

Where were you when I laid
the foundations of the earth?
Tell Me, if you have understanding.

Job 38:4



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

When the trials of life weigh heavily upon us, our natural reaction is to ask, “Why, Lord?” Like Job in his profound suffering, we crave explanations. We want to understand the hidden purposes behind our pain, assuming that if we just knew the reasons, our troubled hearts would finally find peace. But when the Almighty speaks out of the whirlwind, He doesn’t offer a detailed defense of His actions. Instead, He asks breathtaking questions about the dawn of creation. As we gather in His presence today, we will see how God responds to our agonizing questions. He lovingly shifts our gaze from the explanations we desperately want to the awe-inspiring Answer we truly need.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

13 – Before Jehovah's Awe-full Throne

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Isaiah 55:8-9; Romans 11:33-34

P “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord.

C **“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.”**

P Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

C **How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!**

P For who has known the mind of the Lord?”

C **“Or who has become His counselor?”**

Confession and Absolution

P We often come to our heavenly Father demanding explanations. When the winds of this life grow contrary and the waves rise against us, we want to know the “why” behind our struggles and the “how” of God’s providence. Yet, our demands routinely reveal our pride, our lack of faith, and our refusal to let God be God. We presume to question the Almighty, forgetting that He alone laid the foundations of the earth. Let us therefore confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us. We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have questioned Your goodness in times of trouble. We have demanded answers that satisfy our own reason, while ignoring the saving Word You have so clearly spoken to us. We have failed to trust You above all things. For the sake of 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 In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. He who laid the foundations of the earth also stretched out His arms on the cross to rescue you from the depths. 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.



Epistle Reading

Romans 10:5-17

⁵ For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, “The man who does those things shall live by them.” ⁶ But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down from above) ⁷ or, “ ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” ¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!” ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “LORD, who has believed our report?” ¹⁷ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 18:1-6

- P** I will love You,
C **O LORD, my strength.**
P The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;
C **My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.**
P I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised;
C **So shall I be saved from my enemies.**
P The pangs of death surrounded me,
C **And the floods of ungodliness made me afraid.**
P The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me;
C **The snares of death confronted me.**
P In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried out to my God;
C **He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry came before Him, even to His ears.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 14:22-33

²² Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. ²³ And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. ²⁴ But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. ²⁵ Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." ²⁸ And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." ²⁹ So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

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

34 – My Soul, Now Bless Thy Maker

Sermon Text

Job 38:4-18

⁴ “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. ⁵ Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶ To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, ⁷ When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy? ⁸ “Or who shut in the sea with doors, When it burst forth and issued from the womb; ⁹ When I made the clouds its garment, And thick darkness its swaddling band; ¹⁰ When I fixed My limit for it, And set bars and doors; ¹¹ When I said, ‘This far you may come, but no farther, And here your proud waves must stop!’ ¹² “Have you commanded the morning since your days began, And caused the dawn to know its place, ¹³ That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, And the wicked be shaken out of it? ¹⁴ It takes on form like clay under a seal, And stands out like a garment. ¹⁵ From the wicked their light is withheld, And the upraised arm is broken. ¹⁶ “Have you entered the springs of the sea? Or have you walked in search of the depths? ¹⁷ Have the gates of death been revealed to you? Or have you seen the doors of the shadow of death? ¹⁸ Have you comprehended the breadth of the earth? Tell Me, if you know all this.



Sermon

The Answers We Want

vs.

The Answer We Need

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

17 – Oh, Worship the King

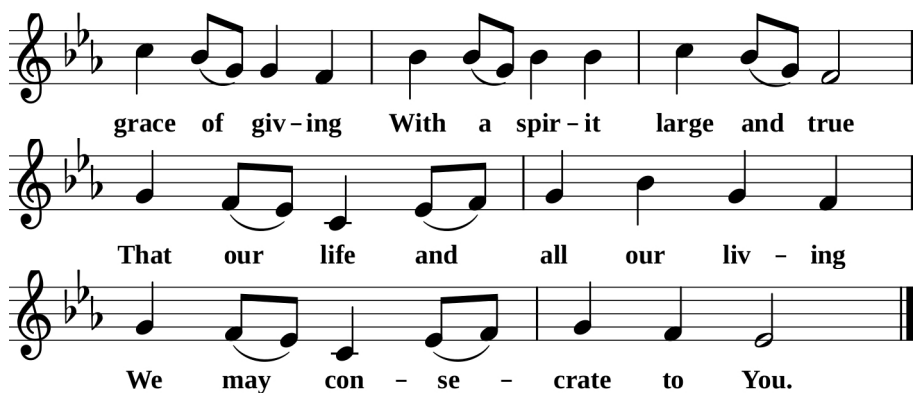
Offering

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



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

748 – Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule – winterhavenlutheran.com/church-calendar

