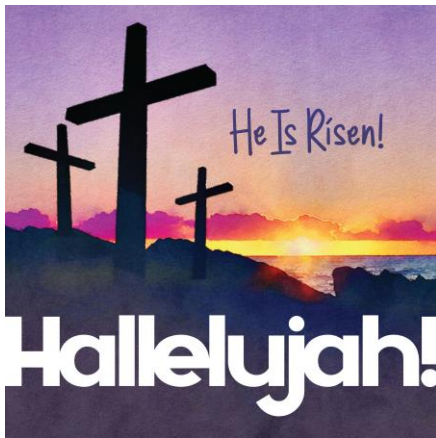


# ***Immanuel Highlights***

*Volume XXVIII, Issue 5 May 2026*

*A monthly Publication  
for the Members and Friends of*

***Immanuel Lutheran Church***  
*251 Main Street  
Akron, Iowa 51001*



**The Easter Season**

*A Church for All Seasons*

***Jon Harris, Council President***

*Cell: 712.551.6543*

*E-Mail: jolifarms@premieronline.net*

***Sharon Frerichs, Administrative Assistant***

*Church Office 712.568-3338*

*Cell Phone: 712.551.6445*

*E-Mail: rfrerichs@premieronline.net*

***God's Enduring Grace***  
***1910-2026***

*"As members of the family of God, we proclaim  
God's grace through our worship, education,  
witness, service, and stewardship."*

## **Jons's Message**

We are excited to announce that on April 26<sup>th</sup> Pastor James Fowler of Vermillion, SD will begin serving Immanuel as our interim Pastor. His initial duties will be to lead us on Sundays though he may be available for such duties as visitations and an occasional Saturday evening worship service. He is also willing to handle funerals if needed.

We have one common denominator in that we both know Pastor Bill and Sue Flemer. Pastor Fowler studied music in college and became active in campus ministry. He later joined Sue's father at St. John's Lutheran in Des Moines working with music ministry which led him into becoming a pastor.

Pastor Fowler just finished up with an interim position in Huron, SD and is looking forward to leading Immanuel as we await possible full time Pastor candidates. We invite everyone to meet and greet Pastor James and to make him feel at home as one of Immanuel's family of God.

### **Sunday School Schedule May 2025**

We're planning to do the fleece tie blankets Sunday, April 26. They will go to Hope Haven to use with their wheelchairs.

First Communion for our fifth graders will be on Sunday, May 3.

Sunday, May 10 is the last day that our Sunday school will meet this school year. Sunday school will sing opening for church.

### **Our Church Family was Well Represented in "Shrek"**

In the last production, Schrek, at the Opera House, found in downtown, Akron, Iowa we had fourteen or more of our church family performing on stage or behind the scenes for a terrific production.

Congratulations to each of you. No names are listed, as we may have forgotten someone!



Monday, May 25, 2026  
Church offices will be closed!

*Sending Our*  
**SYMPATHY**



Doris M. Brundeen, 97 of Norfolk, NE and formerly of Akron, IA, passed away on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

Memorial Service will be at 2:00 p.m., Monday, April 27, 2026 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Akron, IA. Burial will follow at Riverside Cemetery in Akron. Visitation with the family present will begin at noon on Monday, April 27 at the church. Arrangements are with Rexwinkel Funeral Home of Akron.

For her Norfolk area friends and family, a Celebration of Life Open House will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 2-4 p.m. in Room 16 at Our Savior Lutheran Church.

Doris Marie Dreeszen was born on September 30, 1928, to Bryan and Fern (Mulheron) Dreeszen in Plymouth County, Iowa and died on April 15, 2026 in Norfolk, Nebraska. She attended her elementary years at country school and graduated from Westfield High School in 1946. She married Donald Brundeen on May 30, 1947, and lived on the family farm. She was confirmed at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Akron on March 21, 1948.

They were proud parents of four children: Sharen, David, Linda and Nancy. They lived in Denver, Colorado from 1952 – 1954 and then returned to the family farm. Doris enjoyed being a full-time homemaker and loved trying new recipes. They moved to a new home in Akron in 1973. She attended WIT in 1979. She worked at the Akron-Westfield school as a custodian, retiring in 1990.

Doris was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Akron and was a member of their LCW. She was a 4-H leader for many years and loved to garden, sew, cook and bake. She was known as “the cookie lady” at the Westside Apartments in Norfolk, Nebraska, where she made her home from 2013-2023. She moved to the Madison House assisted-living facility in 2023 and to Heritage of Bel-Air Nursing home in March of 2026.

Doris was preceded in death by her parents, Bryan and Fern Dreeszen; her husband, Donald Brundeen; her son, David Brundeen; her grandson, James Robert Schmoll; her sister and brother-in-law, Arlene and Lowell Morehead; and nephew, Terry Morehead.

She is survived by her children: Sharen (Richard) Luhr of Norfolk, Nebraska, Linda (Ronald) Schmoll of Sioux City, Iowa, Nancy (Mark) Roberts of Scribner, Nebraska, and daughter-in law Monica (David) Brundeen of Carr, Colorado.



