

IMMANUEL SPEAKS
OCTOBER 2026



Beloved of God,

October is a special month for Lutherans as we remember the Reformation and the ways God used Martin Luther and others to call the church back to the heart of the gospel. At the center of the Reformation was a simple but life-changing message: **God's love and grace are gifts.** They are not something we earn by being good enough, doing enough, or proving ourselves worthy. In Jesus Christ, God comes to us with forgiveness, mercy, and new life.

Martin Luther struggled deeply with the question of whether he was “good enough” before God. His study of Scripture led him to rediscover the wonderful truth that God's righteousness is not something we have to achieve on our own. We are made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Salvation is God's gift of grace. That discovery changed Luther—and it helped spark a movement that changed the church.

For Lutherans, this message remains at the center of our faith. We speak of **grace alone, faith alone, and Scripture alone**, always pointing us back to Jesus Christ. The Bible is not simply a book of rules telling us how to become worthy of God's love. It is the story of God's persistent love for creation and God's promise fulfilled in Jesus. And the good news is still good news today.

We live in a world where many people feel the pressure to earn their worth—to succeed, accomplish, look a certain way, have the right answers, or keep everything together. The gospel speaks a different word. Before we accomplish anything, we are already known and loved by God. That grace frees us.

Freed from having to earn God's love, we are free to love our neighbors. Freed from the burden of proving ourselves, we can serve others. Freed by Christ's forgiveness, we can become people who forgive. Freed by the gospel, we can welcome the stranger, care for those who are hurting, seek justice, and work for peace.

This is one of the beautiful gifts of our Lutheran heritage: **God's grace does not leave us unchanged. It sets us free to live and serve.** As we celebrate Reformation this October, may we remember that the Reformation is not simply something that happened long ago. God's Spirit continues to reform and renew the church. We are continually called back to the good news of Jesus Christ and sent back into the world to share that good news in word and deed.

Beloved, the gospel has not grown old. God's grace is still amazing. Christ's love is still for us. God's Word is still alive. And the good news is still worth proclaiming. **Thanks be to God for the gospel of Jesus Christ—and for the grace that makes all things new.**

Pastor Joel

September 14, 2026

1. Pastoral Acts

- 66 pastoral visits
- 1 funeral (August 15th) Robert Leroy DeGrote

2. Worship

- Clara City Care center
 - August 19th & 26th, September 2nd & 9th
- Rally Sunday will be Sunday, September 13.
 - during worship: blessing of the backpacks & Bible presentation
 - after worship: congregational bingo and meal by congregational life

3. Education/Youth

- Sunday school
 - Rally Sunday and blessing of backpacks/back to school, & Bible presentation on Sunday, September 13. 1st day of classroom instruction on the 20th.
- Confirmation/Youth
 - Confirmations kicked off the year September 6th, studying the Old Testament.
 - Youth Group kicked off the year September 6th, using faith 5 and the previous Sundays gospel lesson for study.

4. Mission & Outreach

- community meal September 13th; served 182. Community meal is taking a break until kitchen remodel is completed.
- Blessing box: donations always appreciated. Normally fill it 1 to 2 times per week.

5. Continuing Education/Pastoral Self-Care

- Faith + lead courses
- Fall Theological Conference September 27th-29th
- preachcollective conference in October

CHURCH COUNCIL Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2026

PRESENT: Derek Rand; Carissa Pederson; Kat Schwitters (Treasurer); Glen Miller; Laurie Dieken; Luca Doesken; Gabby Rognile

ABSENT: Terry Noble; Laine Reiger

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: By Derek Rand, President

REPORTS:

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Motion made by Glen to approve Secretary's Report; seconded by Lucas; motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Discussion of current financial statements. Placed on file. Kat noted system for paying bills for the kitchen remodel and working with Janet Forstrom is going well.

Bill from Chappell Central paid for ductwork for the kitchen completed has been paid. Motion made by Carissa to approve Treasurer's Report; seconded by Gabby; motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: 1. Debit cards for the Youth and Sunday School programs is going well. No concerns noted.

2. Mission payments are being sent quarterly. Last quarter's payment amount will be discussed prior to being sent, dependent on financial status.

3. Review of Job Description for Janitor position. Derek brought the Job Description for Janitor position from 2017 which is not a true reflection of what Brandea does or is expected to do. Derek will review with Brandea and bring back to council with recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS: Money Counters: **October:** Laurie and Lucas; **November:** Derek and Glen; **December:** Gabby and Carissa

Pastor Appreciation Sunday: October 11th. Will plan for Coffee and cookies after church.

Financial Meeting to discuss 2027 budget for officers on 10/25/2026 after church.

