

# NORTH IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

PELICAN RAPIDS, MINNESOTA •

218-863-5447

MARCH 2026



“And they were constantly devoting themselves to prayer...”

- Acts 1:14

According to Patrick Miller, Old Testament Professor from Princeton Theological Seminary, “No single practice more clearly defines a religion than the act of praying. Pray is not, however, only a matter of spirituality or the practice of piety. It also has to do with faith. Our very belief is shaped by the practice of prayer.” As Miller states, “Our belief is shaped by the practice of prayer.” Jesus calls on us to pray. We are told, “that we are to pray always and not to lose heart.” (Luke 18:1) Paul also calls us to “pray without ceasing”, to “be constant in prayer”, and to “devote ourselves to prayer.” In other words, our whole life should be lived before God. We are to continually turn to God and be conscious of God’s presence. This is one of the reasons for Martin Luther continuing to make the sign of the cross, to be reminded that one is always in God’s presence.

Yet Paul understands that “we do not always pray as we ought”. Even Jesus’ disciples had to ask how to pray. Theologian, Ole Hallesby states, “To pray is to let God into our lives. He knocks and seeks admittance, not only in the solemn hours of secret prayer. He knocks in the midst of your daily work, your daily struggles, your daily grind. That is when you need Him most.” Prayer can be as simple as calling on the name of “Jesus”. The essence of faith is to come to Jesus and to trust that He hears us.

Of course, one of the difficulties of pray is that we “do lose heart” when our prayers may not get answered according to our will. This should not prevent us from praying. We can take a lesson from children. They do not always get what they ask for and yet that usually doesn’t stop them from asking. Jesus teaches us to seek and submit to God’s will through our prayers. Remember Jesus’ prayer in the garden of Gethsemane. It was His prayer to avoid the cross and yet He submitted to God’s will.

Lent is a season to be reminded of the practice of prayer. Pray transforms people, relationships, and it can transform a congregation. Our very belief in God is shaped by the practice of prayer. My prayer is that we as a congregation will devote ourselves to prayer. Ole Hallesby reminds us that “Prayer is the most important work in the kingdom of God.” As members of Christ’s Body and of His kingdom let us pray...

In Christ, Pastor Nate Bjorge

Pastor Nate Bjorge (320) 360-0277 cell  
20414 190th St. Fergus Falls, MN 56537  
Email: pastornatebjorge@gmail.com

Parish Secretary, Kara Tollerud (218) 731-2672  
43303 County Hwy 21, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572  
Email: nilchurch@yahoo.com

Council President Duane Ishaug (218) 280-0589  
11 2 1/2 St SE, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

Council Vice President Tom Axness (218) 329-6882  
42607 120th Ave, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

Council Secretary Jane Knorr (218) 731-4464  
12790 County Hwy 30, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

Squares President Lee Follingstad (218) 354-2367  
406 11<sup>th</sup> St NE, Barnesville, MN 56514

Custodian: Steve Strandlien (701) 730-4423 cell  
29342 180<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572 (218) 863-6416 home

Treasurer: Shyla Strandlien (701)-541-1888  
28998 180<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572  
Email: s.strandlien@outlook.com

### **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—  
Treasurer—Judy Johnson (218) 863-2204  
Secretary—

### **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

The following letter was received from Sarah Gauche Pickell.

Dear North Immanuel Lutheran Church,

My name is Sarah Gauche Pickell, and I was born and baptized into this church 40 years ago. I turn 40 on November 15. In the days leading up to that birthday, I am spending some time reflecting and giving thanks for many spaces and people who have so richly blessed my life. One of those spaces is North Immanuel, and one of the most influential people in my life was North Immanuel's faithful servant, Ruby Linder. My dad, Pastor Paul Gauche started his ordained ministry over 40 years ago at North Immanuel and Ruby trained him up! After our family moved away from Pelican Rapids, we visited Ruby frequently, always for coconut cake. As a small child, I have so many fond memories of playing in the breezeway and with the Gumby dolls while the adults visited. Before we left, we always left a note of love and thanks under Ruby's pillow for her to find later. Ruby wrote me wonderful letters and she prayed for me.

I named my firstborn daughter Ruby. She is 12 now and didn't get to meet Ruby. I named her Ruby in honor of a woman who faithfully loved and served those around her, and who committed her energy to the good work of Christ's church. Her faithful service – her long obedience in the same direction – was a beautiful picture for me throughout my life. I am grateful for the life of Ruby Linder – and the community of believers she served so well.

With Thanksgiving,

Sarah Pickell



- ❖ Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>: 9:00 a.m. Worship & Confirmation
- ❖ Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>: 6:30 p.m. Worship
- ❖ Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>: No Service
- ❖ Easter, April 5<sup>th</sup>: 8:00 a.m. Breakfast; 9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

“A Christian is the keyhole through which other folks see God.”  
—Robert E. Gibson

## North Immanuel Sponsored Students

January 2026



Sponsored Student: **Soffy Alexandra Coroy Solis**

Age: 10 years

Grade: 3, Soffy is an excellent student, her report card was 80% or higher  
She lives with her father who is a farmer and two sisters, ages 8 and 15

Her family squats on their land of 26' x 36'. Their home has walls of concrete, roof of steel, and the floor is made of concrete slab. They get their water from a water faucet on the property, they have flush type bathroom. They have electricity and a gas stove to cook on.



