

Philippians 4:1, NRSV



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

The Christian life is often a struggle against the pull of the world. We live in a culture that pressures us to compromise, to conform, to focus on earthly things rather than our heavenly calling. But in His Word, God calls us to stand firm—not by our own strength, but in Christ. Today, as we gather in worship, we are reminded that our citizenship is in heaven, and our Savior, Jesus Christ, holds us fast. He has overcome the world, and by His grace, He strengthens us through His Word and Sacraments. Whatever challenges we face, we stand firm in the victory He has already won for us. May our hearts be lifted in faith as we fix our eyes on Jesus, our joy and crown!

✤ Preparation for Worship ✤

Hymn

447 – Fight the Good Fight with All Thy Might

Invocation

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

Confession and Absolution

- ▶ Beloved in the Lord, as we journey through this Lenten season, we are reminded of our need for repentance and our call to stand firm in the faith. Yet we confess that we have often wavered. We have set our minds on earthly things rather than on the things of Christ. We have sought comfort and approval in the world rather than trusting in our Savior. Let us therefore come before our merciful God, humbling ourselves in repentance, and seeking His grace and forgiveness.
- **P** Most merciful God,
- C We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed—by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not always stood firm in the faith, but have been drawn to the ways of this world. We have feared opposition rather than trusting in Your promises. We have sought our own glory rather than Your kingdom. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and strengthen us, that we may walk as citizens of heaven, trusting in our Savior and standing firm in Your truth. Amen.

- Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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 ✤

Introit

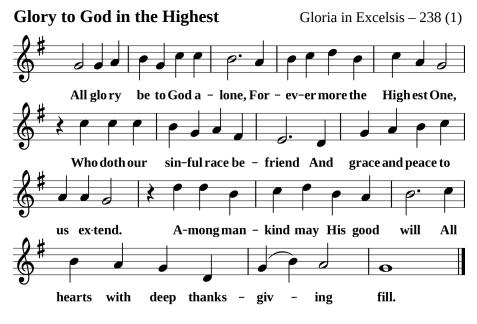
Psalm 74:1-3

- **P** O God, why have You cast us off forever?
- **C** Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your pasture?
- Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old, The tribe of Your inheritance, which You have redeemed—
- **C** This Mount Zion where You have dwelt.
- **P** Lift up Your feet to the perpetual desolations.
- **C** The enemy has damaged everything in the sanctuary.

Glory be to the Father

Gloria Patri





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

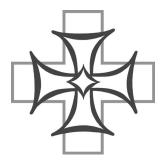
Jeremiah 26:8-15

⁸ Now it happened, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, that the priests and the prophets and all the people seized him, saying, "You will surely die! ⁹ Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, 'This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without an inhabitant'?" And all the people were gathered against Jeremiah in the house of the LORD. ¹⁰ When the princes of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the house of the LORD and sat down in the entry of the New Gate of the LORD's house. ¹¹ And the priests and the prophets spoke to the princes and all the people, saying, "This man deserves to die! For he has

prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your ears." ¹² Then Jeremiah spoke to all the princes and all the people, saying: "The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city with all the words that you have heard. ¹³ Now therefore, amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God; then the LORD will relent concerning the doom that He has pronounced against you. ¹⁴ As for me, here I am, in your hand; do with me as seems good and proper to you. ¹⁵ But know for certain that if you put me to death, you will surely bring innocent blood on yourselves, on this city, and on its inhabitants; for truly the LORD has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing."

Psalm of the Day

- P Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness!
- **C** You have relieved me in my distress; Have mercy on me, and hear my prayer.
- P How long, O you sons of men, Will you turn my glory to shame?
- **G** How long will you love worthlessness And seek falsehood?
- **P** But know that the LORD has set apart for Himself him who is godly;
- **C** The LORD will hear when I call to Him.
- **P** Be angry, and do not sin.
- **C** Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still.
- **P** Offer the sacrifices of righteousness,
- **C** And put your trust in the LORD.
- **P** There are many who say, "Who will show us any good?"
- **C** LORD, lift up the light of Your countenance upon us.
- **P** You have put gladness in my heart,
- **G** More than in the season that their grain and wine increased.
- **P** I will both lie down in peace, and sleep;
- **C** For You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.



