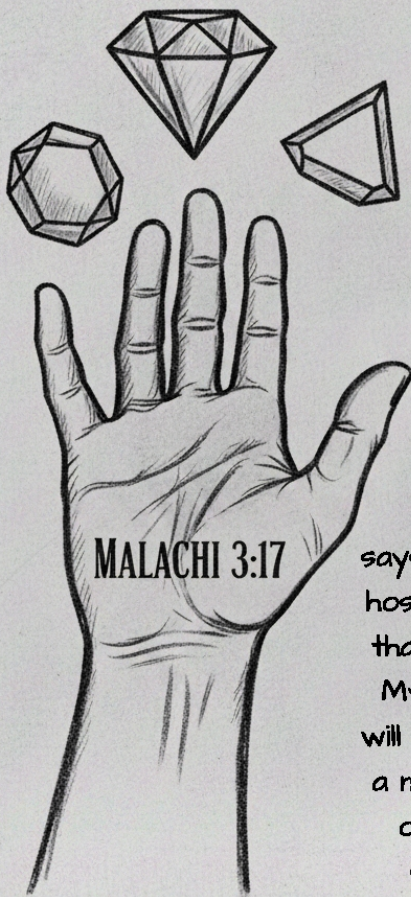


THEY SHALL BE MINE



says the LORD of
hosts, 'On the day
that I make them
My jewels. And I
will spare them As
a man spares his
own son who
serves him.'



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

"It is vain to serve God." Have these heavy words ever echoed in the corridors of your heart? We look at the world around us, and often it seems the arrogant are blessed while the faithful struggle. When our prayers seem unanswered and our piety appears profitless, we are tempted to ask: Is this really worth it? Today, the prophet Malachi addresses the weary soul who feels that faith has become futile. As we gather before the Lord, we bring our doubts and our heaviness, preparing to hear how God answers the complaint of His people—not with a lightning bolt of anger, but with a listening ear and a gracious promise of remembrance.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

34 – My Soul, Now Bless Thy Maker

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 73:1-3, 16-17a, 23, 26

P Truly God is good to Israel,

C **To such as are pure in heart.**

P But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; my steps had nearly slipped.

C **For I was envious of the boastful, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.**

P When I thought how to understand this, it was too painful for me—until I went into the sanctuary of God.

C **Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand.**

P My flesh and my heart fail;

C **But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.**

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord, like Israel of old, we are often tempted to complain: "It is useless to serve God." We have envied the prosperity of the wicked and treated our faith as a transaction. Therefore, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C O Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins. I am truly sorry for them. I confess that I have envied the arrogant and doubted Your goodness, asking what I have gained by keeping Your statutes. For the sake of the holy sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. The Lord has heard you. "They shall be Mine," says the Lord, "I will spare them." Therefore, 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 ✠

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-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)



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.

Epistle Reading

Colossians 1:13-20

¹³ He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. ¹⁸ And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. ¹⁹ For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰ and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 46

- P** God is our refuge and strength,
C **A very present help in trouble.**
P Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed,
C **And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;**
P Though its waters roar and be troubled,
C **Though the mountains shake with its swelling.**
P There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God,
C **The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High.**
P God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved;
C **God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.**
P The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved;
C **He uttered His voice, the earth melted.**
P The LORD of hosts is with us;
C **The God of Jacob is our refuge.**
P Come, behold the works of the LORD,
C **Who has made desolations in the earth.**
P He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two;
C **He burns the chariot in the fire.**
P Be still, and know that I am God;
C **I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!**
P The LORD of hosts is with us;
C **The God of Jacob is our refuge.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 23:27-43

²⁷ And a great multitude of the people followed Him, and women who also mourned and lamented Him. ²⁸ But Jesus, turning to them, said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed!' ³⁰ Then they will begin 'to say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!" ' ³¹ For if they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry?" ³² There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. ³³ And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. ³⁴ Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots. ³⁵ And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God." ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him

sour wine, ³⁷ and saying, “If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself.” ³⁸ And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS ³⁹ Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, “If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.” ⁴⁰ But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, “Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?” ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” ⁴³ And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

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

338 – Thine Forever, God of Love

Sermon Text

Malachi 3:13-18

¹³ “Your words have been harsh against Me,” Says the LORD, Yet you say, ‘What have we spoken against You?’ ¹⁴ You have said, ‘It is useless to serve God; What profit is it that we have kept His ordinance, And that we have walked as mourners Before the LORD of hosts?’ ¹⁵ So now we call the proud blessed, For those who do wickedness are raised up; They even tempt God and go free.’ ” ¹⁶ Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another,

And the LORD listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the LORD And who meditate on His name. ¹⁷ “They shall be Mine,” says the LORD of hosts, “On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him.” ¹⁸ Then you shall again discern Between the righteous and the wicked, Between one who serves God And one who does not serve Him.



