



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2025

THE CROSS CONNECTION

News and Happenings for the "Connected-Compassion" Community

A publication of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Light of Christ Chinese Ministry, and Immanuel Lutheran School

CONTACT US

314-993-2394
9733 Olive Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63132
Pastor Karg
rkarg@immanuelolivette.org

Church Office Hours
Monday-Friday 8:00-4:00

WORSHIP WITH US

Saturdays – 5:00 pm

Sundays – 8:00 am and 10:30 am

(also Live Streamed on [YouTube](#))

Holy Communion served 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays each month

Sunday School Sundays – 9:20-10:15 am

Bible Classes Sundays—9:30-10:15

Light of Christ Worship

Sundays—10:30 am (also Live streamed on [YouTube](#))

Holy Communion served 1st & 3rd Sundays each month

CONNECT WITH US



Find & Like us on Facebook!

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Immanuel Lutheran Church-Olivette

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

Wednesday, Nov. 26, 7:00 pm

Thursday, Nov. 27, 9:30 am

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good for his steadfast love endures forever!

Psalms 107:1





OFFICIAL ACTS

RELEASED

Courtney Manor to St. John, Arnold, MO
Rev. Michael & Heather Saleminck (Nathan & Luke) to St. Paul's, Ft. Wayne, IN

MARRIAGE

Connie Jander to Patrick Tétreault

BAPTISMS

Elijah Wagener, 7/12/25

RECEIVED BY TRANSFER

Katherine Moynihan
Andrew Quinn from St. John's, Redbud, IL

PASTOR

Rev. Rory Karg 314.761.5523

DEACONESSSES

Kan Hsu, Helen Zhang

SCHOOL FACULTY

Christine Nixon– Principal

Adam Schoedel– Grade 8

Brenda Hente – Grade 7

Jamie Hart– Grade 6

Clayton Erdmann– Grade 5

Amanda Wilson– Grade 4

Lori Steingraber– Grade 3

Chris Meyr– Grade 2

Hailey Cole– Grade 1

Lisa Mull– Kindergarten

Bethany Greatens– Pre-Kindergarten

Cheri Fitzgerald- Preschool

Anna Iannucelli– Jr. Preschool

Adam Schoedel– Athletic Director

Keith Huckshold-Algebra Teacher

ELDERS

Head Elder – Todd Mirly

Zone 1 (A-B) – Luke Burkemper

Zone 2 (C-F) – Jeff Nixon

Zone 3 (G-I) – Jacob White

Zone 4 (J-L) – Drew Hackmann

Zone 5 (M) – Tim Schaff

Zone 6 (N-R) – Todd Mirly

Zone 7 (S) – Bump Trower

Zone 8 (T-Z) – Peter Seddon

STAFF

Connie Baur– Business Administrator

Helen Zhang– Light of Christ Secretary

Ksenia Mirly– School Secretary

MUSIC MINISTRY

Paul Snyder- Worship Coordinator
& Choir Director

FIELDWORKERS

Luther Cameron, Andrew Cole, Abram
Egger, James VanOrman

VICARS

Justin Hilton

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Neal Niewald– President

Brian Bunte— Vice President

Natalie Oleshchuk– Secretary

Gregg Knehans– Treasurer

Joan Marek– Financial Secretary

Bethany Greatens– Sunday School
Superintendent

Todd Mirly– Elders Board Chairman

Curtis Niewald– School Board
Chairman

Jerry Watkins– Stewards Board
Chairman

Beth Carter– Parish Education
Chairman

CO-EDITORS

Rita Eckert

Katie Krenning

ARTICLE DEADLINE

**Nov. 9 for December/
January issue**

Articles can be placed in the Anchor
Mailbox in the fellowship hall or e-mailed in
a **Microsoft Word** document type format
(* .doc) to anchor@immanuelolivette.org

FROM THE PASTOR

When do you need Jesus? I imagine the answer is different for each of us; an answer that changes depending on what is going on in our life. After all, who needs an umbrella when the sun is shining? But when the rain, and the downpours come into our life, we either can't get the umbrella open fast enough or maybe we don't have one at all, and wish we did.

When do you need Jesus? There is an old hymn that answers that question.

