

Summer Worship at Immanuel

Sundays in June

10am Worship Service
9am Education Hour for everyone

Immanuel Lutheran Church Ministry Staff

Rev. Benjamin Braun
Pastor

Todd Stevens, DCE
Director of Children's Ministry

Carrie Ann Swaim
Director of Youth Ministry

Chris Winston
Director of Music & Organist

Rebecca Winston
Director of Vocal Music

Tammy Seeman
Church Office Manager

Heather Engelman
Communications & Ministry Support Coordinator

Immanuel Lutheran Christian Academy

400 N. Aspen, BA 74012
Phone: 918-251-5422
Website: ilcanews.org

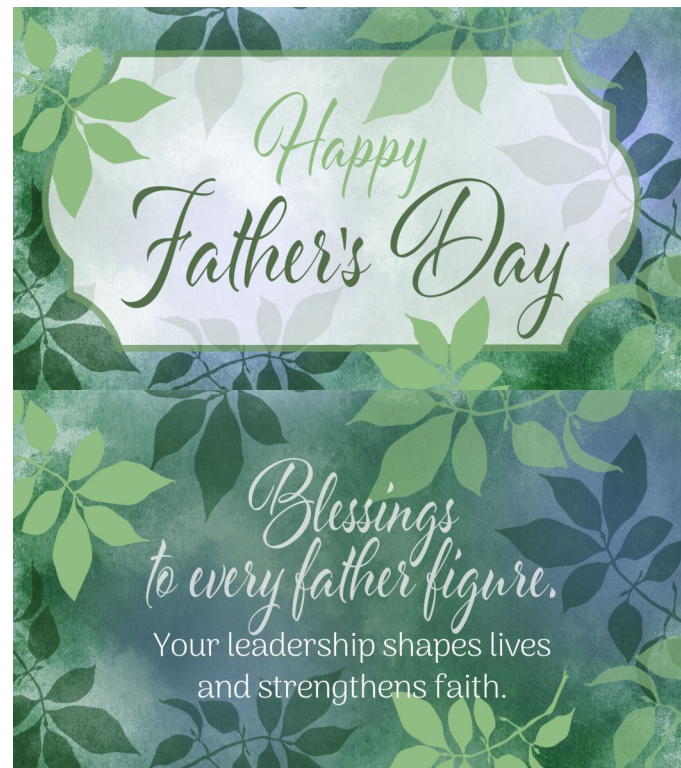
Twilla Berwaldt
Executive Director

Immanuel Lutheran Christian Academy Preschool

400 N. Aspen, BA 74012
Phone: 918-258-7622
Website: ilcanews.org

Keisha Huggins
Preschool Director

Rachel McGrew
Assistant Preschool Director



Immanuel Lutheran Church

United in faith and empowered by the Spirit, Immanuel **embraces, educates, and engages** our community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Immanuel means "God with us." Knowing this, the possibilities for Immanuel's ministries are unlimited. Immanuel's ministries focus on three pillars supported by the foundation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The pillars of **embracing, educating, and engaging** our community serve as guideposts and reflect our unity of faith. The strength of these pillars is based on three faithful relationships originated and strengthened by the Holy Spirit: First, God with us; Next, our interactions with Each Other; and Third, our outward interactions with our neighbors.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

400 N Aspen Ave
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
918-258-5506
www.immanuelba.org

*In God we boast all the day long,
and praise thy name for ever.*

Psalm 44:8 KJV

**June
Newsletter
2026**

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

400 N Aspen Avenue
Broken Arrow, OK 74012

Church: 918-258-5506 / immanuelba.org

School K-12: 918-251-5422 / Preschool: 918-258-7622



CALLED TO SERVE

ELDER LETTER—JUNE 2026

This message finds myself following on the heels of the outstanding monthly letters from talented colleagues Immanuel Deacon John Brigham and fellow Elder Eddie Grant. This is my first foray into contributing to the Immanuel newsletter and it is an honor to do so.

My topic is service. Jesus sets the perfect example of this throughout the Bible. We see this each week as we celebrate Holy Communion. Jesus continues to serve us as the Paschal Lamb with His true body & blood so that we can have eternal life in Heaven with Him. "...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give His life as a ransom for many". (Matthew 20:28).

