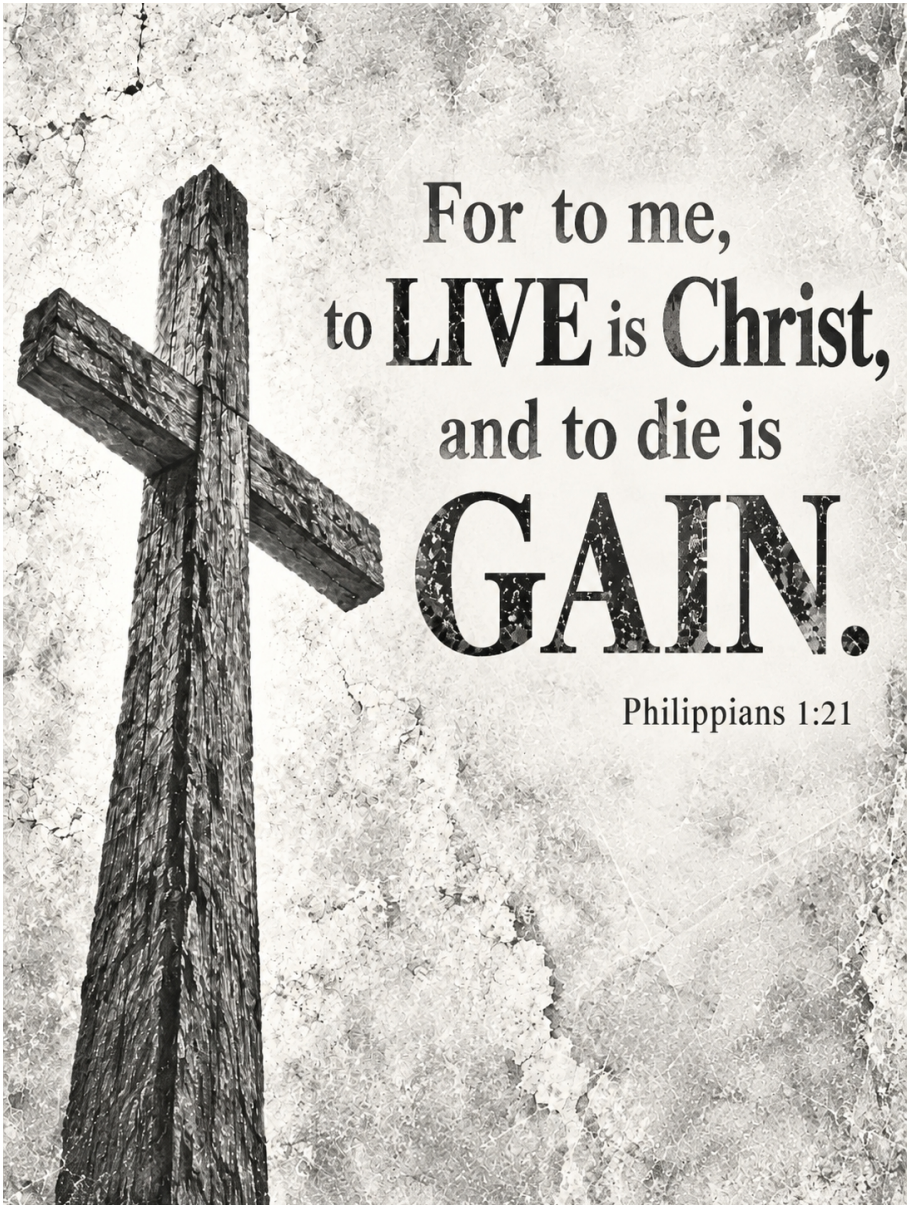




Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

What does it mean to belong to Christ when life does not go the way we hoped? Paul wrote to the Philippians from prison, uncertain what the future would hold. Yet his confidence was not rooted in comfortable circumstances, personal success, or even the prospect of a long life. His hope rested in Jesus Christ, who had redeemed him and made him His own. That gave Paul a remarkable way of looking at both life and death: “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21). As we gather today, we come with our own uncertainties, fears, responsibilities, and hopes. Through His Word, our Lord directs our eyes again to Christ, our life now and our sure hope forever.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

742 – Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Phil 1:21; Psalms 27:1; Isaiah 55:6; Romans 14:8

P For to me, to live is Christ,

C And to die is gain.

