



May 2026 Newsletter



THE MESSENGER

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH - GREENWOOD, SOUTH CAROLINA



A Prayer for the Month of May

"Lord, I place the month of May in Your hands. Guide my steps, bless my plans, protect my heart, and give me peace in every season. Lead me away from what is not for me and bring me closer to what You have prepared. Let Your will be done. AMEN.

Community Prayer Service at ILC Sunday, May 17, 4:30 p.m.



The Emerald High School

Viking Singers Present:



Voices of Hope & Healing

Through music, we rise together, celebrating hope,
healing, and the light that connects us all.



Director: Ms. Vivian Ewart

Accompanist: Dr. Will T. Cleveland



Wednesday May 13th, 2026 | 6:30pm

Greenwood 50 Performing Arts Center

1816 Cokesbury Rd, Greenwood, SC 29649



Announcing the inaugural

Festival of Flowers

Pickleball Round Robin

Saturday, June 13, 2026



Register by scanning the QR code to the right.
Players check in 30 min prior to your first match at the
Greenwood Country Recreation Complex Pickleball Courts
1552 Hwy 72/221 E



Pickleball start times will be emailed by noon Friday, June 12
Over 65's play at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 915 Mathis Rd.

Court sponsors:

Stretch Zone of Greenwood and Our Lady of Lourdes

Player chicken biscuits provided by Chick-fil-A

Amaya's Tacos food truck on site with lunch for purchase

**You're also invited to learn more about our mission by joining us for
a Fiesta meal & images of Guatemala presentation
at 5:30pm on Friday, June 12**

**Fellowship Center: Immanuel Lutheran Church, 501 E. Creswell Ave.
Scan the QR code below to reserve your meal by **Noon Wed, June 10****



**Players can purchase discounted meal tickets
(Meal sponsored by La Hacienda)**

**Proceeds support our mission to provide
food, education, medical care and inspiration
for impoverished children in Guatemala**



**Sponsored by The Manning Law Firm, First Citizens, Tinsley & Adams LLC
and Ruby Stephens, professional Spanish interpretive services
Matthew 2540 is a 501c3. EIN # 47-232966**

Empowering Children to **Escape Poverty through **Education****



Immanuel's WELCA
would like to thank
everyone who



donated, planned, prepped, and served for
the Tea-ing up for recovery tea party on 4/25. The
event was a wonderful success. We are talking about
making this an annual event. A special thanks to
Kim Leehmuis, Sue Frantz, Anna Luna,
Glenda Powell, Dianne Pitts, Sandie Wanto,
JoAn Crowder, Lianne Smith, Billie Havey,

Debbie Cochran -music, Pastor Chris, John Kinard and Sammy Hurley for setup and
cleanup, George Beveridge, Juan Luna, Bruce Kaufman, Wayne Boozer our servers, and
Dr. Will Cleveland for helping with the advertising.

Blessings,
Sue Kaufman





Congregational Council Meeting
Sunday, April 19, 11 a.m.

Present: Pastor Chris, J. Kinard,
C. Monson, MA Stroup, S. Kaufman, S.
Frantz, D. Kinard, C. Christensen,
K. Finkbeiner(NVS)

Absent : ME Bowen, L. Hotchkiss, L. Smith,

Opening Prayer: J. Kinard

Welcome to New Council Members: Sue Frantz & Danny Kinard

Safety Concerns and Plan - Revive the Safety Committee due to recent incidents in surrounding ILC areas. Will Stroup, Kim Leemhuis, Pastor, J. Kinard Eight additional cameras have been purchased along with 2 ring doorbells with speakers and a chrome book to help monitor outside areas around ILC.

Tuesday, April 28 at 4 p.m. - Greenwood District 50 Leadership will meet at ILC to discuss school/community violence. A light meal will be furnished. Future plans include “mediation” before incidents become escalated.

Sunday, May 17, 4:30 p.m. service - Prayer Vigil for our Community – Invite other pastors and churches to participate

Minutes from previous council meeting - were approved as submitted.

Pastor’s Report - Dave Kenzie’s family was very appreciative of ILC for his funeral and reception.

Campus Ministry -Trey Morris has relocated to Rock Hill (Winthrop Soccer) and is no longer in Greenwood. Possible plans for the Campus Ministry are for the group to have their own group leader. Pastor plans to establish a Campus Ministry Board.

Committee Reports

Worship - Two additional individual hearing devices are needed, no Choir in June and July, Max Devilibis will be preaching on July 12, possible youth summer music camp - 4 days from 9 a.m. to noon, with Sunday performance/program.