As Lutherans, we eagerly embrace this Doctrine thankful that Jesus will never leave us, nor forsake us. (Hebrews 13:5).

How about yourself? What spiritual gifts do you have to serve the community at Immanuel and elsewhere? Do you feel led to serve in some way? (Romans 12:3-8). Maybe you have been praying about ENGAGING in serving at a congregational opportunity here. As a designated Elder volunteer coordinator, I can connect you with others and assist in your volunteer interests. Please contact me @ phone (918) 361-6967.

There are many examples of service opportunities here at Immanuel. Volunteer committees, VBS, groundskeeping, Lutheran Braille, Altar guild, etc. EDUCATE. ILCA's theme of "Preparing servant leaders to shape the world through Christ's example" is a good one to remember. Volunteers are not necessarily limited to age. In fact, I wish to point out that fellow Immanuel member and ILCA high school graduate, John D'Arcy, constructed the concrete basketball court you see on the west playground as an 11th grader here in 2014.

Many members at Immanuel are already engaged in volunteerism to serve others. The Rotarian theme of "Service above self" typifies the attitude you will find them EMBRACING. It is a pleasure to work alongside these fellow believer servants.

Typically, we as Lutherans do not serve to feel better about yourself. However, during the course of serving others, you will. We honor God by serving. That is why we are called to serve.

In Christ,
Nathan Armer

1 Peter 4:10-11 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.



Last month, the talents and gifts of Immanuel were in the spotlight through ILCA's production of *Oliver, Jr.!* God has given these students the gifts of acting, singing, dancing, and performing...and the audiences of both performances were blown away. Thank you to the cast and crew of this year's musical for all of your hard work and dedication!



Immanuel's Summer Worship Schedule

For the summer, May 31st through August 9th, we will have **ONE WORSHIP SERVICE** at 10:00am.

Education Hour is at 9:00am, beginning June 7th.

We will return to 2 worship services on August 14th.



You Are Invited to the 'Welcome to Immanuel' Classes

We offer a series of classes designed for people considering membership at Immanuel or having recently transferred. It will be a comprehensive overview of Lutheran faith and practice, and an introduction to who we are at Immanuel.

Led by Pastor Ben Braun.

When: Beginning Sunday, July 12th at 9:00am (during the Education Hour), and continuing July 19th, 26th, & August 2nd.

Where: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Multipurpose Room A.

If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Seeman at tseeman@immanuelba.org or call the church office, 918-258-5506.



EDUCATION HOUR
-Summer Schedule-
All classes begin at 9:00am

June 7th Classes:

2 Classes for Adults:

- **The Book of 1 John;** meet in the gym; led by Pastor Spomer
- **Stay Married and Like Each Other**
What does Scripture say about enjoying life with your spouse? This study explores Christ-centered ways to cultivate deep commitment, genuine friendship, and lasting connection in marriage. Curriculum by Rev. Kirk & Stephanie. Meet in the multipurpose room; led by Nathan & Robin Armer.

CHILDREN'S CLASSES:

- 3-5 year olds—Room 110
- 2nd & 3rd grade—Room 115
- K & 1st grade—Room 110
- 4th grade—Room 124
- 5th grade—Room 119
- 6th grade—Room 117

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES meet in Luther Hall - grades 7th-12th

ADULT EDUCATION HOUR
on **JUNE 14th** at 9:00am,
in the gym

(Only 1 adult class on this date)

Pastor Ben Braun will share a brief lesson, provide an update on his journey, and respond to questions.

If you have questions, please submit them using the back side of your attendance register or reach out to your elder. Thank you.



Tulsa Area Lutherans Night

Sunday, June 28, 2026

6:30 pm

\$12/person

Drillers vs Amarillo Sod Poodles

Red White & Blue Fireworks show after the game

ALL AGES EVENT with a special appearance from
Hornsby during the game

FUN FOR THE ENTIRE CHURCH BODY!



Immanuel members, get your ticket(s) here:



Deadline to purchase is Sunday, June 14.