Psalm 4

Gospel Reading

³¹ On that very day some Pharisees came, saying to Him, "Get out and depart from here, for Herod wants to kill You." ³² And He said to them, "Go, tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.' ³³ Nevertheless I must journey today, tomorrow, and the day following; for it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem. ³⁴ "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing! ³⁵ See! Your house is left to you desolate; and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'"

Response

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

C Amen.

Hymn

751 – God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It



✤ The Baptism of Haven James Wynn & Greysen Alexander Wynn ✤

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

660 – I'm But a Stranger Here

Sermon Text

Philippians 3:17-4:1

¹⁷ Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. ¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things. ²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself. ¹ Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.



Hymn

391 – Blessed Are the Sons of God

Offering

Offering Hymn 443 (1, 8) 10 Lord heav'n То of and earth and sea, 2 To Thee. from whom all de - rive Our we glo Thee all praise and be. How ry life, our gifts, our pow'r to give. Oh, shall we show our love Thee, Who giv-est all? to with Thee live, Who giv-est all! may we ev – er

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

- 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

451 – Stand Up! - Stand Up for Jesus

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╋ Announcements ♣

Upcoming Schedule		
March 16	9:15 am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
March 19	2:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship Service
March 23	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
March 26	2:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship Service
March 28	10:30 am	Learning with Littles
March 30	9:15 am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service

Upcoming Meetings: Here is a schedule of our upcoming meetings:

- April 6 Quarterly Voters' Meeting/Ladies' Meeting
- **May 4** Education/Elders
- **June 1** Trustees/Church Council

In Our Prayers: Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers: Don Beymer, Bob & Joan Doriot, Paulette Galstad, Johanna Jaehnigen, David & Elsie Kleinschmidt, Shirley Rosenberry, and Mike Sheffield. May the Lord strengthen their faith, grant them His peace, and assure them of His abiding presence.

Rejoicing in God's Grace: With great joy, we give thanks to God that Haven and Greyson Wynn were baptized today into Christ's death and resurrection! As Scripture declares in Romans 6:3-5, through Baptism, they have been united with Christ in His death, buried with Him, and raised to newness of life.

We rejoice with Haven and Greyson and their family on this special day, and we pray that the Lord would continue to bless and strengthen them in their faith through His Word.

Following the service, everyone is invited to join their family for lunch as we celebrate this wonderful occasion together. Please come and share in this time of thanksgiving and joy!



Looking Forward to Next Sunday: Next Sunday, our sermon will focus on 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 under the theme, "What's the Deal with Eating and Drinking?" The Apostle Paul reminds us how Israel's history serves as a warning and an encouragement for us today. God provided for His people in the wilderness, yet many fell into idolatry and sin—often tied to what they ate and drank. While food and drink are gifts from God, they can also become stumbling blocks when misused. Paul points us to Christ, who is our true spiritual food and drink, the Rock who sustains us. Join us as we explore how God calls us to faithful living and how He graciously provides the strength to resist temptation. "God is faithful" (v. 13), and in Him, we find our refuge and strength!

Lenten Series: A Lent to Remember: As we enter the season of Lent, we invite you to join us for our special midweek services under the theme "A Lent to Remember." Throughout this penitential season, we will reflect on the power of remembrance—God's remembrance of His promises, our remembrance of His mercy, and Christ's call to remember His sacrifice for us.

Each week, we will focus on a different aspect of remembrance as revealed in Scripture:

- Midweek 3 (March 19) Remember Jesus' Words (Luke 22:61–62)
- Midweek 4 (March 26) Remember the Covenant (Psalm 105:8)
- Midweek 5 (April 2) Remember Sins No More (Jeremiah 31:34)
- Midweek 6 (April 9) Remember Steadfast Love (Psalm 98:3)
- **Maundy Thursday (April 17)** *Remembrance of Me* (1 Corinthians 11:23–26)
- Good Friday (April 18) Remember Me (Luke 23:39–43)

Service Times:

- Wednesday Services: 2:00 PM
- Maundy Thursday & Good Friday: 7:00 PM

Join us each week as we set our hearts and minds on the remembrance that leads us to the foot of the cross and the empty tomb.

