



September 2025 Newsletter



THE MESSENGER

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH – GREENWOOD, SOUTH CAROLINA



A Prayer for September

Creator God, as the month of September unfurls its days before us, I pause to acknowledge Your sovereignty over time and seasons. I am deeply aware that each day is a gift from You, a blank page on which Your will can be inscribed.

September often marks a time of change, the waning of summer, the beginning of autumn, the start of new academic, and fiscal years for many. I pray for Your grace and guidance as we navigate these transitions. AMEN.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Sunday, August 10, 2025

Opening Prayer: John Kinard

Attendance: Absent: S. Holmes, L. Hotchkiss

*Minutes from the June 8 Meeting were approved as submitted.

Pastor's Report

Visits: Hospital - 11, Rehab - 7, Hospice - 2, Pastoral Counseling - 4, Home Visits - 8, Office Visits - 7, Off-Site - 3, Phone Check-Ins - 16 plus weekly contact with SH - 8, Funerals - 1 (Phyllis Hartley), Funeral Planning - 3

Committee Reports

Courtney Christensen requested that the Committee Lists & Chairpersons be updated.

*Kat will send email to all requesting this information.

SERVICE

JUNE: SK 659 Plates FB 223 Families

*Mary Ann Stroup has resumed her Immanuel's Children food for 100 students in District 50 - food for the weekend.

PROPERTY

Due to the lightning strike the AC has been replaced along with the ventilation fan in the SK along with a major leak in the water line. Insurance claims were filed.

OTHER

Updating Red Book: Wayne & Jean Boozer

Special gift from the Roberts Estate will be used for special music and part of it will be invested with Thrivent.

COUNCIL MINUTES CONTINUED

Trey Morris will begin his Lander University Campus Ministry since college students are returning to LU. Plans are to start a new High School group. They have a designated room on the second floor. It is being furnished via donations.

EARLY FYI: Requests for Budgets for 2026 are coming in the near future.
Plan accordingly.

Kinard Manor is closing – Restoration Chapel leases the house for \$1 a year. The grant funding this has concluded with zero operating funds. Future direction is TBD.

UPCOMING DATES

*September Picnic at SP has been postponed until a later date – Spring – due to the scheduling of numerous fellowship events.

October 1 – Stand Down at ILC (Veterans)

October 26 – Homecoming/Reformation Sunday – Brunch after 9 a.m. service. There will also be a 4 p.m. concert with a reception after the program hosted by the music ministry.

November – Sunday evening Fall services with light suppers (TBD) (Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23)

November 23 – Thanksgiving Meal (This will replace the usual Advent dinners.)

December 7 - Cantata 4 p.m. Immanuel's Chancel Choir

December 14 – Beer & Hymns (D. Rosenbaum)

December 21 – Caroling to Shut-Ins with Hot Chocolate & Cookies After

Council Members Term of Service – Mary Ann Stroup, Suellen Holmes, Steve Presley
Ends this year – encouraged to serve again if they so choose.

Executive Session – JK Motion to Enter 2nd SP....Return to regular Council MAS Motion
JK2nd

All Motions Passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kat Finkbeiner – Non-Voting Secretary

NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 11AM



ILC Worship Committee Meeting
Welcome Center
Tuesday, August 5, 2025
1:30 p.m.

Present: Pastor Chris Christopher, Dr. Will Cleveland, John Kinard, Bo Bowman, Debbie Cochran, and (Nancy Hogan via phone.)

Items discussed

1. We will be switching to ELW setting #2 starting this Sunday, August 10. Next summer, only familiar communion hymns will be selected, with a possible repeated hymn through the summer to encourage congregational singing.
2. Rev. Rick Carter will be subbing for Pastor Chris during Worship on Sunday, August 24. Pastor will also be out on Sunday, September 7. John Kinard will be preaching on September 7, and there will be no Communion.
3. World Communion Sunday, October 5 - The committee discussed also having an early evening community service in addition to Sunday morning Worship. Pastor Chris will be communicating with other area ministers about this possible service.
4. Reformation Sunday, October 26 - The committee discussed having a 4 p.m. concert in addition to Sunday morning Worship. Dr. Will is working on the details. Also, due to cost, there will be no brass ensemble during morning Worship. There will, however, be plenty of festive music with the handbell choir playing and members of First Baptist's Chancel Choir joining us.
5. Fall Series - Instead of having four Advent dinners with Worship, we are going to try having the series earlier in November, since December is such a busy month. The Final Sunday in the series, November 23, will include a Thanksgiving dinner.
6. Seasonal Cantata - Once again, this year the chancel choirs of Immanuel and First Baptist will be joining forces to sing a Cantata. They will sing the cantata at Immanuel on Sunday, December 7, at 5 p.m. and at First Baptist on Sunday, December 14, during their 11 a.m. service.
7. Staff Singers - We will continue to have staff singers from Lander University. Upon acceptance from the Church Council, the staff singers will be paid for by the interest earned from endowments.
8. 2027 - This is Immanuel's anniversary year. An anniversary year committee will soon be forming.

