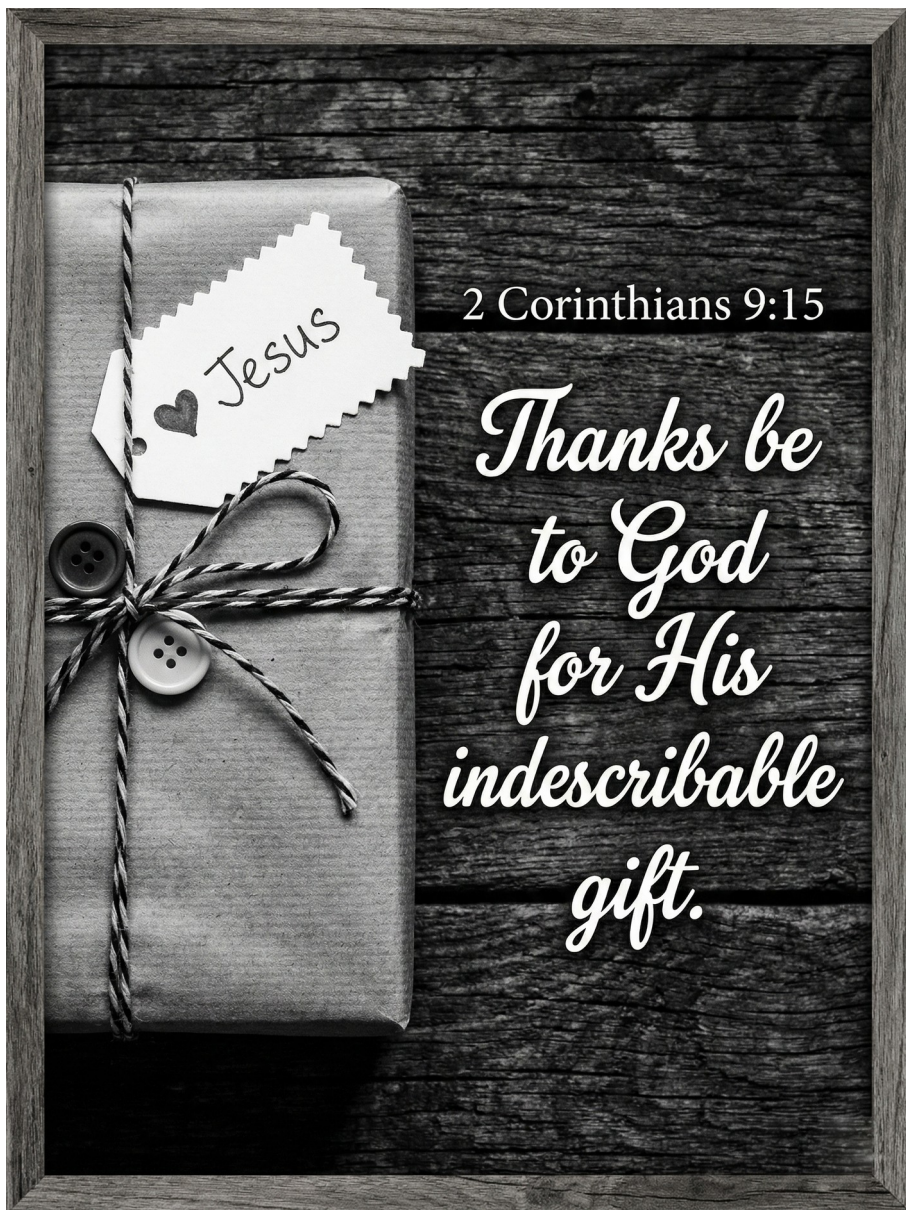




Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

Amidst the aromas of roasting turkey and pumpkin pie, it is easy to let the "What ifs" of life linger at the table. What if the savings run dry? What if the future holds more uncertainty than stability? We gather today not merely to count blessings, but to encounter the Blessor. In 2 Corinthians 9, St. Paul points us to the God who loves a cheerful giver because He is the Cheerful Giver—the One who provides for all our needs. As we quiet our hearts for worship, we prepare to discover that the cure for our anxiety is not found in earthly security, but in the sufficiency of the Lord and His "inexpressible gift." Welcome to His abundance.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

793 – Sing to the Lord of Harvest

Invocation

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

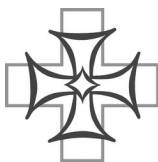
C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P The Lord speaks through the Apostle Paul: "He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." Yet, looking at the world—at inflation, unrest, and frailty—we are paralyzed by "what-ifs." What if I do not have enough? What if God does not provide? Like the Rich Fool, we are tempted to build bigger barns for security rather than resting in grace. Let us confess our sins, asking our Father to cure our unbelief.

