

Immanuel Highlights

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*A monthly Publication
for the Members and Friends of*

Immanuel Lutheran Church
251 Main Street
Akron, Iowa 51001



A Church for All Seasons

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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."

Pastor's Message

Dear People of God at Immanuel Lutheran Church:

It has been a real blessing to serve Immanuel Lutheran Church over these past months. Yours is a wonderful congregation, with a commitment to worship, outreach, and service. My final day leading worship and proclaiming God's Word among you will be Sunday, July 26. Thanks for the opportunity! I've genuinely enjoyed the gusto with which the people of Immanuel sing, the noisy offerings, and the hospitality which you have shown to one another, and to me.

I'll be remembering you all in prayer as you navigate a transition you probably didn't anticipate. I am confident (the word means "with faith") that God will provide a pastoral leader to serve and lead among you.

My official start at Union Creek and Roseni Lutheran Churches will be Saturday, August 1, with worship the next day, Sunday, August 2. I'll be at Union Creek for a service at 9:00 a.m. and Roseni at 10:30 a.m.

St. Paul wrote his letter to the church in Philippi while in prison. Here's a part of his introduction:

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:3-6, NRSV)

God bless you all!
Pastor Jim Fowler

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
Church Council
July, 2026**

No Council Meeting the month of July.



On August 3, Lorna and Jim Easton will be celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary.

On Sunday, August 9 their family will be hosting fellowship following our worship service. We hope you will join us in celebrating their anniversary. If you would like to send them a card, their mailing address is:

1449 500 St.
Hawarden, IA 51023

Exciting Summer News

The second Sunday, August 9, the hymn of the day will be a sing-a-long of your favorite hymns.

FINANCIAL STATISTICS June 2026	
First Week	\$1,365.00
Second Week	\$ 725.00
Third Week	\$ 655.00
Fourth Week	\$ 1,785.00
Fifth Week	NA
Total	\$4,530.00
Needed Each Week	\$2,355.77
Currently	\$1,132.50
Difference	\$1,223.27



June 2026 Attendance				
Saturday			Sunday	
	June		June	
	6	2	7	40
	13	0	14	44
Father's Day	20	0	21	45
	27	2	28	33
Total		2		162
Average		2		41

July 2026 Attendance				
Saturday			Sunday	
	July		July	
	6	2	7	40
	13	0	14	44
	20	0	21	45
	27	2	28	33
Total		2		162
Average		2		41

Update on Ken and Carol Larson

Ken and Carol have now permanently move to Sioux City and are now enjoying their new residence. If you would like to stop and visit them or send them a greeting card, their address is:

The Heritage at Northern Hills
4002 Teton Trace, Apt. 230
Sioux City, IA 51104



1	Arlo Rohlfs	19	Tom Schroeder
2	Matthew Swancutt	19	Kenneth Larson
2	Faith Martinsen	19	Jeff Morehead
3	Tom Noll	20	Lawrence Maynard
8	Kode Nielsen	21	Nancy Nielsen
12	Reese Harris	21	Adam St. Pierre
14	Kerrie Olson	29	Emma Harris
16	Joyce Staum	31	Matthew Finzen

Worship Assistants

Date	Lector	Communion Setup/Cleanup	Acolyte
August 2	Kim Swancutt	Bob/Sharon Frerichs	Ushers
August 9	Nancy Nielsen	NA	Ushers
August 16	Lisa Harris	Loren/Nancy Nielsen	Ushers
August 23	Lainey Schuknecht	NA	Ushers
August 30	Beth Ross	NA	Ushers
August Ushers	Loren Nielsen/ and Nancy Nielsen		

Noisy Offering

Noisy offering for June 2026 was \$346.26 plus there was a \$200.00 donation for a total of \$546.26 that will go toward helping with expenses of Vacation Bible School.

Immanuel Sunday School

Rally Day or the first day of Sunday school for this fall will be Sunday, September 13th. Stay tuned for further details. If you are interested in teaching Sunday school or helping in any way, please let Kathy Johnson know.

AKRON AREA VBS LOOKING FOR CAMPER AND VOLUNTEERS

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 pm. 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 5th grade. Students who have completed 6th grade can now volunteer as crew leaders or helpers. Volunteers of all ages above 6th grade 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 for questions: 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.



Make-A-Will Month: Create a Legacy That Reflects Your Values

August is Make-A-Will Month, an ideal time to create or update one of the most important documents you'll ever sign. A will allows you to care for the people you love while ensuring your values continue to make a difference for generations to come.

Many adults put off making a will, believing they have plenty of time or that they don't have enough assets to need one. While surveys vary, they consistently show that more than half of American adults have not created a will, leaving their families without clear guidance when the unexpected happens.

In reality, a will is important for nearly everyone. It gives you the opportunity to clearly express your wishes, provide for loved ones, appoint guardians for minor children, and simplify the administration of your estate. Without a will, state law determines how your assets are distributed, which may not reflect your intentions.

A will is also an opportunity to leave a legacy that reflects your faith and generosity. After providing for family and friends, many people choose to include a charitable gift to a church or nonprofit that has touched their lives. These gifts—often called legacy gifts or planned gifts—can be made as a percentage of your estate, a specific dollar amount, or the remainder of your estate after loved ones have been provided for.

While every gift is unique, together charitable bequests provide billions of dollars each year to strengthen nonprofit organizations and ministries, helping them continue their mission for future generations.

A legacy gift to your congregation or to Lutheran Services in Iowa is a meaningful way to continue sharing Christ's love long into the future. Your gift can help children find safe, loving families, empower people with disabilities to live more independently, welcome refugees as they build new lives, and provide hope and support to families facing life's challenges.

One of the greatest advantages of a charitable bequest is its flexibility. You can care for your family first while also making a lasting investment in the ministries and causes that have shaped your life and faith. Even a modest gift can have a lasting impact.

Make-A-Will Month is the perfect time to review your current estate plan or create your first will. Your will is more than a legal document—it is a reflection of your life's values, your generosity, and your commitment to the people and organizations that matter most.

If you have already included Lutheran Services in Iowa in your estate plans, thank you for your vision and generosity. If you are considering a legacy gift, we would be honored to answer your questions and help you explore options that align with your wishes and charitable goals. There is never any obligation—only the opportunity to create a lasting legacy of hope. You can reach out to us at 866-584-5293 or philanthropy@lsiowa.org



August 25, 2026

First day of school at
Akron-Westfield Community School.

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

WORSHIP SUMMER SCHEDULE

5:30 p.m. Saturday Worship
 10:15 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
 11:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship



AUGUST LECTIONARIES			
August 2	Isaiah 55:1-5	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21
August 9	1 Kings 19:9-18	Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33
August 16	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8	Romans 12:1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15: [10-20] 21-28
August 23	Isaiah 51:1-6	Romans 12:13-20	Matthew 16:13-20
August 30	Jeremiah 15:15-21	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28



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“Gather and Grow with Us!”

