

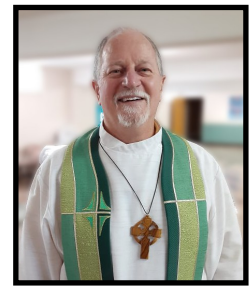
Augustana/Halstad/Immanuel - United Valley Parish

2026 - UVP August Newsletter

The ELCA has released a new edition of the NRSV Lutheran Study Bible, first published in 2009, updated because of new developments in biblical scholarship and archeological findings. This has been an ongoing process since the Hebrew Bible was first codified and written down on scrolls. It also has been an ongoing frustration for many followers of Jesus. I know several believers (mostly men) who are absolutely certain that Jesus spoke in King James English. He didn't; he spoke in Hebrew and Aramaic and some ancient Greek (I am the Alpha and the Omega). Today there remain groups within the Roman Catholic Church that insist that the only true language for the worship of God is Latin. Isn't it ironic that St. Jerome originally translated the Bible into Latin in 405 AD, written so everyone could understand God's Word, because, under the influence of the Roman Empire, it had become the language of the educated? Now almost no one speaks it, yet some elements still want to restore the tradition of the Latin Mass.

Martin Luther wanted everyone to be able to read the Bible for themselves, so he translated both the Old and New Testaments into German, the language of his people. As the Reformation spread, the Bible was translated into all the European languages, the most famous being the Bible commissioned by King James in England, first published in 1611. It was an excellent translation for its day, keeping the poetry of the original text better than any other interpretation that I have come across. But again, biblical scholarship has moved on as we have discovered older, and hence better, copies of the originals. And that is one of the issues for us today. We don't have any original texts of the Old or New Testaments. What we do have are copies of copies, usually made by a group of monks sitting in a dark castle with one monk reading the text by candlelight and 20-30 monks writing individual copies. There was the problem of hearing what was said and correctly writing down all the words used: e.g. "see" or "sea" could be a problem in English if you aren't a good enough scholar to figure out which was meant in that context. Another translation issue is the change in language usage over time: e.g. "gay" in 1950 meant happy; now it has a very different meaning. So what did a specific word mean at the time of David or while Jesus was on earth? And what do you do with a word for which we don't have a translation? The best example of that is the nine times unicorns were translated into the King James Version. The Hebrew was a word for a wild bull that no one in 1611 knew how to decipher, so the interpreters decided it meant unicorns. Plus there are colloquialisms such as "an eye for an eye." Most think it was a *demand* for punishment for everyone who harms us. Actually it was a way to limit retribution. If I stole a sheep from a rich man, he could only send his men take one of my sheep in response. He wasn't allowed take my whole herd. The punishment had to fit the crime.

I have the Old Testament in the best approximation of the original Hebrew that we have at this time, and I have the New Testament in Koine Greek (street Greek, as opposed to classical Greek), but I rely on the experts who



Pastor John Andrews
701-306-2575
218-456-2144

HLC email: hlp@rrv.net

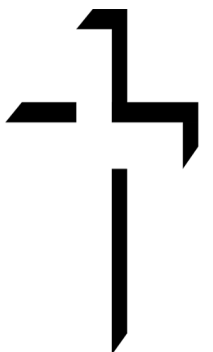
ILC Office Manager:
Katelynn Eli
immanuel1@loretel.net

Prayer List

Lorie Arneson (Vonnie Jacobson's sister)
Ron Berry (Karen Smart's brother)
Elaine Borgen (Brian Borgen's mother)
Terry Guttormson
Westin Hage (son of Dustin and Tasha Hage)
Katie Halvorson
Brady Heath
Mark Henderson
Marlene Hetland
Alexis Holte
Cole Kaiser (son of Melanie Nelson's niece)
Becky Kolness
Silas Larson-Reinhart
Donna Lee
Allison Lindgren (sister of Darin Johnson)
Paul Martinson
Roger Meline
Pastor Myron Nysether
Regan Okroi
Harlan Rise
Helen Rognlie
Becky Todd
Diane (Penny) Todd
Gloria Uekert (Amy Sweeney's mom)

Military Service of:

Colton Armstrong
Steele Armstrong
Dustin Beliles
Riley Culp
Ethan Hellerud
Stephen McCraven
Carlos Medina
Gabriel Mertz
Tucker Hansen



Continued on next page...

