Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 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, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy.
Amen.

Inherit the riches of God's grace. Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.
Amen.
sit

Celebration Song *This Little Light of Mine* Hymn 677

Children's Chat Pastor Sarah Barnes

stand

Hymn of Praise *God Whose Giving Knows No Ending* Hymn 678

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.

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

sit

Word

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

First Reading Psalm 90:1-12

1 Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
2 **Before the mountains were brought forth,**
or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.
3 You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."
4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday**
when it is past and like a watch in the night;
5 you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:
6 **in the morning it is green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
7 For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.
8 **Our iniquities you have set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

9 When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
10 **The span of our life is seventy years,**
perhaps in strength even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and we are gone.
11 Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation?
12 **So teach us to number our days**
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you
do not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know
very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the
night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden
destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant
woman, and there will be no escape! 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are
not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all
children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of
darkness. 6 So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep
awake and be sober, 7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who
are drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be
sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the
hope of salvation. 9 For God has destined us not for wrath but for
obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so
that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11 Therefore
encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are
doing.
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 25:14-30

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.

20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

sit
Sermon Pastor Sarah Barnes

stand
Hymn of the Day Lord of All Hopefullness Hymn 765

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
United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.
God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

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 *Our Father* B. Harlan
Jim Provencher, bass guitar

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

Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **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
In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.
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 *Christ, Be Our Light* Hymn 715
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light Hymn 815

Prayer after Communion
Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.
Amen.

Sending

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

Announcements
Worship Volunteers Heidi Lahey

stand
Blessing
The holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.
Amen.

Sending Hymn *Lord of Light* Hymn 688

Dismissal
Go in peace. Encourage one another.
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 – Penny Ferris | Jen & CarterGowdy
Assisting Minister – Lisa Schaffter
Ushers – Ian Woods, Scott Gridley
Greeter – Linda Josephson
Acolyte – James Dellecese
Children's Word – Greta Gridley, Heidi Lahey
Coffee Hour Host – Beth & Fred Borchelt
Altar Service – Mary Jane Rasku, Heidi Lahey
Counting Team – Arlette Peterson, Sheri Parretti

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)
	10:30 am	Learning Hour (Rooms 2, 5 & 6)
Monday	8:00 am	Lectio Divina
	6:30 pm	Monday Night Bible Study (Room 6)
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Confirmation (Room 6)
	7:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thursday	10:30 am	Thursday Morning Bible Study (Zoom)
	6:00 pm	Book Club (Room 6)
Saturday	8:00 am	Period Product Distribution
	3:30 pm	Friendsgiving (Gym)

Sunday	8:00 am	Simple Church (Outdoor Chapel/Choir Room)
	9:00 am	Indoor & Livestream worship (Sanctuary)
	10:15 am	Coffee Hour (Gym)
	10:30 am	Beverly School of Kenya Presentation (Gym)

Daily Bible Readings for the Coming Week:

Monday:	Psalm 63, Amos 8:7-14, 1 Corinthians 14:20-25
Tuesday:	Psalm 63, Joel 1:1-14, 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Wednesday:	Psalm 63, Joel, 3:9-21, Matthew 24:29-35
Thursday:	Psalm 90:1-12, Ezekiel 6:1-14, Revelation16:1-7
Friday:	Psalm 90:1-12, Ezekiel 7:1-9, Revelation 16:8-21
Saturday:	Psalm 90:1-12, Ezekiel 7:10-27, Matthew 12:43-45
Sunday:	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, Psalm 95:1-7a, Ephesians 1:15-23, Matthew 25:31-46

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 Beth & Fred Borchelt for hosting today!

Altar flowers – The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the glory of God. *NOTE: If you would like to sign up for Sunday flowers, see the flower chart in Lawson Hall.*

Thanks – to Jim Provencher for sharing his gift of music this morning!

Godly Play & Faith Quest – Kids of all ages are invited to gather in Room 2 and Mrs. Claire will lead music for the first ten minutes of learning hour. Then we'll split into Godly Play and Faith Quest groups. Godly Play will learn about the Parable of the Mustard Seed. Faith Quest will start looking at parts for the Family Christmas Eve service. Listen for the bell!

Adult Forum – Today, Vickie Muller will lead an introduction to the ministry and craft of card-making! Join us in Room 6 when the bell rings.

Beverly School of Kenya Presentation – On Sunday, November 22, Sue Swanberg, Kathy Mills, and Gabe Ellis will share stories and pictures from their trip this past summer to the Beverly School of Kenya during the learning hour in the gym.

