

Let every soul be subject to
the governing authorities. For
there is no authority except
from God, and the authorities
that exist are appointed by God.

Romans 13:1



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

In a world filled with political turmoil, it is easy to view earthly authority with cynicism or frustration. We are often tempted to see human government merely as a flawed, earthly invention. Yet, as we gather in the Lord's house today, the Apostle Paul invites us to view the structures of our society through the eyes of faith. Our gracious God is a God of order, continually working behind the scenes of history to protect, preserve, and bless His people. Today, as we open Romans 13, we will explore the surprising ways the Lord uses earthly authorities as "God's Servants for Your Good." May the Holy Spirit prepare our hearts to rest in the comforting, perfect sovereignty of our Savior!

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

581 – All Ye Who on this Earth Do Dwell

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 51:15; Romans 13:1, 8; 1 Timothy 2:2

P O Lord, open my lips,

C And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

P Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities.

C For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

P He has given His servants for your good,

C That we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

P Owe no one anything except to love one another,

C For he who loves another has fulfilled the law.

Confession and Absolution

P God has established order in His creation, instituting authorities in the home, the Church, and the state as His servants for our good. Yet, our sinful nature fiercely rebels against all authority. We desire to be our own gods, rejecting the instruction of those who watch over us and failing to fulfill the debt of love we owe our neighbors. Let us therefore confess our sins to our heavenly Father, seeking His grace and forgiveness.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have rebelled against Your divine order. We have despised those in authority over us and failed to honor them as Your servants. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves, nor have we sought their good above our own. We have harbored resentment and been slow to forgive. 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 for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Jesus Christ perfectly submitted to the Father's will and bore the judgment of the Law in our place. 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

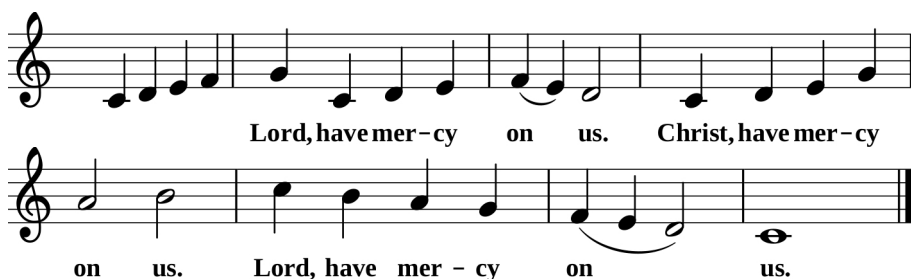
Gloria Patri

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



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

Ezekiel 33:7-9

⁷ “So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me.

⁸ When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you shall surely die!’ and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in

his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 32:1-7

- P** Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,
C **Whose sin is covered.**
P Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity,
C **And in whose spirit there is no deceit.**
P When I kept silent, my bones grew old
C **Through my groaning all the day long.**
P For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;
C **My vitality was turned into the drought of summer.**
P I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden.
C **I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**
P For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You In a time when You may be found;
C **Surely in a flood of great waters They shall not come near him.**
P You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble;
C **You shall surround me with songs of deliverance.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:1-20

¹ At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ² Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, ³ and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me. ⁶ “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷ Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes! ⁸ “If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire. ⁹ And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire. ¹⁰ “Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven. ¹¹ For the Son of Man has come to save that which

was lost. ¹² “What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? ¹³ And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that sheep than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. ¹⁴ Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. ¹⁵ “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’ ¹⁷ And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. ¹⁸ “Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

Alleluia

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



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

395 (1-2, 5, 8) – O God, Thou Faithful God

Sermon Text

Romans 13:1-10

¹ Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. ⁴ For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. ⁵ Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. ⁷ Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor. ⁸ Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.



Sermon

God's Servants for Your Good

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.