Fall Series - Wednesdays in New Fellowship Center - Light Meal at 5:45 p.m. with program after (Sept. 30, Oct. 7, Oct. 14, Oct. 21)

September 13 - Celebrating 125th Anniversary of ILC. Luncheon Meal provided. Committees meet during Sunday School. (Anniversary Committee - possible members - Leisa Hotchkiss, John & Cile Davis, Jean Boozer, Howard Bouknight, Sara Russell)

Immanuel's Children - Second Harvest is a possible source for assistance with this worthwhile program. Mary Ann will see Diane Pitts and Cile Davis and will also contact the Lead Dietician for the school district as a possible resource.

*Committees will meet to set their calendars. Council will be meeting every 6 weeks.

*Synod Assembly - Attending from ILC - Pastor, Dr. Will, Sue Kaufman, Kim Leemhuis (Motion to accept (JK), 2nd (CC)) - Motion Passed

Landscape - S. Frantz - Grounds areas around ILC have been designated and volunteers are needed to help with landscaping of these areas. Sue will include a message in the Sunday bulletin.

GHS FCA Camp - donation of \$185 to sponsor one individual for the FCA Camp (1 week). (Motion (JK), 2nd (SK) - Motion Passed

Financial Audit - C. Monson will coordinate during summer (required by insurance)

(R. Christensen, YJ Ahn, K. Nash, B. Bowman, Z. Kinard - possible committee members)

Next Level Fitness - \$400 from ILC. JK will provide donations to allow ILC to become a major sponsor.

They plan to worship with ILC on June 14.

SYNOD will be electing a new Bishop in June. Pastor will be involved in this process. J. Kinard and Dr. Will be delivering the Sermon on two Sundays in June. Max Divillbiss is in July.

Dementia Awareness - presentation at ILC for its members is in the works (JoAnn Moore).

Closing Prayer – Pastor Chris

Respectfully Submitted,
Kat Finkbeiner, Non-Voting Secretary



Our Next Meeting

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 11 AM



Greenwood County Free Food Distribution



Dates and Locations

January 16, 2026

South Main Street Baptist Church
1000 Main St
Greenwood, SC

February 20, 2026

Mt Moriah Church
124 Raymond Rd Hwy 221
Greenwood, SC

March 20, 2026

Little River Multicultural Center
415 Riley Rd
Hodges, SC

April 17, 2026

Connie Maxwell Children's
Ministries
215 Terrell Smith Ave.
Greenwood, SC

May 15, 2026

South Main Street Baptist Church
1000 Main St
Greenwood, SC

June 26, 2026

Ninety Six Elem School
810 Johnston Rd
Ninety Six, SC

July 17, 2026

Ware Shoals High School
56 S Greenwood Ave
Ware Shoals, SC

August 21, 2026

Little River Multicultural Center
415 Riley Rd
Hodges, SC

September 18, 2026

Mt Moriah Church
124 Raymond Rd Hwy 221
Greenwood, SC

October 16, 2026

Connie Maxwell Children's
Ministries
215 Terrell Smith Ave.
Greenwood, SC

November 20, 2026

Little River Multicultural Center
415 Riley Rd
Hodges, SC

December 18, 2026

Ninety Six Elem School
810 Johnston Rd
Ninety Six, SC

Dates and locations may change.
Please check the Self Regional
Healthcare Facebook page
for updates.

Have questions, please
call (864) 725-7890.

**Help us fight food insecurity in Greenwood County.
Spread the word to those in need.**

No paper work to fill out • Food items are first come/first
serve bases • No need to get out of your car • One dry food
box and One produce box • 9 a.m. til boxes are gone



Happy Birthday and Anniversary to...



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 5/5 Tiffany Johnson
Rauch Wise
- 5/10 Sue Kaufman
- 5/13 Gail Monson
- 5/15 Bill Hensley
- 5/19 Elaine Rosenbaum
Brett Waters
- 5/20 Hall Usry
- 5/21 Courtney Christensen
Will Cleveland
Eddy Stone
Lynn Guilbaud
- 5/26 Julie McCoy
Robert Osterhout
- 5/28 Dale Wallace
- 5/31 Klaus Neubner

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 5/3 Richard and Leisa Hotchkiss
- 5/4 Bill and Emilie Gilbert
- 5/17 John and Cile Davis
- 5/18 Erwin and Kat Finkbeiner
- 5/19 Tim Shrefler and spouse
- 5/21 Andy and Sandie Wanto
- 5/22 Wayne and Jean Boozer
- 5/24 Larry and Nancy Crooks
- 5/28 Chris and Carrie Kinard

SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

April 2026

	9 a.m.	4:30 p.m.
<u>4/5</u>	168	NA
<u>4/12</u>	92	7
<u>4/19</u>	68	7
<u>4/26</u>	85	10

*Totals include registered online viewers for the 9 a.m. service .



