

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

37515 Park Trail, Almelund, MN 55012

Pastor Justin Fenger

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

A welcoming community rooted in Christ, growing in faith and serving with joy!

SERVICE FOR SUNDAY

9/20/2026

**GATHERING
TODAY'S SERVICE
IS USING**

ELW: RED BOOK

PRELUDE:

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

P: We confess our sins
before God and one
another.

*Pause for silence and
reflection.*

P: Merciful God,

C: You show us how to live as your servants, yet we act as though your teaching applies to everyone else but us. We pass judgment on others, devalue ourselves and disrespect your creation. Show us the way back to the path which leads to life, and help us repair the damage we have caused to our relationships, ourselves and this earth, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

P: Through God's love we are forgiven, and all things are being made new through Christ. God's grace is enough to cover us and make us whole again, to live and serve another day. Let us rejoice that our God is full of mercy! **Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: God is my chosen portion and my cup.
L: I have a goodly heritage in pleasant places.
L: I will bless God who gives me counsel.

C: God is at my right hand; I shall not be moved.

C: God is at my right hand; I shall not be moved.

C: God is at my right hand; I shall not be moved.

OPENING HYMN:

Gather Us In (v.v.1,3)

ELW 532 Red

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Holy God, You are merciful, just, and gracious. Make us grateful recipients of your generosity and joyful dispensers of the same lavish benefits to those who depend upon us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON:



**Welcome to
Immanuel!**

Thank you for joining us for our worship service. Whoever you are, whatever you've done, or wherever you are in life. You are loved by God which means, You are welcome here at Immanuel., God's grace is given freely, not earned. So whatever journey you are on, God led you here today. We thank you for coming and hope you see you again soon.

Visitors, welcome to worship! If you are interested in knowing more about our congregation please speak to Pastor Justin or call the church office! Contact info is on the back of this bulletin.

We encourage all children who can read, to follow along in the bulletin during our worship service.

We invite you to follow the service and take part in a way that feels right to you.

Hearing devices are available from an usher.

P = Pastor

L = Leader

C = Congregation

R = Reader

Sections in **bold** are to be read by the congregation

Today's Scripture

Exodus 16:2-15

Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45

Matthew 20:1-16

SCRIPTURE READING:

Jonah 3:10-4:11

¹⁰And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not. ⁴But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry. ²And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil. ³Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live. ⁴Then said the LORD, Doest thou well to be angry? ⁵So Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there made him a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, till he might see what would become of the city. ⁶And the LORD God prepared a gourd, and made it to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief. So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd. ⁷But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered. ⁸And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live. ⁹And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, even unto death. ¹⁰Then said the LORD, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not labored, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night: ¹¹And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than six score thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM:

Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45

R: O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

C: Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

R: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

C: Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.

R: Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

C: O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

R: Then he brought Israel out with silver and gold,
and there was no one among their tribes who stumbled.

C: Egypt was glad when they departed, for dread of them had fallen upon it.

R: He spread a cloud for a covering, and fire to give light by night.

C: They asked, and he brought quails, and gave them food from heaven in abundance.

R: He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed through the desert like a river.

C: For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham, his servant.

R: So he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing.

**C: He gave them the lands of the nations,
and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples,**

R: that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws. Praise the Lord!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Blest Be the Tie That Binds (v.3)

ELW 656 Red

GOSPEL:

Matthew 20:1-16

Glory to you, O Lord

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You

also go into the vineyard.’⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner,¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?’¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

SERMON:

HYMN OF THE DAY:

You Are Mine (v.v.1,2,Ref.,3,Ref.)

ELW 581 Red

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

OFFERTORY:

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS:

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW 184 Red

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

God of abundance, we have all that we need, and yet so often we feel that we deserve more. May these gifts that we offer be given in gratitude for your many blessings, for the sake of furthering your justice toward all people. For the sake of our savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION:

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

THE LORD’S PRAYER:

ELW Pg. 112 Red

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name;
Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC INVITATION:

In your kingdom the last are first and the first are last. Gather us now around your table with all our brothers and sisters, regardless of rank, age, background, or disposition. Feed us all on the same food, that we may be one in our desire to follow and serve you all our days. Come to the feast that our savior has prepared for all!

DISTRIBUTION:

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

SENDING:

L: We have labored long in the vineyard.

