

*The
Field
is the World,
and the good seed
are the children of the*

Kingdom.

Matthew 13:38, NRSV

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

1449 34th Street NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881

www.WinterHavenLutheran.com

Rob Sauers, Pastor (920) 602-3242

Neil Bernthal, Teacher (863) 967-5145

Katie Naumann, Teacher (253) 230-4184

Organist: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Darrin Ream

Acolyte: Seth Bernthal

As We Gather

To us in daily living it doesn't make sense that God allows evil to grow outside and even inside the Church. But as we await God's good harvest, we do so in hope, which does not depend on what our eyes see, but on the faith given us by the Holy Spirit. With faith, our ears hear God calling us His children and His listening to the Spirit's groaning for us. As precious wheat protected in God's barn, we can wait patiently for the harvest when by grace the "righteous will shine forth as the sun" in our Father's kingdom.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

446 – Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

1 John 1:8-9

P If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **We confess, gracious God, that we groan not only because of sin in the world, but our failure to trust You for all that we need. We have not waited patiently; we have demanded reasons from You; we have sought to excuse ourselves. Yet You have given us the Spirit, who intercedes for us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us to hope not in ourselves but in the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

P The promises of God are sure; one day creation will be set free from corruption. Your sins were taken to Christ's cross, where you were redeemed as God's beloved children. As a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For peace and salvation from God above, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For peace in this sin-sick world, growth in the Church, and unity among its members, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house, ourselves, and all who worship here, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.



Kyrie Eleison

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Hymn of Praise

764 (1-2, 4) – God of Grace and God of Glory



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry,
2 Lo, the hosts of e - vil round us
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion



On Your peo - ple pour Your pow'r;
Scorn the Christ, as - sail His ways.
To the e - vils we de - plore;



Crown Your an - cient Church's sto - ry;
From our fears that long have bound us,
Let the gift of Your sal - va - tion



Bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom;
Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom;
Be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom;



grant us cour - age For the fac - ing of this hour,
grant us cour - age For the liv - ing of these days,
grant us cour - age Serv - ing You whom we a - dore,



For the fac - ing of this hour.
For the liv - ing of these days.
Serv - ing You whom we a - dore.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray...

... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶ “Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. ⁷ And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them. ⁸ Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.’”

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 119:57-64

P You are my portion, O LORD;

C I have said that I would keep Your words.

P I entreated Your favor with my whole heart;

C Be merciful to me according to Your word.

P I thought about my ways,

C And turned my feet to Your testimonies.

P I made haste, and did not delay

C To keep Your commandments.

P The cords of the wicked have bound me,

C But I have not forgotten Your law.

P At midnight I will rise to give thanks to You,

C Because of Your righteous judgments.

P I am a companion of all who fear You,

C And of those who keep Your precepts.

P The earth, O LORD, is full of Your mercy;

C Teach me Your statutes.

Epistle Reading

Romans 8:18-27

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; ²¹ because the creation itself also will be

delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. ²³ Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. ²⁴ For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Alleluia

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn

264 (1-3, 5-6) – Preserve Thy Word, O Savior

²⁴ Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵ but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. ²⁶ But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. ²⁷ So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ ²⁸ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’ ²⁹ But he said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.”’” ³⁶ Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.” ³⁷ He answered and said to them: “He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. ³⁹ The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. ⁴⁰ Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, ⁴² and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!



Sermon

What Do We Do About the Problem of Evil?

- I. Recognize Where It Comes From
- II. Remember the Commands God has Given Us About It.
- III. Rely on God's Promises to End It

Offertory



Create in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from Your
pres-ence, and take not Your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of Your sal - va - tion; and up -
hold me with Your free spir-it. A - men.

Hymn

292 (1-4, 8-9) – Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide

Offering

Offering Hymn

441 (1-2)



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What -
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As
e'er the gift may be; All that we have is
stew - ards true re - ceive And glad - ly, as Thou
Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
bles - est us, To Thee our first fruits give!

General Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Hymn

49 – Almighty God, Thy Word is Cast

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule

July 23	8:00 am	Divine Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Divine Service (Winter Haven)
July 30	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Divine Service
August 6	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Divine Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:15 am	Board of Education Meeting
	11:15 am	Ladies' Meeting

Upcoming Meetings: The following is our schedule of meetings through the annual meeting in January:

- **August 6** – Board of Education
- **September 3** – Board of Elders
- **October 1** – Board of Trustees/Church Council
- **November 5** – Quarterly Voters' Meeting
- **November 19** – Board of Education
- **December 3** – Board of Elders/Church Council
- **December 17** – Board of Trustees/Church Council
- **January 7** – Annual Voters' Meeting

Man Up! Weekend: The 2023 ManUp! Men's Weekend will be held September 21-24, 2023, at beautiful Wyalusing State Park near Prairie du Chien, WI. The weekend will offer strength and encouragement for men 18 and older for their personal faith, family, and fellowship at church. The weekend will include Bible study, fellowship, leadership training, team building, relationship building, worship, and many outdoor bonding activities. Register and send in your payment before August 31st for the discounted rate of \$75. Registration increases to \$150 after September 1st. The registration includes lodging and meals. You can register by going to the Man Up! website here: www.manup.clclutheran.org. and clicking on the Registration Form. Sign up today!

Pacific Coast Women's Retreat: Gethsemane Lutheran Church of Spokane Valley, WA is hosting a Women's Retreat, October 6-8, 2023 at Ponderosa Lodge in Cusick, WA. The congregation extends an invitation to all of the sisters in Christ across the CLC and will welcome you warmly if you are able to attend. The theme of the retreat is "Grow in Grace" and is based upon Psalm 1:3, "He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers." There will be four main sessions and four devotions. Other activities may include small group book discussion, outdoor activities such as zip line, archery, canoe/kayaking, and more. The price is \$150 for the full weekend which includes five meals. Daily rates are also available for participants who can't stay the whole weekend. Go to: <https://gethsemaneclc.org/events/pacific-coast-womens-retreat> to get more information, to sign-up for email updates, and to register.

CLC News: Pastor Sam Rodebaugh of Faith Lutheran, Manchester, MO is considering the call from Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI to be their third pastor. Pastor James Albrecht of St. John's in Okabena, MN is considering the call from Calvary Lutheran in Marquette, MI.

✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

July 24 - July 29

Monday: Mark 4:26-29 – God rule is not always visible and, as the seed grows even while the farmer is sleeping, so also God’s kingdom grows. The farmer does not have to know how the seed grows, blade to grain, for it is the Lord who brings the growth until the much-awaited day of harvest.

Tuesday: 1 Timothy 6:6-12 – Although the Kingdom of God is sometimes compared to a farmer and his earthly crops (yesterday’s reading), it has far greater promise than the harvests of this world. In fact, focusing too much on earthly wealth can distract one from seeking the Kingdom of God and eternal life.

Wednesday: Isaiah 62:6-9 – The Lord, who watch’s over His people (Jerusalem), has watchmen, not just to warn of an enemy’s approach, but also to pray that the Lord remember His promises and establish His kingdom forever. For this they are to pray without ceasing (v 7 cp. 1Thess 5:17).

Thursday: Isaiah 62:10-12 – The prophet urges the people to go out the gates and prepare the highway for the Lord’s harvest, as He gathers His people from ends of the earth to His banner. This is the salvation that He has promised, and His people will be known as the redeemed of the Lord.

Friday: Colossians 3:12-17 – In Christ’s Kingdom we are forgiven by Christ the King, and want to forgive others. Under God’s rule we have the peace of Christ, and want to live in that peace with one another. The word of Christ, by which He rules, is also what we want to speak to one another, and walk in love (v 14).

Saturday: Matthew 13:24-30 – When God rules, His servants may not always understand why He permits bad things to happen or evil to grow for a time in the world, but in the harvest it will be apparent that He was always working for the good of His own precious crop.



