

***Nineteenth Sunday
after Pentecost
October 4, 2026***



Immanuel Lutheran Church

a Reconciling in Christ congregation

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*our purpose is to gather people, nurture faith,
grow in God's love, and serve God's world*

Welcome to Immanuel!

We're thankful you're with us this morning! Throughout worship we'll use the red hymnal located on the back of the pew in front of you. Page numbers can be found towards the front of the hymnal at the bottom of the page, with hymns towards the back, beginning with the Psalms. Hearing assist devices are also available – just ask an usher for help.

We believe that the Gospel – the Good News that we are loved, forgiven, and free in Christ – is a gift offered to every person, and that God's grace has no limits or conditions. Through Christ, we are made a community that shares God's mission to proclaim grace and peace to all the world.

Prelude

Gathering

*The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day of the week,
the day of Christ's resurrection.*

stand

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

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.

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. **Amen.**

sit

Celebration Song *His Banner Over Me Is Love (v. 1-2)* Traditional

Children's Chat Pastor Sarah Barnes

stand

Hymn of Praise

My Lord of Light

Hymn 832

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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

And also with you.

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

sit

Word

God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung and preached.

First Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

¹I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard; My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ²He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes. ³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes? ⁵And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

stand

Gospel Acclamation

p. 142

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

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

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:33-46

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ³³ "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.

³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹ They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." ⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?" ⁴³ "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." ⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

sit

Sermon

Pastor Sarah Barnes

stand

Hymn of the Day

Thine be the Amen

Hymn 826

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

sit

Offertory Music

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

S. Temple

stand

Offertory Canticle

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

Hymn 681

We thank you, our creator, for all things bright and good,

The seed-time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.

No gifts have we to offer for all your love imparts,

but what you most would treasure—our humble, thankful hearts.

All good gifts around us are sent from heav'n above.

We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

Offering Prayer

God of creation, 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.**

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

p. 144

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Thanksgiving at the Table

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Invitation to Communion

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

sit

All people are invited to receive communion today by coming forward to the front of the sanctuary. First, you'll receive bread, which is the body of Christ given for you. Then move to the next station, where you will find glass cups full of grape juice (lighter-colored) and wine (purple-colored), which is the blood of Christ shed for you. At the last station, return your empty cup to the tray. Gluten-free wafers are also available; to indicate you'd like to receive one, please simply raise your pointer finger when it's your turn to receive.

Lamb of God

p. 146

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Hymns

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

Hymn 580

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Hymn 803

Prayer after Communion

Sustaining God, 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.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements

Children's Ministries Announcement

stand

Blessing

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

Sending Hymn

The Church of Christ, in Every Age

Hymn 729

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Gym Coordinator – Walter Shanahan | gym@immanuelholden.org

Sexton – Don Roberts

We're thankful for these servants in worship today:

Livestream – Josh & Jen Greene

Assisting Minister – Lisa Sternstrom

Ushers – Craig Landquist, Jim Anderson

Greeter – Joyce Kujala

Acolyte – Eve Cranson

Children's Word – Dave & Elise Cranson

Coffee Hour Host – Kristen Aijala & Nancy Chanson

Altar Service – Mary Jane Rasku, Heidi Lahey

Counting Team – Greta & Scott Gridley

Worship, Service, and Fellowship in the week ahead:

Today	8:00 am	Simple Church (Outdoor Chapel/Choir Room)
	9:00 am	Indoor & Livestream worship (Sanctuary)
	10:15 am	Coffee Hour (Gym)
	5:00 pm	Confirmation Dinner (Gym)
Monday	9:00 am	Lectio Divina (Zoom)
	6:30 pm	Monday Night Bible Study (Room 6)
Tuesday	1:00 pm	Spirituality for the Home Stretch (Choir Room)
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thursday	10:30 am	Thursday Morning Bible Study (on Zoom)
	12:00 pm	Senior Luncheon
Friday	9:00 am	Facilities Meeting (Room 6)
	5:00 pm	Kids Express (Serving)
Saturday	10:00 am	Prayer & Share (Choir Room)
Sunday	<i>Generosity Sunday</i>	
	8:00 am	Simple Church (Outdoor Chapel/Choir Room)
	9:00 am	Indoor & Livestream worship (Sanctuary)
	10:15 am	Coffee Hour (Gym)

Daily Bible Readings for the Coming Week:

Monday:	Psalm 106:1-12, Genesis 27:1-29, Romans 16:1-16
Tuesday:	Psalm 106:1-12, Genesis 28:10-17, Romans 16:17-20
Wednesday:	Psalm 106:1-12, Isaiah 4:1-13, Matthew 18:1-5
Thursday:	Psalm 25:1-9, Ezekiel 12:17-28, James 4:11-16
Friday:	Psalm 25:1-9, Ezekiel 18:5-18, Acts 13:32-41
Saturday:	Psalm 25:1-9, Ezekiel 18:19-24, Mark 11:27-33
Sunday:	Isaiah 25:1-9, Psalm 23, Philippians 4:1-9, Matthew 22:1-14

Welcome to Immanuel

Thanks for joining us in worship today! Wherever you are, we're glad to have you with us. Remember you can reach out to the church office anytime if you need help, prayer, or someone to talk to.

