

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21
[not printed]

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”
¹²So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35
Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?”
²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.
²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Lord, how often should I forgive?

MATTHEW 18:21



Next Sunday's Readings: Jonah 3:10—4:11; Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16.

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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 the 1st Sunday of the month).

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 13, 2026

WORSHIP LEADER: PASTOR MICHAEL JONES

Lay Reader: Briana Ray

Greeters: Phil & Angie Kratochvil

Ushers/Acolytes: Elton & Spring Mau

Communion: na

Organist: Kimberly Petersen

Sunday, September 20, 2026

WORSHIP LEADER: PASTOR MICHAEL JONES

Lay Reader: Amy Winterland

Greeters: Jerry & Suzie Kukuck

Ushers/Acolytes: Dan and Ty Harms

Communion: Dennis G., Jerry Kukuck

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

Announcements

Come One – Come All! Sunday School starts today, September 13th at 10:00 am.

There will be an informational meeting for high school students on September 20th following worship. We will discuss plans and ideas for High School Sunday School and Luther League for the upcoming school year. If you cannot attend on the 20th and would like more information, contact Erin Ifft 815-848-1090.

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.

According to the surveys you completed, **the decision for Communion will** be the 1st and 3rd Sundays with the 1st Sunday being at the rail and 3rd being continuous.

Isabella Helmig is a former Ridgeview student serving a 2-year mission trip in Ecuador. She is looking for sponsors. If anyone is looking for a Mathew 25 donation match this could be a great option. Please look for the **NEW Matthew 25 binder** on the information table in the fellowship hall.

LWR Quilting - We will be knotting quilts on Tuesday, September 15th and 22nd from 1-3:30 p.m. There are still a number of quilt top packages in the boxes in the fellowship hall. Please use ½" seams, pressed open or to one side.



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

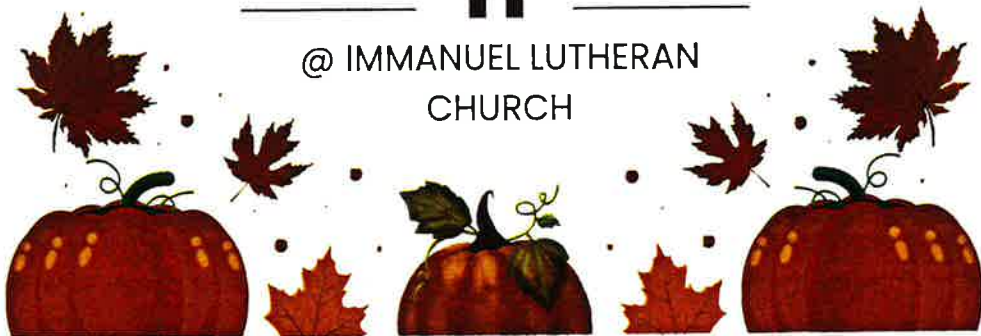
OCTOBER

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.

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the 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

Earth and All Stars

ELW 731

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. O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen. *The congregation may be seated*

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

READING

Genesis 50:15-21

printed below

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

PSALM

Psalms 103:1-13

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits –

Who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

**Who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with
steadfast love and mercy;**

Who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed
like an eagle's.

O Lord, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.

**Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger
and abounding in steadfast love;**

You will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

**You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us
according to our iniquities.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love
for those who fear you.

**As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our
transgressions from us.**

As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion
for those who fear you, O Lord.

READING

Romans 14:1-12

back of bulletin

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

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 18:21-35

back of bulletin

The Gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew ...

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation may be seated

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Michael Jones

HYMN OF DAY

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

ELW 712

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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

ELW 733

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE