

Immanuel Lutheran Church September Newsletter

When we moved into the Immanuel parsonage fifteen years ago, the heaviest item was the old upright piano we'd previously moved from Kansas to Carbondale. (We've since replaced it with a new smaller one.) I remember some of our helpers on our (steamy) moving day commenting on how many boxes of books they carried into my office. (I know pastors with even more books!) In my defense, my books are my tools. If a man with a shed or shop full of tools had to relocate, I guarantee he'd have more weight in tools to move than I do.

Many of my books (~1/3 by volume if not by number, since commentaries are thick) are commentaries on various books of the Bible. I'm regularly adding to the collection, but I don't have complete coverage. I'm studying Philippians to prepare for Bible class and four consecutive weeks of preaching from it, but I don't have a Philippians commentary, so as I read both the Greek and the ESV, I'm using a few other reference books from my library. About ¾ of Philippians is included in the 3-year lectionary: 4 weeks in a row this fall (year A), 4 readings in year C (2 each in Advent and Lent), Passion Sunday ABC, and Thanksgiving Day.

In Bible class, we'll study the entire epistle, not just the parts we read in church. The parts not read in church are interesting as well, including details about people who worked side by side with the apostle or saying things that are extra challenging for modern ears. Sometimes we don't know much about the "minor characters" who are mentioned besides their names, but that is a good reminder that the Church is made up of people, and most of us will not be well-known a generation after we've gone to be with Jesus, yet the work being done in our generation helps determine how the Church will be in future generations. Our names may not be remembered, but our contributions and efforts still make a difference.

That's why Paul thanks God for the Philippians when he prays for them from faraway, while he's under house arrest in Rome (Acts 28:16-31). He'd been with them in their city at least twice (Acts 16:6-40 & 20:1-6), but being unable to return to them doesn't get him down. His overall tone is joyful and confident, considering his circumstances. He thanks God for the partnership in the gospel (1:5) and the partnership in giving and receiving (4:15) that he shares with the Philippians. Their kindness, generosity, and help arrived just when he needed it; he says he has received full payment and is well supplied (4:14-18). He never directly thanks them, but he clearly appreciates their support for him and his work. He never directly thanks them, since he knows their support is their thankful response to God for all his goodness, mercy, and grace. Instead, he thanks God for their faithful ongoing partnership.

Our situation is not identical to theirs. We live close together; most of us move around freely. Still, I'm fulfilling the expectation that I write to you all each month, and I want you to know that when I pray for you all, my prayers include thanksgiving to God for our partnership in the gospel, for your faithful ongoing support for me and the other workers at Immanuel and our families, and for your part in the work that happens on both sides of Hanover Street.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 2026

Wednesday, September 2	Pastor Wood leads Chapel at CORLHS 12:30 p.m. – Chapel – Pastor Wood
Friday, September 4	School Early Dismissal 12:20 p.m.
Saturday, September 5	5:30 p.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday, September 6	9:00 a.m. – Bible Class 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion
Monday, September 7	Beginners Catechesis (Time TBD) No School
Tuesday, September 8	6:45 a.m. – Public Catechesis
Wednesday, September 9	8:15 a.m. – Pre-K 3 Chapel – Pastor Wood 12:30 p.m. – Chapel – Pastor d'Entremont
Thursday, September 10	6:30 p.m. – Board for Parochial Education Meeting
Friday, September 11	SID LWML Convention in Edwardsville
Saturday, September 12	5:30 p.m. – Worship Service SID LWML Convention in Edwardsville
Sunday, September 13	9:00 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Class 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
Monday, September 14	6:45 a.m. – Public Catechesis 12:00 p.m. SID Board of Spiritual Care in Shiloh 7:00 p.m. – Board of Elders Meeting
Tuesday, September 15	Dual Circuit Pastors at St. Salvator, Venedy
Wednesday, September 16	12:30 p.m. – Chapel – Pastor d'Entremont
Thursday, September 17	7:00 p.m. – LWML Meeting in Church Narthex
Friday, September 18	School Early Dismissal 12:20 p.m.
Saturday, September 19	5:30 p.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday, September 20	9:00 a.m. – Bible Class but no Sunday School 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion
Monday, September 21	No School 7:30 p.m. Men's Club Meeting
Tuesday, September 22	6:45 a.m. – Public Catechesis
Wednesday, September 23	8:15 a.m. – Pre-K 3 Chapel – Pastor Wood 12:30 p.m. – Chapel – Pastor Wood
Saturday, September 26	No Worship Service
Sunday, September 27	9:00 a.m. – Sunday School but no Bible Class 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service at Community Club Park 11:30 a.m. – Church Picnic
Monday, September 28	6:45 a.m. – Public Catechesis
Wednesday, September 30	12:30 p.m. – Chapel – Pastor d'Entremont

LCMS Stewardship

Stewardship in the First Commandment

Originally published in September 2023

The greatest gift that Martin Luther gave to us was his Small Catechism. The word “enchiridion” is part of the original title of this work. This is the Greek word for “handbook.” The Small Catechism is a handbook of the Bible. All the basic knowledge that a Christian needs to understand the faith and live a godly life has been taken from the Bible and distilled into this beautiful little book of Christian piety.