I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord; no tender voice like Thine can peace afford.

I need Thee, O I need Thee; every hour I need Thee; O bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.

The hymn goes on to say, "we need Jesus" when we are tempted, when we have joy or pain, when life seems empty, when we need to know the will of God and His promises... "every hour" we need Jesus. The hymn writer isn't exhaustive in the reasons we need Jesus every hour, but you get the idea. When do you need Jesus? You need him all the time; in fact Jesus knows this and tells his disciples, **"And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."**

I hope that none of us will disagree that we need Jesus all the time. But here is some pastoral encouragement. We all struggle at times with faithfulness to Sunday morning worship but it is when our being absent doesn't weigh on us at all that we are in the danger zone. Please be encouraged to worship regularly, to come to the Lord's Supper. There are many blessings in worship, but the greatest is the forgiveness of sins which is yours in Jesus.

However, Sunday (or Saturday) worship is only one day, one hour, what about the other days of the week, all those other hours that you need Jesus? Consider these ways to stay closer to Jesus: Start simple, with a prayer of thanksgiving at mealtime. Daily devotions can be a good way to either start or end your day; don't get discouraged if you don't catch every day, good habits can take time to develop. Remember, prayer is simply talking to God, and you can have that conversation anywhere at any time. Don't like the silence during your commute or while you are working during the day, find a radio station or podcast that brings you joy and encouragement in your faith. I know that there are many other ways that you and your family might use to stay close to Jesus; feel free to share them with me when you get a chance. Giving encouragement in the faith is one of the marks of a Christian community

When do you need Jesus? ALL THE TIME! Thanks be to God his promise is true and certain, **"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you"**

-Pastor Karg

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL



Partnering with Families to Prepare God's Children for the Future

*ILS Olivette's Vision is to lead students to seek and know their **identity in Christ**, develop a continual **love of learning**, and live fully redeemed lives **serving others**.*

LEA: Here We Come!



The Lutheran Education Association (LEA), was formed to “link, equip and affirm educators and workers in the ministry for the purpose of building up the body of Christ.” LEA provides wonderful opportunities for workers to make connections and build communities across the states and even globally. This association understands the service and dedication our faithful teachers in the ministry provide daily to share the gospel message. It is a valuable resource that nurtures and supports workers while celebrating their many achievements, including our very own Miss Amanda Wilson! She will be receiving the 2025 Outstanding New Lutheran Early Childhood Teacher award. As an alum of Immanuel and now a teacher, we are proud of her!

LEA hosts a convocation every three years. Some of our teachers have had the privilege of attending them in years past. Cities such as Grand Rapids, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, and St. Louis are some of the places to host this awesome conference. This year is special not only because it marks the 15th Triennial Convocation, but also because it is located right here in St. Louis again! It is open to any educator or staff involved in a church and/or school ministry. Our teachers plan to attend this conference and I know it will be a blessing. They will begin their adventure by being a part of the welcoming committee, greeting and guiding guests with an enthusiastic smile and assistance. I can't think of a better staff to do so!

TOGETHER and *Meet Me in St. Louis* is the theme this year. It begins with a powerful opening worship, including music and singing by some nearby elementary and high school students. The first night will include a banquet with entertainment. As the conference continues, educators have the opportunity to attend sessions catered to their areas of interests or needs. There will also be spots to recharge and reconnect with friends (or make new ones), before hearing from nationally renowned keynote speakers. Several vendors showcasing their curriculum, tools, and creativity will also be there offering material that will likely ignite ideas to help the students at Immanuel. I am very thankful for the support our church and school families give as our teachers find ways to grow and shine in their calling.

In my experience, this conference is a blessing for school staff to come closer together as a team. I ask for your prayers as we step outside the classroom to recharge and grow in our faith and development.

In His Service,
Christine Nixon, Principal

BOARD OF STEWARDS

Hello from your Stewards!

As we approach fall and the beginning of a lot of outdoor activities, calendar events pop up seemingly all the time. This is the time of year to begin preparing for busy schedules and holiday events, including Christmas!

Whilst we are nearing the busiest seasons of the year, NOW is a great time to stop, pause and reflect a bit on the gifts we all have received. The question for each of us is, do we apply the Stewardship principles God has given his people in his Word?

