

The Messenger

November 2026

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. 1 Peter 4:10

As the seasons change, the church year comes to a close. November begins with All Saints Day as we honor those who have gone before us. We pay special tribute to our members who have passed over within the past year. But we also invite you to join us this year and light a candle for your loved ones who have gone in years past. Then the last Sunday of month, the 29th, marks the end of Church Year A and beginning of Year B and the Advent season.

While the church year ends in November, the calendar year draws to a close in December and time comes to once again evaluate the state of affairs of our church here at Immanuel. The time comes to talk about that word we always hate to mention, "money." Barring a late year surge, we will not meet our budget. We will not even meet our actual expenses. Unfortunately, we have faced this same struggle for a number of years.

The simple solution is to ask everyone to give more. And while it is always a good idea to reexamine one's giving each year; we know that times are tough. God does not expect anyone to forgo their own basic needs to give to the church. Nor should anyone ever feel guilty because they cannot give more monetarily. We have each been blessed with different gifts we can use to the glory of God.

Nevertheless, the time is rapidly coming when we must face the fact that a church, our church, cannot operate in the red forever. We do not spend extravagantly. Our two largest expenses are maintaining an aging building and salaries. So, the question is: do we let our building deteriorate, do we cut our staff, or do we find a new way to be the church? Make no mistake about it: "the church" is not a building or the staff. "The Church" is Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, and will never die. Each one us is a living stone in the church of Jesus Christ and we need each of you to help us decide how to move into the future. Amen.

Pastor Jacque

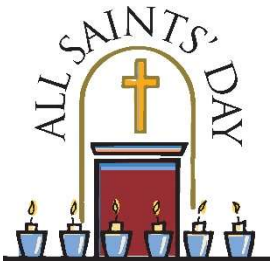


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Daylight Saving ends November 1

Make sure to set your clock back 1 hour Saturday night before you go to bed!
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All Saints Sunday, November 1



When we confess the Apostles' Creed and proclaim our belief in the "communion of saints", we remember all the saints, famous or obscure, who have died and are at rest with God. On All Saints Sunday, we especially remember those members who have died recently: Rosella Cline, Bill Vaupel, Mary Koetkemeyer, Barbara Nelson, Bob Hodge, Clark Crowl, Arline Agin, Ethel Diehl, and Kay Swisher.

Funeral Pre-Planning Event * Sunday, November 8

Join us in the Fellowship Hall following worship for this informational gathering.
Presenters include a representative from Ryan's Mortuary and Pastor Jacque.
A baked potato bar brunch will be served by the Stewardship Team

Live Nativity and Parade of Lights * Saturday, November 21

Live Nativity * 1:00-2:30 pm * Immanuel's Parking Lot

Volunteers are needed! Please see the sign-up in the narthex.
Our Live Nativity is part of the Salina Downtown Holiday Festival and can be found on their schedule.

Parade of Lights * 6:00 pm.

Immanuel, Redeemer, and St. John's will have a shared float in the parade. We need volunteers for the following roles: Float Decorators, Parade Walkers, Float Protectors, and Candy Distributors.
Please sign up if you are able to help out.

Thanksgiving Eve Dinner & Worship * Wed, November 25



5:30 pm Dinner ($7/person) * 7:00 pm Worship with Communion
Reservations due by noon on Wednesday, November 18.
Volunteers are needed to prepare the meal.
To make reservations or volunteer: 785-825-4750 or office@immanuelsalina.org

A Season of Gratitude and Giving

Before we know it, we will be celebrating Christmas and bringing another year to a close. As you prayerfully consider your year-end giving, we ask that you remember Immanuel Lutheran Church and the ministry we share together.

As of September 30, 2026, our budgeted envelope offerings totaled $138,798, while actual giving totaled $113,329. This leaves a difference of $25,469. We ask for your prayers and thoughtful consideration as we work together to address this shortfall and support the ongoing mission and ministry of our congregation.

If you have a required minimum distribution (RMD) from your IRA, you may also wish to consider making a **qualified charitable distribution (QCD)** to Immanuel Lutheran Church. Please consult your tax advisor to learn more about this option and whether it may be appropriate for your situation.

Thank you for your faithful support, generosity, and commitment to Immanuel Lutheran Church. Your gifts help sustain our ministry and allow us to continue sharing God's love with our congregation and community.

If you have questions, please contact Randy Olson, Council President.

Financial Snapshot as of September 30, 2026

Our financial snapshot provides an update on the General Operating Fund through September 30, 2026.

