

COLOSSIANS 3:1 (NKJV)

*Seek those things
which are above.*



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! When we face the reality of death, it is natural to look down. We see the grave, the dirt, and the harsh wages of our sin. The devil wants nothing more than for us to keep our eyes fixed downward on our earthly failures, sorrows, and mortality. But today, the tomb is empty! Jesus Christ has conquered the grave, and because He lives, your life is now hidden with Him in God. As we gather this Easter morning, we are called to lift our eyes. Since you have been raised with Christ, prepare your hearts to stop staring at the dirt, and fix your gaze on the eternal glory He has won for you.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

199 – Jesus Christ Is Risen Today, Alleluia!

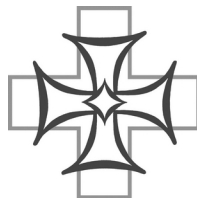
Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 121:1-2; Colossians 3:2-4; Psalm 51:15

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
- P** I will lift up my eyes to the hills—
- C** **From whence comes my help?**
- P** My help comes from the Lord,
- C** **Who made heaven and earth.**
- P** Set your mind on things above,
- C** **Not on things on the earth.**
- 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** O Lord, open my lips,
- C** **And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.**



Confession and Absolution

- P** Dear friends in Christ, on this day of resurrection victory, we are called to look up. Yet, how often do we find ourselves staring at the dirt? We fix our eyes on the temporary things of this earth, we obsess over our past failures, and we let the fear of death draw our gaze downward into the grave. Let us then confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him to forgive us and to lift our eyes to the risen Son.
- C** **Almighty God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have set our minds on things on the earth rather than things above. We have let the anxieties of this world and the guilt of our sin pull our gaze away from Your promises. We have stared at the dust from which we came and to which we must return, forgetting that our life is now hidden with Christ. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Christ is risen! The grave is empty, and your eternal life is secured in Him. 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.**
- P** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Hymn of Praise

799 – This Is the Feast of Victory



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 --- Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and
 5 For the Lamb who was



slain, whose blood set us
 strength, and hon - or,
 and God, and join - in the
 might be to God in and the
 slain has be - gun His



free to be peo - ple of God.
 bless - ing, and glo - ry are His.
 hymn of all cre - a - tion.
 Lamb for - ev - er A - men.
 reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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.

First Reading

Acts 10:34-43

³⁴ Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. ³⁵ But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. ³⁶ The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all —³⁷ that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. ³⁹ And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. ⁴⁰ Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, ⁴¹ not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. ⁴² And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins."

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 16

P Preserve me, O God,

C For in You I put my trust.

P O my soul, you have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord,

C My goodness is nothing apart from You."

P As for the saints who are on the earth,

C "They are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight."

P Their sorrows shall be multiplied who hasten after another god;

C Their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, nor take up their names on my lips.

- P** O Lord, You are the portion of my inheritance and my cup;
- C** **You maintain my lot.**
- P** The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places;
- C** **Yes, I have a good inheritance.**
- P** I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel;
- C** **My heart also instructs me in the night seasons.**
- P** I have set the Lord always before me;
- C** **Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.**
- P** Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices;
- C** **My flesh also will rest in hope.**
- P** For You will not leave my soul in Sheol,
- C** **Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.**
- P** You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy;
- C** **At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 28:1-10

¹ Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. ³ His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. ⁴ And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. ⁷ And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.” ⁸ So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word. ⁹ And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!” So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.”

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!

Confession of Faith

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead And the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn

732 – Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Sermon Text

Colossians 3:1-4

¹ If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.



Sermon

Stop Staring at the Dirt

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.

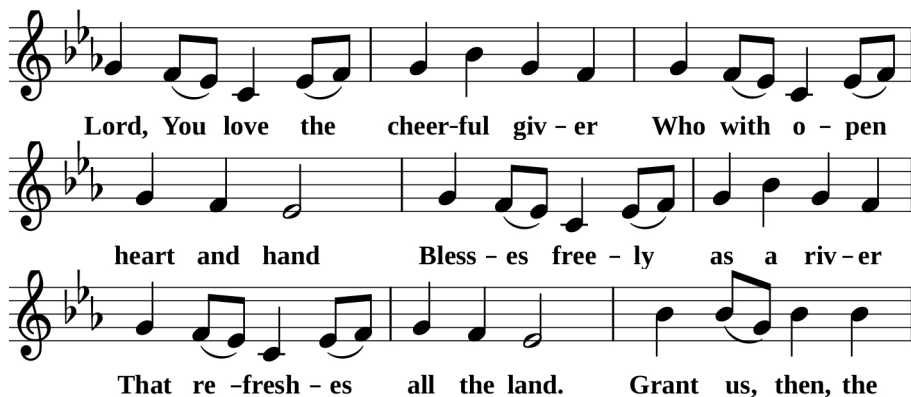
Hymn

206 (1, 4, 7, 9-10) – Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

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
That re - fresh - es all the land. Grant us, then, the

grace of giv-ing With a spir-it large and true
 That our life and all our liv-ing
 We may con-se-crate to You.

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.

✠ The Service of the Sacrament ✠

Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them up to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- P** It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God...Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of Sab - a -
oth; Heav'n and earth are full of Your glo - ry; Ho - san - na, Ho -
san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless ed is He, Bless ed is He,
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

Peace of the Lord

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always!
- C** Amen.



Lamb of God

Agnus Dei



O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, the
Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world,
have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You
take a-way the sin of the world, grant us Your peace.
A - - men.

Distribution

Holy Communion is rightly called a ‘Sacrament’ because it is a “Sacred act;” not in what WE do for Christ, but in what Christ does for US! Because God’s Word presents the reception of this Sacrament as a most intimate expression of spiritual and confessional unity (1 Corinthians 1:10; 10:16-17 Romans 16:17-18), we ask only those who have publicly professed such oneness of faith and belief with us by membership here or another CLC church come forward at this time. This is not a judgment of anyone’s faith, but rather an expression of ours. Please speak with pastor if you are seeking a church home or have any questions. We’d love to have you!