R: We have only just arrived.

L: We have lived our whole lives in the faith.

R: We are new to everything, open to learning.

L: We have sweated and toiled for this community.

R: We have not yet done much service.

L: We have built everything you see here.

R: We have new ideas for changes.

L: Surely we are of more value, our opinions carry more weight.

R: Don't we have a say in how we do God's work in the world?

L: God has given us all an equal wage, no matter when we have arrived in the vineyard.

R: We are grateful for God's great generosity.

L: We, too, can be grateful for it, and live generously in response. **R: Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING HYMN:

For The Fruit of all Creation

ELW 679 Red

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RALLY SUNDAY AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST!!! Sunday September 27, 2026

Important Date Change Notice!

The October Community Dinner, hosted by the Prayer Shawl group, will be held on Friday, October, 16th from 4:30p-6:30p.

This is a week later than normal, due to a scheduling conflict. The November and December dinners will be held on the second Friday of those months.

Almelund Farmer's Market began its 19th Season at Rod's Country Corner!! Come Friday afternoons – 3-6:00 and check out the local items...annuals, perennials and garden plants, asparagus, rhubarb, eggs, maple syrup, honey, breads, jams/jellies, craft items and other goodies! Products change with the season. New vendors are encouraged and welcomed to join this fun community get-together. If interested, contact Pat @ 651-583-2100.

Youth Group

Welcoming all new 6th graders!

Youth Group began Wed. Sept. 16th 6:30-7:30

Apple Fest Sept. 20th. All youth are needed to work this event if possible.

Luther Point retreat Oct. 23-25

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE QUARTERLY WELCA MEETING:

Sunday October 11th following the service. Grab your coffee and treats and meet in the north fellowship hall.

We have several important dates/events coming up in this last quarter of the year that we will be discussing.

Hope to see you then!

WELCA is accepting donations of toilet paper, paper towels, laundry soap and cleaning wipes for New Pathways. Donation box in Gathering Area. Donations are accepted until September 25th.

Holy Smokes!

Mark, your calendars - Holy Smokes is at Wild Mtn. Winery on Thursday, September 24 at 6:30 PM.

We have a Food and Essential shelf located by the Men's bathroom in the Fellowship Hall. This is for the use of all people/church congregation, neighbors/Our Community. Please take items as needed. You may also donate items to this shelf. Non-perishable/Non expired items. Examples: canned food, boxed cereals, muffins, care items and cleaning supplies. (On behalf of Stewardship members: Thank you)

Viking Vittles Needs You

In order to continue the weekend food program for students in our community that are food insecure we need people to deliver the totes to the schools. This would be one day a month for approximately 1 hour. Each tote contains 8 bags of food for students. The totes weigh between 25-28#. Last year we delivered 7 totes to the Education Center and 23 totes to Sunrise River School. The totes can be delivered on Tuesday or Wednesday mornings.

You would deliver once per month. To volunteer or if you have questions, please call Donna at 612-363-5072.

Sunday School

- Sept 27th - Rally Sunday with pancake breakfast
 - Rally Sunday will be a Carnival game style as the last few years have been
 - Teresa noted 21 large bags and 21 small bags to use for prizes and giveaways
 - Ping Pong balls and numbered duckies
 - Many prizes and give aways
 - Bags, ping pong balls, duckies and give aways are in a large tote in Classroom B
 - Pre-load bags, and then have additional prizes at the game sites

Dadu and his family are moving into their new home, and our church family has a wonderful opportunity to welcome them! As they settle in, here are some items they could use:

- Dining room set • Living room set • Coffee tables • Microwave • Bedroom set
- Beddings • Towels • Any other household items are appreciated!

If you have something to share, please contact the church office. Thank you for your generosity and for helping make their new place feel like home.

Donated items: Crockpot, handmixer, bath towels, a double sheet and double bed frame (boxspring/mattress needed), dining room set W/four chairs and lamp.

Exercise your vocal chords! Come sing with Unexpected Company Chorale! Rehearsals for our winter concert, "Songs of Wonder", started on Monday, September 14th, at Trinity Lutheran Church, [13025 Newell Avenue, Lindstrom](https://www.13025NewellAvenue.com). Register in person starting at 6:30 PM or register online at www.ucchorale.org. Rehearsals are Monday evenings, at 7PM. If you love to sing, you should sing with Unexpected Company Chorale!

