



# NORTH IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

PELICAN RAPIDS, MINNESOTA •

218-863-5447

FEBRUARY 2026

Saint Valentine (also Valentinus) refers to one of several martyred saints of ancient Rome. The feast of St. Valentine was first decreed in 496 by Pope Gelasius I. Many of the current legends that characterize Saint Valentine were invented in the fourteenth century in England, notably by Geoffrey Chaucer, when the feast day of February 14 first became associated with romantic love.

And although today our culture is preoccupied with red roses, hearts, and chocolates, the original feast day was set aside to honor the martyrs' love for Jesus and His Church.

And their love was not based on emotions, but the agape love which is an unconditional, self-giving love. According to psychiatrist, M. Scott Peck, "This kind of love is not a feeling... Genuine love is volitional rather than emotional. The person who truly loves does so because of a decision to love."

A quote that I use in nearly every wedding ceremony is from Dietrich Bonhoeffer. He was in prison when his sister was married and he wrote these words to her, "It

is not your love that sustains the marriage, but from now on the marriage that sustains your love." A relationship will often begin with romantic feelings, but marriage is built on a promise – a decision to love, not fleeting infatuation. There is a poem that expresses this truth. "Feelings come and feelings go and feelings are deceiving, it is the promise that you make to me that will keep my heart believing."

Marriage is a symbol of God's covenant with His people. Several times in the Old Testament God uses the imagery of a marital relationship to describe His relationship with His people. In Hosea God says, "And I will make for you a covenant on that day... and I will betroth you to Me forever." (2:18-19)

For us Christians 'that day' is the day of Jesus Christ, who is the Bridegroom. Several times in the New Testament, Jesus refers to Himself as the Bridegroom and the church as His bride. In 2 Corinthians, Paul writes that "we have been betrothed to Christ as a pure bride to her one husband." In Ephesians, he explains that "Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water (baptism) through the word, and to present her to Himself as a radiant church."

Martin Luther understood that love was volitional and demanded commitment. Yet he also experienced the emotional side of love. In reference to his wife, Katie, said, "There is no bond on earth so sweet, nor any separation so bitter, as that which occurs in a good marriage."

This Valentine's Day, remember God's promise of love toward you. God has made a covenant of love for us in Jesus Christ, and He will never break it.

Together In Christ,  
Pastor Nate Bjorge

Pastor Nate Bjorge  
20414 190th St. Fergus Falls, MN 56537  
Email: [pastornatebjorge@gmail.com](mailto:pastornatebjorge@gmail.com)

(320) 360-0277 cell

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43303 County Hwy 21, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572  
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Council President Grant Meyer  
13254 460<sup>th</sup> St, Barnesville, MN 56514

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Treasurer: Shyla Strandlien  
28998 180<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572  
Email: [s.strandlien@outlook.com](mailto: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—Brian Johnson (218) 863-2204  
Treasurer—Judy Johnson (218) 863-2204  
Secretary—Bill Osborne (218) 863-7913

### 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](mailto:nilchurch@yahoo.com)) and state your preference.



Following Worship service

### Martin Luther's Marks of the Church

In response to the question "What is the Church?" Martin Luther wrote a treatise, "On the Councils and Church." His response was that the Church exists where you find the people assembled in possession of the Word, Baptism, Sacrament of the Altar, Office of the Keys, the Office of Ministry, Public Worship & Prayer, and the cross of discipleship (suffering on account of one's faith).

This year on the Wednesday evenings during Lent we will examine each of these Marks of the Church.

2/18 Ash Wednesday: Office of the Keys (Confession & Absolution)

2/25: The Word of God

3/4: Baptism

3/11: Worship

3/18: The Office of Ministry

3/25: The Cross of Discipleship

4/2 Maundy Thursday: Sacrament of the Altar

There will be a Soup/Hotdish Supper from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and a Lenten Message at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays during Lent.

