

IMMANUEL SPEAKS
SEPTEMBER, 2024



Dear Friends in Christ,

As we begin this new programming year together, I would like to share these words with you from the prophet Isaiah. In the 55th chapter of Isaiah God gives this invitation, “Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.”

We have all heard it said, “Nothing in life is free, there has to be a catch, or there must be some strings attached.” Sheldon Cooper in the comedy *Big Bang Theory* would put it this way after being asked by his neighbor Penny to be a part of their secret Santa group, “Wait, you are going to buy me present? Why would you do such a thing? I know you think you’re being generous, but the foundation of gift-giving is reciprocity. You haven’t given me a gift, you’ve given me an obligation.”

I think we all know what it is like to feel like Sheldon and Penny. Yes, there are times when we do or say something like Penny when she gave a Christmas gift to Sheldon. I think we can all recall a time when we were generous, when we simply said or did something because that is who we are. But there are also times we have said or did something expecting something in return. We identify with Sheldon who receives the gift and now feels obligated for different reasons to respond in kind. No matter how much we may try to avoid it, whether we are aware of it or not; we live in a transactional world where nothing is truly free.

However, my friends, this is not the way God’s love works. God speaks these words of invitation from Isaiah 55 to a people who are in exile. Time and time again God sent prophets to guide the people but the people didn’t listen. And because of the peoples’ hard heartedness, God allowed foreign countries to conquer them and take them into exile.

Now if God operated how the world works, in a transactional way, then the people of Israel would have had three strikes pretty quickly. After all 12 of the Old Testament books are attributed to prophets. This means by the time they end up in exile they would have swung and missed, if they were playing baseball. Now, we all know what happens when you have three strikes!!! You’re out!!!

Now Imagine if the umpire told the batter, “I know it’s strike three, but we’re not leaving here until you hit a home run.” We would think that umpire is out of his mind, that is not how the game works, that isn’t how life works, nothing is free.

But notice the picture painted of God in these verses. God is not transactional but is pure boundless love. Even though the people of Israel messed things up time and time again, look at what God has to offer, and the best part is that there are no strings attached.

God loved them for who they are. And the good news for us is that God loves us for who we are. He invites his people to come to him and receive the abundant and eternal life that he attends for all.

Beloved of God, it is truly an exciting time of the year as our fall programming kicks off and we experience the boundless love God has for us and the world. And so whether you are in church every Sunday, whether it is been a while, or whether you have never stepped foot in a church before, the invitation is the same. It is for you, and you, and you, and even me. God extends his invitation to come and eat for free. God comes to fill you with love and grace!

In Christ,

Pastor Joel

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 13, 2024, 7:00 P.M.

Present: Terry Noble, Derek Rand, Gabby Rognlie, Pastor Joel, Andrea Prekker, Cheryl Colby, Laurie Dieken, Jane Niemeyer, Randy Grussing

Absent: Addisyn Pederson, Katherine Schwitters

Meeting was called to order by President Andrea Prekker.
M/S/P to accept agenda.

Reports: Secretary’s Report: M/S/P to accept report.
Treasurer’s Report: M/S/P to accept report.

Committee Reports: Video: Have had some issues with broadcasting.
Congregational Life: Have two bean bag tournaments left.
Pastor’s Report: Reviewed.

Old Business: None

New Business: Church Gutters: Will be getting another estimate before accepting any bid.
Offering Envelopes: Looking into a different method of offering envelopes. Will discuss more at next month’s meeting.

Next Meeting is Sunday, September 15th after worship service.

M/S/P to adjourn meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Niemeyer,
Church Council Secretary

August 13, 2024

1. Pastoral Acts

- 50 pastoral visits
- 1 baptism: Dakota James Kubesh

2. Worship

- Clara City Care center
 - Led worship on June 19th & July 31st
- Rally Sunday, September 8th.

