



August Newsletter



THE MESSENGER

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH - GREENWOOD, SOUTH CAROLINA



A Prayer for August

God make me strong in Spirit, courageous in action, gentle of heart, let me act in wisdom, conquer my fear and doubt, let me discover my own hidden gifts, meet others with compassion, be a source of my healing, energize and make me to face each day with hope and joy, in Christ name, AMEN.



Day Camp 2026 was a success!

The week of June 15th, Immanuel hosted 24 children from the Boys and Girls Club, along with four counselors from Lutheridge. During the week the children enjoyed Bible stories illustrated by reading, skits and songs; arts and crafts; and afternoon activities. The week would not have been possible without the hands of many. Pastor Chris spent time with the children answering questions, some very deep. The children loved the lunches prepared by Kim Leemhuis, Sue Kaufman, and JoAn Crowder as well as the extra help from Parker, Delaney, and Hudson Kinard. Additionally, the counselors appreciated their dinner hosts, Larry and Karen Hammond and Stacy Valpone.

A special thank you to Lynn and David Isenhower for providing the housing and to Dr. Will for providing music time.

From the counselors:

Immanuel Lutheran Church,

Thank you SO MUCH for such an amazing week of camp!! From all of the volunteers to the donations, this week could not have happened without every single one of you! This week has been truly formative for campers and counselors alike, and we will all cherish these memories for years to come!!

-Lain, Kaitlyn, Sam and Jasper

Each year after the children leave on Friday, a wrap-up is held with the counselors; and each year, we are told how special our congregation is to provide this opportunity. Counselors build bonds with children who often share their story with their counselor. The counselors always stress that the children we invite need Immanuel to keep providing this program. Thank you for the financial support and for the volunteers to make this special week happen.

In Christ's Service
Zeolean Kinard

MINI-MAD WEEK



Immanuel's Summer Music, Art, and Drama week, July 9-11 was a success. MANY thanks to Kayla Beard, Sylvia Martin, Lisa Smith, and Anna Lethco for their excellent leadership and for all those that provided lunch.



Some of the participants from MAD week sang at the 9 a.m. service on Sunday, July 12.

COUNCIL MINUTES
SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026

Opening Prayer - J. Kinard

Attendance - Pastor Chris, J. Kinard, C. Monson, C. Christensen, S. Kaufman, L. Hotchkiss, ME Bowen, L. Smith, S. Franz, D. Kinard, K. Finkbeiner (NV Sec.)

Absent - MA Stroup

Minutes from the April - meeting were approved as submitted.

Pastor's Report- Pastor has been busy with Restoration Chapel and Kinard Manor. He also attended the SYNOD Assembly this past week. The Assembly was good and a new Bishop was elected – Dr. Wade Roof from West Columbia.

Strategic Goals for 2027- To continue to grow “discipleship” throughout ILC along with the other strategic goals.

All committees will meet on September 13.

Connections - C. Christensen

Good Shepherd program is being organized to help new members get involved. Current members will serve as mentors/leaders for new members – tours of ILC, etc. List of ILC areas included. Working on updating the pew materials. Current list of committees in binder on desk at entrance. Continue to add volunteers.

125th Anniversary Committee needed. Contact Pastor Chris for information.

Mutual Ministry - Soup Kitchen main volunteers are in much need of help. Have been undertaking this ministry for a long time. Discussion – hiring someone to coordinate this outreach – a kitchen manager. JK will reach out to the Culinary Arts in District 50. Also, advertise via Facebook, etc.

Property Committee - D. Kinard

Much work has begun and has been completed – both inside and outdoors and will be continuing to improve and update facilities, etc. of ILC. Banners with the Lord's Prayer, Ten Commandments, Apostle's Creed need to be displayed in the Church – 2 sets which will include the Church upstairs and the Fellowship Center. Narthex needs organizing – contact Scarlet Byars to help. Danny offered two pictures that he has purchased for display inside ILC if wanted. SK motion to accept donation with CC 2nd – Motion Passed to accept.

Interior Improvements – possible committee Scarlet Byars, Mary Ann Stroup, Jean Boozer. Danny will contact them.

