

NORTH IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

PELICAN RAPIDS, MINNESOTA •

218-863-5447

JANUARY 2026



Have you given up on making those New Year's resolutions? According to Social psychologist David Myers, author of *The Pursuit of Happiness* and *Intuition*, "All of life is a process of becoming. From womb to tomb, we're developing. So we can, at any time, reshape our future."

The Gospels tell us of Jesus being "conceived in the womb" of Mary by the Holy Spirit and they describe Jesus being sealed in a tomb after his death. Other than a short passage about Jesus when he was 12 years old, what can we know about what shaped Jesus early life? We can see from his birth to 12 years of age he lived with both of his parents who were faithful in observing God's law and all religious customs. As a 12-year-old, Jesus is found in the Temple where he had been for several days listening and asking questions which amazed the teachers. When his parents found him there, he said, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" (Luke 2:49) So we can tell from what little information is given that Jesus' early life was shaped by his devout parents and his knowledge that God was his Father.

Luke goes on to tell us that "Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man." Like any child Jesus had to grow and to learn. One of the words we come across several times with regard to Jesus' parents is "ethos", a Greek word meaning custom or habit. Later when Jesus is an adult, we read how it was his ethos to be in the synagogue on the Sabbath and it was his ethos to be in prayer. These customs or habits were formed from Jesus' childhood by his parents.

Charles Duhigg in his book, *The Power of Habit*, describes how habits have the power to shape or reshape our lives. Advances in neurology have enabled scientists to observe changes in the brain as a person's habits are changed. St Paul speaks of an actual possibility when he says, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind." (Romans 12:2)

It is possible for us to live transformed lives, to have our lives reshaped by the Potter (Jeremiah 18:6). Duhigg points out that it is not easy to break old habits and begin new ones, but studies have shown that if we have the support of family and community there is a greater probability for change. Perhaps that is why the author of Hebrews says, "Do not neglect to meet together (in worship) as is the ethos "habit" of some." (10:25) When we gather in Jesus' name, we have the support and encouragement of one another and the promise of Jesus' presence.

My prayer for this New Year is that as individuals and as a congregation we will begin to reshape our future as disciples of Jesus Christ. Let's make a habit of worship, prayer, and Bible study so that we can all experience

the transforming power that comes through Jesus Christ. "The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."
(1 Corinthians 2:17)

Happy New Year!
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.



Following Worship service

Forty-nine boxes were collected for Operation Christmas Child.
Thank you to all who participated!

North Immanuel Lutheran Church

Nov 30, 2025

Year to Date Income	\$85,211.79
Year to Date Expenses	\$96,017.01
Net	\$-10,805.22

*Not included in above income:

\$104,000 estate gift put into a CD

\$10,000 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 or scan the QR code:



- ❖ Sunday, January 25, 2026
- ❖ 8:00-9:00 a.m. Breakfast
- ❖ 9:00 a.m. Worship
- ❖ Meeting to follow Worship

The deadline to submit items for the Annual Report is Saturday, January 10, 2026.

North Immanuel Church

Greeter List for 2026

Our usher responsibilities are limited. Our most important mission is to open the front door and greet members and guests as they enter the church. If there are two greeters available, one person should be at the front door and one upstairs welcoming all people to church.

You words of kindness could mean more than you know.

***If there are any additional services during your serving time of the month, such as Lenten, Thanksgiving, & Christmas, please be willing to serve.**

If you are unable to be there, kindly find a replacement to take your place.

Sunday, January 4-11	Wayne & Dar Hovland
Sunday, January 18-25	Paul & Tammy Nord
Sunday, February 1-8	Jacob Johnson & Jenna Smedshammer
Sunday, February 15-22	David & Lois Aas
Sunday, March 1-8-15	Nolan & Candi Dunham
Sunday, March 22-29	Jared Craik & Shyla Strandlien
Sunday, April 5-12	Mike & Becky Lage
Sunday, April 19-26	Brent & Erin Tollerud
Sunday, May 3-10	Craig & Karen Bakken
Sunday, May 17-24-31	Dave & Heidi Fouquette
Sunday, June 7-14	Brad & Jane Knorr
Sunday, June 21-28	Leon & Donna Dunham
Sunday, July 5-12	Brian & Judy Johnson
Sunday, July 19-26	Craig & Brenda Haugrud
Sunday, August 2-9-16	Kevin & Katy Holt
Sunday, August 23-30	Bill & Sheila Osborne
Sunday, September 6-13	Tanner and Amanada Nelson
Sunday, September 20-27	Larry & Jane Hovland
Sunday, October 4-11	Greg & Robyn Nelson
Sunday, October 18-25	Grant & Krystle Meyer
Sunday, November 1-8-15	Taylor & Cheyanne Briard
Sunday, November 22-29	Bryant & Allie Briard
Sunday, December 6-13	Phillip & Robbie Shulstad
Sunday, December 20-27	Dave & Shelly Dunham

North Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Minutes

December 10, 2025

Present: Grant Meyer, Jane Knorr, Bryant Briard, Nolan Dunham, Tanner Nelson, Tom Axness, Duane Ishaug, Pastor Nate Bjorge, and Shyla Strandlien, Treasurer.

Absent: Leon Dunham, Becky Lage Bonnie Harry

The meeting was called to order by Grant Meyer at 7:06 p.m.

