



IMMANUEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Temple, TX

August 24, 2026

To the members of Immanuel Lutheran, Temple TX,

On Sunday, August 16, 2026, the Voters Assembly met and approved the motion to authorize the extension of a pastoral call to Vicar Darrell Becker to serve as Associate Pastor (Executive Pastor Emphasis), contingent upon his successful completion of all requirements for ordination through the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program.

We are grateful to everyone who attended the meeting, asked questions, and joined in prayer for the future of Immanuel's ministry. The Board of Directors and Board of Elders thank the congregation for its thoughtful and faithful participation.

We now want to share with you what happens next.

What the Vote Did — and What Remains

This vote authorized Immanuel to extend a pastoral call. It did not by itself ordain Vicar Darrell or place him into the pastoral office. Before a call can be issued, the following Synodical requirements must still be completed:

- Completion of the first two years of SMP coursework
- Successful completion of all required seminary examinations
- Placement by the LCMS Council of Presidents
- Authorization by the Texas District President

We anticipate receiving confirmation by approximately mid-December.

Timeline to Ordination and Installation

The following schedule reflects our current expectations. Dates after mid-December remain dependent on Synodical confirmation, and we will keep the congregation informed of any changes.

Date	Milestone
August 16, 2026	Voters Assembly approved authorization of the pastoral call. (Completed)
August – November 2026	Vicar Darrell completes the final requirements of the first two years of SMP coursework and his required seminary examinations, while continuing to serve as SMP Vicar under Pastor Grayson's supervision.

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and building up one another in faith through Word and Sacrament.*

Date	Milestone
Approximately mid-December 2026	Anticipated confirmation of eligibility: certification by the seminary faculty, placement by the LCMS Council of Presidents, and authorization by the Texas District President.
Following confirmation (December 2026)	The Board of Directors issues the formal call documents on behalf of the congregation. Vicar Darrell prayerfully considers and responds to the call. The congregation will be notified as soon as the call is accepted.
January 4, 2027	Anticipated full-time start date. Vicar Darrell begins serving in the Associate Pastor (Executive Pastor Emphasis) role. Until ordination he continues to preach and teach under Pastor Grayson's supervision and does not yet administer the Sacraments.
January 31, 2027	Service of Ordination and Installation at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Family, friends, and area congregations will be invited to join us.
February 2027 forward	As an ordained pastor, Vicar Darrell assumes the full responsibilities of the Associate Pastor position, including administration of the Sacraments.
2027 – 2029	Pastor Darrell completes Years 3 and 4 of the SMP curriculum while serving, with Pastor Grayson continuing as his supervising pastor.

Continuing Education: Years 3 and 4 of the SMP Program

The SMP Program is a four-year course of study. Ordination comes after the two-year vicarage and the first eight courses are completed — not at the end of the program. Darrell will therefore continue his seminary education for two more years after his ordination, taking the post-ordination courses while serving here at Immanuel. Pastor Grayson will continue as his supervising pastor throughout, as Synod requires. This coursework is completed at a distance and is designed to be carried alongside full-time congregational ministry, so it will not interrupt Darrell's service to Immanuel.

How You Can Help

Above all, please keep Vicar Darrell and his family in your prayers during these next months, as well as Pastor Grayson, the Board of Directors, and the Board of Elders. Please also mark your calendars for Sunday, January 31, 2027, and plan to join us for the Service of Ordination and Installation. Further details about that service, and about a congregational reception, will follow.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness and support of Immanuel's ministry. To God alone be the glory.

In Christ,
Board of Directors
Immanuel Lutheran Church

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