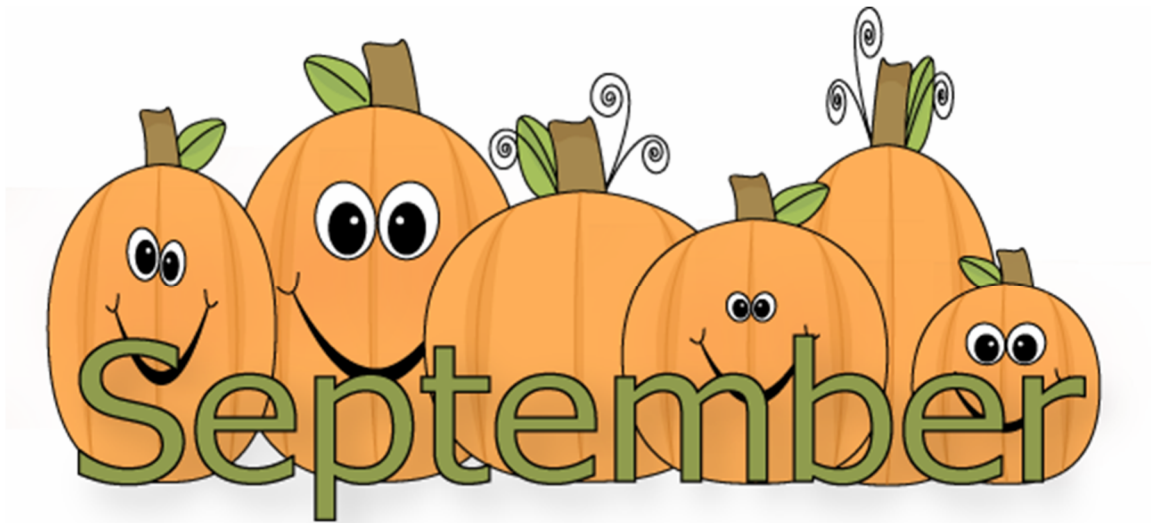


IMMANUEL SPEAKS
SEPTEMBER 2026



September brings a welcome change of rhythm. Summer travels and vacations begin to wind down, school is back in session, and calendars once again fill with familiar routines and new opportunities. In the midst of all these changes, the church offers a simple invitation: **Come back. Come and worship. Come and listen. Come and discover anew the goodness of God.**

The words of Isaiah 55 offer a beautiful invitation from God: “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!” —Isaiah 55:1. What a gracious invitation! God does not ask us to arrive with everything figured out or with our lives perfectly in order. God simply says, **Come**. Come with your questions, your weariness, your hopes, your joys, and your needs. Come and receive what God freely gives.

As we begin a new season of worship and ministry together, we are invited to make space once again for God's Word, God's people, and God's presence. Worship is more than another item on a busy fall schedule. It is an opportunity to pause, listen, give thanks, and remember who we are: beloved children of God.

Isaiah continues, “Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food” (Isaiah 55:2). In a world filled with voices competing for our attention, God invites us to listen—to listen for the voice that speaks grace, hope, mercy, and life. Fall programming gives us many ways to answer that invitation. Children and youth return to learning and growing in faith. Bible studies and small groups gather for conversation and fellowship. Ministry teams resume their work of serving our neighbors and caring for one another. And, of course, each week we gather around God's Word and the table, where Christ meets us with forgiveness and love.

Perhaps this September is a good time to ask: **Where is God inviting me to come? What might God be inviting me to hear? Where might God be calling me to grow, serve, or reconnect?** God's invitation is not limited to those who have been here every week. It is an invitation for all of us—and for those who may be looking for a church home, returning after time away, or wondering whether there is still a place for them in a community of faith. There is room at God's table. There is room in our congregation. There is room for you.

Beloved, as autumn begins and a new season unfolds, hear again the words of Isaiah 55: **“Come.”** Come to the waters. Come and listen. Come and receive. Come and delight in the abundance of God's grace. We look forward to seeing you in worship and throughout the many ministries and gatherings of our congregation this fall. May this new season be a time when we rediscover the joy of being together and the life-giving invitation of our God: **Come, for all is ready.**

In Christ,

Pastor Joel

August 9, 2026

1. Pastoral Acts

- 39 pastoral visits
- 1 baptism (August 2): Brooklyn Kubesh

2. Worship

- Clara City Care center
 - July 29 & August 5
- Rally Sunday will be Sunday, September 13.

