

# Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

## NEWSLETTER

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### UPCOMING DATES

November 1  
Elders

November 8  
Church Council

November 11  
Women of Immanuel

November 25  
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 And even when some of these things are withdrawn for a season or made scarce, you promise us that you will give us what we need until you forever fulfill our every need in heaven.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. (Adapted for use at Immanuel from Giving Advice to God by Daniel Deutschlander)

**Give us today  
our daily bread.  
— Matthew 6:11**

## About All Saints' Day

The Church celebrates All Saints' Day on November 1<sup>st</sup>. This year, we have the opportunity to celebrate this festival on the day itself. 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

The overarching theme for our services in November is: The Beginning of the End. The cartoon character holds a sign saying, "The End Is Near." For Christians, this is not a message of fear. Instead, it is a message of watchful hope. Scripture teaches that the End Times began with Christ's first coming, especially his death and resurrection. Christ will come again on judgment day. Now we live in that in-between time, when salvation has been won, but full glory is still to come. It's the beginning of the end.

Jesus himself makes clear that no one knows the day or hour of his return. This uncertainty is not meant to trouble us, but to keep us spiritually awake. Each day becomes an opportunity to live in repentance and faith, turning from sin and trusting fully in Christ's finished work for us.

Our preparation for the end is not about trying to predict signs or earn God's favor. Instead, it is about remaining rooted in Jesus: hearing the Word, receiving the sacraments, and trusting the promises of forgiveness. These are God's ways of keeping us ready.

"The Beginning of the End" reminds us that history is

moving toward our own death and toward Christ's return. For believers, that end is truly a beginning.

- 11/1 – All Saints' Day – It's Time to Focus on the Future
- 11/8 – The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost – It's Time to be Watchful
- 11/15 – The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost – It's Time for Faithful Service
- 11/22 – Last Sunday of the Church Year – It's Time to Live in Hope

## Thanksgiving

Our Thanksgiving service will be on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7:00 p.m. Pie and refreshments will be served following the service.

## 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 30<sup>th</sup>) and it concludes on December 24<sup>th</sup>. 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: **Lord Jesus, Bring Your Gifts.** The Lord Jesus arrived with gifts. At Christmas, we remember how he came in the flesh, born of Mary, laid in a manger, true God and true man. He brought us gifts of salvation and fulfillment. His first coming secured our redemption once for all.

The Lord Jesus arrives with gifts every time we gather for the Divine Service. Through his Word and sacraments, he is present with his gifts of grace today. In the gospel preached, he speaks forgiveness into our ears. In Baptism, he gives us a new identity, claiming us as his own. In the Lord's Supper, he moves us to repentance and faith, giving his true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins.

And he will arrive again with gifts. The same Jesus who ascended will return in glory with his eternal gifts for all who believe in him. On that day, faith will become sight, and every promise will be fulfilled. For believers, this is not a day of fear but of joy, for our Savior arrives to take us home.

So we live between his arrivals, remembering his birth, receiving his grace, and waiting with confidence. We pray with joy, "Lord Jesus, bring your gifts!"

- 11/29 – First Sunday in Advent – Salvation

## Advent Prayers

The Prayers of the Day for the Sundays in Advent set

the tone for the season. Traditionally, these ancient (three from the 10<sup>th</sup> century and one from the 8<sup>th</sup> 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 29th 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. There is not a service on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. The theme of our midweek services is: The Word Who Breaks the Silence.

- 12/2 – The Word that Creates
- 12/9 – Our Cries, God’s Silence
- 12/16 – The Word that Draws Near

**Sunday School Christmas Rehearsals**

We will hold rehearsals to prepare for the Christmas service starting November 29th. 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 6th and 13th. We will meet on Saturday, December 19th, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. The Christmas service will be held on December 20th at 4:00 p.m. A meal will follow the service.

