



Immanuel News

The newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greeley, Colorado

November 2026

Dear Family of God,

November looks different depending on your latitude. It may harbor the relief of cooler temperatures and decreased humidity, or the melancholy of fallen leaves and constant drizzle, or the gray chill of the first snowy skies. Regardless, in the northern hemisphere November is a **“thin”** time, **when the veil between the worlds feels more sheer**. We look more closely at death, think more about those dear ones who have died, and contemplate our own eventual death. **Both** the secular and church calendars turn us dust-ward, with Halloween ghosts, All Saints Day commemorations, Día de los Muertos altars decked with candles and flowers, Veterans or Remembrance Day, and more. With US Thanksgiving and Christmas on the horizon, November reminds us that there may be empty places at the tables of this year’s holiday gatherings. November looks different depending on geography, but across the continent, it speaks of death.

Many of us will carry death into worship in some form or fashion, tied up like a heavy burden, hard to bear (*Matt. 23:4*). But our lectionary texts help us speak of death as Christians who do “not grieve as others do **who have no hope**” (*1 Thess. 4:13*) and I am always glad to share that hope with you in person.

We begin the month with All Saints Day landing this year on a Sunday. **In our worship we proclaim and confess the communion of saints and the resurrection of the dead**. On All Saints Day, we ponder in the beatitudes Jesus’ strange and powerful blessing of those who mourn, and imagine together the day when “God will wipe away every tear from [our] eyes” (*Rev. 7:17*).

To be clear, November’s texts are not light ones: **November 8 and 15** shake the day of the Lord in front of our faces and force us to reckon with our failures. We have not “let justice roll down like water” (*Amos 5:24*). We are the foolish bridesmaids, unprepared for the Lord to actually show up; we are also the so-called wise ones, unwilling to share our resources (*Matt. 25:1-13*). We have not stewarded well the personal and financial talents God has given us (*Matt. 25:14-30*).

We also speculate uneasily about life after death: Will **we** “enter into the joy of [our] master” (*vv. 21, 23*), or not? But our texts these weeks give us **solid reason to hope**: “God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ” (*1 Thess. 5:9*). God has called us, the baptized, to important labor: to “encourage one another and build up each other” (*1 Thess. 5:11*). How can we celebrate this work in Immanuel?

Finally, **Christ the King Sunday** drops Matthew’s ultimate parable of judgment in our laps: **We are both sheep and goats**, at times engaging in works of mercy without even realizing it, and at other times utterly failing to see Christ in the one who is hungry, thirsty, naked, a stranger, sick, or in prison (*Matt. 25:31-46*). But Ezekiel reminds us that **the Lord is not only judge** but also the shepherd who promises to search, seek, rescue, gather, feed, bind up, and strengthen all of us.

November is a thin place of death and judgment and mercy. Yet, around the table of Jesus, every week, we step into a thin place where the living and the dead are close again; we are one communion of saints, one in the body and the blood. **At this holy meal, may the eyes of our hearts be enlightened so we may perceive the hope to which God has called us** (*Eph. 1:18, Christ the King*).

God's peace, God's love, God's hope be with you,
Pastor Bill Embree

WORSHIP

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November 1 — 10:30 Worship - *All Saints Day*
November 8 — 10:30 Worship - *24th Sunday after Pentecost*
November 15 — 10:30 Worship - *25th Sunday after Pentecost*
November 22 — 10:30 Worship - *Christ the King Sunday*
November 29 — 10:30 Worship - *First Sunday of Advent*



Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family of Roy Woldum Jr., who went to his heavenly home October 20, 2026. Services will be at Immanuel, on Sunday, November 1st at 2:00 pm.

The family of Marge Thompson would like to thank Pastor Embree and the congregation of Immanuel Lutheran Church for their prayers, kindness, and support during our recent loss.

Your love has meant more than words can say.
Thompson Family



Giving of our Time and Talents

There is still time for you to turn in a Time & Talent sheet and/or a pledge card.

There are additional Time & Talent Sheets and pledge cards on the table at the back of the Nave.

