

The Immanuel Lutheran Church Messenger

Strum, Wisconsin

Livestream available at immanuelstrum.org



To assist in providing emergency aid to those affected by the earthquakes in Venezuela please visit the Lutheran World Relief giving page at lwr.org.

Immanuel's Women of the ELCA



Happy 4th of July!

It's time for family, fun and fireworks!
Let the Celebration begin!



Our WELCA will meet on **Wednesday, July 8th** at 1:30 pm for those who can make it. We usually don't have business meetings during July. In the case where one is needed, we will call for a special meeting and then continue with our Bible study: The Women of Faith Series, Living Above Worry and Stress, Chapter 7 "I Know Whom I Have Believed". Our business meetings will resume on August 5th. We have several items to discuss, including the Apple Pie Project.

The Pleasantville Women's Club is going on a Mystery Trip on Thursday, August 13th, 2026 and we would like to invite the Strum ladies to go along again this year. Pick-ups at Pleasantville Townhall 7:15 am and St Peter and Paul's Independence at 7:45 am; cost is \$108. More information to follow. Call Karen Franson at 715-695-3553 or Jean Herman at 715-695-3347 if interested.

The Apple Pie Project is tentatively set for **September 21st - 23rd** depending on the apples. Start time is 9:00 am each day. Boxes are put together on Monday. Groups 7 & 8 will serve Tuesday and Wednesday. We are looking for volunteers again. We need peelers, crimpers, rollers, slicers, and mixers. Come for the day or just a few hours. All are welcome and appreciated.

(Continued on page 2)

In this newsletter
you can expect:

WELCA News

ELCA Bishop
Rev Yehiel Curry

Financials

Food Pantry &
ADRC Senior Meals

Calendar of Events

Miscellaneous

Volunteer
Opportunities

Worship Time Change
Effective Sunday, June 7,
2026, Worship will begin
at 10:30 AM with Coffee
Hour prior to worship at
9:30 AM until May 31,
2027.

Chanhassen update: Our date is Wednesday, September 16th, we will be seeing The Musical Fable of Broadway: Guys and Dolls. A charming but broke gambler, Nathan Detroit is short on cash for the biggest craps game in town and the authorities are breathing down his neck. Meanwhile, longtime girlfriend and club performer, Miss Adelaide is tiring of their 14-year engagement with no wedding in sight. Nathan looks to fellow high-roller Sky Masterson for cash, and the two concoct a bet for Sky to whisk the strait-laced missionary Sarah Brown off to Havana. Sarah is determined to save the souls of the gamblers, setting in motion a series of events where love and redemption intersect.

Frank Loesser's vibrant musical score makes Guys and Dolls a true crowd-pleaser featuring songs like "Luck Be a Lady", "A Bushel and a Peck", and "Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat". Chanhassen Dinner Theatres brings you all the thrills, laughs, and song when you come and experience Guys and Dolls! **Price: \$115. Pick-up times: Osseo Evangelical Lutheran Church 8:00 am; Immanuel Strum 8:20 am; Immanuel Eau Claire 8:50 am.**

THE SACRED PACE OF REST

Jesus, who often withdrew with his disciples to quiet, deserted places, understood something we easily forget: transformation takes time. The richest, most life-giving compost does not form overnight. As author James Gleick observes, "You can't hurry compost for the same reason you can't hurry love and you can't hurry a soufflé. The biochemistry has its own inherent pace." In much the same way, the most meaningful parts of life unfold slowly. Relationships deepen over years. Wisdom grows through experience. True rest cannot be rushed.

Disciples of Jesus today are invited to rediscover the value of the deserted place. It is not empty or wasted space, but sacred ground. It is where long books can be read, unhurried prayers can be offered and deep thoughts can take root. It is where Sabbath is honored through rest, renewal and quiet attentiveness to God.

