

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING DATES

November 2
Elders

November 9
Church Council

November 12
Women of Immanuel

November 26
Thanksgiving
Service

The Fourth Petition: Give us this day our daily bread

Father, dear Father, it's embarrassing for me to pray this petition. For I fear that I would grumble and loudly complain if you heard and answered it just as it stands. How ungrateful I would probably be if that's all that you gave me for my daily life—just bread, whether a crust or a loaf. To be sure, I don't deserve even that. To be sure, if the devil had his way, I wouldn't get even that either.

And so I lift my eyes to the face of your dear Son who fed the thousands with just a few pieces of bread and some small fish. But me he has fed with more than I need and in such rich abundance that I can only marvel at your generosity. Not just bread, not just bread and fish, but all manner of fruits and vegetables, of meats and desserts. So constantly do you supply me with what I need and more that I tend to take it all for granted. Even worse I foolishly imagine that it is all mine by right because of how hard I work and how good I am.

But still, even when I am as thoughtless as an infant of where it all comes from, you provide me richly and daily with what I need and more. And then to make it all taste the better, you give peace in our land so that our fields and forests are not destroyed and the nation reduced to famine. To make it all sweet, you give friends and family with whom to enjoy it. And even when some of these things are withdrawn for a season or made scarce, you promise us that you will give us what we need until you forever fulfill our every need in heaven.

Yes, Father, dear Father, all these things necessary for the support of our body and life in this world have as their greatest blessing this: By the strength and health and wealth that you have showered on us in your grace, we receive the physical and mental strength to make it our goal to hallow your name. For if we were without your blessing of the table, of the state, of fields and forest, of friends and family, it would be much more difficult for us to lead a life that seeks before all else that your name be hallowed by our life and doctrine. We would be tempted to despair over earthly things and thus to fail to hallow your name.

Therefore, Father, dear Father, give us this day our daily bread. Shower us still with your abundance that we may hallow your name with thanksgiving and with a generous sharing of your bounty. For then your name will be seen as holy; then others will know that you are our kind Father when we act in generosity as you have acted.

Finally and as the sum of all, grant me yet this blessing: that I receive with joy and thanksgiving all that you give me as my kind and loving Father. May that be so when I enjoy the abundance of the holiday table with friends and family. May it be so as well when the vinegar of sorrow and loss is seasoned with the salt of tears that come to remind me that having you, having your Son, and having your Word and sacraments, I still have everything. Help me to remember that you give me always what I most need and more than I could either ask for or deserve. Remembering that, grant me the grace of a growing generosity that shares your gifts with those in need so that they too may pray this petition with confidence and thanksgiving.

*Give us today
our daily
bread."*

--Matthew 6:11



About All Saints' Day

The Church celebrates All Saints' Day on November 1st. This year, we will observe the festival on November 2nd. This feast is the most comprehensive of the days of commemoration, encompassing the entire scope of that great cloud of witnesses with which we are surrounded. It holds before the eyes of faith that great multitude which no man can number: all the saints of God in Christ - from every nation, race, culture, and language - who have come "out of the great tribulation ... who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb". As such, it sets before us the full height and depth, and breadth and length of our dear Lord's gracious salvation. It shares with Easter a celebration of the resurrection, since all those who have died with Christ Jesus have also been raised with him. It shares with Pentecost a celebration of the ingathering of the entire Church catholic - in heaven and on earth, in all times and places - in the one Body of Christ in the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Just as we have all been called to the one hope that belongs to our call, "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all". And the Feast of All Saints shares with the final Sundays of the Church Year an eschatological (end times) focus on the life everlasting and a confession that "the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us". In all these emphases, the purpose of this feast is to fix our eyes upon Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, that we might not grow weary or fainthearted.

November Worship Themes

"Every why hath a wherefore." That was Shakespeare's poetic way of saying that very little happens by chance. Generally there is an agent behind an action. There is cause and effect. And to navigate life well, it is vital we understand both. If you want to effect a healthy heart, you need to know the causes of heart disease. Before a major purchase causes you to go into debt, you need to think about the effect it will have on your budget. If you want the peace of being close to God, you need to know what causes that effect. Again, to navigate life well, it is vital we understand cause and effect.

We are nearing the end of the Church Year. This past year, we have reviewed Jesus' life and teaching. The Scripture readings in these final weeks recall some of the major themes that are woven throughout the Church Year. In this final series we will be looking at those themes with the understanding that "every why hath a wherefore." We conclude the year by talking about cause and effect in God's kingdom.