3. Education/Youth

- Sunday school
 - Meeting on August 6
 - Rally Sunday and blessing of backpacks/back to school, & Bible presentation on Sunday, September 13.
- Confirmation/Youth
 - Meeting for 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering on Sunday, August 16 at 6pm in fellowship hall.
 - Confirmation meeting Wednesday, September 2 at 7pm.
 - new confirmation requirements:
 - 1) Confirmands will attend 20 worship services (in person) per program year. Failure to do so will result in the postponing of the rite of affirmation of baptism.
 - 2) Disruptive and disrespectful behavior will be given a warning. A second offense will result in confirmand calling their parent to pick them up from class. If further behavior continues the confirmand will be removed from the class and will complete their confirmation instruction at home with parents.

4. Mission & Outreach

- community meal August 2.
- Blessing box: donations always appreciated. Normally fill it 1 to 2 times per week.

5. Continuing Education/Pastoral Self-Care

- Faith + lead courses
- preach collective conference in Oct

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

AUGUST 9, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: Derek Rand; Laine Reiger; Laurie Dieken; Lucas Doesken; Carissa Pederson; Glen Miller; Pastor Joel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gabby Rognlie; Terry Noble; Kat Schwitters, Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Laine will check with Endowment Committee as to who is writing the checks and when they are being written as this affects the Treasurer's balances.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Correction to be made to last month's minutes as Carissa could not both initiate the motion to adjourn and second it. Correction to minutes to reflect Lucas made the motion to adjourn and Carissa seconded it. No further comments were made. Motion made by Laine to accept the Secretary's Report with above correction, Laine seconded the motion; motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Work on the kitchen remodel will begin sometime between 8/31 and 9/14/2026. Anticipated completion date of 11/15/2026. Pastor Joel continues with Wednesday's church services at the Care Center. He is the only pastor providing church services there. He will be meeting with Pastor from the Maynard Lutheran Church to finalize confirmation arrangements for the students attending at Immanuel. Will be having a meeting with confirmands and parents. Confirmation will be 1 hour instead of 1 ½ hours. There will be a requirement to attend a minimum of 20 services per year. Also, Pastor Joel will identify guidance for any behavior issues that arise during the confirmation meetings.

Community Meals during the kitchen remodel was discussed. Motion made by Laine to place Community Meals on hold while kitchen remodel is taking place. Seconded by Carissa; motion carried.

Mowing Lawn: Pastor Joel has been doing this. Brandi has done this in the past. Derek will check with Brandi to see if she will do it again.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Congregational Life will be hosting trip to the Belview winery on Sunday, 8/23/2026.

MAIL: Reviewed. Request for contribution for school supplies. This was forwarded to the Endowment Committee. Thank you cards received from Prairie 5 and the Synod.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Glen to adjourn; seconded by Lucas; motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: July 2026 General Fund Income: \$15,996

July 2026 General Fund Expenses: \$18,088

TREASURER NOTES FOR 2026

2025 General Fund Budget: \$253,150

2025 General Fund Income Needed as of 7/31/25: \$134,666

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Sunday, Sept. 6	PowerPoint/Acolyte:	Peyton Jaenisch
	Lay Reader:	Carissa Pederson
	Altar Guild:	Ken & Jan Beyerl
Sunday, Sept. 13	PowerPoint/Acolyte:	Madelyn Gueningsman
	Lay Reader:	Cindy Meyer
	Altar Guild:	Nancy Gosseling
Sunday, Sept. 20	PowerPoint/Acolyte:	Hayden Emkesl
	Lay Reader:	Michele Shubert
	Altar Guild:	Michele Shubert
Sunday, Sept. 27	PowerPoint/Acolyte:	Paityn Colby
	Lay Reader:	Duane Dieken
	Altar Guild:	Judy Gosseling

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TRIBE UP FOR OCTOBER 2026

BENJAMIN TRIBE

Below we have printed the Tribe membership for October 2026. The chairperson will be calling or texting you in the near future, asking you to help serve Immanuel in some way. Start thinking about what you can volunteer to help with. If everyone takes one job, the "needs" list will be filled.

Chuck and Beci Hinderks
Tim, Sara and Carter Sabe – Tribe Leaders
Holly Bristle and Family
Jim and Linda Rhode
Lynn Harter
Ron and Karin Koenen
Ross and Carissa Pederson Family
Noel Emkes Family
Curtis and Marny Behrends Family

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OPEN RADIO BROADCASTS FOR 2026

We have a few open radio broadcasts for the year 2026. If you would like to sponsor any of these, please call the church office at 847-2138 or talk to Pastor Joel or Kathy. The cost for a broadcast is \$110.00. Thank you to everyone that has sponsored a radio broadcast and for continuing to support this ministry outreach! The dates are: September 13, 20, October 25, November 1, and 15, and December 13, 20 and 27.

