

Immanuel Lutheran Church October Newsletter

Among steadfast Lutherans, Reformation Day overshadows another holiday that happens on October 31. Ever since 2017, we've recognized some of the many events that followed Luther's posting of his 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenberg, reminding us that the Reformation didn't happen instantly. For example, the *Small Catechism* (from which many generations have been taught the basics of the Christian faith) was not written until 1529.

Some of what I'll be teaching in October comes directly from the *Small Catechism*. The public-school 7th & 8th graders who meet in the church basement at 6:45 AM on the first school day of each week (Monday or Tuesday) will soon wrap up the Ten Commandments and begin studying the Apostles' Creed. Similarly, the ILS 6th-8th graders who learn from one of the pastors three mornings each week will soon finish studying the Ten Commandments with Pastor Jim (d'Entremont) and begin studying the Apostles' Creed with me. (This year, we pastors "hand off" between 1st and 2nd quarters and again between 3rd and 4th quarters.) In our weekly chapel services, we're covering a commandment each week for ten weeks.

None of the above should surprise you, but what I'm about to tell you might.

This month, I'll also be starting a study of the Apocrypha on Sunday mornings in the church basement and a study of Christian heresies at Bunkers (at the golf course) on Wednesday mornings. Before you call the district president to tattle on me, let me explain myself.

In fact, if you called President Curtis about the Apocrypha study, I know he'd approve of it, because he was one of a dozen or so scholars who contributed articles or notes to CPH's 2012 *The Apocrypha: The Lutheran Edition with Notes*. I asked for and received a copy as a gift from my parents-in-law for Christmas way back in 2014, but I've only recently gotten around to reading it. If you wonder why we Lutherans should care about the Apocrypha, please join us for Bible class in October and November. Briefly, let me say that studying it helps us fill in a 400-year gap in our historical knowledge (between OT and NT) and provides vital context about the biblical world in which the Church emerged and took shape. It also reminds us that even during those "silent centuries" between the Testaments, there was a steady messianic hope sustaining a community of believers living under much pressure. (A side benefit of reading the Apocrypha is that a Bible student gains firsthand experience in comparing these more obscure books with the 39 OT and 27 NT books we know better.)

President Curtis (and you) *should and would be alarmed* if I were teaching heresy, even if it happened at Bunkers rather than at Immanuel, but let me assure you that I'll be teaching *about* heresies in hopes that those who attend the class will learn to spot false teaching when it pops up today, as it so often does. This month, we'll cover the first four lessons out of twelve (saving the rest for spring and fall 2027). In the process, we'll grow more familiar with these historic heresies, so we can avoid falling for them when history repeats itself.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OCTOBER 2026 CALENDAR

Saturday, October 3 rd	5:30 p.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday, October 4 th	9:00 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Class
	10:00 a.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion
Monday, October 5 th	6:45 a.m. – Public Catechesis
October 5 th – 6 th	SID Pastors Conference in Columbia
Tuesday, October 6 th	Fall School Pictures
Wednesday, October 7 th	10:00 a.m. – Community Bible Class at Bunkers, RMB Golf Course
	12:30 p.m. – Chapel – Pastor Wood
Thursday, October 8 th	3 yr old pre-k Field Trip to Country Kids Pumpkin Patch
	K-3 rd grade Field Trip to Eckert's in Millstadt
	6:30 p.m. – Board for Parochial Education Meeting
Friday, October 9 th	No School – SID/CID Teachers' Conference
Saturday, October 10 th	5:30 p.m. – Worship Service
	6 th – 8 th grade booth at Chili Cook Off
Sunday, October 11 th	9:00 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Class
	10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
Monday, October 12 th	No School – Columbus Day
	7:00 p.m. – Elders Meeting
Tuesday, October 13 th	6:45 a.m. – Public Catechesis
Wednesday, October 14 th	10:00 a.m. – Community Bible Class at Bunkers, RMB Golf Course
	12:30 p.m. – Chapel – Pastor d'Entremont
	7:00 p.m. – Congregational Fund
	7:30 p.m. – Church Council Meeting
Thursday, October 15 th	7:00 p.m. – LWML Meeting
Saturday, October 17 th	5:30 p.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday, October 18 th	9:00 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Class
	10:00 a.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion
Monday, October 19 th	6:45 a.m. – Public Catechesis
	7:30 p.m. – Men's Club Meeting
Wednesday, October 21 st	10:00 a.m. – Community Bible Class at Bunkers, RMB Golf Course
	12:30 p.m. – Chapel – Pastor Wood
	7:00 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, October 24 th	5:30 p.m. – Worship Service
Sunday, October 25 th	9:00 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Class
	10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
	11:00 a.m. – Quarterly Voters' Meeting
Monday, October 26 th	6:45 a.m. – Public Catechesis
Wednesday, October 28 th	10:00 a.m. – Community Bible Class at Bunkers, RMB Golf Course
	12:30 p.m. – Chapel – Pastor d'Entremont
	7:00 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, October 31 st	5:30 p.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion
	-guest Pastor Art Eichhorn

LCMS Stewardship

It's in the Way that You Use It

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Consider the humble baseball bat. It is a simple tool designed for a complex task. The batter needs a tool that can consistently deliver force to a small ball which may be thrown at over 100 miles per hour, but which might also come slanting across the plate as a slow curve. For a game like this, the founders of baseball had to redesign the old cricket bat, which is more of a flat paddle. The tool had to fit the job.

