

NORTH IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

PELICAN RAPIDS, MINNESOTA •

218-863-5447

AUGUST 2026



“God does not grant us great faith so that having great faith we will follow. On the contrary, it is in following that our faith grows and becomes mature.” ~ Diogenes Allen

The term “wandering” is used often in the Bible. And it generally refers to those who wander away from God. St. Paul speaks of “wandering from the truth” or “wandering from the faith.” To wander means to roam aimlessly or move from place to place without a plan. We have a tendency to wander both mentally and spiritually. This is why we have expressions such as “wandering thoughts” or “wandering eyes.” As Isaiah says, “We all like sheep have wandered off, each turning to his or her own way.” King David, who understood sheep and shepherding, knew he himself was in need of a Shepherd. He confessed that “The Lord is my Shepherd.”

David trusted that God’s word was a light to his path. He believed that the Lord would lead him in paths of righteousness and to an eternal home.

If we are seeking peace that surpasses understanding, contentment, life to the full, forgiveness and new beginnings, reconciliation in our relationships, life everlasting, there is only one way. Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. If we “turn away from listening to the truth and wander into myths,” (2 Timothy 4:4) then we like the prodigal son will be lost and dead to the life that God would have us live.

Moses was concerned that the people of Israel might forget that “man does not live by bread alone, but live by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.” (Deuteronomy 8:3) His concern was that after wandering for years when they finally reached the “promised land” and built their homes, multiplied their herds and flocks, and harvested their grain they might forget the Lord their God. In essence that they would begin to wander once again, but this time wandering from the Shepherd who guided them and provided for them in the wilderness.

It is all too easy to forget and to wander away from the things that are truly important in life. God has called us into fellowship. “You were called into the fellowship of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 1:9) As summer draws to an end hopefully we will remember the fellowship to which we were called. “It is in following (The Good Shepherd) that our faith grows and becomes mature.”

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

North Immanuel Lutheran Church

June 30, 2026

Year to Date Income	\$55,057.60
Year to Date Expenses	\$46,648.36
Net	\$8,409.24

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:



August 3rd-5th, 2026
4:30-7:00 p.m.

S'more of Jesus

Join us for
Outdoor Worship Services
- with Live Music!

9:00 AM Worship
Followed by fellowship meal for all

WORSHIP & FOOD

AUG 9
Off The Hook

Bring your own lawn chair
In the event of rain - worship service
and fellowship will be indoors

Thanks for joining us this summer!



My story did not begin on the morning of June 27, 2026 when I entered the TEC (Together Encountering Christ) building in Belle Prairie, MN for a retreat. Rather, there were little steps leading up to this experience.

As I drove my van in familiar communities, I would think of the places that helped me along the way and wonder if I should communicate with them again. Some of these places no longer exist so there is no way to return to them.

The thought that I wanted to go somewhere was also invading my mind.

Someone, who is part of my life, told me about a TEC retreat she had been to. I looked at the organization's website and decided to check it out. I told one of my friends about it but she couldn't come with me. Then, I asked my dad if he could take care of my animals for me. He said yes. I also shared with my mom that I wanted to go to a Christian retreat. Finally, I filled out the online application and was accepted.

On the Monday before the retreat started, my van wasn't acting right so I took it to my mechanic. He looked at it and said to bring it somewhere else for further inspection. That Wednesday, I had it checked out at the other place. They told me what was wrong and said that it shouldn't be driven.

So, I drove the van home to leave it until it could be repaired. Now, I was concerned that I wouldn't be able to get to the retreat. But, as it turns out, I didn't have anything to worry about. My dad told me I could drive his pickup.

Early in the morning of June 27th, I drove my dad's pickup near Little Falls, MN to the site of the TEC center. Driving an unfamiliar vehicle to an unfamiliar location took trust in God.

And so I found myself in a new building. Jesus was the only one I knew. My two prerequisites were met. I met new people and had a change of scenery.

Upon arrival at the TEC building, someone helped me carry my luggage to the dorm room with bunk beds. I chose a bed for my luggage and left it there.

Small groups of people met with directors and shared why we were there. Upon completion of this task we were admitted to the Conference Room where we sang songs with the musicians.

Then, we were assigned tables to sit at. My particular table was near the front of the room. We got to know our table mates.

The format of the weekend consisted of speakers, small group discussions with our table mates, and music. We also met at the Chapel. A Bible was also given to each TEC participant.

At the beginning of the retreat, we had to relinquish our phones and watches. The concept of time was removed from the weekend. The motto was "participate don't anticipate."

Meals were also provided for everybody.

On Sunday, during one of our discussion groups, tears flowed from my eyes. The conversation had to do with someone who showed love to us. I was thinking of my friend Matthew who had passed away in October and whom I'd known for 17 ½ years. He made me feel good about myself.

About midway through the retreat, two of our table groups (one of them was mine) were brought to another room and told we were going to be interspersed among the young people. Now, I would get to know even more people. At my new table, I participated in the activities with new teammates.

Later on Day Two, we met the Wheat Team. These people were praying for the participants. To my surprise, the person that told me about the retreat was there. She was assigned to pray for me.

On Day Three, the participants and Wheat Team members had lunch together and shared a closing Mass. The participants also shared their banners with the group. We also received crosses with the crucifix on them.

