

Welcome to Worship at Immanuel Lutheran Church



By the grace of God, we are disciples growing in faith,
serving our communities and connecting others to Christ.

September 13, 2026
9 a.m. Service Bulletin
Season of Creation
Year A Lectionary

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO WORSHIP WITH US!



WE BELIEVE THAT GUESTS ARE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, and we seek to make your visit faithful and positive! Please scan the QR code to left or sign the Pew Register (red notebook) as it is passed down your pew.

WE BELIEVE THAT SERVING CHRIST MEANS SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS. Our name, Immanuel, means “God with us.” Everything we do is to welcome and serve the Lord who is here among us, in you, and in our neighbors.

Our ministries, from our Worship to our Soup Kitchen and Food Bank, from our Jail Ministry to our Women’s Drug Recovery house, from our Homeless Children’s Ministry to our Campus Ministry at Lander University, are all designed and carried out to share “God with us” with our surrounding neighborhood and city. God’s Love is inexhaustible! People from all around town work alongside us to share this Love with our neighbors. You can too!

WE BELIEVE THAT CHURCH is where disagreements may occur, and the love of Christ draws us together to worship and work together. We do not all agree on everything, but we do love God and each other, and that is enough!

WE BELIEVE THAT GOD LOVES EVERYONE, so we do too! ALL are welcome here!

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

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.

Order of Worship

✝ THE WELCOME Sue Kaufman, Council Member of the Day

As the prelude begins, please prepare your heart and mind for Worship in SILENT meditation.

✝ THE PRELUDE *Procession for a Joyous Day* J. Wayne Kerr
Dr. Will Cleveland, Organist

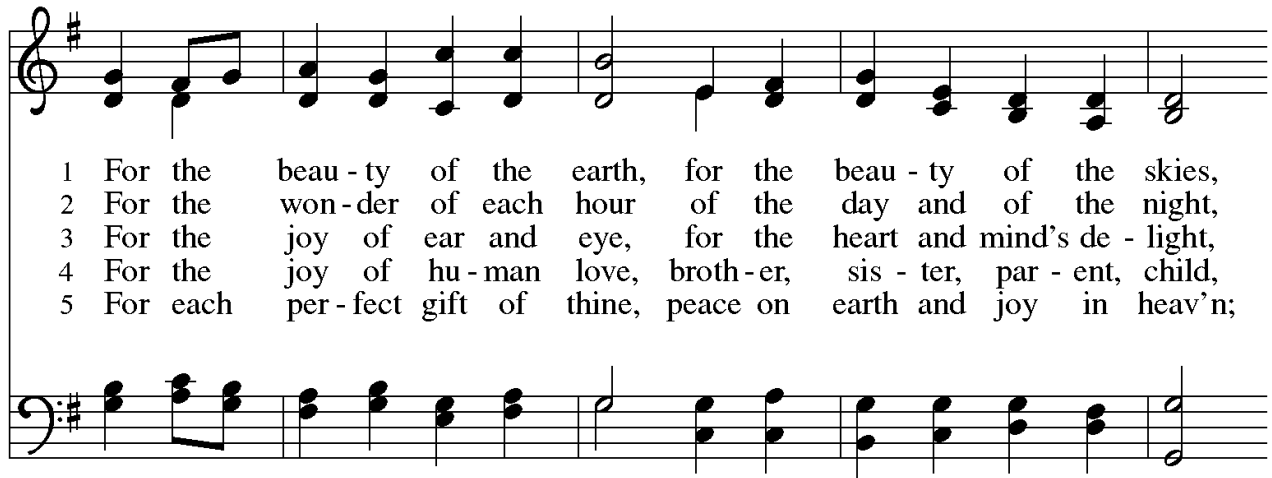
✝ THE LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES
Hendricks Bowen and Graham Bowen, Acolytes

