

NORTH IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

PELICAN RAPIDS, MINNESOTA •

218-863-5447

OCTOBER 2026



I sometimes think I suffer from seasonal affective disorder (SAD), in other words, I need sunlight to brighten my days. And every day now with autumn approaching we are losing our sunlight. Jesus is called the “light of the world” and He warns us to walk (or live) in the light, lest the darkness overtake us. What does He mean by darkness? Darkness is the Bible is associated with unbelief or a lack of faith. It is also associated with sin and death.

One of my favorite stories is JRR Tolkien’s “Lord of the Rings.” The Evil Lord of Mordor, Sauron, was surrounded by darkness and this darkness threatened to overtake the Middle Earth. His powers lie in the one ring which was given to a hobbit by the name of Frodo to destroy. In order to destroy the power of Sauron, Frodo had to cast this ring into Mount Doom, a volcanic mountain in which the ring was forged. If you read the story, or seen the movie, you remember that Frodo failed. The power of darkness overcame him.

Frodo had a good heart. He sincerely wanted to destroy this evil, but in the end he did not have the power to do it. And neither do we! Tolkien understood human

nature - left to ourselves we cannot overcome the darkness that seeks to overtake us. We can paraphrase the first three steps of A.A.s 12 step program. We must admit that we are powerless over (evil), and come to believe in (Jesus Christ), and turn our will and our lives over to the care of (Jesus Christ). Our only hope is to come to the light and life of Jesus Christ. “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.” The darkness of unbelief cannot comprehend nor overcome the Light - the life giving Word that is Jesus Christ.

At the end of the story the one ring was destroyed along with the Sauron. And we know that in the end evil will be destroyed. “Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:57) Even though the days are beginning to grow shorter, we know that the darkness will not overcome the light of day. And if we walk/live as children of light, the darkness of sin and death will not overtake us. We never have to walk alone. In the words of Paul – may we not neglect to worship together so that we can share in the fellowship of Jesus Christ and encourage one another to continue in the faith that He has given us.

Together in Christ,

Pastor Nate Bjorge

Pastor Nate Bjorge
20414 190th St. Fergus Falls, MN 56537
Email: pastornatebjorge@gmail.com

(320) 360-0277 cell

Parish Secretary, Kara Tollerud
43303 County Hwy 21, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572
Email: nilchurch@yahoo.com

(218) 731-2672

Council President Duane Ishaug
11 2 1/2 St SE, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

(218) 280-0589

Council Vice President Tom Axness
42607 120th Ave, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

(218) 329-6882

Council Secretary Jane Knorr
12790 County Hwy 30, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

(218) 731-4464

Squares President Lee Follingstad
406 11th St NE, Barnesville, MN 56514

(218) 354-2367

Custodian: Steve Strandlien
29342 180th Ave S, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

(701) 730-4423 cell
(218) 863-6416 home

Treasurer: Shyla Strandlien
28998 180th Ave S, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572
Email: s.strandlien@outlook.com

(701) 541-1888

MISSION STATEMENT

As members of North Immanuel Lutheran Church and in recognition of the gift of grace we have received through Jesus Christ, our Mission is:

- To develop a personal and Spiritual relationship with Jesus Christ, our Lord,
- To provide an environment for the continuing Education and further teachings of all ages,
- To reach out to welcome all to grow with us in faith through worship and serving others in our community and throughout the world.

CEMETERY BOARD OFFICERS

Chairman—Duane Ishaug (218) 280-0589
Treasurer—Judy Johnson (218) 863-2204
Secretary—Tom Axness (218) 329-6882

North Immanuel is Online:

<http://www.facebook.com/NorthImmanuelLutheranChurch>
<http://www.nilchurch.org>

Do you prefer to get your Seed & Feed emailed to you? If so, please email the church (nilchurch@yahoo.com) and state your preference.



Following Worship service

MN  Adult & Teen Challenge
Central Minnesota

Adult & Teen Challenge



Join us for songs
of hope and
stories of
freedom from
addiction.

Sunday, October 11
9:00 am Worship

Potluck with Choir following service.
Pulled pork sandwiches provided. Bring a
side dish or dessert to share.

Special 'Choir Offering' donations accepted

This Worship Service will not be Livestreamed

North Immanuel Lutheran Church

MEATBALL SUPPER

October 18, 2026

4:30-7:30 p.m.

