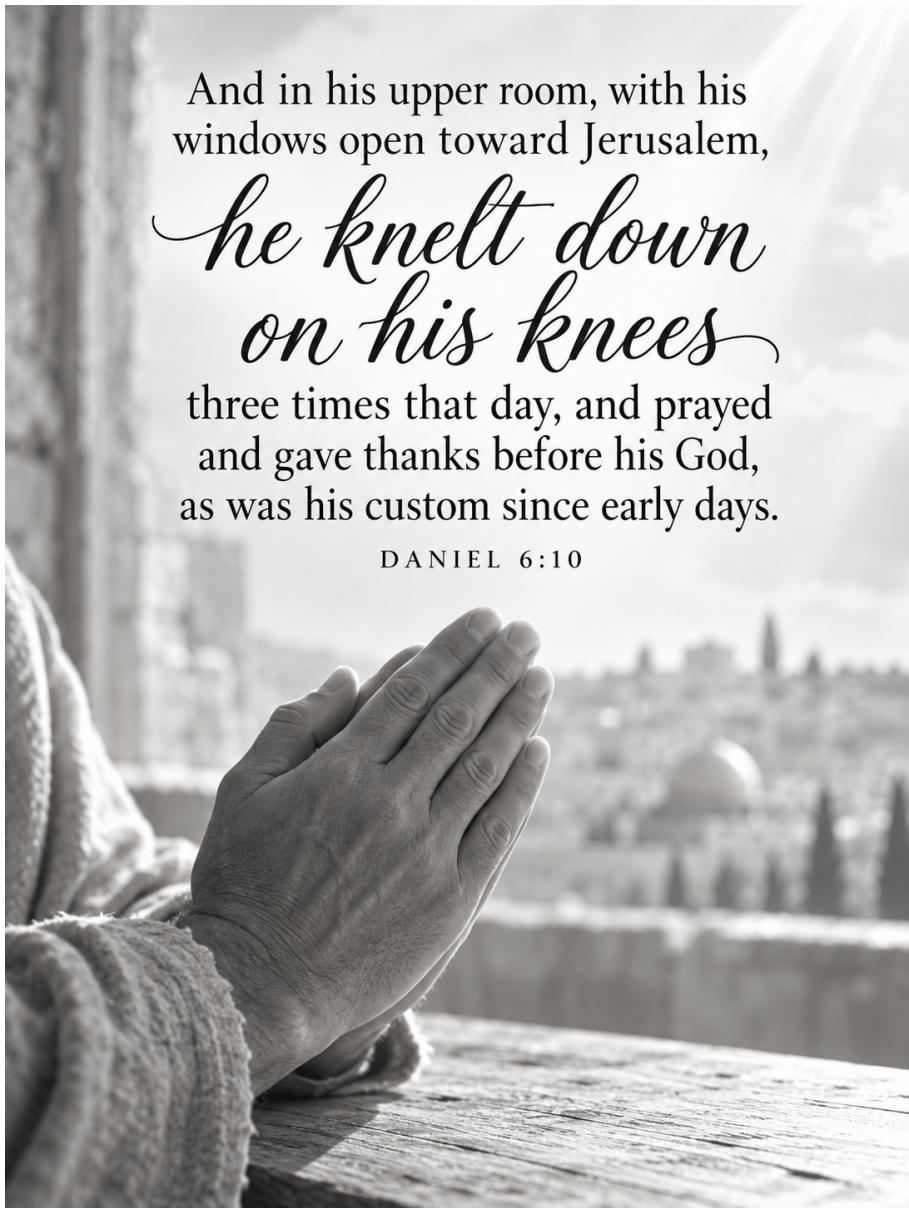


And in his upper room, with his
windows open toward Jerusalem,
*he knelt down
on his knees*
three times that day, and prayed
and gave thanks before his God,
as was his custom since early days.

