

ESTABLISH YOUR



FOR THE COMING OF THE

LORD

IS AT HAND.

JAMES 5:8



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

In a world of instant gratification, the command to "be patient" often feels counterintuitive, perhaps even impossible. Yet, the Apostle James directs our weary eyes to the farmer waiting for the precious fruit of the earth and the prophets who endured suffering. Under today's theme, "Coming Soon?", we confront the tension between our struggle for immediate relief and the Lord's perfect timeline. Is the Judge truly at the door, or does the delay suggest otherwise? As we gather today, we set aside our restless clocks to enter God's time. Here, through His Word, the Holy Spirit prepares our hearts to stand firm, assuring us that the Lord is not only coming, but is full of compassion and mercy.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

59 (1-2, 5-6) – Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 27:14; 130:5; James 5:8-9

P Wait on the LORD; be of good courage,

C And He shall strengthen your heart.

P I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

C And in His word I do hope.

P Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

C Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord, the Scriptures remind us that the coming of the Judge is at hand. We are called to be patient, like the farmer waiting for the harvest, and to establish our hearts. Yet we often grow weary, grumbling against one another and losing heart in our suffering. Therefore, let us draw near to our compassionate Judge, confessing our sins and seeking the refreshing rain of His mercy.

P Almighty God,

C We confess that we are people of little patience and faith. We have demanded immediate comfort rather than enduring in hope. We have grumbled against our neighbors, forgetting the Judge stands at the door. We have doubted Your goodness in trial and failed to trust Your promises. Forgive us, O Lord. Strengthen our weak hands, make firm our feeble knees, and establish our hearts in Your grace, that we may stand blameless at Your coming.

P The Lord is very compassionate and merciful. He has not left you in the wilderness of your sin but has sent His Son, the Coming One, to save you. As a called and servant of Christ, and by His authority, 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

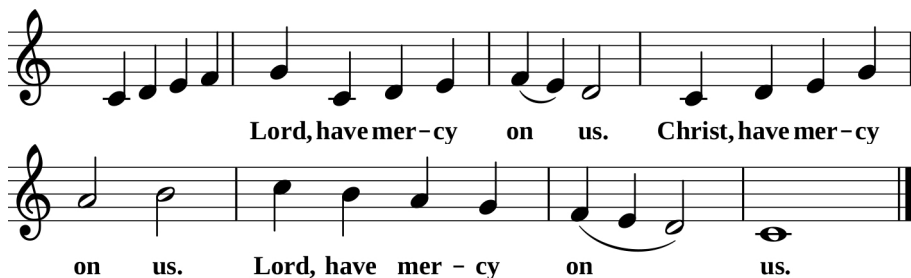
Gloria Patri

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

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



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

Isaiah 35:1-10

¹ The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; ² It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, Even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to

it, The excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, The excellency of our God. ³ Strengthen the weak hands, And make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who are fearful-hearted, “Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; He will come and save you.” ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. ⁶ Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert. ⁷ The parched ground shall become a pool, And the thirsty land springs of water; In the habitation of jackals, where each lay, There shall be grass with reeds and rushes. ⁸ A highway shall be there, and a road, And it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, But it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, Shall not go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, Nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it; It shall not be found there. But the redeemed shall walk there, ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, And sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 146

- P** Praise the LORD!
- C** **Praise the LORD, O my soul!**
- P** While I live I will praise the LORD;
- C** **I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**
- P** Do not put your trust in princes,
- C** **Nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help.**
- P** His spirit departs, he returns to his earth;
- C** **In that very day his plans perish.**
- P** Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help,
- C** **Whose hope is in the LORD his God,**
- P** Who made heaven and earth, The sea, and all that is in them;
- C** **Who keeps truth forever,**
- P** Who executes justice for the oppressed, Who gives food to the hungry.
- C** **The LORD gives freedom to the prisoners.**
- P** The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; The LORD raises those who are bowed down;
- C** **The LORD loves the righteous.**
- P** The LORD watches over the strangers; He relieves the fatherless and widow;
- C** **But the way of the wicked He turns upside down.**
- P** The LORD shall reign forever—
- C** **Your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!**