In a culture that prizes speed and productivity, stepping away may feel counterintuitive. Yet it is in these still moments that our souls are restored and made fertile for growth. The deserted place becomes a gift, shaping us into people who are grounded, attentive and spiritually mature, ready to reenter the world with renewed strength and purpose.

STRUM AREA FOOD PANTRY



Saturday, July 4: 9 AM - 11 AM
Wednesday, July 15: 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

GOD'S BONUS DAYS

An author writing in Guideposts magazine calls those nostalgic moments of memory "God's bonus days." LaVerne Sexton recalled that in her family, life's unexpected dividends — a summer rainbow, a blazing sunset, a gentle spring thaw — were invitations to set aside ordinary tasks and celebrate something special.

She remembered one breathtaking day from her childhood when the sky stretched wide and impossibly blue, as if it had no edges at all. Her father grabbed the fishing poles and called out, "Let's play hooky, hon. It's one of God's bonus days."

— Marion R. Vuilleumier, Meditations by the Sea



AMERICA AT 250: HOLDING GRATITUDE AND HUMILITY

Dear church,

As we look toward the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, many of us will celebrate with fireworks, parades and barbecues. Independence Day often brings us together with family and friends. Yet there is more that connects us than our communal celebrations. We are also connected through a common vision.

Signed in 1776, the Declaration of Independence proclaims a vision of equality for all people. While there were other nations pushing for equality at the time, the declaration was and is a monumental document in the way it names the aspiration so boldly. As we observe and celebrate the 250th anniversary of that signing, we also affirm the vision of freedom and equality it casts. We can be grateful.

And with contrition and humility, we acknowledge all the ways we have failed to embody that vision. As members of this church, we are called to “pray, participate in, and advocate for civic life in the United States that reflects God’s activity and call, which seek both the well-being of all people and a creation marked by justice and peace” (ELCA social statement Faith and Civic Life, p. 89).

As Lutherans, we know the importance of naming realities for what they are. As citizens, we confess the ways we have not yet realized the vision of the Declaration of Independence and, more importantly, as Christians we confess the ways we have participated in or been complicit in failures to live into the vision God provides. This vision is rooted in creation and redemption. God crafts each person in God’s own image and sends Jesus Christ to redeem us, setting us free to follow Christ’s new commandment to love one another.

The history of the United States is complex, and all too often we have fallen short of our stated values. Indigenous peoples across this land have been forced to cede their ancestral homes and pushed to reservations. Women and men have been prevented from voting because of their sex and race and spat on and jailed when they demanded their rights. Japanese American families were interned during World War II. Queer and transgender people’s lives are obstructed by federal and state orders.

There is a photograph of Elizabeth Eckford, one of the nine Black teenagers who integrated Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., in 1957. Books under her arm, she faces forward as angry white people crowd behind her. She was just trying to go to school.

Holding both the failures and the vision in our hearts and minds, I invite us to ask ourselves, “What does it mean to celebrate a promise that is real and yet still unfolding? What does it mean to be a people who always live in ‘the already but not yet’”?

This is a central question for us not only as we mark the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence but also in our daily lives as people of faith. The prophets repeatedly remind us of the vision God casts for all of creation, and they call us to account when, as God’s own people, we fall short.

When we fall short, we remember we are rooted in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We think, speak and live out faith through God's future. God's future is resurrection. As a church, we are turned not only to the past but to the future God is making possible right now through us as we love and serve others.

As Lutheran Christians, we believe that God calls us to:

- Remember our connection to each other through baptism, as Scripture teaches us: "We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another" (Romans 12:5).
- Name sin for what it really is and to repent of it, as the Augsburg Confession and the catechisms remind us.
- Serve the common good in society as "earthly measures toward God's intention" (Faith and Civic Life, p. 11).

As we celebrate 250 years of the Declaration of Independence, we can hold gratitude and humility, possibilities and shortcomings. We continue to live in the already and the not-yet.

And we hold fast to the most important promise of all: the presence of God with us, the power of the resurrection of Christ, the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit and the ever-unfolding grace of God.

