Immanuel Lutheran Church

November 2026

PASTOR'S NOTES

Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan.

Then said Jesus, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well." *--Luke 17:15-19*

Dear Friends,

Why does only one of the 10 lepers return to thank Jesus? Luke doesn't say in his Gospel, so we are left to wonder. Maybe the other nine were overwhelmed by the joyous possibility of going home to hug their wives and children for the first time in years. As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, we can certainly feel the longing in our own lives for friends and family, sitting at the table with a cup of coffee and a piece of pumpkin pie.

Or maybe the other nine lepers didn't go back because they thought God somehow owed them something for their suffering. Hasn't God simply done His job by fixing things as they should have been in the first place? Isn't that how we sometimes feel when something that is broken in our lives gets fixed?

There are lots of things we take for granted - things we look on as our right to have. We may not go so far as to say God owes us; but our failure to thank God for them gives us away. Here we stand, a sinner like every other sinner, infected not with leprosy, but with the illness of entitlement.

There are so many things we never think to thank God for: The expectation that when we flip a switch a light will go on. Indoor plumbing. Garbage collection. Fire extinguishers. Beautiful Sunsets. Grocery and hardware stores near our homes. The list goes on and on and on.

(continued on next page)

Church Office
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Church Office Hours
Monday - Friday
9-11AM & 1-3PM

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Council Members
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Andy Isley
Jane Martin
Brandy Schultz

So many of these things we've come to see and regard not as gifts, but as expectations. If they were gone tomorrow, what would we do? After getting over the initial anger at feeling cheated, we would eventually blame God, just as sure as we fail to thank him for those things when we get to enjoy them.



In the story from Luke above, Jesus expresses his astonishment over the nine not returning to thank him. It's not hard to imagine that God feels the same today as we are so very blessed, but yet so lacking in thankfulness.

So first and foremost, let's thank God this day for Jesus. Let's thank God from the depths of our hearts for the Savior of all humanity. Let's thank God for all the blessings in our lives, including the ones we take for granted. And may our thankfulness lead to a desire to bless others from the abundance we have. To love our neighbor as ourselves.

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Wishing you the Lord's peace,
Pastor Brian Moeller

IWELCA News

We wish to THANK everyone who made the Immanuel **backpack project** such a success this year. We collected enough school supplies to fill 103 backpacks. A special "THANK YOU" goes out to the individuals who cut material, put kits together and sewed the backpacks , as well as, donated school supplies. These backpacks were sent to Lutheran World Relief (LWR) in October and given to children in need of school supplies. We especially want to thank the Sunday School children who filled all the backpacks on Rally Sunday.

Quilts: IWELCA women continue to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief and in the Fall, these quilts and kits were taken to a host church where they were loaded onto a semi to begin their journey to needy people of the world. This year the host church is Nazareth Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls, Iowa. These beautiful and treasured quilts are donated every year to LWR, Hospice, graduates in our church, Lutheran Home and Camp Courageous, as well as, needy families in Independence at Christmastime.
We continue to need individuals to cut material squares, sew quilt tops, donate material, thread, and batting. The group meets at church on Tuesday morning If you are willing to help in any way, please contact Sue Oline or the church office.
We THANK everyone who has donated, or made some quilts and/or kits this year. You are a blessing to IWELCA and LWR.

Genesis Bible Study continues to meet every Tuesday morning at 10am. We changed the venue to the Cardinal Court Community room. If interested or have questions, please contact Roberta Hinman.

Parish Education and Youth Groups

Envelope Wall Fundraiser

To help raise money for Feed My Starving Children, we are doing an envelope wall. If you are interested in helping us reach our goal of $1000, all you have to do is take an envelope of the desired amount you would like to donate off the wall and return it to the Church office with the money inside. If you are writing a check, it can be made out to Immanuel Lutheran Church, and we will have one big check made to take with us when we go to volunteer November 24-25.

Friendsgiving

BLAST and FORCE will be getting together on Sunday, November 15th at 6 pm for a Friendsgiving. We will have a full Thanksgiving meal and play some games. Make sure to look out for a sign-up to bring something to share.

