach.
- The National Youth Gathering is July 19-23 in New Orleans. The prospective attendees will be commissioned during the July 12 worship service.
- There has been limited publicity for the youth coordinator position. Advertising in a different way will begin soon. The position requires a specific skills set.
- The next Fifth Sunday will be August 31, on Labor Day weekend. It was suggested that fellowship occur after the worship service.
- Pastor gave a big "thank you" to Dale and Kate Clemmons for organizing many fellowship activities this summer.

## Property and Grounds Report – submitted by Tim Hetzler

- At the last meeting, \$6,000 to \$8,000 was approved to be spent on lower level door replacements, but the project may cost more than that.

**Greg moved to increase the total amount approved for the lower-level door replacements up to \$10,000. Tammie seconded it. The motion passed.**

- Quotes for chemical washing of the church exterior were between \$2,800 and \$3,200. Property and Grounds recommended that it would not be worth the expense, but after discussion, Council decided to chemically wash the east side of the church to see how it would turn out, and how long it would last. After getting an actual cost, if it does not void the roof warranty, Council can vote on whether or not to chemically wash the east side.
- A sculptor made a presentation to property and grounds for installing his sculpture of a curtain of 800 spinning copper discs in the tower. After determining that the total cost would be \$20,000 to \$25,000, it was decided not to move forward with the sculpture. It was again suggested that the chimes be coated in a rubber-type material, and strung together so they do not swing around in the wind.
- Property and Grounds is considering stained glass windows in the south entrance. After discussion, Council did not think this would be a good idea as it would reduce light.
- Council discussed ideas for how the narthex could be renovated to be more welcoming and appealing by installing new furniture, carpet, a welcome desk, a coffee bar, and a cross, for example. The mailboxes could be moved to the coat rack area. A suggestion was made to utilize part of the music room for more area in the narthex. An organized capital campaign would be required to let the congregation decide how the church should look.

Emily had to leave the meeting.

## Old Business

- Financial review committee – Jason McCandless, Joel Thaemert, Greg Rahe: will schedule a meeting soon.
- Activity Center request for use – The Council voted unanimously by email to not allow Anthony to use the facility  
*(continued on page 3)*

- for his business, for multiple reasons, such as being a non-church member with a key, and security issues.
- Mark Crabtree is updating the speaker system in the Activity Center utilizing approximately \$3,000 in funds from Easter lilies and Thrivent choice dollars. Installation will begin in late July.
- A district convention report by Laura Carson should be in an upcoming monthly newsletter.

#### New Business

- The office copier lease is going to expire. Since the copier works well, we would like to determine the buy-out cost.
- Committees for the 2026 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building and the 2027 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Immanuel congregation will need to be formed. We will wait till next year to start planning for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There will be a notice in the bulletin regarding committees.
- The next Council meeting will be held on August 14 at 5:30 pm.

**Closing Prayer** Pastor Wehling closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**Tammie moved to adjourn, and Roger seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie Rock  
Church Council Secretary

### Upcoming Events in August:



August 3 at 1:00 pm—Pickleball in the Activity Center. *All ages are welcome and no experience necessary.*



August 11 at 11:30 am—Lunch at Biggs BBQ on S. Iowa.



August 24 at 6:00 pm—Church Picnic and Welcome to New and Returning Students. *Watch announcements for more information.*



### June and July Activities

Lunch at 23rd St. Brewery on June 23rd and the Monarch's Baseball game on July 6.





## LCMS National Youth Gathering July 17 to 23, 2025



"Endure", based on Hebrews 12:1-3, was the theme of the Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Nine youth and three adults from Immanuel as well as four youth and one adult from King of Glory in Cheyenne, Wyoming, were in our group. We had an incredible week studying God's word and worshipping with 20,000+ youth and adults from all over the world. Thank you to our congregation for the continued support of our youth! This trip wouldn't have been possible without you.



Plan to join the youth on Sunday, August 24, at 10:30 am  
to hear about their experiences!



## Backpack Blessings & blessing others with Backpacks!

Sunday, August 17 will be our Annual backpack blessing during the Worship Service. If you would like to have your child's backpack blessed, please bring it to the worship service on that day.