write commentaries to tell me exactly what they mean. Even the experts often disagree. I also have 12 English translations of the Bible sitting on my bookshelf. Some are more readable than others, but many of those lose a lot of meaning in their desire to be understood. If I could only pick two, I would choose the New Revised Standard Version or the New International Version. Each has their strengths. I have commentaries for both, and placed side by side, I would almost always choose the NRSV. They updated the language from the original to reflect the true meaning of e.g. “the sons of Israel,” translating it as “the people of Israel,” that I believe better reflects the original meaning. Obviously women and children were included in God’s promises. The major objection I have is that, in the attempt to be more inclusive, they translated “Son of Man” as a descriptor of the prophets of Israel (91 times in the book of Ezekiel

alone) as “mortal” which loses the connection between Jesus calling himself a “Son of Man” and therefore declaring himself to be a prophet of God. This is only one of many tradeoffs in updating the language.

The point I’m trying to make is that I can’t teach inerrancy: that any English translation that we have of God’s Word is without error. There are too many human factors involved. Those who insist on it too often use scripture as a weapon (e.g. “an eye for an eye” requiring retribution for wrongs). But I can say with absolute certainty that the Bible, in all its variations, is the inspired Word of God, and that if you spend time studying it, it will change your life. Dig in, and if you have any questions, let’s wrestle with them together.

Pastor John

United Valley Parish
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Hendrum MN

Monday, Aug 10th – Thursday, Aug 13th

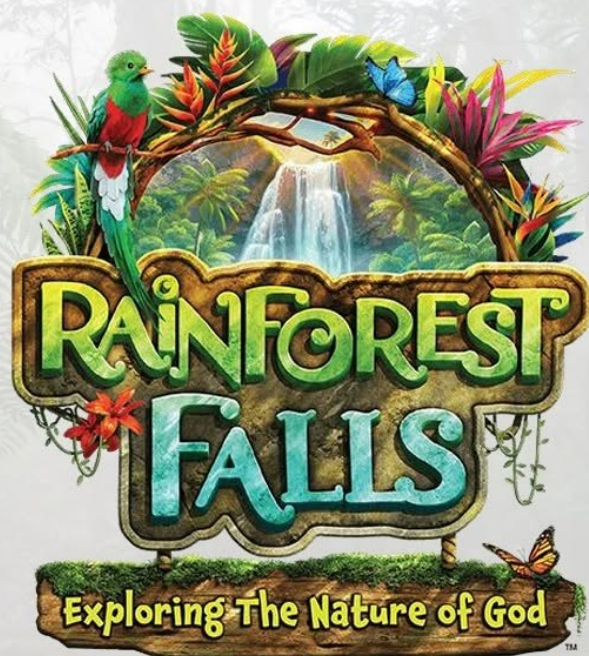
5:00pm – 7:30pm

For all children, K – 5th grade

No cost – Meal provided

Older youth & adults welcome to help

Contact: Bonnie (701) 860-6470 or Becky (701) 860-6280



August 2026

Sun

Mon

Tu

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Pastor John Andrews (c) 701-306-2575 (o) 218-456-2144						1 9am-2pm Renew Thrift Store Open
2 9am ALC Worship with Communion 9am ILC Worship with Communion 9:45am ILC Coffee & Fellowship	3 9:30am ILC Quilting 12:30pm HLC Quilting at Heritage House 4-6pm Hometown HOPE Food Pantry	4	5	6 9-11am Hometown HOPE Food Pantry located at 308 Main St. Hendrum	7	8
9 9am ILC Service 9:45am ILC Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am HLC Worship Coffee & Fellowship 10am 11:15 HLC Council Meeting	10 9:30am ILC Quilting 12:30pm HLC Quilting at Heritage House 4-6pm Hometown HOPE Food Pantry	11	12	13 9-11am Hometown HOPE Food Pantry located at 308 Main St. Hendrum	14	15 9am-2pm Renew Thrift Store Open 7:30am-2:00pm Hometown Hope is sponsoring "Wings and Strings" kite show at ILC
Vacation Bible School August 10-13 from 5:00-7:30pm Immanuel Lutheran Church						
16 9am ILC Service with Communion 9:45 am ILC Council meeting 9:45am ILC Coffee & Fellowship with Communion 10:30am HLC Worship with Communion	17 9:30am ILC Quilting 12:30pm HLC Quilting at Heritage House 4-6pm Hometown HOPE Food Pantry	18	19 1:30pm ILC WELCA 5-7pm Freewill Community Dinner by Lorie P and Kim H	20 9-11am Hometown HOPE Food Pantry located at 308 Main St. Hendrum	21	22
23 9am ILC Service 9:45am ILC Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am HLC Worship Coffee & Fellowship 10am	24 9:30am ILC Quilting 12:30pm HLC Quilting at Heritage House 4-6pm Hometown HOPE Food Pantry	25	26 Hendrum Family Fun Night Immanuel will serve freewill meal	27 9-11am Hometown HOPE Food Pantry located at 308 Main St. Hendrum	28	29 Sugar Fest 2026 5-7pm HLC Annual BBQ Dinner
30 9am ILC Service 9:45am ILC Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am HLC Worship Coffee & Fellowship 10am	31 9:30am ILC Quilting 12:30pm HLC Quilting at Heritage House 4-6pm Hometown HOPE Food Pantry	 HLC Annual BBQ Dinner hosted by Halstad Lutheran Church from 5-7pm at Harvest Plaza. Ribs, Briskett, Chicken, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Macaroni Salad				