YOUTH & FAITH FORMATION

Bible Study

Adult Sunday Bible Study group
Please join us in the Library, next to the Kitchen.



Youth Ministry

FIRST SUNDAY YOUTH GROUP

November 1st

SCHEDULE:

9:00am – Snacks Together in the Fellowship Hall

9:15am – 5th Grade & Younger

9:15am – Middle School & High School

10:00am – Back Together for Fun & Games

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



Prayer Team

The prayer team is keeping you in our prayers. If you have a request, contact pastor or prayer cards are available and may be left in the box at the back of the church. You can also contact anyone on the prayer team or call the church office with your request.

Roma Arithson Diane Filipe

Sharroll Bernahl

Connie Deines Janet Willis

CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION

Thanksgiving Baked Potato Bar Sunday, November 22nd following Worship

We are so thankful for all our volunteers that make Immanuel so special all year long. Please join us in a Thanksgiving Potato Bar lunch. Please bring your favorite pie or dessert.

Baked potatoes with all the toppings,
plates, utensils & drinks will be provided!



Christmas Poinsettia

Christmas is right around the corner and it is time to think about Christmas poinsettias! The Poinsettias will again be used to decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve

**INFORMATION REGARDING PRICE AND ORDERING DEADLINE
WILL BE COMING SOON!!**



Youth Christmas Program



Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 13th for the Annual Youth Christmas Program during the Worship Service at 10:30 am. A cookie reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

GIVING & SERVICE

Free Little Red Barn Pantry

Please consider bringing shelf-stable, non-perishable food items to place in the barn each Sunday so our pantry will stay stocked and continue to be a blessing for our neighbors in need! Please just make sure your donations are not past their expiration date.

Travel-sized shampoo & conditioner, toothbrushes, and bars of soap are also appreciated.



Let's work together to FILL THE BARN!

LUTHERAN EPISCOPAL CAMPUS MINISTRY

Support Campus Ministry: Bring a Meal to Sunday Dinner Church

Support Campus Ministry: Bring a Meal to Sunday Dinner Church

Support campus ministry and students in Greeley for the fall semester by signing up to bring a meal for our Sunday evening Dinner Church gatherings. These meals are a weekly anchor in our community, and students look forward each week to eating together. Your help providing the food for these meals makes this time together possible. Thank you! Find more details and open dates on our Meal Train page:

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/ynk9ey/updates/lm0dw6>

If you are able, please plan to eat with us!



Gathering around a meal together is such an important part of our ministry, and we couldn't do it without you! Thank you so much for being a meal donor!

Pastor Sheryl

Interim Campus Pastor

Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry @ UNC Greeley

CHURCH COUNCIL



<u>NAME</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>
Budde, Cindy	Secretary
Clausen, Cheryl	
Crespin, Janet	
Elmquist, Julie	President
Johnson, John	Vice President
Larson, John	
Sickles, Katy	

EFTF –Endowment Foundation Trust Fund

The Endowment Foundation Trust Fund (EFTF) uses interest earned on the donations in the trust fund to support special needs and work of the church that is not covered by the church budget. If you have a special need in mind, please submit a request for fund disbursement. The EFTF Committee considers requests quarterly. Please see an EFTF Committee member if you have questions or pick up a request form from the EFTF mailbox in the church office.

Committee members: Janet Crespin, Amy Herold, Elaine Holbrook, Janet Johnson

GIA Clothing Bank



Several Greeley-area churches sponsor and help operate the Greeley Interfaith Assn. Clothing Bank, located at 228 N. 9th Ave., Greeley.

The hours open are 10:00 a.m.— 2:00 p.m., Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

The Clothing Bank accepts gently used items of clothing and sells them to the public at a reasonable cost. Proceeds of the sales cover operating expenses and then go toward community scholarships and grants.

Volunteers are always needed. Volunteers sort clothing, price the clothes, place on the racks, and check out customers at the cash register. Volunteers also receive a discount for clothing purchases when they work.

