



# Immanuel News

*The newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greeley, Colorado*

## July 2026

Hi, Gang,

Whew, 250-year anniversary for our nation and 150-year anniversary for our state makes this July 4 celebration extra special. Add election primaries in June and mid-term elections this November and we have quite an interesting and, hopefully, thoughtful July 4<sup>th</sup> and 2026 year. We celebrate our past and plan for our future. Please join with me in celebrating safely (the excitement of fireworks and the horror of wildfire don't mix), and making our best, thoughtful decisions for our nation's/state's leadership.

Being at war now, and especially since our war has created hardships and death for friend and foe all over the earth, and struggling with the tension, violence and death our polarized society is experiencing, has raised the issue of peace and peacemaking to the top of my list of criteria for good leadership. A recent article by a colleague has confirmed my thoughts. I share it with you to encourage you to consider peacemaking, within our nation and between nations, a priority this year.

God's peace be with you, Pastor Bill Embree

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Monday, May 25, 2026, was Memorial Day. There are multiple theaters of war in the news daily and nuclear saber-rattling hints and activity getting into public conversations these days, more so than we've heard for quite a while.

With those concerns in mind, I think back to my Uncle Neil, whom I never met. Most of you likely have your own memories and stories about wartime.

Here's my family's story: As my first birthday was approaching during WWII, Uncle Neil was crawling uphill from the beach on an island called Tinian in the Northern Mariana Island group as the U.S. Marines attempted to capture that strategically located 39 square miles from Japanese forces who feared the U.S. getting any closer to the Japanese homeland. Uncle Neil didn't make it. Machine-gun fire hit and killed him on July 24, 1944.

I've read old letters from a cardboard box in my recently deceased sister's home. One letter was from Neil's body who crawled uphill just a few feet from Neil that day but didn't get hit. Another letter was from Neil's commanding officer. Both were addressed and written to Neil's Mom, my paternal grandmother herself just in her early 40s.

I had a hard time reading those letters through very misty eyes. Both letters attested to Neil's great record, his sense of teamwork, and loyalty to his unit. Both cited his bravery under several previous dangerous sets of mission conditions. The death of this brave and well-loved marine was the first shock to my dad's own faith in the good and gracious God he had been raised to love, trust, and worship. Neil was the kind and encouraging big brother who had always been almost idolized by my dad.

Less than a year later, a mini enemy submarine somehow slipped into the harbor where Dad's ship was berthed. That sub torpedoed another ship in a dangerously-close nearby berth – that was an ammunition ship, the USS Mount Hood. It was fully loaded with bulk ordinance ranging from small-arms ammunition to heavy 16-inch shells. Dad's ship, the USS Mindanao, took the catastrophic force of the explosion.

It killed 82 of Dad's shipmates and injured dozens of others – a great many friends instantly gone. Dad survived but his faith never recovered until, I believe, when he made confession, took communion and received the last rights of the Roman Catholic Church from an old priest, a family friend, just a few weeks before Dad's passing.

Back now to Tinian. It was eventually captured by American forces. Uncle Neil was one of several hundred other US Marines killed there in July and August of 1944, and well over 1,000 were badly injured in the battle. The Japanese lost several thousand soldiers killed. Only a few hundred were taken prisoner because so many, as many as 4,000 Japanese soldiers and civilian Japanese residents of the island chose ritual suicide, many obeying the military code against surrender and others, probably mostly civilians, fearing torture caused by propaganda about the “barbarian Americans”.

Tinian rapidly became one of the largest US air bases in the world and home to the Enola Gay B-29 Superfortress which dropped the first ever military targeted atomic bomb in history on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. That single bomb, “Little Boy,” destroyed most of Hiroshima, and by the end of the year between 90,000 and 166,000 had died as a result of the blast and its effects. The Hiroshima Peace Memorial, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, serves as a memoria of the bombing.

Shall we forget? Shall we engage in a new arms race? Shall we allow the fraying and destroying of international alliances of nations who take peace as a holy responsibility? Shall we elect individuals who don't believe what Jesus said in Matthew 5:9, in his Sermon on the Mount, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God?” Pray for peace, people everywhere!

*Pastor Bill McGuinness, First Presbyterian Church, Vallejo, CA*



# WORSHIP

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**July 5** — *Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*

**July 12**—*Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*

**July 19** —*Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*

**July 26**—*Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*

*Bible Study* 

Adult Sunday Bible Study group  
is taking a break this summer, and will resume in the fall!

## **The Call Process**

On Sunday, June 28, Immanuel members and friends heard a presentation by Pastor Diana Linden about the TEEM program.

We then met the Call candidate who is in the TEEM program.

On Sunday, July 19, the Council has called for a congregational meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on the Call candidate and to approve the compensation package.

*Immanuel members are strongly encouraged to attend the congregational meeting.*

## YOUTH & FAITH FORMATION



### **FIRST SUNDAY YOUTH GROUP**

The youth will be taking a vacation during the summer months  
and will begin meeting on the first Sunday of October.

