

Who Am I? Called to Live Different

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Welcome to Immanuel where God is with us!



'Immanuel' is a name the Bible uses for Jesus. It means 'God is with us.' When born Christmas Day, Jesus is literally 'with us.' He lives 'with us' to save us.

Jesus is still 'with us.' We have his words, the Bible. It teaches our constant need for a Savior, reveals God's forgiveness, and guides our Christian living.

To our guests, we extend a warm welcome and are happy to have you worship with us! If you have questions for our pastor, please catch him after service or scan this QR code with the camera on your smart device. He would love to assist as possible.



Our congregation offers these services should you need them:

- Copies of the sermon are on usher's cart at the back of the sanctuary.
- Bible story color sheets, also on the usher's cart.
- A nursery at the rear of the sanctuary.
- Restrooms directly behind the usher's cart, a water cooler to your left.

Today's Worship Focus



Christ is the center of our worship. We follow a yearly set of readings that explores and applies the life, work, and teachings of Christ for us.

We are in the **Time of the Church**. Troubles challenge faith, but Christians rely on God's Word and sacraments to keep faith strong. God's Word and sacraments also assure Christians of safely reaching their heavenly home.

Prayers before service may be found in the blue hymnal, page III & 255-258.

Our worship service is printed in this bulletin (also printed in the hymnal; The Service: Setting One, page 154). Consider taking a moment to become familiar with it.

Current Series: Who Am I?

Today: Called to Live Differently

NEW SERIES- Identity seeks to uncover what makes 'you,' 'you.' God's

bond to us defines who we are and how we live.

Next Week: A Blessed Saint Now

A broken past may make it difficult to count yourself forgiven. God proclaims real forgiveness— grasped by faith now, seen fully soon.

Readings: Revelation 21:1-6, Hebrews 11:32-40, Luke 6:20-23

OPENING HYMN #867

"Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near"
Sunday School sing verses 1 & 3 (plus refrains); congregation sings verse 4 (plus refrain) (Stand for final verse)



INVOCATION

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Congregation: Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them. (Psalm 32:1-2)

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done the things that we should not have done, and we have not done the things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever!

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



SONG OF PRAISE #570



THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the church your saving peace. We ask this

through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God. now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:31-34

The 'new covenant' [forgiveness through Jesus] transforms hearts to follow God

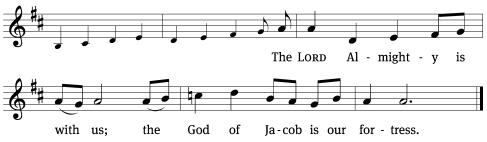
³¹"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. ³³"This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 46a

Christians trust in and celebrate the power of the Lord in the face of every evil attack Refrain





God is our ref- / uge and strength, an ever-present help in / trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the / earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart / of the sea, though its waters / roar and foam and the mountains quake with their / surging.

Refrain

There is a river whose streams make glad the cit-/y of God, the holy place where the Most / High dwells.

God is within her, she / will not fall;

God will help her at / break of day.

"Be still, and know that / I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted / in the earth."

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son and to the Holy / Spirit, as it was in the be- / ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen.

Refrain

SECOND READING Galatians 5:1-6

Trying to earn eternal life condemns you; trusting Jesus for eternal life saves you

¹It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. ²Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. ³Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. ⁴You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. ⁶For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 8:31, 32



If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

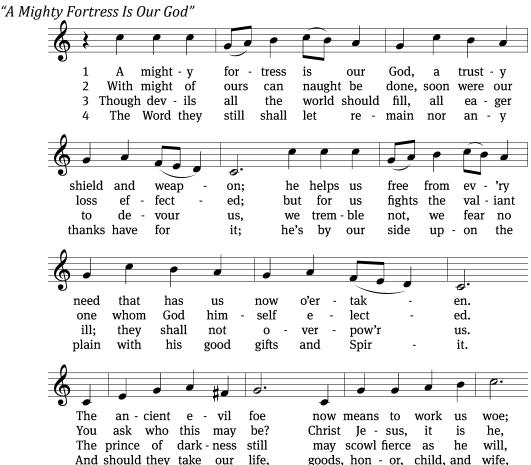
Refrain

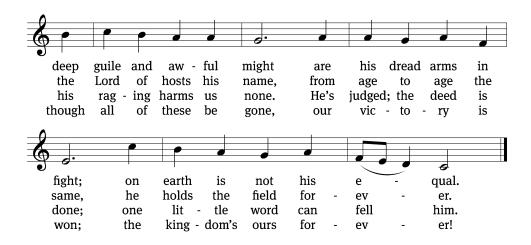
³¹To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³²Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" ³⁴Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!