THANK YOU

Thank you for the quilt and prayer shall.

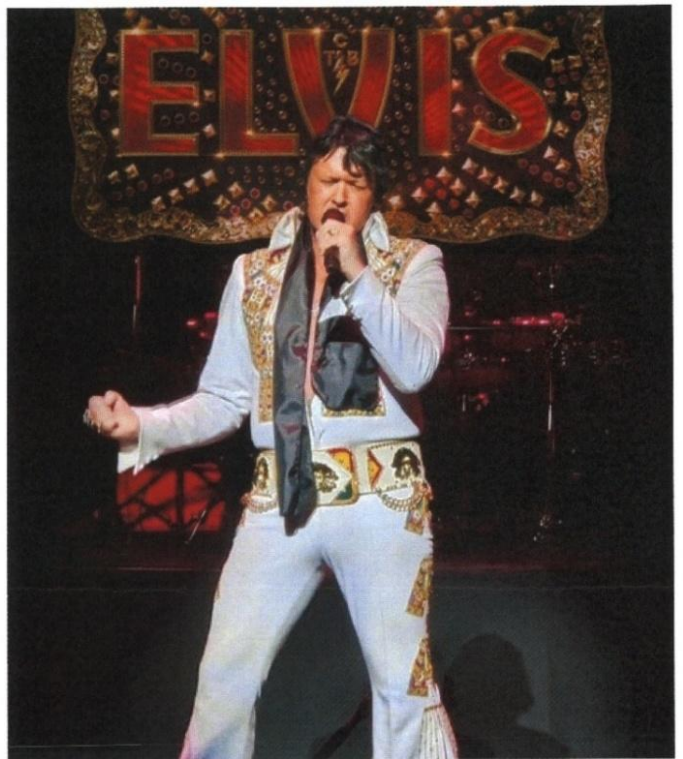
Luke Rivard

Fri., Oct 16, 4:30-6:30

Community Dinner

***Free!
Everyone Welcome!
Great Fellowship!
Meet your friends & neighbors!***

***Immanuel Lutheran Church
Almelund
Come & Bring a Friend!***



Experience the King like never before. Anthony Shore will be putting on a Gospel Show as Elvis.