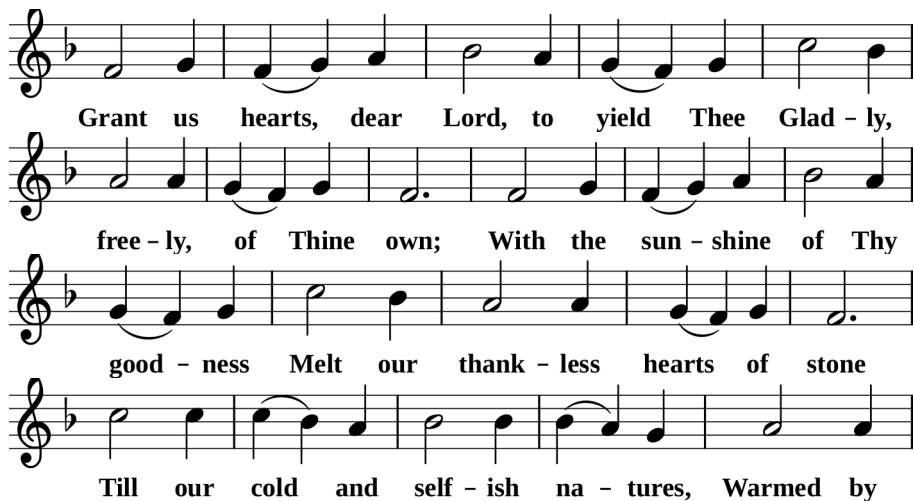
Hymn

566 – Christ, by Heavenly Hosts Adored

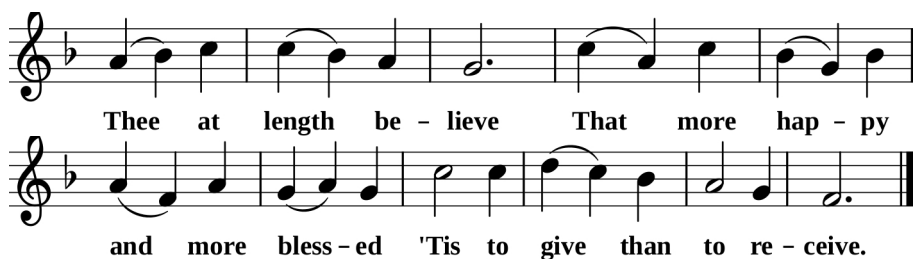
Offering

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.

✠ The Service of the Sacrament ✠

Preface

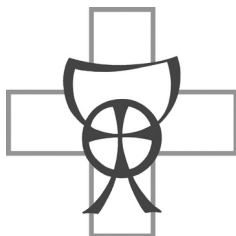
P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

P It is 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 magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:



Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of Sa-ba-oth, a-dored; Heav'n and
earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name. Sing ho -
san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san-na to the Lord; Tru-ly
blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

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 Lamb of God, O Christ our Lord, whose
blood, once shed, true life re - stored, Im -
part Your joy, our faith in - crease. Sus -
tain with Your mer-cy and grant us Your peace.

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!

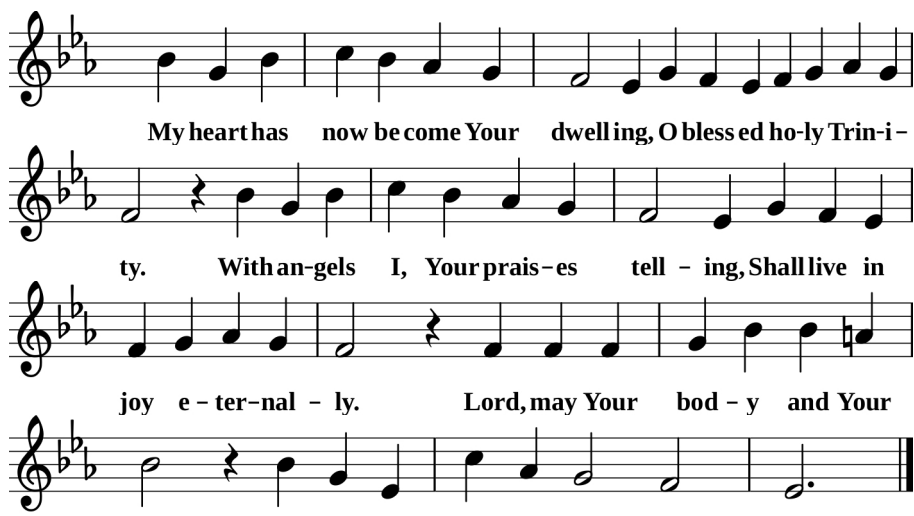
O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

Nunc Dimittis

O Lord, now let Your ser-vant De-part in heav'n-ly
All glo-ry to the Fa-ther, All glo-ry to the
peace, For I have seen the glo-ry Of Your re-deem-ing
Son, All glo-ry to the Spir-it, For-ev-er Three-in-
grace: A light to lead the Gen-tiles Un-to Your ho-ly
One; For as in the be-gin-ning, Is now, shall ev-er
hill, The glo-ry of Your peo-ple, Your
be, God's tri-une name re-sound-ing Through
cho-sen Is-ra-el.
all e-ter-ni-ty.

