

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
[not printed]

Psalm 25:1-9

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy,²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,
⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,
⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name,
¹⁰so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

Go and work in the vineyard today

MATTHEW 21:28



Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46.

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Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Our mission is to invite people to know Jesus Christ so that we may all share God's love.

Welcome to Worship at Immanuel - With warm hearts and hands, we welcome all who have come to worship the Lord. May this be a time of encouragement and inspiration for us all.

Prayer before Worship: Lord, quiet the distractions within us and around us as we gather in Your presence. Open our hearts to Your Word, fill our minds with Your truth and lead us to worship You with sincerity and joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayer Requests: We welcome requests of prayers for our members, friends and families throughout our communities and beyond. Anyone is welcome to leave a note on the desk in the office or contact the pastor. **There is also a prayer box with cards to use on the table under the mailboxes for prayer requests.**

Offering envelopes are located and available on the table in the entry.

Please designate how you would like to have your offering used if for anything other than general funds.

The Lord's Supper, the Eucharist, or Holy Communion is a means of God's grace whereby the real presence of Christ is offered (on 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, beginning October 2026).

If you would rather receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion, please come forward and cross your arms to your shoulders as indication of wanting a blessing. All are welcome at the Lord's table.

We have Children's Bulletins for those who wish to enhance the worship experience for the kids. They can be found each week on the table with the regular Sunday Bulletins.

Newsletter, bulletin, and member information or changes may be sent to
ckwilson1983@gmail.com or immanuelcolfax@hotmail.com

This Week at Immanuel 9:00 am - Worship 10:00 am - Sunday School

Sunday, September 27, 2026

WORSHIP LEADER: PASTOR MICHAEL JONES

Lay Reader: Dee Winterland

Greeters: Elton & Spring Mau

Ushers/Acolytes: Rylee Kukuck, Kasen Casson

Communion: na

Organist: Kimberly Petersen

Sunday, October 4, 2026

WORSHIP LEADER: MINISTER MARCIA BUCHS

Lay Reader: Lisa Winterland

Greeters: Alan & Sabrina Petersen

Ushers/Acolytes: Phil & Angie Kratochvil

Communion: Denny & Amy Winterland

Organist: Cindy Wilson

Please include the following people in our prayers:

Lois Barker, Cheryl Poppe, Jeannie Weber, Bob & Nancy Lasser, Cindy Harris, Rebecca Casson, Kris Barnett, Shelby Hall, Rick & Ruth Vance, Jeri Vance Crawley

Announcements

Please join us here next Sunday at 5:00 pm for a Fall Potluck and Bonfire! The evening will be filled with fellowship, food, laughter, and the beauty of the season. Please bring a dish to share, lawn chairs, and roasting sticks. Meat, table service & S'mores supplies will be provided. If you have any appropriate games for activities, please contact Eli Petersen.

Lutheran World Relief Projects Wrap Up

On Sunday, October 25, Immanuel will bless the quilts and kits made this year for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) before they are shipped at the end of the month. A free will offering will be collected on Sundays October 18th and 25th to pay for shipping, storage and delivery of our gifts. Shipping costs have risen, and it will cost over \$300 to ship our projects. In addition, collected funds will be used to purchase school kit bags made by members of St. John's Lutheran Church. Stay tuned for updates on our final count of projects!

Thank you for all your donations of supplies, money, sewing skills, time and prayers, which enable us to show God's love to our neighbors around the world.

Volunteer sign-up sheets for Lay Readers, Greeters, Usher/Acolytes, and Communion Assistants can be found on the small lectern at the back of the church. Please add your name if you are able to assist with our worship services or remove your name if you are no longer available. Thank you to everyone for your service.

Attention Readers: A large print bulletin will be available on the lectern each week for easier reading, but sorry, we still can't make some of the names easier to pronounce.