- 11/2 – All Saints' Day (observed) – Sainthood / Stamina
- 11/9 – The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost – Resurrection / Hope
- 11/16 – The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost – Judgment / Peace
- 11/23 – Last Sunday of the Church Year – Scripture / Anticipation

Thanksgiving

Our Thanksgiving service will be on Wednesday, November 26th, starting at 7:00 p.m. Pumpkin pie will be served following the service.

A Hymn For Thanksgiving: Now Thank We All Our God

This famous hymn, written by Martin Rinkart, is typical of those written during the period of the Thirty Year's War (1618-1648). Rinkart wrote the hymn in anticipation of the end of the war, about 5 years before the Peace of Westphalia. After about 30 years of war, bloodshed and pestilence, physical, spiritual and mental exhaustion abounded and Germany longed for the day of peace as never before. Great was the joy and thanksgiving in the hearts of God's people when eventual peace first began to look possible, then probably and then finally real. Rinkart was certainly in a position to look forward to the end of hostilities. The thirty-two years of his ministry almost exactly coincide with the years of the war. The walled city in which he lived and served was naturally a haven for refugees as well as a magnet for attack. Actual warfare and the result of disease were the daily experience for Rinkart. At the depth of dark experience, Rinkart buried up to seventy people a day, and 4800 in that year. Conditions were so bad at times that hunger forced the citizens of his city to eat their cats, dogs and even dead crows. Although Rinkart found it difficult to provide food and clothing for his own family, he was generous in his charity toward others. Once or twice a week he would bake two bushels of corn into bread and dispense it to the eager crowds that flocked around his house seeking food. In addition to his pastoral work, the management of relief work in the city fell on his shoulders and the townspeople looked to him for leadership. In spite of this, the town unfairly and ungratefully taxed Rinkart's property out of his hands and permitted him to become destitute himself. In spite of danger, death, ingratitude, disease, hunger and overwork, this pastor managed to find time to exercise his poetic gifts and has given the church a true treasure in this hymn.

Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love
and still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever-joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us
and keep us in his grace
and guide us when perplexed
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Text: Public domain

Advent

Advent means “coming.” Advent is the first season of the church year. It begins on the Sunday closest to the festival of St. Andrew (November 30th) and it concludes on December 24th. This is the season of the Church Year when we remember that Christ will come again. He came once as a baby in Bethlehem, he comes to us in Word and Sacrament, and he will return as King of kings and Lord of lords. The emphasis of the season is on preparation and watchfulness. The expectancy of Advent is fulfilled on Christmas.

Advent Theme

The theme of our Sunday Divine Services in Advent will be: **Imminent Arrival**. Do you remember the feeling when someone important is about to arrive at your place? It's a mixture of anticipation and excitement and nervousness. Did you make all the correct preparations? Will the person be happy to see you? When and how will the person arrive? Will there be any surprises?

During these weeks before Christmas, we anticipate the imminent arrival of Jesus. He's an important person! We are about to celebrate his birth. He could return on judgment day at any time. But in worship we realize that he is coming to us when the Bible is heard and read and when the sacraments are administered. Suddenly we feel the excitement of an imminent arrival.

- 11/30 – First Sunday in Advent – Imminent Arrival of the King

Advent Prayers

The Prayers of the Day for the Sundays in Advent set the tone for the season. Traditionally, these ancient (three from the 10th century and one from the 8th century) prayers were spoken by the faithful during the week and children recited them while lighting the candles on the Advent wreath. During the season of Advent, incorporate these beloved prayers in your daily devotions.

The prayer for the week of November 30th is:

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Advent Preparation

Unlike the world, the Church does not prepare for Christmas by frantic doing or frenzied promises to get something done. Instead, the Church prepares by receiving. To help us receive the gifts of Christ and be prepared for his threefold coming, we offer midweek Vespers during Advent. These Vespers will be held on December 3rd, 10th and 17th at 7:00 p.m. The theme of our midweek services is: Bible Songs of Christmas.

- 12/3 – “*Magnificat*” – The Song of Mary
- 12/10 – “*Benedictus*” – The Song of Zechariah
- 12/17 – “*Gloria*” – The Song of the Angels

Church Bibles

For two years, we have been saving the money distributed to Immanuel from the Bailey Family Estate to replace the Bibles we have at church. Because we can no longer buy the version of the NIV that we have, we purchased the Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV). The new Bibles have arrived and we are purchasing bookplates for the inside covers of the Bibles. After they have been placed in the pews, fellowship hall, and classrooms, we will also begin using the EHV for the Scripture readings in the Divine Service.