Sponsored Student: **Enrique Turuy Canel**

Age: 13

Grade: 6th

He lives with his mother who is a homemaker, father a farmer, and 5 brothers, ages 23, 21, 17, 11, and 5.

His family squats on the land where they live, its size 49' x 49'. Their home has walls made of concrete block, roof of roofing steel, and floor of concrete slab. They get water from a faucet on the property and use an outhouse for their bathroom. They have electricity and a wood saving, smoke-reducing stove from the Common Hope project to cook on.



Sponsored Student: **Joseline Gabriela Salazar Hernandez**

Age: 14 years

Grade: 8

She lives with her mother who is a butcher, father who is a plumber, a sister age 18, and brother age 8

Her family owns their land 23' x 20'. The walls are made of concrete blocks, roof is of concrete, and the floor is of concrete slab. They get water from a water faucet on the property, they have flush type bathroom. They also have electricity on the property, & use a gas stove to cook. Main electrical items include, a blender, iron, radio, refrigerator, TV and computer. They also have 1 stool, 2 beds, 1 table, and 1 chair. The family uses two motorcycles for transportation.

North Immanuel Annual Meeting  
January 25, 2026

Council president Grant Meyer called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Pastor Nate Bjorge's devotion was "Word and God's Love for Us is Constant"

Pastors report is in the annual meeting booklet. He thanked the congregation for the call and for all the support he has received.

**Treasurers Report** – Shyla Strandlien presented the treasurer's report. Discussed the changes to the budget from last year's budget. Added a few new lines to the budget (online giving, card processing fees). There was a \$1500 memorial to the church that was put in the general fund, but the family wanted it earmarked to kitchen remodeling fund. Went through the assets. The ending balance on 12/31/2025 was \$670,408.44. A motion was made by Becky Lage to raise the benevolence to \$8500.00. Dawn Shulstad 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. Motion passed. Brad Knorr said to leave the equipment as it is in the budget so the council has some funds to work with in case of a breakdown. Bonnie has been working on getting some new altar clothes. The full-size ones are very expensive. She had a plan on getting some that were more reasonably priced. It has been difficult getting someone to come out and work with us on getting new clothes. She will keep working on it. A motion was made by Bonnie Harry to put the \$4000 back in the budget. David Dunham 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. Motion passed. A vote was taken to approve the budget. David Dunham and Brad Knorr were appointed tellers to count the votes. The budget was approved unanimously.

**Secretary's Report** – Read by Jane Knorr. Craig Bakken made a motion to approve the minutes. Tom Axness 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed.

**Committee Reports** –

**Worship Committee** – Two new member Sundays were held. Summer worship went well. Pastor Nate began serving our congregation in September. New flags have been received for the front of the church.

**Stewardship** – New members and good music.

**Christian Education** – We have split up the students into two classes this year. Allows for the older students to use their Bible more in class. The Christmas program went well.

**Property and Management** – Peeling paint on NW corner of church. The insurance company will give us \$5700 and then we get it repaired. Siding the West and South side will cost about \$50,000. Waiting to hear on an estimate to paint the damaged area.

Elections were held. Craig Bakken made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot. Sandie Strandlien 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. Motion passed.

New council members are David Aas, Karen Bakken, and Erin Tollerud.

**New Business** –

**Kitchen Renovation** –

A committee presented a kitchen design they had done by Menards. It would include replacing all the cupboards and center island. The serving area would stay as it is. Approximate cost is \$27,000 to \$30,000. Probably will cost at least \$35,000. Commercial dishwasher would save on paper products. It takes about 7-10 minutes for a dishwasher to run a cycle. The state is getting more stringent on churches serving food. The septic system is okay. Current issues with the plumbing. The P&M will get a plumbing estimate and ask Lee Follingstad to give us an electrical bid. The committee will bring the information back to the council after these numbers are received. A question was asked how do we want to be stewards of the funds. Do we want to take

the money from investments or do we want to do some fundraising. Currently we have \$6000.00 put aside to put towards the project. A thank you was given to Sandie Strandlien and Dar Hovland for putting together the estimate for the kitchen remodel.

Nominating committee for next year is Robyn Nelson, Dawn Shulstad.

Craig Bakken made a motion to destroy ballots. Sandie Strandlien 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. Motion passed.

Craig Bakken made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Becky Lage 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. Motion passed.

The meeting was ended with a closing prayer.

