

Behold, a sower went out to sow.
Matthew 13:3



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

We all know what good Florida dirt looks like—well, maybe we're more used to sand! But whether it's rich, dark soil or the sandy loam found around Winter Haven, we understand the basics of growing things. Yet, as we gather today, Jesus invites us to look up from the ground beneath our feet. In our parable this morning, the Sower goes out to sow, faithfully scattering seed just as He always does. He isn't waiting for perfect conditions; He is simply going about His necessary work, casting the life-giving Word. Too often, we focus on the rocks, the thorns, and the hard-packed paths in our own lives. We fixate on the flaws. Today, let's shift our gaze from the soil to the Seed, and to the Savior who faithfully sows it.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

5 – Lord, Open Thou My Heart to Hear

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Isaiah 55:10a, 11a; Psalm 34:8; 119:105; 19:14

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

C Amen.

P "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven,"

C "**And do not return there, but water the earth,**"

P "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;"

C "**It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please.**"

P Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good;

C **Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!**

P Your word is a lamp to my feet

C **And a light to my path.**

P Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

C **Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.**

Confession and Absolution

- P** We gather today reflecting on the seed of God's Word scattered generously among us. Yet, if we are honest, we must admit that our hearts are not always prepared soil. Too often, our attention is drawn down to the dirt—the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of riches, and the hard-packed paths of our own stubbornness. Let us confess our sins to our gracious God, asking Him to break up the fallow ground of our hearts.
- C** **O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am truly sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of 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 ✠

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G-clef (treble clef) with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The first staff contains the lyrics: "Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy". The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: "on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us." The notes are primarily quarter and eighth notes, with some rests and a final whole note on "us." in the second staff.

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 - shipped 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.

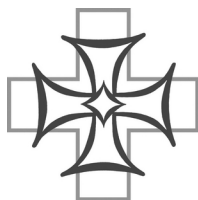
C And also with you.

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 55:10-13

¹⁰ “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, ¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. ¹² “For you shall go out with joy, And be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills Shall break forth into singing before you, And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, And instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; And it shall be to the LORD for a name, For an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 65:9-13

- 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.**

Epistle Reading

Romans 8:12-17

¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

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

294 – O Word of God Incarnate

Sermon Text

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

¹ On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. ² And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. ³ Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: “Behold, a sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. ⁶ But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up

and choked them. ⁸ But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" ¹⁸ "Therefore hear the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. ²⁰ But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. ²² Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. ²³ But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."



Sermon

Stop Staring at the Dirt

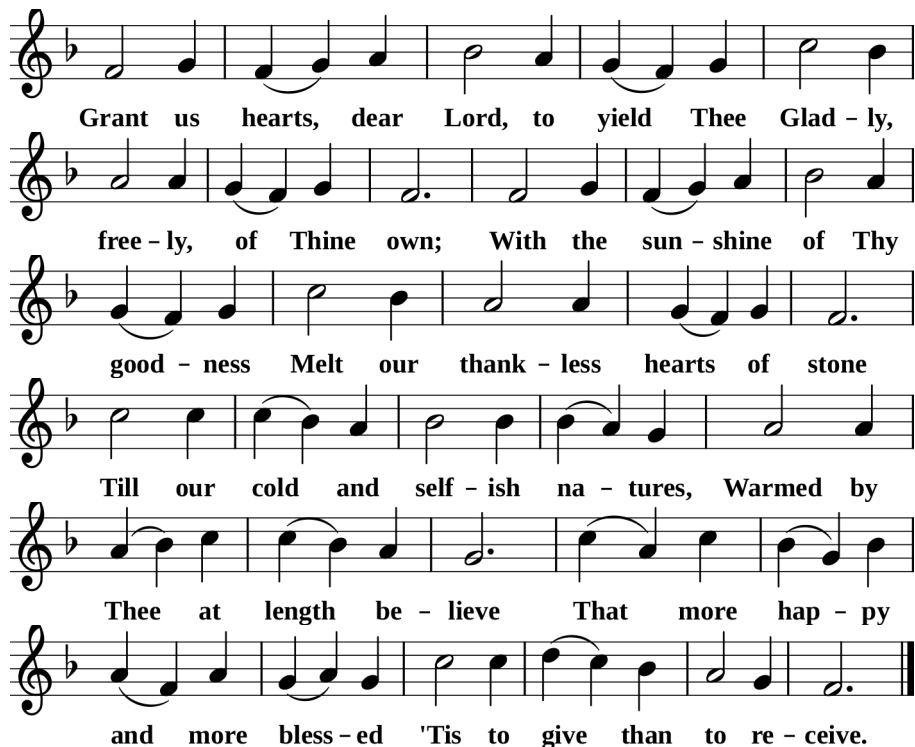
Offertory

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.

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
 Thee at length be - lieve That more hap - py
 and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.