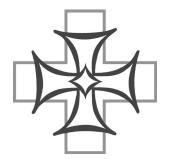


Learning with Littles Update & Special Request: We had a wonderful Learning with Littles session on Friday, with 27 children from 17 families joining us! It's been such a blessing to see this program grow—our Facebook page now has over 115 followers, which is how most new families hear about us. Praise God for these opportunities to share His love!

As we prepare for our next session on March 28, we're looking for 12 baskets to use as a visual aid for our Bible lesson on Jesus feeding the 5,000. If you have a basket we could borrow, please let us know! We're also in need of two realistic-looking fake fish—if you have some to lend, we'd greatly appreciate it!

Thank you for your support of this program! If you'd like to help, feel free to reach out.

CLC Call News: Christine Starland (part-time teacher) and Deb Owens (band) have accepted their respective calls to Berea Lutheran School of Inver Grove Heights, MN. <> Pastor Paul Krause of Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Watertown, SD, and Zion Lutheran Church, Hidewood Township, SD, has received the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO. <> Pastor Tom Schuetze of St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, Lakewood, CO, has received the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School, Mountain View, CA. <> Teacher Claire Abbas of Berea Lutheran School, Inver Grove Heights, MN, has received the call to Luther Memorial School, Fond du Lac, WI. <> Pastor Caleb Schaller of Messiah Lutheran Church, Valentine, NE, Peace Lutheran Church, Mission, SD, and St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, White River, SD.





...pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified... 2 Thessalonians 3:1



Ongoing Needs of God's Servants—Due to poverty

and a lack of opportunities in many developing nations where the CLC is privileged to work, seminary students and most pastors we work with struggle to support their families. This is true of most of the members as well. Because funding for pastoral training, Bibles, Christian literature, and direct Gospel outreach is the priority for CLC, we trust the Lord to provide for other local needs. Pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ who love and serve the Lord, asking our gracious Savior to provide all that is needed for His servants and for the spread of the Good News!

DR Congo (Central Africa) – The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has been embroiled in war for many years. In recent months the violence has intensified with rebel militias advancing and capturing the major city of Goma. The level of brutality and suffering is almost unimaginable. The violence has caused massive displacement, with hundreds of thousands of people forced to flee their homes. Many live in makeshift camps with limited access to food, clean water, and healthcare. Because of the violence, sexual assault, child abductions, suffering, and death that has taken place, citizens of the DRC have staged protests, some violent, against the centralized government, the UN, and western governments for not doing enough to end the violence. Many of the violent protests have taken place in the capital city of Kinshasa, where Pastor Lumiangu lives and ministers to the members of the Confessional Lutheran Church of the Family of Saints. Pastor Yumba, who serves the CCLC, reports that while protests have only happened in Lubumbashi, threats and rumors of rebel activities in the southeast part of the country keep everyone on edge. Much of the violence and fighting is taking place around the borders of Burundi and Rwanda, where CLC and CCLC contacts are located. Pray for peace and protection for all those who are suffering.

Myanmar (South Asia) – The <u>civil war in Myanmar continues</u> with no end in sight, causing much suffering for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Thankfully, we have been able to provide minimal humanitarian assistance through Kinship. Pastor Thang, the president of CLCM, recently had emergency surgery to remove infected tissue from his abdomen due to complications from a previous surgery. The emergency medical aid from Kinship made this possible. The surgery was a success, and although he is weak, he is back home and recovering. Please keep our brothers and sisters in your prayers, asking for peace, justice, and relief for all affected by this conflict. Thank the Lord for sparing the life of Pastor Thang and ask for His blessings on

his recovery.

Bangladesh (South Asia) – The BLCM building project is expected to begin soon as they need to complete the site work, foundation piles, and ground floor slab before the monsoon season begins in late April. They had hoped to begin sooner, but because Bangladesh is 95% Muslim, construction will be delayed until the end of Ramadan. The Board of Missions has sent the first installment of an MDF grant to help support this project. Plans are to send funds in five installments over the next six months to help complete this project. Additional offerings to the MDF will be needed to complete funding on schedule. This multipurpose building will serve God's Kingdom as a Bible Institute for training faithful church workers, a place for worship, and housing for teachers and students. Continue to pray for the success of this building project and that the Lord would move the hearts of His people to give generously for this important work so that the project can stay on schedule.