Feed My Starving Children

REMINDER: If you are in 8th grade or older, you are welcome to join us November 24-25 on a trip to Aurora, Illinois, to volunteer at the Feed My Starving Children packing plant. Please make sure to let us know if you would like to join. The cost is $90, and that will cover the hotel and Chicago-style pizza before coming home. Sign-up cutoff is November 15th. Any other questions, please contact Ashlee Wilgenbusch or Shelly Hanson.

Book Moving



September 25th and 27th, we had an OUTSTANDING turnout to help the Independence Library move books for their annual book sale! The kids did an amazing job and finished the task each day in about 30 minutes

Youth Groups

We are finishing up our first lesson series called Lift Off where we have been learning about being on the “launch pad” and “launching” into new habits for our relationship with God.

College Finance

Immanuel’s Endowment Committee is now accepting applications for the 2027 Educational Grants. Students are eligible for a maximum of 4 years. Forms are salmon in color and available in the Narthex display rack, on the board in the fellowship hall, or in the office. **Please turn forms into the church office by January 10, 2027, to be reviewed by the Endowment Committee.**

Church News and Events

Bible Study – Thursdays at 9 am!
Join Pastor Moeller for "Dwelling in the Word," as we use the lectionary readings for the week to consider what God is doing in our lives and those around us. We meet in the Fireside Room, bring your favorite morning beverage and join us for prayer and conversation!

Movie Night – "Xmas Without China"
Pastor Brian & Andrea are hosting a movie night at Immanuel on Sunday, Nov. 22 at 6:00 pm. Could you make it through Christmas without using anything made in China? Exploring the intersection of consumerism and immigration in American culture, the film is an intimate portrait of families wrestling with our drive to consume cheap products, but also with our desire for human connection and a sense of who we are in a fast-changing world. Join us for popcorn, warm apple cider, and fellowship!

Confirmation
We are nearing the end of our first month of confirmation. The students have been studying the Old Testament, bible study, and reflections. You may have noticed more student involvement during our Sunday worship service. The confirmation students have been actively participating in our new EWC program; job duties include serving in dual acolyte roles or as a crucifer, usher assistant, or helping the teacher/kids in Sunday School. Wherever they are engaged, they are doing an amazing job!



Noisy Offering
The kids of the congregation will continue collecting the noisy offering on the first Sunday of each month. So be sure to bring your change to church! All proceeds collected will go to help support our goal of donating $1000.00 to Feed My Starving Children. Be sure to bring your jar to church on November 1st to add to the collection.

Sunday School

Sunday School is off to a great start. We have a great group of kids in 2 classrooms and a wonderful rotation of teachers. The EWC kids have been doing an amazing job supporting the kids with their lessons, crafts, and activities. If you have a kiddo that would like to join us on Sunday morning, it's not too late! Anyone enrolled in preschool (4-year-olds) through 4th grade is welcome to join the fun.







Finance and Stewardship

As noted in last month's newsletter, our long-term financial situation requires some care on the part of our congregation.

Our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30, and our yearly income needed is $423,900. We are NOT on track to meet our financial needs. If giving continues on this trajectory, we may deplete our primary reserves within two years. Hard choices would then need to be made as to how we move forward.

Stewardship Statement

Yearly offering needed: $423,000.00

Year to Date Needed: $130,430.00

Year to Date Received: $87,093.00

Please consider increasing your giving to Immanuel Lutheran Church. If you would like more information, please contact Pastor Moeller. Thank You!

Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1863

Thanksgiving Day in the U.S. was established as a national observance in 1863 by President Abraham Lincoln. Here's an excerpt from his writing:

"It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American people. I do, therefore, invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a Day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that, while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation, and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and union."

Lutherans can find here an intuitive grasp of what we seek to find in Scripture; the Law holding us to account for our sin, and the Gospel revealing God's great mercy.

Come, Holy Spirit. Help us to be humble, thankful, and faithful.