Coffee Hour – All are welcome to coffee hour in the gym following today's worship. We thank Kristen Aijala & Nancy Chanson for hosting today!

Altar flowers – The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the glory of God by Elaine & Mark Vetter in celebration of their grandson Hudson's first birthday .

Children's Word – Children age 3 to grade 5 are invited to go with our trained volunteers after the Children's Chat to worship in kid-friendly ways, returning in time for communion.

September Food Drive – We're so thankful to everyone who contributed items to donate to the new food pantries!

Adult Forum – Today after worship, Brooke Sulahain from *Hope for Our Sisters* will share the work that this organization is doing and ways you can get involved. Grab your coffee hour treats and join us in Room 6.

Faith Quest & Godly Play – We return today after worship! Readers are invited to explore scripture in fun ways in Faith Quest! Go to room 5 when you hear the bell! Our littlest learners (toddlers and pre-readers) are invited to join us in classroom 2 as we learn through story and play!

Lectio Divina – Join us on Monday mornings from 9:00–9:30am on Zoom. Lectio Divina is the practice of reading scripture as a form of prayer. (Meeting ID: 814 8663 8380 Passcode: scripture)

Monday Night Bible Study – The Monday Night Bible Study group will gather this Mon., Oct. 5 at 6:30pm in Room 6. All are welcome!

Spirituality for the Home Stretch – Join our senior spirituality group on Tuesday, October 6 in the choir room at 1:00pm. We'll discuss chapters 9 and 10 of *Looking for God*. New members welcome!

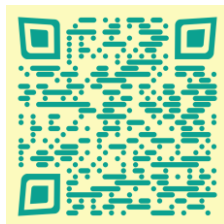
Senior Luncheon – Join us on Thursday, October 8 at noon for a fall senior luncheon! Cost will be \$10 a person. The sign-up sheet is in Lawson Hall or you can call the church office.

Kids Express – Our next date to provide a meal is this Friday, October 9. Be on the lookout for pans to fill! See Brian Welch for details.

Prayer & Share – We'll gather again on Saturday, October 10 at 10:00a in the Choir Room. Please bring your Bible. Join us!

Confirmation News – For new and returning students, confirmation classes return on Wed., Oct. 21! We will meet in room 6, 7:00-8:30pm.

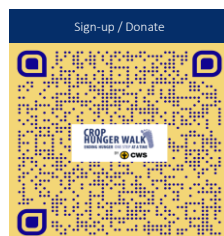
Generosity Sunday – It’s almost here! Next Sunday, October 11 is Generosity Sunday! We’ll fill out new *Servant Connect* forms and talk about all the ways God feeds us and we work to feed others. ‘Estimate of Giving’ cards were sent out to all members of our church last week. Please return them in worship or to the office by October 11. You can also submit them online! Just scan the QR code here.



Service for Joy Ruth Cohen – We’ll gather on Saturday, October 17 at 12:00pm to remember and celebrate Joy’s life. There will be a reception following the service in the gym. You’re invited to bring a dessert (cookies or bars). Please drop off before Thurs., Oct. 15 at 3:00pm.

Book Club – Join us on Thurs., October 22 at 6:00pm to discuss *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi.

CROP Hunger Walk – This year’s walk will be on October 18. Immanuel joins with several area churches to walk and together raise money to support Church World Services in their mission to STOP HUNGER. We also contribute 25% of the total for local food pantries in Holden and Worcester. Our goal is to raise \$20,000 total this year. ALL are welcome & encouraged to participate. Please consider joining us in any way possible. Scan the QR code here to get involved!



In Your Prayers this Week

Adrienne Altobelli, David Alward, Bruce & Janet Axelson, Isaac Barron, David Beams, Mary Beams, Bob, Heidi Besse, Tina Bodnar, Lucy & Tom Brennan, Bonnie Colon, Colleen Davison, Lauren Demerjian, Christina Deyo, Lina Dickey, Kim, Kevin Duguay, Tom Durant, Jim Eisenlord, Alan Farmer, Tim Fournier, Linda Friedman, Sonja Githmark, Ann Marie Grambo, Victoria Graves, Dolores Hadady, Bill Higgins, Erika, Rich Hopkins, Robin Johns, Dick Johnson, Jan Johnson, Carol Jorgensen, Ray Langevin, Jean Lane, Cristie Marsh, Family of Alwin Masselink, James Mellor, Darin Narum, Joanne Neal, Mark Novak, Don Phaneuf, Shirley, Kay Porter, Jeff, Wylla Rabeler, Rich Reynolds, Ray Rossetti, Shirley Rotti, Arthur Savage, Anita Slater, Marshall Smith, Tony, Elaine Vetter, George Vogel, Scott, Liz Wilson, Jim & Nancy Zelesky, and Jill Zitzewitz.