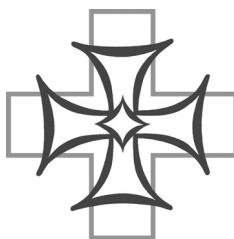
August 9	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
August 10	8:15 am	ILS First Day of School (Early Release)
August 16	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
August 23	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
		Education Sunday – ILS Children Sing

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

- **September 6** – Trustees
- **October 4** – Church Council
- **November 1** – Education/Elders/Quarterly Voters' Meeting

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: What makes faith “great”? Is it confidence, persistence, courage, or the strength of the person believing? In Matthew 15:21–28, a desperate mother comes to Jesus with nothing to offer but her need—and she refuses to let go of His mercy. Jesus calls her faith “great,” not because she is great, but because her faith clings to a great Savior and His gracious promises. We often measure faith by how strong we feel. Jesus directs us somewhere far better: away from ourselves and toward Him. Join us next Sunday as we consider the theme “Great Faith Has a Great Savior” and see why even trembling faith has every reason for confidence when it rests on Christ.



New Bible Class Series: Starting next Sunday, August 16, our adult Bible class will begin a new study titled, "Earthen Vessels: Saints and Sinners in the Hands of a Gracious God." This series will look closely at 12 prominent men in the Bible—from Noah and Abraham to David and Peter. However, this is not a study of perfect heroes. We will examine the real, historical lives of these men, including their deep flaws, fears, and spectacular failures. Against the backdrop of their weakness, the unmerited grace of God shines all the more brightly. It is a study of the truth that we are simultaneously saint and sinner. As the Apostle Paul wrote, "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us" (2 Corinthians 4:7). Come join us as we see how God has consistently operated by grace alone, using frail and flawed people to carry out His perfect plan of salvation!

CLC Call News: Pastor Luke Willitz of Living Savior Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, MN, has returned the call to Gift of God Lutheran Church, Mapleton, ND, and St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Ponsford, MN. <> Pastor Emeritus Paul Tiefel has returned the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, West Columbia, SC, has received the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor Joe Naumann of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, has received the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison, Heights, MI. <> Pastor Michael Roehl of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, has received the call to St. Paul’s Ev. Lutheran Church, Austin, MN. <> Pastor David Reim of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Vernon, British Columbia, has received the call to St. Luke’s Ev. Lutheran Church, Lemmon, SD. <> Pastor David Reim has also received the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI.

Fruits of Faith		August 2, 2026		Attendance: WH – 49	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>		<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>			
<i>General Budget</i>		<i>General Budget</i>			
\$2,733.00	General Budget	\$100.00	CLC General Budget		
\$1,362.00	Weekly Need	\$67.31	Weekly Need		
+\$1,371.00	-Under / +Over	+\$32.69	-Under / +Over		
\$41,906.97	Year to Date Offerings	\$1,265.00	Year to Date Offerings		
\$42,222.00	Year to Date Need	\$2,086.61	Year to Date Need		
-\$315.03	Year to Date (+/-)	-\$721.61	Year to Date (+/-)		
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		<i>Non-Budgetary</i>			
\$50.00	Building Fund				
\$150.00	Property Improvement				

✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

August 3–8, 2026

Monday - *Isaiah 40:25-31*

Isaiah reminds the weary Israelites that the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. We are comforted knowing that "His understanding is unsearchable" (v. 28), and He promises to renew the strength of those who wait on Him rather than relying on their own wisdom.

Tuesday - *Psalms 46:1-11*

When the waters roar and the earth gives way, the psalmist points us to our ultimate refuge and strength. Instead of demanding to comprehend every earthly trial, we are graciously commanded by the Lord, "Be still, and know that I am God" (v. 10), resting assured in His exalted presence.

Wednesday - *Proverbs 3:1-8*

The writer of Proverbs contrasts human reasoning with divine reliance, showing us where true peace is found. We are given the clear directive, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding" (v. 5), turning away from our pride to find spiritual healing.

Thursday - *Mark 4:35-41*

In a powerful display of sovereignty over creation, Jesus sleeps through a great windstorm before awakening to rebuke the sea. The disciples are filled with awe as they realize His divine authority, asking one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!" (v. 41).

Friday - *Romans 11:33-36*

The Apostle Paul breaks into a hymn of praise regarding the profound and unfathomable nature of our Creator's plans. He rejoices, "How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!" (v. 33), reminding us that all things are from Him and for His eternal glory.

Saturday - *Habakkuk 3:17-19*

The prophet Habakkuk faced a terrifying future and circumstances he could not fully grasp, yet he resolved to trust in the Almighty. He boldly declares, "Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation" (v. 18), finding his strength not in outward peace, but in the Lord God.