Augustana & Halstad Lutheran Churches Newsletter 2026

HLC Council Meeting Sundays, July 12, Pending Approval

Council Members present: Darin Johnson, Donna Scholl, Pam Vandermeer, Cheryl Johnson, Alli Tice, Chad Tice, and Pastor John

Absent: Kyle Aasand

President Darin opened up the meeting with reports reviewed.

Secretary: minutes submitted

Trustee: A drain hole in the AC was plugged resulting in water back-up. The hole was flushed and is now working. The floor drain in the women's bathroom backed up. The secretary and Pastor's office need cooling. Work in progress.

Memorial Secretary: An amount of \$270 was accidentally put into the memorial fund and has now been transferred to the correct General fund.

Treasurer: Incoming for the month of June is \$9,229.08, outgoing is \$9,023.97 **Pastor:** Fire extinguishers were inspected and found to be in good working order. Lydia, our church secretary, will be returning to school and Katelynn Eli will take her place.

Pastor will be gone July 19th. Sonya will cover for him. Communion will be moved to the following Sunday.

A motion was made by Chad and seconded by Donna to approve the minutes. MC

Other Business:

Discussed troubleshooting with the live streaming of Matt Finney's funeral.

A motion was made by Cheryl to hire Jeff back as custodian for \$25/hr., seconded by Donna. MC

Discussed BBQ Dinner for Sugar Fest.

Things to do: hang confirmation pictures on East wall of Narthex.

Wednesday Freewill Dinners have openings for August, September, November and December.

Volunteers needed for VBS August 10-13. Contact Bonnie Scholl. Discussed a family shuffleboard/pizza night.

Pam has stated she will be done managing Renew Thrift Store effective January 1, 2027. We would like to keep the store open, so a volunteer is needed to take her place. Questions? Call Pam Vandermeer at (218) 331-5521.

Next meeting will be held August 9, 2026 following church services.

Pam made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Alli. MC

The meeting ended with The Lord's Prayer.

Pam Vandermeer, HLC Council Secretary



Note: This is not complete because the newsletter is finished before the end of the month so some expenses are not counted.

