



Just as Christ
WAS RAISED...
by the glory of the Father,
even so we also should
walk in
NEWNESS OF LIFE.
ROMANS 6:4



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

1449 34th Street NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881

www.WinterHavenLutheran.com

Rob Sauers, Pastor (920) 602-3242

Neil Bernthal, Teacher (863) 967-5145

Katie Naumann, Teacher (253) 230-4184

As We Gather

To be "buried alive" is a terrifying thought—a nightmare from which one desperately hopes to wake. Yet, the Holy Spirit speaks through the Apostle Paul of a burial that is not a tragedy, but a triumph. Today, on the festival of the Baptism of Our Lord, the Epistle lesson from Romans 6 takes us to the edge of the grave, not to mourn, but to rejoice. Paul describes a death that brings life and a burial that results in freedom. As we look to the font, we see more than water; we see a profound union with Christ's own death and resurrection. Here, the impossible becomes reality. Let us quiet our hearts to hear how God buries us to save us.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

751 – God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:3-4; Romans 6:11

P I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;

C **And the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.**

P For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

C **When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.**

P Reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin,

C **But alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Confession and Absolution

P The Apostle Paul reminds us that “as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death.” In Holy Baptism, our sinful self was buried with Christ so that we might walk in newness of life. Yet, we confess that we often struggle against this burial. We try to resuscitate our sinful nature; we let sin reign in our mortal bodies and obey it in its lusts. Therefore, let us draw near to our Merciful Father, confessing our inability to free ourselves, and asking for His grace to drown our sin once more.

C O Almighty God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We are bound to death, and on our own, we cannot break free. We have not considered ourselves dead to sin, but have willingly walked in its ways. We have presented our members as instruments of unrighteousness. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of the bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Buried with Him in death, raise us, we pray, to live for You.

P The Scripture declares, “He who has died has been freed from sin.” Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Through the washing of regeneration, you have been united with Jesus in a death like His, that you might certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. 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

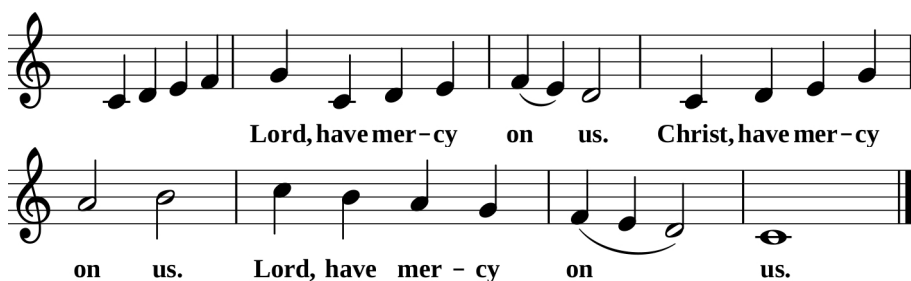
Gloria Patri

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

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

Isaiah 42:1-9

¹ “Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. ² He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, Nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. ³ A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He

will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth. ⁴ He will not fail nor be discouraged, Till He has established justice in the earth; And the coastlands shall wait for His law.” ⁵ Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it: ⁶ “I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles, ⁷ To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house. ⁸ I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images. ⁹ Behold, the former things have come to pass, And new things I declare; Before they spring forth I tell you of them.”

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 29

- P** Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones,
- C** Give unto the LORD glory and strength.
- P** Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name;
- C** Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
- P** The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
- C** The God of glory thunders; The LORD is over many waters.
- P** The voice of the LORD is powerful;
- C** The voice of the LORD is full of majesty.
- P** The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars,
- C** Yes, the LORD splinters the cedars of Lebanon.
- P** He makes them also skip like a calf,
- C** Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- P** The voice of the LORD
- C** divides the flames of fire.
- P** The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
- C** The LORD shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh.
- P** The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth, And strips the forests bare;
- C** And in His temple everyone says, “Glory!”
- P** The LORD sat enthroned at the Flood,
- C** And the LORD sits as King forever.
- P** The LORD will give strength to His people;
- C** The LORD will bless His people with peace.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:13-17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ And John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him. ¹⁶ When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

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

298 (1-2, 4-5) – Baptized into Thy Name Most Holy

¹ What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ² Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ³ Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, ⁶ knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. ⁷ For he who has died has been freed from sin. ⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰ For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Sermon

Buried Alive

...that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in

NEWNESS *of* LIFE

Romans 6:4

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.

