Hilltop Happenings

For November, 2026

Our mission is to welcome, accept and encourage all people as we follow Jesus.

303 N. Church Street Silverton, Oregon 97381
Phone: (503) 873-8656
Website: www.immanuelsilverton.org
Email: office@immanuelsilverton.org
Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 8:30 am-12 pm, 1 pm-3 pm

Ministry Staff

Pastor: Leah Stolte-Doerfler | *503-302-7712*
Director of Visitation Ministry: Patty MacInnes | *503-428-4921*
Office Managers: Tria Brockamp & Courtney Goode
Youth & Family Ministry: Kate Bush | *503-580-4964*
Sunday School Coordinator: Amanda Rosansky
Social Media Coordinator:
Justine Johnson | *jj.ilc.silverton@gmail.com*
Worship Production Director: Ethan Frederick
Keyboardist: Deborah Butler
Choir Director: Marta Hazekamp
Custodians: Bill Howell & Andrew Bush

Services

Sundays 8:30 am - Devotional Service 10:30 am - Worship

Service Attendance in person / **online views as of 10/27/2026*

	8:30 AM	10:30 AM
October 4	8	105/ 43*
October 11	10	103/103*
October 18	7	98/68*
October 25	9	100/83*

Ministry Contacts

Adult Education: Pastor Leah/F&W
Altar Guild: Barb Richter
ARK: Briana Hupp
A/V: Ethan Frederick
Choir: Marta Hazekamp
Coffee Hour: Pat Taylor
Deacons: Kate Heinlein
Faith & Wisdom: Sarah Curtiss
GHG: Debbie Eder
Hospitality: Kate Bush
Prayer Chain: Earlyn Moore
503-428-1211 (call/text)
President: Lauren Lucht Lovelace
SACA: Briana Hupp
Shower Coordinator: Shirley Murata
Stephen Ministry: Mary Miller
Sunday School: Amanda Rosansky
Technician: Ethan Frederick
Trustees: Neil MacInnes
Ushers: Jim Brueckner
Valley View Cemetery: Jill Lounsbury
Vacation Bible School: Brenda Wilson
Van Rides: TBD
Weddings: Hospitality Committee
Worship Planning: Mark Dickman

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Pastor's Ponderings by Pastor Leah Stolte-Doerfler

Just Pondering…

With November comes a Feast Day that ranks among my favorites ~ All Saints Sunday.

Most church communities have established their own traditions for this Holy Day. At Immanuel, the way that we unfold worship on All Saint's Sunday is woven together with our 'Now and Forever' banner.

At a recent memorial, young guests noticed that their grandmother's name was on the banner. Curious, they asked me what it meant. As I explained, their hands went to their hearts and their eyes filled with tears. Yes, it is a powerful ritual.

Each year, right after All Saint's Sunday, the names of the newly baptized as well as the names of those who have passed from this life into the next are affixed to the banner. The baptized are in blue with a baptismal shell beside the name, thus embracing the water theme. Green, a color designating life and our trust in God's promise for the life yet to come, indicate those who have died. For a year we add names, until the arrival of All Saint's Sunday. On this day, we read each name on the banner, our 'Rollcall of the Saints.'

Why the baptized? Because they are the newest members of the Body of Christ.

Why those who have just died? Because they have completed this journey and now dwell in the very presence of God.

The names on the banner speak of God's promises ~ now and forever.

On this feast day, we will read each name. We will light a candle. We will remember.

And we will do it all with Holy Hope.

Pastor Leah

Shared Ministry Model Pastoral Contact Info

2027 Schedule

January ~ Pastor Patricia will be the on-call pastor
April ~ Pastor Joe will be the on-call pastor
July ~ Pastor Patricia and Pastor Joe will share the on-call task
October ~ Pastor Patricia and Pastor Joe will share the on-call task

In the event of any Pastoral emergency, call

- **971-208-5430** -

and you will be routed to the on-call pastor.

A Word From Our Council President by Lauren Lucht

As we continue exploring the Shared Ministry Model, we want to keep our congregation informed and engaged throughout the process. This is an important step in considering how we can best serve our church family and community while remaining faithful to our mission.

To help answer questions and provide clarity, we have put together a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document outlining the Shared Ministry Model, what it could mean for our congregation, and what to expect moving forward. I encourage everyone to take a few minutes to review the FAQ and share any additional questions or thoughts with the Church Council. Your input and involvement are important as we navigate this process together.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS NOW?

Coming out of her continuing education, Pastor Leah returned with a renewed perspective on both her own ministry and the challenges facing rural congregations. In particular, she saw how difficult and uncertain the pastoral call process has become for many rural churches when it is time to find new pastoral leadership.

Rather than waiting until Immanuel faces that challenge, we have an opportunity to be proactive. The Shared Ministry Model is an innovative way for Immanuel to help shape our own future—creating a sustainable rhythm that we hope allows Pastor Leah to continue serving with us longer while also developing the people, leadership, and practices our congregation will need for the future.

This is not simply about preparing for a day when Pastor Leah is no longer our pastor. It is about strengthening Immanuel now by inviting more members of our community to step forward and share their gifts in worship, ministry, care, and leadership.

IF WE KNOW THERE WILL EVENTUALLY BE A PASTORAL TRANSITION, WHY CAN'T WE JUST BEGIN THE CALL PROCESS NOW?

Pastor Leah remains Immanuel's called pastor. In the ELCA, a pastoral call is a continuing relationship between a pastor and congregation until that call ends. The formal process of calling the congregation's next pastor is therefore connected to an actual pastoral vacancy and is carried out in consultation with the Synod. That does not mean we have to wait to prepare.