Mexico (Latin America) – Pastor Olvera's mother-in-law has been suffering from diabetes for some time and was recently hospitalized. Both of her feet now have gangrene and need to be amputated, but she is too weak to undergo surgery. The doctors have indicated that there is nothing more they can do for her. Her condition has become septic, and she is receiving palliative care at home. Pastor Olvera's wife, Claudia, is by her side to provide care until the Lord calls her to the eternal home He has prepared for her. Please pray that the Lord will relieve her pain and take her to heaven according to His good and gracious plan. Pray also that our Savior will grant courage, peace, and comfort to Claudia and her family as they wait on the Lord.

Nigeria (West Africa) – With an MDF-grant and local offerings, the Nigeria - CLC has begun contstrution on a new multipurpose building for the seminary. The building will include two large classrooms, library/ computer room, and an office for faculty. <u>Recent pictures</u> show great progress. With an increase in enrollment and expectations for even larger enrollment next year, this new building will be put to good use. Missionary Ohlmann is scheduled to visit the NCLC in mid-March. Ask the Lord to continue to bless this project and thank Him for providing the funding through the offerings of NCLC members and MDF offerings of CLC members. Thank the Lord for the privilege of working together in this effort to train faithful workers in His Nigerian harvest of souls!

Togo (West Africa) – Missionary Evensen reports that three students are in their final year at Mount Horeb Lutheran Seminary, with graduation tentatively scheduled for November. One of the students has started a preaching station in his home and is actively inviting people to attend. Pastor Kossi Blewu has been conducting a Gospel outreach radio program in a town located about 30 minutes away from the seminary. If the Lord blesses this effort to establish a preaching station, one of the graduates from the seminary will be called to serve there. Please pray for these students as they complete their studies and ask the Lord to bless their efforts in establishing preaching stations and congregations so that the truth of His saving word may be proclaimed for the salvation of Togolese souls.

Tanzania (East Africa)—The Wittenberg Lutheran Theological Seminary is nearing the end of a long and challenging semester. The class schedule includes a break for most of April. Many students will be traveling home to see their families and earn money during this time. Please pray for the safe travels of Missionary Naumann and Paula, Pastor Isangya, and the students. Additionally, pray for our Lord's provision for all those facing financial struggles as they dedicate their lives and resources to spreading the Gospel.

Kenya (East Africa) –Both of the CLC Kinship-supported schools are just a couple of months into their new school year. The Kenya-CLC is currently facing leadership and organizational challenges at St. David's Kinship School in Etago, as well as within the church body as a whole. Missionaries Naumann and Ohlmann are planning a visit in May to offer assistance and guidance regarding these issues. Pray that the Lord grants the necessary wisdom, love, patience, diligence, and clear direction as we seek His blessings for the upcoming meetings, correspondence, and decisions that the leaders of the KCLC, the CLC Kinship Committee, and the CLC Board of Missions need to make. And pray for the Lord's blessings on the children as they continue their studies, and ask for His guidance in both the teaching and the learning of His saving word in these schools.

The Philippines (Southeast Asia) – Missionary Ohlmann spent a week in February in the Philippines with Pastor Palangyos and the LAMP organization. Although a minor car accident caused some schedule disruptions, there were no injuries, and public transportation was available. An outreach seminar and a church leadership seminar took place at a LAMP congregation, with members from both congregations attending. They also preached at a LAMP preaching station in Baguio. The highlight of the trip was visiting Pastor Palangyos' home village to discuss plans for establishing a new LAMP congregation and Bible training center. Please pray for the faith of the LAMP members and for success in their outreach efforts so that more people may repent of their sins and rejoice in the forgiveness of Jesus Christ.

India (South Asia) – The difficulties that the CLC was having in sending funds to India have been resolved, at least for now. Thank the Lord for providing the financial resources for us to assist with the important work of training faithful preachers and teachers of His saving word in a part of the world dominated by idolatry. Pray that the Lord will protect, support, and strengthen the faith of His children in India amid increased persecution against Christians.