SERMON John 8:31-34

Set Free by the Son!

- 1. From sin's inescapable condemnation.
- 2. To live under God's truthful Word.

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.

OFFERING

At this time our offering will be brought forward and presented to the Lord. For those still desiring to give an offering, an offering plate remains near the Usher's Cart at the back of the church.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Since the beginning of time, O Lord, you have spoken to humanity.

Even though people have sought to silence your voice, you have pierced the vale of silence with your powerful Word.

Through Moses and the prophets you made your will known among us.

When your messages were ignored, you miraculously embodied your Word in the person of Jesus Christ.

Again some tried to still your voice by nailing your Word to a cross, **but you could not be silenced.**

You raised your "Word made flesh" from the dead so that many have heard the message. We thank you, Lord, that we have hear the message through Christ.

Many have been the heroes and saints who have, at great personal sacrifice, handed the Gospel on to us today.

Many sacrificed their lives in the defense of your truth and the Gospel.

In spite of their efforts, human barriers have often curtailed the free distribution, teaching, and preaching of your Word.

Many times your Word has been buried under the rubble of man-made laws and traditions.

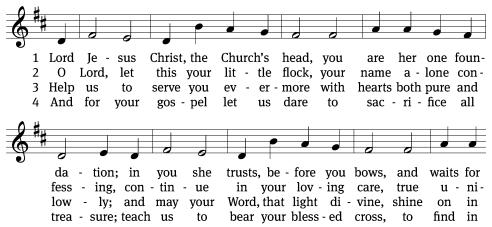
But you have always brought forth one of your chosen servants to restore your Word. For giving us such men to lead us out of spiritual darkness into the marvelous light of the Gospel, we give you thanks.

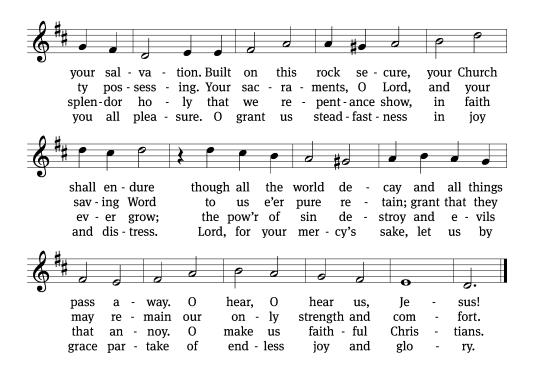
Help us, O Lord, to treasure your Word, and guard it with a due sense of appreciation for those who have made its presence in our midst possible.

Help us to read, hear, and inwardly digest it so that we may grow in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN #861

"Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head"





Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BLESSING

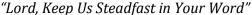
The Lord bless you and keep you.

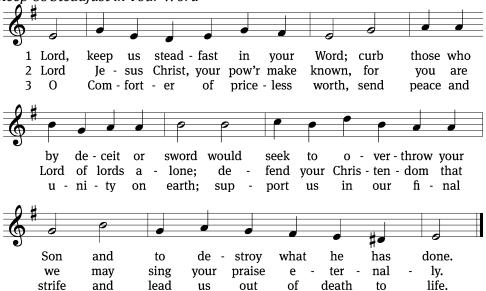
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #862





Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday (10/26)	8:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:15 AM 1:00-3:00 PM	Worship Sunday School / Bible Class Worship Trunk or Treat	
Monday (10/27)	6:30 PM	Council meeting	
Wednesday (10/29)	3:45 PM 6:30 PM	Catechism Bible Class	
Sunday (11/2)	8:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship (w. Holy Communion) Sunday School / Bible Class Worship (w. Holy Communion)	

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS Sunday, November 2! Don't forget to set your clocks <u>back</u> one hour this Saturday.

BIBLE CLASSES Join us on Sunday mornings as we meet to study of Church-Mission-Ministry. Can you define 'church'? And, what does a 'church' exist to do? How does a 'church' actually do what it says it will do? ... Do you have clear, concrete answers to those questions? As a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, consider studying the reason for the existence of your congregation. Gain a clear picture of your church's greatest goal and how it strives to reach that goal. Haven't attended Bible Class before? This is a great time to come, sit, study, listen, and learn!

