

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

Today's Gospel reminds us that faith isn't a solo effort—it's a life of connection. Jesus calls Himself the Vine and us His branches, showing us that apart from Him, there is no life, no fruit, no lasting peace. As we gather around Word and Sacrament, we hear both a warning and a promise: stay rooted in Christ, and He will supply everything we need. On this Confirmation Sunday, we rejoice with those publicly confessing their faith, not as a finish line, but as a firm planting in Christ. For all of us—young and old, strong or struggling—Jesus' invitation stands: "Abide in Me." In Him, we live. In Him, we grow. In Him, we bear fruit that lasts.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

296 – Speak, O Lord, Thy Servant Heareth

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord, as branches depend upon the vine for life, so we depend upon our Savior for every good thing. Apart from Him, we wither and die. Let us therefore confess our sins to God our Father, seeking His mercy and the renewing strength of His Word.

C **Almighty God, merciful Father, we confess that we are by nature sinful and have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have failed to remain rooted in Your Word, and too often have sought life apart from You. We have not borne the fruits of faith as You desire. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the true Vine, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and restore us, that we may live in You and bear fruit that glorifies Your name.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I 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 80:8-10; 92:12-13

- P** You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
C **You have cast out the nations, and planted it.**
P You prepared room for it, And caused it to take deep root,
C **And it filled the land.**
P The hills were covered with its shadow,
C **And the mighty cedars with its boughs.**
P The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
C **He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.**
P Those who are planted in the house of the LORD
C **Shall flourish in the courts of our God.**

Glory be to the Father

Gloria Patri

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son
 and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be-gin-ning,
 is now, and ev-er shall be for - ev-er more. A - men.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

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

Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis – 238 (1)

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "All glory be to God a - lone, For - ev - er more the Highest One, Who doth our sin - ful race be - friend And grace and peace to us ex - tend. A - mong man - kind may His good will All hearts with deep thanks - giv - ing fill."

All glory be to God a - lone, For - ev - er more the Highest One,
Who doth our sin - ful race be - friend And grace and peace to
us ex - tend. A - mong man - kind may His good will All
hearts with deep thanks - giv - ing fill.

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 5:1-7

¹ Now let me sing to my Well-beloved A song of my Beloved regarding His vineyard: My Well-beloved has a vineyard On a very fruitful hill. ² He dug it up and cleared out its stones, And planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst, And also made a winepress in it; So He expected it to bring forth good grapes, But it brought forth wild grapes. ³ "And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, Judge, please, between Me and My vineyard. ⁴ What more could have been done to My vineyard That I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes, Did it bring forth wild grapes? ⁵ And now, please let Me tell you what I will do to My vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it shall be

burned; And break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶ I will lay it waste; It shall not be pruned or dug, But there shall come up briers and thorns. I will also command the clouds That they rain no rain on it.” ⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, And the men of Judah are His pleasant plant. He looked for justice, but behold, oppression; For righteousness, but behold, a cry for help.

Psalm of the Day

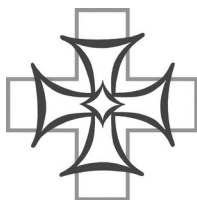
Psalm 1

- P** Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
C **Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;**
P But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
C **And in His law he meditates day and night.**
P He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither;
C **And whatever he does shall prosper.**
P The ungodly are not so,
C **But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.**
P Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment,
C **Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.**
P For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
C **But the way of the ungodly shall perish.**

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 3:14-21

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.



Alleluia

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



Confession of Faith

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead And the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn

347 (1-3, 6) – Jesus, Priceless Treasure

Sermon Text

John 15:1-8

¹ “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are

burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.



