

NORTH IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

PELICAN RAPIDS, MINNESOTA •

218-863-5447

SEPTEMBER 2025



Living in the Midwest means taking summer vacations, or at least slowing down and finding some time to relax and enjoy the warmth of summer. Even in the church we tend to cut back on activities. But now as Labor Day approaches we are reminded of the importance of getting back into a routine and also the value of work.

We may not always be grateful for work, but we should understand that being created in the image of God entails that we will work. From the beginning in Genesis we read about God working in creation. Jesus worked as a carpenter and also sought to accomplish the work of God. After God created Adam, He put Adam to work in the garden.

Theologian Orville Dewey claimed that, "Labor is man's great function. He is nothing, he can do nothing, he can achieve nothing, fulfill nothing, without working. If you are poor—work. If you are rich—continue working. If you are burdened with seemingly unfair responsibilities—work. If you are happy, keep right on working. Idleness gives room for doubt and fears. If disappointments come—work. If your health is threatened—work. When faith falters—work. When dreams are shattered and hope seems dead—work.

Work as if your life were in peril. It really is. No matter what ails you—work. Work faithfully—work with faith.

Martin Luther taught us to view our work as vocation, or God's calling in our lives. To paraphrase Luther, "God gives us our daily bread through the vocations of the farmer, the miller, and the baker. Our labors or vocations should be viewed as gifts from God. He is working through us to bless others. God doesn't need our good works, but our neighbor does."

Even as followers of Christ, we still have a tendency to want to divide our lives into sacred and secular realms. We tend to see our labor, whether it is our job, mowing the lawn, or changing a diaper, as secular tasks. However, Paul makes it clear that "Whatever you do, work at it with all of your heart, as working for the Lord... It is the Lord Christ that you are serving." (Colossians 3:23-24) Remember Jesus' words, "As you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40) For Christians, there is no secular realm, everything has spiritual significance. What appears to be ordinary becomes extraordinary when done to the glory of God.

I am looking forward to working with you to further the ministry of the Gospel at North Immanuel. "May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good work and word." 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

In Christ, Pr. 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 Grant Meyer
13254 460th St, Barnesville, MN 56514

(701) 403-0578

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

(218) 280-0589

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—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) and state your preference.

EXCITING BUS TRIP

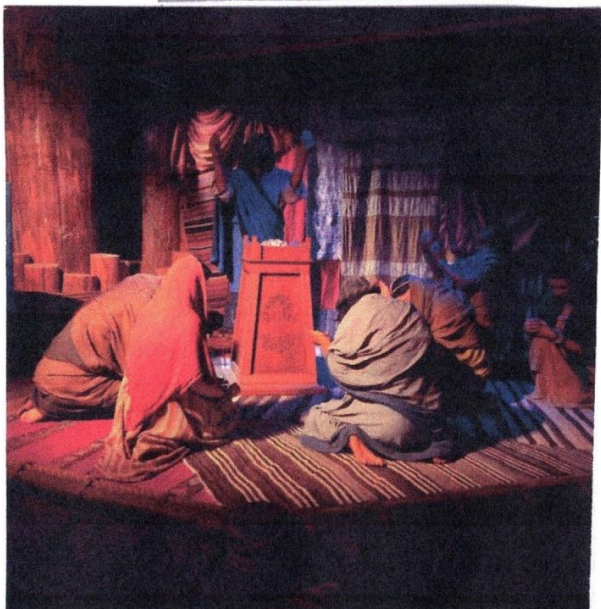
Ark Encounter (Williamstown, KY)
Creation Museum (Petersburg, KY)

DAY 1 - (Monday, Aug 4th)

Thirty seven travelers and our driver loaded a coach bus 6 AM Monday August 4th looking forward to an exciting trip but not knowing what experiences God had prepared for us. Our almost 2000 mile round trip travels took us through congested cities, foggy mornings, rainy afternoons, but through it all we were thankful for experienced friendly bus drivers. They brought us safely to all our destinations. After traveling all day on Monday, we arrived in Lawrenceburg Indiana at the motel where we would stay through Thursday morn. We were tired from our day's travel, but blessed with meeting new wonderful friends ranging from 8 years of age to 70+.

Day 2- (Tuesday, Aug 5th)

Our adventure began at the Ark Encounter about 50 minute bus ride farther on from our motel. Once there seeing the Ark, we tried to get a group picture to capture the Ark's massive size, but pictures cannot capture the eye opening reality of the size of that replica of Noah's ark like seeing it in person.

