

Now may the Lord direct your
hearts into the love of God and
into the patience of Christ.

2 Th 3:5, NKJV



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

As we gather for worship, our world reminds us daily that we must earn our keep. St. Paul, in our text, even instructs the Thessalonians to work diligently and warns against idleness. Our daily vocations are indeed God's good design for this life. Yet, we do not come into God's presence this morning presenting our diligence as payment. We come as weary sinners. We gather not on the basis of *our* work, but on the simple, powerful promise that "the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one." We come to be strengthened by a Word and a promise that cost us nothing. Let us quiet our hearts to receive the only "free lunch" that truly, eternally matters.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

536 – Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

John 6:27a, 29b; Romans 8:32

P Jesus said: "Do not labor for the food which perishes,

C **but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you.**

P This is the work of God,

C **that you believe in Him whom He sent."**

P He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all,

C **how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?**

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord! We gather in God's name, who in His grace has given us the most important gift: forgiveness of sins, purchased by the blood of His Son. Therefore, the Apostle warns us "not to grow weary in doing good." But our sinful nature tempts us to both spiritual idleness and to works-righteousness, trusting our own labors over the favor Christ has already won. Seeing our great need, let us flee to God's mercy and make our confession.

C O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins, for which I justly deserve Your punishment. I confess my idleness in body and spirit, my weariness in doing good, and my foolish pride in my own labors. I have failed to love You with my whole heart and my neighbor as myself. I am truly sorry for my sins and repent of them. For the sake of the holy suffering and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us. He does not count your weary labors or your spiritual idleness against you, but looks instead to the perfect obedience and innocent suffering and death of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ. As a called servant of the Word, and by the authority of Christ Himself, 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.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

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 - shiped 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

Malachi 4:1-6

¹ “For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up,” Says the LORD of hosts, “That will leave them neither root

nor branch. ² But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves. ³ You shall trample the wicked, For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet On the day that I do this,” Says the LORD of hosts. ⁴ “Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments. ⁵ Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. ⁶ And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 98

- P** Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things;
- C** His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.
- P** The LORD has made known His salvation;
- C** His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.
- P** He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;
- C** All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
- P** Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth;
- C** Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.
- P** Sing to the LORD with the harp,
- C** With the harp and the sound of a psalm,
- P** With trumpets and the sound of a horn;
- C** Shout joyfully before the LORD, the King.
- P** Let the sea roar, and all its fullness,
- C** The world and those who dwell in it;
- P** Let the rivers clap their hands;
- C** Let the hills be joyful together before the LORD,
- P** For He is coming to judge the earth.
- C** With righteousness He shall judge the world, And the peoples with equity.

Gospel Reading

Luke 21:5-28

⁵ Then, as some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and donations, He said, ⁶ “These things which you see—the days will come in which not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down.” ⁷ So they asked Him, saying, “Teacher, but when will these things be? And what sign will there be when these things are about to take place?” ⁸ And He said: “Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and, ‘The time has drawn near.’

Therefore do not go after them. ⁹ But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately.” ¹⁰ Then He said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹ And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. ¹² But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name’s sake. ¹³ But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. ¹⁴ Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; ¹⁵ for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head shall be lost. ¹⁹ By your patience possess your souls. ²⁰ “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. ²¹ Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. ²² For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. ²³ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. ²⁴ And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. ²⁵ “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; ²⁶ men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”

Alleluia

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

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu - ia! These words are

writ - ten that we may believe that Je-sus is the Christ, the



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

395 (1-2, -8) – O God, Thou Faithful God

Sermon Text

2 Thessalonians 3:1-13

¹ Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you, ² and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith. ³ But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one. ⁴ And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you. ⁵ Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ. ⁶ But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; ⁸ nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, ⁹ not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. ¹¹ For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. ¹² Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread. ¹³ But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.



Sermon

The Only “Free Lunch” That Matters

Offertory



Cre-ate 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. Take not Your Ho - ly
Spir-it from me. Re store to me the joy of Your sal -
va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

