12th Sunday after Pentecost

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lakefield, Minnesota ~ LCMS August 31, 2025



Following in Humility

As We Gather

Entering the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the traditional site of the birth of Jesus, is one of the most memorable experiences for any Christian pilgrim visiting the Holy Land. First constructed at the commission of Roman Emperor Constantine the Great in AD 326, the church is on the oldest site continually used for worship by Christians anywhere in the world. Although the basilica initially had a grand arched entrance in its first thousand years, it came into a period of disuse and neglect after the conquest of the Holy Land by the Islamic rulers of the Ottoman Empire in AD 1516. In an effort to prevent people from entering the church with horses and cattle, the Christians caring for the building at that time walled up the main entrance, leaving only a very small door. This opening has ever since been known as the "Door of Humility." It makes a most fitting way for those who come to worship at the site of the manger of the Christ Child to enter that sacred space. Where we worship here and now is also a sacred space. Although we may not have needed to bow down to enter the front door today, bringing an attitude of humility to our worship of our gracious Lord is truly fitting for us.

PREPARATION

Hymn: 850 God of Grace and God of Glory



Invocation

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 149:1-4

- Praise the LORD! Sing to the Lord a new song,
- C His praise in the assembly of the godly!
- P Let Israel be glad in his Maker;
- let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!
- Let them praise His name with dancing, making melody to Him with tambourine and lyre!
- **C** For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with salvation.

Confession and Absolution

- P It is good and right that we should make confession of our sins. The section on confession in Luther's catechism instructs us with these words:

 "Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven."

 Humble yourselves, then, before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.
- O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your present and eternal punishment. By nature, I am a sinful creature. By thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a

penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all of my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.

- **P** God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.
- C Amen.
- As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant 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.

WORD

Introit

Psalm 75:1–2, 6, 9; antiphon: v. 7

- P It is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another.
- We give thanks to You, O God; we give thanks, for Your name is near.
 We recount Your wondrous deeds.
- At the set time that I appoint I will judge with equity.
- For not from the east or from the west and not from the wilderness comes lifting up.
- P But I will declare it forever; I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.
- 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.
- It is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another.

Salutation

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

O Lord of grace and mercy, teach us by Your Holy Spirit to follow the example of Your Son in true humility, that we may withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds avoid ungodly pride; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 98:4-9

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it!

Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.

- He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.
- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.

Fear the LORD, you his saints,

for those who fear him lack nothing!

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say,

"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life. and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do

good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Verse Luke 14:11

C Alleluia. Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 14:1-14

- The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter.
- **C** Glory to You, O Lord.

One Sabbath, when [Jesus] went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. And he said to them, "Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?" And they could not reply to these things.

Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when

you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.



Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Make a Joyful Noise

Catechism

The Third Article

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.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Immanuel Lutheran School Staff Dedication Prayer of the Church

- P God, our Savior, wants all people to come to know the truth. Let us pray for ourselves and for the church everywhere, that we may persevere in grace, and for all people, that we may share with them the joy we have in the unity of Christ. For the church, the gathering of God's people; for the clergy of the church that the Holy Spirit confirm then in their apostolic mission; for all Christians, that persevering in grace, we may proclaim the kingdom of heaven in our lives, let us pray:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For all public servants, that they zealously promote justice and the common good; for industrial workers, that their productivity provide blessing for

all; for favorable weather, that we may give thanks for a good harvest, let us pray:

C Lord, have mercy.

- P For the homeless and the hungry; for the physically and mentally ill and the aged and infirm, that we cherish Christ in them and surround them with our care, [especially...], and that each of us would be graced with holy humility that we may find our joy in humble service in Jesus' name in every situation, let us pray:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of our missionaries, missionary teachers, medical personnel, and all Christian aid workers, that their work be unhindered and be a continuing source of blessings in Jesus' name, let us pray:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- With thanks for the faithful examples set by those whose earthly journeys are complete and whose witness to Christ still inspires us, and also for this holy assembly here and now, that sealed with the promised Spirit, we may witness to the fullness of God's love, let us pray:
- Be merciful, Lord God, and hear our prayers; grant Your Holy Spirit to plead for us and guide Your church into all truth and holiness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Offering

Hymn: 786 Lord of All Good



Tune: Henry Lawes, 1595–1662

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Tune: Public domain

Lord's Prayer

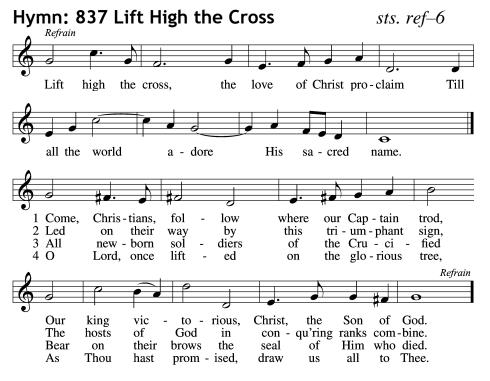
Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

C Amen.