# YOUTH & FAITH FORMATION—*continued*

## Vacation Bible School Day Camp 2026

We sang, we danced, we laughed! We colored and painted and glued. We made new friends and played together. Zach, Sylvie, Andrew and Georgi from Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp were awesome leaders! They were on FIRE! Yes, on Wednesday, during water games time, they told the children, “We are on fire! Put out the fire!” So, the children had no choice but to fill cups with water and pour water on their heads. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this time such a success:

Check-in table - Janet Crespin  
Daily Lunch crew - Katy Sickles, Cheryl Clausen, Mike Sickles, Evie Clum, Ellie Clum  
Crafts - Connie Deines, Chelsea Connor, Bill Kortier  
Snack Time - Michelle Larson, Julie Elmquist  
Wranglers - Cindy Budde, Jett Douglas, Jacklin Hansen, Austin Denman, Taylor Denman  
Dinner Hosts - Stan & Julie Elmquist, Janet Johnson, Cindy & Pete Budde, the Ward family  
Daily Mentor - Pastor Bill Embree



## PRAYER & CARE



### 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

# 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!**

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## LUTHERAN EPISCOPAL CAMPUS MINISTRY

*Sunday Dinner Church is on hiatus for June and July. Keep watching this page to find out when it resumes for the fall semester...*

### **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!



# 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

### Council Highlights

- Received a new quote for the Audio/Visual upgrades
- Set the date for the Meet & Greet with the Call Candidate
- Set the date for the congregational meeting to vote on the Call Candidate and compensation package

Please join us for our next meeting on  
Tuesday, July 14 @ 6:30 p.m.



**Tied in Faith...**  
Will meet on Tuesday, July 7,  
Thursday, July 16 &  
Saturday, July 25



Women <sup>of the</sup> **ELCA**  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

## CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION

### Audio/Visual (AV) Committee

After reviewing the requirements for Immanuel Lutheran Church (ILC) and evaluating proposals from vendors, the AV committee recommended proceeding with a **Single Projector/Dropdown Screen solution** (proposed by UE Productions). This direction best aligns with our core principles of stewardship, simplicity, and preserving the aesthetic integrity of our worship space.

#### Key Benefits of this choice:

1. **Superior Livestreaming:** The 3-camera system provides a more professional and inclusive experience for homebound members.
2. **Comprehensive Audio:** The inclusion of specific piano and room micing ensures the music ministry is captured with high fidelity for both recordings and the live feed.
3. **Environmental Stewardship:** Centralizing the display reduces long-term maintenance and energy waste compared to managing multiple hardware units
4. The electrical improvements needed have already been completed thanks to the generosity of Meyer Electric. UE Productions will be purchasing the equipment soon and arranging for an installation date thereafter. Install date is TBD
5. We look forward to the improvements for individuals worshipping both in church and virtually!

Many thanks to the AV Committee for their work throughout the process, including Matt Denman, Stan Elmquist, John Larson, Lelyn Larson and Pete Budde.



Immanuel Lutheran —  
Thank you so much for thinking of me and taking the time to write cards!  
I really appreciate it! Also, thank you for the Target gift card.  
I'll need to find a good day to use it!  
Love, Madi

Members & Pastor:  
Thank you so much for the beautiful plant for my ordination and  
installation. I have fond memories when Our Saviors and Immanuel would  
get together for Thanksgiving Services; "Praise and Pie."  
Thank you for keeping me in your prayers & thoughts.  
With Gratitude, Deacon Linda Akers

Immanuel Lutheran —  
Thanks once again for your faithfulness to Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry.  
We ended the school year with our End of the Year BBQ and celebrating with one of  
our students as their affirmed their baptism. A high point indeed!  
Thank you for being a partner with us in this important ministry!  
Thank you for your generosity!  
Pastor Sheryl Kester-Beyer  
Interim Campus Pastor



Groups Meeting at Immanuel  
 TOPS— 9:00-10:30 am  
 Tuesdays  
 Pastor Feo Group  
 Thurs & Fri— 7-9 pm  
 Saturday— 5:30-9:30 pm



# 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 
5 9:30 am-Holy Communion 10:30 am- Coffee Fellowship	6  CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED	7  9:00 am—Tied in Faith Common Sense Kleaning—Annex	8	9	10	11
12 9:30 am-Holy Communion 10:30 am- Coffee Fellowship Prayer Team	13 Common Sense Kleaning—Church 9:30 am—2:00 pm— ILC at GIA Clothing Bank	14 	15	16 9:00 am—Tied in Faith	17	18 †
19 9:30 am-Holy Communion 10:30 am—Congregational Meeting Coffee Fellowship	20 Common Sense Kleaning—Annex	21 	22	23 †	24	25 9:00 am—Tied in Faith †
26 9:30 am-Holy Communion 10:30 am- Coffee Fellowship	27 Common Sense Kleaning—Church 9:30 am—2:00 pm— ILC at GIA Clothing Bank	28 	29	30 †	31 †	

# Thanks to our Volunteers!

## July 2026

July 5:

Greeter:	Karen Karst
Ushers:	Ron & Cindy Thompson
Assisting Minister:	Julie Elmquist
Lector:	Luke Larson, Jack Larson
Communion Setup:	Cindy Thompson
Tellers:	Bob & Sue Morse

July 12:

Greeter:	Julie Elmquist
Ushers:	Matt & Molly Ward
Assisting Minister:	Janet Willis
Lector:	Molly Ward
Communion Setup:	Molly Ward
Tellers:	Vera Sylvester, Brenda Turnwall

July 19:

Greeter:	Vera Sylvester
Ushers:	John Johnson & Sally Stewart
Assisting Minister:	Janet Willis
Lector:	Janet Willis
Communion Setup:	Sue Morse
Tellers:	Linda Sample, Janet Johnson

July 26:

Greeter:	Vera Sylvester
Ushers:	Katy Sickles, Juan Cruz
Assisting Minister:	Julie Elmquist
Lector:	Janessa Padilla
Communion Setup:	Linda Cruz
Tellers:	Janet Crespín

## 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