*John Kinard will check with the Fellowship Committee about hosting a brunch on Reformation Sunday, October 26 after 9 a.m. Worship and hosting a thanksgiving dinner on Sunday, November 23 p.m. at 5 p.m. after the final service in the fall series.

***The next Worship Committee meeting will be Tuesday, September 9, at 10 a.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Will Cleveland

How was Guatemala: What can God do through a mission team in one week? Part 1

Lynn Isenhower



Our June mission team served many children and adults while in Guatemala. The need is so great, but each person received individual attention, the gift of our time and a share of our faith. Our team was composed of 15 individuals. Some were making their first trip to Guatemala. Several have come many times before. Some were dragged there by family members who wanted them to experience this place for themselves and left expressing how they will be dragging other friends and family with them to Guatemala next time.

We flew on different airlines, from different parts of the country meeting at the airport in Guatemala City on Thursday. A couple stayed behind to explore this beautiful country on their own after the rest of us headed home. One previous participant, now in college, was studying Spanish in Antigua while we were in-country, so she came over to help in the clinics. I hadn't seen her since she was 12 and was on the team with her parents.



295 patients were seen by a medical provider on either Saturday, Sunday, Monday or Tuesday. 90 children had at least one tooth pulled by the dentist. 700 individuals received parasite treatment. 800 toothbrushes and toothpaste were distributed. 623 prescriptions were filled. 138 people received reading glasses. 350 children had fluoride applied to their teeth. Every child coming to clinic received either a Bible story book or a coloring book and crayons. 195 children and adults in the Mayan village of Tecpan received warm knit caps. Every student at school received a new hardback children's Bible, a knit cap and a Thrivent shirt. We gifted La Promesa 2880 sanitary pads so that the girls don't have to miss class once a month. We left 14,000 vitamins for the teachers to distribute each day until they run out. Our hair stylist gave 45 haircuts, and 10-year-old Hannah's face painting station always had a long line. Part 2 to come next month. Mark May 21-29, 2025 for our next mission trip. We would love to have other Immanuel members on this team! You don't have to speak Spanish or be a health professional, just to be willing to let God use you as He will. Let this serve as your personal invitation to join the team. See Lynn or David for more details.



Fiesta de Pickleball

October 3 & 4, 2025



Fri Oct 3 at 5:30pm: Fiesta meal, silent auction, handicraft/baked goods sale & images of Guatemala

Fellowship Center of Immanuel Lutheran Church, 501 E. Creswell

Sat Oct. 4: Pickleball Round Robin at the Gatewood Racquet Club

Over 65 brackets may play inside at Our Lady of Lourdes
which is also a rain location as is Gatewood, Sun afternoon, Oct 5



Scan the QR code by Sept. 23 to receive discount entry

Final entry deadline is Tues, Sept 30

Your entry provides meals, education, medical care and inspiration for impoverished children.

Empowering Children to Escape Poverty through Education

Matthew 2540 is a 501c3. Our EIN # is 47-232966.



Baked or other homemade goodies needed for the Fiesta de Guatemala on Friday, Oct. 3. Smaller portions or individual ones are preferred so people can purchase more than one kind of goodie. Contact Lynn if you can help.

Lynn Isenhower
lbisenhower@gmail.com
864-993-6715



The next quarterly roadside cleanup will occur on Saturday, September 20th. Please meet at the church at 9:30 a.m. All supplies will be provided, and no experience is necessary. Please email **David Rosenbaum** (**dr_scarolina@yahoo.com**) if you are available to assist or with any questions.

Immanuel's food pantry still needs help with food delivery on Mondays from 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Please contact **Cile Davis** if interested. (ciledavis@embarqmail.com)



Immanuel's soup kitchen is still in need of help
on Sundays from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Please contact **Sandie Wanto** if interested.
(sandiewanto@gmail.com)

Fellowship Board will meet after worship on Sunday, September 21, in the McCombs Meeting Room. There are several upcoming events that we need to start planning. Please plan to attend.



Giving from Your IRA



We have members giving from their retirement accounts, but we feel many of you do not know about the tax advantages. Please contact your financial planner. Here is an article from Thrivent.

Are you looking for ways to give back in your retirement? Donating your retirement assets to charity can be a fulfilling way to help you reach your philanthropic goals,

as well as build a legacy for you and your family. You can donate proceeds from certain retirement accounts, while saving on taxes, with a couple steps. That means more of your retirement savings can go toward the causes you care about. But the donation process itself can look different depending on if you want to make donations while living or after your death. Here's what you should know.