**2027 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.

**2027 Mission Festival**

Our mission festival is scheduled for January 10, 2026. Pastor Mark Kaesmeyer, a member of the Minnesota District Mission Board, will be at Immanuel

on that day to lead worship and make a presentation. Half of the presentation will be on the work of WELS Home Missions and the other half will focus on Home Mission work in the Minnesota District. There will also be a meal served after Pastor Kaesmeyer’s presentation. Watch the newsletter and the announcements in the service folder for more information.

**2027 Offering Envelopes**

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

**Volunteers to Provide Transportation**

We are in need of some more volunteers to give rides to church on Sunday morning. Please talk to pastor if you would be willing to help.

**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.

**Birthdays**

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| November 2 .....  | Shelby Larcom   |
| November 4 .....  | Rose Pederson   |
| November 5 .....  | Harold Pederson |
| November 6 .....  | Jen Engel       |
| November 13 ..... | Justin Kannas   |
| November 15 ..... | Weston Marks    |
| November 19 ..... | Madelyn Kannas  |
| November 21 ..... | Titus Dols      |
| November 21 ..... | Kim Lanning     |
| November 23 ..... | Carol Laumer    |

**Anniversaries**

|                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| November 4 .....  | Rose and Harold Pederson |
| November 22 ..... | Kayla and Steve Mady     |
| November 24 ..... | Paul and Sandy Jaenisch  |

# Church Council Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2026

**Members Present:** Jim Buffington, Aaron Buttenhoff, Matt Sindelir, Pastor, Scott Claussen, Todd Marxhausen, Martin Fabrizius, Kent Larson, Justin Kannas

**MMSP = Motion Made, Seconded, Passed**

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 11:40 a.m.

Pastor opened with the Lord's Prayer.

**Agenda:** MMSP to amend the agenda with the addition of appointing someone to the CPGC.

**Secretary's Report:** MMSP to accept the August 9, 2026 council minutes as presented.

## Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

**Chairman's Report:** No report.

**Elders Report:** No report.

**Trustees Report:**

- Trustees are still looking into church sign lighting.
- Furnace had some water drainage issues and was found to need a new air filter.
- Options are being considered for basement partition.
- A backup sump pump was recommended by the trustees to be purchased.
- The council would like to thank all the church members who helped with the removal of the dead trees on the church property. The council would also like to thank the ladies for painting the church basement.

**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 Committee Report:** No report.

**Church IT/AV Committee:** The committee is carefully evaluating software options for church financial records to ensure a smooth transition and benefit all users.

**Pastor's Report:**

- Pastor and the elders met and discussed different options of distributing the church newsletter. Currently the church is having to mail 30 newsletters to non-members and 7 newsletters to pastor's address to maintain a bulk mailing rate. After discussing the different options available to distribute the newsletter, the council agreed to continue mailing the newsletter till the bulk mailing

rate subscription runs out and transition to distributing the newsletters into members' mailboxes in the Narthex. The remaining newsletters that aren't picked up in the church mailboxes will be mailed one week later the falling Tuesday. Council will revisit this in the future.

- Trinity Evangelical's constitution committee is meeting on September 21, 2026. New church officers are being selected.

## Old Business and Action Committees

- Ross Malkuch was appointed to finish out Michael Ziebell's term as an elder.
- Budget committee will meet in the middle of October.
- Matt Sindelir was appointed to finish out Michael Ziebell's term on the CPGC.

## New Business

- Todd, Justin, and Aaron were appointed to the called worker compensation committee.
- Church members have been experiencing poor customer service with the church's current bank Old National Bank. The council made the decision to switch church accounts to Home State Bank, which the church and other members have used in the past and are comfortable with.
- Council discussed investing church funds sitting on non-interest-bearing accounts. It was decided to table the decision to a future date until church guidance was clear.

## Reminders

WELS National Conference on Worship, Music, and the Arts – June 15-18, 2027 in New Ulm. Consider setting aside money in the budget for Ross and Joanne, Diane, MLC Student (if one is assigned), and pastor to attend.

## Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- October 11, 2026 after Bible class
- November 8, 2026 after Bible class
- December 13, 2026 after Bible class

Meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Respectfully,  
Scott Claussen,  
Recording Secretary

QR Code for Online Giving



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

