



52401-Range Road 13
Parkland County
T7Z 1Y4
(780) 963-4048
Web Site: ilcor.ca



Sunday Service 10:15
Sunday School 10:30
Youth Classes 10:30



Pastor Boyd

BRIDGES

MAY, 2026

Newsletter



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our **ELDERS**

Our Church Elders are:

Russ Graff: 780 963 1553

John Nieman: 780 399 4664

Please call on them in
Pastor Boyd's absence.



Fishing Not Catching

I have recently started fishing again, after setting it aside for many years. I had enjoyed the hobby when I was younger and now in my retirement it is fun to go out again. One thing that has not changed over the years is that they still call it "Fishing" and not "Catching". I can lay out my line and lure in the best way I know how, but the fish can be fickle. There are no guarantees of coming home with a catch.

Jesus said "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men".

At our recent Canadian Association of Lutheran Churches (CALC) convention we heard from two guest speakers that specialized in evangelism. I don't remember much of what they said (my bad) except for one example they gave of the fastest growing and the world's largest Lutheran church; The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. They currently have twelve million members and have doubled in size over the last ten years. When asked how they did it, their reply was "if every member shared Jesus with one person and discipled them over the next ten years the church will double in size." It did.

Jesus is calling us to be fishers not catchers. Catching is His job, or more accurately, the Holy Spirit's job. Jesus also said you must be born of the Spirit, or "born again" to enter the Kingdom of God. This takes the pressure off me and you. There is nothing I can say or do that will convince someone to follow Jesus. I can only share and live His witness in my life to those around me, the Spirit is the person who transforms and enlightens.

Like a fisherman who throws out a line or a net I can't see what is going on beneath the surface. It is a mystery. I really can't know where someone is on the path to accepting Jesus. Our Ethiopian friends know that evangelism is an introduction and invitation to Jesus and not a program or forced decision.

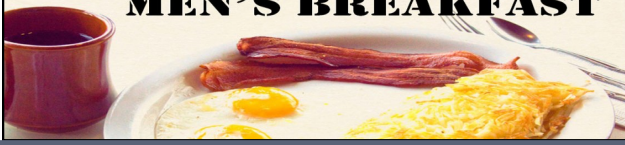
I need to leave the results to God. But I also need perseverance to continue to cast my line into the unknown. I need to be purposeful and patient. We will face rejection, Jesus said as much. Our part is to be faithful as it is Jesus' part to bring in the final catch.

Jesus said to follow him, learn from him, understand his message and mission and then share it with others. Let's go fishing.

John Nieman

Mark Your Calendars
UPCOMING EVENTS

MEN'S BREAKFAST



Join the guys on **May 9, at 9:00am** for breakfast. They are excellent cooks.

Potluck
Everyone Brings Something to the Table.

Join us on **May 24** for potluck after service.

Youth Sunday

YOUTH SESSIONS FOR MAY

In May we will be studying the accounts of Noah's Ark and the evidence which supports the truth of the Biblical Narrative.

Submitted by Randall McLeod.

Happy Mothers Day, May 10



St. John Lutheran Church of Golden Spike, our sister church, will be celebrating their 100 anniversary on June 21.

God is Good



MOMS Canada Fundraiser!

As MOMS Canada is one of the "missions" that ILCOR supports, you are all invited to our upcoming event on Saturday May 31st .

It promises to be an enjoyable evening of art, testimonies and some information sharing. The link for purchasing tickets is below.

For further information you can speak with **Tracy Bartholomew, Len Lewin or Jane Graff.**

Invite your friends!

Join Her Journey

AN EVENING OF IMPACT, ART, AND
STORIES OF HOPE SUPPORTING SINGLE MOMS

Saturday, May 30, 2026
6:00 - 9:00 PM

The Atrium at Supreme Steel
28169 96 Ave Acheson, AB

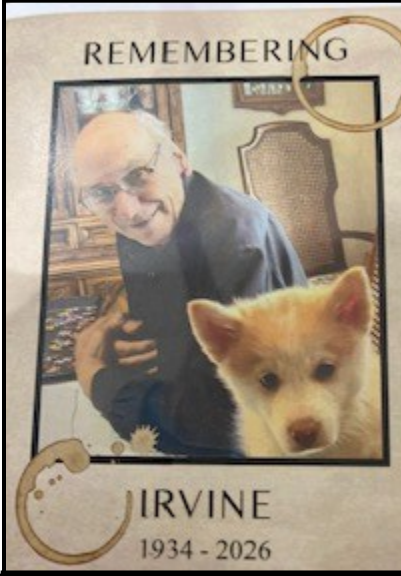
Join us for an elegant evening of
live music · live painting · silent auction
mocktails & charcuterie · inspiring stories of hope

Tickets \$75
www.momscanada.ca/events



Here's What's Happening!