O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now let Your servant de - part in peace ac -
cording to Your word, For my eyes have seen Your Salvation:
which You have pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a Light to light - en the Gen - tiles
and the Glo - ry of Your people Is - ra-el. Glo - ry
be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;
As it was in the be - ginning, is now, and ev-er shall be, for -
ev - er - more. A - men.

Thanksgiving

- P** Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!
- C** For His mercy endures forever.

P O God the Father, Fount and Source of all goodness, in loving-kindness You sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh. We thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We implore You not to forsake Your children, but evermore to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit, that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C 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

200 (1-2, 7-8) – I Know That My Redeemer Lives

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule – winterhavenlutheran.com/church-calendar

April 5	9:00 am	Easter Breakfast
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Quarterly Voters' Meeting
April 10	10:30 am	Learning with Littles
April 12	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
April 19	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service

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

- **April 5** – Quarterly Voters' Meeting
- **May 3** – Education/Elders
- **June 7** – 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.

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: Easter Sunday has passed, but the shockwaves of Christ's resurrection are just beginning! Next week, we dive into Acts 5:29-42, where the religious leaders desperately try to silence the apostles with threats and beatings. Yet, the disciples leave rejoicing "that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name." Why such bold joy in the face of intense persecution? Because their faith was fueled by "The Unstoppable Echo of the Empty Tomb." The world still tries to silence the truth of our living Savior today. Join us next Sunday as we see how the reality of the resurrection empowers us to stand firm and boldly declare, "We ought to obey God rather than men." Come and be strengthened by Easter's unstoppable joy!

ILC Dorm Supervisor: Jaqi Bredehoft will be resigning as girls dorm supervisor at the end of this school year. We thank her for her faithful service to the LORD and for being such a positive role model to our dorm students. ILC is accepting applicants for this position to begin the 2026-27 school year. This role is vital to our campus, given how dorm supervisors provide spiritual counsel and a fatherly or motherly role to those students who are living away from home. Females who are CLC members in good standing and are able and willing to fill this position may contact ILC President Daniel Schierenbeck (dan.schierenbeck@ilc.edu/660.) for more information about the responsibilities and compensation for this position. An application is available online at ilc.edu > Forms and Applications > ILC Employment Application. Review of applications begins April 15.

CLC News: Teacher Levi Schaller of Messiah Lutheran School, Hales Corners, WI, has returned the call to Redeemer Lutheran School, Cheyenne, WY. <> Teacher Ross Kok of Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ, has received the call to teach grades 3-4 and serve as associate principal at Messiah Lutheran School, Eau Claire, WI. <> Teacher Lane Fischer of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran School, Mankato, MN, has returned the call to Faith Lutheran School, Markesan, WI. <> Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Saginaw, MI, has received the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, West Columbia, SC, has received the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison Heights, MI. <> Pastor Jonah Albrecht of Redemption Ev. Lutheran Church, Lynnwood, WA, and Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA, has received the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Del Maas of Gift of God Lutheran Church, Mapleton, ND, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ponsford, MN, has retired due to non life-threatening health concerns. His last service was March 29, 2026.



EASTER LILIES

Given to the Glory of God
and in Hope of the Resurrection

*"I am the resurrection and the life.
He who **believes** in Me, though he
may die, he shall live." (John 11:25)*

Given By:

Annette Custodio

Gloria Weller

Katie Naumann

Jeff Longhurst

Jeff Longhurst

De' antae Bailey-Spence

De' antae Bailey-Spence

Ed & Carol Morris

In Loving Memory Of:

Loved Ones

Loved Ones

Alice Naumann

Judy Longhurst

Jackie Longhurst

Loved Ones

Loved Ones

Loved Ones

Fruits of Faith		March 29, 2026	Attendance: WH – 33	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>		<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>		
<i>General Budget</i>		<i>General Budget</i>		
\$1,628.00	General Budget	\$75.00	CLC General Budget	
\$1,362.00	Weekly Need	\$67.31	Weekly Need	
+\$266.00	-Under / +Over	+\$7.69	-Under / +Over	
\$16,202.72	Year to Date Offerings	\$575.00	Year to Date Offerings	
\$17,706.00	Year to Date Need	\$875.03	Year to Date Need	
-\$1,503.28	Year to Date (+/-)	-\$300.03	Year to Date (+/-)	
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		
		\$75.00	Kinship	

✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

April 6 – April 11, 2026

Monday - Mark 16:1-8

The women's devotion to Jesus brought them to the empty tomb, where they learned the startling news: "He has risen!" (verse 6) Thus they became messengers of the good news to His disciples.

Tuesday - 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

As the Passover meant a new lease on life for God's people, so the resurrection means new life. Let us, therefore, leave behind the old wicked ways and celebrate with sincerity and truth.

Wednesday - Isaiah 52:13-15

As we ponder the wondrous Easter news, we remember how the prophet Isaiah proclaimed well in advance the exaltation of the Lord's Servant, after His deep humiliation.

Thursday - Psalm 111

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD for His glorious and majestic work (verse 3) on our behalf! He sent redemption for His people (verse 9), as we learn from His awesome Word!

Friday - Psalm 113

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! The name of the LORD is to be praised always and everywhere. It is higher than the earth and the heavens. He bends down to see and lift up the poor and needy. Hallelujah!

Saturday - Psalm 114

Israel's deliverance from Egypt reminds us of our deliverance from death and hell. On the way to the promised land, the waters could not stop them and Sinai trembled. We, too, are led safely home!