General Operating Fund

- **Total Income:** $172,386.74
- **Total Expenses:** $200,140.55
- **Operating Deficit:** $27,754.81

Actual expenses are in line with our budget. However, actual revenue is approximately $27,700 below budget, resulting in the current operating deficit. We will continue to monitor our finances and remain mindful of our responsibility to faithfully steward the resources entrusted to our congregation.

Membership & Congregational Meetings

With our annual meeting approaching in January, it's time again to revisit church membership. To fully participate in congregational meetings, you must be a Voting member.

There are two ways to become a member of an ELCA congregation: 1) be baptized in the congregation, or 2) transfer from another congregation.

Members of this congregation are divided into five categories:

Baptized members - those who have a) been baptized in this congregation, b) transferred from another Lutheran congregation, or c) received by affirmation of faith.

Confirmed members - those who have been a) confirmed in this congregation, b) received by adult baptism, c) transferred as a confirmed member of another Lutheran congregation, d) baptized persons received by affirmation of faith.

Voting members - Confirmed members who have communed and made a financial or in-kind contribution to this congregation within the last two years. (Also referred to as "active" or "communing & contributing" members.)

Associate members - those who hold membership in another congregation but wish to participate in the life and mission of this congregation, or those who wish to retain relationship with this congregation while being members of another congregation.

Seasonal members – for information about Seasonal membership please see our constitution C8.02.e.

Membership is terminated upon 1) death, 2) resignation, 3) transfer or release, 4) removal due to inactivity. Inactive members, those who have not communed or contributed for two consecutive years, may be removed from the membership by action of the Congregational Council.

Please remember to complete and return your Connect Card next time you worship at Immanuel so your membership information can be updated!

A Harvest of Gratitude

The colors and beauty of autumn remind us that every season carries evidence of God's goodness. As we enjoy cooler days and changing leaves, may we pause to give thanks for God's provision and share our blessings with those around us.



Property Update

Sanctuary HVAC Repairs

You may have noticed that the HVAC system serving the sanctuary has been out of operation for the past couple of weeks. A compressor failed due to an electrical short to ground, requiring the entire sanctuary system to be shut down. The system could not be safely restarted until the necessary repairs were completed.

The Property Ministry Team carefully reviewed the diagnostic information generated by the system's continuously monitored diagnostic tool. Based on those findings, the team determined that the following emergency repairs were needed:

- One replacement compressor
- Two inverter boards, with the possibility that a third may be needed
- Two days of on-site labor
- Required fittings and related components

With colder weather approaching, the repairs were considered an emergency, and the necessary parts needed to be ordered as soon as possible.

Our Constitution authorizes the Property Ministry Team to make decisions regarding emergency property needs. The team presented its findings to the Council at a special meeting on September 28, 2026. Given the urgency of the situation, the Council approved repairs to the sanctuary HVAC system at a cost not to exceed $15,000.

The HVAC contractor's quote was $13,377, and the parts have been ordered. Once they arrive, the contractor will begin the necessary work to restore the system. Funds for this expense will come from the Berkley Fund money market account.

We appreciate your patience as we work to address this important building need and prepare for the colder months ahead.

Roof and Water Issues

Recent rains have been welcome, but they have also highlighted some ongoing issues with the roof on the north side of the building. Standing water has accumulated on the flat roof, and water has leaked into several areas of the church.

The Property Ministry Team continues to evaluate options to help resolve these issues. Sealant has already been applied to one of the roof's raised walls, and we are requesting proposals for commercial-grade guttering to be installed along sections of the north roof.

In addition, Randy Olson and Terry Oehmke worked in the drainage pit on the north side of the building, removing accumulated debris, dirt, and leaves from the pit drain. This work should allow water flowing into the pit to drain away from the building properly again.

If you have any questions, please contact Randy Olson or Rick Gibson.

Thank You to Our Volunteers!

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who has helped address these water issues and care for our church building. We are grateful for the time, effort, and willingness to serve demonstrated by: **Rick Gibson,**

Randy Olson, Steve Schneider, Eugene Tillberg, Terry Oehmke, Carol Ann Sloo, Corlene Lange and Mindy Tillberg.

Thank you to all who continue to give their time and talents to maintain our church home. Your dedication makes a real difference as we work together to care for our facilities and the resources entrusted to us.

Bethany Village News and Notes

Bethany Village is pleased to begin sharing occasional updates and helpful information with our area church communities. As Medicare Open Enrollment approaches, October 15 through December 7, we encourage seniors and their families to carefully review their coverage for the coming year. Before changing Medicare or Medicare Advantage plans, take a few minutes to contact your physicians, hospitals, pharmacies, and other healthcare providers to make sure they accept the plan you are considering. A plan that looks attractive on paper may not be the best choice if the providers you know and trust are not in its network. A few phone calls before enrolling can prevent difficult surprises later.

