

1 CORINTHIANS 1:25, NRSV

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

The Church has what the world needs: God's Law, which shows us our sin and our need for a Savior, and His Gospel, which gives us His grace and forgiveness in Christ. Today, we celebrate and support the ministry of Christian education, which teaches us these truths from God's Word. Many people stumble over the message of the cross, thinking that they can save themselves by their own works or that they don't need God at all. They consider the cross foolishness and weakness, but we know that it is the power and wisdom of God. Today is a day for faithful teaching: Christ crucified, the hope and joy of the Church.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

381 – I Know My Faith is Founded

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

- P** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.
- C** **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**
- P** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.
- C** Amen.

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy
on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis

Glo - ry to God, we give you thanks and praise; Of
Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son, You
A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord, At
heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing. We wor - ship
bore for us the load of this world's sin. O Lamb of
God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high: Who, with the
You, to You our hearts we raise, Lord God, al -
God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won, Re - ceive our
Spir - it wor - shipped and a - dored, With all the
might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

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

Proverbs 9:1-6

¹ Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars; ² She has slaughtered her meat, She has mixed her wine, She has also furnished her table. ³ She has sent out her maidens, She cries out from the highest places of the city, ⁴ “Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!” As for him who lacks understanding, she says to him, ⁵ “Come, eat of my bread And drink of the wine I have mixed. ⁶ Forsake foolishness and live, And go in the way of understanding.

Psalms of the Day

Psalms 119:129-136

P Your testimonies are wonderful;
C **Therefore my soul keeps them.**
P The entrance of Your words gives light;
C **It gives understanding to the simple.**
P I opened my mouth and panted,
C **For I longed for Your commandments.**
P Look upon me and be merciful to me,
C **As Your custom is toward those who love Your name.**
P Direct my steps by Your word,
C **And let no iniquity have dominion over me.**
P Redeem me from the oppression of man,
C **That I may keep Your precepts.**
P Make Your face shine upon Your servant,
C **And teach me Your statutes.**
P Rivers of water run down from my eyes,
C **Because men do not keep Your law.**

Children's Anthem

Walk with Us, Lord

Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:13-20

¹³ When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” ¹⁴ So they

said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

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

775 (1-4) – Thy Strong Word

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.” ²⁰ Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. ²² For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. ²⁶ For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. ²⁷ But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, ²⁹ that no flesh should glory in His presence. ³⁰ But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—³¹ that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.”



