



Immanuel News

The newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greeley, Colorado

September 2026

When I was some (a lot of) years younger, September was the ending of summer, the beginning of school and had the feeling of starting all over. Almost every Church I've been associated with, personally and professionally, used this time to begin serious programming: Sunday school, Bible studies, choir, often a change of worship time and a myriad of things that took a pause through the summer months. In our case at Immanuel, it also means the beginning of Vicar Roberto Tello-Molina's ministry here.

Some of those things start a bit sooner now: school begins first of to mid-August; Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas merchandise come earlier and earlier; fall sports leagues open their schedules in August.

I have served and worked at Immanuel for almost a year, now. Honestly, until recently I didn't pay a lot of attention to *your* "seasons", the ebb and flow of *your* programming and emphasises. I was thinking of myself as holding a place until (soon?) a more permanent (younger, smarter, handsomer) replacement is found who would take up that focus. Well, a few months has stretched into a year and, with Vicar Roberto's advent (small 'a': "a coming into being or use") to ministry at Immanuel, and my mentorship with him, I'm realizing my pastoral leadership needs sharpening/expanding. I'm working on it, thanks to our church leaders.

The Sunday Gospel readings (all from Matthew) lead us into a preparation for a kind of "beginning again", or maybe better said, a kind of "renewing again" effort to walk with God. We leave August with Matthew describing the disciples, especially Peter, confessing Jesus' messiahship and then Peter denying it should lead to Jesus' death: "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." (16:22) To which Jesus responds, "Get behind me, Satan!" (vs.23) and sums things up with, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (vs.24)

For the Gospel writer, Matthew, his audience **are** those who have denied themselves to follow Jesus, as Peter later declares, "Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" (19:27) They have become "Christians" when before they were Jews or Gentiles. As Jews they were God's chosen. Now what are they? As Gentiles, what does it mean to be a member of 'God's family'?

Matthew recites Jesus' promise, "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundred fold, and will inherit eternal life." (vs.29) Will receive "a hundredfold" houses, brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, children? The church, God's children, men and women, - we - are the fulfillment of that promise.

We step into September with Matthew using Jesus to instruct us how to live into this new identity we have as Jesus followers. How do Jesus' people live together? They are instructed to work through their differences peacefully, with conversation one to one and as a community (18:15-20). They wrestle with forgiveness, received and passed along (18:21-35). They struggle with and receive absolute *equanimity* in living with Christ and Christ's brothers and sisters (20:1-6).

Check out the September calendar attached. Join, in prayer, support, and physically if you can, God's people here, working at God's kingdom in this place at this time. Bring your forgiveness, equality, and conversation. Join me, Roberto, and all of us who seek to deny themselves and follow Jesus as we begin/renew living and working in the kingdom.

Pastor Bill Embree

WORSHIP

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

September 6 — 9:30 Worship-*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*
September 13 — 10:30 Worship-*Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*
September 20 — 10:30 Worship-*Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*
September 27— 10:30 Worship-*Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION

The Call Process

If you have been reading these reports, you know that the Call Committee and the Council have had questions about how the TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) program works.

When we had a Special Congregational Meeting on July 19 to vote on Roberto Tello-Molina as our Vicar, we ensured that we had the correct wording for the motions voted on that day.

However, we neglected to include a third motion. Because Roberto must be supervised when he begins serving at Immanuel, we have asked Pastor Bill Embree (our Bridge Pastor) to serve as his mentor. Therefore, the congregation must approve the remuneration for Pastor Bill as mentor.

The Council calls for a Special Congregational Meeting for Sunday, September 13, 2026, immediately following the worship service for the purpose of voting on the following motion:

“Shall we continue to pay Pastor Bill Embree’s \$3000 per month salary plus an additional \$1000 per month for mentoring Roberto Tello-Molina until the end of our fiscal year (through January 2027)?”

All members are strongly encouraged to attend this brief, but important, meeting.
Immanuel Lutheran Council

YOUTH & FAITH FORMATION



All are invited to participate in the Rally Day activities on September 13th at 9 am at the Annex Backyard.

Coffee, juice, and snacks will be served.