If you'd like to use cash or check, see Carrie Ann in person!

Please note, you will receive a physical ticket on Sunday, June 28 and the digital ticket you receive is just a receipt (it will not get you into the game!).



2026 Immanuel Youth Ministry Summer Schedule

June 1-5 - Local Mission Week #1 Pryor, OK

June 10 - WINGS 6-8pm (Family/Parent mtg)

Please plan on joining us as we have important info to talk about.

June 15-19 - Local Mission Week #2 @ Immanuel

June 24 - WINGS 6-8pm

June 28 - Tulsa Area Lutherans @ Drillers

July 8 - WINGS 6-8pm

July 12-18 - Higher Things in Fort Collins, CO

July 22 - WINGS 6-8pm

July 24-Aug 6 - YA English Lang Bible Camp in Poland

August 19 - Back to School Bash 5-8pm

**School WINGS schedule resumes August 26 & Parent Night LIVE (Parent info meeting & fun) will be September 2 6-8pm Contact Carrie Ann with questions at cswaim@icaba.org

Do you want to host a fun summer get together? Let's do it!

Youth Ministry Events & News

Immanuel Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12)

FAMILY BBQ Party

◆ Hamburgers & Hot Dogs ◆ S'mores ◆ Fellowship

Meet other youth ministry families!

**JUNE 10
2026
6-8PM**

LUTHER HALL (GYM AND COURTYARD)

Questions? Contact Carrie Ann at cswaim@icaba.org



- ◆ Fire up your appetite, bring a side to share (we'll supply meat and drinks).
- ◆ At 7p, we will have a short parent meeting to talk about the 2026/27 program year (funding, activities, and more)!
- ◆ At 7:30p, we will have a short meeting with incoming seniors and their parents about international missions next summer.



Immanuel celebrated their 2026 Graduates last month!

Pictured:
Isaiah Stevens
Nate Kinsey
Jake Kinsey
Mykah Swaim
Maycen Boatright



It's Time for Vacation Bible School!



Storytelling, Crafts, Snacks, Games, Music, and Bible Exploration.

WHEN: June 15-19
TIME: 9:00am-12:00pm

VBS is for all children 3 years old - going into the 6th grade

Kids will go on a **Tropical Trek** where they will learn how Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10)!

As they traverse fun and exciting places, like a dormant volcano and island caves, they will discover how God finds them and helps them in every challenge they face.

Use the QR code to register for VBS!



WE NEED YOU FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

Through the dedication of our members and friends who volunteer at VBS, we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ to over 270 children each year.

If you aren't part of VBS yet, why not register today? If you can help full or part time, we have many levels of involvement to suit your schedule and interests. —Snacks, Crafts, Greeters, Class Helpers and more!—

You may register as a volunteer on our website at: www.immanuelba.org.

VBS dates: June 15-19, 9:00am-12:00pm.

VBS Volunteer Training Meeting
Sunday, June 14th
following the 10am worship service

(Lunch provided)

This meeting is for all VBS volunteers!
After the meeting, we will setup the rooms and decorate. If you have any questions, please email Todd Stevens at tstevens@immanuelba.org



Congregational Voters' Meeting
Sunday, June 28th,
at approximately 11:30am.
(Following the worship service)

This meeting will be held in the Sanctuary following the 10am worship service. We welcome new attendees. As voting members, you must be 18 years or older and a confirmed member of Immanuel.

"United in faith and empowered by the Spirit, Immanuel **Embraces, Educates, and Engages** our community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

April 2026 Monthly Update

		2026 YTD
Offerings Received (General Fund)	\$89,993	\$368,512
Total Income Received	\$127,964	\$479,255
Expenses	\$113,704	\$520,453
Surplus/Deficit	\$14,260	-\$41,199

In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:6

MAY 2026 CHURCH ATTENDANCE

- May 3:
 9:00am Service attendance: 219
 11:30am Service attendance: 73
- May 10:
 9:00am Service attendance: 261
 11:30am Service attendance: 77
- May 17:
 9:00am Service attendance: 208
 11:30am Service attendance: 60
- May 24: (Memorial Day weekend)
 9:00am Service attendance: 184
 11:30am Service attendance: 65



The LCMS invites everyone to memorize a verse together each week for May:

Week of June 7, 2026

1 Corinthians 6:20

You were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Week of June 14, 2026

Ephesians 5:8

At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.