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### North Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Minutes

January 14, 2026

Present: Grant Meyer, Jane Knorr, Bryant Briard, Nolan Dunham, Bonnie Harry, Becky Lage, Leon Dunham, Tom Axness, Duane Ishaug, and Pastor Nate Bjorge.

Absent: Tanner Nelson, Shyla Strandlien Treasurer.

The meeting was called to order by Grant Meyer at 7:05 p.m.

Pastor Nate led us in devotions. "Names"

Treasurers Report – The budget, final expenses, income and investments were shared with the council in Shyla's absence.

A motion was made by Leon Dunham to set Pastor Nate Bjore's housing allowance at \$28,000.00 and salary at \$22,000.00. Duane Ishaug 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. Motion carried.

The budget was discussed and some changes were made to the preliminary budget to present to the congregation at the annual meeting.

Altar clothes have been difficult to replace. They will be removed from the 2026 budget and discussed at the annual meeting again. New flags have been ordered for the front of the church.

Jane made a motion to change the salaries as follows: Custodian \$4800.00, Treasurer \$4000.00, Secretary \$4000.00 and organist \$80.00/service. Leon Dunham 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. Motion carried.

Bryant Briard made a motion to approve the amended budget. Leon Dunham 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. Motion carried.

Secretary's report. Leon Dunham 1<sup>st</sup>, Becky Lage 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. Motion carried.

Pastoral Report – He has done some visits. Nursing home services were done. Wrote an article for The Pelican Press. Discussed Lenten services.

Committees –

**Worship** – Sign up sheet for February Meals on Wheels delivery in the back of the church. Lenten services no Good Friday service. Decision will be made on holding council meeting during Lent at February meeting. Outdoor worship dates discussed. We held 2 in June, 1 in July and 1 in August last year. We will see if the Granders want to play this summer and what Sunday they would like. Do we want to schedule MN Teen Challenge Choir this spring?

**Stewardship** – Christmas service was well attended.

**Education** – We have started classes again. We will end the year on the first Sunday in May. Confirmation will be held on Palm Sunday. There will be six students confirmed.

**Property and Management** – Nolan Dunham had someone from Wester Siding give him a quote on residing the church where the paint is bad. The estimate was \$50,975.00. He will verify the area that would be done for that. He plans to get some bids on what it would cost to paint the peeling siding. Insurance company will give us \$5700.00. Nolan has also been visiting with the highway department to see if we could get some reduced speed or caution signs on the highway near the church.

#### **Old Business –**

No old business.

#### **New Business –**

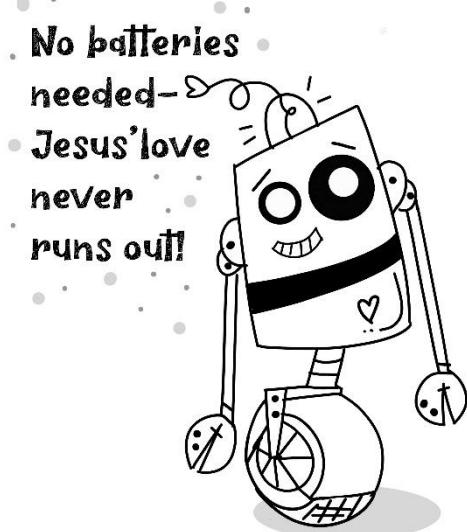
Bonnie will check with Steve Strandlien to see what we need for the annual meeting for food and if he will help with the biscuits and gravy. She will get back to council members. Be there by 7:00 to help prepare food and set up.

Annual meeting schedule: Breakfast 8-8:45, Church 9:00, Meeting 10:00.

Ended the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Jane Knorr



### North Immanuel Cemetery Dues for 2026

Please note, Cemetery dues are now due for 2026. Church members are \$10.00/member.

Please make checks out to North Immanuel Cemetery, and note in memo area for dues.

Can either drop off at mailbox at church - Brian and Judy Johnson box at church.