Games for everyone – basketball shooting, hopscotch, corn hole, marble game, Bible trivia, playing cards – Bible themed. Come join us!!

Church service 10:30 am

Lunch served after service. Council will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, drinks, plates and silverware.

Congregation is asked to bring a salad or a dessert.

We will gather in the church basement for lunch following the Congregational Meeting.

Bible Study

Adult Sunday Bible Study group
will meet September 13 to discuss what we might be
studying this fall. Please join us in the Library,
next to the Kitchen.

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.

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Sharroll Bernahl

ACTIVITIES

**Mark Your Calendars —
September 18 & 19, 2026**



**Please bring your donations and leave them in
the northwest Sunday School room!**

**Volunteers are also needed for set-up, pricing
and sale days!**

**Contact Cheryl Clausen— 970-978-0726
or Katy Sickles-303-809-7755 with questions
and/or to volunteer**

PLEASE — No TV's or Computers!

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

Greetings! We had our first dinner church of the new school year last night (August 23rd). It was great to see old friends and some new ones! If you would be willing to provide a meal for our students on a Sunday evening, please use the provided link to sign up on our meal train page.

<https://mealtrain.com/ynk9ey>

We are especially in need of a meal for Sept. 6th and yes, we know it's Labor Day Weekend, but we will still be gathering and our students will still be hungry! LOL! So, if you will be around that weekend (or any other open Sunday for that matter) and willing to provide a meal it would be greatly appreciated!

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

- The middle school room in the Annex has been painted. New flooring has been ordered.
- Rally Day is scheduled for 9/13/26 with a congregational BBQ to follow.
- Immanuel will make a donation (from contingency) to the ELCA Disaster Relief Fund to go towards earthquake relief in Columbia and Venezuela.

Please join us for our next meeting on
Tuesday, October 13th @ 6:30 p.m.



Tied in Faith...

Will meet on Tuesday, September 1
& Saturday, September 26



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).

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.

Groups Meeting at Immanuel



TOPS— 9:00-10:30 am
Tuesdays

Pastor Feo Group

Thurs — 7-9

Sunday— 4:30-7:00 pm



2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:00 am—Tied in Faith 	2	3 +	4	5
6 + 9:30 am-Holy Communion 10:30 am-Coffee Fellowship 2-5 pm—Turnwall Family in Fellowship Hall	7 CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED	8 Common Sense Kleaning—Church 6:30 pm—Council Meeting 	9	10 +	11	12
13 + 9:15am-Coffee Fellowship 9:00 am-Activities for All 10:30 am-Holy Communion 11:30 am-Meeting & Lunch 	14 Common Sense Kleaning—Annex 9:30 am—2:00 pm—ILC at GIA Clothing Bank	15 GARAGE/BASEMENT SALE SET-UP 	16	17 +	18 GARAGE SALE — 8 AM—2 PM	19
20 + 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:00 am-Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am- Holy Communion	21 Common Sense Kleaning—Church	22 	23	24 +	25	26 9:00 am—Tied in Faith
27 + 9:15 am-Bible Study 10:00 am-Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am- Holy Communion	28 Common Sense Kleaning—Annex 9:30 am—2:00 pm—ILC at GIA Clothing Bank	29 	30			

Thanks to our Volunteers!

September 2026

September 6:

Greeter:
Ushers: John Johnson & Sally Stewart
Assisting Minister: Julie Elmquist
Lector: Luke Larson, Jack Larson
Communion Setup: Sue Morse
Tellers: Marvin & Connie Deines

September 13:

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

September 20:

Greeter: Vera Sylvester
Ushers: Lelyn & Jacque Larson
Assisting Minister: Janet Willis
Lector: Janet Willis
Communion Setup: Sue Morse
Tellers: Linda Sample, Janet Johnson

September 27:

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

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 (h)970-330-6679 or (c)970-371-2734
Vice President: John Johnson (c)970-397-7108
Secretary: Cindy Budde (c)970-371-6588
Treasurer: Connie Deines (c)970-378-1475
Financial Secretary: Bob Morse (c)303-359-5919