Wednesdays at 6:30pm, we will spend several weeks wrestling with life's highest priority as discussed in <u>Ecclesiastes</u>. This Bible book, with many somber notes, peels back the 'layers of life' so that you find real focus through life's work, possessions, and responsibilities. <u>All materials will</u> be provided.

LONG RANGE SURVEY FOR IMMANUEL MEMBERS The Church Council seeks your input regarding perceived needs for facility improvements. Each Immanuel member (over age 18) received a survey in their church mailbox. Please complete and return to <u>mailbox marked 'SURVEY'</u> **TODAY.** Direct questions to church president Matt Sondelski (715-573-1389) or Pastor Ewald

TRUNK OR TREAT We need your help! You still have an opportunity to join in the fun at Immanuel Lutheran's Community Trunk or Treat today **from 1-3pm.** In order for this to be a success, we're looking for help in a number of areas:

- Consider signing up to decorate your car and handing out candy to the youth who will attend this event. We're hoping for 350 in attendance. Need ideas for decorating? How about the Ninja Turtles or My Little Pony, or why not portray one of the Bible stories you know and love! Look at Pinterest for ideas!
- We need volunteers to direct parking, help stuff treat bags, assist with games, and help in other ways as well. Sign-up sheets are found on church bulletin board.

Cars should be in place by 12 noon. Candy will be provided if needed.

PIGGLY WIGGLY FUND - Thanks to all who have been saving Lee's Piggly Wiggly receipts. We have \$7,771 in the Pig Fund. For every 2,500 Pig Points Immanuel receives a \$25 gift card, which is then sold to members of the congregation. The money collected from selling the gift cards is used for local ministry. **Please continue to save your receipts from the Piggly Wiggly.** A box labeled 'Piggly Wiggly Receipts' is near the mailboxes for you to deposit your saved receipts.

FAITH COMES BY HEARING Ladies Aid is sponsoring a project to buy "Bible Sticks" for our troops and their families, as well as, putting audio Bibles (Proclaimers) into the hands of all people. For more information about *Faith Comes by Hearing* please speak with a Ladies Aid member. Donations to this wonderful way of sharing the gospel are due by December 7th. Please make checks out to Immanuel Ladies Aid and place them in the Ladies Aid mail box. Thank you.

OWLS We have a very interesting presentation in November with Pastor Wranovsky talking about "Becoming a Pastor in the 21st Century". We will meet at Our Savior's Lutheran School (go in the

main school entrance on Flieth St) November 11th at 11:30. As always, guests are encouraged to attend. Questions, please contact Evan or Sandy Dobberfuhl, 715-693-1337

ST PETER MEN'S CLUB VETERANS NIGHT You are invited to the St. Peter Men's Club Annual Veterans Night on November 17th starting at 5:30 pm (supper provided). This event will feature Glen Zimmerman, who served as a member of the U.S. Army in Vietnam from July 1969 through September 1970. **See the entryway bulletin board for Glen's biography.** To RSVP, please call the St Peter Church Office by November 9th.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Little Lions Childcare, a ministry of St. Matthew's in Marathon, is seeking a temporary preschool teacher. We are looking for someone to be the lead teacher in our 4-year-old room for the remainder of the school year (end of June 2026). If you can help, but not for the entire time, we welcome that as well. Teaching experience and a heart for Jesus are the most important requirements. Have questions or are interested in helping, contact the director: Stephanie Treder (director@littlelionschildcare.org); 715-443-5800 (center); 920-767-1961 (cell).

CIRCLE OF JOY FOOD DRIVE Food donations for *Circle of Joy* will be collected during the month of November. Donations can be dropped off in the boxes under the mailboxes. Please see the bulletin board for a list of needed items. Thank you.

NLHS FRUIT SALE *The fruit sale is back!* We have a large variety of quality fruits available this year, perfect for the upcoming holiday season! All proceeds from the fruit sale are used to support Northland's vision of preparing students for this life and eternity through premier Christ-centered education. You can find the fruit flyer, meat & cheese flyer, and the order form on the church bulletin board. All orders must be turned in to NLHS by **November 24, 2025**. Order pick up will be December 12, 9 AM - 3 PM and December 13, 9 AM - 12 PM.

