



October 2025 Newsletter



# THE MESSENGER

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH – GREENWOOD, SOUTH CAROLINA



## A Prayer for October

Gracious God, as the leaves change and the days grow shorter, we give thanks for the beauty of autumn. Guide us to embrace this season of change with open hearts, trusting in Your eternal presence. Help us walk in gratitude, speaking kindness and love as we prepare for the harvest ahead. May this month be filled with peace, reflection, and a renewed sense of purpose. AMEN.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES  
Sunday, September 21, 2025  
(These minutes are pending approval.)

Opening Prayer and Closing Prayer: J. Kinard

Attendance: Pastor Chris, J. Kinard, L. Smith, M E Bowen,  
M A Stroup, C. Monson, T. Morris, C Christensen (via phone),

Absent : S. Presley, S. Holmes, K. Finkbeiner

Previous council minutes are approved and submitted.

Suellen Holmes has resigned her position on Council. She has retired and is now working part-time at Camp Fellowship.

The Osterhouse's are leaving ILC and attending another church.

\*\*\*Committee Reports

Courtney Christensen – Pastor Appreciation will be Sunday, October 12.

New Member Bags with information, are needed. She will get one to Kat who will pursue purchasing additional ones. Information included in the bags are WELCA list, Devotionals, Member Directory, ILC information – needs updating.

Pictorial Directory will take a new direction. Dr. Will will undertake this task. We have new members, and they need to be included. Volunteers are needed to gather information/pictures for the new directory. Please contact Dr. Will if you can help.

Sammy Hurley will be returning to ILC in October and we welcome him back.

## COUNCIL MINUTES CONTINUED

### NEW BUSINESS

The family of Davis McClendon (Freddie's Father) has requested that he be interred in the ILC Columbarium.

Lynn and Steve Presley have requested that her brother and sister-in-law be interred in the Columbarium.

Cost would be \$1500 for one niche which accommodates 2 urns. Cost includes engraving, urn, etc.

Motion to approve the above requests T. Morris with MA Stroup 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
with the following – Future requests for non-members via Council and need prior active family connection with ILC. Discussion followed with motion passing.

George Beverage keeps an up-to-date Columbarium notebook with detailed information.

### WORSHIP

Sunday, October 26 (Homecoming & Golden Age) Brunch after 9 AM Service.  
Concert at 4:30 p.m. and light reception following the program.

Beginning in November ILC will offer evening services at 4:30 PM on Sundays.

The Volunteers/Groups are asked to provide a light meal at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Center. They will be responsible for set-up, serving and clean-up. Fellowship will not be responsible for organizing these meals.

Nov. 2 meal volunteers - Frick's, Stroup's, Finkbeiner's  
(Paper products, etc. are available in the old kitchen – Meal volunteers are able to use any of the items and are responsible for returning those unused.)

Sunday, November 23 - Thanksgiving Dinner at 5:15 PM for Congregation Potluck  
(J. Kinard, K. Finkbeiner – turkeys...ham(?) Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy  
(Kat) Set-Up Kat Items Needed: Sides, Drinks, Rolls, Desserts

Respectfully Submitted – K. Finkbeiner (Non-Voting Secretary)

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: October 19, 11 AM (Budget Mtg.)**



## How was Guatemala: What can God do through a mission team in one week? Part 2

Lynn Isenhower



Our first full day in the country was spent holding a career fair. Everyone was having so much fun; we found it hard to end the activity. The kids had the opportunity to make colorful bracelets depicting their DNA, learn about dentistry, being a plumber, pharmacist, hair stylist or interpreter, study their skeleton and to practice using their imagination to write stories. An activity that began with just sessions for the teenage girls has grown over the years to include the whole school with age-appropriate safe spaces to discuss good health practices, protect themselves from sexual diseases and empower them to 'just say no'. Emphasis is placed on setting goals to complete their education leading to job empowerment, so they have options rather than becoming a father or mother at age 12 and being dependent on others for support the rest of their lives. Even the 2- and 3-year-olds benefited from sessions on safe touches.

Later in the week, team members were moved by their walk in the community and visit to several of the children's homes especially with 16-year-old student, Enilio, who almost lost his arm in a work accident. We were blessed to provide monetary support to his mother, one of our long-time teachers, and are pleased to report that Enilio is making a full recovery. Another highlight of the week was helping carry desks and books from the temporary classrooms to the newly constructed ones and participating in a celebration opening the new classrooms for the daycare, K4 & 5 and grades 1-6. For now, the school office and upper school will use the classroom built for the K5 while we raise funds to build them a new classroom.



