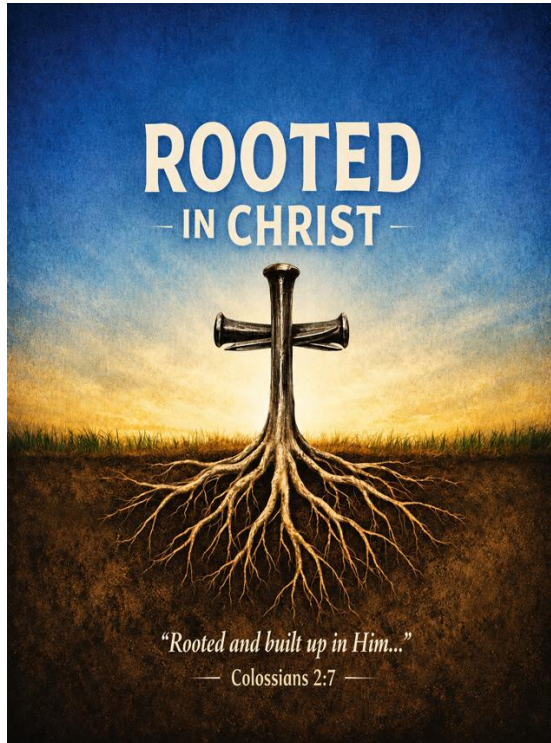


Rooted in Christ



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**Immanuel Lutheran Church
Seymour, Indiana**

**Stewardship Campaign
2026/2027**

Roots that Run Deep!

Every healthy tree has something in common: its greatest strength is hidden from view. Long before anyone notices the beauty of its branches or the abundance of its fruit, its roots have been growing deep beneath the surface.

Those roots draw nourishment, provide stability, and allow the tree to endure seasons of drought, storms, and change. Without healthy roots, there is no lasting growth.

The same is true of the Christian life. Paul reminds us that our lives are not rooted first in our own effort, generosity, or commitment. We are rooted in Christ Himself.

As Paul writes,

“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.” (Colossians 2:6–7)

Before Paul says anything about what we do, he reminds us of what we have received.

We did not climb our way to Christ or earn His favor. Christ came to us.

Through His Word, through Holy Baptism, through the preaching of the Gospel, and through His body and blood given in the Lord’s Supper, He planted us firmly in Himself.

He forgives our sins, gives us new life, and makes us His own.

Only after reminding us of these gifts does Paul speak about how we live. Christian stewardship always begins there. We do not give and serve in order to earn God’s love or secure His blessings.

We give and serve because, in Christ, those blessings have already been freely given. Gratitude is the soil from which Christian stewardship grows. Rooted in Christ, our lives begin to overflow with thankfulness and praise.

Rooted in Christ: Growing Together

Healthy roots continue to grow, and healthy Christians continue to gather around the gifts that nourish their faith. God has not called us to grow in isolation.

He has gathered us into His Church, where He continues to strengthen us through His Word, His Sacraments, and the encouragement of fellow believers.

One of the greatest gifts we offer one another is simply our presence. Every time we gather for worship, study God’s Word together, pray with one another, or encourage a fellow Christian, Christ is strengthening His people. Time spent together around His gifts is never wasted.

Being rooted in Christ also shapes how we use our time throughout the week.

Whether serving on a board, helping with Vacation Bible School, mentoring a young person, singing in the choir, preparing meals, or simply welcoming visitors with a smile and some help during worship, God uses ordinary acts of service to bless Immanuel and our community.

As we continue walking in Christ together, God will continue to be at work among us, using our time, talents, and treasures to strengthen His people, build His Church, and, in His grace, bring forth an abundant harvest for His kingdom.

Rooted in Christ: Bearing Fruit for Others

Healthy trees do not bear fruit for themselves. Their fruit is given for the benefit of others. In much the same way, God has given each of His people unique gifts, abilities, and experiences to be used in service to their neighbors.

God has richly blessed His Church with a wonderful variety of gifts. No two members are exactly alike, yet each has been entrusted with abilities that contribute to the life and mission of Christ's Church.

At Immanuel, there are countless opportunities to put those gifts to work. Some members serve on boards and committees, helping provide leadership and direction for the boards of Fellowship, Parish Education, Human Care, Missions, Stewardship, and many others.

Others help organize events like Oktoberfest, the Golf Outing, the Fair Stand, and countless gatherings that strengthen the life of our congregation.

Still others invest their gifts in ministries and fellowship groups such as Young Adult Ministry, Senior Adult Ministry, and Ladies Groups.

Whether serving in leadership, planning events, teaching, encouraging, or quietly working behind the scenes, every member has a place to serve. God delights in using the unique gifts He has given His people to strengthen His Church and care for one another.

Rooted in Christ: Cultivating the Fields for the Next Generations

For more than 150 years, the people of Immanuel have invested in something far greater than buildings or budgets. They invested in the ministry of the Gospel. They gave generously so that future generations would hear God's Word, receive His Sacraments, and grow in faith.

Because of their faithfulness and faithful pastoral and lay leadership, we enjoy the blessings of a vibrant congregation, a growing Lutheran school, a loving child care ministry, and countless opportunities to proclaim Christ both here in Seymour and throughout the world.

Today, we have the privilege of continuing that same legacy.

The financial gifts entrusted to our congregation support the present and future work of our various ministries.

They make possible the preaching and teaching of God's Word, pastoral care, Christian education, missions, youth ministry, music, outreach, and the many opportunities our church, school, and child care ministry have to share the love of Christ with others.

If you already support the ministry of Immanuel through regular giving, Thank You! Your generosity is making a real difference in people's lives each and every day.

If you have not yet begun regular giving, consider taking that step this year. Start with an intentional gift that fits your circumstances. Many members find that recurring online giving makes generosity a joyful and consistent part of their lives. If you are looking to provide a gift that can be drawn on in the future, consider making a gift to the Foundation.

Whether you are able to share a little or a lot, remember that our Lord has always delighted in multiplying what His people place into His hands.

He takes our offerings and uses them to accomplish immeasurably more than we could ever do on our own, bearing abundant fruit for His kingdom.

Deep Roots, Lasting Fruit

Paul concludes by describing Christians as "abounding in thanksgiving." That is the heart of Christian stewardship. Everything begins with Christ. He is the One who plants us, nourishes us, forgives us, and gives us life. Because we have received so much from Him, our lives naturally begin to overflow with thankfulness and praise.

As we continue walking together in Christ, He is deepening our roots through His Word, building us up in the faith, and bearing abundant fruit through the ministry of Immanuel. He is using our time, our talents, and our treasures to bless our neighbors, strengthen His Church, and cultivate faith in generations yet to come. Rooted in Christ, we abound in thanksgiving!