DANIEL 6:10



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

Today, we celebrate the enduring truth of God's Word and the bold faith it creates in His people. Centuries before Martin Luther stood before the emperor, the prophet Daniel faced his own life-or-death test. Threatened with the roaring jaws of lions, Daniel simply went to his window and prayed, refusing to hide his faith. In a world that still tries to muzzle the truth of the Gospel and intimidate believers, how do we remain steadfast? As we gather around God's Word today, prepare your hearts to explore "A Confession That Cannot Be Silenced." May the Holy Spirit strengthen our trust in the God who still shuts the mouths of lions.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

774 – A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Ps 51:5; 119:46; Rom 1:16a; Matt 10:27

P O Lord, open my lips,

C And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

P I will speak of Your testimonies also before kings,

C And will not be ashamed.

P For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ,

C For it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.

P Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed,

C And hidden that will not be known.

P What I tell you in the dark, speak in the light;

C And what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops.

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord! Though called to bold confession, we often let fear silence our witness amidst the roaring threats of this world. We shrink back when we should stand firm, and trust our own righteousness rather than Christ's free grace. Let us therefore draw near with a true heart, confessing our sins to God our Father and asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

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. I confess that I have often hidden my faith out of fear of the world. I have failed to speak Your truth, and I have compromised Your Word to avoid the world's displeasure. I have tried to justify myself by my own deeds, forgetting that by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in Your sight. But I am truly sorry for these sins 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

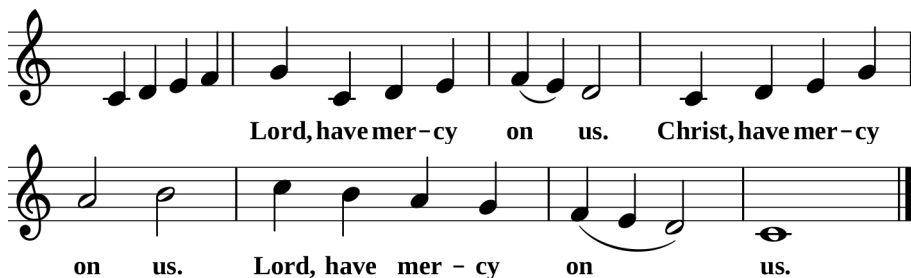
Gloria Patri

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



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 3:19-28

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. ²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now the

righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷ Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 46

- P** God is our refuge and strength,
- C** **A very present help in trouble.**
- P** Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed,
- C** **And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;**
- P** Though its waters roar and be troubled,
- C** **Though the mountains shake with its swelling.**
- P** There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God,
- C** **The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High.**
- P** God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved;
- C** **God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.**
- P** The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved;
- C** **He uttered His voice, the earth melted.**
- P** The Lord of hosts is with us;
- C** **The God of Jacob is our refuge.**
- P** Come, behold the works of the Lord,
- C** **Who has made desolations in the earth.**
- P** He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
- C** **He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariot in the fire.**
- P** Be still, and know that I am God;
- C** **I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!**
- P** The Lord of hosts is with us;
- C** **The God of Jacob is our refuge.**

