



# The Messenger

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church

August  
2025

<sup>21</sup> Another of his disciples said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

<sup>22</sup> But Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

*Matthew 8:21-22*

At first glance, Jesus' reply to the disciple who wants to postpone following Jesus seems quite callous. But let's be honest. Death is not a subject we are very comfortable discussing. Especially our own. Oh, we certainly know we have been saved by the grace of God through the cross of Jesus Christ. We know that our Lord and Savior has gone to prepare a place for us and will one day bring us to be where He is. We know our loved ones who have died have also been taken home. But we don't really want to think about the details.

Yet as a pastor, those very details are what I am often called to prepare. After having several parishioners contact me about making their funeral plans, I think it is time we all do the same. I know how easy it is to keep putting it off, thinking there will always be time. But we all know that death is no respecter of persons. And I can assure you, that it is much easier on the family when you have already made your wishes known.

Taking the time to sit down and contemplate your final arrangements can be a personally satisfying spiritual practice. What are your favorite hymns, the ones that have spoken to you in your life? What is your confirmation verse, what Scripture has guided you through the rough periods of your life? What would you like to have mentioned in your funeral homily? All of these questions and many more are covered in our Funeral Planning Worksheets. So, perhaps Jesus had a point when He suggested that those final burial details should not have to fall to our loved ones in their time of grief. Call me to make an appointment to plan your own final arrangements (no matter your age.)

May it be well with you and may you live long on the earth. (Ephesians 6:3) Amen.

*Pastor Jaegre*



## Flowers for Worship

Altar Guild offers two ways in which you can remember or honor loved ones and/or special occasions on Sunday mornings through floral arrangements.

Altar flowers may be placed in memory or honor of someone or occasion. Altar Guild has beautiful silk arrangements for you to choose from. A \$20 donation to Altar Guild is requested for this option.

A special bouquet may also be placed in memory or honor of someone or occasion. It is your responsibility to purchase and have the arrangement delivered by noon on Friday.

For either of these options, please sign up on the chart in the narthex. Questions? Contact Diana Looney.

*Welcoming All. Growing Together in Faith. Sharing Christ & Love*



Summer is here, but the church's mission does not take a vacation. While many families are traveling and enjoying the season, our regular expenses - like ministry programs, utilities,

and staff support - continue every month. Our June 2025 expenses were \$906 more than the revenue. Year-to-date we are approximately \$20,500 behind. As you may recall, during budget time we were expecting to be \$20,000 behind, but we still have five months to go. Your continued generosity during these summer months is especially appreciated. Thank you for all you do in helping keep our ministries strong and vibrant all year long!

### Make a Difference with Thrivent!

Did you know you don't have to be a Thrivent financial client to apply for Thrivent Action Team funds? By becoming an **Associate Thrivent Member**, you can access up to **\$250 in seed money** to support a volunteer effort, outreach event, or service project at Immanuel or in the community.

**Becoming an Associate Member is easy** — just visit [Thrivent.com](https://thrivent.com) and sign up for a yearly membership (\$19.95). Once you're a member, you can apply for an Action Team grant to support a project that makes a positive impact.

Each approved project comes with:

- A \$250 gift card to help with expenses
- Promotional materials like T-shirts and banners
- Planning tools and support

It's a simple way to turn your passion into action — and help your church or community thrive. If you're interested in learning more or need help applying, feel free to reach out to Corlene Lange.

### Congregation Council Action from June 2025:

Approved request to update signors on WELCA checking account.

Approved transfer out of David & Karla Tillberg.



We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to **Sonja Johnson**, who has faithfully led the Prayer Chain Ministry at Immanuel for over 30 years. Her steadfast commitment to lifting others up in prayer, often behind the scenes, has been a quiet yet powerful expression of faith, compassion, and love.

Through joys and sorrows, Sonja has been a steady spiritual presence—co ordinating countless prayers for individuals, families, and our community. Her leadership has not only comforted many but also strengthened the bonds of care within our congregation.

Sonja, thank you for your decades of dedicated service. Your legacy of prayerful support continues to inspire all of us at Immanuel. May God bless you richly in this next chapter.

We extend our deepest thanks to **Janet Ireton** for the many years she lovingly prepared our church bulletin boards. Her thoughtful and meaningful displays have not only brightened our halls but have also inspired, encouraged, and reflected the heart of our faith community. Janet's creativity and dedication have been a true blessing to us all. Thank you, Janet, for your faithful service and the beauty you've shared with us over the years.

As Janet steps away from this role, we're grateful to welcome Dorothy Hanna, Chair of the Evangelism Ministry Team, who will now be creating the bulletin board displays. Thank you, Dorothy, for stepping into this ministry!