Sound System – has been updated and is excellent.

Security Cameras - Inside and Outside

Landscaping - On-going improvements are continuing and the outside areas look good. S. Franz still needs additional volunteers to undertake given areas.

Indoor Facilities - need to be organized and clutter removed.

Financial Audit - Courtney to ask her husband, Rob, to chair this with possible help from Carl Monson and Bo Bowman.

Columbarium Ashes and their removal along with replacing granite, Juan and Anna Luna will oversee the Columbarium.

Budget Items for 2027 due to Carl or John by October 4.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kat Finkbeiner (NV Sec.)

NEXT MEETING SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 11 AM

Enrique Sas

(12/31/1978 - 6/4/26)



Our La Promesa community and Matthew 2540 lost a beloved and valued member of our family this past June. Enrique was not only a teacher at La Promesa, a church leader in the associated church Cristo del Rey, but a mentor to so many young people and coordinator for our mission teams. He learned English via Duolingo so he could better communicate with team members. I met Enrique back in 2013 on my first trip to Guatemala. I ate in his home and rolled up my sleeves to work beside him on behalf of the children. He would have given his right arm for one of our children. The older boys especially looked up to him as a role model.

Below are a few photos I've captured of him over the years. It was hard to catch him still! He was hit by a car as he rode his bike home from school. He leaves behind his wife, Helen, and 15 year old daughter. This year's Fiesta was dedicated to his memory.

- Lynn Isenhower





A Tribute to Enrique Sas

By Noel Lucas

Today I don't just want to talk about the professor. I want to talk about the man I knew.

When I met Professor Enrique, many saw him as a strict, serious, and strong-willed person. And yes, he was. He liked order, discipline, and things done right.

He often scolded us, corrected us, and called us out on things.

But those of us who had the opportunity to spend more time with him discovered something that went beyond his personality. We discovered a man who cared about people, who gave advice, who listened, and who wanted to see us succeed.

Personally, Professor Enrique was more than a teacher to me. He was one of the few people I trusted. He was someone who listened to me when I needed to be heard, who advised me when I was confused, and who corrected me when necessary. More than a teacher, I came to consider him a friend.

And I want to explain why.

A few years ago, when he returned to the Promise, I was a very different young man. My life was out of control, I wanted nothing to do with God, I was rebellious, and many people didn't trust me because of the decisions I made. But he came into my life at that moment. He didn't judge me for my past. He didn't define me by my mistakes. He saw something in me that I couldn't see myself. He counseled me, corrected me, taught me, and helped me draw closer to Christ. He was one of the two people who helped me the most to move forward during one of the most important times of my life.

When many saw my mistakes, he chose to trust me. When many saw my past, he chose to help me build a future. And for that, I will always be grateful. The Bible says in Proverbs 17:17: "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." And it also says in Proverbs 18:24: "There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

When I read those verses, I think of people like Professor Enrique, because he didn't just teach subjects; he also helped transform lives. If I am a better person today, if I follow Christ today, and if I am here today giving this tribute, a part of that credit also belongs to him, because God used him to help me find the right path.

He was a man of faith. He always spoke to us about God and reminded us of the importance of walking the right path. One of the things I remember most is when he told me to wait on God's timing, even if the answer was yes or no. Today, those words have an even deeper meaning for me.

The Bible also says in Ecclesiastes 4:9: "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor." I think this verse reminds us of the importance of walking alongside people who help us, advise us, and encourage us to keep going. Professor Enrique was one of those people for many of us.

The last day I saw him was a Thursday. It seemed like a normal day. He was at recess, keeping an eye on the students, observing everything as always. He talked to us and gave us lessons. I even remember asking him why car headlights sometimes look blurry, and he explained it to me, just as he had explained our questions so many times before. At that moment, none of us imagined it would be the last time we would see him. If someone had told me that day it would be our last conversation, I probably would have thanked them more. I probably would have told them how much I valued their advice and how much they meant to so many of us. But life doesn't always give us that opportunity. That's why today I want to say what perhaps many of us feel.