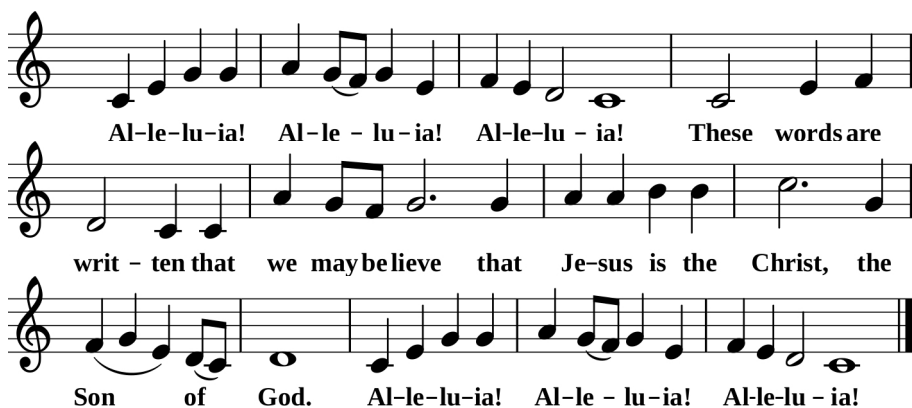
Gospel Reading

Matthew 10:16-23

¹⁶ “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. ¹⁷ But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. ¹⁸ You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; ²⁰ for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you. ²¹ “Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. ²² And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved. ²³ When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

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

263 – O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe

Sermon Text

Daniel 6:10-12, 16-23

¹⁰ Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days. ¹¹ Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. ¹² And they went before the king, and spoke concerning the king's decree: "Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?" The king answered and said, "The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter." ¹⁶ So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you." ¹⁷ Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed. ¹⁸ Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no musicians were brought before him. Also his sleep went from him. ¹⁹ Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions. ²⁰ And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" ²¹ Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! ²² My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you." ²³ Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God.



Sermon

A Confession That Cannot Be Silenced

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.

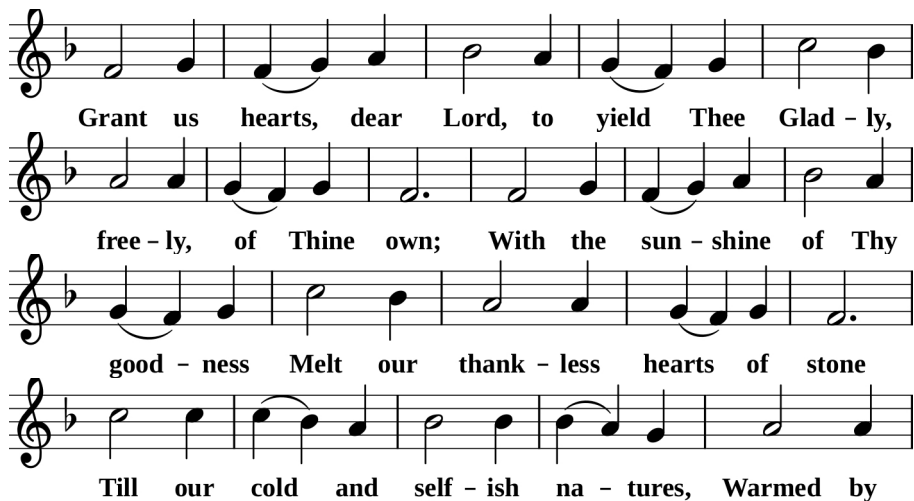
Hymn

775 (1, 3-5) – Thy Strong Word

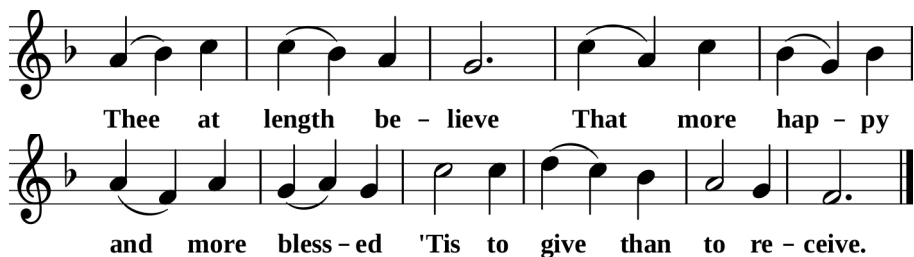
Offering

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

261 – Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word

“Lord, Have Mercy” – Tune: © John C. Reim. Used by permission. “Glory to God, We Give You Thanks” – Text: Edwin LeGrice © 1991, Kevin Mayhew. Tune: Walter Greatorex © 1991, Oxford University Press. Used by permission. “General Verse from Christian Worship, Service of the Word” – Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer. Used by permission. Hymns and liturgical settings under copyright are reprinted with permission under One License #A-741527. All Rights Reserved. Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