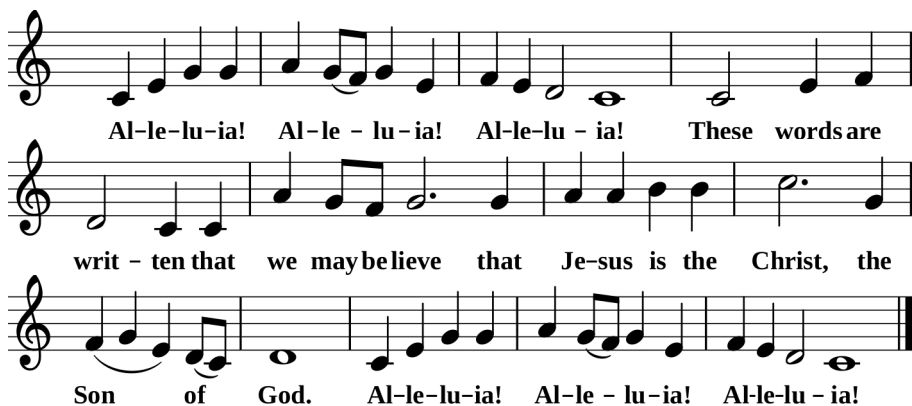
Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:2-15

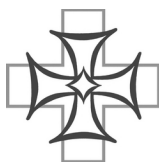
² And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples ³ and said to Him, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?” ⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: ⁵ The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.” ⁷ As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹ But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ For this is he of whom it is written: ‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.’ ¹¹ “Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹² And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³ For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. ¹⁴ And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵ He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

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
Son of God. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia!



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

651 – Be Still, My Soul

Sermon Text

James 5:7-11

⁷ Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. ⁸ You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! ¹⁰ My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. ¹¹ Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.



Sermon

Coming Soon?



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.

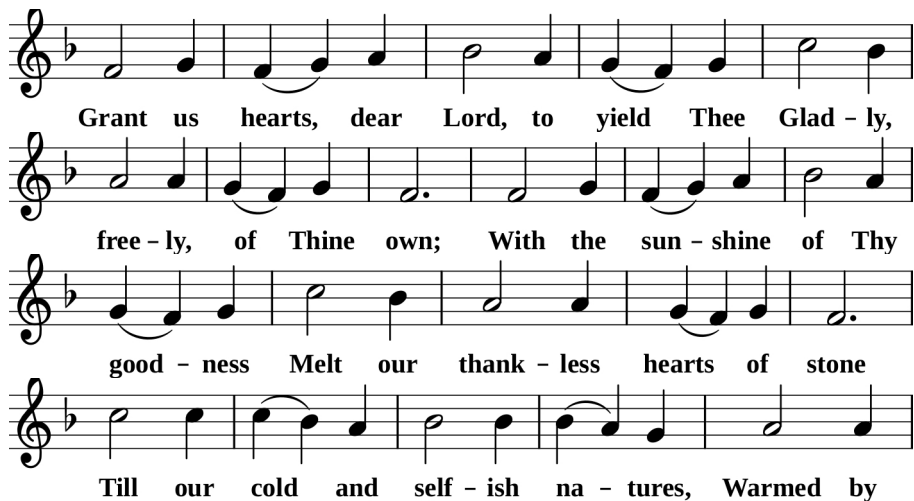
Hymn

123 – Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

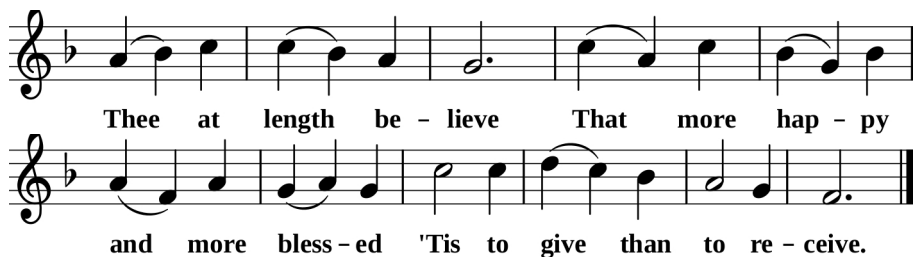
Offering

Offering Hymn

442 (2)



Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee Glad - ly,
free - ly, of Thine own; With the sun - shine of Thy
good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone
Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by



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

764 – God of Grace and God of Glory

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule		
December 14	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
December 17	2:00 pm	Midweek Advent Worship
December 19	7:00 pm	Children's Christmas Worship Service
December 21	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
December 24	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Worship
December 25	10:15 am	Christmas Day Worship
December 28	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)

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

- **January 4** – Annual Voters' Meeting
- **February 1** – Education/Elders
- **March 1** – 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.

We offer prayers of thanksgiving that our Lord has granted Kaitlyn Goodwin a successful surgery. Please continue to pray for her in the coming weeks, asking that God would strengthen her body and restore her to full health. *"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever." (Psalm 107:1)*

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: "Do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife." With these words, Joseph's quiet heartbreak was turned into the world's loud salvation. Next Sunday, we turn our hearts to Matthew 1:18-25. We will stand beside Joseph to witness the moment the Incarnate God received His earthly name. The angel commanded, "You shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." This is not merely a title; it is the guarantee of our redemption. Because He took this name, we are given a new name: children of God. Join us as we explore how the Christ Child's identity transforms our own eternity under the theme: "The Name that Changes Ours."