✚ THE OPENING HYMN

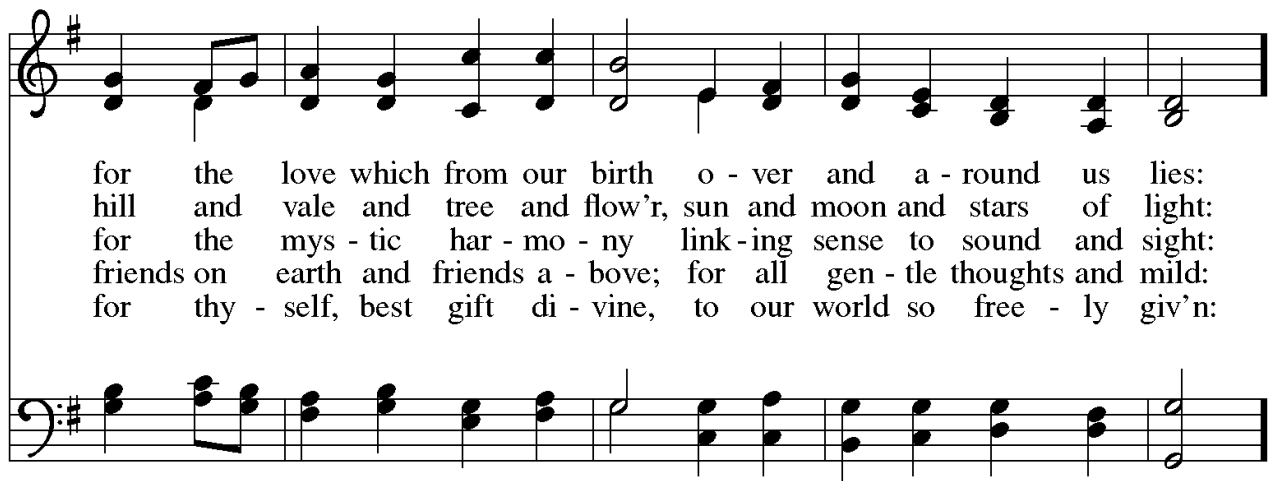
For the Beauty of the Earth

ELW # 879

Please stand, as you are able.



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

✝ THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

The Rev. Chris Christopher, Pastor

Pastor Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the Earth.

ALL AMEN.

Pastor Please be seated or kneel as we offer God our confession.

Confession is a time to clear our conscience, acknowledge shortcomings, and receive God's assurance of forgiveness before hearing the Word and sharing Holy Communion.

✝ THE CONFESSION

Please be seated or kneel.

Pastor Compassionate God,

ALL 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.

✝ THE ABSOLUTION

Declaration of forgiveness

Pastor 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.

ALL AMEN.

✝ THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

Please stand, as you are able.

Pastor The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

ALL And also with you.

✝ THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness.
ALL 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. AMEN.

Please be seated.

The children and youth may come forward for a short message and go downstairs to children's church, returning during Communion.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

✝ THE LESSON Romans 14:1-12

Summary

Lector *Today's lesson reveals a Christian community struggling 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. Now, the lesson from the book of Romans in the New Testament.*

Lector ¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those 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. ⁴ Who 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. ⁵ Some 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. ⁶ Those 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. ⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If 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. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰ Why 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. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

Lector Here ends the lesson. For the word given to us, **ALL** Thanks be to God.

- Lector ¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
ALL ² **Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits,**
- Lector ³ who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;
ALL ⁴ **who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**
- Lector ⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
ALL ⁶ **O Lord, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**
- Lector ⁷ You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.
ALL ⁸ **Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**
- Lector ⁹ you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.
ALL ¹⁰ **You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**
- Lector ¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the Earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
ALL ¹² **As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**
- Lector ¹³ As a father has compassion for his children,
ALL **so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.**

✠ THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION AND READING

Matthew 18:21-35

Please stand, as you are able.

Pastor Alleluia Lord, to whom shall we go?

ALL You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew the 18th chapter.

ALL Glory to you, O Lord.

Pastor ²¹ 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?”

²² Jesus 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. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, 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. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But 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.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

ALL Praise to you, O Christ.

✠ THE SERMON

Please be seated.

The Rev. Chris Christopher

✚ THE HYMN OF THE DAY

Forgive Our Sins

ELW # 605

Please stand, as you are able.



- 1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray;
- 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
- 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.

Music: DETROIT, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

Text © Oxford University Press 1969.



✙ THE NICENE CREED

AM = Assisting Minister

AM Living together in joy, let us confess our faith.

ALL We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of Heaven and Earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. AMEN.

✙ THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please be seated or kneel.

AM Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

Silence for preparation

AM Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given us in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

ALL **Your mercy is great.**

AM The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation. Hear us, O God.

ALL **Your mercy is great.**

AM Guide leaders to hold ALL in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them. Hear us, O God.