There is important work Immanuel can do now while Pastor Leah is still serving with us. We can strengthen lay leadership, clarify the responsibilities of staff and committees, develop stronger systems for pastoral care and communication, deepen congregational participation, and learn how ministry can be shared among more people.

The Shared Ministry Model gives us a valuable opportunity to do that work with Pastor Leah rather than after she leaves. We can benefit from her experience and leadership while becoming a congregation that is less dependent on one person to carry every part of its ministry.

When the time eventually comes for Immanuel to enter the formal call process, we hope to begin from a position of strength; with an engaged congregation, experienced lay leaders, healthy ministry teams, clearer expectations about what we need from our next pastor, and a stronger understanding of who we are as a church.

IS PASTOR LEAH RETIRING OR BECOMING PART-TIME?

No. Pastor Leah is not retiring or moving to a part-time position. She remains Immanuel’s called pastor, and her employment and compensation remain unchanged.

Over the next three to five years, Pastor Leah will use accrued paid time off (PTO) for her scheduled Renewal Months. These months provide intentional time away from her regular responsibilities for rest, renewal, family, and personal discernment. While she is away, the ministry of Immanuel continues through designated clergy, staff, and lay leaders.

In conversations about this model, the bishop also encouraged Pastor Leah to recognize that creating space for others to lead is itself important work within her call to Immanuel. Pastoral leadership is not only about what a pastor personally does for a congregation; it also includes equipping people for ministry, developing leadership, and helping a congregation recognize and use the gifts already present within its community.

By intentionally stepping away during Renewal Months, Pastor Leah creates room for lay leaders, staff, and other clergy to exercise their gifts and take greater ownership of Immanuel's shared ministry. In that sense, Renewal Months are not a step away from her calling to Immanuel, but part of the work of helping prepare and strengthen the congregation for its future.

WHAT CHANGES, AND WHAT WILL REMAIN THE SAME?

Pastor Leah remains Immanuel's pastor and continues her regular pastoral leadership during non-Renewal Months.

The primary change is the introduction of scheduled Renewal Months throughout the year. For 2027, the calendar works well with a general rhythm of two months of Pastor Leah's regular leadership followed by a Renewal Month. This schedule is not intended to become a fixed formula. The timing and frequency of Renewal Months will be evaluated and adjusted as we learn what works best for Pastor Leah and the congregation.

During Renewal Months, our member pastors provide clergy and pastoral-care coverage, while staff and lay leaders take greater responsibility for the ongoing life and ministry of the congregation.

Our commitment to worship, Word and Sacrament, pastoral care, fellowship, service, and the mission of Immanuel remains the same.

HOW WILL THIS WORK HELP US WHEN WE EVENTUALLY ENTER AN INTERIM AND CALL PROCESS?

The time between called pastors, often referred to as the **interim**, is an important time in the life of a congregation. It provides an opportunity to reflect on the past, evaluate the congregation's current needs, and imagine its future—including the gifts and leadership it will seek in its next pastor.

The work we are doing now can help prepare Immanuel for that process. Strengthening our staff, developing lay leadership, increasing congregational engagement, and creating clearer roles and responsibilities can help us enter a future interim from a position of greater strength.

The Shared Ministry Model does not replace the interim or call process. Instead, it gives us an opportunity to strengthen and empower the congregation **before that transition begins**, so that when the time comes, Immanuel is better prepared to thoughtfully discern its future and the pastoral leadership needed for its next chapter.

WHO IS IN CHARGE DURING A RENEWAL MONTH?

Ministry continues to be shared. A designated **Pastor on Call** provides clergy and pastoral-care support, while staff, Deacons, Trustees, ministry leaders, Council, and Executive Committee continue in their established areas of responsibility.

Rather than one person taking Pastor Leah's place, the model intentionally relies on the gifts and responsibilities of the whole church community.

WHO SHOULD I CALL WHEN I NEED HELP?

Shared ministry means knowing that there are many people at Immanuel who can help. When you know which committee or ministry area your question, request, or idea belongs with, we encourage you to reach out to those leaders directly.

If you are not sure where to start, contact the Church Office. Staff will help connect you with the appropriate person, committee, or ministry.

For pastoral care, spiritual support, or a pastoral emergency, contact the Pastor or Pastor on Call at 971-208-5430. During Renewal Months, Immanuel will provide this dedicated way to reach the Pastor on Call so members can access pastoral support when Pastor Leah is away.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING A HOSPITALIZATION, DEATH, FUNERAL, WEDDING, OR OTHER PASTORAL EMERGENCY?

Pastoral care continues during Renewal Months. The Pastor on Call will respond to or coordinate pastoral needs, including hospitalizations, end-of-life care, deaths, funerals and memorial services, and other situations requiring pastoral support.

When additional clergy or congregational leadership is needed, the Pastor on Call and church leadership will coordinate the appropriate response.

WHO WILL PRESIDE AT HOLY COMMUNION?

An ordained pastor will preside at Holy Communion. During Renewal Months, this may be one of the pastors from our congregation who has agreed to provide coverage or another pastor arranged as part of the worship schedule.

Lay leaders may serve in many important worship roles, but the Shared Ministry Model does not change Immanuel's practice regarding who presides at Holy Communion.

WILL PASTOR LEAH CONTINUE TO MAKE VISITS?

Yes. During her regular months, Pastor Leah will continue providing pastoral care and visitation as part of her ministry at Immanuel.

During Renewal Months, pastoral-care needs and visits will be handled by the Pastor on Call or another designated pastor so that Pastor Leah can meaningfully step away from her regular responsibilities.