We ended the week with the team enjoying a half day in the colonial city of Antigua soaking up its beauty, learning about Guatemala's jade production, shopping for handicrafts and eating pizza. The last day, we took the whole school to the zoo in Guatemala City which the kids absolutely loved. It is one of the largest zoos in Central America and quite nice. It wasn't quite as hot or crowded as last year. Rain was a frequent guest during the entire week, but it didn't dampen our spirits. Make plans now to join us in 2026. Trip dates are

May 21 – May 29. In-country cost is \$800. You can purchase the best flight for you as you might want to stay over a few days to explore more of this beautiful country.



# community Service

Eunice Miller joined Elaine and David Rosenbaum for a trash pick up on Saturday, September 20 and picked up 9 bags of trash along McLees Avenue. Be on the lookout for the next project this fall.



## *Dining X Divas*

Hello ladies, Join us on October 9, 2025 at Capri's in Greenwood at 6 p.m. Sign up on the WELCA board or text JoAn Crowder at 864-942-9191. Let's join in fun and fellowship.



Immanuel's LMIM will have their October meeting on **Saturday, October 11**, in the Church Fellowship Hall. We will start with coffee and fellowship at 8:30 a.m. This meeting is our return from summer break

meeting, which has been postponed for two months! We are hoping for a good response, as our programmer, Mr. Bo Bowman has arranged for us to take a field trip to see the new Athletic Facility at Greenwood High School. The head football coach Mr. Chris Liner, who has spoken to this group in the past will be our guide. After our opening coffee klatch we will carpool to the High School for our tour. We can arrange for transportation to the high school at the meeting. The trip is open to anyone interested in seeing the new facility. Thank you in advance for your interest and attendance!

Charles 'Hersh' Hershey, President, LMIM

#### WELCA News

The monthly WELCA meeting is October 6, at 1 p.m. in the McCombs Room. There will be a special guest speaker, Michelle Gaskins from Restoration Chapel. She will share information about her new position and information about Restoration Chapel and Kinard Manor, please join us. We will also have our regular meeting, there are some new ways we can reach out to our community.



SEPTEMBER SUNDAY,  
9 A.M. WORSHIP  
ATTENDANCE

9/7/ - 64  
9/14/ - 92  
9/21 - 84  
9/28 - 80

\*Totals include registered  
online viewers.



Reformation Sunday, October 26  
4:30 p.m. Music Concert at  
Immanuel featuring Immanuel's  
Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir,  
Handchime Choir, and special guest  
opera singer Dr. Octavio Moreno.  
Please spread the word.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/13 Rob Christensen  
Trey Morris  
10/15 Laura Burke  
Ruth Divilbiss  
10/16 Emilie Gilbert  
Dianne Pitts  
10/18 Terry Weeks  
10/20 Marshall Gagne  
Vickie Howells  
Kaiah Wanto  
10/23 Jeremy Hodges  
10/24 Vicky Crawford  
10/26 Tim Shrefler  
10/27 Helen Harrell  
10/28 Charles Hershey  
10/29 Susan Hodges  
Betsy McDowell  
10/31 Bill Hogan

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/16 Bill and Nancy Hogan  
10/19 Alan and Harriett Counts

**NEW SERVICE**

Starting Sunday, November 2, Immanuel will offer a second shorter service on Sunday evenings from 4:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. The service will include music and Holy Communion.





## CONTACT INFORMATION

### **Immanuel Lutheran Church**

501 East Creswell Avenue, Greenwood, SC 29646  
864-223-0590, Church Web Site: [www.ilcgreenwood.com](http://www.ilcgreenwood.com)  
[office@ilcgreenwood.com](mailto:office@ilcgreenwood.com)

**Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**\* Closed on Mondays**

## CHURCH STAFF

**The Rev. Chris Christopher, Pastor**  
[pastorchris.ilcgreenwood@gmail.com](mailto:pastorchris.ilcgreenwood@gmail.com)

**John Kinard, Congregation President**  
[jkinard29@yahoo.com](mailto:jkinard29@yahoo.com)

**Dr. Will Cleveland, Parish Administrator / Director of Music**  
[will@ilcgreenwood.com](mailto:will@ilcgreenwood.com)

**George Beveridge, Parish Sexton**  
[glblsb@outlook.com](mailto:glblsb@outlook.com)

**Trey Morris, Campus Ministry Coordinator**  
[treyorville@icloud.com](mailto:treyorville@icloud.com)

**Kristen Metts, Parish Custodian**

## SERVING THE CHURCH IN GREATER CAPACITIES

**The Rev. Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop, ELCA**  
**The Rev. Ginny Aebischer, Bishop, South Carolina Synod**