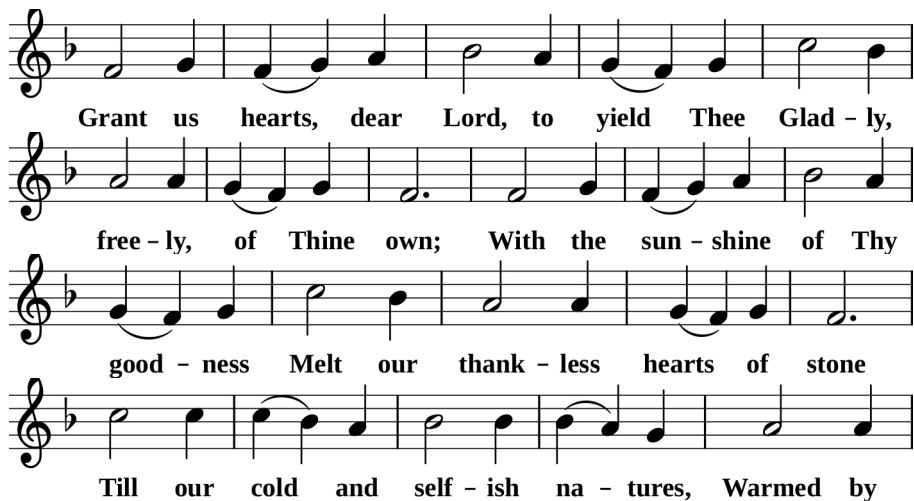
Hymn

301 – He that Believes and is Baptized

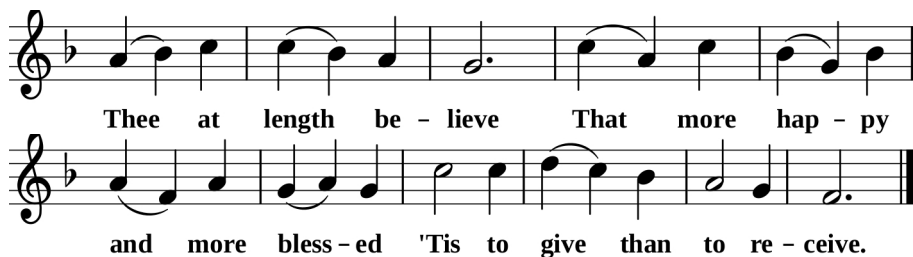
Offering

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

409 – Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

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✝ Announcements ✝

Upcoming Schedule

January 11	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
January 18	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
January 23	10:30 am	Learning with Littles
January 25	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)

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

- **February 1** – Education/Elders
- **March 1** – Trustees/Church Council
- **April 5** – Quarterly Voters’ Meeting

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: When sports teams select a mascot, they choose symbols of power and intimidation—Eagles, Tigers, or Warriors. No one chooses a lamb. A lamb is defenseless, silent, and often born simply to die. Yet, when John the Baptist introduces the Savior of the nations in John 1:29–41, he points not to a roaring Lion, but to a Lamb. Next Sunday, we will gather around the Word to explore the theme, “The Worst Mascot in History.” To the world, a lamb projects weakness and defeat. But to a sinner, this Lamb is our only victory. Join us as we behold “The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” and discover why God’s strength is found in sacrifice.

Summary of Annual Voters’ Meeting – January 4, 2026: The Annual Voters' Meeting of Immanuel Lutheran Church & School was held on Sunday, January 4, 2026, following the morning service. The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Fred Adams and opened with prayer by Pastor Sauers.

- **Membership & Spiritual Growth** We rejoice to report that the voters approved the recommendation to welcome Debra Keith into communicant membership following her completion of adult instruction.