Celebration of Life

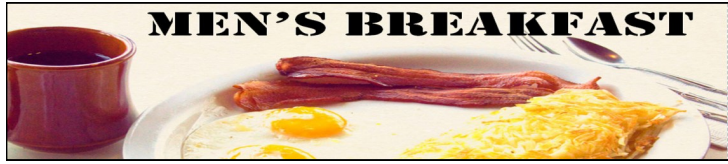


April 10, we remembered Irvine Saxer at Immanuel.

Below are some of the kitchen committee that worked hard at providing a wonderful meal for after the service.



Rose Hall was beautifully decorated for the occasion.

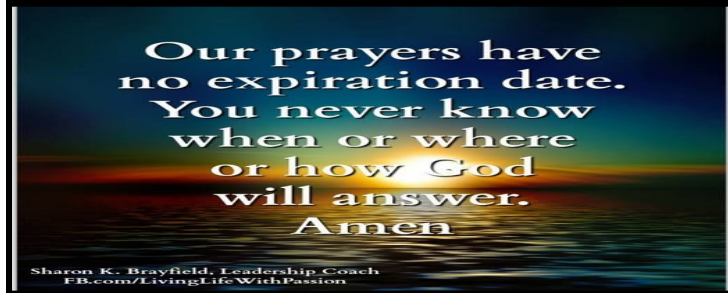


April 11,

We again had great food, with an impressive attendance of around twenty men. Pastor Boyd did a missions presentation.

We continue our prayers for Milt. He was scheduled to report on his Africa trip but became very ill.

Photos by Duane Spooner and report by Howard Gitzel



What's Been Happening...

CORNHOLE League



A large number of people are coming out to play Corn Hole in Rose Hall at Immanuel every Thursday evening at 7:00pm.
Anyone can come. We have young kids and adults. Some of the players are in their eighties . We will be shutting down for the summer months but will return in September

World Serve has assigned us a specific pastor in Cuba. A portion of our Pennies for Pastors will be going to support Daniel. See attached file.
Len Lewin



Thank you for investing in Daniel Emanuel Facundo.*
When I was 16 years old, I heard the Gospel and received Jesus as my Savior. Now, I am married, and my wife and I have one son (12 years old) and two daughters (10 and 7 years old). We serve the Lord together with great joy!
For the past two years, I have served as the pastor of my local church. We live in a poor rural area of about 2,000 people where there is a great need for God. Alcoholism, idol worship, and sexual immorality are common here. About 70 people attend our Sunday church services. We are praying for revival in our church and that many people will be touched by the Gospel and receive Christ as their personal Savior

Potluck



An extra table had to be added for all the food brought to the potluck on **April 26**. The dessert table filled with items to tempt everyone. The ten tables in the hall were filled with young and old enjoying the meal and getting to know each other.



Beyond Immanuel's Walls

Members sharing the gospel
in our community and beyond.



Meet the young Shawn Roberts. Shawn's story is one of struggles and his call to the Lord.

In 1995 he worked for Marg Kotch. Marg kept telling him that he needed to go to church. He finally told her to stop bugging him.

After much contemplating he finally gave in and went to church with Marg. During the service the pastor said, "There is someone in the congregation I need to say 'Welcome home, God has a plan for you.'" Shawn knew that message was for him, and ran out of the church. The pastor came and talked to him. After that he started going to church and reading the Bible.

He gave his Life to the Lord.

In 1997 he entered a four year program at Victory Bible Collage. After graduation he found that he was not a good fit for any of the Churches. His marriage failed and felt that many people shunned him because of it. He gave up on God. As he struggled to find purpose in his life, he took odd jobs in the music industry and in construction. As always, life moves on.

In 2018 he married the love of his life and has a beautiful daughter, Kensington. He was building a life with his family.

Then new neighbors moved in next to his house. He started talking to Howard and Lois Gitzel. Howard noticed that Shawn had a remarkable knowledge of the Bible and told him he needed to be a pastor. Shawn confessed that he had gone to a Bible Collage. Howard invited him to come to Immanuel.