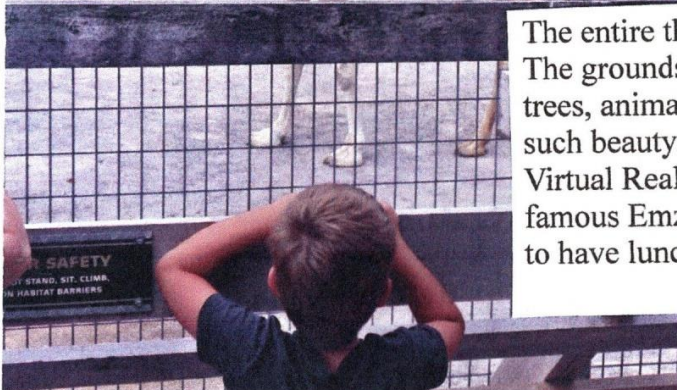
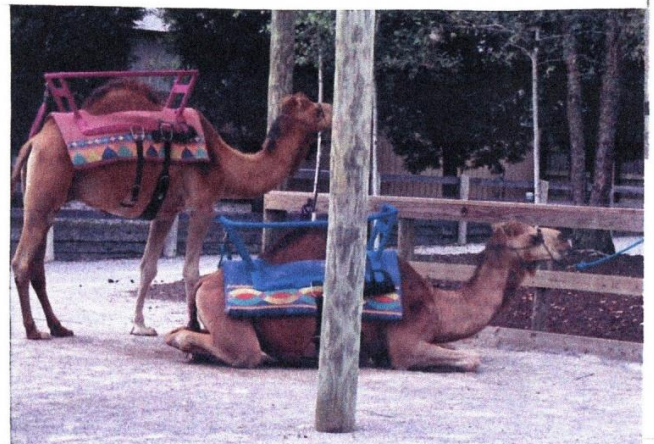
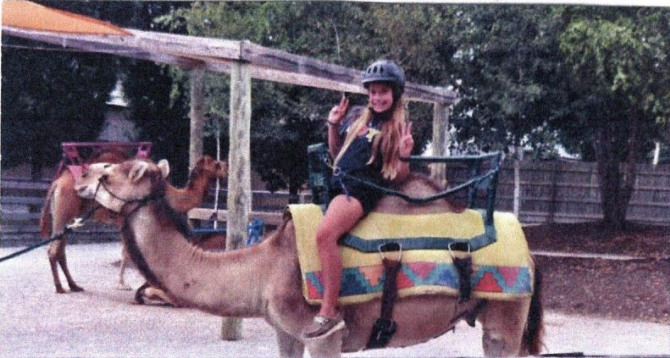
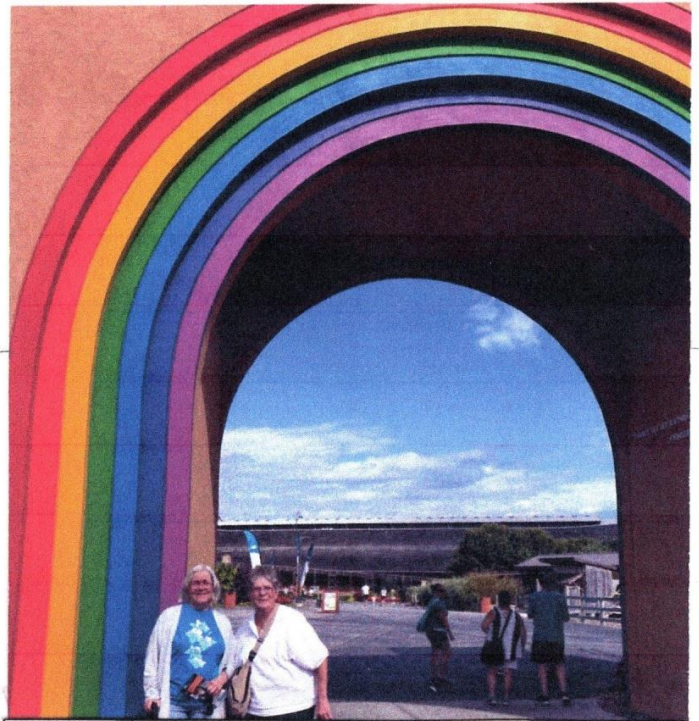


NOAH'S PRAYER

"God of heaven, we ask for your mercy through this horrific storm. You called us to build a ship to preserve my family and the animals that you brought to me, and I have sought to be faithful to honor you in all that I have done. Preserve us now through your judgment on this world as you have promised and we will be faithful to serve you all our days."