HOW WILL STAFF AND COMMITTEES RECEIVE SUPPORT?

Staff, committees, and ministry teams will continue operating within their established responsibilities. During Renewal Months, designated clergy and congregational leadership will be available when additional support or decision-making is needed.

Part of developing the Shared Ministry Model is strengthening clear roles, communication, and decision-making so that ministry does not depend on Pastor Leah being the starting point for every question.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF LAY MINISTRY IN THIS PLAN?

Lay ministry is central to the Shared Ministry Model, and it is deeply rooted in our Lutheran tradition. Lutherans have long emphasized the priesthood of all believers—the understanding that through baptism, each of us is called to participate in God's work and to share the Gospel through our words, service, vocations, and daily lives.

Immanuel is blessed with people who bring different experiences, gifts, perspectives, and voices to our shared life together. Creating opportunities for lay leaders to share the Word, participate in worship, care for one another, and lead ministries allows those gifts to strengthen the whole congregation.

This does not replace the distinct calling and responsibilities of an ordained pastor. Rather, it reflects a Lutheran understanding that ministry belongs to the whole people of God. The Shared Ministry Model gives us an opportunity to live more fully into that calling by equipping and supporting members to use their gifts in service to God, our congregation, and our community.

WHAT WILL LAY MESSAGES LOOK LIKE, AND HOW WILL SPEAKERS BE PREPARED?

Lay messages are an opportunity for members of our congregation to share how they experience God at work in their lives and in the world around them. Speakers will bring their own faith stories, experiences, questions, and perspectives into conversation with Scripture and the life of our congregation.

These messages are not intended to ask a lay leader to take the place of an ordained pastor. They offer another faithful voice within worship and give us the opportunity to hear how God is working through the lives and experiences of people in our own community.

Nine individuals have been identified for Immanuel's first lay leadership cohort. Their preparation includes a School of Lay Theology, theological reflection and message preparation, coaching, peer feedback, mentoring, accountability, and pastoral support. The goal is to give each speaker room to speak authentically in their own voice while providing a thoughtful and supported setting in which to prepare and share their message.

The first School of Lay Theology gathering was held September 29, with additional sessions scheduled for October 27 and November 10.

ARE WE CHANGING IMMANUEL'S WORSHIP OR LITURGY?

The Shared Ministry Model is not intended to fundamentally change Immanuel's Lutheran worship or liturgical identity.

For services that feature lay faith stories, Pastor Leah has developed a liturgy specifically designed to support this form of worship and storytelling. This provides a familiar and intentional worship framework while creating space for members of the congregation to share their faith stories and perspectives.

Members may notice a greater variety of voices participating in worship, but these services are being thoughtfully prepared as part of Immanuel's ministry. Pastors will continue to fulfill the responsibilities that require ordained clergy, while trained lay leaders may take on appropriate worship and speaking roles.

HOW IS THIS GROUNDED IN SCRIPTURE AND LUTHERAN THEOLOGY?

Lutheran teaching recognizes both the distinct calling of ordained ministry and the calling of all baptized Christians to participate in the life and ministry of the Church.

The Shared Ministry Model seeks to honor both: maintaining ordained pastoral leadership and Word and Sacrament ministry while encouraging members to recognize, develop, and use the gifts God has given them for the good of the congregation and community.

HOW LONG WILL THIS RHYTHM CONTINUE?

The current plan is to begin the new Renewal Month rhythm in January 2027 and allow it time to develop over approximately three to five years, with regular evaluation along the way.

This is not a plan that will simply be put in place and left unchanged. Council and congregational leadership will continue learning from the experience and making adjustments when appropriate.

HOW WILL THE COUNCIL KNOW WHETHER IT IS WORKING?

Council will evaluate both Pastor Leah's experience and the experience of the congregation. That includes looking at how well pastoral care is being maintained, how staff and ministry leaders are functioning, participation and development of lay leaders, worship experiences, communication, and feedback from members.

The Church Office and committees will also help us track indicators such as congregational engagement, worship participation, and giving and income over time. These measures will help Council understand how the congregation is responding to the model and identify areas that may need additional attention or adjustment.

No single number will determine whether the model is successful. The goal is to look at these indicators alongside the experiences of Pastor Leah, staff, ministry leaders, and members to understand whether the model is helping create healthy, sustainable, shared ministry at Immanuel.

WHAT HAPPENS IF CHANGES ARE NEEDED?

We expect to learn as we go. If something is not working well, Council and the Shared Ministry Transition Work Group can consider adjustments to schedules, responsibilities, communication, coverage, or other parts of the model.

The first year will be particularly important for learning what works well and where additional clarity or support is needed. We need the congregation's participation in that learning. If something is working especially well, we want to hear that. If something feels unclear, a need is not being met, or you see an opportunity to make the model stronger, please let us know.

Members are encouraged to ask questions, share their experiences, and offer constructive feedback throughout the process rather than waiting for a formal review. The experiences of the people participating in worship, receiving care, serving on committees, volunteering, and simply being part of the life of Immanuel will help us understand what is working and what needs attention.

Shared ministry means that this belongs to all of us. Our goal is not to get every detail perfect before we begin, but to listen, learn, and make thoughtful adjustments together as the model develops.

WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN PLANNING THE SHARED MINISTRY MODEL, AND HOW ARE DECISIONS MADE?

The detailed planning for the Shared Ministry Model is being done by a Shared Ministry Transition Work Group. The group includes Immanuel's Council President, Secretary, and Treasurer; Pastor Leah; Pastor Patricia; and Pastor Joe. This brings together congregational leadership, financial and administrative perspectives, our called pastor, and the experience of other ordained pastors within our congregation.