Communion Sign-Up

Please sign up for receiving the Lord's Supper on one of the friendship registers in the pews. One of the reasons we want to do this is so that our members can hand a friendship register that already has writing in it to someone who is visiting. These friendship registers are our best way to obtain contact information for our guests.

Sunday School Christmas Rehearsals

We will hold rehearsals to prepare for the Christmas service starting November 30th. On those Sundays, we will feed the children after Sunday School and then hold our rehearsals from 12:00 until 1:00 p.m. Rehearsals will also be held on December 7th and 14th. We will also meet on Saturday, December 20th, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. The Christmas service will be held on December 21st at 4:00 p.m. A meal will follow the service.

2026 Bible and Music Academy

We have submitted our application to have a student from Martin Luther College at Immanuel for the summer. We hope to hear word in January that a student has been assigned to us. Please keep this in your prayers.

2026 Mission Festival

Our mission festival is scheduled for January 25, 2026. Rev. Jacob Behnken, Dean of Chapel and Professor of Music at Martin Luther College, will be at Immanuel on that day to lead worship and make a presentation on MLC. There will also be a meal served after Pastor Behnken's presentation. Watch the newsletter and the announcements in the service folder for more information.

2026 Offering Envelopes

You will be able to pick up your offering envelopes for next year toward the end of November.

Contact Information Changes

Please let the church office know of changes of address or phone numbers for you and your family. Thank you.

Winter Weather and Worship

We will hold our regularly scheduled services for those who are able to make it to church. If conditions are poor enough, we may cancel Sunday School, Bible classes and other activities but we will always hold our services. Check Operation Snowdesk for cancellations. Please use your sound judgment to determine whether or not you should travel to and from church in hazardous conditions.

Volunteers

We are in need of some volunteers for the following: folding service folders and newsletters and preparing the elements for the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Please consider helping out in this way. The sign-up sheets are on the shelf in the Narthex.

Church Council Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2025

Members Present: Martin Fabrizio, Jim Buffington, Michael Ziebell, Kent Larson, Aaron Buttenhoff, Matt Sindelir, Justin Kannas, Pastor, Jay Remmele

MMSP = Motion Made, Seconded, Passed

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 11:35 a.m.

Opened with the Lord's Prayer.

Agenda: MMSP to accept the agenda with the addition of "Narthex" under New Business.

Secretary's Report: MMSP to accept the August 10, 2025 council minutes as presented.

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

Chairman's Reports: No report.

Elders Report: The fall and winter service dates have been set. There will not be a New Year's Eve service.

Trustees Report:

- Trustees will look into options to replace the accordion style partition in the basement. A more soundproof option would be appreciated.
- Trustees are still looking into the cost and feasibility of making one set of front doors handicap accessible

with remote door opener switches. The biggest obstacle is getting wiring ran.

Financial Secretary's Report: MMSP to accept the financial secretary's report as presented.

Treasurer's Report: MMSP to accept the Treasurer's report as presented.

Planned Giving: No report.

AV Committee: No report.

Pastor's Report:

- Olivia vacancy: The 212 congregations will have joint services through August. In September Zion will go back to having guest preachers each Sunday and pastor will go to Zion once a month.
- Pastor will be out September 28 -30 attending the fall pastor's conference and also October 2-4 attending the MLS Governing Board meeting.
- The software used to record offerings and other church work is sun setting. The new software will have a monthly fee of about \$130 which does include online giving. We currently pay about \$85 a month for online giving on its own.

Old Business and Action Committees

Pew Committee: The pew builder is down one employee, so it will be a little longer to complete.

Church Operation Manual: Justin and Martin made some revisions to the treasurer's job description which will be sent out to council members to review for the next meeting.

New Business

Appoint Budget Committee: Justin, Michael and Matt are appointed to the committee.

Appoint Called Worker Compensation Committee: Aaron and Martin are appointed with Todd Marxhausen assisting if /as needed.

Narthex:

- At the July voters' meeting a member brought up making the Narthex more inviting.
- Aaron will talk with this member to clarify their intentions.
- Be proactive when there are guests and visitors to help them feel welcome.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- October 12, 2025 after Bible Class
- November 9, 2025 after Bible class
- December 14, 2025 after Bible class

MMSP to close the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully,

Jay Remmele, Recording Secretary

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