- **Elections** The following officers were elected for the 2026 term and will be installed on February 1:
 - **President:** Ed Morris
 - **Vice-President:** Fred Adams
 - **Secretary:** John Kuehne
 - **Treasurer:** Mike Sheffield
 - **Financial Secretary:** Paul Kuehne
 - **Boards:** Craig Owings (Elders), Paul Kuehne (Trustees), John Kuehne (Education)
- **Financial Report & 2026 Budget** The congregation gave thanks to the Lord for His continued blessings in 2025, noting that the year ended with a surplus of income over expenses. The voters adopted a balanced budget for 2026 with anticipated receipts and expenses of **\$221,322**. This budget supports the ministry of the Word, our Christian Day School, and the maintenance of our church property. A forecast of \$3,500 was also approved for CLC Mission Offerings.
- **Pastor's Report** Pastor Sauers outlined three primary spiritual goals for the coming year:
 1. **Proclaiming Christ to Our Community:** Continuing the use of digital tools and advertising for outreach.
 2. **Caring for the Body of Christ:** A renewed emphasis on home visitation, especially for our shut-ins.
 3. **Restoring the Wandering:** Persistent, loving outreach to inactive members.
- **Board Reports**
 - **Trustees:** Reported on completed maintenance items, including repairs to the teacherage and LED lighting upgrades in the upper-grade classroom. Voters approved the replacement of the parsonage microwave.
 - **Education:** School enrollment remains steady at 21 students. The Board is currently working through the renewal process for the Step-Up scholarship program.

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 1:15 p.m.

"He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." (Phil 1:6)

Copies of the minutes and approved 2026 budget are available at the back of church.

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!

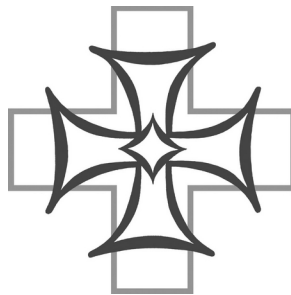
- **What:** Press Pause for the National Women's (Virtual) Retreat 2026
- **When:** Saturday, January 31, 2026 // 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
- **How:** Join us virtually via Zoom
- **Cost:** Free event – all are welcome!
- **Register now:** <https://tinyurl.com/PressPause26>

Last Chance to Apply for the 2026 CLC Mission Helper Trip: The application deadline for the 2026 Mission Helper Trip to Africa is quickly approaching. Applications need to be submitted by Sunday, January 18, 2026. There are still spots remaining, so please apply soon. For more information and to apply, visit www.mht.lutheranmissions.org.

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, 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, 2026) to: Mr. James Burkhardt; 217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX 75087; email: jeb6217@yahoo.com.

CLC Call News: Pastor Emeritus John Schierenbeck has received the vacancy call to Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA. <> Mr. Peter Reim has received the vacancy call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN. <> Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Saginaw, MI, has received the part-time call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN. <> Pastor Joe Naumann of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, has received the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ.

Fruits of Faith		January 4, 2026		Attendance: WH – 41	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>		<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>			
<i>General Budget</i>		<i>General Budget</i>			
\$1,541.00	General Budget	\$0.00	CLC General Budget		
\$1,362.00	Weekly Need	\$67.31	Weekly Need		
+\$179.00	-Under / +Over	-\$67.31	-Under / +Over		
\$1,541.00	Year to Date Offerings	\$0.00	Year to Date Offerings		
\$1,362.00	Year to Date Need	\$67.31	Year to Date Need		
+\$179.00	Year to Date (+/-)	-\$67.31	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)		
	Benevolence Fund		CLC Kinship		
	Learning with Littles		ILC Tour Choir		
	School Fund		Spokesman/Daily Rest		



✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

January 12 – January 17, 2026

Monday - *Luke 2:41-52*

A glimpse of Jesus' glory, growing up: obedient to parents, but knows His true Father's business and amazes all who hear Him with His understanding and his answers.

Tuesday - *Romans 12:1-2*

The apostle calls for our entire lives to be lived to God as a fitting worship offering, in view of His saving mercies toward us. May He transform our minds to want the same things that He wants.

Wednesday - *Romans 12:3-5*

As we use the gifts which God has given to each of us, let us remember that each of us is only one member of the body of Christ, and walk humbly with one another.

Thursday - *Isaiah 61:1-3*

The Messianic Servant of Jehovah speaks by the Spirit about His mission to bring healing and freedom to those who are suffering and bound. He brings joy and comfort to those who mourn.

Friday - *Psalms 80*

The Psalmist seeks the LORD's saving help for His suffering people. Though their tears season their daily bread, may they remember His saving help in the past and see Him deliver them once more.

Saturday - *Psalms 13*

Though the time of trouble seems long, the child of God looks to the LORD, and calls upon Him who gives the light of life. Even with sorrow in the heart (verse 2), he rejoices in the LORD's salvation (verse 5).



