

But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher.' Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you.

Luke 14:10, NKJV



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

The world teaches a simple rule for success: climb. The corner office, the promotion, the seat at the head of the table—these are the prizes for those who ascend. We spend our lives on a ladder, striving for the next rung, believing that our value is measured by our altitude. But what if God’s economy operates on a different axis entirely? What if the way to true honor isn’t about moving up, but about stooping down? This morning, Jesus dines with a room full of spiritual ladder-climbers and reveals a divine, upside-down truth: in the Kingdom of God, the way to the top is down.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

250 – Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 118:6, 8; Luke 14:11; 1 Peter 5:5-6

P The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?

C It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.

P For whoever exalts himself will be humbled,

C and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

P Thus says the Lord: “God resists the proud,

C but gives grace to the humble.”

P Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God,

C that He may exalt you in due time.

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord! The Holy Scriptures call us to examine ourselves. Our Lord Jesus warns that “whoever exalts himself will be humbled,” revealing a truth that runs contrary to the wisdom of this world. We are born with hearts that seek the best seats, that desire the honor of men, and that measure our worth by the praise we receive. We chase after earthly glory, forgetting that our God chose the path of ultimate humility to save us. In the presence of Him who knows all hearts, let us acknowledge our prideful sins and seek His mercy.

C O merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have proudly sought our own glory and have despised the lowly place. We have loved the praise of men more than Your praise. We have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves, neglecting the poor, the crippled, and the lame whom You have called us to serve. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who humbled Himself even to death on a cross, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us from death to life. Amen.

P God, in His great mercy, has looked upon our lowly state and has given His only Son to be our Savior. For you, Christ left His throne of glory, took the form of a servant, and humbled Himself to the point of death. Through His perfect, humble life and His atoning sacrifice, your pride is paid for and your sin is washed away. 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.

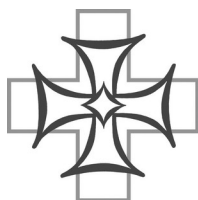
✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Glory be to the Father

Gloria Patri

P In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther 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.



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.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). The second staff continues the melody: D4 (half), C4 (half), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (half), D3 (half). The lyrics are written below the notes.

Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis – 238 (1)

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.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). The second staff continues the melody: D4 (half), C4 (half), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (half), D3 (half). The third staff continues the melody: C3 (half), B2 (half), A2 (quarter), G2 (quarter), F#2 (quarter), E2 (quarter), D2 (half), C2 (half). The fourth staff continues the melody: B1 (half), A1 (half), G1 (quarter), F#1 (quarter), E1 (quarter), D1 (quarter), C1 (half), B1 (half). The fifth staff continues the melody: A1 (half), G1 (half), F#1 (quarter), E1 (quarter), D1 (quarter), C1 (quarter), B1 (half), A1 (half). The lyrics are written below the notes.

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 25:2-10

² It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter. ³ As the heavens for height and the earth for depth, So the heart of kings is unsearchable. ⁴ Take away the dross from silver, And it will go to the silversmith for jewelry. ⁵ Take away the wicked from before the king, And his throne will be established in righteousness. ⁶ Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king, And do not stand in the place of the great; ⁷ For it is better that he say to you, “Come up here,” Than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince, Whom your eyes have seen. ⁸ Do not go hastily to court; For what will you do in the end, When your neighbor has put you to shame? ⁹ Debate your case with your neighbor, And do not disclose the secret to another; ¹⁰ Lest he who hears it expose your shame, And your reputation be ruined.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 131

P LORD, my heart is not haughty,

C Nor my eyes lofty.

P Neither do I concern myself with great matters,

C Nor with things too profound for me.

P Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, Like a weaned child with his mother;

C Like a weaned child is my soul within me.

P O Israel, hope in the LORD

C From this time forth and forever.

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 13:1-17

¹ Let brotherly love continue. ² Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels. ³ Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also. ⁴ Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge. ⁵ Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” ⁶ So we may boldly say: “The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?” ⁷ Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. ⁹ Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them. ¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. ¹¹ For the bodies of those animals, whose

blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. ¹² Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. ¹³ Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. ¹⁴ For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. ¹⁵ Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. ¹⁶ But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. ¹⁷ Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

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

351 – Love Divine, All Love Excelling

Sermon Text

Luke 14:1-14

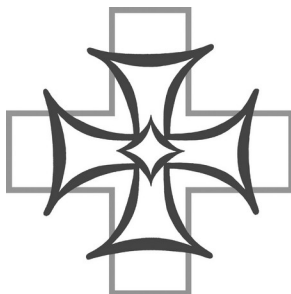
¹ Now it happened, as He went into the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath, that they watched Him closely. ² And behold, there was a certain man before Him who had dropsy. ³ And Jesus, answering, spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" ⁴ But they kept silent. And He took him and healed him,

and let him go. ⁵ Then He answered them, saying, “Which of you, having a donkey or an ox that has fallen into a pit, will not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?” ⁶ And they could not answer Him regarding these things. ⁷ So He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noted how they chose the best places, saying to them: ⁸ “When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honorable than you be invited by him; ⁹ and he who invited you and him come and say to you, ‘Give place to this man,’ and then you begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, go up higher.’ Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” ¹² Then He also said to him who invited Him, “When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”



Sermon

The Way Up is Down



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.