But even a specially-designed tool can be used for a different purpose. It turns out that some years ago in England, the home of cricket, baseball bats suddenly started selling like hotcakes. What were folks across the pond doing with all those baseball bats? Using them as clubs in riots!

A tool can be used, and it can be misused. It's all in the way that you use it.

The same is true with the things of God. The Second Commandment states that we should "not misuse the name of the Lord." In the Small Catechism, Luther goes on to tell us exactly what this misuse is, as well as the proper use:

"We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks." (SC I)

The Lord has given us His name: He has placed it upon us in Holy Baptism and He has invited us to pray to Him as our Father. In this sense, the Lord's name is something for us to use. We should not misuse it ... and we should not fail to use it. The Pharisees of old were so afraid of misusing the name of God that they decided to simply never say the name of God (YHWH, Jehovah) at all! This non-use is just as bad as misuse. The Lord gives His gifts for our use.

A Christian steward is one who is called to use all of God's gifts for His purposes. This includes things like the Name of God, the Sacraments and the Word, and it also includes things like our family and friends, our talents and skills, our money and resources. Everything that God has given to you, He has given to you so that you may be blessed to use it for His kingdom.

It's all in the way that you use it!

Introducing Our New Members

This summer, three moms and a grandma of ILS students formed an adult instruction class. From late June to late August, they met with Pastor Wood every other week to discuss what they had read from *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*. Three of these four women joined Immanuel at the outdoor service on September 27; please pray that the other school mom, who is not yet baptized, would join us in the future as well. Also on September 27, we received a man from Zion, Mascoutah, into Immanuel membership.

Gerri Mitchell and her daughter Kaitlyn Benfield, previously members of Faith (ELCA), O'Fallon, join Immanuel by profession of faith. Gerri is a senior learning consultant for Dearborn Group (insurance). Kaitlyn is a 911 dispatcher for Washington County. Kaitlyn's son, Caden Benfield, is an eighth grader at ILS and will be confirmed at ILC in 2027.

Melissa Sprehe joins Immanuel by adult confirmation. She and her daughter, Sylvia Sprehe, were both baptized in 2017 at St. John UCC in Mascoutah. Sylvia, an ILS fourth grader, will be confirmed at ILC in 2031. The previously mentioned man from Zion, Mascoutah, is Nathan Spangel. Nathan (kitchen manager) and Melissa (general manager) both work at Skootr's Restaurant and Bar in Mascoutah (not to be confused with Scooter's Coffee on the other end of town).

Each of these families comes to us through their child's educational experience at ILS. The word of the Lord goes out and accomplishes his purposes in the lives of those who hear it (Isaiah 55:11).

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following who have birthdays in October:

3. Dominic Perry, Sharon Storck
5. Konrad Berg, Jackie Schwankhaus
6. Braelyn Dunn, Justin Kramper, Mark Schneider
8. Xavier Williams
11. Lori Caloia, Megan Rennegarbe
12. Jeremy Hundelt
13. Josh Berg, Dillon Teter
14. Tonya Gass, Jeremy Weeke,
Delaney Toensing
15. Cooper Streuter, Stella Streuter
16. Jim Unverfehrt
17. Tami Schilling
18. Garrett Guest
19. Angie Kampwerth
20. Ken Storck, Jr.
21. Landan Kraus
22. Krissy Schneider
23. Brent Schneider
24. Lori Unverfehrt, Hudson Schneider
26. Jeffrey Jacobs, Bob Kraus, Tricia Rennegarbe
27. Jason Obermeier
28. Raelyn Obermeier
29. Cory Kraus
30. Mary Ann Niedens
31. Dylan Borrenpohl, Harper Jacobs

VISITATION COMMITTEE

Lois Obermeier and Sheila Prueshner

ALTAR GUILD COMMITTEE

Sheila Pruehsner and Carolyn Rennegarbe

ACOLYTES

Saturday, October 3rd – Hudson Schneider
Sunday, October 4th – Markus Lautenschlaeger
Saturday, October 10th – Landon Elliott
Sunday, October 11th – Collins Schumacher
Saturday, October 17th – Devin Hundelt
Sunday, October 18th – Aubrey Heberer
Saturday, October 24th – Caden Benfield
Sunday, October 25th – Maylen Kramper
Saturday, October 31st – Coleson Hasheider

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Saturday, October 3rd – Jonathan Schneider
Sunday, October 4th – Mike Jacobs
Saturday, October 17th – Dennis Pruehsner
Sunday, October 18th – Jeff Jacobs

USHERS FOR OCTOBER

Saturday –
Sunday –

ORGANISTS/PIANISTS

Saturday, October 3rd – Sophia Wood
Sunday, October 4th – Sharon Krueger
Saturday, October 10th – Sophia Wood
Sunday, October 11th – Sharon Krueger
Saturday, October 17th – Ruby St. Martin
Sunday, October 18th – Sharon Krueger
Saturday, October 24th – Sophia Wood
Sunday, October 25th –
Saturday, October 31st – Ruby St. Martin

OCTOBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

3rd – Tim & Kelly Schumacher
9th – Dennis & Sheila Pruehsner
11th – Ben & Tonya Gass
15th – James & Nancy Rossel
23rd – Justin & Breck Kramper
Dennis & Deb Maschhoff

CONGREGATIONAL FUND MEETING

Wednesday, October 14th 7:00 P.M.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, October 14th 7:30 P.M.