The work group is thinking carefully through how the model will function in practice, including worship, pastoral care and coverage, communication, staff and committee responsibilities, lay leadership, finances, and the practical needs of the congregation.

The work developed by the group is then brought to the Church Council for review and any required decision-making. This allows a smaller group to work carefully through the details while keeping Council responsible for the direction and oversight of the model.

This is intentionally a collaborative process, and it will continue to evolve. The experiences, questions, and feedback of staff, committees, lay leaders, and the wider congregation will help us learn and make adjustments along the way.

Questions, concerns, and feedback are welcome. Members may contact the office or speak with a member of the Church Council or Shared Ministry Transition Work Group.

HOW DOES THIS HELP IMMANUEL PREPARE FOR ITS NEXT GENERATION OF PASTORAL LEADERSHIP?

This work is about more than Pastor Leah's schedule. It gives Immanuel an opportunity to become stronger in how we share responsibility, develop leaders, communicate, provide care, and carry out ministry together.

Someday, as is true for every congregation, Immanuel will experience a change in pastoral leadership. A congregation with engaged lay leaders, clear responsibilities, strong ministry teams, and experience sharing leadership will be better prepared for that transition whenever it comes.

The Shared Ministry Model allows us to begin strengthening those practices **now**, while Pastor Leah remains our called pastor and can help guide and support that growth.

WHAT IS BEING ASKED OF ME AS A MEMBER OF IMMANUEL?

The Shared Ministry Model is ultimately about all of us. We are asking members to continue showing up, participating, caring for one another, and supporting the many people who will be stepping into new or expanded roles.

There may also be new opportunities to share your own gifts. That might mean participating in worship, serving through a ministry or committee, helping care for another member, taking responsibility for something Pastor Leah may have previously handled, or simply helping someone find the right person when they have a question.

We also ask for patience and honest feedback as we learn. Not everything will work perfectly the first time. Shared ministry means being willing to learn together, make adjustments, and recognize that the ministry of Immanuel belongs to all of us.

Holy Cross Gift by Lauren Lucht

Immanuel Lutheran Church was blessed to receive a generous **$100,000 gift from Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Salem**, following the closure of their congregation. As Holy Cross concluded its ministry, its members made the thoughtful decision to share some of their remaining resources with fellow ELCA congregations, with the hope of supporting continued ministry, strengthening the Lutheran community, and helping congregations like Immanuel grow their membership.

We are deeply honored to be entrusted with this gift. It represents not only a generous financial contribution but also a lasting legacy of faith and service. The Church Council has approached the stewardship of these funds with gratitude, thoughtful discussion, and a commitment to honoring Holy Cross's intentions while supporting both our congregation and the broader community.

At its August meeting, Council unanimously approved tithing 10% of the gift, or **$10,000**, to organizations serving others in meaningful ways. Five organizations each received $2,000:

- Lutheran Disaster Relief
- Habitat for Humanity – Baker Family Build
- Sheltering Silverton
- ARK (At Risk Kids)
- Mainstay

Council then invited committees and members to thoughtfully consider how the remaining $90,000 could best support Immanuel's mission and future.

Following discussion at the **October 19 Council meeting,** the following investments were approved:

- **$5,000 – Kitchen Dishwasher Replacement:** Our kitchen is the heart of many gatherings, fundraisers, and community activities. Maintaining this important space ensures it continues serving our congregation and the many groups who use it.
- **$30,000 – Shared Ministry Model:** Funding to support the first three years of our new shared ministry model, helping establish a sustainable foundation for this important work of strengthening our ministry.
- **$5,000 – ELCA Youth Gathering:** Supporting our youth attending the June 2027 gathering in Minneapolis and investing in their faith development and fellowship.
- **$10,000 – Oktoberfest Booth:** Seed funding to establish an Immanuel Oktoberfest booth, creating a significant new fundraising opportunity to diversify revenue and support future programs and ministries. There is tremendous enthusiasm for this opportunity! A committee has been formed, chaired by Kate Bush.
- **$5,000 – Worship Music Fund:** Initial funding to enhance the worship music experience at Immanuel, along with a commitment to thoughtfully consider increased annual budget support for music ministry. Council Member Donna Rue brought this opportunity forward and is leading the planning effort to understand what enhancements matter most to our congregation. Don't be surprised if Donna reaches out for your feedback!
- **$35,000 – Building Improvements Fund:** These funds will be entrusted to our Trustees to support ongoing building maintenance and future improvements. The diligence required to care for our church facilities is no small task, and we know significant investments are on the horizon. Our building serves not only our congregation but also many groups throughout our community. The Trustees will oversee and prioritize maintenance and improvement projects, with major expenditures returning to Council for approval. This investment helps ensure Immanuel remains a welcoming, functional, and well-maintained space for years to come.

With these decisions, the full $100,000 gift has been thoughtfully designated to support our community, strengthen our ministries, and care for our church's future.

Council remains committed to being thoughtful stewards of these funds, balancing immediate needs with long-term opportunities to strengthen Immanuel's ministry.

We are deeply grateful to the members of Holy Cross for this extraordinary gift. While their congregation has closed its doors, their legacy of faith, generosity, and service will continue through the ministries and opportunities this gift makes possible at Immanuel. We look forward to honoring that legacy by strengthening our congregation, welcoming new members, and continuing to serve our community for years to come.

Director of Visitation Ministry by Patty MacInnes

On the Road with Patty and Max. . .

A good way to start your day is in prayer. Try the following...

GUIDE me, Lord, in your ways.