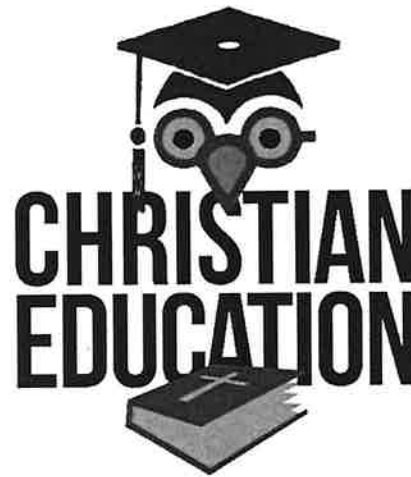
18th Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2026

Confirmation Class will begin Sunday, October 11 at 10:15 am

Letters have been mailed to parents of current and new Confirmation students. The class will consist of students who met last year and is now open to students in grade 6 through high school. They will meet every other week beginning October 11 at 10:15 am for approximately 90 minutes.

Our current roster of Confirmation students includes **Blake Harris, Ty Mosier, Holden Myers, Levi Wilson, Kenedee Casson**. If you are aware of someone not included at this time, please contact Pastor Michael, Erin Ifft, or Cindy Wilson as soon as possible. Catechism Books will be provided for each student.



Bible Study will begin Sunday, October 18 at 10:15 am

On the weeks that there is no Confirmation Class, an “Adult” Bible Study Class will meet to discuss topics that you help decide concerning our religion and our faith, beginning with the Holy Trinity. The class is open to anyone who wants to participate – not just “Adults” who would like to learn more about our faith and teachings through the Bible and Catechism. Pastor Michael will lead this class every other Sunday, beginning October 18.

Jesus’ parable about two sons who don’t do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gathering ~ The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *Please stand as you are able*

All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism as the worship leader begins -

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

The congregation may be seated

GATHERING SONG

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

ELW 772

GREETING *Please stand as you are able*

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Assisting minister
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,
we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen. *The congregation may be seated*

SPECIAL MUSIC

Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners Pastor Michael Jones

Word ~ God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

READING

Ezekiel 18:1- 4, 25-32 back of bulletin

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

¹The word of the Lord came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

After the reading . . . L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 25:1-9

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.
Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
**You are gracious and upright, O Lord; therefore you teach sinners
in your way.**

You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

READING

Philippians 2:1-13 back of bulletin

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

After the reading . . . L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.
Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW, page 142

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 21:23-32

back of bulletin

The Gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew ...

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation may be seated

CHILDREN'S SERMON / NOISY OFFERING

SERMON

Pastor Michael Jones

HYMN OF DAY

O Master, Let Me Walk with You

ELW 818

** Please stand as you are able*

*APOSTLE'S CREED

ELW page 104

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and was born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The congregation may be seated

WE GATHER OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERING SONG *Please stand as you are able*

ELW 186

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray... **God of creation,**

C: you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

After each petition: P: Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **C: Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Sending ~ God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

P: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

P: The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

HYMN

On What Has Now Been Sown

ELW 550

DISMISSAL

P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Fall Potluck & Bonfire

Join us for an evening of fellowship filled with food, laughter, and the beauty of the season. Please bring a dish to pass, lawn chairs & roasting sticks. Meat, table service & s'more supplies will be provided.

Food – Music – Activities

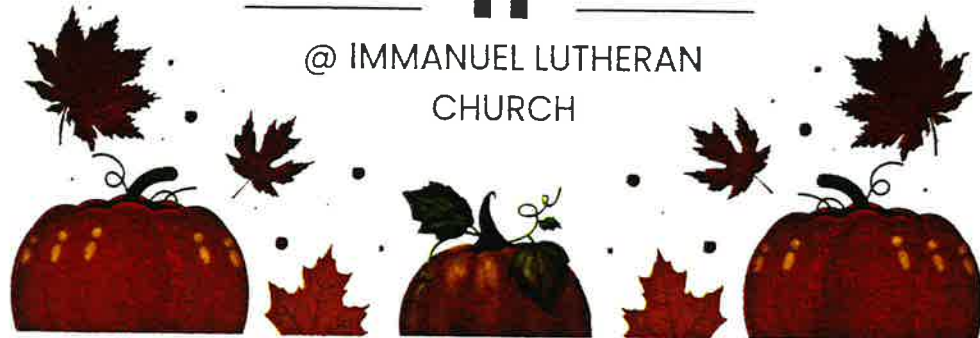
OCTOBER

SUNDAY

11

AT 5 : 00 PM

@ IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH



The church will provide hotdogs and buns.
Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass and your lawn chairs.
If you have any yard games you could provide or
activities for the younger kids that would be appreciated also.