



Immanuel News

The newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greeley, Colorado

August 2026

Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls, brothers and sisters, Citizens of the Kingdom,

August is that month that seems to mark the end of Summer and vacations and no school and long days of sun and heat and growing gardens. While not there quite yet, we begin to see on the horizon the beginnings of Fall, Autumn, harvest. Schools start up, we think “Do the children have what they need (want?) for school?”, and “Where did we put the cold weather clothes?”, and will the monsoon rains come, and...

I tend to think of it as starting up again and needing to figure out how to welcome the changes coming with school, the holidays we love to celebrate, weather changes and “Will they ever get that road fixed?!!”

Interestingly, to me anyway, is how the church year focuses our attention on Jesus trying to figure out exactly what **he** is to be doing? In our Sunday worship over the months since Easter, we have followed Jesus as he has patiently, carefully, and frustratedly (I made that word up) worked at teaching his disciples (and us, right?) about the kingdom of heaven and training them to work in it. The Sundays in July were filled with parables as Jesus tried to get the disciples to dig deeply into the kingdom of heaven, how to live in it, and how to invite, encourage and show others how to be kingdom dwellers, too.

But some things didn't seem to be clear to Jesus, or, maybe better, things that Jesus had experienced began encouraging him to ask questions like, “Who is my message of the kingdom of heaven meant to be revealed to? Are the disciples getting it? Where is this work taking me to?”

Jesus is shaken by the news of John the Baptist's death (Matthew 14:1-12) and “*he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself.*” Matt. 14:13 To grieve? To get God's guidance and comfort? To rethink his ministry and where it might lead him?

The crowds follow (I guess the disciples, too) and Jesus, reluctantly I think, feeds them – 5000 in all - with meager supplies. Is that what Jesus is about, feeding people, supplying their physical needs? He needs more time with his Father.

The people leave, the disciples head back to town, and Jesus “*goes up the mountain by himself to pray.*” Evening comes (the beginning of a new day in Jewish time) and Jesus heads out, walking across the water, to follow the disciples home. He overtakes them on the water (they were having a hard time) and he and Peter have a situation. It works out, but the disciples are terrified of him.

He meets a Canaanite women (a non-Jew). Now, Jesus has instructed the disciples that the good news of the presence of the kingdom of heaven is meant for God's people, the Jews. She seems to challenge Jesus otherwise. He seems to assent. So, then, should Jesus expand his teaching, healing, and preaching beyond his own people? Is he being effective among his own people so that they “repent” and recognize that “the kingdom of heaven has come near?” Matt. 4:17

(I think I'll preach about Jesus as being God and human in one person and what that means he can do and cannot do. Most of the time, and I can think of only 3 exceptions, Jesus is his human self trying to do what he thinks his Father, God Almighty, wants him to do and having lots of questions. A lot like you and me, I'm thinking.)

Finally, I guess to get some clarity about his ministry and exactly what his Father has called him to do, Jesus asks the big questions: “Who do people say that I am?” and, one of the biggest, “WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?”

Hmmm. Peace, Pastor Embree

WORSHIP

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

August 2 — *Tenth Sunday after Pentecost*
August 9 — *Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost*
August 16 — *Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost*
August 23 — *Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*
August 30 — *Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION

The Call Process

On Sunday, July 19, Immanuel members met for a Special Congregational meeting to vote on the Call candidate and to approve the compensation package.

The 38 members voted overwhelmingly “That Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church extend an offer to Roberto Tello-Molina to serve as Vicar of Immanuel Lutheran Church while participating in the ELCA’s Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) program.” and “That Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church approve the proposed compensation package as presented by the Immanuel Council.”

The Council thanks those who helped with this Transition journey. In the spring of 2025, the Transition Team of Cindy Budde, Juan Cruz, John Johnson and Julie Reimers conducted congregational listening sessions and reported the results to the Council and the congregation. The main result was that Immanuel and Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry (LECM) would no longer seek a candidate together.

Next, the Call Committee was formed consisting of Pete Budde, Julie Elmquist, Janet Johnson, John Larson, Araceli Olguin, and John Reimers. John Reimers resigned from the committee and we thank him for his leadership and insights for those first few meetings. The Call Committee then prepared the Ministry Site Profile and submitted it to the Rocky Mountain Synod office. By November, the Synod was able to give us the name of a possible Bridge Pastor, and Pastor Bill Embree started in that position at the beginning of December.

Also in November, the committee met with Pastor Sara Wirth who introduced us to an alternative way to call a pastor through TEEM. In January, the committee met with a potential candidate. By March, we were in consensus about the candidate, but had questions regarding how the TEEM program would work at Immanuel. At its April meeting, the Council met the candidate, received the unanimous recommendation from the Call Committee and approved submitting this candidate’s name to the congregation for their approval.

The Congregation met the candidate June 28 at a Meet & Greet session with time for questions for the candidate and also about the TEEM program. The official Call for a Special Congregational Meeting was mailed prior to the July 19 meeting.

Blessings, Immanuel Lutheran Council

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.

Bible Study 

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

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

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

Sunday Dinner Church is on hiatus for August. 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	Worship & Music
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

The Council did not have a meeting in July.

Please join us for our next meeting on
Tuesday, August 11 @ 6:30 p.m.

Tied in Faith...

Will meet on Tuesday, August 4
Thursday, August 20 &
Saturday, August 29



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
2 9:30 am-Holy Communion 10:30 am- Coffee Fellowship +	3 Common Sense Kleaning—Annex	4 9:00 am—Tied in Faith	5	6 +	7	8
9 9:30 am-Holy Communion 10:30 am- Coffee Fellowship Prayer Team +	10 Common Sense Kleaning—Church 9:30 am—2:00 pm—ILC at GIA Clothing Bank	11 6:30 pm—Council Meeting	12	13 +	14	15
16 9:30 am-Holy Communion 10:30 am- Coffee Fellowship +	17 Common Sense Kleaning—Annex	18	19	20 9:00 am—Tied in Faith +	21	22
23 9:30 am-Holy Communion 10:30 am- Coffee Fellowship +	24 Common Sense Kleaning—Church 9:30 am—2:00 pm—ILC at GIA Clothing Bank	25	26	27 +	28	29 9:00 am—Tied in Faith
30 9:30 am-Holy Communion 10:30 am- Coffee Fellowship +	31 Common Sense Kleaning—Annex					

Thanks to our Volunteers!

August 2026

August 2:

Greeter:	Ron & Cindy Thompson
Ushers:	Julie Elmquist
Assisting Minister:	Luke Larson, Jack Larson
Lector:	Cindy Thompson
Communion Setup:	Marvin & Connie Deines
Tellers:	

August 9:

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

August 16:

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

August 23:

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

August 30:

Greeter:	Vera Sylvester
Ushers:	Katy Sickles, Vera Sylvester
Assisting Minister:	Janet Willis
Lector:	Luke Larson, Jack Larson
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