At the conclusion of the retreat, I was on my way to the outside door when three of the directors stopped me. They gave me the candle that had been burning during the retreat and said something to the effect that I had made a difference in their lives. Something about being the Light of Christ was also mentioned. Hugs were given as I left the TEC building and made my return to the world.

Although my method of transportation was transformed, I still got to the destination God wanted me to be at. I showed up and participated. God filled in the details of the encounter.

It is likely I was the only Lutheran among the Catholics. They were welcoming to me and I got to spend time in the community of believers. The emphasis on my weekend was the word "Together." I learned that I don't always have to do everything in solitude.

By Kara Tollerud

North Immanuel Church Council Minutes

July 8, 2026

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

Absent: Grant Meyer, Leon Dunham

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

Devotions led by Pastor Nate. Shared from book "Love Him In The Morning"

Treasurers Report – There is about \$37,000 in CD interest to use on the Kitchen Remodel. The cabinet maker was given a \$7,500 deposit. Shyla is working on a way to include the funds available and spent for the remodel on her monthly report. Report placed on file.

Secretary's minutes reviewed by council before meeting. Nolan Dunham made a motion to approve. Karen Bakken 2nd motion. Motion passed.

Pastors Report – Visitations, Nursing home services next Tuesday, Spoke with Renee from the Granders about this Sunday's service.

Committee Reports –

Evangelism and Worship – Granders perform this Sunday. Be at church by 8:00 am to help with serving. At the July 26th service we will recognize Kara Tollerud for her 20 years of service as North Immanuel Secretary.

Stewardship – Fundraising ideas for kitchen remodel. Possibly have a fundraiser on Rally Sunday.

Christian Education – VBS dates set as August 3, 4, 5th from 4:30 – 7:00. We are preparing for VBS at this time.

Property and Management – Discussion held on kitchen remodel. Steve Strandlien has been dealing with the contractors. Some of the council members are going to discuss the remodel with Steve to see where things are at.

Old Business –

Benevolence – Discussion was held on area that there is need in the area. We will not be donating to Samaritans Purse at this time.

New Business-

Discussion was held on ways we can improve our steaming service. Possibly rent or purchase a new router. Purchase additional microphones.

The Gideons would like to come and make a presentation during a church service in the future. David Aas will contact Duane Haiby about getting us on their schedule.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at 6:00 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

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 August so we can help each other celebrate.

Jeffrey Holt	08/02	Christa Johnson	08/19
Lori Strandlien	08/02	Katlyn Johnson	08/19
Cha'Von Kugler	08/05	Lucille Serra	08/22
Kaitlin Bai	08/05	Jason Ross Jr.	08/23
Kevin Holt	08/07	Addison Anderson	08/23
Joseph Anderson	08/09	Easton Anderson	08/23
Janice Johnson	08/12	Keegan Jones	08/24
Laurie Jo Johnson	08/12	Melissa Flerschinger	08/25
Cody Nord	08/12	Hannah Bai	08/26
Summer Anderson	08/12	Erin Tollerud	08/27
Tracy Ross	08/16	Lois Ishaug	08/28
Tara Serra	08/16	Abby Ganyo	08/28
Jeremy Lynnes	08/18	Alexa Briard	08/28

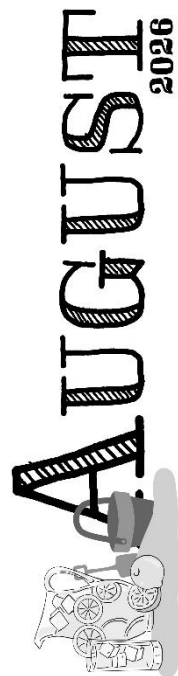
This list is not yet complete. If you have a birthday in August and your name is not here, or if the date we have is incorrect, please call it to Kara so we can update our records. May your birthday be a blessed one!

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Pr. Nate on vacation →
2 9:00 a.m. WS/HC -----	3 4:30-7:00 p.m. VBS -----	4 4:30-7:00 p.m. VBS -----	5 4:30-7:00 p.m. VBS -----←	6 LAST QTR MOON	7 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. POH	8
9 9:00 a.m. Outdoor WS with Off the Hook	10	11	12 9:00 a.m. BS; 10:00- 6:00 POH; 6:00 p.m. Council mtg NEW MOON	13	14 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. POH	15
16 9:00 a.m. WS/HC	17 Deadline for September S&F and Calendar	18	19 9:00 a.m. BS 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. POH	20 1 ST QTR MOON	21 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. POH	22
23 9:00 a.m. WS	24	25	26 9:00 a.m. BS 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. POH	27	28 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. POH FULL MOON	29
30 9:00 a.m. WS	31				Greeters: Kevin & Katy Holt (2, 9, & 16); Bill & Sheila Osborne (23 & 30)	***If you are unable to serve, it is your responsibility to find a replacement.***

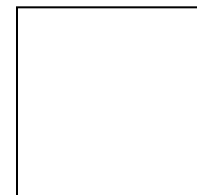
KEY: PTS=Pastors' Text Study; PDO=Pastor's Day Off; LL=Luther League; POH=Pastor's Office Hours; SS=Sunday School; HC=Holy Communion; WS=Worship Service; Conf.=Confirmation; BS=Bible Study; LS=Lenten Service

“Belief is truth held in the mind; faith is a fire in the heart.”
—Joseph Fort Newton



NORTH IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



SHARING
THE NEWS
WITH...

