IMMANUEL SPEAKS
NOVEMBER 2026



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

November is a month when our thoughts naturally turn toward thanksgiving. We give thanks for the harvest, for family and friends, for the blessings of another year, and for the many ways God has provided for us. As Thanksgiving approaches, we are reminded to pause and recognize the goodness of God in our lives.

But what does it really mean to be thankful? Is thanksgiving simply something we do when life is going well, when our prayers have been answered, and when we have received the blessings we hoped for? Or is there something deeper to Christian thanksgiving?

In Luke 17:11–19, the Gospel appointed for Thanksgiving Day, Jesus encounters ten men suffering from leprosy. Because of their disease, these men lived on the margins of society, separated from their families, their communities, and the ordinary activities of daily life. When they see Jesus, they cry out, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”

Jesus hears their cry and tells them to go and show themselves to the priests. As they go, they are healed. All ten receive the same wonderful gift. All ten experience the mercy and healing power of Jesus. Yet only one returns to give thanks. Luke tells us that this man, a Samaritan, turns back, praises God with a loud voice, and falls at Jesus' feet to thank Him. Jesus asks, “Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?”

It is easy to focus on the nine who did not return and to wonder how they could have forgotten to say thank you. But perhaps the more important part of this story is not the failure of the nine. It is the grace of Jesus. **Jesus healed all ten.**

He did not wait until they had demonstrated their gratitude. He did not require them to prove themselves worthy. He did not make His mercy dependent upon their response. Jesus heard their cries and showed them compassion.

That is the wonderful truth of the Gospel. God's love and mercy come to us as gifts of grace, not as rewards for good behavior or proper gratitude. And that is where Christian thanksgiving begins. We do not give thanks in order to earn God's blessings. We give thanks because God has already blessed us. We do not praise God to make Him love us. We praise God because, through Jesus Christ, we know that we are already loved.

Martin Luther reminds us in his explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed that God provides us with all that we need for this life, “all this out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me.” Luther then concludes, “For all this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him.” Thanksgiving, then, is our response to the grace we have already received.

Of course, not everyone enters November feeling particularly thankful. Some are facing illness, grief, loneliness, financial struggles, or uncertainty about the future. For some, the holidays bring painful reminders of loved ones who are no longer gathered around the table.

The good news is that God's grace does not disappear when life becomes difficult. The same Jesus who heard the cries of ten suffering men continues to hear our cries for mercy today. We can come before God with our worries, our disappointments, our questions, and our sorrow. And even in those moments, we can trust that we are held in God's love.

The Samaritan returned to Jesus because he recognized the source of his healing. His thanksgiving was more than good manners. It was an expression of faith, a recognition that God's mercy had changed his life. Perhaps that is the invitation for us this Thanksgiving. To recognize God's presence in the ordinary blessings we sometimes overlook. To remember the grace we receive each day. To give thanks not only with our words but also through lives of love, generosity, forgiveness, and service to our neighbors.

As we gather around our Thanksgiving tables this year, may we remember that our greatest blessing is not found in what we possess, but in the One who has claimed us as His own. Through Jesus Christ, we have received the gifts of forgiveness, new life, and the promise that nothing can separate us from God's love. And for that, we have every reason to give thanks. May God bless you and your families this Thanksgiving season, and may our hearts continually turn toward Christ, the source of every good gift.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Joel

Pastor's Report to Council (Sept. 14, 2026 to Oct. 11, 2026) Rev. Joel Gueningsman

October 10, 2026

1. Pastoral Acts

- 47 pastoral visits

-1 funeral (October 8th) Margaret Schorn

2. Worship

-Clara City Care center

- September 16th, 23rd, & 30th

-Confirmation Sunday on Oct. 25th with reception to follow worship

3. Education/Youth

-Sunday school

-No Sunday school on Oct. 18th for MEA Break

-Confirmation/Youth

-No Confirmation on Oct. 14th for MEA break

4. Mission & Outreach

-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.

-Trunk or Treat on October 25th from 2pm-4pm

-Youth will be collecting items soon for thanksgiving meals

5. Continuing Education/Pastoral Self-Care

-Faith + lead courses

-Fall Theological Conference September 27th-29th

-preachcollective conference in October

Immanuel Lurheran Church Council

Meeting Minutes—October 11, 2026

PRESENT: Derek Rand; Murlaine Reiger; Kat Schwitters (Treasurer); Carissa Pederson; Lucas Doesken; Glen Miller: Gabby Rognlie; Pastor Joel Gueningsman

ABSENT: Laurie Dieken; Terry Noble

REPORTS Secretary's Report: Reviewed. Motion made to accept September report by Carissa P.; seconded by Lucas D. Motion passed

Treasurer's Report: Discussed moving money from the Food For Kids to Savings account.