Sermon

Rejoice in the Foolishness of the Cross

I. It Exposes the Weakness of Mankind

II. It Reveals the Power of God

Offertory

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -

new a right spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a -



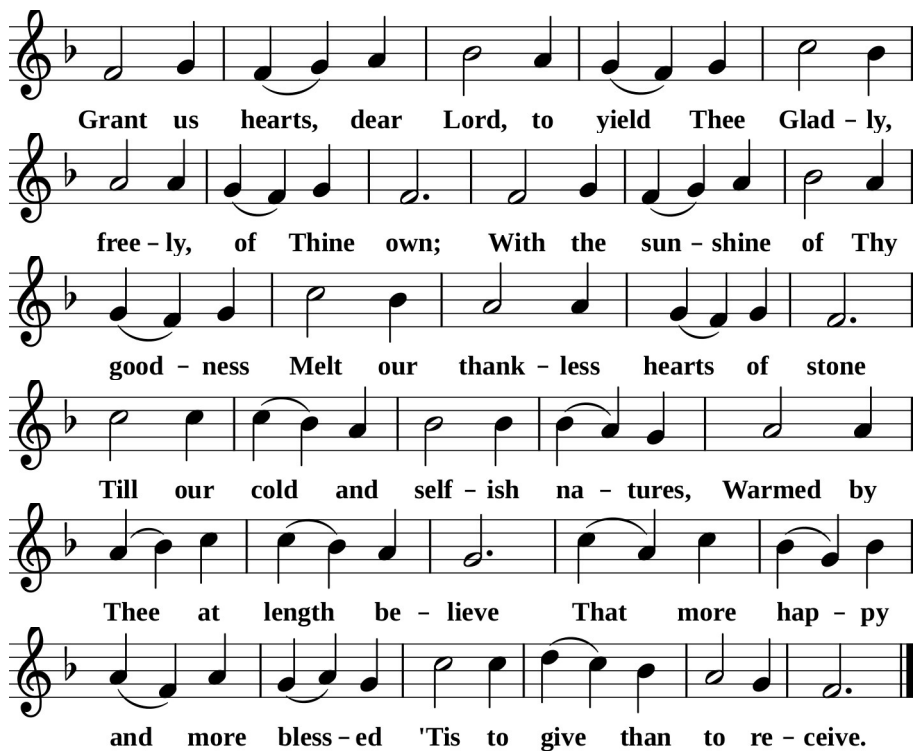
Hymn

294 – O Word of God Incarnate

Offering

Offering Hymn

442 (2)



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

400 – Take My Life and Let It Be

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✠ Announcements ✠

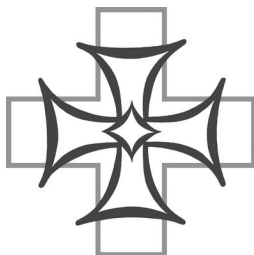
Upcoming Schedule

August 27	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
September 3	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:15 am	Board of Elders
September 10	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)

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

- **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!



Weekly Sermon Podcast: For nearly 65 years, the CLC’s Ministry by Mail has been producing print sermons for distribution. Originally this was done by postal mail, especially for members living at a distance from their home church or serving in the military. With the arrival of the internet, sermons began being sent by email and posted online (www.lutheransermons.org). This past Advent, Ministry by Mail began offering audio versions of their sermons through weekly Podcast services. You can find these sermons on most major podcast platforms such as Google, Apple Podcasts, and Spotify by searching “CLC Ministry by Mail.” Hit “subscribe” or “follow” to receive notifications of weekly uploads. Contact Ministry by Mail editor, Nathan Pfeiffer, for more information – editor@lutheransermons.org

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 Call News: Pastor Aaron Ude of Good Shepherd Lutheran, Rapid City, SD is considering the call from Calvary Lutheran Church in Marquette, MI.

Fruits of Faith	August 20, 2023	WH: 32
Immanuel Home		\$316.25
<u>Sign</u>		<u>\$50.00</u>
Total		\$366.25

✝ Serving Next Weekend ✝

Cleaner (9/2): Ream Acolyte (9/3): Maxwell Kuehne

✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

August 28 - September 2

Monday: John 8:31-36 – Jesus calls upon believers to remain in His Word. This promises a two-fold blessing: to know the truth about spiritual (not political) slavery and to set them free as members of God’s household.

Tuesday: Acts 16:9-15 – Paul and his group of missionaries had been hindered by the Spirit from preaching in the provinces of Asia and Bithynia. At Troas their perplexity is solved by a special vision, and they are swiftly brought to the European continent to proclaim the saving Word in Macedonia.

Wednesday: Isaiah 29:18-21 – The Lord’s prophet sees a day of freedom coming, freedom from deafness to the Word and from blindness to the Light. There will be joy in the Lord and deliverance from mockery and evil.

Thursday: Mark 2:23-28 – Jesus defends His disciples, who are under scrutiny by the Pharisees and accused of breaking the Sabbath rest while they followed Him, who came to give rest to the heavily burdened.

Friday: Ephesians 4:1-6 – Paul, a slave of Christ, does not seek freedom from this “bondage” but urges the Ephesian Christians to make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the “bond of peace” (v3). This is the Lord’s doing, that they are one!

Saturday: Colossians 2:16-19 – So many of the Old Testament regulations were pictures of the Savior who was still coming! When He came, however, it was not so they could continue clinging to the pictures, but rather to give them freedom to look to Him who is the Head of the body.