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.

Thanksgiving



My heart has now be come Your dwell ing, O bless ed ho-ly Trin-i-
ty. With an-gels I, Your prais-es tell - ing, Shall live in
joy e - ter-nal - ly. Lord, may Your bod - y and Your
blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

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

575 – Before the Lord We Bow

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✝ Announcements ✝

Upcoming Schedule – winterhavenlutheran.com/church-calendar

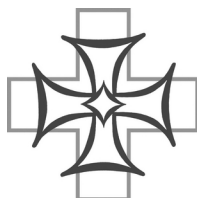
September 6	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Board of Trustees Meeting/Ladies' Meeting
September 7		ILS No School (Labor Day)
September 13	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
September 20	9:15am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service

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

- **September 6** – Trustees/Ladies' Meeting
- **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: Have you ever tried to keep a ledger of the wrongs done against you? Peter thought he was being remarkably generous when he asked if forgiving a brother seven times was enough. But Jesus calculates grace differently. Next Sunday, we will explore "The Mathematics of Mercy" in Matthew 18:21-35. We will encounter a servant burdened with an astronomical, unpayable debt, and a Master who was "moved with compassion" to forgive it all. How does God's infinite grace toward our spiritually bankrupt souls change how we handle the much smaller offenses of our neighbors? Join us as we marvel at the Savior who wiped our slate clean, empowering us to forgive every brother "from his heart."



CLC Call News: Pastor Matthew Hanel of St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Church, Dallas, TX, has received the call to Gift of God Lutheran Church, Mapleton, ND. <> Pastor Tom Schuetze of St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, Lakewood, CO, has received the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Chad Seybt of Morning Star Lutheran Church, Fairchild, WI, Peace with God Lutheran Church, Onalaska, WI, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Melrose, WI, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Millston, WI, has received the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor Aaron Ude of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Rapid City, SD, has received the call to St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, Austin, MN. <> Mr. Nick Naumann has received the call to St. Luke's Ev. Lutheran Church, Lemmon, SD.

Fruits of Faith		August 30, 2026		Attendance: WH – 29	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>		<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>			
<i>General Budget</i>		<i>General Budget</i>			
\$1,140.75	General Budget	\$0.00	CLC General Budget		
\$1,362.00	Weekly Need	\$67.31	Weekly Need		
-\$221.25	-Under / +Over	-\$67.31	-Under / +Over		
\$45,408.82	Year to Date Offerings	\$1,425.00	Year to Date Offerings		
\$47,670.00	Year to Date Need	\$2,355.85	Year to Date Need		
-\$2,261.18	Year to Date (+/-)	-\$930.85	Year to Date (+/-)		
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		<i>Non-Budgetary</i>			
\$50.00	Building Fund	\$30.00	ILC Student Aid Fund		



✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

September 7–12, 2026

Monday - *1 Peter 2:13-17*

The apostle Peter instructs believers to submit to human institutions for the Lord's sake, whether to the king or governors. We are called to live as free people, yet we must not use our liberty as a cloak for vice, remembering to "Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king" (v. 17).

Tuesday - *Titus 3:1-7*

Paul tells Titus to remind the church to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, and to be ready for every good work. He grounds this peaceful living in God's mercy, noting that He saved us "through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit" (v. 5).

Wednesday - *Daniel 2:19-23*

After God reveals King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, Daniel offers a profound prayer of praise acknowledging the Lord's absolute sovereignty over human history. He declares of God, "He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise" (v. 21).

Thursday - *1 Timothy 2:1-4*

Believers are urged to make supplications and prayers for all people, especially for kings and those in high positions. The goal of this persistent prayer is "that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence" (v. 2).

Friday - *Matthew 22:15-22*

The Pharisees attempt to trap Jesus with a politically charged question about paying taxes to the Roman government. Jesus silences them by acknowledging earthly obligations while maintaining supreme devotion to the Father, saying, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (v. 21).

Saturday - *Proverbs 8:12-17*

Wisdom personified speaks of her vital role in the proper governance of the world. Earthly leaders ultimately rely on divine wisdom to establish order, as she proclaims, "By me kings reign, and rulers decree justice" (v. 15).