INSPIRE me with your strength.

FILL me with your peace and joy.

THANK you, Lord, for this new day.

SHOW me how to love others as you have loved me.

(Today is going to be a great day.)

Youth Group by Kate Bush

Hello ILC Families,

I can't tell you how much I appreciate our changing seasons. What a blessing it is to experience the cold crispness and crunchy leaves along with 'just warm enough' sunshine. Let me know if you need a crew to come rake some of those leaves up!

Our youth has been blessed to set up the Ofrenda once again, carrying along the tradition Pastor Manuel brought to us. What a refreshing perspective to celebrate the lives and experiences we had with those that have passed. To contemplate the richness their time brought each of us. It is a good reminder to reflect and to be thankful.

We were blessed a second time to be invited out to the Lovelace's pumpkin patch & corn maze for a late night run through the fields. The kids delighted in competing for the heaviest pumpkins (that they could still carry, or talking a friend into carrying for them...).

And on that note I am excited to announce that we have a crew of two adults and three kids registered for the ELCA 2027 Youth Gathering in Minnesota! I'm really looking forward to the enriching and truly moving experience I know it will be.

If you'd like to learn more about this event you can find more here:
https://www.elca.org/gathering-2027/about-what-is-the-gathering

Until next time...Ecclesiastes 3:1

From the Custodians' Closet by Andrew Bush

A November Reflection

As the autumn leaves settle and we welcome the month of **November**, our thoughts naturally turn toward **Thanksgiving**. For many of us, this season brings to mind warm meals, family gatherings, and a collective pause to reflect on our blessings. Within the walls of our church, the janitorial team sees a unique perspective of this season. Every room we clean, every pew we dust, and every hallway we vacuum represents a space where our community gathers to worship, learn, and grow. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve you and to help maintain a welcoming environment for everyone who walks through our doors.

Gratitude is a prominent theme throughout the Scriptures. It is not merely a seasonal sentiment, but a foundational rhythm for the Christian life. The Apostle Paul reminds us in **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**, *"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."* Even when the days are short, the weather is cold, or our personal burdens feel heavy, we can always find reasons to praise God for His unchanging goodness and enduring love.

By replacing anxiety with prayer and thanksgiving as noted in **Philippians 4:6**, thankfulness reshapes our perspective and fills our hearts with joy. This November, let us celebrate the good and lift each other up in mutual encouragement.

Happy Thanksgiving and peace be with you,
The Janitorial Staff

Stephen Ministries by Mary Miller

Stephen Ministry Training Classes

Stephen Ministry training classes will begin on January 10, 2027, and meet on Sundays at 12:15 p.m. for two and a half hours. Lunch will be provided. Classes will continue through May 23, 2027.

An informational meeting will be held on November 8, 2026, for anyone interested in learning more about Stephen Ministry. Applications may also be turned in at this meeting.

Interested? Contact:
Mary Miller - maryndave55@gmail.com / 503-873-8036 or Patty MacInnes - ptyrose@juno.com / 503-428-4921

News from our Mission Endowment Fund by Mark Dickman

If you've been reading our recent reports in Hilltop Happenings, you know that Immanuel's Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) Committee is hosting a **Legacy Sunday on November 22nd at Immanuel. Could it help you?** Here are two reasons it might:

- In the last three months, we've heard two recently widowed individuals ask, **"Do I need a will?"** The short answers: **"YES!!"**
- Have YOU ever asked yourself, or your family: I'd like to give a special gift to our church, or plan for a special bequest to our church, but **I wonder how I should do it?**

Immanuel's Mission Endowment Fund Committee, in partnership with the ELCA Foundation, **could help you** answer questions like these. **Planned Giving** could help you achieve goals and draft contingency strategies. **Planned Giving** can make your giving/stewardship easier. **Planned Giving could help you increase the dollars** you have for gifts you'd like to make. **Making a will** can be part of the plan.

Your generosity can make a difference today and for generations to come. Join us to learn about faith-based gift planning options that can help you support the ministries and missions you cherish while creating a meaningful legacy. Explore **practical tools,** discover **new possibilities,** and see **how thoughtful and faithful planning** can turn your values into **lasting impact.**

Serving as **Regional Gift Planner for the ELCA Foundation, Pr. Kyle Merkle** partners with congregations, ministries, and individuals across Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Alaska to help align charitable giving plans with the ministries and causes that matter most to them. **He will be here on Sunday, November 22nd**, leading us in worship, and speaking more with anyone interested during a simple lunch after church.

Want to join us? There will be a **sign-up sheet** in the Narthex on November 8th and 15th, or you can call the office to be put on the list.

Need more information NOW? Talk to Jim Brueckner (Emeritus), Mark Dickman, Duane Eder, Keith Haugen, Mary Miller or Traci Mosher. Continue to look for updates. "Stay tuned!"

ILC Kids Christmas Program – SAVE THE DATE!

All students are invited to come join this holiday tradition!