P The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

C The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

P Seek the LORD while He may be found,

C Call upon Him while He is near.

P Whether we live or die,

C We are the Lord's.

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near to God with a true heart and confess our sins, trusting not in our own goodness, but in His abundant mercy.

C Almighty and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have trusted our own wisdom instead of Your Word. We have measured Your goodness by what seems fair to us. We have complained when Your ways did not match our desires, and we have failed to live as those who belong to Christ. We have loved ourselves more than our neighbor, feared loss more than we have trusted You, and sought our own glory rather than the glory of Jesus. For these and all our sins, we are truly sorry and ask You to have mercy on us for the sake of Your Son.

P Hear the Word of the Lord: “Let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.” God’s thoughts are higher than our thoughts, and His mercy is greater than our sin. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, lived the perfect life we have failed to live, bore our sins in His body on the cross, and rose again in victory over sin and death. Because of Christ, God has reconciled you to Himself. Therefore, by the authority of Christ and at His command, 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 musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy' are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics 'on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.' The notation includes various note values (quarter, eighth, and half notes) and rests, with some notes beamed together. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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 55:6-9

⁶ Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.

⁷ Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. ⁸ "For My thoughts are not your thoughts,

Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. ⁹ “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 27:1-9

- P** The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear?
C **The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?**
P When the wicked came against me To eat up my flesh,
C **My enemies and foes, They stumbled and fell.**
P Though an army may encamp against me, My heart shall not fear;
C **Though war may rise against me, In this I will be confident.**
P One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek:
C **That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life,**
P To behold the beauty of the LORD,
C **And to inquire in His temple.**
P For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion;
C **In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.**
P And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me;
C **Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.**
P Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice!
C **Have mercy also upon me, and answer me.**
P When You said, “Seek My face,”
C **My heart said to You, “Your face, LORD, I will seek.”**
P Do not hide Your face from me; Do not turn Your servant away in anger;
You have been my help;
C **Do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 20:1-16

¹ “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. ⁵ Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. ⁶ And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.’ ⁸ “So when evening had come, the owner of the

vineyard said to his steward, ‘Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.’ ⁹ And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. ¹⁰ But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. ¹¹ And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.’ ¹³ But he answered one of them and said, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ ¹⁴ Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. ¹⁵ Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.”

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.

Sermon Text

Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

¹² But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; ¹⁴ and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. ¹⁹ For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, ²⁰ according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. ²⁴ Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. ²⁵ And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, ²⁶ that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again. ²⁷ Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, ³⁰ having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.

*Sermon***To Live is Christ, and to Die is Gain**

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.