Thank you to everyone for your prayers, cards and text messages as I have been recovering from a motor vehicle accident. I am recovering and doing well.  
With gratitude, *Karla Arpin*

Thank you for making a \$112 donation to the Back to School Fair fund. Your gift enables us to achieve our misson of helping people make a difference in the community by building permanent endowment funds. (5th Sunday offering for June)

*Greater Salina Community Foundation*

Thank you for your \$217.76 contribution to the Project Salina's 2025 Super Bowl of Hope!

*Kristine Litchman, Treasurer*

**HOT WHEEL RACES!**

## Hot Times, Fun in the City Sunday, August 17

**CAR SHOW!  
CAKE WALK!**

**FOOD!**

4:00-7:00 pm	Food (donations accepted) & Car show
4:00-6:30 pm	Voting for car show People's Choice awards
5:15 pm	Cake walk
5:45 pm	Hot Wheel races
6:45 pm	People's Choice trophies awarded

Volunteers are needed! Please see the sign-up sheets at church.  
All proceeds will benefit Ashby House and Lutheran World Relief.



### Back to School Blessing Sunday, August 10



All students & school district employees are invited forward during worship for a special blessing.

### Ethel Diehl's 103rd Birthday

Join us after church Sunday, August 3 as Henry & Liz host Fellowship in Ethel's honor.  
No gifts please.



### Pictorial Directory

We are still needing pictures from many of you! Please email the church office a digital picture or call Mindy for other options!

### Dillons Community Rewards

Dillons Community Rewards will donate to Immanuel based on the shopping you do everyday. Once you link your Plus card to Immanuel, all you do is shop at Dillons and swipe your Plus Card!

To link your Dillons Plus card to Immanuel:

1. Sign in to your digital account
2. Click on "Community Rewards"
3. Immanuel's organization number is RR469

So far this year we have received \$184.29!

### Do you have an article for the Messenger?

Send information to [office@immanuelsalina.org](mailto:office@immanuelsalina.org)  
Deadline for the newsletter is the 15th of the month.

### CONTACT US:

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Church office.....(785) 825-4750  
Jacqueline Thornton, Pastor.....[pastorjacque@immanuelsalina.org](mailto:pastorjacque@immanuelsalina.org)  
Mindy Tillberg, Deacon.....[office@immanuelsalina.org](mailto:office@immanuelsalina.org)

### September 3

**5:30-7:00 pm**

5:30 pm Dinner

6:00 pm Messy Activities

Kick off the new school

year at Messy Church! All ages are invited to get messy together through games, crafts, activities, and Biblical storytelling.



### It's time to create LWR School Kits!

100 Lutheran World Relief school kits is our goal again this year! If you'd like to help gather supplies, items needed by September 14 are:

- 200 70-sheet notebooks, wide or college rule
- 450 black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- 490 unsharpened #2 pencils
- 90 boxes of 24 crayons

Some items will be ordered in bulk, so monetary donations are also encouraged. If you have questions, please contact Mindy Tillberg.



### ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

**Saturday, September 27**



Good, clean items are needed for the annual rummage sale. Donations may be brought to the church and put on the basement stage. It takes many volunteers for a successful event, please consider helping with the Rummage Sale! There will be signup sheets available in September. Let us know if you are interested in helping and/or baking for a bake sale. For more information see Corlene Lange.

## AUGUST Worship Volunteers as of 07/24/2025

	August 3	August 10	August 17	August 24	August 31
<b>Greeter</b>					
<b>Usher</b>					
<b>iPad</b>					
<b>Acolyte</b>					
<b>Cantor</b>	Sydney Bacon	Henry Diehl	Sydney Bacon	Jeri Clouston	
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Sydney Bacon	Henry Diehl	Sydney Bacon		
<b>Lector</b>					
<b>Children's Sermon</b>	Liz Diehl		Liz Diehl		
<b>Communion Assistant</b>					
<b>Altar Guild</b> Communion Care	Monica Davis		Carol Ann Sloo/ Diana Looney		
<b>Fellowship Hosts</b>					

## SEPTEMBER Worship Volunteers as of 07/24/2025

	September 7	September 14	September 21	September 28
<b>Greeter</b>				
<b>Usher</b>				
<b>iPad</b>				
<b>Acolyte</b>				
<b>Cantor</b>				
<b>Assisting Minister</b>				
<b>Lector</b>				
<b>Children's Sermon</b>				
<b>Communion Assistant</b>				
<b>Altar Guild</b> Communion Care				
<b>Fellowship Hosts</b>				