Nov. 15, 22, 29, and Dec. 6, 10:30 a.m. - Practice during Sunday School

Dec. 12, 9-11 a.m. – Dress Rehearsal (lunch provided)

Dec. 13, 10:30 a.m. – Christmas Program during Worship

Prayer Ministry & Condolences

The hungry. Foster kids. Those who battle addiction. All who serve our country, especially Tyler Guzman, US Navy deployed to the middle east.
Kenneth Adams, Phyllis Adams, Marie Arthur, Nettie Donovan Austin, Kris Anne Baker, Kristie Bernabo, Jessica Bradley, Kyler DeVore, Destiny Durbin-Wilson, Jamie Eby, Betty Faanes, Joann Faanes, Dan Funrue, Wayne Gwyn, Tracy Harris, Michellelisa Bradner Hegney, Dan Henderson, Mary Henderson, Lucy Hupp, Ruby Hupp, Ed Jacoby, Debbie Donovan Jasman, Alta Johnson, Dale Johnson, Dee Dee Johnson, Shana Lansidel, Tanya Lawton, Kathy Locke, Loretta Luciano, Delores McCoy, Shirley McHorse, Able Meyers, Shane Moore, Mark Morin, Gayle Budd O'Grady, Gayle O'Neil, Emilia Panes, Keri Peck, Marty Ronning, Lynette Rounds, Annette Shilinsky, Heidi Schindler, Nora Schliske, Lisa Smith, Debbie Smuckal, Nola Stark, Trever Stevens, Lucas Taylor, Bonnie Thompson, Becky Tomlin, Linda Valencourt, Iliana Vaquera, Erica Winn, Haley Woods and Nora Woodward.
**If a name on the prayer list should be added or removed, please tell the office.*

Condolences to:
the Caroline Johnson family at the death of her sister Rose Marie Howell.
the family of Betty Florcke.
Please keep these families in your prayers.

Ministry Celebrations & Thank You's

☆ The rummage sale brought in a record amount of money to donate. Thank you to the many, many helping hands!
☆ Norm English for going through the pile of blueprints in the Archive Room.

Know a reason to celebrate, call 503-873-8656 or email office@immanuelsilverton.org to report 'who' and 'what'.

Once again, we are here to say thank you for all your support. At the 40th Anniversary and annual mid-Willamette Valley Habitat for Humanity gala, we saw the ways in which our community responds in love. Thank you to those who helped encourage and fund our personal "Bake-a-thon" which resulted in 150 house-shaped cookie thank you's. It was so beautiful and amazing to see how our community has shown up consistently for Habitat for Humanity over my lifetime! We witnessed examples of this throughout the night: donated pumpkin centerpieces, auction items from members of our Immanuel community, friends and loved ones gathered together to raise money for future homes. The Bakers are so humbly grateful for each of you.
Much love from Kris Anne, Jaime, and Alice

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your generous donation of school supplies to our school. Your kindness and support will make a meaningful difference for our students. We are truly greatful for your generosity and partnership with our school community.
With Appreciation, Robert Frost

The Wilkerson family would like to extend their sincere thanks to everyone who has reached out, donated to the meal train, and lifted them in prayer. There are still some rough hurdles coming up but they feel the love and support and know that God is in control of everything.
www.mealtrain.com/trains/mwqvm9

Community Events

(If you know of a community event that members of Immanuel might enjoy, we'd love to hear about it! Please get the details to the office.)

Sheltering Silverton Fundraiser - November 8
Sheltering Silverton is hosting their annual Kinship Dinner fundraiser on November 8 at the Oregon Garden. 'At the Kinship Dinner we eat a simple meal, not unlike the meals our shelter guests enjoy, tell stories, hear sweet music, and connect around our shared commitment to our neighbors.' Event information can be found at www.shelteringsilverton.org/events

Robert Frost 4th Annual Turkey Trot - November 26
Register to participate in the 5k course at 8:30 am or 1-mile fun run/walk at 9 am. Proceeds support the non-profit Robert Frost Parent Teacher Club, which supports their Title-1 school with classroom supplies, extracurricular clubs (Choir, Oregon Battle of the Books, Garden Club), and a field trip for each grade. $25/adult, $10/Age 6-18, Free/Ages 0-5

Ongoing Ministries, Reminders & Needs

Guest Sign-Up Sheet
If you are new (or nearly new) to Immanuel, please sign in on the sheet outside the first sanctuary door.

Pause with the Pastor - Mondays
Pastor Leah will be at Little Leaf Coffee Shop in Silverton from 8:30-9:30 am on Mondays if you'd like to visit with her. If Mondays don't work for you, let her know when you would like to get together.

Van Ministry Leader Wanted
We do not currently have an active van ministry. Let us know if you are interested in coordinating rides to church on Sundays.

Fund Raising for Youth Gathering
Our youth group is attending the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minnesota and is actively raising funds. Contact Kate Bush if you have odd jobs for them to do, and grab a blue bag from the gym to fill with returnable cans/bottles!

Devotional Service
Pastor Leah hosts a devotional service on Sundays at 8:30 am in the Fireside Room.

Tuesday Crew
Join a team of folks who lend a hand with odd-jobs and basic maintenance to keep our building and grounds tidy and welcoming. Tuesdays at 9:30 am.

Thirsty Thursday - Thursdays at 6 pm
Join us on Thursdays at Mac's Place!

SACA Sunday - Second Sundays
We accept food and monetary donations for our local food bank, **S**ilverton **A**rea **C**ommunity **A**id (*Improving lives by providing food, services, and access to community resources.)*

Coffee Hour Help Needed
Cookies, fruit or cheese/meats are welcomed for coffee hour! Sign up in the gym or see Pat Taylor.

Flowers for Sunday Church Services
Sign up on the chart on the bulletin board in the multi-purpose room to bring flowers.

Lost & Found
Will be donated to the rummage sale at the end of each month. Please check it regularly for any missing items.

Upcoming Ministry Events & Opportunities

Noisy Offering - November 1
Bring your change to service and we will gather a 'noisy offering' during kids time the first Sunday of each month. November offerings will purchase kid-friendly additions to Thanksgiving food boxes.

Shared Ministry Listening Session - November 1
Join us at 11:45 for a Listening Session. Please come - we want everybody to be a part of the process of discerning where God is leading us. Your input is valuable!