Week of June 21, 2026

Colossians 4:2

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

Week of June 28, 2026

Isaiah 40:8

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

It is our great opportunity and joy to read and study God's Word. One beneficial practice is to memorize the Scriptures and, in so doing, to meditate on it.

www.lcms.org

FOR YOUR OFFERING:

- Text: immanuelba to: 1-888-364-GIVE (4483)
- Church App: "Give" icon
- Website: immanuelba.org
- Mail: 400 N Aspen Ave, Broken Arrow, OK 74012

OUR PRESCHOOL!

Our end of the year fun day was full of laughs, smiles, celebration, jumps, whipped cream, watermelon, and a dunk tank! Thankful for the joy these kids bring everyday!



BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

TUESDAYS

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: "God Loves Moms"
by Christina Hergenrader.

The women we read about in God's Word were just regular women - like us. And they had the same insecurities and vulnerabilities that we all feel. This study digs deep into the stories of thirteen biblical women for a fresh look at how God reveals His grace through Christ for you. Written in an inviting, friendly tone, this resource is for mothers of all ages. **This study is on Tuesday mornings at 10:00am in the church office conference room; hosted by Lynn Beaird.**

WEDNESDAYS

MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST: "The Spirituality of the Cross"

Dr. Veith digs deep into what it means to be Lutheran. He comments in the preface: "Indeed, the teaching that we are justified by faith in the atoning work of Christ on the cross is considered 'the chief article' —the underpinning of every aspect of Lutheran theology and, indeed, of the Christian faith as a whole." The book is available on CPH or Amazon. **Please join us, 6:30am on Wednesdays at Chick-fil-A, 71st & Garnett; hosted by Joe Kuhlmann. For more information, call the church office, 918-258-5506.**

Summer Schedule for YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY:
Gathered by Christ.

We will meet on June 10 & 24 and July 8 & 22

Author Christa Petzold empathizes and understands how Christians outside the physical church may be hesitant to return, yet she encourages them to come back and see the gifts Jesus gives through His Church. She brings light and emphasis to the ways Jesus sees His community of believers, founded securely on Him and His Word. **We meet at the church, 6-7:30pm, in the church office conference room. Study led by Mark D'Arcy.**

THURSDAYS

BIBLE STUDY: Revelation

This study is part of the *LifeLight* Bible study series of in-depth studies of Bible books. The goal of *LifeLight* is that through a regular program of in-depth personal and group study of Scripture, more and more Christian adults may grow in their personal faith in Jesus Christ. For men & women. **Thursdays at 10:00am in the church office conference room; hosted by Dan Kois.**

**Are you experiencing a crisis, facing a challenge, or simply going through a tough time?
A Stephen Minister can help.**

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation. After being matched with a person experiencing a life crisis, the Stephen Minister meets with that person—privately and confidentially—on a weekly basis to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. The caring relationship lasts as long as the need for care exists.

Please contact the church office or check the box below the prayer request section of the attendance register to learn more about how Stephen Ministry can help you.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Sign Up Now for any Sunday in 2026

You may **pick a Sunday in advance** to sponsor altar flowers in honor or memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion such as a birthday, anniversary, or baptismal birthday. Sign up on the table in the narthex or **online** for your convenience.

**\$65 Single floor arrangement or
\$75 Two wall arrangements**

If you have questions, please contact the church office at **918-258-5506.**

Online sign-up:
<https://tinyurl.com/ILCflowers>

OFFICER & BOARD ELECTION CANDIDATES

The Nominating Committee's candidate list for the upcoming election is available in the narthex and at the church office entrance.

Members of the congregation may suggest additional names or share feedback at nominations@immanuelba.org by June 7.

The final candidate list will be available June 21, and the election will be held June 28.



IMMANUEL BRAILLE MINISTRY will not meet during the summer.