3. Education/Youth

- VBS
 - Thank you to parents, children, and of course all the volunteers for another fun week of learning and growing in our faith at Camp Firelight.
- Youth Gathering
 - Great week of learning and growing in our faith and connecting with our siblings in Christ. Congregational presentation to happen this fall.
- Sunday School
 - Teachers meeting coming soon
 - Rally Sunday Sept. 8th
- Confirmation/Youth
 - Youth meeting following worship on rally Sunday, Sept. 8th.
 - First night of confirmation (7-9) is Sept. 11th.

4. Mission & Outreach

- Pie & Ice cream social & music @ Care Center, rescheduled to Sunday, August, 18th from 2-4pm.
- Community meal August 4th
- Food for kidz packing event Sept. 14th
- Looney Lutheran through community ed. Oct. 5th

5. Continuing Education/Pastoral Self-Care

- Faith+lead (Luther Seminary) courses

RALLY Sunday September 8th

LET THE FUN BEGIN AGAIN!

DURING CHURCH SERVICE

- *BLESSING OF BACKPACKS (STUDENTS PLEASE BRING YOUR BACKPACK)
- *BLESSING ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL AND SCHOOL TEACHERS
- *HANDING OUT BIBLES TO ALL STUDENTS PRESCHOOL- 9TH GRADE

FOLLOWING SERVICE

- *SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10AM
- *MEETING FOR 7TH-12TH GRADE & THEIR PARENTS IN SANCTUARY
- *BINGO DURING FELLOWSHIP HOUR
- *MEAL AT 11AM
BBQ'S, PASTA SALAD, CHIPS, BEANS & BEVERAGE



Hope to see you all there

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR SEPTEMBER

- Sunday, September 1: PowerPoint/Acolyte: Austen Olson
Lay Reader: Annette Rosen
Altar Guild: LuAnn Kruger

- Sunday, September 8: PowerPoint/Acolyte: Karly Bratsch
Lay Reader: Cindy Meyer
Altar Guild: Nancy Gosseling

- Sunday, September 15: PowerPoint/Acolyte: Addison McNeil
Lay Reader: Michele Shubert
Altar Guild: Ken & Jan Beyerl

- Sunday, September 22: PowerPoint/Acolyte: Gavin Gueningsman
Lay Reader: Laine Rieger
Altar Guild: Sara Sabe

- Sunday, September 29: PowerPoint/Acolyte: Kresson Bratsch
Lay Reader: Duane Dieken
Altar Guild: Michele Shubert

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GAD TRIBE UP FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER

Below we have printed the Tribe Membership for October 2024. The chairperson will be calling or texting you in the near future, asking you to help serve Immanuel in some way. Start thinking about what you can volunteer to help with! If everyone takes on job, the “needs” list will be filled.

- Jesse and Andrea Prekker Family
- Tami Prekker
- Steve and Julie Aalfs
- Dakota and Gabby Rognlie
- Dave and Deb Roskens
- Duane and Laurie Dieken
- Jim and LeAnn Essendrup
- Mike and Bobbie Schmidt
- Andrew Gosseling
- Brian and Kristi Hilbrands

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COFFEE FOR GALS

All Women of Immanuel are invited to Coffee for Gals. We will meet on Wednesday, September 25th from 2:00-3:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come for fun, fellowship, laughter and treats!!

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OPEN RADIO BROADCASTS FOR 2025

Yes! The year of 2025 is right around the corner! Below I have listed the dates that are open for 2025. If you would like to sponsor any of these, please call the church office at 847-2138 or talk to Pastor Joel or Kathy Speiser. The cost for a broadcast is \$100. Thank you to everyone that has sponsored a radio broadcast and for continuing to support this ministry outreach.