Remembrance Table - Now through November 1
Bring in your photos/remembrances of saints (loved ones who have passed away) at any time to place on the structure for All Saints Day.

Kitchen Cleaning - November 2
Save these Monday dates on your calendar - all are welcome to kitchen cleaning. Most are the first Monday of the month, note summer changes for the holidays. Begin at 9 am.
2026: Nov 2, Dec 7
2027: Jan 4, Feb 1, Mar 1, Apr 5, May 3, Jun 7, Jul 12, Aug 9, Sep 13, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6

Rummage Sale Planning Meeting – November 3
Join us on Tuesday, November 3, at 11 am as we begin coordinating next year's rummage sale. We'll discuss plans, organization, and ways to work together to make next year's sale a success. Anyone interested in helping with the planning and coordination is welcome to attend!

Quilting - November 4 & 18
Quilters get together every other Wednesday at 9 am in the quilting room in the basement. All are welcome!

Esther Circle - November 5
All women are invited to attend! We meet in the Fireside room for social time at 9:30, and will have Bible Study from *Gather* magazine at 10 am. Bring a friend and come to meet other friends! Contact is Lynn Gannon at (503) 329-2585 or lpma.gannon@gmail.com

New Members & Transfers - November 8
Are you interested, ready to celebrate being on this faith journey together? We will receive new members on November 8 during the 10:30 service. Please reach out to Pastor Leah if you have questions or are ready for a conversation. {503.302.7712}

Men's Fellowship Breakfast - November 9
The next men's fellowship breakfast will be on Monday, November 9 from 6:30-8:00 am. All men are invited! See Andrew Bush with questions.

Thanksgiving Potluck - November 15
(with door prizes!)
November 15th following church service
Please bring your favorite dish to share & make some memories!

Christmas Bazaar - December 5
The 3rd Annual Christmas Bazaar is back in collaboration with the Silverton Farmer's Market!
Saturday, December 5 from 10 am-4 pm
If you're interested in being a vendor, contact Ava Bush at 503-884-6461. Cost is $35.

ARK (Advocating & Resources for Kids) Update
September and the beginning of the school year has been BUSY! We've provided a few clothing items to a student in the special education program, specific shoes for a child with mobility concerns, and SO many snacks. If there is a need- we try to fill it.
We are so grateful for your support and the way ILC continues to show up for the vulnerable kids in our community. Questions? Contact Bri Hupp at 503-507-0873 or Brianahupp@gmail.com

The Gospel of John Bible Study - Wednesdays 10:30 am
Join us in the Fireside Room for Bible study! Retired pastors and ILC members Joe Medley and Patricia Hughes lead our relaxed, discussion-based study.
Using N.T. Wright's *John for Everyone*, they cover one chapter a week. Sessions are recorded and posted online, so you can catch up if you miss one. Questions? Contact Patricia at patriciamakesjam@gmail.com.

Bound and determined to start arriving at church on Sunday morning before the worship service begins, I was carefully watching the clock as I went through our Sunday morning routine. Come to find out that clock needs a new battery, so I was not as far ahead of schedule as I thought.

With the car engine running, I was ready to start backing out of the driveway when a huge thought came to me - I did not go to Turner for the Farmhouse Show. Oh no, did I miss it??? Turned off the car engine and went back into my house to look at the calendar on my desk.

Oh dear. Much to my surprise it was not Sunday, it was Saturday. I was not going to be a little late for church, I was going to be a day early.

But Saturday was Farmhouse Day in Turner. Hooray. So changed from church clothes back into my jeans, gave Charlie another treat, and off I went out the front door and down the porch steps laughing at myself all the way. The Happy Pumpkins in the front yard were looking at me as if to say - You are funny !!!

Arriving in Turner at the Farmhouse Show, I found there was a parking spot waiting for me right in front of the Tabernacle building. Bought my 'shopper's bright pink shopping bracelet' and walked through the Tabernacle building and out into the yard with a pathway to another building. That is where my niece had a booth of her beautiful handcrafted items.

I waved to her as I entered the building, still laughing at myself. I shared my story with her and then she shared her story of mixing up two days with me. We were both laughing so hard, soon the shoppers had big smiles on their faces, and some were giggling too.

I discovered I was not alone in a moment like this. I heard so many stories like mine that day, even from people I have never seen before. There were smiles and laughter all around. What a fun day.

I think my brain must be like my house, full of stuff. When my house gets too full, I just squish the stuff closer together to make room for more. I am thinking my brain was squishing stuff in my head closer together in the night, and Saturday's and Sunday's stuff got too close together and went right to Sunday.

My explanation for an overstuffed brain may not be particularly scientific, but what had happened reminded me laughter really does have a way of connecting people.

For a day that started in a quirky way, it was the joy of laughter that made it great.

Charlie was happy with extra treats and Mommy's laughter.

Happy Pumpkins are always smiling. Bringing joy is their purpose here.

Found joy in some new treasures at the Farmhouse Show and especially the time I had with my niece.

And, met new friends while sharing stories and laughter.

Research shows laughter is contagious, strengthens relationships, and can be a form of nonverbal communication that builds trust and rapport.

Laughter has emotional, social, and physiological dimensions — it is a universal human behavior that bonds people, regulates social interaction, and offers measurable health benefits, making it more than just a reaction to humor.

During this time of uncertainty, challenges, worry, and fear, laughter can help.

Laugh at yourself, chances are you will get a lingering reaction to it.

For some people, joy and laughter seem impossible to find. In those moments our time, tenderness, and touch may be enough. And a smile, it's worth a thousand words.