- 5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain
- 6 So shall our song of triumph ever be: Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956, alt.

Tune: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947

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Assisting with the Service

Preacher Rev. Eric Obermann

Elder Steve Matasovsky Organist Brenda Matasovsky

Acolyte Jada Milbrath & Zadi Farmer

Usher Ron Gettler & Merle Hendricksen

We Remember in our Prayers

Annunciation Catholic Church and School in Minneapolis students, staff, families, and community

Butch Bakalyar, nephew of Bruce and Jan Bakalyar, recovering from surgery

Jan Bakalyar undergoing surgery

Easton and Daisy Gettler

Clyde Daberkow in Hospice

Our residents at Colonial Manor, Valley View, Golden Horizons in Worthington, Accura HealthCare in Milford, Koronis in Paynesville, Good Sam in Estherville

Berniece Pauling, Merlyn Rossow, Dana Schmid, Rose Parrington, Jackie Ward, Keith Kolander, Bev Hall, dealing with health issues

Doris Rossow; Diane Hansen, wife of Pastor David
McDonald (Trinity Brewster); Miles Ramsey, toddler
cousin of Amy Altman; Pastor Dennis Brech; Joyce
Urmie, sister-in-law of Vickie Baumann; Pastor Ben
Rucker; Mitch Voehl, son of Lila Voehl; Marcus Lere,
grandson of Joyce Bretzman; Denny Daberkow; dealing
with cancer

Curt Gates, brother-in-law of Miles Voehl (Lila's son), dealing with health issues

Our Missionaries in the Field

Our Country and Our Military

SWEET CORN & PORK BURGER FUNDRAISER for Immanuel Lutheran School TODAY! Sunday, August 31 10:30-1:00





Sponsored by our friends at St. Paul Rost Lutheran Church

<u>UPDATE:</u> There is now a dollar for dollar matching fund challenge up to \$5,000!

ILS STAFF DEDICATION will take place today during the 9:00 a.m. worship service. Our Immanuel Lutheran School staff includes:

- Dean Jennissen: Principal and Early Childhood Director
- Sarah Mattila: Grades 7-8
- Gretchen Benda: Grades 5-6
- LaDonna Peterson: Grades 3-4
- Cassie Ulbricht: Grades 1-2
- Stacie Soleta: Kindergarten
- Stacy Soderholm: Preschool and PreK
- Raeleen Grein: Computer and Accelerated Reader
- Sheila Freking: Teacher Aide
- Deb Jons: Teacher Aide
- Crystal Rossow: Teacher Aide
- Amy Altman: Administrative Assistant
- Pat Pohlman: Hot Lunch

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE you may call the church office at 507-662-5718, Pastor Obermann at 563-321-0032, or speak to one of the elders.

OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED on Monday, September 1st to allow our staff to spend the Labor Day weekend holiday with their family.

CONFIRMATION HELP NEEDED: We are looking for someone to help teach the 6th grade confirmation class. This confirmation class focuses on readings from the Bible. Talk to Pastor Obermann if you are interested.



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER DEDICATION is Sunday,

September 7th during the worship service. We thank our teachers who have volunteered their time to teach the children here at Immanuel. Rally Day is also Sunday, September 7th at 10:15 a.m. Regular Sunday School classes will begin the following Sunday, September 14th. They are held from 10:15-11:15 a.m. in the Immanuel Lutheran School classrooms. We are so grateful for our Sunday School staff including:

- ◆ Teachers: Hristina Hage, April Kraft, Amber Liepold, Emily Obermann, and Roger & Shelley Pohlman
- ♦ Superintendent: Mike Dempster
- ♦ Craft Support: Deb Jons
- ♦ Subs: Monette Berkevich, Kari Byam, Sheila Freking, Lola Gunther, Deb Jons, Sarah Laabs, Suzy Milbrath, Rhonda Swanson, Breann Grein, Ami Swanson, Amber Liepold
- ♦ Cradle Roll: Amy Altman

SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 4 10:15 A.M.