At Bethany Village, we are grateful to be part of a community that cares for one another.

By Kris Erickson, CEO



Immanuel friends - I want to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, visits, and phone calls while I was in the hospital and now at home. Thank you, *Norma Hodge*

Thank you to everyone who donated items, made bake sale goods, helped set up tables and organized items, helped customers, and helped clean up. We made around $1,900 and had 193 customers. This money will be added to our Churches general fund. Thanks again. This is always a fun event.

Rummage Sale Team

Thank you to Terry Oehmke for delivering our LWR kits to the in-gathering at St Johns in Salina.

Thank you to Tracy Schneider and Kandi Gibson for sorting and organizing Share Shed donations.

Out of Office

The church office will be closed November 11 and November 26-27.
Mindy will be out of the office November 29-December 13 on a continuing education trip to Germany.

Council Meeting Summaries

September 28, 2026: Emergency approval for the Sanctuary HVAC system, including compressor replacement, in an amount not to exceed $15,000 and to proceed with engaging Kruse Corporation.

October 12, 2026: There is a year-to-date deficit of $27,734. Approved Live Nativity activities, Portico health insurance level and purchase of refrigerate for up to $1,500 for HVAC system repairs. Property team will continue investigation of addition of gutters to roof on the north side of the building. Letters to families for All Saints Sunday were mailed.

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saints Sunday 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Youth & Ed Team 11:00 Bible Study Daylight Savings Ends	**2** 5:30 Finance Team	**3** 5:15 Worship Team Sandwich Day	**4** 6:30 Missions Team	**5** 5:30 Property Team	**6** 8:00 Men's coffee	**7** Bison Day
8 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Funeral Pre-Planning event	**9** 6:30 Council meeting	**10**	**11** **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED** Veteran's Day	**12**	**13** 8:00 Men's coffee Indian Pudding Day	**14**
15 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Bible Study Messenger Deadline	**16** Check Your Wipers Day	**17**	**18** 9:15 Stewardship Team 12:00 Reservations due for Thanksgiving Eve DInner 5:15 Altar Guild	**19** 9:00 Evangelism Team Great American Smokeout	**20** 8:00 Men's coffee	**21** 1:00 Live Nativity 6:00 Parade of Lights
22 Christ the King 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Bible Study	**23**	**24** Sardines Day	**25** 5:30 Dinner 7:00 Thanksgiving Eve Worship	**26** **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**  Thanksgiving Day	**27** **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED** 8:00 Men's coffee	**28**
29 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Bible Study 1st Sunday in Advent	**30** Computer Security Day					





A Reason to Give Thanks

After Eddie Rickenbacker and his companions were rescued after more than three weeks adrift in life rafts in the Pacific, he was asked what lesson he had learned from the ordeal.

He answered that anyone with plenty of fresh water to drink and enough food to eat should never complain.

His words still speak clearly today. Many blessings can become so familiar that we barely notice them. This Thanksgiving, pause to give thanks for clean water, nourishing food, a safe place to rest and the people God has placed in your life. Let gratitude continue long after the holiday table is cleared.

Do you have an article for the Messenger? Please send information to office@immanuelsalina.org. Deadline for the newsletter is the 15th of the month.

	Nov 1	Nov 8	Nov 15	Nov 22 Chris the King	Nov 25 Thanksgiving Eve	Nov 29
Greeter						
Usher						
Acolyte						
Cantor		Pam Michel				
Asst Minister		Pam Michel				
Lector						
Kid Sermon						
Communion						
Altar Guild	Monica Davis	Kathy H & Amy V	Connie Beisner			
Fellowship						

Immanuel Lutheran Church ~ 255 South Seventh Street, Salina, Kansas 67401 ~ 785-825-4750
Pastor Jacqueline Thornton ~ pastorjacque@immanuelsalina.org
Deacon Mindy Tillberg ~ office@immanuelsalina.org

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2026 Christmas Candle Order Form

Please place my order for ____ candle/s. The price is $10 each.
Payment must accompany each order. Make checks payable to "Immanuel Altar Guild".

Name _____ Phone_____

Address_____

Candles given:
____ in memory of _____

____ in honor of _____

Candles may be picked up any time after the late service on Christmas Eve.
You are responsible for picking up your candles. Candles must be picked up by January 3, 2027.
DEADLINE for ordering is Monday, December 7.