The Ark had three deck levels, two for the animals and their cages, and the third level were the living quarters for Noah, his wife(Emzara), three sons and 3 daughter-in-laws.

The design, construction, pitch used to build the original Ark was all done through God's instructions to Noah's family, the only righteous people left at that time. This replica with its visuals and information panels gave us an opportunity to step into what life on the Ark must have been like and to understand more fully the faithfulness of Noah. He and his family lived among total wickedness that had overtaken all others. Though Noah's family witnessed to the people of that time to turn from their ways, but their blindness to the truth only intensified their ridicule of Noah's building the Ark which would save Noah and his family. How heartbreaking for God to know that all the others would not repent. God was sorry he had made them and destroyed them in a flood that would cover the entire earth. After the flood God created the rainbow as a sign of his promise to never again flood the entire earth.



The entire the Ark Encounter property covers 800 acres. The grounds had beautiful landscaping, flowers, trees, animal sculptured shrubbery, everything in full bloom - such beauty. Other points of interest were: the carousel, Virtual Reality, gift shops, the zoo, camel rides, and their famous Emzara's Buffet. The buffet was definitely a great place to have lunch, such a large selection of delicious food choices.

Screaming Eagle Zipline!!

That name alone should have prepared the 14 brave youth and 2 adults who signed up for the challenge to guess what they were about to do.

They soared on 5 separate ziplines, crossed 2 or 3 bridges, and pouring rain that totally soaked them all, which added laughs and excitement to the adventure. They faced their fear of heights and conquered them.

What an ending to a great day at the Ark!!

Back to the motel for free time-swimming-evening devotions and a much needed night of sleep.



Day 3- (Wed. August 6th)

Off to the Creation Museum, a short 15-20 minute drive from the motel. The museum is filled with information panels of a walk through the bible. It had many panels comparing worldly scientific views with biblical history, meant to give us a greater understanding of biblical truth,

how to answer worldview questions, and to strengthen our faith. The depth of God's love for all of us was definitely evident as we walked through at our own pace, reading and absorbing as much as we could from the information panels and wonderful art work. The autonarrative robotic displays were fun. Noah moving & talking, answering preset questions that we selected, brought to life, like we were conversing with Noah himself. The museum also had beautiful landscape, flowers, and trees throughout. People could visit the plant conservatory, the butterfly center, and zoo. A bonus highlight was a free worship concert. True Song and Lauren Talley's singing inspired us all. Some of the youth had their picture taken with Lauren after the concert and got her autograph. Such a fun filled day!! Returned to the motel - visited and swam - devotions- and packed for Thurs morn departure.

Day 4 - (Thurs Aug 7th) Rising early, boarding the bus, hearts filled with thankfulness for our time in Kentucky. The 15 hour return trip seemed to go by quicker, as the bus buzzed with conversation among our new found friends. Arriving back to North Immanuel we all departed each in our own direction, feeling thankful and blessed.

We encourage you to add a trip like this to your bucket list!!

There is no such thing as a solitary Christian and there is no such thing as a cheap Christian either. When we hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and are grasped by it we are changed. We are given a new life in Christ and generosity becomes part of our nature, for love is costly. Christian generosity is a result of a committed Christian life. Christian generosity is motivated by the model of Christ—grace precedes generosity, awakening in our hearts a sense of gratitude. Christian generosity contributes to the unity of the church.

Source unknown

Submitted by Pastor Roger Michaelson

If anyone is interested in teaching Sunday School in the upcoming year, please contact Jane Knorr.

North Immanuel Lutheran Church

July 31, 2025

Year to Date Income	\$59,854.64
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Year to Date Expenses	\$61,372.55
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Net	\$-1,517.91
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*Not included in above income:

\$104,000 estate gift put into a CD

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:



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

North Immanuel Church to participate in “Art in the Park” July 2026. Serve food under one of the shelters. This can be a fundraiser or a community involvement event.

Suggestion:

BBQ's and hot dogs (Footlong)

Craig Bakken making his donuts under a tent

Open to ideas

Sandie Strandlien

North Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Minutes

August 13, 2025

Present: Grant Meyer, Duane Ishaug, Jane Knorr, Bonnie Harry, Becky Lage, Leon Dunham, Tom Axness, Bryant Briard, and Pastor Roger Michaelson, Shyla Strandlien, Treasurer.