October 25, 2026 at 2:00 PM

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Almelund, MN

Come for a fun afternoon show and rock to the Gospel Music of Elvis Presley

Thank you for helping lead worship today! Pastor: Justin Fenger Organist: Dadu Reeves Reader: Steve Peterson Ushers: Marty Johnson Communion Servers: Norm, Julie, Clay Sound Tech: Dave Rue Camera Tech: Jodi Johnson-Waldemar Proclaim: Carli Linngren Children's Sermon: Pastor Justin Altar Guild: Green Jeske Noordergraaf Coffee Servers: No coffee; See you at the Apple Festival	Immanuel Church Calendar This Week Sunday September 20 9:00 Communion Worship Service Live and Online. 11:00 Service at First Ev. Lutheran Church TF 11-4 Apple Festival Monday September 21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9-3 Office hours 6:00 Chris Ed Tuesday September 22 9-3 Office hours 9:00 Worship Team Meets 10:30 WOW Practice Wednesday September 23 9-3 Office hours 10:00 Newsletter ready for proofreading 5:30 Confirmation Thursday September 24 Deadline for Bulletin Info 9:00am Wisdom Seekers study @ First Lutheran TF 6:30 Holy Smokes @ Wild Mtn. Winery Friday September 25 9-3 Office hours Bulletins Printed 10:00 Newsletter Assembly Printing New Directories 3-6 LAST Almelund Farmer's Market at Rods Saturday September 26 9:00 am North Cluster Gathering Sunday September 27 9:00 RALLY SUNDAY/WOW Worship Service Live and Online. W/Prayer Shawl Dedication 10:00 Men of ILC serving pancakes PICK-UP NEW DIRECTORIES & NEWSLETTERS 11:00 Service at First Ev. Lutheran Church TF		IMMANUEL STAFF Justin Fenger, Pastor Dadu Reeves, Organist Mark Weslander, Administrative Assistant & Financial Recorder Jenica Beck, Financial Secretary Kim's Kleaning, Church Custodial Work Daryl Abrahamson, Cemetery Groundskeeper Jason & DeeDee Fredlund, Youth Directors Office Hours: M,T,W,F 9:00am-3:00pm Unless otherwise noted. Cell phone (651)431-8941																																					
	CONTACT INFORMATION Immanuel Lutheran Church 37515 Park Trail, Center City, MN 55012 Email: office@immanuelalmelund.com Phone: (651)583-2340 Website: www.immanuelalmelund.com Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchOfAlmelund Justin Fenger, Pastor pastor@immanuelalmelund.com (651)308-7717 Dadu Reeves, Organist dadureeves@gmail.com (609)503-0554 Mark Weslander, Administrative Assistant office@immanuelalmelund.com (651)431-8941 Jenica Beck, Financial Secretary finance@immanuelalmelund.com (763)377-5396 Jason & DeeDee Fredlund, Youth Directors jfredlund@frontiernet.net Dianne Wiik, Prayer Chain ywiik99@yahoo.com (651)583-2600 Daryl Abrahamson, Cemetery julie.l.abrahamson@gmail.com (651)674-2419 Martha Strecker, Quilting group mmstreck@frontiernet.net (651)341-3885 Joanne Johnson, Prayer Shawl group chareter@yahoo.com (651)278-2686																																							
September 13, 2026 Attendance: 69 Weekly Giving Update: September 13, 2026 <table><tr><td>General</td><td>\$4,133.00</td></tr><tr><td>Benevolence:</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>-Synod</td><td>\$ 450.00</td></tr><tr><td>-Itonia Cong.</td><td>\$ 25.00</td></tr><tr><td>-World Hunger</td><td>\$ 25.00</td></tr><tr><td>Building Fund</td><td>\$ 152.00</td></tr><tr><td>Loose</td><td>\$ 27.00</td></tr><tr><td>Shared Ministry</td><td>\$2,130.00</td></tr><tr><td>Online Service Fee</td><td>\$ 12.00</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>\$6,954.00</td></tr></table>	General	\$4,133.00	Benevolence:		-Synod	\$ 450.00	-Itonia Cong.	\$ 25.00	-World Hunger	\$ 25.00	Building Fund	\$ 152.00	Loose	\$ 27.00	Shared Ministry	\$2,130.00	Online Service Fee	\$ 12.00	TOTAL	\$6,954.00	Happy birthday this week! <table><tr><td align="center">20</td></tr><tr><td align="center">Bryan Peterson</td></tr><tr><td align="center">21</td></tr><tr><td align="center">Carter Rothe</td></tr><tr><td align="center">Steve Blomquist</td></tr><tr><td align="center">Erin Tauer</td></tr><tr><td align="center">22</td></tr><tr><td align="center">Janet Johnson</td></tr><tr><td align="center">Henry Larkin</td></tr><tr><td align="center">25</td></tr><tr><td align="center">Kris Koran</td></tr><tr><td align="center">Zayden Thelander</td></tr><tr><td align="center">26</td></tr><tr><td align="center">Gene Fisk</td></tr><tr><td align="center">Tammy Johnson</td></tr><tr><td align="center">Andrea Boyer</td></tr><tr><td align="center">Nancy Nadeau</td></tr><tr><td align="center">Ida Johnson</td></tr></table>		20	Bryan Peterson	21	Carter Rothe	Steve Blomquist	Erin Tauer	22	Janet Johnson	Henry Larkin	25	Kris Koran	Zayden Thelander	26	Gene Fisk	Tammy Johnson	Andrea Boyer	Nancy Nadeau	Ida Johnson
General	\$4,133.00																																							
Benevolence:																																								
-Synod	\$ 450.00																																							
-Itonia Cong.	\$ 25.00																																							
-World Hunger	\$ 25.00																																							
Building Fund	\$ 152.00																																							
Loose	\$ 27.00																																							
Shared Ministry	\$2,130.00																																							
Online Service Fee	\$ 12.00																																							
TOTAL	\$6,954.00																																							
20																																								
Bryan Peterson																																								
21																																								
Carter Rothe																																								
Steve Blomquist																																								
Erin Tauer																																								
22																																								
Janet Johnson																																								
Henry Larkin																																								
25																																								
Kris Koran																																								
Zayden Thelander																																								
26																																								
Gene Fisk																																								
Tammy Johnson																																								
Andrea Boyer																																								
Nancy Nadeau																																								
Ida Johnson																																								