Financials for July

Income	\$7,903.46
Expenses	\$8,740.04

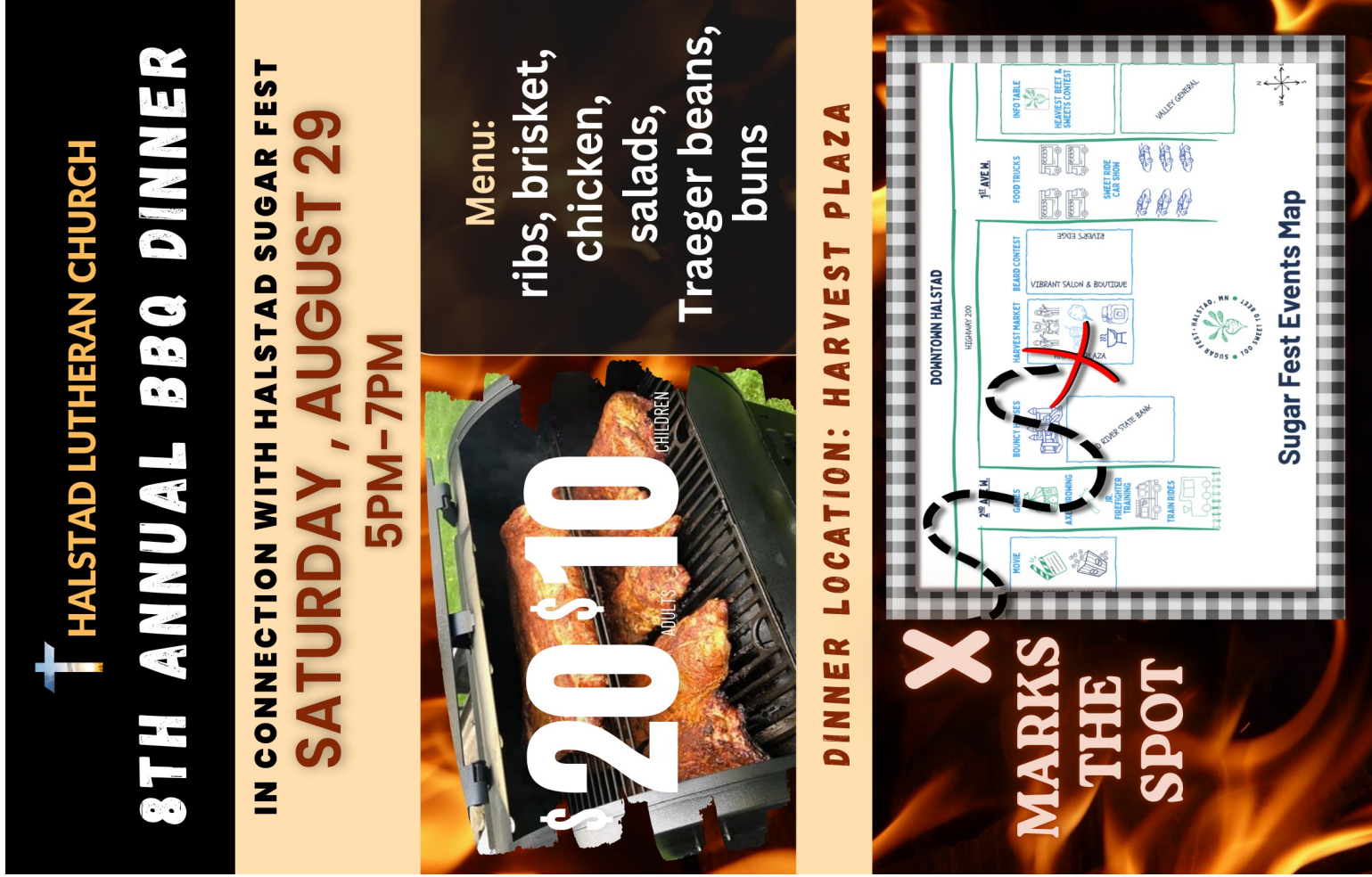
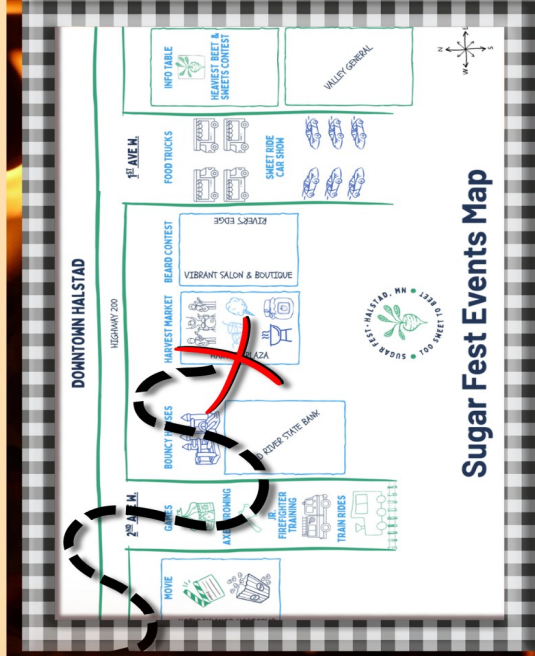
HALSTAD LUTHERAN CHURCH

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

Menu:
ribs, brisket,
chicken,
salads,
Traeger beans,
buns

[illegible]

Sugar Fest Events Map





Immanuel Lutheran News & Views

*We are a congregation
strengthened by God's Word,
Reaching out to all people
with Christ's love.*