FUN FACT:

Jesus told **more parables about money and possessions** than about heaven and hell combined — around **16 of His 38 parables** deal with stewardship, wealth, or responsibility.

- ✝ Do we **GIVE** of the blessings given to us, back to God?
- ✝ Are we **SERVING** His needs with our **TIME**?
- ✝ Do we **ATTEND** services for refreshing Word and Sacraments?, and
- ✝ Are we **GROWING** in our personal relationship and/or witnessing Christ to others?



Have a bit of trivia for you readers!

The word “**steward**” in the New Testament comes from the Greek **oikonomos**, meaning **house manager**. It wasn't about ownership, but faithful management of **someone else's** resources.

Wishing everyone good health and best wishes on your personal Stewardship journey!





Celebrating 25 Years of God's Faithfulness

Treasured Memories of the Beginning of Light of Christ By Rev. Dr. Shiu Ming Lau

Here's how it began:

We were originally living in Springfield, MO, where I was pastoring and studying in the Master of Sacred Theology (STM) program at Concordia Seminary. After I graduated in 1999, I continued on to the PhD program at Concordia. The seminary required all full-time students to relocate to the St. Louis campus, so our whole family moved to St. Louis.

During that time, a good friend within the Lutheran Church encouraged me to consider serving in the Lutheran Church. After prayer, I was prompted by the Lord to call President Kalthoff to request a meeting. Since I had been serving in a different denomination, I just wanted to learn more about the structure and pastoral expectations of the Lutheran Church. I was then introduced to Pastor Ed Lange, who was then Mission Executive of the District. President Kalthoff said to me: "We are planning to start a Chinese congregation in St. Louis. Would you consider helping us plant this church?"

I was surprised and deeply grateful. I went home to discuss it with Mrs. Lau and prayed together for God's guidance. Confirmation from the Holy Spirit—that this was indeed God's will—came gradually, through observation, confirmation, and discernment during the preparation process.

First, I asked myself: why would I transfer from one denomination to another? After all, at that time, there were already **seven Chinese churches** in St. Louis—four of which were quite large. Why start **another one**? Was it just for denominational reasons? In prayer, the Holy Spirit led me to realize that as early as **1992**, the LCMS had already passed a **Synodical Convention Resolution to develop gospel ministries among minority groups in the U.S.**, raising up ethnic leaders and servants of God to reach their own people groups. This was a very forward-thinking approach. At the time, most denominations still had a strong overseas focus and had not yet paid attention to the gospel needs of ethnic communities within America. Each ethnic group has its own culture, background, and language and needs a unique approach to outreach.

I was drawn to this vision, which I saw as a God-given calling to the Lutheran Church—and later, to myself. Thus, the "eighth" Chinese church in the city was born, planted by the Lutheran Church and named "**Light of Christ**," because the **true light of God** must shine among all people groups, bringing them back into God's flock. The Holy Spirit also helped me see that our church needed to focus on **Mandarin-speaking ministry**. Since the 1990s, a wave of immigration had brought scholars, laborers, and many Chinese people from mainland China to the U.S. This was a key opportunity to reach them with the gospel. If they heard the gospel and stayed, they could support the church; and if they returned to China, they could bring the gospel back with them. This was a vision from the Holy Spirit—to establish a new church with a heart for mission. From the Great Commission perspective, Chinese mission is very important. By establishing a Mandarin-speaking ministry, we could inspire more Mandarin-speaking brothers and sisters to be sent out and shine for the Lord.

So, we received:

The **vision from God to the Lutheran Church**,

The **invitation from the District President prompted by the Spirit**, and

The **calling to all brothers and sisters at Light of Christ** to embrace the Lord's mission.

In year 2000, we started a small but mission-driven church—**Light of Christ Lutheran Chinese Mission**. These three points have continually motivated me and our early members to serve with great passion and dedication.