Or can mail to Judy Johnson, Treasurer

14067 State Highway 108

Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

The North Immanuel Cemetery Board would like to Thank you if you have already paid your dues for the 2026 year.

Sincerely, Judy Johnson

### North Immanuel Lutheran Church

Dec 31, 2025

Year to Date Income \$93,724.14

Year to Date Expenses \$108,354.84

Net \$-14,630.70

\*Not included in above income:

\$104,000 estate gift put into a CD

\$15,000 transfer from savings

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



Everyone Welcome

# **Mission Quilting**

## **for Area Missions**

**and locally sponsored**

## **Students in Guatemala**

Imagine the comfort and care you feel when you snuggle under a quilt handmade by someone. That's the feeling you can share with others by coming together to construct quilts. With a simple combination of fabric, thread, and time, you can reach out to people in their time of greatest need with a strong message of Love & Hope.

We would love to have you join us at

### **NORTH IMMANUEL CHURCH**

**Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

(note that quilting days are Friday & Saturday this year)



Bring Lunch or Snack Item to Share

2026

## 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**

**Grant Meyer**, President

701-403-0578 [grantmeyer1987@gmail.com](mailto:grantmeyer1987@gmail.com)

**Duane Ishaug**, Vice President, Property & Management

218-280-0589

**Jane Knorr**, Secretary, Education

218-731-4464

**Tanner Nelson**, Stewardship

218-849-3731 [1947ihkb23qt@gmail.com](mailto:1947ihkb23qt@gmail.com)

**Nolan Dunham**, Property & Management

218-205-6247

**Becky Lage**, Worship

701-630-0473 [jaylynjace@me.com](mailto:jaylynjace@me.com)

**Bonnie Harry**, Worship

218-770-4570 [harryoutwest@gmail.com](mailto:harryoutwest@gmail.com)

**Tom Axness**, Property & Management

218-329-6882

**Bryant Briard**, Education

218-849-8353

**Leon Dunham**, Stewardship

218-493-4365

## 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](mailto: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 February so we can help each other celebrate.

John Hovland	02/01	Kathryn Lynnes	02/19
Alice Spiekermeier	02/03	Rebecca Lage	02/21
Jason Jegtvig	02/05	Dillon Nord	02/23
Wesley Dunham	02/06	Mark Axness	02/26
Clara Cline	02/07	Shelly Dunham	02/26
Arland Anderson	02/09	Cheyanne Briard	02/26
Travis Tollerud	02/11	Katie Lynnes	02/29
Bradley Knorr	02/16		

This list is not yet complete. If you have a birthday in February 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!

# February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 a.m. WS/HC 10:00 a.m. SS  FULL MOON	2 GROUNDHOG DAY	3	4 9:00 a.m. BS 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. POH 6:00 p.m. Conf.	5	6 12:00-4:00 p.m. POH	7
8 9:00 a.m. WS 10:00 a.m. SS	9	10	11 9:00 a.m. BS 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. POH 6:00 p.m. Conf. 7:00 p.m. Church Council mtg	12	13 12:00-4:00 p.m. POH	14 VALENTINE'S DAY
15 9:00 a.m. WS/HC 10:00 a.m. SS	16 PRESIDENTS' DAY Deadline for March S&F and Calendar	17  NEW MOON	18 ASH WEDNESDAY 9:00 a.m. BS; 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. POH; 5:30-6:30 p.m. Supper; 6:30 p.m. LS	19	20 12:00-4:00 p.m. POH	21
22 9:00 a.m. WS 10:00 a.m. SS	23	24  1 <sup>ST</sup> QTR MOON	25 9:00 a.m. BS; 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. POH; 5:30-6:30 p.m. Supper; 6:30 p.m. LS	26	27 12:00-4:00 p.m. POH 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Mission Quilting	28 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Mission Quilting

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

Greeters: Jacob Johnson & Jenna Smedshammer (1 & 8); David & Lois Aas (15 & 22 )

# FE B R U A R Y 2026



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14



16



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SHARING  
THE NEWS  
WITH...