P Almighty God,

C **We confess that we are anxious people, worrying about tomorrow as if You are not King. We have held back our offerings, fearing that if we give, we will lack. Instead of cheerful givers, we have been fearful hoarders, failing to trust Your provision. Forgive our ingratitude and lack of faith. Heal our hearts of these anxious fears and restore to us the joy of Your salvation.**



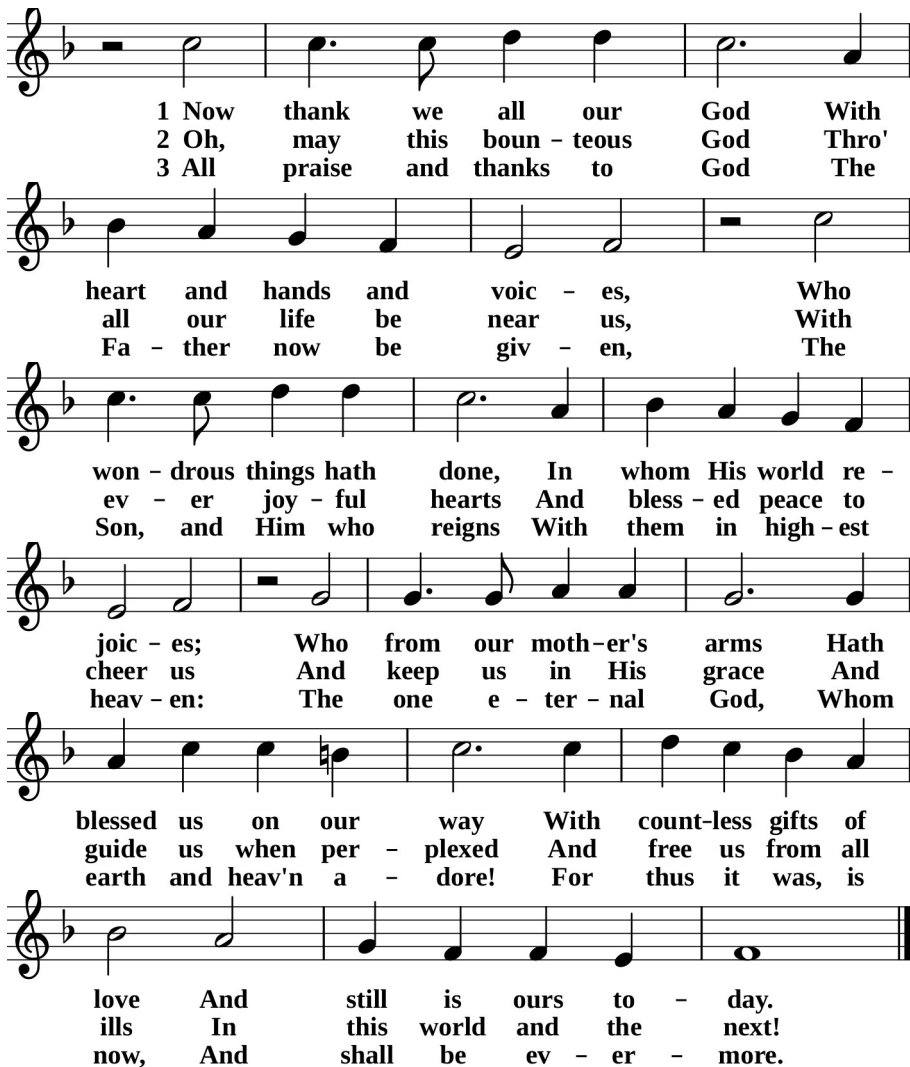
P Fear not, little flock; it is the Father's pleasure to give you the kingdom. God has enriched you with His "incredible gift," Jesus Christ, in whom all grace abounds. Upon this confession, as a called servant of the Word, I announce the grace of God to you, and in the stead and by the command of our 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 ✠

Hymn of Praise

36 – Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God With
 2 Oh, may this boun - teous God Thro'
 3 All praise and thanks to God The

heart and hands and voic - es, Who
 all our life be near us, With
 Fa - ther now be giv - en, The

won - drous things hath done, In whom His world re -
 ev - er joy - ful hearts And bless - ed peace to
 Son, and Him who reigns With them in high - est

joic - es; Who from our moth - er's arms Hath
 cheer us And keep us in His grace And
 heav - en: The one e - ter - nal God, Whom

blessed us on our way With count-less gifts of
 guide us when per - plexed And free us from all
 earth and heav'n a - dore! For thus it was, is

love And still is ours to - day.
 ills In this world and the next!
 now, And shall be ev - er - more.

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

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

¹ “And it shall be, when you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, and you possess it and dwell in it, ² that you shall take some of the first of all the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and put it in a basket and go to the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide. ³ And you shall go to the one who is priest in those days, and say to him, ‘I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the country which the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.’ ⁴ “Then the priest shall take the basket out of your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God. ⁵ And you shall answer and say before the LORD your God: ‘My father was a Syrian, about to perish, and he went down to Egypt and dwelt there, few in number; and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. ⁶ But the Egyptians mistreated us, afflicted us, and laid hard bondage on us. ⁷ Then we cried out to the LORD God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and looked on our affliction and our labor and our oppression. ⁸ So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. ⁹ He has brought us to this place and has given us this land, “a land flowing with milk and honey”; ¹⁰ and now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land which you, O LORD, have given me.’ “Then you shall set it before the LORD your God, and worship before the LORD your God. ¹¹ So you shall rejoice in every good thing which the LORD your God has given to you and your house, you and the Levite and the stranger who is among you.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 65

P Praise is awaiting You, O God, in Zion;

C And to You the vow shall be performed.