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

52 – Almighty Father, Bless the Word

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✠ Announcements ✠

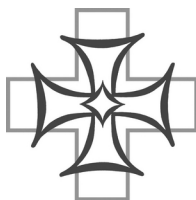
Upcoming Schedule – winterhavenlutheran.com/church-calendar

July 12	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
July 19	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
July 20-24	9:00 am	Vacation Bible School
July 26	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)

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

- **August 2** – Education/Elders
- **September 6** – Trustees
- **October 4** – Church Council

In Our Prayers: Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers: Don Beymer, Bob & Joan Doriot, Johanna Jaehnigen, Elsie Kleinschmidt, Shirley Rosenberry, and Mike Sheffield.



Looking Forward to Next Sunday: Looking ahead to next Sunday, we'll be diving into Isaiah 44:6-8 with a sermon titled, "The God of the Bookends (And Everything in Between)." It's easy to see God at the big "bookends" of life—births, deaths, the beginning of creation, and the end of the world. But what about the messy, ordinary days in the middle? Through Isaiah, the LORD reminds us: "I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God." He isn't just showing up for the major milestones. He's the God of our everyday routines, the God who sustains us in the quiet moments in between. Join us next week as we explore the comfort of knowing our Savior God holds it all.

Come Fly With Us to Vacation Bible School: Join us this summer for an exciting week of adventure at our "Soaring High!" Vacation Bible School, July 20–24, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am each day! Children ages 4–12 are invited to hop in the hot air balloon basket as we explore new destinations and learn that Jesus is our best treasure and the only way to heaven. Each day will be filled with:

- Christ-centered Bible lessons
- Creative crafts and active games
- Joyful singing and tasty snacks

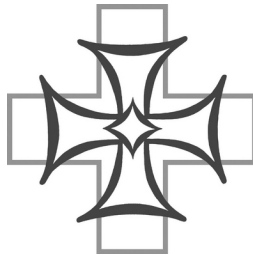
We encourage you to invite your friends, neighbors, grandkids, and classmates—any child who would be blessed by a fun and faith-filled week learning about Jesus!

Register today at www.winterhavenlutheran.com/vbs, or speak with Pastor Sauers for more information. If you're able to volunteer during the week or would like to donate snacks or drinks, we'd be very grateful—just let Pastor Sauers know how you can help!

2026 CLC Mission Helpers to Africa: Eleven Mission Helpers, along with Missionary Bruce and Paula Naumann, are currently proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to an estimated 6,000 children in Kenya, Tanzania, and Zambia. You can follow along through the trip blog at www.2026clcmissionhelpertripeastafrica.blogspot.com. Your prayers are requested and much appreciated.

CLC Call News: Pastor Joe Naumann of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN has received the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ <> Pastor Johnathan Schnose of Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church, Morris, MN, has returned the call to St. Luke's Ev. Lutheran Church, Lemmon, SD. <> Pastor Johnathan Schnose has also returned the call to Gift of God Lutheran Church, Mapleton, ND, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ponsford, MN.

Fruits of Faith		July 5, 2026	Attendance: WH – 34	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>		<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>		
<i>General Budget</i>		<i>General Budget</i>		
\$1,312.00	General Budget	\$0.00	CLC General Budget	
\$1,362.00	Weekly Need	\$67.31	Weekly Need	
-\$50.00	-Under / +Over	-\$67.31	-Under / +Over	
\$34,732.97	Year to Date Offerings	\$1,240.00	Year to Date Offerings	
\$36,774.00	Year to Date Need	\$1,884.68	Year to Date Need	
-\$2,041.03	Year to Date (+/-)	-\$644.68	Year to Date (+/-)	
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		
\$80.00	Benevolence			



✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

July 13–18, 2026

Monday - *1 Peter 1:22-25*

The apostle Peter reminds us that our new life in Christ comes through the Gospel. We have been "born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever" (v. 23). While the glory of this world will wither and fade like grass, God's Word endures eternally to grant us salvation.

Tuesday - *James 1:19-25*

How do we properly receive God's truth? James urges us to lay aside our earthly wickedness and "receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls" (v. 21). We are cautioned against merely hearing the Word and quickly forgetting it, being called instead to be faithful "doers of the word" (v. 22).

Wednesday - *Colossians 1:3-10*

Paul prays for the Colossian believers, giving thanks that the truth of the Gospel is "bringing forth fruit" (v. 6) in their lives just as it does all over the world. When the Gospel works in our hearts, it changes us! We pray that we too may "walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work" (v. 10).

Thursday - *Hebrews 4:11-16*

God's message to us is active and effective. "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword" (v. 12). It pierces through our defenses to reveal our daily need for grace, leading us to our sympathetic High Priest so we may "find grace to help in time of need" (v. 16).

Friday - *Psalms 1:1-6*

The Psalmist paints a beautiful picture of the believer who relies on Scripture. Instead of walking with the wicked, his "delight is in the law of the LORD" (v. 2). Like a well-watered tree, he "brings forth its fruit in its season" (v. 3). What a joyful contrast to the ungodly, who blow away like chaff in the wind!

Saturday - *Mark 4:26-29*

Jesus tells a parable to comfort us when we worry about our spiritual progress. A man scatters seed, and whether he sleeps or wakes, "the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how" (v. 27). We do not have to manufacture spiritual growth; the power to produce faith belongs entirely to God's Word!