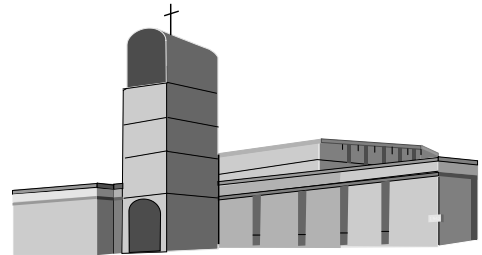
Thank you to everyone who donated supplies for the Back-to-School supply drive for the Ballard Center. We are providing backpacks and all the supplies for the 13 children attending Kindergarten at the Ballard Center.

The JAAA (Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging) has a program called "Champs". Seniors over 60, can get lunches for \$3.50 at Dillons or Hy-Vee. To qualify, you watch a video, then call JAAA and ask for an application. After purchasing a lunch card online, you can go to one of the locations at your convenience for a nice meal.

See  
[www.jhawkaaa.org](http://www.jhawkaaa.org)  
for more  
information.



## August Anniversaries and Birthdays



Lucas & Cassidy Boyd	1	Ariana Steinbach	10
Bob & Barbara Riley	2	Charlotte Karstensen	11
Russ & Beth Dwyer	5	Nancy Lahm	13
Michael & Sonja Grear	6	Andrew Lenz	14
Greg & Bernie Rahe	6	Greysen Lenz	14
Rev. Don & Diane Miller	21	Baden Masenthin	15
Noah & Jennica Mosier	25	Steve Walter	15
Duane & Julie Zule	25	Trevor Sack	17
Vernon & Ruth Ellen		Linda Klinker	18
Bartels	31	Evan Meyer	18
		Sharon Leggott	21
		Darcy Meyer	23
Jami Boone	1	Andrew Wehling	23
Kyle Wofford	2	Eli Dick	24
Martha Fister	5	Millie Walter	24
Patrick McCandless	6	Jason McCandless	26
Kaylen Sandidge	7	Lisa Wofford	27
Olivia Herschell	8	Brynn Deterding	28
Jase Grady	9	Rev. Don Miller	28
Justin Lutz	9	Karen Bailey	30
Seth Studley	9	Blake Heubner	30
Marty Couchman	10	Avery Sack	30
Russ Dwyer	10	Joseph McCandless	31
Emily Flachsbarth	10		
Guy Ornes	10		
Kevin Plummer	10		

### June 2025 Budget

General Offerings	\$31,731
Building Use	\$0
Other income	\$0
From other accounts	\$0
Total Gen. Receipts	\$31,731
Total Gen. Expenses	\$28,026
Income (Loss)	\$3,706

### Weekly Offerings

General	Designated
\$14,258	\$364
\$5,548	\$356
\$4,356	\$95
\$7,569	\$67
\$31,731	\$881

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

*A monthly newsletter published  
 by Immanuel Lutheran Church  
 and University Student Center*

**"Every Servant a Loving *Messenger*"**

**August 2025**



**Weekly Activities**

**August Activities**

Sundays \*

9:00 am    Worship Service, Communion  
                  No Sunday School/Bible Study

Wednesdays\*

9:30 am    Youth Coordinator Office  
 12:00 pm    House Prayer at Caryn Scott's

Thursdays\*

9:30 am    Women's Thursday Bible Study

Saturdays\*

8:30 am    Men's Bible Study—Room 205  
                  (*begins again on Saturday, August 16*)

Aug. 3	1:00 pm	Pickleball—Activity Center
Aug. 5	All Day	Primary Election Polling Place — Activity Center
	6:30 pm	Property and Grounds +
Aug. 11	11:30 am	Lunch at Biggs BBQ (S. Iowa)
Aug. 12	12:00 pm	LINK
Aug. 14	11-5:30 pm	Red Cross Blood Drive
	1:00 pm	Quilting for Orphan Grain Train
	6:00 pm	Council Meeting--Room 205 +
Aug. 15	9-2:00 pm	Red Cross Blood Drive
Aug. 17	9:00 am	Backpack Blessing
Aug. 18	1:00 pm	Deadline--Sept. 'Messenger'
Aug. 19	6:30 pm	Spiritual Care Committee +
Aug. 21	All Day	Story Hill Church — Parking lot
Aug. 24	6:00 pm	Church Picnic
Aug. 28	1:00 pm	Quilting for Orphan Grain Train

+ Recurring Monthly Committee Meetings

\* Check our online calendar for any changes:  
[immanuellawrence.org/calendar](http://immanuellawrence.org/calendar)