P O You who hear prayer,

C To You all flesh will come.

- P** Iniquities prevail against me;
- C** **As for our transgressions, You will provide atonement for them.**
- P** Blessed is the man You choose, And cause to approach You, That he may dwell in Your courts.
- C** **We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Of Your holy temple.**
- P** By awesome deeds in righteousness You will answer us, O God of our salvation,
- C** **You who are the confidence of all the ends of the earth, And of the far-off seas;**
- P** Who established the mountains by His strength,
- C** **Being clothed with power;**
- P** You who still the noise of the seas,
- C** **The noise of their waves, And the tumult of the peoples.**
- P** They also who dwell in the farthest parts are afraid of Your signs;
- C** **You make the outgoings of the morning and evening rejoice.**
- P** You visit the earth and water it, You greatly enrich it; The river of God is full of water;
- C** **You provide their grain, For so You have prepared it.**
- P** You water its ridges abundantly, You settle its furrows;
- C** **You make it soft with showers, You bless its growth.**
- P** You crown the year with Your goodness,
- C** **And Your paths drip with abundance.**
- P** They drop on the pastures of the wilderness,
- C** **And the little hills rejoice on every side.**
- P** The pastures are clothed with flocks; The valleys also are covered with grain;
- C** **They shout for joy, they also sing.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 12:13-21

¹³ Then one from the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ But He said to him, “Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵ And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.” ¹⁶ Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. ¹⁷ And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.’” ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul

will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ ²¹ “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

Alleluia

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



Confession of Faith

Explanation to the First Article

I believe that God has created me and all creatures. He has given me my body and life, eyes, ears, and all my bodily members, my mind, and all my senses and still keeps them for me.

God also preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals, and all my property and all I need to support this body and life. He protects me from all danger. He guards and defends me from every evil.

God does all this because He is my good and gracious Father in heaven, not because of anything I have done to earn or deserve it. For all of this it is my duty to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

Hymn

572 – Praise to God, Immortal Praise

Sermon Text

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

⁶ But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that

you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. ⁹ As it is written: “He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.” ¹⁰ Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, ¹¹ while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. ¹² For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, ¹³ while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men, ¹⁴ and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!



Sermon

The Cure for the “What Ifs”

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.

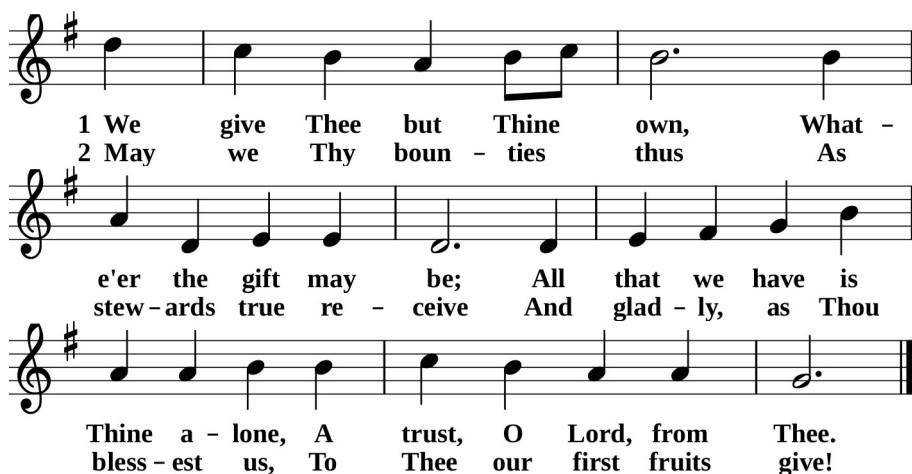
Hymn

788 – Lord, You Love the Cheerful Giver

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!

Prayer of the Church

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

384 – Oh, How Great Is Thy Compassion

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule

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

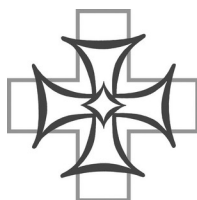
Upcoming Meetings: Here is a schedule of our upcoming meetings:

- **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 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 this 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:

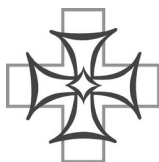
- **December 3 (2:00 PM)**
 - **Theme:** "The Heart's Closed Door"
 - **Text:** Revelation 3:15-22
- **December 10 (2:00 PM)**
 - **Theme:** "The Heart's Rough Places"
 - **Text:** Isaiah 40:1-11
- **December 17 (2:00 PM)**
 - **Theme:** "Behold, the Servant's Heart"
 - **Text:** Luke 1:26-38

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.