Submitted by Jane Knorr

### Organizational Meeting for Council

January 25, 2026

President – Duane Ishaug

Vice President – Tom Axness

Secretary – Jane Knorr

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

### North Immanuel Lutheran Church

Jan 31, 2026

Year to Date Income	\$5,135.90
Year to Date Expenses	\$7,258.86
Net	\$-2,122.96

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:



# North Immanuel Church Council Minutes

February 11, 2026

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

Visitors were Sandie Strandlien and Dar Hovland

Called to order by Duane Ishaug at 7:00 p.m.

Devotions led by Pastor Nate. Psalm 51

Secretary's minutes were read by Jane Knorr. Leon Dunham made a motion to approve. Tom Axness 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. Motion passed.

Treasurers Report – Everything is right on schedule for this time of the year. A \$1000 memorial was received. Treasurers report was placed on file. Jane Knorr made a motion to appoint Shyla as treasurer for the 2026 calendar year. Nolan Dunham 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. Motion passed.

Pastors Report – Visits were made. Services at Nursing home on Tuesday of this week. Lent begins next Wednesday. Confirmation will be held on Palm Sunday. Bonnie Harry is going to have the youth make stalls.

Church Remodel. Sandie Strandlien and Dar Hovland shared updates on the project. They are looking at upgrading the cupboards. The cost is not much more but they will be able to be just slid into place. Watching for them to go on sale. Cynclly is the brand of the cupboard. The final cost will be about \$50,000.

Church directory – Dar spoke with Universal Church Solutions. She is meeting with them on 2/25/26 to discuss the directory. The dates of pictures would be in early April.

Committees –

Property and Management – Cost to paint church is \$165,000.00. The South and West sides are always effected by the sun.

Christian Education – Will purchase cake to serve after confirmation on Palm Sunday.

Stewardship – Nothing to report.

Worship - Handed out posters to hang for Lenten services.

Shared mail with the council. Power line proposal and letter from Sarah Pickell.

New Business –

Easter Sunday –

Services will be held at 9:00 a.m. Erin Tollerud will check with the youth about serving rolls and coffee before church beginning at 8:00 a.m.

We will not meet in March unless something comes up then a meeting will be called.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Jane Knorr

Committees –

Worship – David Aas, Karen Bakken, Leon Dunham

Stewardship – Bryant Briard

Christian Education – Jane Knorr, Erin Tollerud

Property and Management – Tom Axness, Grant Meyer, Nolan Dunham

Communion and Counting Offering -

March – Leon Dunham

April – Bryant Briard

May – Karen Bakken

June- David Aas

July – Nolan Dunham

August – Erin Tollerud

September – Jane Knorr

October – Duane Ishaug

November – Grant Meyer

December – Tom Axness

January – David Aas

February – 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 March so we can help each other celebrate.

Paul Aarness	03/01	Colten Dunham	03/08
Daniel Lynnes	03/01	Charlene Klovstad	03/09
Terry Sillerud	03/02	Darleen Hovland	03/14
Erik Lynnes	03/03	Tate Nelson	03/16
Connie Zinnecker	03/04	Philip Shulstad	03/21
Mark Follingstad	03/05	Emiliano Jasso	03/21
Brent Tollerud	03/07	Bonnie Harry	03/22
Ryan Lindell	03/07	Brenda Haugrud	03/31
Whitley Berger	03/08		

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

# March 2026

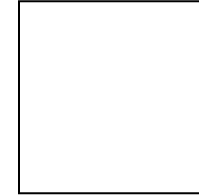
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i> 9:00 a.m. WS/HC 10:00 a.m. SS	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>  FULL MOON	<i>4</i> 9:00 a.m. BS; 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. POH 5:15-6:15 p.m. Supper; 6:30 p.m. LS	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 12:00-4:00 p.m. POH	<i>7</i>
<i>8</i> DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS 9:00 a.m. WS 10:00 a.m. SS	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 9:00 a.m. BS; 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. POH 5:15-6:15 p.m. Supper; 6:30 p.m. LS LAST QTR MOON	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> 12:00-4:00 p.m. POH	<i>14</i>
<i>15</i> 9:00 a.m. WS/HC 10:00 a.m. SS	<i>16</i> Deadline for April S&F and Calendar	<i>17</i> ST. PATRICK'S DAY	<i>18</i> 9:00 a.m. BS; 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. POH 5:15-6:15 p.m. Supper; 6:30 p.m. LS	<i>19</i>  NEW MOON	<i>20</i> FIRST DAY OF SPRING 12:00-4:00 p.m. POH	<i>21</i>
<i>22</i> 9:00 a.m. WS 10:00 a.m. SS	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> 9:00 a.m. BS; 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. POH 5:15-6:15 p.m. Supper; 6:30 p.m. LS 1 <sup>ST</sup> QTR MOON	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> 12:00-4:00 p.m. POH	<i>28</i>
<i>29</i> PALM SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. WS & Confirmation No SS	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>			Greeters: Nolan & Candi Dunham (1, 8, & 15); Jerad Craik & Shyla Strandlien (22 & 29)	***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

“Faith is to believe what we do not see; and the reward of this faith is to see what we believe.”  
—St. Augustine



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



SHARING  
THE NEWS  
WITH...



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