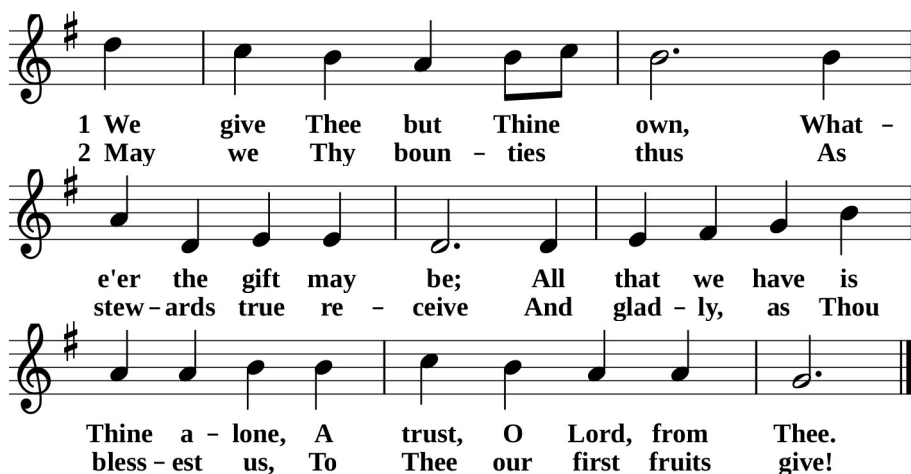
Hymn

339 – All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

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!

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

54 – Guide Me, O thou Great Jehovah

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✝ Announcements ✝

Schedule		
August 31	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
September 7	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Trustees
September 12	10:30 am	Learning with Littles
September 14	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)

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

- **September 7** – Trustees
- **October 5** – Church Council
- **November 2** – Quarterly Voters’ Meeting/Education/Elders

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.

Sermon Series: The Upside-Down Kingdom: What if everything the world teaches about success, peace, and power is upside down? As Jesus journeys to the cross, He turns worldly wisdom on its head—teaching that the last will be first, true peace causes division, and the way up is actually down.

Join us as we explore “*The Upside-Down Kingdom*.” Each week, we’ll be challenged and comforted by Jesus’ surprising truths that expose the shallowness of the world and invite us into the eternal logic of God’s grace.



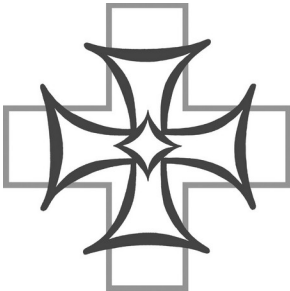
Series Schedule:

- **August 17** – A Peace That Divides (*Luke 12:49–53*)
- **August 24** (Education Sun.) – Greatness Redefined (*Matthew 18:1–5*)
- **August 31** – The Way Up Is Down (*Luke 14:1, 7–14*)
- **September 7** – Gaining by Losing (*Luke 14:25–35*)
- **September 14** – The Value of the Lost (*Luke 15:1–10*)
- **September 21** – Heavenly Shrewdness (*Luke 16:1–13*)
- **September 28** – The Great Reversal (*Luke 16:19–31*)
- **October 5** – The Power of Small Faith (*Luke 17:1–10*)

Come and hear how the Gospel flips our expectations and reshapes our lives.

CLC News: Pastor Andrew Schaller of Luther Memorial Church, Fond du Lac, WI, has received and accepted the vacancy call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI <> Pastor Drew Naumann of Trinity Ev. Lutheran, Spokane, WA has received the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has received the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> On Sunday, September 14, 2025, Pastor David Ude will be installed at St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Mountain View, CA.

Fruits of Faith		August 24, 2025	Attendance: WH – 30; ORL – 10	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>			<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>	
<i>General Budget</i>			<i>General Budget</i>	
\$1,219.00	General Budget		\$100.00	CLC General Budget
\$1,500.00	Weekly Need		\$67.31	Weekly Need
-\$281.00	-Under / +Over		+\$32.69	-Under / +Over
\$44,988.39	Year to Date Offerings		\$1,570.00	Year to Date Offerings
\$51,000.00	Year to Date Need		\$2,288.54	Year to Date Need
-\$6,011.61	Year to Date (+/-)		-\$718.54	Year to Date (+/-)
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>			<i>Non-Budgetary</i>	
	Building Fund			ILC Student Aid Fund
	Property Improvement			ILC Building Fund
	ILC Scholarship Fund			ILC Improvement Fund
	Tuition Grant			Mission Development (MDF)
\$40.00	Benevolence Fund			CLC Kinship
	VBS			ILC Tour Choir
	School Fund			Spokesman/Daily Rest



✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

September 1-September 6, 2025

Monday - *John 5:30-36*

Jesus does not operate on His own, nor does He testify about Himself. Besides the Father who sent Him, John the Baptizer testified about Jesus, and so do the works that Jesus carries out.

Tuesday - *Acts 8:9-13*

Simon the magician had a following in Samaria until they believed the Good News about Jesus. Then even Simon himself believes, and is amazed by the signs and great miracles among the believers.

Wednesday - *Acts 8:14-17*

The apostles hear about the Samaritans believing and send Peter and John. Peter and John pray and lay on hands, and the Samaritan believers receive the special gift of the Holy Spirit.

Thursday - *Acts 8:18-25*

Simon offers money for the power to give the Holy Spirit to others. Peter rebukes him and calls upon him to repent and to pray for forgiveness. Simon asks Peter to pray for him also.

Friday - *2 Samuel 7:1-16*

David wants to build a house for the LORD, but the LORD says "no". You are the LORD's warrior. My house will be built by a man of peace. Looking ahead, we also see the Prince of Peace!

Saturday - *Ezekiel 8:9-16*

The prophet declares disaster and destruction for the temple which is being desecrated by all sorts of abominations that do not bring the peace of God for which His house was intended.