Sermon

Forever His Branches

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

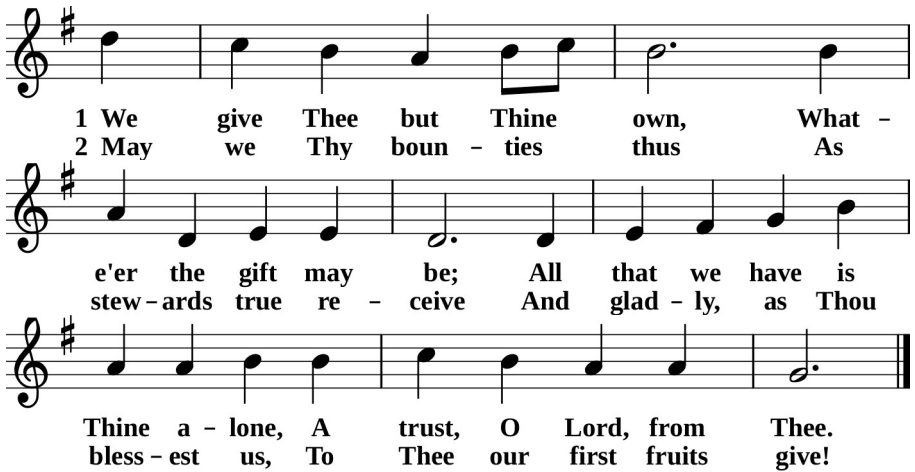
334 – Let Me Be Thine Forever

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.
bless - est us, To Thee our first fruits give!



✠ The Rite of Confirmation ✠

Tyler Colbert

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Nolan Owings

Colossians 2:6-7

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

General Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

☛ 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.

✠ The Service of the Sacrament ✠

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God...Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of Sab - a -

oth; Heav'n and earth are full of Your glo-ry; Ho - san-na, Ho -

san-na, Ho - san-na in the high-est. Bless ed is He, Bless ed is He,

Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san-na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

Peace of the Lord

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C Amen.

Lamb of God

Agnus Dei

O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, the
Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world,
have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You
take a-way the sin of the world, grant us Your peace.
A - - - men.

Distribution

Holy Communion is rightly called a ‘Sacrament’ because it is a “Sacred act;” not in what WE do for Christ, but in what Christ does for US! Because God’s Word presents the reception of this Sacrament as a most intimate expression of spiritual and confessional unity (1 Corinthians 1:10; 10:16-17 Romans 16:17-18), we ask only those who have publicly professed such oneness of faith and belief with us by membership here or another CLC church come forward at this time. This is not a judgment of anyone’s faith, but rather an expression of ours. Please speak with pastor if you are seeking a church home or have any questions. We’d love to have you!

O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now let Your servant de - part in peace ac-
cording to Your word, For my eyes have seen Your Salvation:
which You have pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a Light to light - en the Gen - tiles
and the Glo - ry of Your people Is - ra-el. Glo - ry
be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;
As it was in the be - ginning, is now, and ev-er shall be, for -
ev - er - more. A - men.

Thanksgiving

P Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!

C For His mercy endures forever.

P O God the Father, Fount and Source of all goodness, in loving-kindness You sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh. We thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We implore You not to forsake Your children, but evermore to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit, that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C 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

53 – Abide, O Dearest Jesus

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule		
June 1	9:15 am	Confirmation Examination
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Trustees/Church Council
June 8	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
June 15	10:15 am	Worship Service

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

- **July 6** – Quarterly Voters’ Meeting
- **August 3** – Education/Elders
- **September 7** – Trustees/Church Council

In Our Prayers: Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers: Don Beymer, Bob & Joan Doriot, 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.

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: Next Sunday, we celebrate the Festival of Pentecost, a day often remembered for tongues of fire and the miraculous gift of languages. But have you ever noticed how Peter's Pentecost sermon draws on apocalyptic imagery—blood, fire, smoke, and the great and awesome day of the Lord? Under the theme “*An Apocalyptic Pentecost*,” we'll explore how God used these signs not to terrify but to testify—to announce that the last days have begun, and the risen Christ now reigns! Far from doom and gloom, this is good news: whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Come hear how Pentecost powerfully proclaims hope, judgment, and salvation—all fulfilled in Jesus. Don't miss this Spirit-filled celebration of God's Word and promise!

All Aboard for Vacation Bible School: Join us this summer for an exciting week of adventure at our "Making Tracks" Vacation Bible School, July 14–18, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am each day! Children ages 4–12 are invited to come along as we explore how Jesus guides us through life and leads us safely to heaven. Each day will be filled with:

- Christ-centered Bible lessons
- Creative crafts and active games
- Joyful singing and tasty snacks

We encourage you to invite your friends, neighbors, grandkids, and classmates—any child who would be blessed by a fun and faith-filled week learning about Jesus!