Selection of co-pay for health insurance made. Motion made by Laine R.; seconded by Carissa. Motion passed.

Motion made by Lucas D. to place counter tops in Youth Craft Room; seconded by Glen M. Motion passed.

Motion made by Gabby R. to approve Treasurer's Report; seconded by Laine R. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Motion made by Glen M. to approve Pastor's Report; seconded by Carissa P. Motion passed.

Committee Report: Congregational Life reported on Ice Cream Social.

OLD BUSINESS: 1. Custodian Part Time Job Description—Still waiting on her list of job duties.

NEW BUSINESS: 1. Kat & Derek will meet with Endowment Committee on 10/18/2026.

2. Mail reviewed.

NEXT MEETING: November 8, 2026 at 10:00 am

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Lucas D. to adjourn; seconded by Carissa. Motion passed.

SEPTEMBER GENERAL FUND INCOME: $24,579.90

SEPTEMBER GENERAL FUND EXPENSES: $21,933.30

TREASURER'S NOTES FOR 2026

2026 September General Fund Income: $24,579.90
2026 September General Fund Expenses: $21,933.30

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THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 7:00 P.M.

Please join us for our Thanksgiving Eve Worship with Communion on Wednesday, November 25th at 7:00 p.m.

The office will be closed on Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th. Also, there will be no Sunday School on Sunday, November 29th.



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HANGING OF THE GREENS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH, 9:00 A.M.

Hanging of the Greens will be on Saturday, November 28th, at 9:00 a.m. It is hard to believe, but the season of Advent, preparing for our Lord, is coming very soon. That being said, it will be the time to decorate Immanuel into its Christmas season finery! **Everyone** is invited to help decorate Immanuel. Please come and help! Many volunteers are needed to help with this!



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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 1:	PowerPoint/Acolyte:	Arianna McNeil
	Lay Reader:	Kathy Fritz
	Altar Guild:	Sara Sabe
Sunday, November 8	PowerPoint/Acolyte:	Alyson Strommer
	Lay Reader:	Annette Rosen
	Altar Guild:	Ken & Jan Beyerl
Sunday, November 15:	PowerPoint/Acolyte:	Andrew Gueningsman
	Lay Reader:	Ann Hovda
	Altar Guild:	Ann Hovda
Sunday, November 22:	PowerPoint/Acolyte:	Kayden Prekker
	Lay Reader:	Gary Meyer
	Altar Guild:	Michele Shubert
Wednesday, November 25:	PowerPoint/Acolyte:	Ali Neville
(Thanksgiving Eve, 7:00 p.m.)	Altar Guild:	Judy Gosseling
Sunday, November 29:	PowerPoint/Acolyte:	Hunter Peterson
	Lay Reader:	Laine Rieger
	Altar Guild:	Carissa Pederson

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ASHER TRIBE UP FOR DECEMBER 2026

Below we have printed the Tribe Membership for December 2026. The chairperson will be calling you in the near future, asking you to help serve in some small way. Start thinking about what you can volunteer to help with! Thank you for volunteering.

Patty Rand
Bruce and Carol Soine
Darcie Meyer and family
Matt and Jennifer Niesen Family
Tom and Diane Pieper – Tribe Leader
Bryon and Melissa Jaenisch Family
Paul and Brenda Tuve Family
Jim Jaenisch
Logan and Bailey Nilsen Family

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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 $110.00 for each broadcast. Thank you to all who have supported this outreach of Immanuel.

January 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, 22, 29
September 12, 19
October 10, 17, 24, 31
November 7, 14, 21, 28
December 5, 12, 19, 26

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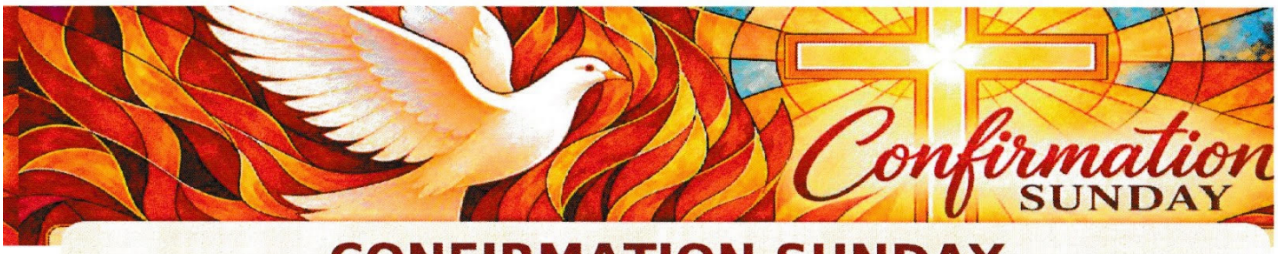
THANKSGIVING DAY COMMUNITY MEAL
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH

Will you be alone? Family members have other plans?
Come join others for food and fellowship.
Thursday, November 27^{6Th} at 12:00 p.m.