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 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/>

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>

Nominations for ILC Professor and ILC President: The Board of Regents announces the following nominations to fill the professorship vacated by the resignation of Professor David Schaller prior to the 2025-26 academic year: Paul Krause, David Reim, David Schaller, Dan Sullivan, and David Ude. In addition, the following and only person has been nominated for the office of President of Immanuel Lutheran College: Daniel Schierenbeck. The term of the ILC President's call is for two years, extending to the end of Academic Year 2028. All comments from members of CLC congregations regarding these candidates are to be received by email or letter no later than midnight January 17, 2026 (letters postmarked January 7, 2025) to: Mr. James Burkhardt; 217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX 75087; email: jeb6217@yahoo.com.

ILC Christmas Concert: The choirs of Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary will be presenting Light Born From Light (O Nata Lux de Lumine) on Friday, December 19, 2025 at Messiah Lutheran Church, 2015 N Hastings Way, Eau Claire, WI 54703. The evening will begin at 7:00 p.m., with the strings, band, and flute choir presenting several songs prior to the choral service. It is open to the public and admission is free. The service will also be streaming live at youtube.com/ilc.videos.

CLC Call News: Pastor Emeritus David Schierenbeck has accepted the call to serve as Assistant to the Pastor at Berea Ev. Lutheran Church, Inver Grove Heights, MN, after he concludes serving as vacancy pastor of Our Redeemer’s Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN, at the end of January. <> Pastor Cory Drehle of Berea Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD, has received the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has returned the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor Dave Naumann of St. John’s Lutheran Church, Clarkston, WA, and Peace Lutheran Church, Orofino, ID, has returned the call to Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA. <> Pastor Terrel Kesterson of Ascension Lutheran Church, Batavia, IL, has returned the part-time call to Our Redeemer’s Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN. <> Pastor Emeritus Michael Eichstadt has accepted 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 Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI.

Fruits of Faith		December 7, 2025		Attendance: WH – 45	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>		<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>			
<i>General Budget</i>		<i>General Budget</i>			
\$4,524.21	General Budget	\$100.00	CLC General Budget		
\$1,500.00	Weekly Need	\$67.31	Weekly Need		
\$3,024.21	-Under / +Over	+\$32.69	-Under / +Over		
\$76,647.22	Year to Date Offerings	\$2,643.00	Year to Date Offerings		
\$73,500.00	Year to Date Need	\$3,298.19	Year to Date Need		
+\$3,147.22	Year to Date (+/-)	-\$655.19	Year to Date (+/-)		
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		<i>Non-Budgetary</i>			
	Building Fund		ILC Student Aid Fund		
\$100.00	Property Improvement		ILC Building Fund		
	ILC Scholarship Fund		ILC Improvement Fund		
	Tuition Grant		Mission Development (MDF)		
\$120.00	Benevolence Fund		CLC Kinship		
	Learning with Littles		ILC Tour Choir		
	School Fund		Spokesman/Daily Rest		

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

COME, LORD JESUS

A CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2025
at 7:00 P.M.

Featuring Our K-8th Grade Students

✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

December 15 – December 20, 2025

Monday - *Matthew 11:2-10*

When John sends disciples to ask Jesus to confirm His Messiah-ship, He points to the prophecies which He has fulfilled. He then turns and extols John's role in the coming Kingdom of God.

Tuesday - *Romans 10:9-15*

It is with heart and mouth that Jesus is honored and salvation is enjoyed by both Jew and non-Jew. The Lord our righteousness provides preachers of the gospel to speak to the heart.

Wednesday - *Matthew 1:18-23*

The Lord appears to Joseph in a dream to let him know that Mary has not been unfaithful to her promise. This miracle of God-with-us is not something Joseph or we would have thought up.

Thursday - *Isaiah 60:1-5*

The coming of the LORD means the coming of light in darkness and nations will be drawn to that light. As John also writes: "In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind" (John 1:4).

Friday - *Psalms 98*

Although Jesus' coming in Bethlehem was without earthly fanfare, His coming to judge the earth will be reason for shouting and singing and sounding of trumpets. Joy to the world, the LORD is come!

Saturday - *Psalms 4*

God's children may have troubles, but they know that all blessings come from the LORD. To Him they will look and from Him receive greater joys than worldly prosperity can bring (verse 7).