**Friday, May 1, 2026**

**Happy  
Mother's  
Day**

**Sunday, May 10, 2026**



**Volunteers Needed**

If confirmed high school students or adults would like to volunteer to read the lessons during Sunday worship services, please contact Sharon so your name can be added to the list. If you do not wish to assist with communion, you can be used on other weeks.

**Noisy Offering**

Noisy offerings totaled \$144.33 in March 2026. This is the beginning of what we will donate to Hope Haven International Ministries.

Hope Haven International Ministries is a global leader in refurbishing, manufacturing, and distributing custom-fitted wheelchairs to children and adults all over the world. On wheelchair distribution trips, physical therapists and other specialists accompany Hope Haven International Ministries to customize each wheelchair to the individual and to give training and guidance to families on proper usage and care empowering them to support their loved ones.

A Hope Haven KidChair is \$300.00 or a Refurbished Wheelchair is \$100.00. Your support helps bring mobility and independence to those in need. The Sunday school will also be making fleece tie blankets that can be distributed with the wheelchairs. Thank you for your continued support!

**First Communion**

First Communion for our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students is Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> during our morning worship service. Instruction and baking of communion bread will be Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:15 p.m. Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are Oakley DeVos, Ronald Finzen, Marcus Finzen and Case Harris.

**Please Note**

The last Sunday of Sunday school for the school year will be May 10, 2026.

**Thank You!**

As another year of education is coming to an end we thank all the individuals who have given their time for the past nine months to provide this opportunity for our young members and their families.

**AKRON AREA VBS- SAVE-THE-DATE**

Akron Area VBS will be Monday, August 3rd through Thursday, August 6th. A light supper will be served at 5:15 and VBS is 5:40-8:30 p.m. RAINFOREST FALLS VBS guides kids in exploring the nature of God, their loving Creator who knows them and will love them forever!

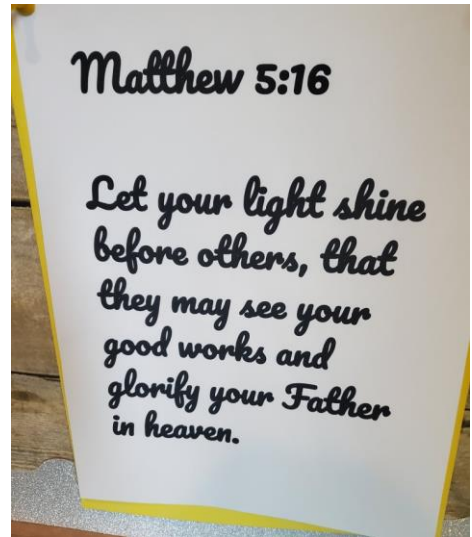
VBS is for campers who have completed DK or Kindergarten through completion of 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Students who have completed 6<sup>th</sup> grade can now volunteer as crew leaders or helpers. Soon we will have the registration site and SAVE-the-DATE cards available.

Volunteers are needed for crew leaders, serving meals, decorating, or general support. We have a great team and welcome whatever help you can give! Please contact any of our VBS planning team: Kathy Johnson, Dawn Martinsen, Lisa Nielsen, Victoria DeVos, Tami Small, Gina West, Tamara Schram, Pastor Michael Moos, Hannah Moos.

Again this year, instead of a Sunday morning closing service, we are extending an invitation to attend our closing (7:50-8:30 p.m.) on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evenings of VBS.



March 2026 Attendance				
Saturday			Sunday	
March			1	67
	7	4	8	76
Weather	14	4	15	0
Sunday Potato Bake	21	9	22	101
	27	8	29	73
<b>Total</b>		<b>17</b>		<b>244</b>
<b>Average</b>		<b>5</b>		<b>61</b>



During the months of March and April, Lisa Harris created these two bulletin boards at our east entrance. The first one presents hand prints of each Sunday School student, representing Let Your Light Shine Before Others. Also shown is an enlargement of the Bible verse it also represents. Thank you so much, Lisa, for a job well done!



**Attention, Please**

It is our plan to honor our seniors on the Sunday before graduation. The date for fellowship will be May 10, 2026, following worship.



**BACCALAUREATE**  
S E R V I C E

**Baccalaureate**

Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 7:00 p.m.  
Trinity Lutheran Church.

Congratulations and best wishes on your new journey in life.

FINANCIAL STATISTICS March, 2026	
First Week	\$1,423.00
Second Week	\$1,310.00
Third Week	\$595.00
Fourth Week	\$3,660.00
Fifth Week	\$2,586.00
Total	\$9,574.00
Needed Each Week	\$2,355.77
Currently	\$1,914.80
Difference	<b>-\$440.97</b>



**Adam Brown**  
Son of Jayme Berglund and Mike Brown

**Matthew Swancutt**  
Son of Kim and Todd Swancutt



**MAY**  
**BIRTHDAYS**

- |    |                  |    |               |
|----|------------------|----|---------------|
| 4  | Kerry Heeren     | 12 | Tenley Hansen |
| 5  | James Easton     | 15 | Emma Noll     |
| 10 | May Lou Lewison  | 16 | Gary Lorensen |
| 10 | Beau Jacobs      | 25 | Casey Jacobs  |
| 10 | Lisa Nielsen     | 28 | Duane Madden  |
| 11 | Daniel Martinsen |    |               |

**Attention, please!**

If we have left anyone off our birthday list be sure to contact Sharon at 712-551-6445!

**Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Church Council  
April 19, 2026 11:20 a.m.**

Present: Jon Harris, Matthew Knapp, Josh Martinsen, Tom Schroeder, Arica Schuknecht

Absent: Tim Philips, Heather Noll, Heather Morehead, Kim Swancutt

Minutes of the March Meeting: Motion made by Josh to approve the March minutes; seconded by Matthew. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Tom to approve the March treasurer report; seconded by Josh. Motion approved.

***Unfinished Business***

**Community Service Day:** We will not be partaking in the community service day with the high school students this year.

**Spring Cleanup Day at the church:** This tentatively will be held on Saturday, June 6. Please watch for more details!

**Call Committee Process:** The call committee met with Rev. Cara Knutson, a member of the Western Iowa Synod staff who will help us with our call process. We now await possible candidates.

**Interim Pastor:** Pastor Jim Fowler from Vermillion will start as Interim Pastor on Sunday, April 26. Saturday night services continue and are being led by Marcia Finzen and Sharon Frerichs. Thank you to all who have helped and continue to help during this transition time!

***New Business***

**First Communion:** First Communion for our 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be on Sunday, May 3.

**Senior Graduation Recognition:** We will recognize our 2026 graduates on Sunday, May 10.

**May Potluck:** We will not have a potluck in May. Our next potluck will be in the fall.

***Items that may be brought before the Council***

None

The next **Council meeting** will be held on Sunday, May 17, following worship.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Arica Schuknecht, Council Secretary

<b>Worship Assistants</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Communion Setup/ Cleanup</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>
May 3	Tim Philips	Marge/ Alan Lucken	Emma Joacobs
May 10	Marcia Finzen	NA	Ronald Finzen
May 17	Kim Swancutt	Kathy Johnson	Ty Naslund
May 24	Kenzi Johnson	NA	Kenli Rozell
May 31	Morgan Knapp	NA	Emelia DeVos
May Ushers	Matthew Knapp/Charles Von Hagel		



*LSI proudly serves Iowans in all 99 counties through our services of Mental Health, Early Childhood, Foster Care & Adoption, Global Greens, People with Disabilities, and Immigrant & Refugee Community Services. We serve individuals of all ages, from families with newborns navigating the early stages of parenthood, to Refugee and Immigrant elders, as well as children at every stage of development. Our heart beats for the people we serve. We empower families and communities by recognizing and honoring the strengths and gifts of every individual.*

“We first learned about LSI’s school-based therapy program through our son’s school counselor. We had wanted to get him into therapy for a long time, but it often felt out of reach. We do not have many extra resources, and finding a provider in Dubuque with availability for a child under 12 was incredibly difficult. On top of that, we both work and did not know how we would manage getting him to appointments during or after the school day.

When we found out that therapy could take place right at his school, it truly felt like an answer to our prayers. He did not have to miss much class, we did not have to take time off work, and he was able to meet with someone in a place where he already felt comfortable.

Even after getting connected, we still had concerns. Our insurance included a copay that was difficult for us to afford. LSI let us know that financial assistance was available to help cover those costs, as long as we remained committed to his treatment. That support made all the difference. Without it, I do not think we would have been able to continue.

Our son has only been in therapy for about six weeks, but we are already beginning to see small changes. He seems to be learning new ways to manage his emotions and is starting to talk more about what is bothering him instead of shutting down or acting out. We know he still has a long road ahead, but for the first time in a long time, we feel hopeful.

We are so grateful for this opportunity and for the support LSI has provided to our family. Without this program and the financial assistance, I truly do not know if our son would have been able to receive the help he needs.”

**Akron’s Cleanup Dates:**  
Cleanup Days, Brush Pile Open  
May 1 from 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
May 2 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Hazardous Waste Day: May 6 from 9 a.m. – noon

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
 251 Main Street, Box 79  
 Akron, IA 51001

**WORSHIP SPRING SCHEDULE**

- 5:30 p.m. Saturday Worship with Holy Communion
- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School until May 10, 2025
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
- 11:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship



<b>MAY LECTIONARIES</b>			
May 3	Acts 7:55-60	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
May 10	Acts 17:22-31	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
May 17	Acts 1:6-14	1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11	John 17:1-12
May 24	Acts 2:1-21	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39
May 31	Genesis 11:1—2:4a	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20



- Jon’s Message, Sunday School May Schedule, Shreck ..... 1
- Our Sympathy to the Family of Dors Brundeen ..... 2
- Noisey Offering, Volunteers Needed, First Communion..... 3
- Akron Area VBS, Fill-a-Pew, Bulletin Boards ..... 4
- Graduation Information, Financial Statistics,  
May Birthdays..... 5
- Church Council Minutes, Worship Assistants ..... 6
- LSI Article, Akron Cleanup Dates ..... 7
- May Calendar..... 8
- May Lectionaries ..... 9

“Gather and Grow with Us!”