

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN NEWS

OCTOBER 2026

Pastor's Page

I remember my dad preparing to go on a motorcycle trip to his favorite dude ranch on the border of Colorado and Wyoming. It was near a place called Tie Siding. Because of the beauty of the landscape and the people who had become his friends, it held a special place in his heart.

Motorcycle touring is not like traveling in a pickup or RV or even a car. Space for clothing and other necessities is limited and my dad took a great deal of time planning just how everything would be packed by laying everything out on the floor first and then carefully arranging in duffel bags and backpacks to be sure it would fit. Also it was important that important items like motor oil and rainsuits would be easily accessible when the journey was under way. One thing, though. There would be no bailing out when the journey was under way. The plan must find a way to be executed! Great memories are developed through the realization of adventure – sometimes those memories come at a great price – which, no matter what, are worth it.

I am truly blessed to be a part of the life of Immanuel Lutheran in Ceresco. The journey of faith that the future holds is an adventure that deserves some preparation. **A task that the congregation of the present can undertake first is to Come to terms with our history.** We follow Jesus. We are Lutheran. We have a northern European heritage. We have been yoked to other congregations. We have been associated with a few different organizations during our history. We have chosen at this time to be associated with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. When old things pass away we may be sad or angry but the thing that is coming must rest on the skills, talents and assets that we have developed through past experience. That adventure prepares us to meet this one. The good news is that God has promised to be with us.

One thing that defines us in the present moment is that we listen to Jesus when he invites us to the table he has prepared where he says, “Take this and eat it. This is my Body given for you.” And again, “This Cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins.” Matthew, Mark and Luke all tell the story of Jesus in the upper room with his disciples. Paul adds a line in 1 Corinthians 11 where he has Jesus say, “Do this often, as you drink it in remembrance of me.” Lutherans have always believed that Jesus is truly present in and with the bread and wine because he says, “This is my body.” and we believe we can take him at his word without trying to solve the whole mystery. A question may arise about what “Do this often ...” means. Before I came to Ceresco, Immanuel had decided that it is good to receive Jesus in the Lord’s Supper at every worship service – because he promises to be there.

I studied the article on the Sacrament of the Altar in Luther’s Large Catechism as a basis for deciding some things. Luther thought that a Christian ought not be compelled to come to the table, but that when the sacrament is offered the Christian person should be delighted and encouraged to come. The reason is that here the promise of forgiveness and life and salvation is realized. Those are the very things for which the sinner – in need of a savior – prays. And here they are, given and shed for you. **I’ll deal with this more next month.**

See you at worship this week. Come looking for Jesus! Bring the children.

Here is a link to the article on the Lord’s Supper:

Luther’s Large catechism: https://bookofconcord.cph.org/en/large-catechism/part_5/

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
OCTOBER 2026				1	2	3
4 All ages Sunday School 9:00am Confirmation 9:00am Worship Service & Holy Communion 10:15am Usher guidelines	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 All ages Sunday School 9:00am Confirmation 9:00am Worship Service & Holy Communion 10:15am Music & Worship meeting	12 Columbus Day	13 Church Council 6;30pm	14	15	16	17 Fall cleanup 8:30am
18 All ages Sunday School 9:00am confirmation 9:00am Worship Service & Holy Communion 10:15am	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 All ages Sunday School 9:00am Confirmation 9:00am Reformation Worship Service & Holy Communion 10:15am	26	27	28	29	30	31



October Birthdays

"Happy Birthday!" to everyone that has a birthday this month! As we celebrate your

birthday, let us take the time to express our gratitude for being part of our church family.

Food Pantry

For October – Nov. – Dec, we are asking the congregation to bring any items that can be used for Holiday meals or Holiday baking. Such as potatoes - canned meat powdered & brown sugar - flour – box rolls & breads mixes etc..



Church Council Meeting

The next Church Council meeting will be on Tuesday **Oct. 13th** at 6:30 pm.

Feedback

The church council is looking for your feedback on why individuals and families may no longer be active in our church. Please feel free to reach out to our council members (Jim, Doug, Hailey, Suzy, Justin, Lisa J. and Chrissy). They are willing to talk with anyone about their concerns. For more confidential feedback, please use the "Feedback" box at the back of the church.

Backpack Packing Schedule

This year's backpack schedule for Immanuel is as follows (10 – 4 – 26) (11 – 1 – 26) (12 – 6 – 26)

Building Usage

If you are interested in using the fellowship hall for personal events, please see Lisa Kaiser, our Building Coordinator. All

events need to be scheduled through Lisa. This will keep the hall from being double booked and she will be able to convey the guidelines for usage.

Right Now Media

Please utilize the church's Right Now Media subscription. Any one can sign up for this service including members, visitors, family, neighbors, etc. Please see the back page for additional information.

Updates

A **special offering** is being taken to buy new microphones.

A **call committee** will be formed to help us find a new Pastor. This is a long process so anyone who would be interested in joining this committee please speak to a church council member.

We are working on a **funeral usher guideline** to help those who volunteer as ushers for a funeral. This will let them know what that job entails.

We are looking for someone to volunteer to organize next year's **VBS**.

Confirmation class will be held at a new time Sundays at 9:00am this year.

Acolyting training for all 6th graders & up will be given by Fran Freeman during the month of Sept.& Oct.

Oct 4th we will meet to finish our funeral usher guidelines after the service.

The music & Worship Committee will meet on **Sunday Oct.11th** after the service. We will be discussing plans up to the end of this year.

Oct. 17th our Fall clean - up will start at 8:30am. Volunteers please come & lend a hand!

Oct.25th is Reformation Sunday! Please wear red this Sunday.



October Ushers

Oct.. 4 Dane & Hailey Drahota
 Oct.. 11 Rachel Hedges
 Oct. 18 Jim & Roxann Countryman
 Oct. 25 Aaron & Crystal Haake



October Lectors

Oct. 4 Hailey Drahota
 Oct. 11 Fran Freeman
 Oct. 18 Kristi Badberg
 Oct 25 Crystal Haake



October Acolytes

Oct. 4 Noah Hakke
 Oct. 11 Eli Hedges
 Oct. 18 Gracie Wilcox
 Oct. 25 Livy Wilcox



Prayer List

Gracie Lambert (health – member)
 Lana Tilson (health – member)

Sharon Kaiser (broken bone in foot – member)
 Jim Countryman (surgery – member)
 Heather Lucht (blood disorder – Hanson)
 Frank Tetley (Health – Tetley)

Jani Jo Finteral (Mental and Physical Health – Johnson)

Brogan Molnar (Healing – Pearson)

Kirk & Kim Pearson (Health – Pearson)

Gracie Wilcox (Blood Disorder – Bevington)

Steve Martz (Stroke – Bevington)

Dawn Buss (Health – Fran's Daughter)

Corey Chandler (Health – Fran Freeman)

Lisa Christensen (Health)

Jess Sharping (health – Kaiser)

Shelly Hannneman –(health – Rudeen)

Laura Brown (health – Rudeen)

Jerry Walllen (recovery-Rudeen)

Zach Emerson (FCA Mission)

Adam Johnson (Convincing Proof)

Wade Family (Missionaries – Bible Translation)

Pat Westre (brain surgery - Verilck)

Persecuted Christians around the World

People in War Torn Areas & Natural Disasters

Health & Protection of Everyone

*"I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them."
 1 Timothy 2:1 NLT*

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