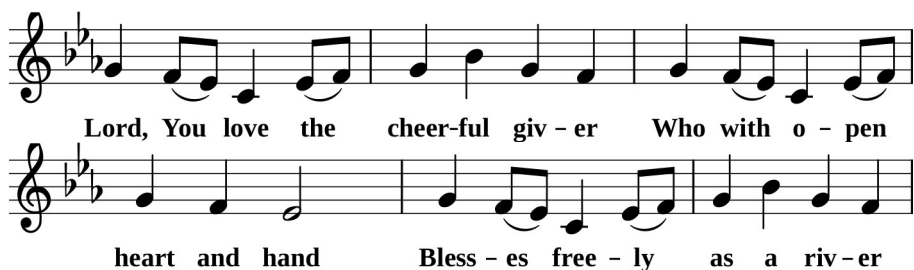
Hymn

400 – Take My Life and Let It Be

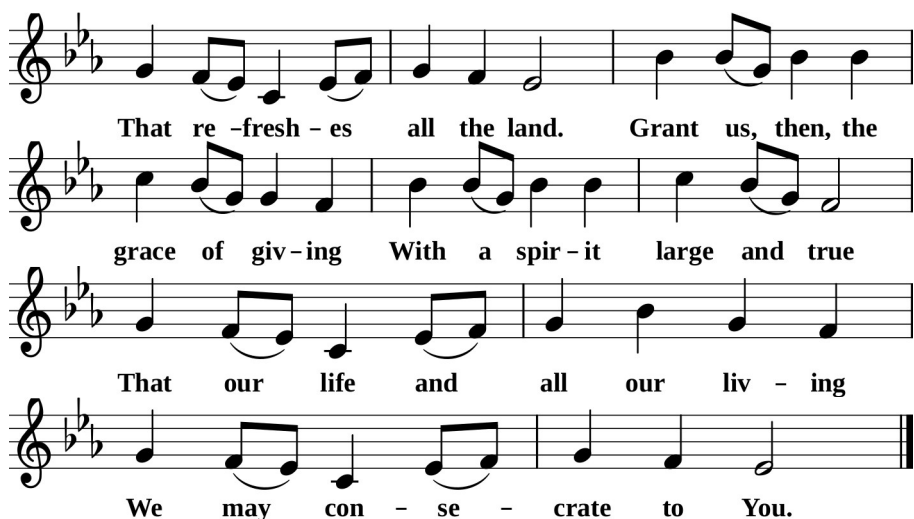
Offering

Offering Hymn

788 (1)



Lord, You love the cheer-ful giv - er Who with o - pen
heart and hand Bless - es free - ly as a riv - 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

- 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

410 – Jesus, Lead Thou On

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✝ Announcements ✝

Schedule		
November 16	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
November 23	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
November 27	10:15 am	Thanksgiving Day Worship Service
November 29	9:00 am	Christmas Decorating
November 30	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service

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

- **December 7** – Trustees/Church Council
- **January 4** – Annual Voters' Meeting
- **February 1** – 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.

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: Does it ever feel like you're spinning your wheels in the faith? We pray, we worship, we repent, yet the world around us seems to celebrate wickedness, and the ungodly prosper. We can feel weary, and the tempter whispers what the people said in Malachi's day: "It is useless to serve God" (Mal. 3:14). Next Sunday, our sermon "When Faith Feels Useless" confronts this painful-but-common struggle. We will look to Malachi 3:13-18 to hear God's powerful answer to His people. He is listening. He is watching. And for those who fear His name, He is writing in a "book of remembrance." Come and be assured of how God treasures you as His "jewels" (Mal. 3:17).

Learning with Littles – We were blessed to welcome 39 children from 28 families to our Learning with Littles Session this past Friday. The theme for our session was Thanksgiving, and we had a wonderful time focusing on God's blessings. We also distributed 30 bags containing Advent devotional materials. We thank God for all who attended and pray for God's continued blessing on this outreach effort.

Christmas Candy Bags: We are preparing, once again, to share the joy of Christmas with the children of our congregation and school through Christmas Candy Bags. Please consider donating candy for this effort. Donations can be placed on the conference table in Pastor's office.

Midweek Advent Services – As the world fills with noise and hurried preparations, we are called to a different kind of preparation: to make our hearts ready for the coming of the King.

This year's sermon series, "Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room," is a call to move away from worldly self-sufficiency and toward true, repentant faith. Through God's Word, we will ask the Holy Spirit to open our "closed doors," smooth our "rough places," and give us the humble, receptive heart of a servant.

Service Schedule & Themes:

- **December 3 (2:00 PM)**
 - **Theme:** "The Heart's Closed Door"
 - **Text:** Revelation 3:15-22
- **December 10 (2:00 PM)**
 - **Theme:** "The Heart's Rough Places"
 - **Text:** Isaiah 40:1-11
- **December 17 (2:00 PM)**
 - **Theme:** "Behold, the Servant's Heart"
 - **Text:** Luke 1:26-38

Make this special time of worship a part of your Advent preparation as we ready ourselves to receive our Savior in Word and Sacrament.

For those unable to join us at 2:00 PM, you can watch online. Visit <https://winterhavenlutheran.com/sermons/>

Holiday Meal – Everyone is warmly invited to our annual Holiday Potluck, scheduled for Sunday, December 7, immediately following the worship service. Please bring a dish to share as we join together for food and fellowship. We look forward to this blessed time with our church family.