Like any new church, we started from **zero**, facing many challenges. Still, I believe that we should not only focus on difficulties, but also on our **strengths and unique opportunities**. With a positive and faith-filled mindset, we saw that God's guidance was truly marvelous. In our first year, we held worship services attended by just our family of four, with the occasional visitor. I joked, "Next year we'll have an excellent report—we've grown by **400%**, since our family of four became the first members of Light of Christ!" God's leading was indeed wonderful. We received full support from Immanuel. Members at Immanuel helped new Chinese immigrants understand American culture. This became a unique strength of Light of Christ. In those early days, God gave us **much grace**, and **strength to overcome each challenge**. We are deeply thankful for His grace!

May Light of Christ continue to shine like a beacon, holding out the Word of life. And may more and more people come to know that **Jesus is the Light of the World**. "Whoever follows Him will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)



OUR COMMUNITY

IMMANUEL CAMPOUT

We had another beautiful weekend for Campout! We had a little rain Friday night, but gorgeous sun on Saturday. The campfires felt amazing in the evenings. It was so fun to see all the new faces at Campout this year! All generations who attended were blessed with fun, relaxation, fellowship, and a wonderful outdoor worship service. We had 73 adults, 41 children and 8 dogs in attendance. Immanuel occupied all the cabins and 9 campsites!

We were able to secure all the cabins for September 11-13, 2026. The call-in day for cabins will be in January, 2026. We will be sure to advertise the date well in advance.



MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club will have its October meeting at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, the 7th. We have requested Vicar Justin Hilton as the guest speaker, which is pending. A normal meeting and then refreshments will follow. We encourage all congregational men and current members to join us. Hope to see you there!

The Men's Club will have its November meeting at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, the 4th. An activity or a guest speaker is being determined with details to be disclosed through the church announcements prior to our meeting. Refreshments will be included, and we encourage all congregational men and current members to participate. Hope to see you there!



CHRISTMAS COTTAGE

Have you marked your calendar?! **Friday, December 5th**, will be the 2025 Christmas Cottage. Many volunteers are needed!

The cottage is always accepting donations. Donations may include items to be sold, gift bags, bows, or financial Christmas Christ-centered, so no Santa items please. Any questions, contact Pam Niewald 314-805-0716.

The cottage is always accepting donations. Donations may include items to be sold, gift bags, bows, or financial support. Items may be placed in the plastic tub under the desk near the lower elevator. We are keeping Christmas Christ-centered, so no Santa items please. Any questions, contact Pam Niewald 314-805-0716.



COMMUNITY CARE TEAM

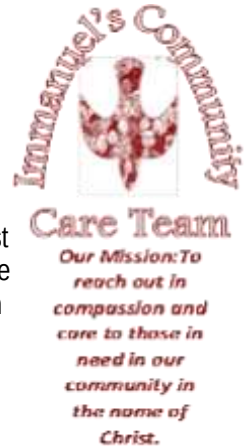
CHRISTMAS GIFT COLLECTION

Christmas Gift Collection

We are supporting the 100 men housed at Peter and Paul Community Services (PPCS). We have already purchased the items for the gift bags and are asking for donations to help with the cost. Each gift bag contains a travel size hygiene kit, two pairs of socks, bar of soap, washcloth, lip balm, tissues, and a bag of snacks.

We'll be in the atrium in between services on **Sundays, November 9, 16, 23, and 30** to collect donations. The cost of each gift bag is \$25.00, but any donation amount is greatly appreciated. **Cash/checks** may also be placed in the offering plate or dropped off at the church office, **payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church with CCT Collection in the memo.**

Thank you for helping us deliver gifts to these men in time for Christmas!



FOOD PANTRY THANK YOU NOTES RECEIVED

"Dear Immanuel Lutheran-Olivette,

Thank you so much for supporting the Concordia St. Louis food bank! The food bank has helped so much to stretch our grocery budget farther during the first two years of seminary. We are constantly in awe of the many people who support us during this seminary journey, and your church helps in so many ways. We are immensely grateful.

In Christ, The Martin Family"

"Dear Brothers & Sisters at Immanuel,

Thank you so much for your generous donations to the Concordia Seminary food bank! The food bank has been a huge blessing to our family as my husband continues classes. We know that God will provide all our needs and are thankful for faithful members who are His instruments.

God bless you all! The Goetz Family"



Thank you, Immanuel members, for keeping this ministry ongoing!