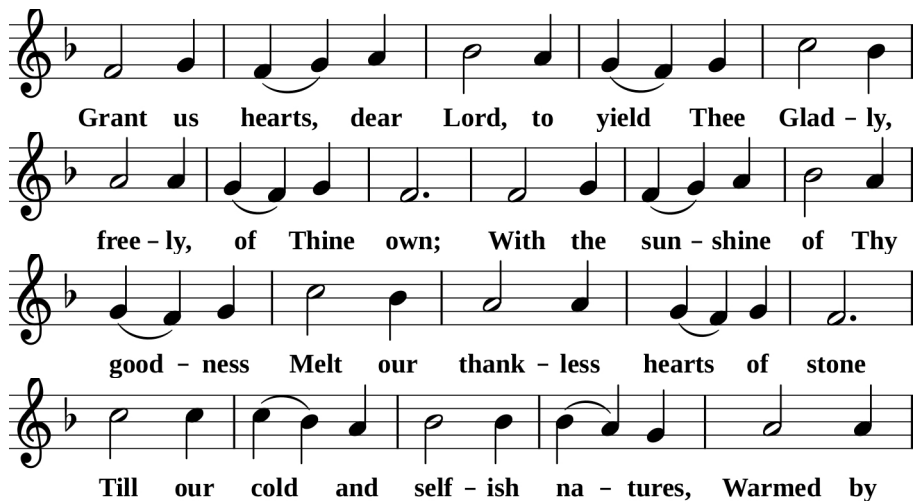
Hymn

527 – Lord, It Belongs Not to My Care

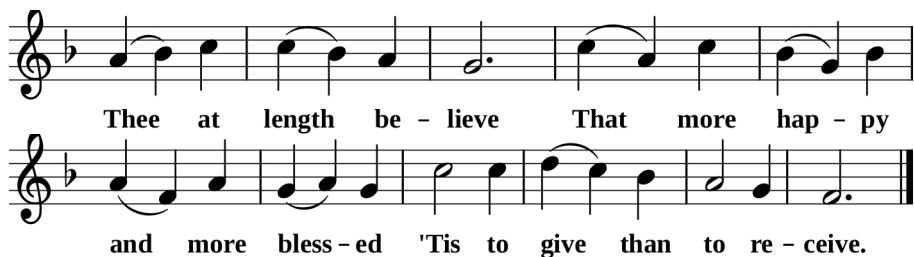
Offering

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

608 – Let Thoughtless Thousands Choose the Road

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✝ Announcements ✝

Upcoming Schedule – winterhavenlutheran.com/church-calendar

September 20	9:15am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
September 25	10:30 am	Learning with Littles
September 27	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
October 2	11:30 am	ILS – Early Release
October 4	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
		Mission Festival – ILS Children Sing
	11:30 am	Church Council

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

- **October 4** – Church Council
- **November 1** – Education/Elders/Quarterly Voters’ Meeting
- **December 6** – Board of Trustees/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: Which is better: to say no and later obey, or to say yes and never follow through? Jesus’ little story in Matthew 21:23–32 seems easy enough at first, but the more you listen, the more uncomfortable the question becomes. It is possible to sound faithful, look faithful, and still resist God. It is also possible to have a past full of wrong answers and yet be brought to repentance and faith. So who is the son who truly says yes to the Father? And where does that leave people like us, whose obedience is never as complete as it should be? Next Sunday, we’ll hear Jesus’ answer under the theme “The Son Who Truly Said Yes.”

Church Work Day – November 7: Mark your calendars for our church work day on Saturday, November 7. We’ll be working together on various projects around the church and school grounds. There will be jobs for a variety of ages and abilities, so please plan to join us if you are able. Many hands make light work, and it’s always a good opportunity to enjoy some fellowship while caring for the property God has entrusted to us. More details will be shared as the date approaches.

CLC Call News: Pastor Zachary Sippert of Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, Sleepy Eye, MN, has received the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor Glenn Oster of Gift of God Lutheran Church, Fairfax, VA, has returned the call to Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA. <> 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 returned the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Mr. Nick Naumann has returned the call to St. Luke's Ev. Lutheran Church, Lemmon, SD. <> Pastor Tom Schuetze of St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, Lakewood, CO, has returned the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Matthew Hanel of St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Church, Dallas, TX, has received the call to Gift of God Lutheran Church, Mapleton, ND, and to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ponsford, MN. <> Pastor Aaron Ude of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Rapid City, SD, has received the call to St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, Austin, MN.



✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

September 21–26, 2026

Monday - *Acts 16:19-34*

Paul and Silas are beaten and imprisoned for preaching Christ, yet even in the stocks they pray and sing hymns. God uses their suffering to bring the jailer and his household to hear the Gospel, showing how Christ can advance His saving Word through circumstances that look like defeat.

Tuesday - *2 Corinthians 5:1-10*

Paul compares our present body to a temporary tent and points us to the eternal dwelling God has prepared. Because Christ has conquered death, believers can face mortality with courage, longing to be with the Lord while using the life He gives us now to serve Him.

Wednesday - *Psalms 73:23-28*

The psalmist confesses that God continually holds him by the hand and guides him with His counsel. Earthly strength and possessions may fail, but the Lord remains the believer's portion forever, so that being near to God is our true and lasting good.

Thursday - *Matthew 19:27-30*

Peter asks what the disciples will receive after leaving everything to follow Jesus. Christ promises that no sacrifice made for His name is forgotten, but He also overturns human calculations of worth: many who are first will be last, and the last first.

Friday - *Luke 23:39-43*

One criminal mocks Jesus, while the other confesses his guilt and looks to the crucified King for mercy. With no opportunity to earn or repay anything, he receives Jesus' astonishing promise of Paradise - a vivid picture of salvation given by grace.

Saturday - *2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18*

Paul knows that his earthly departure is near, yet he speaks with confidence about the crown the Lord will give. The same Savior who stood by him through danger will finally bring him safely into His heavenly kingdom.