Information will be posted in early August when this ministry resumes.

Summer
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Effective May 26th through August 7th.

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Stop by the sound booth in the Sanctuary and pick up a device.

This is a state of the art system and we have several options available for our congregation. There are 20 available (which means we are fully ADA compliant) in Ear Piece version and Loop (Induction for Hearing Aids) version.

This is for EVERYONE! Invite a friend!

PIEROGI MAKING CLASS
WITH 'TASTE OF POLAND' OWNER,
ALICJA ALA



MONDAY | 08 JUNE
6-9PM

\$60/PERSON

Hands-on learning with an expert

Learn to make sweet and savory pierogi

Make, Taste, and Take (recipe and pierogi)

Proceeds go toward our young adult mission trip to Poland for English Lang. Bible Camp

Purchase your spot or make a donation here:





- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 3 Paul Hutter | 19 Hudson Long |
| Maddison Weinhold | 20 Dale Francetic |
| 4 Brett Griffiths | Natalie Obrock |
| 7 Craig Shiever | 22 Jacob Herzberger |
| 8 Ron Eberhardt | 24 Jerry Hanewinkel |
| 9 Mark Lemaster | Charles Hieber |
| Russell Phipps | 25 Calen Willis |
| 11 Kris Lowry | 26 Barbara McNally |
| Luke Nelson | 28 Kelly Weinhold |
| 12 Ted Mauck | 29 Steve Lettenmaier |
| 13 Kelle Simmons | Kristin Stevens |
| 15 Joel Heisterberg | 30 Debbe Huggins |
| Jim Oestreich | Ron Weinhold |
| 16 Juli Allen | |
| Desiree Rider | |
| 17 Evangeline Conway | |
| Jody Hoehn | |
| Kirstin Hood | |
| Denny Huggins, Jr. | |
| Rachel McGrew | |
| Ashley Seeman | |



- 2 Mitchell & Rachel McGrew, 19 years
- 4 Cody & Meleah Oliver, 15 years
- Chris & Rebecca Winston, 32 years
- 5 Mike & Kim Hood, 44 years
- Todd & Kristin Stevens, 27 years
- 6 Tim & Stephanie Farlow, 28 years
- 7 Will & Julia Winston, 1 year
- 9 Tim & Marina Jentsch, 36 years
- Ben & Deborah Wagner, 48 years
- 10 David & Katy Lange, 26 years
- 16 Tyson & Shawna Caldwell, 25 years
- 17 Jerome & Claudia Karasek, 48 years
- 18 Kenny & Miranda Smith, 22 years
- 21 Jeff & Terri Scott, 12 years
- 22 John & Twilla Berwaldt, 41 years
- Mark & Janet D'Arcy, 30 years
- 24 Paul & Jane Tobben, 31 years
- 25 Justin & Jerrilyn Eisenhauer, 21 years
- Nicholas & Mary Lelecas, 21 years
- Jim & Deb O'Dell, 43 years
- David & Christy Sodowsky, 48 years
- 26 Nathan & Robin Armer, 44 years

Celebrating 50+ Years!

- June 5—David & Paul Smith, 50 years
- June 7—Lucky & Liz Engelman, 52 years
- June 13—Charles & Linda Hieber, 56 years
- June 15—Joe & Garnita Kuhlmann, 52 years
- June 19—Joe & Bonny Winston, 67 years
- June 23—Jack & Edie deFreese, 64 years
- Charlie & Glenda Wallace, 54 years
- June 27—Don & Linda Hollrah, 61 years



The women of the LWML Oklahoma District gathered at the 59th Convention in Oklahoma City April 17-18, 2026. Their theme was Finding Peace based on the Bible Verse, John 14:27.

At this convention, the delegates of the LWML Oklahoma District adopted, by faith, a \$148,500 Mission Grant Goal for the 2026-2028 biennium. The Mission Grant that was sponsored by our Lutheran Women in Mission group and submitted by Rebecca Winston and Carrie Ann Swaim was fully awarded the amount of \$14,219. The funds for this grant will be funded by the Mites that are given to the Oklahoma District.