Pastor Nate led us in devotions. "Light"

Treasurers Report – Shared by Shyla Strandlien. CD coming due this month will renew at best rate available. Shyla will bring the budget numbers to the next meeting for the annual meeting.

Secretary's report. Bryant Briard 1st, Tanner Nelson 2nd motion. Motion carried.

Pastoral Report – He has done some visits. Nursing home services coming up. Enjoyed the Granders concert.

Committees –

Worship – Christmas service ad in the Press, changed minister information. Waiting to hear from the Barnesville Review. February is Meals on Wheels month. Greeter list updated for next year. Reader list done for 2026. Ordered a few more gift bags for kids on Christmas Eve. Make sure to put on agenda for January the number of outdoor services the church is going to hold. So, we can start to line up music.

Stewardship – The turn out and giving at the Granders concert was great.

Education – Christmas program is December 14th. Serving cake and coffee after the service. Sunday school is complete for the calendar year will start up again on Sunday, January 11th.

Property and Management – Nothing

Old Business –

No old business.

New Business –

Grant held discussion on what needs to be done for the annual meeting. Discussed things that should be on the agenda. Siding, Plumbing.

Benevolence: Any tags on the tree after this Sundays Services will be filled by the congregation with benevolence funds. Up to \$50 per tag maximum. There were eight tags remaining after the first Sunday.

A family with three children in need. Finding out what they need.

A motion made by Tom Axness to give \$500 to Someplace Safe in Pelican Rapids. Duane Ishaug 2nd motion.

A donation to an individual with medical issues. Nolan Dunham 1st, Tom Axness 2nd.

Ended the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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
Excelsior, 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 January so we can help each other celebrate.

Jerad Craik	01/02	Mary Klovstad	01/21
Darla Lindell	01/04	Travis Johnson	01/21
Katy Holt	01/05	Greg Nelson	01/21
Grace Haugrud	01/06	Kelsey Weiss	01/23
Alexander Klovstad	01/10	Larry Wick	01/23
Mark Ishaug	01/11	Hailey Anderson	01/25
Brenda Aas Wisner	01/13	Paul Nord	01/28
Reilly Knorr	01/15	Taylor Briard	01/30
Lavelle Follingstad	01/18	Thomas Axness	01/31
Henry Follingstad	01/19	Kayson Klovstad	01/31
Douglas Aas	01/20		

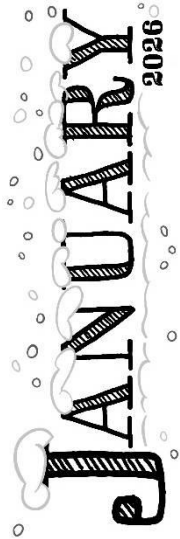
This list is not yet complete. If you have a birthday in January and your name is not here, or if the date we have is incorrect, please call it to Kara so we can update our records. May your birthday be a blessed one!

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Greeters: Wayne & Dar Hovland (4 & 11); Paul & Tammy Nord (18 & 25)</p>	<p>***If you are unable to serve, it is your responsibility to find a replacement.***</p>			<p>1 NEW YEAR'S DAY</p>	<p>2 12:00-4:00 p.m. POH</p>	<p>3 FULL MOON</p>
<p>4 9:00 a.m. WS/HC No SS</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 EPIPHANY</p>	<p>7 9:00 a.m. BS 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. POH 6:00 p.m. Conf.</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 12:00-4:00 p.m. POH</p>	<p>10 Deadline for Annual Report items LAST QTR MOON</p>
<p>11 BAPTISM OF THE LORD 9:00 a.m. WS 10:00 a.m. SS</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 9:00 a.m. BS; 10:00-5:00 POH; 6:00 p.m. Conf.; 7:00 p.m. Church Council meeting</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 12:00-4:00 p.m. POH</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 9:00 a.m. WS/HC 10:00 a.m. SS NEW MOON</p>	<p>19 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY Deadline for February S&F and Calendar</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 9:00 a.m. BS 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. POH 6:00 p.m. Conf.</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 12:00-4:00 p.m. POH</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 8:00-9:00 a.m. Breakfast; 9:00 a.m. WS & Annual mtg to follow; No SS</p>	<p>26 1ST QTR MOON</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 9:00 a.m. BS 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. POH 6:00 p.m. Conf.</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 12:00-4:00 p.m. POH</p>	<p>31</p>

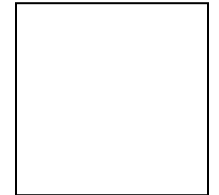
KEY: PTS=Pastors' Text Study; PDO=Pastor's Day Off; LL=Luther League; POH=Pastor's Office Hours; SS=Sunday School; HC=Holy Communion; WS=Worship Service; Conf.=Confirmation; BS=Bible Study; LS=Lenten Service

“If you live right each day, you will be neither afraid of tomorrow nor ashamed of yesterday.”
—E. C. McKenzie

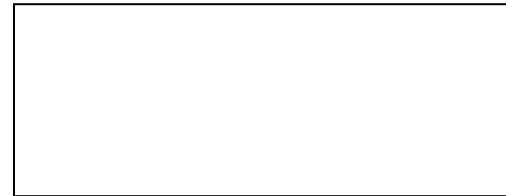


NORTH IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PO BOX 438
PELICAN RAPIDS, MN 56572-0438

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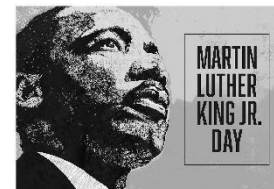
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