Birthdays & Wedding Anniversaries 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Briana Bader Bryce Christian Morgan Ristvedt	2 Zachary Harris Liam Isley David McLaren Alisha Moore Melissa Peyton *Ron and Betty Giddings, 35*	3 David Lehs Jackson Wolf *Amanda and Joseph Fisher, 8*	4 Donald Fleming	5 Eric Bailey Kaleb Budzine Brian Gipper Travis Halligan Daniel Martinson	6 Judy Fowlkes Kyle Oline Todd Ristvedt	7 Mike Schroeder
8 Jessica Beltz Melissa Knight	9 David Gissel Linda Kress Virgil Manson Janet Shannon	10	11 Kolt Nielsen Andrew Smith Tyler Tegler *Brian and Jennifer Eddy, 26* *Brian and Brittany Gipper, 20*	12	13 Ayden Hawkins	14 Jim Ball Mindy Kayser
15 Tyler Frasher	16 Nicole Kitner	17 Brittni Gipper	18 Ronald Jensen	19 *Tyson and Paige Benesh, 15*	20 McKenna Koch Latisha Smith	21 Tyler Allen Richard Krempges Caroline Lake
22 Emersyn Boimah Amanda Manson Brad Schultz	23 Logan Mestad	24 Jeff Peyton Nicole Schroeder	25 Pamela O'Loughlin *Jim and Sheryl Ball, 37* *Alyson and Nick Franck, 9* *Jeremy and Allson Johnson, 21*	26 Scott Hemsath Ashlee Wilgenbusch	27 Susan Kolsrud Susan Oline	28
29 Michelle Ficken Christian Harris Ginny Jensen Krystal Knutson Charlene Ortner *Robert and Diana Muchmore, 62*	30 Mercedes Boies Dean Gissel Allen Miller					

Immanuel Lutheran Church-November2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 **8:45 Sunday School** **9:00 Worship** **10:00 Fellowship** **10:30 BLAST**	2	3	4 **7:00 & 9:00 Coffee & Conversation at Em's** **3:30 SWAG** **5:15 Meal** **6:30 Worship** **7:00 FORCE** **7:00 Confirmation**	5 **9:00 Bible Study w/ Pastor** **7:00-9:00 Calico Cut-Ups**	6	7
8 **8:45 Sunday School** **9:00 Worship** **10:00 Fellowship** **10:30 BLAST**	9 **5:00 Women's Connection** **6:00 Property** **6:00 Endowment**	10 **9:00-12:00 Quilters in Fellowship Hall** **5:30 Parish Ed** **6:45 Youth Board**	11 **7:00 & 9:00 Coffee & Conversation at Em's** **1:00 IWELCA** **3:30 SWAG** **5:15 Meal** **6:30 Worship** **7:00 FORCE** **7:00 Confirmation**	12 **9:00 Bible Study w/ Pastor** **6:00 ATM**	13	14
15 **8:45 Sunday School** **9:00 Worship** **10:00 Fellowship** **10:30 BLAST** **Warm Your Hearts** **ATM Soup Lunch** **Silent Auction**	16 **6:00 Stewardship**	17 **9:15-6:30 Lifeline Screening** **6:30 Worship and Music**	18 **7:00 & 9:00 Coffee & Conversation at Em's** **3:30 SWAG** **5:15 Meal** **6:30 Worship** **7:00 FORCE** **7:00 Confirmation**	19 **9:00 Bible Study w/ Pastor**	20	21
22 **8:45 Sunday School** **9:00 Worship** **10:00 Fellowship** **10:30 BLAST**	23	24 **6:30 Council**	25 **7:00 & 9:00 Coffee & Conversation at Em's** **3:30 SWAG** **5:15 Meal** **6:30 Worship** **7:00 FORCE** **7:00 Confirmation**	26 **CLOSED**  **Thanksgiving**	27 **CLOSED**	28
29 **8:45 Sunday School** **9:00 Worship** **10:00 Fellowship** **10:30 BLAST**	30					

Immanuel Lutheran Church
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Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

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