How to donate retirement assets to charity while living.

When you've retired and taken a distribution from one of your retirement accounts, you're free to spend it as you like. In theory, you could donate what you've drawn out of your 401(k) to charity and call it a day. But there are more financially advantageous ways to go about sharing your hard-earned money with the causes you care about.

Use your IRA to make a qualified charitable distribution

One way to use retirement assets for charitable causes, if you're at least age 70½, is by making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). You can make a QCD up to \$108,000 from an eligible individual retirement account (IRA), including these: Traditional IRA, Inherited IRA, Inactive SEP IRA, and Inactive SIMPLE IRA. Also known as an IRA charitable rollover, this method makes it possible for your charitable contribution to be made without taxation, which means the cause you care about gets more of your money. The process is simple: The custodian of your retirement account sends the check directly to the charity—or they can send you the check, as long as it is made payable to the charity, and then you can deliver the check yourself. Because of its direct-transfer nature, this donation won't count as taxable income.

If you have a 401(k), 403(b) or another kind of retirement account, don't worry—you still have options for donating wisely. All you have to do is roll those accounts into an eligible IRA before donating them.



Roberts Musical Endowment

Keith and Jean Roberts left a financial gift to Immanuel. The Roberts family was extremely supportive of the music ministry at Immanuel. The family was thrilled with the plans of making their parents' gift an endowment for the music ministry for Immanuel. This fund has been invested

with Thrivent with the annual proceeds going toward the dedicated festive and special music accounts for Immanuel. Their gift is a gift to the glory of God and to their church family.

Estate Gifts to Immanuel

If you would like to leave a legacy gift to Immanuel, there are several ways to give. If you are planning on leaving a legacy gift to Immanuel, please pass on your wishes to John Kinard or Carl Monson. We want your legacy gift to be used how you would deem appropriate. Immanuel presently has an endowment program where the majority will help fund seminarians. We also have the Roberts Music Endowment. Special gifts can be given to the church's outreach programs or to the general fund. If you are inclined to make a stock gift to Immanuel, please notify Dr. Will Cleveland, Carl Monson, or John Kinard. Often the bank or other financial institution will not notify the church. Sometimes these gifts are made anonymously. Thank you!



Book Study



Some of our members have asked that we have a book study. If there is enough interest, I would be more than happy to lead a study. I am presently reading Max Lucado's newest book, Tame Your Thoughts. Please let me know if you are interested in a book study and a possible time slot.

Thanks, John Kinard

★ **VETERANS** ★ **STAND DOWN** FOR ANY VETERAN THAT NEEDS HELP

October 1, 2025
9am - 1pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church
501 E. Creswell Ave., Greenwood, SC 29646

Bring DD-214, VA Card, or ID Card

Resources and services provided:

- FREE lunch
- FREE haircuts
- FREE hygiene
- VA enrollment
- request DD-214
- access benefits
- addiction
- education
- employment
- eyeglasses
- handicap access
- homelessness
- housing
- job training
- legal
- medical
- rent
- utilities

If you don't need help, please bring a Veteran that does.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/2 Harriett Counts
9/4 Lois Kuntz
9/10 Katalin Bartz
9/12 Clay Kobe
9/14 JoAn Crowder
Lianne Smith
9/15 Reed Monson
9/16 Anne Haynes
David Krumwiede
9/18 Mark Cooper
9/20 Millie Amick

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/2 Richard and Glenda Powell
9/5 Juan and Anna Luna
9/10 Tommy and Margaret Hipp
9/30 David and Lianne Smith

AUGUST SUNDAY, 9 A.M. WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

8/3/25 - 99
8/10/25 - 94
8/17 - 100
8/24 - 87
8/31 - 71

*Totals include registered
online viewers.



Dear
Immanuel
Family,
Thank you
all for the

lovely celebration and gift. Bruce and I were so humbled by the outpouring of love and kindness by our church family. It means so much since our family does not live very close. We are so happy we moved to Greenwood and found a wonderful church family. With much love,
Sue & Bruce Kaufman

LUTHERAN
MEN IN MISSION®
Building men for Christ

Lutheran Men in Mission will be
meeting Saturday, September 13, at
8:30 a.m. (Old Fellowship Hall)



The Divas will be dining at the Olive Branch on Thursday, September 11, at 6 p.m. Sign up on the WELCA board or text JoAn Crowder at 864-942-9191.



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

John Kinard, Congregation President
jkinard29@yahoo.com

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

George Beveridge, Parish Sexton
glblsb@outlook.com

Trey Morris, Campus Ministry Coordinator
treyorville@icloud.com

Kristen Metts, Parish Custodian

SERVING THE CHURCH IN GREATER CAPACITIES

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