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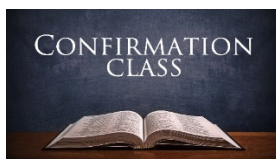
COMMUNITY MEAL

The Community Meal is Sunday, September 13th, from 5:00-6:00 p.m. The menu is: picnic surprise. Watch the bulletin for where we will be serving. Please sign up on Immanuel's Facebook page or call the church office with the number of meals you need. Everyone in the community is invited!

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IMMANUEL NO LONGER COLLECTING PLASTIC

We will no longer be collecting plastic after September 1st. Thank you for donating your plastic. We have now received 2 benches that sit outside our church. We hope you continue to recycle, to protect what God has given us. LuAnn Kruger.



GRADES 7-10 CONFIRMATION CLASS MEETING

Calling all Confirmands, Grades 7-10 & parents. We will meet on **Wednesday, September 2nd at 7:00 p.m.** to talk about the upcoming confirmation year. Our first class will be Wednesday, September 9th from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.. See you there!

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QUILTING IN SEPTEMBER

Quilting will start again in September. We will be gathering on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Watch bulletin for the start date.

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NO COFFEE FOR GALS

The women of Immanuel will not meet due to kitchen remodel. See you in the spring!

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Join us
**RALLY
SUNDAY**

Sept 13th

WORSHIP AT 9AM

***BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

***BIBLE HANDOUT TO THE YOUTH**

DURING FELLOWSHIP

***BINGO (PRIZES FOR EVERYONE)**

***TACO IN A BAG TO BE SERVED BY CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
COMMITTEE**



A large, stylized ice cream cone is the central graphic. The cone is yellow with a teal base. The ice cream is pink and has a teal oval on top. The date 'SEPTEMBER 27TH' is written in white inside the teal oval. The words 'ICE CREAM SOCIAL' are written in white on the pink ice cream. Below that, 'IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH' is written in yellow. At the bottom left, 'JOIN US AT 6:30' is written in black, followed by 'FOR ICE CREAM AND A GAME OF BEAN BAGS!!' in pink. At the bottom right, 'FUN AND FELLOWSHIP' is written in pink, followed by 'SPONSORED BY CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE' in black. The background is light pink with scattered teal, yellow, and purple dots.

SEPTEMBER
27TH

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH

JOIN US
AT 6:30

FOR ICE CREAM
AND A GAME OF
BEAN BAGS!!

FUN AND
FELLOWSHIP

SPONSORED BY
CONGREGATIONAL
LIFE COMMITTEE

3 Ways to Give Online-NEW to Immanuel!
Safe, Secure, and Convenient!

1. Download the FREE Vanco app to your phone.

- Search **Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement** on your app store.
- Search for **Immanuel Lutheran Church of Clara City**. (Make sure you choose **CLARA CITY**-there are many different ILC's)
- You will need to sign up to create a login. Then, you can give from the app anywhere...anytime!



*****OR*****

- 2. Scan the QR code below** with your phone camera to give to General Fund, Building Fund, Sunday School kids, or Youth (7th-12th) Fund.
- Scroll to choose your desired fund.



-You can give once or set up recurring gifts. You may use credit/debit card (3% charge that you can choose to pay or take off of your offering) or via your bank account at 1% charge.

*****OR*****

- 3. Church Website.** (NOT FACEBOOK). Visit us at: <https://www.ilc-claracity.org/>

-Click '**Online Giving**' at the top of the page and choose your desired fund. Follow the instructions online.

We want to make church giving convenient for you. If you have any questions, please contact Kat Schwitters at (320)-894-2658. Please consider giving to Immanuel in order to continue the work we do here.

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 7:00 p.m. Parent/Confirmation Student Meeting	3	4	5
6 9:00 a.m. Worship/Comm.	7	8	9 6:30-7:30 p.m. Confirmation	10	11	12
13 9:00 a.m. Rally Sunday Worship/Comm. 10:00 a.m. Sunday School/ Fellowship 10:45 a.m. Taco in a Bag Meal 5:00-6:00 p.m. Community Meal	14	15	16 6:30-7:30 p.m. Confirmation	17	18	19
20 9:00 a.m. Worship/Comm. 10:00 a.m. Sunday School	21	22	23 2:00-3:30 p.m. Coffee for Gals 6:30-7:30 p.m. Confirmation	24	25	26
27 9:00 a.m. Worship/Comm. 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 6:30 p.m. Ice Cream Social in Courtyard	28	29	30 6:30-7:30 p.m. Confirmation			