321 Main Street
P.O. Box 130
Hendrum, MN 56550

Church: 218-861-6218
Food Shelf: 218-861-5700

ELEVATOR AVAILABLE



You can contact
Pastor John Andrews

Email: jtjmandrews1976@gmail.com
Phone: 701-306-2575

AUGUST FAITH, CARE AND SHARE

Rick and Diann Prussia (Team Leaders)
Steve and Christy Jacobson
Diane Nelson

FLOWER AND ALTAR GUILD

Debby Borgen and Becky Harrington

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Diane Nelson and Pam Hedrich

IMMANUEL CHURCH COUNCIL		
PRESIDENT	Faye DeLong	218-456-2640
V. PRESIDENT	Mike Smart	218-861-6420
TREASURER	Tod Harrington	701-860-6280
SECRETARY	Becky Harrington	701-860-6280
DEACON	Amy Sweeney	919-770-6812
BOARD OF ED.	Bonnie Scholl	701-860-6470
TRUSTEE	Del Schnabel	218-861-6284

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council July 26, 2026

Present: Faye DeLong, Bonnie Scholl, Tod Harrington, Becky Harrington, Del Schnabel, Pastor John Andrews

Absent: Amy Sweeney, Mike Smart

Faye called the meeting to order on July 26, 2026, 10:03 am, and reminded us to focus on Immanuel's mission statement: *We are a congregation strengthened by God's Word, reaching out to all people with Christ's love.*

Report Highlights:

- Pastor: Confirmation classes will start September 9. Planning to welcome new members plus an infant baptism in the next couple of months.
- Secretary: Minutes from June 14, 2026 meeting.
- Treasurer: June income for ministry: \$4,524.75; May expenses for ministry: \$5,049.57; net -\$524.82. General fund: \$10,677.21. \$558 was brought in from the meal served at Hendrum's car show, June 16.
- Trustee: Finding projects for God's Work, Our Hands Day on September 13, 9 am.
- Board of Education: Vacation Bible School plans are in place for Rainforest Falls, August 10-13. Kids Club will resume September 16.

Motion by Tod, seconded by Bonnie, to accept the board reports. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

- Hendrum Family Fun Night is August 26. Immanuel will serve the free-will meal. Proceeds will be split equally between the Mission of the Year (Gideon's

International) and Immanuel's general fund.

New Business:

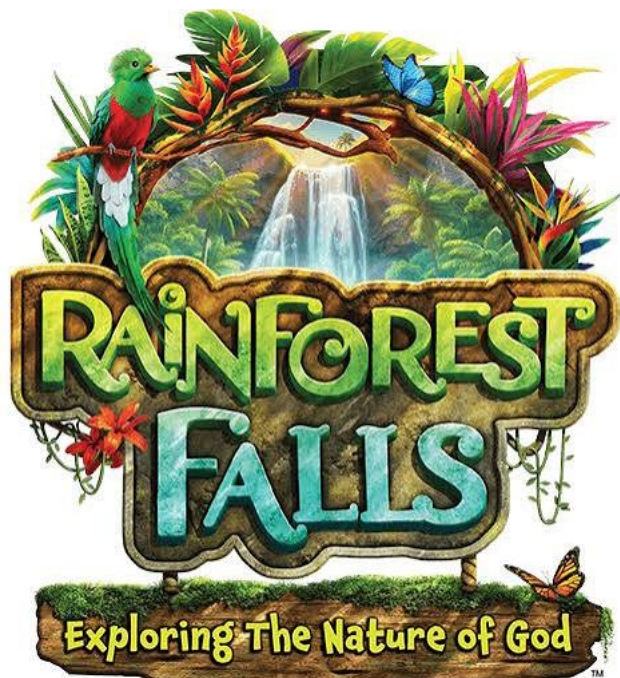
- An elevator company reached out about a yearly maintenance plan; consensus not to pursue it.
- Worship service time will change to 10:30 am beginning September 6.

The next council meeting is September 13 following worship.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m., and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Harrington



Vacation Bible School will be August 10th-13th at ILC. It is for Grades Kindergarten - 5th Grade. A meal will be served. Come join the fun at Rainforest Falls!

School Supplies for LWR are being collected at ILC.

Items needed are:

70 page notebooks (wide or college ruled), Rulers, Pencil Sharpeners, Blunt Scissors, #2 Unsharpened Pencils, Black or Blue Ink Pens, 2 1/2" Erasers

Thank You.



Women's Equality Day is celebrated in the United States on August 26. It marks the 1920 adoption of the 19th Amendment. This law gave women the right to vote. Congress officially recognized the day in 1973.



National Wellness Month is observed every August to focus on self-care, managing stress, and building healthy habits.