Serving You in Worship:					
	Usher	Live Streaming	Display		
Sunday					
Oct. 26, 8:00 AM	Oct. 26, 8:00 AM Kevin Leder		Tracy Pawlowski		
Sunday			•		
Oct. 26, 10:15 AM	William Bandell		Nicole Luedtke		
Sunday					
Nov. 2, 8:00 AM	Dan Colrud	Ethan Sondelski	Dillan Sondelski		
Sunday					
Nov. 2, 10:15 AM	Rod Sparby		Clara Ewald		

NORTHLAND NOTES

DO YOU HAVE A THRIVENT ACCOUNT? If you have a Thrivent account you are eligible for a grant that can help Northland! We can help you every step of the way! Please contact Stacy Summers at 715-212-4610 or opportunities@nlhs.org.

DIME & DOLLAR - Both our Wausau and WI Rapids Dime & Dollar Thrift Store locations are in need of volunteers. No amount of time is too little and with a variety of duties, you can volunteer doing something you enjoy!

WELS 175TH ANNIVERSARY

2025 celebrates the 175th Anniversary of the founding of WELS (the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod). At the end of each month, enjoy brief vignettes highlighting areas of WELS history. (Additional resources may be found at https://welshistoricalinstitute.org/175th/)

This anniversary is an opportunity to remember God's grace to WELS. He has permitted the message of Christ to be proclaimed to us and through us, so that from those small beginnings WELS is today a nationwide and worldwide church body. Very few Lutheran church bodies have retained their identity and can trace their history as far back as WELS can. That is a gift of God's grace working through his Word. Our synod has had the privilege of proclaiming that message of God's grace in Christ for 175 years. This is a story worth remembering and telling.

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF WELS



"The results could have been tragic. . . . That they were not was because the Lord of the church once again did all things well."

–Prof. Edward Fredrich in The Wisconsin Synod Lutherans about the break with the Missouri Synod

THE BREAK WITH MISSOURI

In 1869 the Wisconsin and Missouri Synods officially declared fellowship, beginning a fruitful relationship that lasted more than 90 years.

However, problems began in 1938 when the Missouri Synod resolved that its 1932 confessional declaration, "Brief Statement," together with the "Declaration of the Representatives" from the American Lutheran Church (ALC) be regarded as the doctrinal basis for future church fellowship without resolving the doctrinal issues that had separated the two church bodies for decades. Later joint confessions of the two groups failed to demonstrate that concord on the disputed doctrines had been reached.

Other events indicated that the Wisconsin and Missouri Synods were drifting apart. The Wisconsin Synod believed that participation in the military chaplaincy as it was constituted presented problems with the divinity of the call and church fellowship. The Missouri Synod approved participation in the chaplaincy. In 1944, the Missouri Synod abandoned its historic opposition to the Scouting movement. The Wisconsin Synod continued to oppose participation because of work righteousness wording inherent in Scouting materials, a false oath, and religious fellowship in the organization without regard to doctrinal differences.

In 1944, the Missouri Synod made an official distinction between "joint prayer" and "prayer fellowship." This resolution involved a departure from long-standing Missouri Synod and Synodical Conference teachings of the doctrine of church fellowship

and gave official sanction to false practice. In 1945, some 44 pastors, leaders, and theologians of the Missouri Synod issued a statement that rejected the synod's historical understanding of fellowship. This document was allowed to be withdrawn rather than retracted as false doctrine.

As the years progressed, many instances of the practice of church fellowship occurred between the ALC and the Missouri Synod, even though doctrinal agreement had not been reached nor fellowship declared. A Missouri Synod seminary professor delivered



The WELS publication announcing the decisions of the 1961 synod convention. Notice the top headline.

an essay that challenged the verbal inspiration of Scripture and allowed for errors in the Bible. Though some protested the essay, the author was never disciplined. The Missouri Synod seemed to be unable or unwilling to exercise doctrinal discipline.

When the committee tasked with determining whether the Wisconsin and Missouri Synods were still in doctrinal unity reported that the two synods could not reach agreement in the doctrine of church fellowship, WELS, meeting in convention in 1961, suspended fellowship with the Missouri Synod.

Though some predicted that a break in fellowship would result in the end of the Wisconsin Synod, God blessed the synod with rapid home and world mission growth, an increasing number of parish schools, and expanding enrollments in its ministerial education schools.