Since 1928, the Oklahoma District LWML has awarded \$1,406,205 to various Mission Projects. This is the first Mission Grant that has been awarded to Immanuel, Broken Arrow. Your contributions to the Mite Boxes that are in the pews the first Sunday of every month has made the projects possible.

Grant # B-25 Youth/Elementary Outreach Space Improvements-Immanuel Lutheran Church and Academy, Broken Arrow, OK \$14,219.

Immanuel Lutheran Church and Academy, Broken Arrow, OK needs to address critical space and technology deficiencies by removing an unnecessary large stair area and replacing outdated audio-visual equipment which is currently an impediment to large group learning.

These improvements in Luther Hall and Chapel will increase space for this growing church and school to serve groups up to 150 people with state-of-the-art audio and video equipment. With additional fund raisers from the church this grant of \$14,219 will complete these improvements.



JUNE 7th MUFFIN & MITE SUNDAY Hosted by Immanuel's LWM

The ladies will have delicious muffins for everyone in the gym. (No donuts on this day.)

Come and enjoy muffins and hot coffee!
In kind donations appreciated!

The Mite Boxes will be in the pews.

The Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of "mites" — offerings above and beyond the support given to congregations and the LCMS.

Did You Know All Women of Immanuel Lutheran Church are LWM Members?

Our next gathering/meeting will be Tuesday, August 17 at 6:00pm, here at the church. We invite you to join us in Growing God's Grace.





**Immanuel's Lutheran Women in Mission
will host their third annual Women's Retreat
on Saturday, September 26th.**

We're delighted to welcome author and speaker Christina Hergenrader. A theologically grounded teacher and gifted storyteller, Christina has written 12 award-winning books. She holds a master's degree in creative writing from the University of Houston–Clear Lake and is certified in executive

coaching through the International Coaching Federation. For more than 25 years, she has encouraged and connected with women from all walks of life.

Through keynotes, retreats, and events, Christina offers insight and inspiration in both large and small settings. With engaging storytelling and a deep knowledge of Scripture, she helps women draw closer to God and find hope in everyday life. You'll leave the retreat feeling seen, grounded, and spiritually renewed.

You can find more about Christina at www.christinahergenrader.com

More details and registration will be available soon.

Falling in Love with Jesus
HE NEVER
LEAVES

You are invited to an Empowering Women's Fall Retreat
September 26, 2026
8:00am - 2:00pm
Join us for our
3rd Annual Lutheran Women in Mission Women's Retreat
Falling in Love with Jesus through "Mind, Body, & Spirit"

Presented by engaging author and speaker Christina Hergenrader
\$35 Pre-registration; \$40 at the door
Includes Materials, Continental Breakfast, Lunch & Fellowship

Immanuel Lutheran Church
400 N Aspen Avenue, Broken Arrow

In Our Prayers

Carole Weygand—she had her first radiation treatment on Friday, May 29, for the brain tumor, and will undergo several more rounds. We continue to pray for Carole's comfort and strength, and a positive outcome from this treatment.

Carol Feagins—she was released from the hospital on May 26th and is recovering at home. (Carol had stomach removal surgery on May 12th due to a large mass.) Several lymph nodes were biopsied and the results came back for cancer, Stage 3. Carol will begin chemotherapy in early July.

Pastor Braun and family

For All Who Serve In Our Armed Forces

Immanuel's Visioning Process – pray for our Elders, Staff, our elected leaders, and for us as a congregation to know God's vision for us and that we will be inspired to pursue it.

Those with Health Concerns – Justin Bundtrock, Matt Hagans, Loretta Herzberger

Those with cancer – Allen Beaird, Michelle Craig, Donna D., Jill Duran, Carol Feagins, Earl Franklin, Mike Hays, Mark Holcomb, Allen Hufford, Holly Johnson, Lyle Johnson, Shirley Kirkpatrick, Merle Kuhlmann, Jackie Oestreich, Gary Siftar, Carrie Ann Swaim, Theresa, Ellen Vester, Lois Wegner, Carole Weygand, Woody Wicker

Missionary work: Rev. Christian and Gudula Tiews serving in the Eurasia Region; Ben Helge serving in the Czech Republic; Josh Lange and family, working with CWF in Shanghai; Bob & Chris Prouty serving in Australia; Rev. Jason and Anna Marie Steffenson will be serving in Italy. Rev. Bryan and Deaconess Keah Payne serving in Shinyanga, Tanzania.

