

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2026



Immanuel Lutheran Church

a Reconciling in Christ congregation

346 Shrewsbury Street

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*our purpose is to gather people, nurture faith,
grow in God's love, and serve God's world*

Welcome to Immanuel!

We're thankful you're with us this morning! Throughout worship we'll use the red hymnal located on the back of the pew in front of you. Page numbers can be found towards the front of the hymnal at the bottom of the page, with hymns towards the back, beginning with the Psalms. Hearing assist devices are also available – just ask an usher for help.

We believe that the Gospel – the Good News that we are loved, forgiven, and free in Christ – is a gift offered to every person, and that God's grace has no limits or conditions. Through Christ, we are made a community that shares God's mission to proclaim grace and peace to all the world.

Prelude

Gathering

*The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day of the week,
the day of Christ's resurrection.*

stand

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

sit

Celebration Song

This Is My Commandment

Anonymous

Children's Chat

Pastor Josh Ferris

stand

Hymn of Praise

Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun

Hymn 557

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

sit

Word

God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung and preached.

First Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. ¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 13:8-14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

stand

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Lord and Savior

p. 205

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:15-20

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵"If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

sit

stand

Hymn of the Day

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken

Hymn 603

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

sit

Offertory Music

stand

Offertory

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Hymn 674

Offering Prayer

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

p. 207

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Thanksgiving at the Table

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

sit

All people are invited to receive communion today by coming forward to the front of the sanctuary. First, you'll receive bread, which is the body of Christ given for you. Then move to the next station, where you will find glass cups full of grape juice (lighter-colored) and wine (purple-colored), which is the blood of Christ shed for you. At the last station, return your empty cup to the tray. Gluten-free wafers are also available; to indicate you'd like to receive one, please simply raise your pointer finger when it's your turn to receive.

Lamb of God

p. 208

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.**

Communion Hymns

As We Gather at Your Table
Where Charity and Love Prevail

Hymn 522

Hymn 359

Prayer after Communion

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements

stand

Blessing

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

Hymn 864

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Gym Coordinator – Walter Shanahan | gym@immanuelholden.org
Sexton – Don Roberts

We're thankful for these servants in worship today:

Livestream – Ray Donadt, Lori Rabeler
Assisting Minister – Lisa Schaffter
Ushers – Craig Landquist, Jim Anderson
Greeter – Joyce Kujala
Acolyte – Eve Cranson
Coffee Hour Host – No Host Today
Altar Service – Mary Jane Rasku, Heidi Lahey
Counting Team – Greta & Scott Gridley

Worship, Service, and Fellowship in the week ahead:

Today	8:00 am	Simple Church (Outdoor Chapel/Choir Room)
	9:00 am	Indoor & Livestream worship (Sanctuary)
	10:15 am	Coffee Hour (Gym)
Monday	<i>Labor Day – Office Closed</i>	
	9:00 am	Lectio Divina (Zoom)
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Council Meeting (Room 6)
Friday	9:00 am	Facilities Meeting (Room 6)
Saturday	7:00 am	Men's Ministry
	10:00 am	Prayer & Share (Choir Room)
	2:00 pm	Worcester Pride
Sunday	<i>Kick-Off Sunday!</i>	
	8:00 am	Simple Church (Outdoor Chapel/Choir Room)
	9:00 am	Indoor & Livestream worship (Sanctuary)
	10:15 am	Kick-Off Potluck Picnic! (Outside/Gym)

Daily Bible Readings for the Coming Week:

Monday: Psalm 18:1-32, 1 Samuel 7:3-13, Romans 2:1-11
Tuesday: Psalm 18:1-32, Deuteronomy 32:18-39, Romans 11:33-36
Wednesday: Psalm 18:1-32, Isaiah 28:14-22, Matthew 26:6-13
Thursday: Psalm 26:1-8, Jeremiah 14:13-18, Ephesians 5:1-6
Friday: Psalm 26:1-8, Jeremiah 15:1-9, 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12
Saturday: Psalm 26:1-8, Jeremiah 15:10-14, Matthew 8:14-17
Sunday: Gen. 50:15-21, Psalm 103:1-13, Rms 14:1-12, Mt 18:21-35

Welcome to Immanuel

Thanks for joining us in worship today! Wherever you are, we're glad to have you with us. Remember you can reach out to the church office anytime if you need help, prayer, or someone to talk to.

Coffee Hour – All are welcome to coffee hour in the gym following today's worship. We have no host today; please contact Jen to sign up!

Altar flowers – The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the glory of God. ***NOTE:** If you would like to sign up for Sunday flowers, see the flower chart in Lawson Hall.*

Kick-Off Sunday – Next Sunday, September 13 is Kick-Off Sunday! Our theme this year is "To Feed & Be Fed." Together we'll kick-off a new year of ministry and jump into a fall full of growing, learning, and serving. We're also planning a potluck picnic after worship! Sign-up to bring food and/o help using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/5bewzzd6>.

Blessing of Backpacks – Students, teachers, and anyone returning to school this year, please bring your backpack or work bag for a blessing during our 9:00am worship service on Kick-Off Sunday, September 13!

September Food Drive – Starting on Kick-Off Sunday, we're collecting non-perishable food items for food pantries located at First Baptist and First Congregational Church in Holden as part of worship. Bring as much food as you can each week and we'll collect it during the service!