Serving meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, lefse, dessert,
coffee & lemonade

FREE WILL OFFERING

Dine In & Take Out Available

North Immanuel Lutheran Church

12713 County Hwy 30

Pelican Rapids, MN

WELCOMES ALL



North Immanuel Lutheran Church

August 31, 2026

Year to Date Income	\$67,750.87
Year to Date Expenses	\$69,058.71
Net	\$-1,317.84

Not included in the above numbers

KITCHEN PROJECT:

Transfer from CD's and interest	\$37,000
Donations	\$396.45
Expenses to date	\$16,251.94
Funds remaining	\$21,144.51

For those who'd like to give from afar or schedule recurring giving, online offering now available! Visit our website at NILChurch.org or scan the QR code:



North Immanuel Church Council Minutes

September 9, 2026

Present: Karen Bakken, Jane Knorr, Nolan Dunham, Duane Ishaug, David Aas, Bryant Briard, Leon Dunham, Erin Tollerud, Tom Axness, Pastor Nate Bjorge, and Shyla Strandlien Treasurer

Absent: Grant Meyer

Called to order by Duane Ishaug at 6:00 p.m.

Devotions led by Pastor Nate. Forgiveness is not a recommendation.

Treasurers Report – At this point we have paid \$16,250.00 for paint and cabinets in the kitchen remodel. We have \$58,000 available in savings to help cover the additional costs of the remodel when the initial funds set aside are depleted.

Leon Dunham made a motion to allow Shyla Strandlien to be named on all the accounts owned by North Immanuel Lutheran Church at the local bank. Nolan Dunham 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

Secretary's minutes reviewed by council before meeting. David Aas made a motion to approve. Leon Dunham 2nd motion. Motion passed.

Pastors Report – Visitations. Wedding on September 26th. Ministerium meeting. Moline funeral on 10/10/26 at 11:00 a.m.

Committee Reports –

Evangelism and Worship – On October 11, 2026, Teen Challenge will perform at the church. A potluck will be held following the service. We will purchase pulled pork and buns for 150 people from Barnesville Grocery. The council will serve the potluck. Karen will contact The Granders and see if they will play on December 2nd for our annual Christmas Concert supporting Shop With A Hero.

Stewardship – We will be having a Chili Cook Off on November 1st from 5-7. It will be a fundraiser for the kitchen remodel. There will not be a limit on entrants. Bryant will put together a flyer.

Christian Education – This week is Rally Sunday. We will be having fun events for the youth. Supplies are on order for upcoming year.

Property and Management – Discussion held on kitchen remodel. We have old things to dispose of from the kitchen. The floor seems spongy. This will be looked into.

The Crop Walk is on October 4, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

Benevolence –

Donations were made to two individuals that are dealing with medical issues.

Jane Knorr made a motion to donate \$250 to the Crop Walk. David Aas 2nd the motion. Motion passed.

New Business-

Discussion held on putting together a policy on how to address when a member passes or they lose a family member.

Augustana Newsletter was shared. It had upcoming events. Duane is going to share with Kara Tollerud so the information can be in the monthly newsletter and bulletin.

Karen Bakken made a motion that we would cover the cost of a visit to the pumpkin patch. Bryant Briard 2nd motion. Motion passed. Erin Tollerud is going to see what she can get organized for the youth to attend.

Pastor Nate has been serving our congregation for 1 year. Discussion was held on doing a review. This will be looked into.

Bryant brought up having an adult education class once a month after services. For example, having a topic and then a question-and-answer session. It could be held during coffee time. Further discussion will be held on this topic. We will not begin anything until the kitchen remodel is complete.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Submitted by Jane Knorr

There will be a Chili cookoff the evening of Sunday, November 1st as a fundraiser event for the new kitchen. More details to come!
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NORTH IMMANUEL WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m.

Holy Communion

First and Third Sunday of each month

Coffee Fellowship

10:00 a.m. following worship services

Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Sept-May

Bible Study

9:00 a.m. Wednesdays

Serving Opportunities

- Serve Sunday Coffee Fellowship
10:00 a.m. following worship
- Be a Reader Sunday morning
Reading material is available ahead of time
- Offer special music for worship service
Contact Bonnie H, Conni A, or Pastor Nate

Nate Bjorge, NILC Pastor

320-360-0277

NILC COUNCIL MEMBERS

Duane Ishaug, President

218-280-0589

Tom Axness, Vice President, Property & Management

218-329-6882

Jane Knorr, Secretary, Education

218-731-4464

Nolan Dunham, Property & Management

218-205-6247

Grant Meyer, Property & Management

701-403-0578

Bryant Briard, Stewardship

218-849-8353

Leon Dunham, Worship

218-493-4365

David Aas, Worship

218-329-2135

Karen Bakken, Worship

701-412-6420

Erin Tollerud, Education

218-329-3393

Come Grow old with me, the Best is Yet to Be

The Following is a list of our members who are either in a Senior Living Facility, Nursing Home, or are homebound in some way.