✝ Announcements ✝

Upcoming Schedule – winterhavenlutheran.com/church-calendar

October 25	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
October 30	6:30 pm	Family Fall Festival
November 1	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Quarterly Voters' Meeting/Board of Education/Board of Elders
November 7	9:00 am	Church Work Day
November 8	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)

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

- **November 1** – Education/Elders/Quarterly Voters' Meeting
- **December 6** – Board of Trustees/Church Council
- **January 3** – Annual 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: Sometimes it seems as though evil has the upper hand. The world grows increasingly hostile to God's Word, Christians face trials and suffering, and death itself appears to have the final say. But is that really how the story ends? On All Saints' Day, Revelation 14:1–7 gives us a glimpse of what God sees: the Lamb standing victorious on Mount Zion, surrounded by those He has redeemed. The powers of this world may rage, but they cannot defeat Christ or take His people from Him. Next Sunday, under the theme “The Lamb Has the Last Word,” we'll see why the victory of Jesus gives us courage for today and certain hope for eternity.

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 Rob Sauers of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, FL, has returned the call from the CLC Board of Missions to serve as Part-Time Missionary to India. <> Pastor Frank Gantt of Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Loganville, GA, and Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO, has returned the call to St. Luke’s Ev. Lutheran Church, Lemmon, SD. <> Pastor Paul Krause of Trinity Lutheran Church, Watertown, SD, and Zion Lutheran Church, Hidewood Township, SD, has accepted the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison Heights, MI. <> Pastor Neal Radichel of Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, has received the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Saginaw, MI, has received the call to Gift of God Lutheran Church, Mapleton, ND, and to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Ponsford, MN.

Fruits of Faith		October 18, 2026		Attendance: WH – 24	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>			<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>		
<i>General Budget</i>			<i>General Budget</i>		
\$1,222.50	General Budget		\$0.00	CLC General Budget	
\$1,362.00	Weekly Need		\$67.31	Weekly Need	
-\$139.50	-Under / +Over		-\$67.31	-Under / +Over	
\$54,931.17	Year to Date Offerings		\$1,625.00	Year to Date Offerings	
\$57,204.00	Year to Date Need		\$2,827.02	Year to Date Need	
-\$2,272.83	Year to Date (+/-)		-\$1,202.02	Year to Date (+/-)	
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>			<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		
\$50.00	Building Fund				
\$10.00	Benevolence				
Memorial: \$575.00 for Gail Sedberry (to General Budget)					



✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

October 26–31, 2026

Monday - *Habakkuk 2:1-4*

The prophet waits for the LORD's answer while the proud trust themselves. God's promise stands firm even when it seems delayed, and the central contrast is clear: the proud soul is not upright, but "the just shall live by his faith."

Tuesday - *Galatians 2:15-21*

Paul insists that sinners are not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. Our old claim to righteousness dies with Christ, and the new life we live is lived by faith in the Son of God who loved us and gave Himself for us.

Wednesday - *Jeremiah 23:23-29*

The LORD condemns prophets who substitute their own dreams for His Word. Human words are like straw, but God's Word is like fire and like a hammer that breaks rock, because He Himself works through what He has spoken.

Thursday - *Psalms 119:41-48*

The psalmist asks for God's merciful salvation according to His Word and then speaks of walking at liberty. Confidence and freedom are found not by escaping God's truth, but by clinging to His testimonies and speaking them without shame.

Friday - *John 8:31-36*

Jesus tells those who believe Him to abide in His Word, for His truth brings genuine freedom. Sin is a slavery no human effort can break, but when the Son sets a person free, that freedom is real and lasting.

Saturday - *Romans 5:1-11*

Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through Jesus Christ and stand in grace. Christ died for us while we were still sinners and enemies, so our confidence rests not in our works but in the reconciliation He accomplished.