The Divas are going to "R" Place on May 14, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. to catch the "early bird" specials.

Join in on the fun and fellowship. Sign up on the WELCA or text JoAn at 864-942-9191.



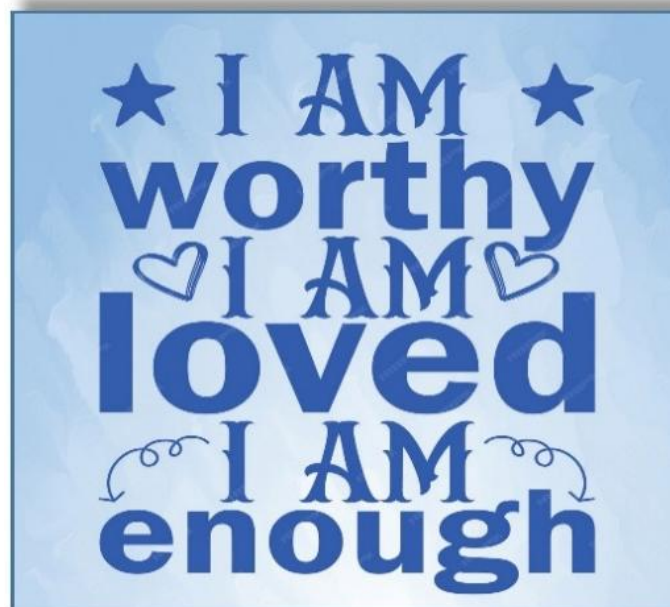
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA)

Each year WELCA selects a project in which to participate. This year we have chosen to collect shelf stable foods for {GAAP} God's Abundance for ALL People, an ecumenical food bank serving a wide area in and around Newberry. The GAAP is supported by churches including The Lutheran

Church of the Redeemer in Newberry.

The mission is to provide supplemental groceries to families in need by allowing them to shop freely and with dignity for groceries. We are asking for donations of shelf stable foods such as: shelf stable meat in pop top cans or in pouches such as beanie weenies for the homeless, meal in a can like Spaghetti - Os. cereal, grits, oatmeal. granola bars, etc. packs of Crackers/snacks and Rice or instant potatoes

Collection boxes will be placed outside the WELCA room and in the Narthex for your donations. Thank you for your support!





We are attempting to compile a thorough list of all ILC committees and their members. If you are the point person for a committee, please contact Courtney Christensen at (courtneychristensen@me.com) to get the names of anyone who has signed up on the time/talent forms and make sure your committee list is current. You may also reach out to Courtney if you are interested in joining a committee and need the point person. A hard copy of the committee lists, as currently compiled, is located near the copier in the office.

God's Gardeners has an opportunity for you to help beautify the Church grounds by being part of the "Adopt-a-Spot" program. What this entails is a once or twice a month commitment to clean, weed, and plant flowers in a spot on the Church grounds. Some areas to adopt include:

1. Flower beds in front of the bushes on each side of the Front "red" door going into the Narthex;
2. Flower beds along the drive by the canopy where you enter the church to the business offices;
3. Circle beds of flowers that are by the Welcome Center entrance

Volunteers are also needed to weed in the parking lot across the street.



Please reach out to Sue Frantz with questions and to let her know what area you would like to adopt. 847 - 323 - 0633 (sfrantz1551@gmail.com) Thank you in advance for your willingness to support God's Gardeners as we continue to beautify the Church grounds.



Worship on Sundays - 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
Coffee Time and Adult Christian Education on Sundays – 10 a.m.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Immanuel Lutheran Church
501 East Creswell Avenue, Greenwood, SC 29646
864-223-0590, Church Web Site: www.ilcgreenwood.com
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

Dr. Will Cleveland, D.M.A., Parish Administrator / Director of Music
will@ilcgreenwood.com

Juan Luna, Sexton
Sammy Hurley and Kristen Metts, Parish Custodians

John Kinard, Congregational President
jlkinard29@yahoo.com

SERVING THE CHURCH IN GREATER CAPACITIES

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Ginny Aebischer, Bishop, South Carolina Synod