IMMANUEL INBOUND

Please take time to send our inbound a card. They love hearing from Immanuel!

December Birthday - Donna Scotino. Cards due Sunday, Dec. 7

Christmas Cards are also due Sunday, Dec. 7. Personalize your Christmas cards for **Joan Gansman, Larry Greenway, Dorothy Knoll, Donna Scotino, and Marilyn Weinstock**, just like you prepare your own Christmas cards. No postage necessary. Just place cards in the black mail box in the atrium. Make sure the recipient's name is on the envelope. Cards will be delivered by an Immanuel volunteer. Contact Diane Tallyn (Cell 314-910-2032 or diane_tallyn@hotmail.com) with any questions. Thank you for thinking of our inbound members!

SCHOOL SUPPLY THANK YOU NOTES RECEIVED

"Thank you so much for your heartfelt donation to our school ministry! With these gifts, we were able to purchase tools and supplies needed to launch our new lunch program. We are grateful for the thoughtfulness and appreciate your support as we begin to work with families in our care.

May the Lord bless you!

Christine Nixon, Principal"

"Thank you for your recent gift. Every donation we receive allows us to **Achieve. Believe. Belong.** every day here at Lutheran North!

Thank you so much for this gift. It will be a big help to our students and teachers.

God Bless, Tim Brackman"

"On behalf of the students and families of Concordia Seminary, "Thank you" for your thoughtful donation of school supplies. Your generosity has helped equip our families for a new academic year and brought joy and encouragement to many.

Your kindness is a beautiful reminder of God's provision through his people, and we are truly grateful for your support.

May the lord bless you abundantly, just as you have been a blessing to us.

With sincere thanks, The Students and families of Concordia Seminary."

"I am so thankful for your support of the seminary kids and preparing us for the school year ahead! It was so helpful to our budget to get supplies on campus. With three kids in school the load can be a lot at the start of school. Thanks for helping our kids be successful at school.

Many Blessings, The Stewart Family"

WOMEN'S GUILD

October

Women's Guild is just getting started for this year with another great event: a HUGE Birthday Party on Tuesday, October 7th at 6:30 pm. All women at least voting age and above are welcome to come and celebrate your birthday with everyone else in attendance. Bring a friend to make the party even bigger. We will see you there.



November

Women's Guild will be joining the Men's Club for our November meeting on Tuesday, November 4th at 6:00 pm. The Men's Club is providing brats and beer, while we ladies are providing the entertainment. The fabulous Barbara Kay will present "It was a Crime to be German" around 6:30 pm if you would rather eat at home. As always, bring a friend and see you there.

Craft Bazaar and Luncheon

It's that time of year when people drive close to 100 miles to buy unique handcrafted items and enjoy lunch at our Bazaar and Luncheon. Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 1st at 9:30am. Food service from 10:30am until 1:00pm. All Guild members are needed to help with the luncheon! A special thanks in advance to all who work throughout the year to create such wonderful craft items. There is always something for everyone's budget. All proceeds go to missions and Immanuel projects.

CRAFT BAZAAR & LUNCHEON



Bring your friends and family!

Saturday, Nov. 1, 9:30 am – 1:30 pm

A-la-cart luncheon served 10:30-1:00

Handmade and hand-painted decorations for fall and Christmas

Unique and useful gift items

Baked goodies

Jams and jellies

Granny's Attic treasures

A small group has been busy crafting on Wednesday mornings, but contributions from Immanuel members are greatly appreciated. Please bring any handcrafted items to the fellowship hall beforehand or have them in the school gym by 9:00 on Friday morning, Oct. 31. Food items should be delivered to the Bakery Booth by 9:00 am on Saturday, Nov. 1.

All proceeds from the Bazaar and Luncheon benefit a variety of foreign missions and Immanuel projects.

PLEASE COME! The Immanuel family support is vital to our success!

REFORMATION DINNER

Reformation Dinner

Sunday, Oct. 26, 11:00-1:00

Hosted by Immanuel Youth

Enjoy brats, hotdogs, sauerkraut, German potato salad, green beans, dessert, beverages and fellowship!

(Free-will offering)



TRUNK OR TREAT



Sunday, Oct. 25, 6:30-8:30 pm

All are invited!