We celebrate this occasion neither as a perfect nation nor as a perfect church but as a people held in God's grace and called into community in service to all neighbors and for the sake of the world God so loves.

In Christ,

The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

FREEDOM WORTH GUARDING

Because many Americans have never known life without freedom, it can be easy to take our liberties for granted. The Israelites, however, knew the harsh reality of slavery. Yet even after God led them out of Egypt, they struggled to embrace their newfound freedom. Faced with uncertainty, they grew fearful and complained against Moses and Aaron, longing for the familiarity of their former bondage rather than trusting God's provision.

Their story feels surprisingly familiar. As Christians, we have been set free through a far greater deliverance. Our freedom was secured at a great cost through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And yet, we sometimes drift back toward old habits, attitudes and patterns that once held us captive.

Scripture reminds us to stand firm in the freedom we have been given. As Paul writes in Galatians 5:1 (NKJV), "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."

True freedom is not simply the absence of restraint. It is the opportunity to live fully in God's grace, walking in obedience, joy and purpose. This kind of freedom is worth celebrating, protecting and living out every day.

	Total	Annual Budget Avg/Mo	Over/(Under) Monthly Budget	Annual Budget	Budget Remaining	Budget Remaining Avg/Mo	% of Budget Avg/Mo
Contributions	10,438.38	10,416.67	21.71	125,000.00	77,684.54	11,097.79	100.2%
Electronic Contributions	2,688.43	2,516.67	171.76	30,200.00	19,307.63	2,758.23	106.8%
Memorials & Other	651.58	1,133.33	(481.75)	13,600.00	8,720.84	1,245.83	57.5%
Total Contributions	13,778.39	14,066.67	(288.28)	168,800.00	105,713.01	15,101.86	98.0%

	Total	Annual Budget Avg/Mo	Over/(Under) Monthly Budget	Annual Budget	Budget Remaining	Budget Remaining Avg/Mo	% of Budget Avg/Mo
Building & Property	59.00	1,208.33	(1,149.33)	14,500.00	11,127.55	1,589.65	4.9%
General	63.00	75.00	(12.00)	900.00	562.40	80.34	84.0%
Ministry	168.72	500.00	(331.28)	6,000.00	3,020.38	431.48	33.7%
Office¹	165.52	141.67	23.85	1,700.00	1,183.37	169.05	116.8%
Pastor	6,710.66	6,717.17	(6.51)	80,606.06	40,298.96	5,756.99	99.9%
Support Personnel	4,031.36	4,812.94	(781.58)	57,755.29	35,493.60	5,070.51	83.8%
Utilities	1,072.86	1,075.00	(2.14)	12,900.00	7,524.22	1,074.89	99.8%
Other Expenses²	250.00						
Total Expenses	12,521.12	14,530.11	(2,008.99)	174,361.35	99,210.48	14,172.93	86.2%

Net Contributions **1,257.27**

EXPLANATION OF EXPENSES OVER BUDGET

Office - Quarterly copy expense of \$148.52; Annual Norton 360 Subscription \$17.00.

Other Expenses - Ricoh Finance Agreement payment of \$250.00.

OUR AWESOME GOD

When our lives are focused on God, awe and wonder lead us to worship, filling our inner being with a fullness we may never have thought possible. Awe prepares the way for God's transforming power within us. This transformation of our inner attitudes takes place as awe leads us into wonder, admiration, reverence, surrender and obedience before God.

—James Houston, *The Transforming Power of Prayer*

ADRC SENIOR DINING

Strum Senior Dining at Immanuel Lutheran Church

Catered by Sweet Temptations

July 2026

Salad Option: Greek Salmon Salad

(Baked Salmon filet with lemon and dill, Romaine lettuce, cucumbers, red onion, grape tomatoes, feta cheese, and black olives)

Tuesday, July 7: Chicken & Veggie Stir Fry, Rice, Dessert

Tuesday, July 14: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Dessert

Tuesday, July 21: Crab Cakes, Rice, Veggies, Dessert

Tuesday, July 28: Chicken, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Veggies, Dessert

Meals are served every Tuesday at 11:30 am. Reservations required by 9 am the Monday prior to meal service by calling 715-695-3511. Suggested donation is \$5 per meal.

ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF MAY 31, 2026

	Account	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Ending Balance
	CD-Roof	86,561.20	-	-	86,561.20
	Checking Account	16,703.67	15,034.74	12,639.41	19,099.00
Money Market Accounts	Building	4,185.11	25.00	66.30	4,143.81
	General	45,272.19	568.44	1,706.50	44,134.13
	General - Housing Allowance	55.19	-	-	55.19
	Benevolences	2,863.45	-	-	2,863.45
	CBELC	22,786.84	-	-	22,786.84
	Daughters of the King	4,391.10	-	-	4,391.10
	Fellowship	287.86	-	-	287.86
	Immanuel's Seniors	445.54	-	20.00	425.54
	Library	251.60	-	-	251.60
	Local Missions	209.79	-	20.00	189.79
	Music	1,906.97	20.00	-	1,926.97
	Organ Fund - Refurbishment	35,218.00	405.00	-	35,623.00
	Parsonage - General	30,750.28	550.00	11.99	31,288.29
	Parsonage - Property Tax	4,775.69	250.00	-	5,025.69
	Sanctuary Improvement	50.00	310.00	-	360.00
	Social Concerns	1,148.60	-	-	1,148.60
	Strum Area Food Pantry	18,644.25	55.00	-	18,699.25
	Sunday School	2,741.29	-	-	2,741.29
	Thanksgiving Dinner	2,500.00	-	-	2,500.00
	Youth - General	7,471.50	91.50	-	7,563.00
	Youth - Luther Park	3,190.00	-	-	3,190.00
	Joint Parish Account	5,030.09	6,580.40	6,309.44	5,301.05
	Total Assets	297,440.21	23,890.08	20,773.64	300,556.65

Equals designated contributions

Equals Designated expenses plus Money Market Interest of \$450.15

All designated, undesignated, and other expenses

All designated, undesignated, and other revenue less Money Market interest of \$450.15

Immanuel's payment to joint account plus interest earned

SUMMER LECTORS NEEDED



We are searching for folks who would be willing to serve as lectors through the summer months when our confirmation students are not in class. Generally speaking, your duties would be to lead the responsive reading of the psalm near the beginning of the service and then, later in the service, read the day's lesson. Michelle has put together a binder with all the summer readings we'll be using. Readings can also be sent to you early in the week. If you can help by serving as a lector, please sign up for Sundays in the narthex or contact the church office. Thank you for your consideration.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				Office Closed	Office Closed	9 AM - 11 AM 
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Community Worship at Pleasantville Ballpark 10:00 AM Music 10:30 AM Worship NO SERVICE AT IMMANUEL	Pastor's Day Off	11:30 AM Senior Meals	1:30 PM WELCA Bible Study		Office Closed	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Worship/Communion	Pastor's Day Off	11:30 AM Senior Meals	4:30-6:30 PM 		Office Closed	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Worship	Pastor's Day Off	11:30 AM Senior Meals			Office Closed	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9:30 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Worship	Pastor's Day Off					



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

This is Christ's Church.

There is a place for you here.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person — questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

<http://www.elca.org/>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor

Terry Lorenz

Cell: 715-533-8121

email: pastorterrylorenz@tcc.coop

Administrator

Michelle Jacobson

Office: 715-695-3511

email: office@immanuelstrum.org

Office Hours

Sunday: 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Monday: 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Thursday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Church Council

Kris Husby, President

Bob Schlink, Vice-president

Gloria Wagener, Treasurer

John Eide, Secretary

Dean Anderson, Member-at-large

Tyler Back, Member-at-large

Need Offering Envelopes?

Please contact Michelle
in the office.

715-695-3511 or

office@immanuelstrum.org

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