Nepal (South Asia) – Missionary Ohlmann visited <u>Nepal in December</u>. While in Nepal, he taught the fifteen kinship-supported students enrolled in the Himalayan Lutheran Bible Institute (HLBI). He and Raju also led studies at a regional pastoral conference organized by the HCLCN, with more than fifty pastors, students, and church leaders in attendance. Thank the Lord for blessing the visit and granting safe travels for Missionary Ohlmann to and from the mission field and for those who traveled many kilometers to attend the pastoral training. Thank the Lord for the fifteen men who have dedicated their time and lives to training for the Gospel ministry. Ask for the Lord's continued blessings of the Gospel outreach and ongoing ministry of the HCLC in Nepal.

Missionary Peter Evensen (Togo, West Africa) – Missionary Evensen continues his teaching duties at Mt. Horeb Lutheran Seminary and is also preaching and teaching at the local congregation in Lomé. He is still experiencing swelling and other issues with his left eye and is considering another trip to the doctor for further diagnosis and treatment. Thank the Lord for the work Missionary Evensen is doing, and pray for his improved health and for proper diagnosis and treatment for his eye.

Missionary Bruce Naumann (Tanzania-East Africa) – With the seminary on break for most of April, Missionary Naumann, Paula, and Pastor Isangya are planning to make visits to the Tanga and Zanzibar districts. Hopefully, they will find time and opportunity to enjoy a couple of days on the beautiful beaches of Zanzibar. You can follow Missionary Naumann's blog at <u>https://clc-tz.blogspot.com/</u>. Praise the Lord for all that Missionary Naumann is accomplishing, thank the Lord for the faithful support and encouragement of his wife Paula, and ask our Savior to grant wisdom, patience, love, and all that is necessary to continue our Savior's work in East Africa.

Missionary Todd Ohlmann – As of now, Missionary Ohlmann is scheduled to depart on March 18th for a ten-day visit to Nigeria. His first visa application was denied, and he is currently waiting for word of approval from the Nigerian Embassy in Washington, DC. If his passport and visa are not returned in time, the visit will have to be postponed. In addition to Nigeria, his upcoming schedule includes visits to Mexico and Kenya, attending Board of Missions meetings in Eau Claire, organizing and leading the Mission Helper Trip to Nepal in June, and assisting with the pastoral vacancy at Faith Lutheran Church in the St. Louis area. Please pray that the Lord blesses and provides for all the necessary preparations for these trips to occur. Please continue to pray for his wife, Beth, as she cares for her elderly father, who longs for his heavenly home. You can read reports and see pictures here: <u>missionaryohlmann.blogspot.com</u>

Ongoing Opportunities – Please continue to pray for all of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world, who, by God's grace, are dedicated to proclaiming the truths of God's saving Word for the salvation of souls as they trust the promise of our Savior that His Word will not return to Him void but will accomplish that for which He sends it.





+ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions +

March 17 – March 22, 2025

Monday – John 9:1-12

Jesus brings new light to the eyes of a man blind from birth. The man could not explain how mud and rinsing brought sight, except that Jesus had done it, and now he could see for the first time!

Tuesday – John 9:13-22

The Pharisees did not want to believe that Jesus brought light to the blind man's eyes, so they remained in darkness, while it began to dawn on him that his Helper was a prophet, sent from God!

Wednesday – Romans 8:28-39

God works in all things for the good of His own, from foreknowing them to glorifying them. Therefore we say and sing, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (v. 31).

Thursday – Exodus 2:1-10

The LORD watches over the baby by whom He will deliver His people from bondage, so that he will be nursed by his own mother and given the best education available in Pharaoh's own palace.

Friday – Psalm 51:1-12

After the prophet Nathan's visit (2 Samuel 12), David confesses his great sinfulness, even from birth. He looks to God for cleansing, deliverance, a clean heart, and the restored joy of His salvation.

Saturday – *Psalm* 51:13-19

As a forgiven child of God, David will declare God's praise (v. 15) and shout for joy. As forgiven people of God, Zion will bring thank-offerings—righteous sacrifices—to God (vv. 18-19).