All elected officers and board members
are urged to attend.

QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING

Will be held after the worship service on Sunday,
October 25th. All members are urged to attend.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

will begin working on next year's offering
envelopes. Please let Malinda know if you need or
want a new box. The boxes will be the same as this
year. We do have some members now using EFT
(Electronic Fund Transfer) for their contributions.
Please contact Malinda at 618-713-5008.

LWML NEWS

Mary Ann Niedens, Pat Quinlan, and Emily Wood
attended the Southern Illinois District LWML
convention in Edwardsville on September 11-12.
They enjoyed a day of worship and fellowship, as
well as electing district officers and hearing about
mite grant recipients. There will be \$85,000 in
mission grants given in our district from 2026-
2028!

The Upper Kaskaskia zone fall workshop will be held on October 3 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Ferrin. Registration is at 8:30 and the program will start at 9:00. Pre-registration is not required.

We are continuing to collect toiletries for the Addieville Food Pantry through October 13. Donations can be left in the church narthex. Thank you for your donations!

We are working on updating the prayer circle for Immanuel. This is a group of women who pray for needs of our congregation members. If you are not in the circle but would like to be, please contact Emily Wood at church or at 618-713-0953. This is not limited just to LWML members, anyone can join the prayer circle!

The October LWML meeting will be held on Thursday, October 15 at 7pm in the church narthex. Mary Ann Niedens will have the devotion, and Emily Wood will have the topic, the Bible study on p18 of the fall Lutheran Women's Quarterly, "When Service Isn't Sparkly".

16TH ANNUAL MUSIC FESTIVAL comes earlier than usual this year, Sunday, November 1st at 2:30 p.m. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for an enjoyable program at church, with a wide variety of sounds and styles planned.

SCHOOL NEWS

October 1st Fall Fundraiser begins: ILS students and staff will be selling butter braids, cookie dough, wrapping paper, cards, and so much more. There will be an order form in the Narthex or you can call the school office and/or see any ILS student or Wee Care child to order. Thank you for helping to make this fundraiser a success again this year.

Fall Picture Day is Tuesday, October 6th

K-3 Field Trip is Thursday, October 8th to Eckert's in Millstadt.

3 yr old pre-k has a field trip to the Country Kids Pumpkin Patch on Thursday, October 8th.

No School – Friday October 9th SID/CID Teacher Conference

6th- 8th Grade will be doing the Chili Cookoff again this year. Save the date for October 10th and come visit their booth and try some chili, hot dogs, and dessert. If you are able to volunteer, please give Ms. Borrenpohl a call at 618-243-6142

No School – Monday, October 12th (Columbus Day)

End of 1st quarter is October 16th, and report cards will be sent home on October 23rd.



**WEEKLY WORSHIP RESOURCE
LISTINGS**

**NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST**

October 3 & 4 2026

Old Testament: Isaiah 5:1-7
Epistle: Philippians 3:4b-14
Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46
Order of Service – Divine Service Setting One
Hymns: 425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
566 By Grace I'm Saved
637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord
643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing
806 Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart
664 Fight the Good Fight

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 10 & 11, 2026

Old Testament: Isaiah 25:6-9
Epistle: Philippians 4:4-13
Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14
Order of Service – Prayer and Preaching
Hymns: 813 Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng
OAR 241 In Christ Alone
818 In Thee Is Gladness

ST. LUKE, EVANGELIST

October 17 & 18, 2026

Old Testament: Isaiah 35:5-8
Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-18
Gospel: Luke 10:1-9
Order of Service – Divine Service Setting Four
Hymns: 826 Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying
810 O God of God, O Light of Light
582 God's Word Is Our Great Heritage
728 How Firm a Foundation
749 There Is a Balm in Gilead
830 Spread the Reign of God the Lord

**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST**

October 24 & 25, 2026

First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2,15-18
Epistle: Thessalonians 2:1-13
Gospel: Matthew 22:34-46
Order of Service – Matins
Hymns: 589 Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens
411 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
585 Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide

ALL SAINTS DAY

October 31 & November 1, 2026

Old Testament: Revelations 7:9-17
Epistle: 1 John 3:1-3
Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12
Order of Service – Divine Service Setting One
Hymns: 644 The Church's One Foundation
677 For All the Saints
651 I Love Your Kingdom, Lord
673 Jerusalem, My Happy Home
812 Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs
678 We Sing for All the Unsung Saints

The Vineyard of the Lord