In 2024 he came to Church

And the Lord said "Welcome back"

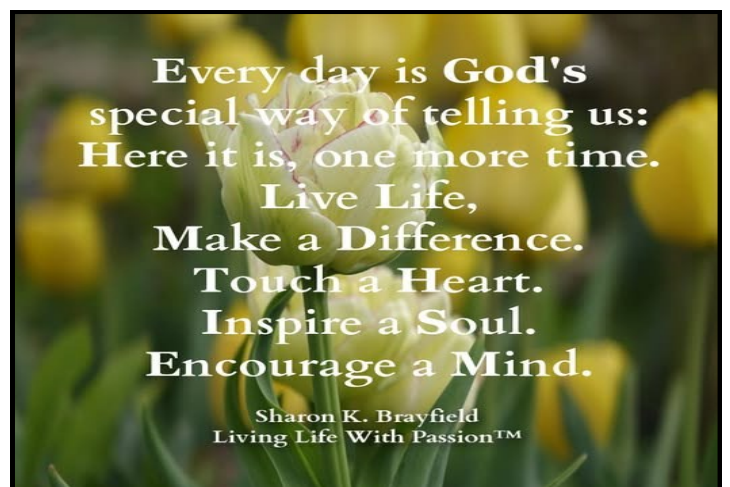


Over the past two years you could find Shawn on the second Monday of the month at 7 pm at Whispering Waters Senior Lodge where he Shares the Gospel with the seniors.

He also has been a speaker at Immanuel.

God Bless him.

Shawn confided that Immanuel has been by far the most welcoming Church he has ever attended.



VOLUNTEER SHEDULE

DATE	May 3, 2026	May 10, 2026	May 17, 2026	May 24, 2026	May 31, 2026
Speaker	Russ	Jane	Boyd	Boyd	Boyd
Leader	Donna	Len	Chris	John	Russ
Reader	Tracey	Rylee	Dee	Donna	Tracey
Greeter	Tracey/Dee	Lorne/Linda	Nina	Mitch/Lorie	Leslie
Music	Al	Caroline/ Jacqueline	Al	Mark/Team	Kody/Mandy
Prayer Team	Jane/Karen	Kathy/Kelly	Dave/Kathy	Chris/Coreena	Jane/Karen
Ushers	Tony	Frank/Jean	Tony	Frank/Jean	Tony
Communion	Dietrich	-	Strand	-	-
Sound	Graeme	Henry	Shawn	Neil	Graeme
Mediashout	Lorie	Jen	Kris	Lillian	Connie
Counters	Theresa/Florence	Colleen/Chris	Gloria/Len	Nina/Sandi	Cheryl/Kelvin
Coffee	Jean	Florence	Gill	Colleen	Dianne

Please remember if you are unavailable, find someone who is willing to trade with you or cover for you.



Highlights from April Council Meeting

- ◆ Council and church leaders will be meeting the afternoon of April 25
- ◆ Ivar Osness will be preaching on April 26. He is a possible candidate for an assistant pastor position.
- ◆ Pastor Boyd has been using the empowerment method as his philosophy of ministry. Empowering those who have a passion for a specific ministry, and supporting them in starting that ministry.
- ◆ Currently we are in a good financial position.
- ◆ Election of Council officers:
 - Chair – Tracey Bartholomew
 - Vice Chair – Len Lewin
 - Secretary – Julie Villadsen
 - Treasurer – Angela St. Pierre
- ◆ Facility
 - Rentals are ongoing.
 - Waiting on dry ground to start on the road work and grading.
 - Eaves troughing for the old church is scheduled for this summer
 - As there are still trucks coming in with fill this summer – the main driveway will not be graveled until later in the year.
 - Electrical will change over as of May 1 from Epcor to Direct Energy – This should lower our electrical bills.
- ◆ Len attended a World Serve event– we now have a specific pastor that our Pennies for Pastor monies go to.
- ◆ Immanuel sign on the corner of Twp RD 524 and the fifth has been repaired and put back up.
- ◆ 2026 is Immanuel’s 135th Anniversary! We will Celebrate this along with the Sunday School Windup.

Submitted by Julie Villadsen



March Offerings:

Total Offerings Received: \$20,595.59

Total Average Per Sunday : \$5,319.12

Average Attendance: 100

Submitted By Angel St. Pierre

To continue giving your offering or donations to Immanuel

Our e-transfer address is: donations@ilcor.ca



Pennies for Pastors.

Loose change is collected on the first Sunday of the month for Pastors in the Mission field.

In April, \$500.00 was collected.