January 5, 12, 19
February 2, 9, 16, 23
March 2, 9, 16
April 13, 27
May 11, 25
June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

July 6, 13, 27
August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
September 14, 21, 28
October 12, 19, 26
November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
December 7, 14, 21, 28

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FOOD FOR KIDZ/GOD’S WORK OUR HANDS
SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Assembly line packing will run from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., or when the packing is done. Support jobs include set-up, check in, inside delivery of supplies, truck loading and these jobs range from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be served mid-day. You are invited to sign-up for the whole day or part of the day. Our minimum age is 5 years of age and there is no maximum age. The goal is 42,000 meals, so we need lots of volunteers! Do you know a teen who needs service hours? They could earn 7 hours, so please invite teens, friends, relatives, and neighbors.

To sign: message on Immanuel’s Facebook page, call the church office @ 847-2138, email ImmanuelLutheranChurch236@gmail.com., text/call 320-894-6649. Let’s do good together and make a difference on local and world hunger.

GOD’S WORK, OUR HANDS!

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GRADES 7-12 YOUTH AND PARENTS MEETING
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH AT 10:00 A.M. IN SANCTUARY

Once again, it is that time of year! The program year at Immanuel starts up again on Rally Sunday, September 8th! Following the worship service on that day, there will be a youth meeting for Grades 7-12, and their parents, to talk about the upcoming year. Please plan on attending!

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LOONEY LUTHERANS COMING TO CLARA CITY!!
OCTOBER 5, 2024

The Looney Lutherans!! No, not just members of Immanuel, but a “trio of wacky gals who use music, comedy, and some help from the audience to share their age-old wisdom for living a long and lively life.” The Looney Lutherans are performing at the MACCRAY Performing Arts Auditorium on October 5, 2024, as a fundraiser for the MacPac Program. This program provides food in the form of weekend or holiday food bags, sent home with kids who are at risk of not having food during that time. This program is being sponsored by Immanuel, MACCRAY Community Education and Recreation, and community sponsors. Tickets are on sale on the MACCRAY website, at the high school office, or at the door for \$20 per person. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with the show to begin at 7:00 p.m. The Looney Lutheran’s are comedic and family friendly, and you don’t have to be Lutheran to enjoy it! Please come and join the fun!!

No food or any form of a beverage, including water, are allowed in the auditorium except for the performers.



3 Ways to Give Online-NEW to Immanuel!

Safe, Secure, and Convenient!

1. Download the FREE Vanco app to your phone.

- Search **Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement** on your app store.
- Search for **Immanuel Lutheran Church of Clara City.** (Make sure you choose **CLARA CITY**-there are many different ILC's)
- You will need to sign up to create a login. Then, you can give from the app anywhere...anytime!



*******OR*******

2. Scan the QR code below with your phone camera to give to General Fund, Building Fund, Sunday School kids, or Youth (7th-12th) Fund.

- Scroll to choose your desired fund.



- You can give once or set up recurring gifts. You may use credit/debit card (3% charge that you can choose to pay or take off of your offering) or via your bank account at 1% charge.

*******OR*******

3. Church Website. (NOT FACEBOOK). Visit us at: <https://www.ilc-claracity.org/>

- Click '**Online Giving**' at the top of the page and choose your desired fund. Follow the instructions online.

We want to make church giving convenient for you. If you have any questions, please contact Kat Schwitters at (320)-894-2658. Please consider giving to Immanuel in order to continue the work we do here.

September

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 Worship/Comm. No Fellowship Hour	2 Labor Day! Office Closed	3	4	5	6	7
8 9:00 Worship/Comm. 10:00 SS/Bingo/Fellows hip/Grade 7-12 Meeting 11:00 Meal Rally Sunday	9	10	11 6:30 Confirmation	12	13	14 9:00-2:30 Food for Kidz
15 9:00 Worship/Comm. 10:00 SS/Fellowship Hour/ Church Council Meeting	16	17	18 6:30 Confirmation	19	20	21 4:00 Kruger/Nielsen Wedding
22 9:00 Worship/Comm. 10:00 SS/Fellowship Hour/ Endowment Committee Meeting	23	24	25 2:00-3:30 Coffee for Gals 6:30 Confirmation	26	27	28
29	30 Prairie Woods Day - PreK thru 9 th grade					