Register today at www.winterhavenlutheran.com/vbs, or speak with Pastor Sauers for more information. If you're able to volunteer during the week or would like to donate snacks or drinks, we'd be very grateful—just let Pastor Sauers know how you can help!

The Branches: The Branches is a women's magazine that serves to encourage you in your Bible study, edify you in your daily walk with Christ, and strengthen the bond of fellowship among Christian sisters. Renewals, new subscriptions, gift subscriptions -- all can be done at this time (by June 15 please). Subscriptions are \$16.00 per year for 4 issues (print or digital version). All subscriptions and subscription inquiries can be sent to: Sandy Hulke / Subscription Manager / 29985 Norway Ave Lindstrom, MN 55045. Email: thebranchesmagazine@gmail.com. Payments can be made by PayPal (email Sandy for details) or check (payable to The Branches).

ManUp! Men's Retreat 2025: Calling all men (18 and older)! Get ready for ManUp!, a powerful time of biblical encouragement, fellowship, and growth.

- **When:** September 25-28, 2025
- **Where:** Wyalusing State Park near Prairie du Chien, WI

This year's theme is **Ephesians 2:8-10**: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (ESV)

Join us for impactful Bible study, leadership training, team building, and worship. Plus, enjoy exciting activities like rock climbing, hiking, arrow tag, mountain biking, a trivia challenge, grilling, bonfires, and music!

Registration is NOW OPEN!

- Cost: \$75
- Late Registration: \$150 (after August 30)
- Registration Deadline: August 30, 2025

CLC Call News: Lori Ruthenbeck has received a one-year call to teach part-time at St. John’s Lutheran School, Okabena, MN. Lori is a member of St. John’s Lutheran Church. <> Professor Joel Gullerud of Immanuel Lutheran High School, Eau Claire, WI, has received the call to serve as principal of Immanuel Lutheran K-12 School, Mankato, MN. <> Pastor Mark Tiefel of Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church, Middleton, WI, received the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Frank Gantt of Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Loganville, GA has received the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.

Fruits of Faith		May 25, 2025	Attendance: WH – 28, ORL – 10	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>			<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>	
<i>General Budget</i>			<i>General Budget</i>	
\$1,245.10	General Budget		\$5.00	CLC General Budget
\$1,500.00	Weekly Need		\$67.31	Weekly Need
-\$254.90	-Under / +Over		-\$62.31	-Under / +Over
\$27,670.77	Year to Date Offerings		\$770.00	Year to Date Offerings
\$31,500.00	Year to Date Need		\$1,413.51	Year to Date Need
-\$3,829.23	Year to Date (+/-)		-\$643.51	Year to Date (+/-)
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>			<i>Non-Budgetary</i>	
	Building Fund			ILC Student Aid Fund
\$10.00	Property Improvement			ILC Building Fund
	ILC Scholarship Fund			ILC Improvement Fund
	Tuition Grant			Mission Development (MDF)
\$5.00	Benevolence Fund			Project Kinship
	Learning with Littles			ILC Tour Choir
	School Fund			Spokesman/Daily Rest

✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

June 2 – June 7, 2025

Monday – *John 14:1-14*

He ascended to the Father, and we remember how He said, “If I go ... I will come again and take you to be with Me” (v. 3). He will continue to work through His disciples (v. 14). Amen. Amen.

Tuesday – *Ephesians 4:14-16*

As we await the return of our Savior, let us speak the truth in love and grow up into Christ, who is the head (v. 15). He causes the whole body to grow in love.

Wednesday – *Exodus 19:4-8*

The LORD, who carried His people “on eagles’ wings” to Himself (v. 4), wants them to find blessing in following His word. The people answer: “Everything that the LORD has said, we will do” (v. 8).

Thursday – *Isaiah 55:1-5*

The call goes out to all people, every nation! Here is rich food and drink for those without money. His covenant is everlasting (v. 3), and the mercies promised to His own are held out to all.

Friday – *Isaiah 55:6-13*

The prophet responds to the LORD’s gracious call: “Seek the LORD while He may be found!” (v. 6). He is the source of mercy and forgiveness (v. 7). His word brings joy and peace (v. 12).

Saturday – *Isaiah 32:14-20*

What a difference it makes when the Spirit is poured out upon His people! It means justice, and righteousness, and peace. Rich blessings are promised in that day!