AM **Your mercy is great.**

AM Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, physical, and mental illness, that they know they are not alone. Be with all in our community and the world who are oppressed. Remember your children in need. Hear us, O God.

ALL **Your mercy is great.**

AM Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin. Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory. Hear us, O God.

ALL **Your mercy is great.**

AM With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember all those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

ALL **Your mercy is great.**

AM 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.

ALL **AMEN.**

✝ THE PEACE

Please stand, as you are able.

AM The peace of the Lord be with you always.

ALL **And also with you.**

AM Let us turn to our AV Team and those worshipping with us on-line and on the radio and say together,

ALL **the peace of the Lord be with you.**

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Holy Communion

Please be seated.



*During this time the ushers will pass the offering plates. If you prefer, you may give remotely by scanning the QR code to the left or visiting our website www.ilcgreenwood.com and selecting GIVE from the menu. THANK YOU for your generosity.

✠ THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

With Songs of Rejoicing
The Chancel Choir

Hal Hopson

With songs of rejoicing sing praise to the Lord;
For he has done marvelous, marvelous things. Break forth into joy.

With songs of rejoicing sing praise to the Lord;
For he has done marvelous, marvelous things. Break forth into joy.

His praises the lyre and the trumpet employ. The floods clap their hands, and the hills sing for joy.
The seas with their roaring speak praise to his name.

With songs of rejoicing sing praise to the Lord; For he has done marvelous,
marvelous things. Break forth into joy.

With songs of rejoicing sing praise to the Lord;
Come make a joyful noise sing to the Lord Alleluia! Sing Alleluia!

✠ THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Please stand, as you are able.

LASST UNS ERFRUEEN

Musical notation for the Doxology, consisting of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second staff begins with a measure rest marked '4'. The third staff begins with a measure rest marked '8'. The fourth staff begins with a measure rest marked '12'.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here be -
low. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God the source of all our
gifts. Praise Je - sus Christ whose pow'r up - lifts. Praise the Spi - rit, Ho - ly
Spi - rit. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

✙ THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor God of creation,
ALL 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.

✙ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor The Lord be with you.
ALL And also with you.
Pastor Lift up your hearts.
ALL We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
ALL It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Pastor continues with the Words of Institution.

✙ THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
ALL 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.

✙ THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Please be seated.

ALL are invited regardless of your understanding, your faith background, or sense of worth. Christ invites you. Jesus gives himself for you; Yes, for YOU. So come, come to the Table of the Lord. Communion is distributed by intinction, the dipping of the bread into the cup. The silver cups hold wine. The stoneware cups hold grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request; please ask for gluten free as you approach the server. Prepackaged elements are available inside a bowl at the head of the aisle. ALL are welcome to use the chancel rail for private prayer during the distribution.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace.

✝ THE BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand, as you are able.

Pastor The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in
God's Grace!

ALL AMEN!

✝ THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor Sustaining God,

ALL with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.

By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs
of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we
pray. AMEN.

✝ THE BENEDICTION

Pastor The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ
Jesus.

ALL AMEN.

Pastor The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the
interceding of the Spirit.

ALL AMEN.

Pastor The God of grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

ALL AMEN.



✝ THE CLOSING HYMN

Lift High the Cross

ELW # 660

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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✝ THE DISMISSAL

CM = Council Member of the Day

CM Go out in joy. Be lead forth in peace.

ALL Thanks be to God.

✝ THE POSTLUDE

A Mighty Fortress

Timothy Albrecht

THANK YOU to those serving in Worship today!

Council Member of the Day	Sue Kaufman
Lector / Assisting Minister	Dianne Pitts
Acolytes	Hendricks Bowen and Graham Bowen
Crucifer	Parker Kinard
Communion Assistants	Nathan Shumate, Ruth Divilbiss, and Olive Divilbiss
Sound and Video Technician(s)	Ashley Starks and Larry Hammond
Altar Guild	Leisa Hotchkiss
Ushers	Leisa Hotchkiss and Irene Price
Counter	John Kinard
Officer on Duty	Will Stroup

Altar flowers today are given by Gail & Carl Monson in honor of our beloved Pastor Chris.