Anyone wishing to host a trunk can message

psce@ilsolivette.org



GREETERS LIST

Notes To Greeters:

Please note on your personal calendar, and trade with someone if you have a conflict. Badges are on the wall over the copier in the Volunteer Room. **More Greeters are always welcome!** Please call Judy Meyr (314-265-1182) if interested in this service to the Lord.

October 2025

Sat. 10/4: 5 pm Leslie Elgert

Sun 10/5: 8 am Char Gordon

10:30 am Cheryl Lokke

Sat. 10/11: 5 pm Becky Shaw

Sun. 10/12: 8 am Bob & Angie Sudbring

10:30 am Bill & Judy Budner

Sat. 10/18: 5 pm Sue Wyland & Betty Crane

Sun. 10/19: 9 am Duane & Bette Bude

10:30 am Greg & Sherry Miller

Sat. 10/25: 5 pm Mar Croxton

Sat. 10/26: 8 am Brice & Lisa Williams

10:30 am Diane Tallyn

November 2025

Sat. 11/1: 5 pm Margaret Watkins

Sun. 11/2: 8 am Char Gordon

10:30 am Tim & Cheryl Schaff

Sat. 11/8: 5 pm Becky Shaw

Sun. 11/9: 8 am Bob & Angie Sudbring

10:30 am John & Suzanne Domalewski

Sat. 11/15: 5 pm Ricci Grabski

Sun. 11/16: 8 am Lois Stiegemeier

10:30 am Greg & Sherry Miller

Sat. 11/22: 5 pm Leslie Elgert

Sun. 11/23: 8 am Brice & Lisa Williams

10:30 am Diane Tallyn

Thanksgiving Eve 11/26: 7 pm Carla Krazl

Thurs. 11/27: 9 am Ken & Rita Eckert

Sat. 11/29: 5 pm Mike & Mar Croxton

Sun. 11/30: 8 am Rae Mohrmann

10:30 am Cheryl Lokke

OCTOBER 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1 9:00 Bazaar	2 9:30 Quilters	3	4 5:00 Worship
5 8:00/10:30 Worship	6 9:00 Women's Zoom Bible Study	7 6:30 Women's Guild	8 9:00 Bazaar	9 9:30 Quilters	10	11 5:00 Worship	
12 8:00/10:30 Worship	13 9:00 Women's Zoom Bible Study	14 6:30 All Boards	15 9:00 Bazaar	16 9:30 Quilters	17	18 5:00 Worship	
19 8:00/10:30 Worship	20 9:00 Women's Zoom Bible Study	21 6:30 Council	22 9:00 Bazaar	23 9:30 Quilters	24	25 5:00 Worship 6:30 Trunk or Treat	
26 8:00/10:30 Worship 11:00 Reformation Dinner	27 9:00 Women's Zoom Bible Study	28	29 9:00 Bazaar	30 9:30 Quilters	31 Reformation Day		

NOVEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9:30 Fall Bazaar / Luncheon 5:00 Worship
2 Daylight Savings Ends 8:00/10:30 Worship	3 9:00 Women's Zoom Bible Study	4 Election Day 6:30 Women's Guild 6:30 Men's Club	5 9:00 Bazaar	6 9:30 Quilters	7	8 5:00 Worship
9 8:00/10:30 Worship Cross Connect Deadline	10 9:00 Women's Zoom Bible Study	11 Veterans Day 6:30 All Boards	12 9:00 Bazaar	13 9:30 Quilters	14	15 5:00 Worship
16 8:00/10:30 Worship	17 9:00 Women's Zoom Bible Study	18 6:30 Voter's Meeting	19 9:00 Bazaar	20 9:30 Quilters	21	22 5:00 Worship
23 8:00/10:30 Worship	24 9:00 Women's Zoom Bible Study	25	26 9:00 Bazaar	27 Thanksgiving 9:30 Worship	28	29 5:00 Worship
30 Advent Begins 8:00/10:30 Worship	Sunday Morning Schedule <u>Immanuel:</u> 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship					Sunday Morning Schedule <u>Light of Christ:</u> 10:30 a.m. Worship



THANKFUL
grateful
BLESSED



It's *Fall* Y'all!