We understand that at times like this, you may want to call ahead to see if a personal visit is encouraged or welcomed. If not, a phone call, a note or card in the mail goes a long way to warm a heart & brighten a day.

Dennis Stoen

532 Douglas Ave W 218-517-9044 (cell)
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
Dennis is living in the Pioneer Home in Deerwood.

Ila Ishaug

Shorewood Landing
6000 Chaska Rd Apt 110
Shorewood, MN 55331

Loretta Ishaug

215 E Mill St Apt 107
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

Lois Ishaug

119 N Broadway
Room 105
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

If you know of someone who should or would like to be on this list
please call or email the church office 218-863-5447 nilchurch@yahoo.com

The most important thing you can give the elderly is your TIME.
Time is the most precious gift of all, and it doesn't cost a thing.



Birthdays are a good time to reflect on the blessings that you have been given by God. Here are our members who have birthdays in October so we can help each other celebrate.

Jersee Wiser	10/01	Kaden Holt	10/19
David Aas	10/03	Kylee Holt	10/19
Marylyn Delp	10/03	Trace Anderson	10/20
Paul Follingstad	10/05	Linda Swenson	10/21
Nicholas Zaeske	10/05	Sandie Strandlien	10/21
Brian Johnson	10/08	Lois Aas	10/23
Tammy Nord	10/08	Cailyn Craik	10/23
Loretta Ishaug	10/09	Shelly Fitzgerald	10/26
Maxwell Jegtvig	10/15	Timothy Fouquette	10/26
Samanth Bai	10/15	Jens Axness	10/28
Kynly Pietig	10/16	Robyn Nelson	10/30
Lyn Smischny	10/17	Doug Spiekermeier	10/31
Charles Johnson	10/17	Sydney Haugrud	10/31

This list is not yet complete. If you have a birthday in October and your name is not here, or if the date we have is incorrect, please call it to Kara so we can update our records. May your birthday be a blessed one!

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
October is Pastor Appreciation Month.	Greeters: Greg & Robyn Nelson (4 & 11); Grant & Krystle Meyer (18 & 25)	***If you are unable to serve, it is your responsibility to find a replacement.***		1	2 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. POH	3 LAST QTR MOON
4 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. WS/HC 10:00 a.m. SS	5	6	7 9:00 a.m. BS 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. POH 6:00 p.m. Conf.	8	9 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. POH	10 11:00 a.m. Charlotte Moline funeral NEW MOON
11 9:00 a.m. WS with Teen Challenge No SS	12 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY COLUMBUS DAY	13	14 9:00 a.m. BS 6:00 p.m. Church Council meeting 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. POH	15	16 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. POH	17
18 9:00 a.m. WS/HC 10:00 a.m. SS 4:30-7:30 p.m. Meatball Supper 1 ST QTR MOON	19 Deadline for November S&F and Calendar	20	21 9:00 a.m. BS 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. POH 6:00 p.m. Conf.	22	23 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. POH	24
25 REFORMATION SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. WS 10:00 a.m. SS	26 FULL MOON	27	28 9:00 a.m. BS 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. POH 6:00 p.m. Conf.	29	30 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. POH	31 REFORMATION DAY HALLOWEEN

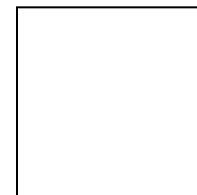
KEY: PTS=Pastors' Text Study; PDO=Pastor's Day Off; LL=Luther League; POH=Pastor's Office Hours; SS=Sunday School; HC=Holy Communion; WS=Worship Service; Conf.=Confirmation; BS=Bible Study; LS=Lenten Service

“No fact of history is more amazing than the spread of the influence of Jesus.”
—Kenneth Scott Latourette

OCTOBER 2026

NORTH IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PO BOX 438
PELICAN RAPIDS, MN 56572-0438

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



SHARING
THE NEWS
WITH...



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31