NEXT MEETING: October 11, 2026 after church.

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY: Laurie Dieken

HAPPENINGS AT IMMANUEL

PASTOR'S APPRECIATION SUNDAY – is **Sunday, October 11th**. We will celebrate Pastor Joel during the worship service. A celebration reception will be served in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service. Please join us to honor Pastor Joel and to thank him for all he does for each of us, our congregation and our community. All are welcome!

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY – is on **Sunday, October 25th** at the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service. The following Confirmation Students will be confirmed: Karly Bratsch, Kresson Bratsch, Addison McNeil, Austen Olson, Orion Day and Rykurt Bristle. A reception will be held after the worship service in the Fellowship Hall. Come and celebrate with the newly confirmed members!

TRUNK OR TREAT – on **Sunday afternoon, October 25th** from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in Immanuel's parking lot. Trunk or treat is when you decorate your trunk or vehicle, wear costumes (if you want to), park in a parking lot and pass out Halloween treats to kids in their Halloween costumes. Sound like fun! We are looking for people to participate with this. The more vehicles we have the more fun it will be for the Trick or Treaters! A spooky time will be had by all!! All are welcome! Talk to Sarah Doesken if you would like to participate.

QUILTING – has started up again for the fall and winter season. We meet on the **2nd and 4th Tuesday** of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

NO COMMUNITY MEAL – the month of October because of the kitchen remodel.

NO COFFEE FOR GALS – we will meet again in the spring.

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

Sunday, October 4	PowerPoint/Acolyte: Lay Reader: Altar Guild:	Orion Day Ken Beyerl Carissa Pederson
Sunday, October 11	PowerPoint/Acolyte: Lay Reader: Altar Guild:	Landon Emkes Judi Boike LuAnn Kruger
Sunday, October 18	PowerPoint/Acolyte: Lay Reader: Altar Guild:	Jana Rand Beth Gaebe Ann Hovda
Sunday, October 25	PowerPoint/Acolyte: Lay Reader: Altar Guild:	Tia Schwitters Ann Hovda Kathy Speiser

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GAD TRIBE FOR NOVEMBER 2026

Below we have printed the Tribe Membership for November 2026. The chairperson will be calling or texting you in the near future, asking you to help serve Immanuel in some small way. Start thinking about what you can volunteer to help with ! If everyone takes a job, the “needs” list will be filled. Thank you for volunteering!

Jesse and Andrea Prekker – Tribe Leaders

Tami Prekker

Dakota and Gabby Rognlie and family

Dave and Deb Roskens

Duane and Laurie Dieken

Jim and LeAnn Essendrup

Mike and Bobbie Schmidt

Andrew Gosseling

Brian and Kristi Hilbrands

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OPEN RADIO BROADCASTS FOR 2027

Yes, 2027 is right around the corner! Listed below are the open radio broadcasts for 2027. If you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast, please contact the church office at 847-2138, or talk to Kathy Speiser or Pastor Joel. The cost is \$110 for each broadcast. Thank you to all of you that have supported this outreach of Immanuel Lutheran Church!

January 3, 10, 17, 24

February 7, 14, 21, 28

March 7, 14, 28

April 4, 11, 25

May 9, 23, 30

June 6, 13, 20, 27

July 4, 11, 25

August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

September 12, 19

October 10, 17, 24, 31

November 7, 14, 21, 28

December 5, 12, 19, 26

We still have Sundays available for sponsorship in 2026. They are: October 25, November 1, December 20, and 27.

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FINANCIAL UPDATE FROM TREASURER

2025 General Fund Budget: \$253,150

2025 General Fund Income Needed as of 8/31/26: \$123,098

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2ND ANNUAL

TRUNK OR TREAT



OCTOBER
25
2PM - 4PM

ALL ARE WELCOME!

 IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PARKING LOT

• BASEMENT IF INCLEMENT WEATHER •



OCTOBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9:00 Worship/ Communion 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship NO Community Meal	5	6	7 6:30-7:30 Confirmation 7:00-8:15 Youth Group	8	9	10
11 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:00 Church Council Meeting PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY	12	13 1:00 Quilting	14 NO CONFIRMATION OR YOUTH GROUP	15	16	17
18 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Fellowship 10:00 Endowment Committee Meeting NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	19 1:30 Joy Bible Study	20	21 6:30-7:30 Confirmation 7:00-8:15 Youth Group	22	23	24
25 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 2:00-4:00 Trunk or Treat CONFIRMATION SUNDAY	26	27 1:00 Quilting	28 6:30-7:30 Confirmation 7:00-8:15 Youth Group	29	30	31