THE KIDZ PAGE

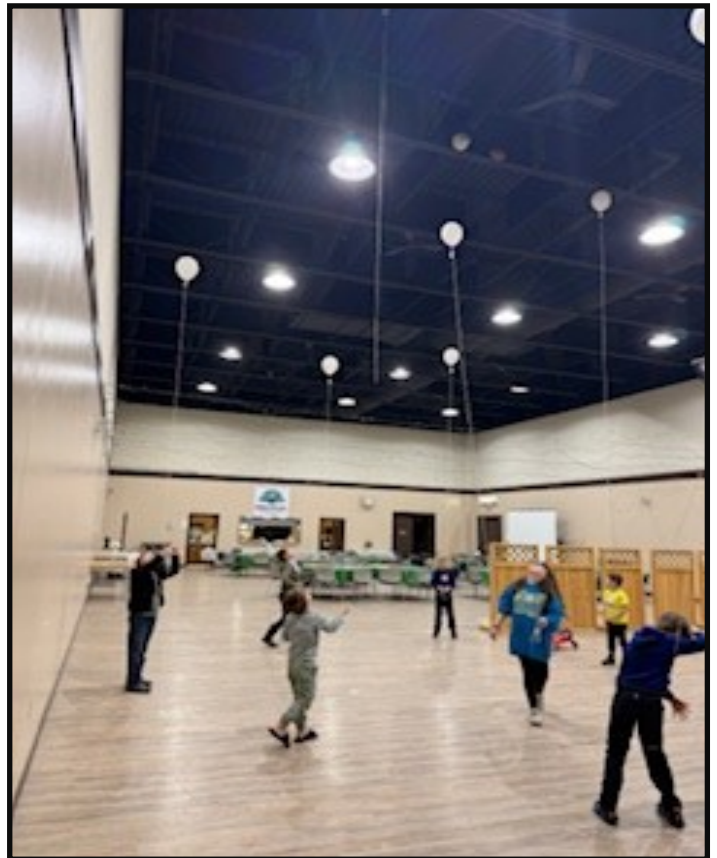


April started out with the Easter story and that story was repeated for the second Sunday presented with the "Easter Resurrection Eggs". The congregation enjoyed a mini concert lead by Randal and the children on the 2nd Sunday; Randall has continue conducting Children's praise time in the Sunday School room for the rest of April. The third Sunday consisted of a continuation of the Easter story complete with "Easter in a Box'. The children should remember the true story of Easter as recorded in the bible because of the repetition of the story! The third Sunday was also combined with the story of ascension, complete with Helium balloons to watch Jesus be "taken up...and hidden from their sight". The last Sunday was the story of Pentecost with the children making "tongues of flames" (that don't burn!) Thank you, Leah, Lisa, Mellissa, Randal and Colleen for teaching the children for the month of April.

May will continue with lessons being lead by Michelle. Michelle has also committed to teaching in June. I am sure if anyone would like to help Michelle by volunteering a Sunday in the next 2 months, Michelle would be happy to receive the help. The Sunday school wind up is scheduled for June 14.

We do have some good news to share...God has answered our prayer for a new leader but he has blessed us with 2 volunteers! (It will take 2 people to fill Michelle's shoes!) We would like to welcome Donna McKean and Lucretia van Ommeren-Tabbert into this position, thank you, may God bless you richly in this endeavor.

Thank you, Michelle for your many years of service leading and teaching God's children. Our Sunday school has thrived and grown under your leadership and prayers. May God bless you and your family.



These are Ascension balloons with a picture of Jesus tied on the balloons. As they let the balloons rise "He ascended into heaven."

From The Mouths Of Babes!

A 4 year old boy was noisily squirming all through the church service. His father tried several times to quiet him, but to no avail. Just as the pastor was asking for prayer requests, the boy let out a loud yell. His father, obviously at the end of his rope, picked up the boy, tossed him over his shoulder and headed out of the sanctuary. When he was nearly out the door, the pastor continued to ask if there any more requests when this little voice yelled desperately from across the threshold, "Oh, please pray for me!"



Calendar of Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1. 10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study	2.
3. 10:15 Sunday Service Sunday School Youth classes 	4. Pastor's Day Off	5. 11:00 Prayer Group 7:00 pm Ladies Bible Study	6. 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study 7:00pm Prayer meeting	7.	8. 10:00am Pastor's Bible Study	9. 9:00am Men's Breakfast 
10. 10:15 Sunday Service Sunday School Youth Classes 	11. Pastor's Day Off	12. 11:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm Ladies Bible Study	13. 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 7:00 Prayer Meeting	14.	15. 10:00am Pastor's Bible Study	16.
17. 10:15 Sunday Service Sunday School Youth Classes 	18. Pastor's Day Off	19. 11:00 am Prayer Group 7:00pm Ladies Bible Study	20. 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	21.	22. 10:00am Pastor Bible Study	23.
24. 10:15 Sunday Service Sunday School Youth Classes  Potluck	25. Pastor's Day Off	26. 11:00 am Prayer Group 7:00pm Ladies Bible Study	27. 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	28.	29. 10:00 am Pastor Bible Study	30.
31. 10:15 Sunday service/ Sunday School/Youth Classes						