Estimate of Giving Cards – Thank you to everyone who has returned their "Estimate of Giving" card. So far we've received 105 cards and are hoping to receive about 25 more. If you haven't done so yet, please fill out a card and return it to the office to help us budget for the year ahead. Grab one from the usher's table or use this QR code.



Servant Connect Forms – Have you filled out a Servant Connect yet? We're using these simple forms to help us connect people with ministry and mission opportunities that match their gifts and passions. Every member of our church is asked to fill one out! You can get one from the usher table in the back or use this QR code.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship – On Wednesday, November 25 at 7:00pm, we'll gather in worship to give thanks and praise to God. We're looking for 1-2 additional speakers who are willing to share a story of gratitude or thanksgiving. Let one of the pastors know if you're interested! For the Thanksgiving Eve offering, you're invited to bring food for the Wachusett Food Pantry or items for Homeless Kits.

Help Us Bless Others! – Immanuel's Mission Endowment Fund will be giving away $14,000 in the year ahead to various non-profits, ministries, and charitable organizations. You can put your suggestions into the box at the front of the sanctuary, or simply email them to the church. Please submit them by November 22! These suggestions will be passed onto council and voted on at our annual congregational meeting in January.

Receiving New Members – Our congregation has been blessed with some new visitors and friends in the past months. While we don't yet have a date picked out, if you're interested in becoming a member of our church, please talk to a pastor.

Lectio Divina – Lectio Divina is now at 8:00am every Monday! Start your day grounded in scripture and prayer. Here is the **new link** to join: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89251738731

Monday Night Bible Study – The Monday Night Bible Study group will gather tomorrow, Monday, November 16 at 6:30pm in Room 6. All are welcome!

Confirmation – We'll meet on Wednesday, November 18 at 7:00pm in room 6. This week we're discussing temptation and wilderness.

Thursday Morning Bible Study – Join us every Thursday at 10:30am on Zoom! We're discussing on the book of Romans and you're invited to the conversation! Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84825798597

Book Club – For November, we're reading and discussing *Joyful Anyway,* by Kate Bowler. Join us for discussion this Thursday, November 19 at 6:00pm in Room 6.

Young Families Gathering – Families with young children are invited to gather for Friendsgiving on Saturday, November 21. We will gather in the gym at 3:30pm. Friends always welcome!

Senior Luncheon - Save the date! Join us on Tuesday, December 15 at noon for a holiday senior luncheon! Cost is $10 per person. The sign-up sheet will coming soon and posted in Lawson Hall. Hope to see you there!

Homeless Kits – We are collecting items to make homeless kits. These items are packaged in Ziplock bags so that we can carry them in our cars to hand out to those in need. The items that we are collecting are:

- warm socks
- granola or cereal bars – chewy bars only
- crackers with peanut butter or cheese
- small package of Kleenex
- ChapStick
- Bottled water – 8 oz

These items can be placed in the hamper in Lawson Hall Lobby or in a box in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you

Positivity Pouches – Have you shared some positivity with our Youth Group recently? Drop a note of encouragement or some kind words in their pouches in Lawson Hall! Cards and small gifts encouraged!

Homeless Kits – You can grab a homeless kit – and small bags of period products – from Lawson Hall for you to hand out to someone in need.

Communion Kits – Personal kits are available in the locker outside Lawson Hall. Each kit contains a pre-packaged wafer and grape juice.

Stephen Ministry – Stephen Ministers are trained to provide one-to-one, confidential care to those experiencing a difficult time. Please let one of the pastors know if you'd like to connect with one.

Women's Circle – We will meet again in January for the annual Yankee Swap!

We are currently collecting:

Period Products – Unscented pads and tampons, individually wrapped, of all sizes and brands, handed out at Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry.

Greeting Cards – New greeting cards of all kinds (except Christmas), which are given to Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry.

Bras – Bras in good condition of any size, color, or style, which will be given to veterans in need. Contact Mary Donev (mary@donev.com).

Wachusett Food Pantry – Non-perishable, unexpired food items for the Wachusett Food Pantry (serving all Wachusett Towns).

Little Library – Book donations for any age welcome in Lawson Hall!

In Your Prayers this Week

Adrienne Altobelli, David Alward, Bruce & Janet Axelson, Isaac Barron, David Beams, Mary Beams, Bob, Ron Bertel, Heidi Besse, Tina Bodnar, Lucy & Tom Brennan, Bonnie Colon, Dale, Colleen Davison, Lauren Demerjian, Christina Deyo, 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, Maria Taylor, Tony, Elaine Vetter, George Vogel, Scott, Liz Wilson, Jim & Nancy Zelesky, and Jill Zitzewitz.