See Julie Elmquist, Cindy Thompson, Brenda Turnwall or Katy Sickles for more information. Love to see you there.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

- Audio/Visual Upgrades have been made in the sanctuary. Thank you A/V Committee!
- The volunteer appreciation potato bar social will be 11/22 after church. Everyone is welcome
- The Sunday School Christmas Program will be 12/13

**Please join us for our next meeting on
Tuesday, November 10th @ 6:30 p.m.**

Tied in Faith...

**Will meet on Tuesday, November 3 and
Thursday, November 19.**



Our logo—with the cross, water and a white lily—identifies women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as children of God; baptized, forgiven, adopted into God's family, full of grace and hope in eternal life. It is a reminder of the growth, beauty, and vitality that rises out of that life-giving baptismal water. It is also a reminder of the mission of the church to "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).



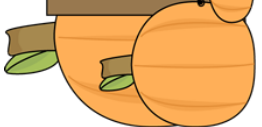


Groups Meeting at Immanuel

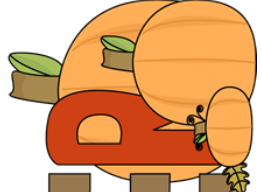
TOPS— 9:00-10:30 am
Tuesdays

Pastor Feo Group
Thurs — 7-9
Sunday— 4:30-7:00 pm





NOVEMBER



2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 9:00 am-Youth Group 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:00 am-Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am- Holy Communion	2 Common Sense Kleaning—Church	3 9:00 am—Tied in Faith 	4	5	6	7
8 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:00 am-Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am- Holy Communion 11:30 am-ASAP †	9 Common Sense Kleaning—Annex 9:30 am—2:00 pm—ILC at GIA Clothing Bank	10 6:30 pm—Council Meeting 	11	12	13	14
15 † 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:00 am-Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am- Holy Communion	16 Common Sense Kleaning—Church	17	18	19 9:00 am—Tied in Faith †	20	21
22 CHRIST THE KING † 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:00 am-Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am- Holy Communion 11:30 am-Baked Potato Bar	23 Common Sense Kleaning—Annex 9:30 am—2:00 pm—ILC at GIA Clothing Bank	24	25	26 	27 CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED	28
29 1ST SUNDAY ADVENT † 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:00 am-Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am- Holy Communion	30 Common Sense Kleaning—Church					

Thanks to our Volunteers!

November 2026

November 1:

Greeter:	Sunday School
Ushers:	Ron & Cindy Thompson
Assisting Minister:	Janet Willis
Lector:	Vicar Roberto
Communion Setup:	Cindy Thompson
Tellers:	Marvin & Connie Deines

November 8:

Greeter:	Vera Sylvester
Ushers:	Matt & Molly Ward
Assisting Minister:	Cindy Budde
Lector:	Molly Ward
Communion Setup:	Molly Ward
Tellers:	Vera Sylvester, Brenda Turnwall

November 15:

Greeter:	Diane Filipe
Ushers:	John Johnson & Sally Stewart
Assisting Minister:	Janet Willis
Lector:	Luke Larson, Jack Larson
Communion Setup:	Sue Morse
Tellers:	Linda Sample, Janet Johnson

November 22:

Greeter:	Vera Sylvester
Ushers:	Katy Sickles, Juan Cruz
Assisting Minister:	Cindy Budde
Lector:	Pete Budde
Communion Setup:	Linda Cruz
Tellers:	Janet Crespín

November 29:

Greeter:	Diane Filipe
Ushers:	Katy Sickles, Vera Sylvester
Assisting Minister:	Janet Willis
Lector:	Vicar Roberto
Communion Setup:	Cindy Thompson
Tellers:	Bob & Sue Morse

CONTACT INFORMATION

Bridge Pastor:	Pastor Bill Embree	
Secretary:	Denise Pollard Stricker	970-352-3003
Office Hours:	M —Th 9:00 am to 12:00 pm	
	Offices closed on Fridays	

Executive Council:

President:	Julie Elmquist
Vice President:	John Johnson
Secretary:	Cindy Budde
Treasurer:	Connie Deines
Financial Secretary:	Bob Morse