Worcester Pride Festival – Join us on Saturday, September 12, 2:00 to 7:00pm as we join with other Lutheran congregations in the area to host a booth at Pride. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/bdfcm79j> to sign-up. Stop by the Makers Ministry table at Coffee Hour to help make rainbow giveaways! Please return items to Pastor Sarah by Thurs., Sept 10.

Children's Word Returns – Starting Sept. 13, children age 3 to grade 5 are invited to go with our trained volunteers after the Children's Chat to worship in kid-friendly ways, returning in time for communion. Thank you, Annie Ferris and Kaylie Harrington, for leading this ministry.

Lectio Divina – Join us on Monday mornings from 9:00–9:30am on Zoom. Lectio Divina is the practice of reading scripture as a form of prayer. (Meeting ID: 814 8663 8380 Passcode: scripture)

Garden of Feedin’ – Now that the growing season is here, we need help tending our garden. Email Molly (mollyndamcarthur@gmail.com) or Kristin (kristinsundberg7@yahoo.com) if you want to help!

Adult Choir – Rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings, 7-8:00pm in the Choir Room. Our first rehearsal on Sept. 16 will also be a potluck picnic in Lawson Hall from 4:30-8:00pm. Our first Sunday service for the fall will be Sept. 20 with a warm-up at 8:30am. If you have any further questions, please email Claire at cpstillhobbyin@gmail.com.

Book Club – Join us on Thurs., Sept 17 at 6:00pm to discuss *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans and select our next few books.

Thursday Morning Bible Study – We’re back! Our Thursday morning Bible Study restarts on Thursday, September 17. We’ll gather every week at 10:30am on Zoom to discuss the book of Romans. Whether you could teach a course on the book or have never heard of it before, you’re invited to join us! <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84825798597>.

Communion Bread Baking – On Sunday, September 20, Pastor Sarah will lead a lesson on the sacrament of holy communion for kids of all ages. While we learn, we’ll make a batch of bread together. We’ll meet in Room 5 after worship that day. Come with questions!

Youth Group – Our Youth Group is kicking off the fall with our first meeting on Sunday, September 20! All Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to join us from 5:00 to 6:30pm for food, fun, and a time to relax. Youth Group is a place where everyone is loved and welcomed as they are.

John Street – We are looking for help again this month as we are serving 150 meals on September 26th. Please use this link <https://tinyurl.com/3fsrf79c> to access to donate and use this link <https://tinyurl.com/327tjtf2> to sign up to bag lunches on Friday September 25th at 1:00pm. Feel free to contact me with questions. Kaylie Harrington | 774-303-9201 | kayliesenecal14@gmail.com

Learning Hour – Adult Forum (Room 6), Faith Quest (Room 5) and Godly Play (Room 2) all return on Sunday, October 4!

Positivity Pouches – Have you shared some positivity with our Youth Group recently? Drop a note of encouragement or some kind words in their pouches in Lawson Hall! Cards and small gifts encouraged!

Camp Calumet Getaway Weekend – Our annual Getaway Weekend at Camp Calumet is September 25-27 and you're invited! Calumet is a Lutheran camp in West Ossipee, New Hampshire and is the perfect place for all ages to spend some time relaxing, recharging, and having fun. This year our theme is *faith that travels*, and we'll be talking about how to develop a spirituality that changes and adapts as we do. To register, fill out the form in the letter we recently mailed (you can also find a copy on our church website and on the parish administrator office door). Thanks to a very generous donation, the cost is about 20% less this year! If you have any questions, talk to Pastor Sarah or Pastor Josh.

Homeless kits – You can grab a homeless kit – and small bags of period products – from Lawson Hall for you to hand out to someone in need.

Communion Kits – Personal kits are available in the locker outside Lawson Hall. Each kit contains a pre-packaged wafer and grape juice.

Stephen Ministry – Stephen Ministers are trained to provide one-to-one, confidential care to those experiencing a difficult time. Please let one of the pastors know if you'd like to connect with one.

In Your Prayers this Week

Adrienne Altobelli, David Alward, Bruce & Janet Axelson, Isaac Barron, David Beams, Mary Beams, Bob, Heidi Besse, Tina Bodnar, Lucy & Tom Brennan, Joy Cohen, Bonnie Colon, Colleen Davison, Lauren Demerjian, Christina Deyo, Lina Dickey, Kim, Kevin Duguay, Tom Durant, Jim Eisenlord, Alan Farmer, Tim Fournier, Linda Friedman, Sonja Githmark, Ann Marie Grambo, Victoria Graves, Dolores Hadady, Bill Higgins, Erika, Rich Hopkins, Robin Johns, Dick Johnson, Jan Johnson, Carol Jorgensen, Karen, Ray Langevin, Jean Lane, Cristie Marsh, Alwin Masselink, James Mellor, Darin Narum, Joanne Neal, Edna Opatka, Karen Papachristou, Don Phaneuf, Shirley, Kay Porter, Jeff, Wylla Rabeler, Rich Reynolds, Ray Rossetti, Shirley Rotti, Arthur Savage, Anita Slater, Marshall Smith, Tony, Elaine Vetter, George Vogel, Scott, Liz Wilson, Jim & Nancy Zelesky, and Jill Zitzewitz.