Sermon

When Faith Feels Useless

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

523 (1-4, 7-8) – Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me

Offering

Offering Hymn

443 (1, 8)



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

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

742 - Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

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✠ Announcements ✠

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
December 3	2:00 pm	Midweek Advent Worship
December 7	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Holiday Potluck Meal
	12:30 pm	Church Council/Board of Trustees Meeting

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 our Thanksgiving Day Worship: "What if the money runs out?" "What if the future is bleak?" The nagging "What Ifs" of life often steal our joy and turn gratitude into anxiety. This Thanksgiving, we gather to receive the divine remedy. Our meditation, based on 2 Corinthians 9:6–15, is titled "The Cure for the 'What Ifs'." We will look away from our limited resources and look to the God who is able to make "all grace abound toward you." Because the Father has secured our eternity through His "indescribable gift," Jesus Christ, we are free to sow bountifully and give cheerfully. Come, let us silence our fears with the voice of thanksgiving!

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: How many times do you hit the snooze button? It is tempting to steal a few more moments of slumber, but the alarm is ringing. St. Paul warns us that spiritually, "now it is high time to awake out of sleep" (Rom. 13:11). As we enter the season of Advent next Sunday, we are reminded that our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The world seeks to lull us into a spiritual coma, but "the night is far spent, the day is at hand." Join us to hear God's urgent call to cast off the works of darkness and "put on the Lord Jesus Christ." It is time to wake up!

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!

National Women's Retreat Coming in January!: Before your 2026 calendar begins to fill up, we want you to mark your calendars and get ready to Press Pause with women across the country!

- **What:** Press Pause for the National Women's (Virtual) Retreat 2026
- **When:** Saturday, January 31, 2026 // 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
- **How:** Join us virtually via Zoom
- **Cost:** Free event – all are welcome!
- **Register now:** <https://tinyurl.com/PressPause26>

CLC News: Pastor Tom Schuetze of St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, Lakewood, CO, has returned the call to Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA. <> Pastor Terrel Kesterson of Ascension Lutheran Church, Batavia, IL, has received the part-time call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN. <> Pastor Emeritus David Schierenbeck has received the call to serve as Assistant to the Pastor at Berea Ev. Lutheran Church, Inver Grove Heights, MN, after he has completed his work as vacancy pastor of Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN. <> Pastor Emeritus Michael Eichstadt has received the vacancy call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has received the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has received 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.

Fruits of Faith		November 16, 2025		Attendance: WH – 31	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>		<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>			
<i>General Budget</i>		<i>General Budget</i>			
\$2,415.00	General Budget	\$200.00	CLC General Budget		
\$1,500.00	Weekly Need	\$67.31	Weekly Need		
+\$915.00	-Under / +Over	+\$132.69	-Under / +Over		
\$70,443.01	Year to Date Offerings	\$2,405.00	Year to Date Offerings		
\$69,000.00	Year to Date Need	\$3,096.26	Year to Date Need		
+\$1,443.01	Year to Date (+/-)	-\$691.26	Year to Date (+/-)		
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		<i>Non-Budgetary</i>			
\$50.00	Building Fund		ILC Student Aid Fund		
	Property Improvement		ILC Building Fund		
	ILC Scholarship Fund		ILC Improvement Fund		
	Tuition Grant		Mission Development (MDF)		
	Benevolence Fund	\$200.00	CLC Kinship		
	Learning with Littles		ILC Tour Choir		
	School Fund		Spokesman/Daily Rest		

✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

November 24 – November 29, 2025

Monday - *Mark 12:18-27*

Jesus, heading to the agony of the cross, knows the Scriptures and the power of God, who will raise Him on the third day. The Sadducees, with all their reasoning, are badly mistaken.

Tuesday - *Revelation 3:14-22*

The church in Laodicea is so comfortable with their material wealth that they are unaware of their spiritual poverty, and their great need for Christ's robe of righteousness.

Wednesday - *2 Chronicles 34:14-28*

The reformation in King Josiah's day begins when the priest Hilkiah finds the Book of the Law with its judgments on those transgressing it. In their trouble they turn to the LORD.

Thursday - *Luke 12:15-21*

The Father who showers us with material blessings is worthy of our thanks everyday. But Christ makes us "rich toward God," giving blessings even when material things are gone.

Friday - *Matthew 25:31-46*

Looking to the Day of Judgment, we see the sheep and goats divided before any deeds are mentioned. Neither group see their deeds, for the sheep are looking to their Shepherd's deeds.

Saturday - *Revelation 21:1-4*

What could be more joyful than God's dwelling place being with people forever and the absence of all those things that plague us in this present world: death, sorrow, crying, and pain?