Holy Trinity Sunday

O Lord, let us praise You for Your wondrous works! Holy are You, Father! You have made us Your holy children by sending us Your Son. Holy are You, Son! You have made us holy through Your sacrificial death upon the cross. Holy are You, Spirit! You guide us to walk and grow in the ways of holiness. Holy, holy, holy is our triune God, who does everything for our salvation.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Portals of Prayer

The Altar Flowers today are given to the Glory of God.

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

2 Peter 1:3

LCMS Missionaries



**News from Pastor Tiews
May 25, 2026
Sharing the Gospel in
Germany**

**Dear Friends and Supporters
of our Ministry to Germany
and across Eurasia!**

I am currently preparing to teach Riga Luther Academy seminarians at our annual in-person summer intensive. These summer courses are normally conducted in Europe, but this year will be held in Nairobi, Kenya.

There are two reasons for this location: Some of our seminarians are wrapping up their 4 1/2 years of studies, but have still not been able to attend an intensive in Europe because they hail from Pakistan—and the European Union will not allow them to enter, whereas Kenya will. The second reason we chose Nairobi is because roughly half of our (English stream) students live in Africa. And it is much easier and cost-effective for them to travel to Kenya than to Europe. And so, a missionary colleague and I will fly down to Nairobi later this week to instruct them all in person. I look forward to meeting most of the students, whom I have been teaching over Zoom this past academic year.

May our summer intensive edify them, who one day, God willing, will become undershepherds of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the meantime, thank you so much for your continued love and support. It is a privilege for Lula and me to serve on your behalf, out here on the front lines.

God bless you all!



LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter Article – June 2026

What Do You Want?

Originally published June 2023

One of the best-known and most-beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the “Shepherd Psalm.” There we learn that the Lord is our Shepherd. And since He is our Shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our Shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our Shepherd, will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.

Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we actually suffer from want, that the Lord, our Shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep.

When do we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd? When we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving His gifts in church on Sunday (in violation of the First and Third Commandments). When we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we don’t know what the future will bring (even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters).

We live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help themselves. We act this way because our minds are set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We act this way because we have stopped hearing the call of our Shepherd, which comes through His Word.

Through the Word of God, the Shepherd calls us to Himself. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through the Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead us to our true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here’s the Good News: the Lord is your Shepherd, even and especially for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. The Lord is your Shepherd. Let us live as His sheep.

Church Renovations

**Something’s Changing
Around Here...**

**Something
Looks
Different**

Over the next several weeks, you may notice some changes happening around the church and school as we complete a series of renovations this summer.

We’ll be sharing our progress and maybe some “before and after” glimpses of each project in the Sunday announcements. So be sure to keep an eye out each week. You may even notice changes before we point them out—so stay curious!

Meet the All-Star Elementary Team for the 26-27 School Year!

As we look ahead with excitement to the 2026–2027 school year, we are pleased to share our elementary staffing line-up for grades 1–5. We are grateful to announce a team of dedicated educators whose collective experience, specialized training, and shared commitment to Christian education continue to strengthen our program. God has provided an elementary faculty which will represent a cohesive and collaborative team. Each teacher brings a depth of classroom experience along with unique strengths in areas such as literacy development, differentiated learning, and student discipleship. Stay tuned for the announcement of our Kindergarten teacher. We are already looking forward to all that God has in store for the year ahead.

Blessings,
Twilla Berwaldt, Executive Director
Immanuel Lutheran Christian Academy

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

2026-27

GRADE LEVEL LINEUP

 KEISHA HUGGINS FIRST GRADE	 HEATHER JONES SECOND GRADE	 LORI CLARK THIRD GRADE	 ALICIA DETTER FOURTH GRADE	 LISA STANBERY FIFTH GRADE
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