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✝ THE PRAYER LIST

*Please email Dr. Will to add or remove names and if anyone needs visitation

Those in need of healing: Maddy Bell, Linda Beveridge, Stephanie Branch, Wayne Cannon, Tom Carter, Vicky Crawford, Patricia Carteron, Steve Crooks, Oliver Conaty, Laquana Davis, the family of Spencer Franks, Cheryl Gagné, Michael Gagné, the Goodman family, Traver Gowan, Pop Pop Gowan, Chelsea Hall, Samuel Raines, John Mark Scruggs, Muriel Houde-Stickney, Tracy Koester, David Krumwiede, Juan Luna, Anna Luna, Chandler Patterson, Steve Rice, Susan Smitty Stahley, Earl Womack, and Betty Weeks.

Those with long term needs: Gail Bouknight, Grayson Brock, Bob Brock, Rick Coker, Richard Coker, Helen Harrell, Latrosha Fuller, Bruce Kaufman, Willie Fred Kennedy, Lois Kuntz, Juan Luna, Nancy Nash, Martin Pueschel, Rodine Russell (NHC 226-D), Sara Russell, Jeanne Shealy, and

Those in the military: Daniel Darling, Nicholas Pueschel, and Devin Rosenbaum.

Expectant and new again parents and siblings, the women of Kinard Manor and ALL in recovery, the people fed through our Soup Kitchen Ministry and Food Pantry Ministry, the people participating in our Jail Ministry, the people of our Matthew 25:40 Ministry, along with the people they continue to help in Guatemala, and the families of Saints who have been received into their eternal rest: George Lee Natvig.

THIS WEEK AT ILC

Announcements are located on the back of this insert.

Sunday, September 13

9 a.m. Worship (Nave)

10 a.m. Brunch (Fellowship Center)

4:30 p.m. Worship (Nave)

Tuesday, September 15

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Food Pantry (Welcome Center)

1 p.m. – Bible Study (McCombs Meeting Room)

Wednesday, September 16

9 a.m. God's Gardeners

For questions or interest in joining, please contact Sue Frantz. (sfrantz1551@gmail.com)

Thursday, September 17

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Food Pantry (Welcome Center)

4:30 p.m. - Handbell Choir Practice

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice



Please make sure you are registered to receive Immanuel's electronic communications and weekly newsletter by scanning the QR code.

Announcements for the Sunday bulletin and the weekly newsletter are due to Dr. Will by Wednesday each week at 10 a.m.

✝ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS (week of 9/13/2026)

- **Congregational Brunch** - TODAY immediately following Worship in the Fellowship Center.
- **Pastor Chris** - will be on leave beginning tomorrow, September 13, and he will return to the office Monday, November 9. While Pastor is away, please contact John Kinard, Courtney Christensen, or Dr. Will with any questions or concerns. Contact information is on the back of the bulletin.
- **Weekly Bible Study** - Resumes this Tuesday, September 15, at 1 p.m. (McCombs Meeting Room) This fall we will be reading *They Walked with God* by Max Lucado.
- **Congregational Council Meeting** - NEXT Sunday, September 20, at 11 a.m. (McCombs Meeting Room)
- **Soup Kitchen / Food Pantry** - need two volunteers to help with unloading supplies on the third Tuesday of every month. Arrival time of the materials is between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m.

If interested, please contact Cile Davis: (ciledavis@embarqmail.com)
and Dianne Pitts: (diannepitts@gmail.com)

The soup kitchen is also looking for Friday Food Lion pick up drivers once or twice a month. It takes about an hour to load your vehicle with donations from Food Lion and deliver them to the church.

If interested, please call Sue Kaufman 843-518-9839.

- **WELCA** - Foothills Conference is on September 26, in Easley, South Carolina from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Any women interested in attending, please RSVP to Lianne Smith at 863-801-5854. Text or call by September 14. There will be a carpool.



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 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

*** Closed on Mondays**

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Chris Christopher, Pastor

On leave until Monday, November 9.

John Kinard, Congregation President

jkinard29@yahoo.com

Courtney Christensen, Congregation Vice- President

courtneychristensen@icloud.com

Dr. Will Cleveland, Parish Administrator / Director of Music

will@ilcgreenwood.com

Juan Luna, Sexton

Samuel Hurley and Kristen Metts, Parish Custodians

SERVING THE CHURCH IN GREATER CAPACITIES

The Rev. Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop, ELCA

The Rev. Ginny Aebischer, Bishop, South Carolina Synod

The Rev. Wade Roof, Bishop-Elect, South Carolina Synod