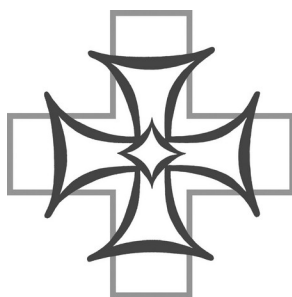
Southeastern Women's Retreat: Registration is now open for the Southeastern Women's Retreat, to be held in Sherrills Ford, NC, February 13-15, 2026. The theme this year is "Sisters in Christ". To register, please head over to women'sretreat.clclutheran.net, click on SOUTHEAST, and scroll down to the link for the online form. If you would like to register over email or you have any questions, reach out to southeasternwomensretreat@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

Nominations for ILC Professor Call: The Board of Regents for Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary invites "all pastors, professors, male teachers, and voting members of member congregations of the Church of the Lutheran Confession" (CLC Constitution) to nominate a male or males to fill the vacancy which has been created by the resignation of Professor David Schaller. A plan is already in place to fill this void during

the current 2025-26 academic year. As such, the person would start serving in this role during the 2026-27 academic year. It would be preferable for this male to be seminary trained and/or musically trained. Courses to be taught depending on the abilities that the Lord has given this person for use in His Church, may include courses such as music classes, religion classes, college Greek, and other potential disciplines. The person may serve as the director of the mass and tour choirs, also teaching piano and organ. Those submitting nominations should include information regarding the nominee's educational background and teaching and/or professional experience, also indicating how the person might help our school in technology expertise, extracurricular activities, or administrative positions. Nominations are to be received by email or letter no later than midnight November 22, 2025 (letters postmarked November 12, 2025) to: Mr. James Burkhardt; 217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX 75087; email: jeb6217@yahoo.com.

Nominations for ILC President: The Board of Regents invites nominations for the office of President of Immanuel Lutheran College. The current term of Professor Daniel Schierenbeck concludes on June 30, 2026. All pastors, professors, male teachers, and voting members of member congregations of the CLC are entitled to nominate a man from the faculty of Immanuel Lutheran College to serve a two-year term beginning July 1, 2026. Nominations are to be received by email or letter no later than midnight November 22, 2025 (letters postmarked November 12, 2025) to: Mr. James Burkhardt; 217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX 75087; email: jeb6217@yahoo.com

CLC News: Pastor Matthew Ude of Faith Lutheran Church, Markesan, WI, has returned the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Johnathan Schnose of Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church, Morris, MN, has received the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Tom Schuetze of St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, Lakewood, CO, has received the call to Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA.



Fruits of Faith November 9, 2025		Attendance: WH – 36; ORL – 10	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>		<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>	
<i>General Budget</i>		<i>General Budget</i>	
\$733.50	General Budget	\$5.00	CLC General Budget
\$1,500.00	Weekly Need	\$67.31	Weekly Need
-\$766.50	-Under / +Over	-\$62.31	-Under / +Over
\$68,028.01	Year to Date Offerings	\$2,205.00	Year to Date Offerings
\$67,500.00	Year to Date Need	\$3,028.95	Year to Date Need
+\$528.01	Year to Date (+/-)	-\$823.95	Year to Date (+/-)
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		<i>Non-Budgetary</i>	
	Building Fund	\$5.00	ILC Student Aid Fund
\$442.01	Property Improvement		ILC Building Fund
	ILC Scholarship Fund		ILC Improvement Fund
	Tuition Grant		Mission Development (MDF)
\$40.00	Benevolence Fund		CLC Kinship
	Learning with Littles		ILC Tour Choir
	School Fund		Spokesman/Daily Rest



✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

November 17 – November 22, 2025

Monday - *John 15:18-21*

If the world hates us on account of Christ, we couldn't be in better company! They hated Him first, and we are reminded that He will be with us always, even to the end of the world!

Tuesday - *Revelation 3:1-6*

James pointed out that faith without works is dead (James 2:17), and the Lord sees the church at Sardis is dying. His desire is that they awaken and join the few who still walk with Him in white.

Wednesday - *2 Chronicles 32:1-21*

Hezekiah prepares for the Assyrian siege, but encourages his people that God is greater than any enemy (verse 7). The Assyrians scoff at the name of the LORD, and He defends His name.

Thursday - *Proverbs 24:13-22*

The wicked attack the righteous, but they will stumble. Do not be happy in their fall, for God is not. Do not be jealous of wicked people or associate with the rebellious, who court disaster.

Friday - *Matthew 25:14-30*

Jesus pictures the judgment as a man settling accounts with his servants. Entrusted with different amounts, all who made use of their talents received the same "well done!"

Saturday - *Revelation 20:11-15*

Near the end of the church year, we remember the promised judgment at Christ's return. Saved by grace through faith, the blessed are known by the fruits that their faith produced.