Luther starts with the Ten Commandments.

The First Commandment:

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. (SC I)

We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we should fear Him.

This God is also our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And therefore, we should love Him.

Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much — and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him.

In the Large Catechism, Luther explains how money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment:

This I must unfold somewhat more plainly, that it may be understood and perceived by ordinary examples of the contrary. Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Lo, such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, i.e., money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure, and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has none doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have not Mammon. This [care and desire for money] sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave. (LC I 5–9)

These words of Dr. Luther should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don't have a Father in heaven. We seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect this belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God's work.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to each of you having a September birthday.

1. Steve Elliott
3. Doane Borrenpohl, Rev. Eric Wood
4. Tyler Storck
7. Amanda Moeller, Blake Bolam
8. Kelly Schumacher, Debra Maschhoff
9. Elizabeth Isenhardt, Marita Hemman
11. Albert Moeller
12. Sandra Epplin
13. Michael Borrenpohl, Brian Going
14. Josephine Berg
15. Rachel Perry
17. Olivia Bergmann
19. Nicole Heberer
20. Jennifer Seaton, Matthew Long
22. Jared Hasheider
23. Michael Hanke, Austin Krueger
24. Shane Wagner
25. Kenley Jacobs
26. Colten Kampwerth, Steve Clark, Everett Jacobs
27. Jenna Dugger
28. Amber Frecker
29. Hadley Hasheider, Glen Schuetz, Brianna Recker

VISITATION COMMITTEE

Carolyn Rennegarbe

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Laura Obermeier and Malinda Weeke

ACOLYTES

Saturday, September 5th – Markus Lautenschlaeger and Aubrey Heberer
Sunday, September 6th – Hudson Schneider and Caden Benfield
Saturday, September 12th – Collins Schumacher and Kaidyn Schumacher
Sunday, September 13th – Landon Elliott and Mabrey Heberer
Saturday, September 19th – Maylen Kramper
Sunday, September 20th – Devin Hundelt
Saturday, September 26th – no service
Sunday, September 27th – no candles

ORGANISTS/PIANISTS

Saturday, September 5th – Sophia Wood
Sunday, September 6th – Sharon Krueger
Saturday, September 12th – Sophia Wood
Sunday, September 13th – Sharon Krueger
Saturday, September 19th – Sophia Wood
Sunday, September 20th – Sharon Krueger
Saturday, September 26th – no service
Sunday, September 27th – Brass Ensemble

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Saturday, September 5th – Dennis Pruehsner
Sunday, September 6th – Jonathan Schneider
Saturday, September 19th – Mike Jacobs
Sunday, September 20th – Jeff Jacobs

USHERS FOR SEPTEMBER

Saturday –
Sunday –

SEPTEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

9-4 Keith & Brook Langenhorst
9-5 Glen & Linda Schuetz
Stanley & Jackie Schwankhaus
9-11 Ken & Ashley Storck
9-23 John & Lori Caloia
9-28 Steve & Julie Weeke
9-29 Earl & Ruth Weeke

OFFICIAL ACTS

Membership transfer Nathan Stangle from Zion Lutheran Church, Mascoutah

SECRET ANGEL

Secret Angels are needed! If you would like to be a secret angel to one of our five 2027 confirmands, please contact Nicole Heberer (618-791-8419) via text or leave a message. Nicole will give you information about your confirmands. The confirmands for this year are: Caden Benfield, Landon Elliott, Devin Hundelt, Maylen Kramper, and Collins Schumacher. Thank you for helping our confirmands feel extra special during this special time in their life.

LWML NEWS

The Southern Illinois District LWML convention will be held on Friday and Saturday, September 11-12 at Metro East Lutheran High School in Edwardsville. The theme for the convention will be Rooted and Grounded in Love. Pat Quinlan and Emily Wood will attend as delegates and Mary Ann Niedens as an alternate delegate. As delegates, Pat and Emily have deliberated and voted for the different mission projects that our district will support with our mites over the next 2 years—missions in our district, across the country, and even around the world. The missions chosen by the voting delegates will be announced at the convention. The convention will also include election of district officers, worship and Bible study opportunities. If you are curious about the convention, please ask us!

Immanuel's LWML group will again be gathering toiletries for the Addieville UCC food pantry for the month of October. During the month of September, we will be collecting toilet paper, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, dish soap, and laundry soap. We are very grateful for the congregation's help with this in the past, and we hope you will help us again this year!