Thank you, Professor Enrique.

Thank you for your teachings.

Thank you for your advice.

Thank you for your scoldings when we needed them.

Thank you for caring about us.

Thank you for believing in so many young people when perhaps even we didn't believe in ourselves.

They say heroes wear capes, carry shields, or have extraordinary powers. But I believe there are also heroes like Professor Enrique: men who dedicate their lives to teaching, correcting, advising, and helping others become better people.

He helped young people, adults, and children. He left a mark on generations of students. And although today we mourn his passing, we also celebrate the life he lived and the good he did.

I also want to remember one of the last pieces of advice he gave me and my classmates. He told us to behave, to stop making fun of others for their circumstances, and to remember that we are all children of God. Perhaps for some it was just another reprimand. But today I understand that it was a lesson about respect, compassion, and love for our neighbor.

I believe that one of the best ways to honor his memory will be to put those words into practice: to treat others better, to respect one another, and to remember that every person has value in God's eyes. That was one of the last messages he left us, and I think it's worth remembering.

Today we cry because we will miss him. But we also thank God for allowing us to know him. As Matthew 5:4 says, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." We trust in God and believe that this is not a final goodbye. We believe that one day we will meet again.

Until then, Professor Enrique, thank you for everything.

Thank you for believing in me when others didn't.

Thank you for helping me draw closer to Christ.

Thank you for being more than a teacher.

Thank you for being my friend."

Rest in peace.



August 1, marks three years since I first came to Immanuel.
Thank you to everyone for your wonderful support through the years!

- Peace and Love, Dr. Will

Thank you to all my Immanuel Church family for cards,
gifts, and your time to help me celebrate my birthday.
It was a great party, and I am so blessed.

- Your Sister in Christ, Liz Cocker



SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

June 2026

	<u>9 a.m.</u>	<u>4:30 p.m.</u>
<u>6/7</u>	87	10
<u>6/14</u>	77	6
<u>6/21</u>	103	6
<u>6/28</u>	75	6

July 2026

	<u>9 a.m.</u>	<u>4:30 p.m.</u>
<u>7/5</u>	75	10
<u>7/12</u>	115	73
<u>7/19</u>	77	9
<u>7/26</u>	87	5

*The numbers for the 9 a.m. service include registered online viewers.



Kinard Manor needs the following items:

sanitary napkins, tampons, disposable razors, toothbrushes, hairbrushes, combs hair ties, toilet paper, sensitive skin laundry pods, spin mop bucket

*Donations may be left outside the Dot Wise room.

**LUTHERAN
MEN IN MISSION®**
Building men for Christ

LMIM will resume in September.

Women of the
ELCA 

WELCA will be having a Salad Lunch
at Anna Luna's home on August 3,
at 1 p.m. For more information and
to RSVP contact Lianne Smith at
863-801-5854.

Dining
 *Divas*

The Divas will be going to Fusion on
August 13 at 6 p.m. Come join in the
fellowship and good food. Sign up on
the WELCA board or text
JoAn Crowder at 864-942-9191.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/2 Peggy Davis
 8/5 Anna Luna
 8/6 Guilda Ferqueron, 8/7 Kim Leemhuis
 8/9 Joy Hodges
 8/10 Chandler Darling
 8/13 Derek Rosenbaum, Daniel Kinard
 8/15 David Rosenbaum
 8/19 Diane Lenning
 8/20 Joe Franks, Hudson Kinard
 8/22 Rosie Bartz
 8/23 George Beveridge

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

8/3 Alan and Chandler Darling
 8/6 John and Kim Leemhuis
 8/12 Barry and JoAn Crowder
 8/16 Jan and Staci Setzler
 8/17 Bruce and Sue Kaufman
 8/21 YJ and Janet Ahn
 8/27 Milt and Scarlet Byars



Immanuel's Food Ministries show of gratitude for Food Lion's tremendous support.



Please make sure you are registered to receive Immanuel's electronic communications and weekly newsletter by scanning the QR code.
 Announcements for the Sunday bulletin and the weekly newsletter are due to Dr. Will by Wednesday at 10 a.m.