Absent: Nolan Dunham, Tanner Nelson

The meeting was called to order by Grant Meyer at 6:00 p.m.

Pastor Roger led us in devotions. Mark Chapter 2 - Follow Me

Treasurers Report – Shared by Shyla Strandlien. The youth Ark trip was covered. A special account was used to keep track of receipts and expenses for the trip. Shyla will need a new pay schedule for the new minister when he begins.

Leon Dunham made a motion to accept Secretary report. Becky Lage 2nd. Motion carried.

Pastoral Report – He shared the list of visitations he does each month to pass on to new minister. He also has a list of church services he does at the nursing homes throughout the year that needs to be passed on to the new minister.

Committees –

Worship – New Member Sunday is August 24th. A potluck will follow. On September 7th there will be a baptism for a family that has ties to the church. On September 14th will be Rally Sunday. We will have rolls and coffee before church to welcome our new minister and Sunday school students. Outdoor worship services were successful. MN Teen Challenge reached out to see if they could perform for us again this year. Bonnie will follow up on this. CCLI license will need to be renewed. A thank you email was sent to the Heart O Lakes Harmony Mens Choir that stopped and sang in July.

Stewardship – New membership.

Education – We will meet in the next few weeks to plan the year ahead.

Property and Management – Nothing to report.

Old Business – The contract for Nate Bjorge was reviewed and some changes were made from the original contract. Grant will be sending out the contract after the meeting for him to review and decide if he will accept the call. It was decided he would begin on September 1, 2025. Pastor Rogers last service will be on August 31st. If Pastor Nate accepts the call some members will meet with him the first week to give him a key and answer any questions he may have.

Kara's computer is now working.

New Business – The idea was brought up that the Council term is changed to two years instead of three years. Some discussion was had. We will think about how that would all work and revisit it.

Benevolence was given to Heart O Lakes Harmony for their program. Leon D. made the motion and Bonnie H. 2nd motion. Motion carried.

Motion made by Tom A. to adjourn the meeting, Duane I 2nd motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

Submitted by Jane Knorr

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

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

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

Nolan Dunham, Property & Management

218-205-6247

Becky Lage, Worship

701-630-0473 jaylynjace@me.com

Bonnie Harry, Worship

218-770-4570 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

222 N Whitford St, Apt 103 218-517-9044 (cell)
Fergus Falls, MN 56537 218-998-2213 (LL)

Ila Ishaug

47190 E Lake Lizzie Rd
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

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 September so we can help each other celebrate.

Judy Johnson	09/01	Carolyn Stoen	09/13
Larry Hovland	09/02	Jordan Fouquette	09/13
Casey Klovstad	09/02	Jane Hovland	09/16
Mason Christianson	09/02	Kyle Haugrud	09/16
Larry Pederson	09/06	Carlan Haugrud	09/17
Jessica Thompson	09/06	Jay Hovland	09/17
Kara Tollerud	09/06	Candi Dunham	09/18
Gunnar Shulstad	09/07	Callahan Wiser	09/18
Conni Axness	09/10	Waylon Briard	09/20
Bryce Spiekermeier	09/10	Megan Spiekermeier	09/22
Kasjen Meyer	09/10	Ila Ishaug	09/27
Cheryl Nelson	09/11	Mitchell Johnson	09/27
Craig Haugrud	09/12	Everett Fearing	09/27
Christina Aas Jones	09/13	Arvid Evenson	09/28

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

September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> LABOR DAY	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> GRANDPARENTS DAY 9:00 a.m. WS/HC & Baptisms FULL MOON	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 6:00 p.m. Church Council meeting	<i>11</i> PATRIOT DAY	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> RALLY SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. WS 10:00 a.m. SS LAST QTR MOON	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> Deadline for October S&F and Calendar	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> 9:00 a.m. WS/HC 10:00 a.m. SS NEW MOON	<i>22</i> FIRST DAY OF FALL	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 9:00 a.m. WS 10:00 a.m. SS	<i>29</i> 1 ST QTR MOON	<i>30</i>			Greeters: Duane Ishaug & Tanner Nelson (7 & 14); Larry & Jane Hovland (21 & 28)	***If you are unable to serve, it is your responsibility to find a replacement.***

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



Following Worship service

2025

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



SHARING
THE NEWS
WITH...



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**Welcome
Autumn**

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