As a nation and as a world, we sure need more joy, laughter, and connection. And as with Peace - Let it begin with me.



Laughter brings connection

Happy laughter everyone

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
EVERY SUNDAY: *Devotional Worship, 8:30 am* *Worship, 10:30 am* *Sunday School, 10:45 am*  *Youth Group, 6-8 pm*	**EVERY MONDAY:** *Senior Exercise, 9:30-10:30 am* *YMCA in Gym, 1-4 pm* *Marion County Citizens Band, 6:30-9 pm*	**EVERY TUESDAY:** *We All Dine in Silverton, 9 am-12 pm* *Staff Meeting, 9 am* *Tuesday Work Crew, 9:30 am* *YMCA in Gym, 1-4 pm 5-8 pm*	**EVERY WEDNESDAY:** *We All Dine in Silverton, 9 am-12 pm* *Senior Exercise, 9:30-10:30 am* *Bible Study on Matthew, 10 am* *YMCA in Gym, 1-4 pm* *Rue Bball, 7 pm*	**EVERY THURSDAY:** *YMCA in Gym, 1-4 pm 5-8 pm* *Thirsty Thursday at Mac's, 6 pm*	**EVERY FRIDAY:** *Senior Exercise, 9:30-10:30 am*  *Sax Quartet, 1-3 pm* *YMCA in Gym, 1-4 pm 5-8 pm*	**EVERY SATURDAY:** *Farmers Market, 10 am-12:30 pm*
1 Daylight Savings Time Ends All Saints Sunday Noisy Offering Listening Session, 11:45 am	**2** Kitchen Cleaning, 9 am	**3** Deacon Meeting, 6:30 pm	**4** Quilting, 9 am 	**5** Esther Circle, 9:30 am Lion's Club, 2 pm	**6** Tree of Giving Sign-up, 10 am-12 pm	**7**
8 SACA Sunday New Members Received Stephen Ministry Info Meeting, 11:45 am	**9** Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 6:30 am  Trustee Meeting, 6 pm	**10** **IMMANUEL'S 134th BIRTHDAY** Tree of Giving Sign-up, 10 am-12 pm Hospitality Mtg, 6 pm School of Lay Theology, 6-8 pm	**11** **VETERAN'S DAY** OFFICE CLOSED  Tree of Giving Sign-up, 6-8 pm Girl Scout Leader Meeting, 6:30 pm Worship & Music Meeting, 7 pm	**12** **Newsletter** Articles Due Tree of Giving Sign-up, 4-6 pm	**13** Tree of Giving Sign-up, 10am - 12 pm	**14** True Light Christian Church Harvest Party
15 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Potluck, 11:45 am	**16** Tree of Giving Sign-up, 4-6 pm Council Meeting, 7 pm	**17** Tree of Giving Sign-up, 6-8 pm	**18** **Newsletter & December Calendar Published** Tree of Giving Sign-up, 10 am-12 pm	**19** Lion's Club, 2 pm 	**20**	**21**
22 Legacy Sunday Lunch & Seminar, 12 pm **29** 	**23** (Kitchen reserved only for WADIS & Thanksgiving Meal) **30**	**24** (Kitchen reserved only for WADIS & Thanksgiving Meal)	**25** Quilting, 9 am (No Bible Study) (Kitchen & Gym Reserved- Thanksgiving Meal Prep in Kitchen)	**26** **Thanksgiving Day** OFFICE CLOSED Elizabeth Ashley Hoke Community Thanksgiving Free Meal, 1-3 pm (No Other Gym or Kitchen Use)	**27**	**28** 

November Birthdays



2 Ava Harris
6 Darlene Bass
10 Courtney Goode
Jean Johnson
13 Anca Williams
14 Kate Bush
Bill Howell
Parker Rosansky
15 Ann Brekas
Elaine Wilson
16 Tria Brockamp
18 Justine Johnson
19 Megan Hannon
20 Greyson Bush
23 Haizley Perttu Helms
24 Gayle O'Neil
25 Darci Hyde
Nancy Winterbourne
26 Carina Leland
27 Karin Petit
29 Michelle Houser
30 Raymond Nelson
Dawn Taylor

November Anniversaries

2 Paul & Rolaine Rupp
5 Neal & Pamela Lucht
16 Patrick & Ashley Graves



17 Steve & Karin Petit
Ron & Debbie Smuckal
28 Dave & Charlene McColly

If you have a birthday or anniversary in November that is unlisted, please let us know!

SUNDAY FLOWERS PROVIDED BY:

November 1
November 8 Elva Thompson
November 15 Anne & Marc Clemens
November 22
November 29

**Sign up on the bulletin board in the gym*



SUNDAY READERS:

November 1
November 8 Norm English
November 15 Marsa Terrell
November 22 Dixon Bledsoe
November 29

**Sign up in the narthex*

Live Stream/View Past Services Links: www.facebook.com/immanuelsilverton/videos
-or- www.youtube.com/ImmanuelSilverton/videos

Ways to Support Ministry at Immanuel



1. IN PERSON
   Place offerings in the plates on Sunday or drop off in the office.
2. MAIL checks to:
   Immanuel Lutheran Church 303 N Church St. Silverton, OR 97381
3. CALL the office to pay over the phone via credit card.
4. ONLINE
   Scan the QR code with your smartphone
   or visit: secure.myvanco.com/YP8K/home
5. VANCO MOBILE APP
   Download the Vanco Mobile app and enter invite code: 4MV6AF

Calendar events are subject to change. Please contact the church office to correct any errors or omissions. Thank You!