Clara City Community Center.
Everyone is welcome!
Hope to see you there!
Rides are available if needed.
Please call to let us know if you plan on attending.
Call Dennis /Donna Roberts at 847-2688

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CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Orion Scott-David Day

Baptized: December 18, 2011
Parents: Selena Own, John-Adam Day
Baptismal sponsors: Amanda Brist, Adam Moen, Ike & Virginia Davis
Confirmation verse — Joshua 1:9: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Rykurt Michael Bristle

Baptized: April 10, 2011
Parents: Kelsey Bristle, Mike & Holly Bristle
Baptismal sponsors: Brandon & Michelle Stensrud, Travis & Katie Birhanzl
Confirmation verse — Joshua 1:9: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Austen Robert Olson

Baptized: February 22, 2025
Parents: Melissa Mickels, Brian Sietsema
Baptismal sponsors: Stefanie Mickels, Jeffery Klassen, Michael Olson, Meredith Olson
Confirmation verse — Psalm 37:5: Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.

Addison Jade McNeil

Baptized: June 12, 2011
Parents: Kyle & Desirae McNeil
Baptismal sponsors: Chas McNeil, Destiny Danu, Danika Przybylski
Confirmation verse — Isaiah 41:10: Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

Karly Beth Bratsch

Baptized: June 19, 2011
Parents: Jeremy & Amy Bratsch
Confirmation verse — Mark 9:23: "If you are able!"—All things can be done for the one who believes.

Kresson Jade Bratsch

Baptized: June 19, 2011
Parents: Jeremy & Amy Bratsch
Confirmation verse — 1 John 4:19: We love because he first loved us.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 9:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

On Sunday, November 2nd at the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service, we will celebrate all saints and the promise that God has given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. We invite all family members of the saints who have died this year, to come forward during the worship service and light a candle in memory of their loved one. The saints who have died in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life:

Name	Date of Death
Robert Jaenisch	January 4, 2026
Stewart Dansby	January 5, 2026
Charlotte Korn	December 11, 2025
David Hovda	February 10, 2026
Erma DeGrote	February 11, 2026
Robert DeGrote	August 10, 2026
Margaret Schorn	October 3, 2026
Steve Sunderland	October 26, 2026

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PULLED PORK DINNER &
BAKE SALE
YOUTH FUNDRAISER
NOVEMBER 7TH
Dinner Served
11:00 AM- 1:00PM
Free Will Donation
TAKE OUTS AVAILABLE
Bake Sale
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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Hello!
Calling All Bakers
THE CHURCH YOUTH ARE
LOOKING FOR BAKED GOODS FOR
THEIR NOVEMBER 7TH BAKE SALE
PLEASE HAVE BAKED GOOD TO THE CHURCH BY 9:00 THE DAY OF THE SALE

3 Ways to Give Online-NEW to Immanuel!

Safe, Secure, and Convenient!

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*******

1. **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 offof your offering) or via your bank account at 1% charge.

*******OR*******

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

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

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November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 Worship/Comm 10:00 Sunday School/Fellowship Hour	2	3	4 5:30 Endowment Meeting 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Youth Group	5	6	7 10:00-2:00 Bake Sale 11:00-1:00 Pulled Pork Dinner and Bake Sale
8 9:00 Worship/Comm 10:00 Sunday School/Fellowship Hour 10:00 Church Council Meeting	9	10	11 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Youth Group	12	13	14
15 9:00 Worship/Comm 10:00 Sunday School/Fellowship Hour	16 1:30 Joy Bible Study	17	18 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Youth Group	19	20	21
22 9:00 Worship/Comm 10:00 Sunday School/Fellowship Hour Thanksgiving Food Drive Deadline	23	24	25 7:00 Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service/Communion No Confirmation or Youth Group	26 Office Closed 12:00 Community Thanksgiving Meal at Community Center	27 Office Closed	28 9:00 Hanging of the Greens
29 9:00 Worship/Comm 10:00 Fellowship Hour No Sunday School	30					