The September LWML meeting for Immanuel will be held on Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 7pm in the church narthex. Janet Lange will have the devotion, and Emily Wood will have the topic. The business meeting will include a report from the district convention, election of officers, and planning for prayer pals for the ILS students this school year. All members are encouraged to attend!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school's first day will be September 13 at 9:00am. We will be OFF September 20 for Wheat festival and then resume on the 27th. There will be an outdoor service on the 27th and the kids will be singing a song from VBS this summer. We will practice both Sundays in September. We are looking forward to another great year and as always contact Krissy, Kristal, or Amber if you have any questions!!

Immanuel Parish Nurses are looking for volunteers to help provide care in the home for the elderly, disabled, or anyone in need of some extra care. If you are interested or would like more information please reach out to Sharon Frederking at 618-599-2519 or email immanuelparishnurses@gmail.com.

SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome Back! We would like to welcome back all our students and ask God's blessings for an enjoyable, educational and joyous year. We would also like to welcome students that are new to our school: Kindergarten – Eleanor Bouget, Zane Eade, Roman Pinkston, Bailey Recker, Sylvie Shubert; Grade 2 – Henry Lisk

ILS Chapel will be on Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. We meet in church and everyone is welcome. Please enter through East door.

Baptismal Birthdays will be celebrated on the last Wednesday of each month. The students will be recognized in chapel.

We are looking for library volunteers on Tuesday afternoons. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Mrs. Recker at 618-314-1327.

2025/2026 ILS yearbooks are available for purchase in the school office. They are \$35.00 each. Please call the school office or stop in to purchase one.

September 4th and 18th are early dismissal at 12:20 p.m.

No School on September 7th and 21st.

Sports schedules for September

2026 TSJ/ILS/Oakdale Baseball

All game times are 4:30 p.m. unless noted

September 1 @ Central City

September 2 @ Centralia at 4:15 p.m.

September 10 @ Steeleville Public Ashley

September 14 Home vs Tamaroa/A

September 15 Home vs Coulterville

8th grade night

September 18-29 SIJHSAA Regionals TBD

2026 TSJ/ILS/Oakdale Softball

All game times are 4:30 p.m. unless noted

September 1 @ Central City

September 2 @ Centralia at 4:15 p.m.

September 10 @ Steeleville Public

September 15 Home vs Chester

St. Mary/Lutheran 8th grade night

September 22-29 SIJHSAA Regionals TBD

Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy

Patriots Pen is open to 6th – 8th grade students and Voice of Democracy is open to 9th – 12th grade high school students. This year's topic is "What a Veteran Taught Me about America". All submissions are due to the Okawville VFW Post by October 31st. You can find more information by visiting the websites vfw.org or vfwil.org. You can also call Steve Elliott at 618-830-6774 for details.

WEEKLY WORSHIP RESOURCE LISTINGS

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 5 & 6, 2026

Old Testament: Ezekiel 33:7-9

Epistle: Romans 13:1-10

Gospel: Matthew 18:1-20

Order of Service – Divine Service Setting One

Hymns: 902 Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

820 My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker

622 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

686 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

725 Children of the Heavenly Father

843 "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 12 & 13, 2026

Old Testament: Genesis 50:15-21

Epistle: Romans 14:1-12

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Order of Service – Prayer and Preaching

Hymns: 843 "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

501 Come Down, O Love Divine

611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 19 & 20, 2026

Old Testament: Isaiah 55:6-9

Epistle: Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Order of Service: Divine Service Setting Four

Hymns: 555 Salvation unto Us Has Come

838 The Saints in Christ Are One in Every Place

742 For Me to Live Is Jesus

745 In God, My Faithful God

769 Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ

555 Salvation unto Us Has Come

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 26 & 27, 2026

Old Testament: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Epistle: Philippians 2:1-18

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

Order of Service – Matins

Hymns: 549 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

OAR 300 Come, Let Us Praise the Lord

655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

940 Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

OAR 314 One in Christ and One in Spirit

Immanuel Lutheran Church Picnic



Sunday, September 27 • Everyone is welcome!

LOCATION: Okawville Community Club Park Pavillion



CHURCH SERVICE — 10:00 AM

featuring a brass ensemble
and children's choir



MEAL — 11:30 AM

Pork steaks and brats will be
served. Table service, lemonade,
tea, and water provided.



**Please bring a side dish
and/or dessert.**

(Refrigerator and stove
available as needed)

PICNIC DETAILS

Picnic tables are available
for seating.

Lawn chairs are welcome.

Activities for **all** ages include
bags, washers, carnival
games, crafts, and more!



RSVP AND VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Debbie

618-246-6490

Lisa

618-543-1292

Kathy

618-967-0118

Leigh Ann at

leighannyehling@gmail.com

We hope you can join us for a joyful day of worship, food, and fellowship!

Tear-Off RSVP

Immanuel Lutheran Church Picnic — Sunday, September 27

☐ I/We plan to attend Number of attendees: _____

☐ I am a teen willing to help with games

Name/Phone#: _____

Please drop off this section in the narthex box on the table,
or text Debbie at 618-246-6490, Lisa at 618-543-1292, or Kathy at 618-
967-0118, or email LeighAnn at leighannyehling@gmail.com.