Join us for Rally Day Sunday, September 7th after church starting at 10:15 a.m. It will be

on the church carport. The Board of Congregational Services is hosting activities for the kids plus there will be cookies and refreshments for all!!!

(kids, parents, and the congregation!)

BIBLES will be presented to our first grade students on Sunday, September 7th by Pastor. Our first grade students are: Kylee Aukes, Evie Obermann, Kade Pauling, and Tim Larsen.

CATECHISMS will be given to our 3rd graders during the worship service on Sunday, September 7th. Students will come forward (along with their parents) to get their catechism from Pastor. Our 3rd graders are: Charlie Aukes, Morgan Byam, Easton Gettler, Nevaeh Henning, Riley Henry, Elliott Obermann, Lena Rossow, Soriah Scholten, Jack Swanson, Tate Swenson, and Ezra Wendt.

PRAIRIE WINDS KITE FLY is Saturday, September 6th from 10:00-4:00 at the Jackson Airport. Free admission! Watch giant kites flown by pro kite flyers! Fly or make your own kite! There will be door prizes, concessions, parachute races, sidewalk chalk bubble stations, and candy drops. Come out and enjoy this free, family-friendly event. Sponsored by Wild Compass Environmental Education. The Jackson Airport is located at 54498 800th St., Jackson.

FILLING THE BALLOT for Officers of Immanuel Lutheran Church...the Nominating Committee of our Voting Assembly is in the process of nominating officers for Immanuel Lutheran Church. We encourage each and every one of you, if contacted to serve, to prayerfully consider serving your Lord in this capacity. Any questions about boards and duties can be directed to Pastor, the elders, or Amy in the church office. Remember that women can also serve on the Board of Education, Board of Trustees, Board of Finance, Board of Congregational Services, or as Congregational Secretary.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

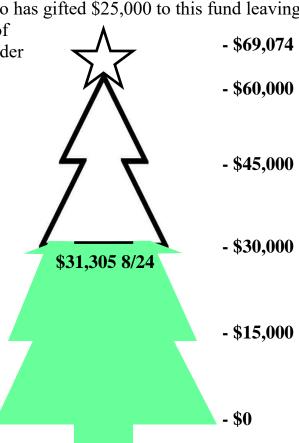
- First Day of School is Tuesday, September 2nd.
- Opening Chapel service is on Tuesday, September 2nd at 8:30 a.m. All are welcome to join us for chapel. After this first week of school, chapel will be held on Wednesday mornings at 8:20 a.m.

CHALLENGE FROM THE FINANCE BOARD: The Christmas in July Service is always a special service for our congregation. We sing some of our favorite Christmas hymns, worship outside in our Lord's creation, and gather together afterwards for a meal. At this service we also get the opportunity to show support for our school with gifts toward the Teacher Salary Fund. The gifts towards this crucial mission go towards providing payroll to our outstanding faculty who teach the young students of Immanuel to grow in Christ. The end of this school year marked our 126th anniversary. As a gift to ensure that the mission of the school in Immanuel is as eternal as God's love, let us challenge ourselves to give 12.6% of our salaries and benefits of school faculty in the amount of \$69,074 as a special giving project. There has been an anonymous donor who has gifted \$25,000 to this fund leaving

a remaining balance of \$44,074. Please consider making a gift above and beyond your normal offering.

There will be a tracking thermometer in the Narthex to follow along with as we work towards this goal.

We will also be tracking our progress on this Christmas tree in the bulletin!



WE WELCOME all of our guests and visitors today. We invite you to visit us again. If you have no church home and would like to make Immanuel your church home, please speak to Pastor Obermann or one of the Elders at the end of the service.

UPCOMING DATES...

- Sunday School Teacher Dedication: Sunday, September 7th during the 9:00 a.m. worship service
- Sunday School Rally Day: Sunday, September 7th at 10:15 a.m.
- First Day of Bible Class: Sunday, September 14th after the worship service at 10:15 a.m.
- First Day of Sunday School: Sunday, September 14th after the worship service at 10:15 a.m.
- First Day of Youth Group Bible Study: Sunday, September 14th after the worship service at 10:15 a.m.

COMMUNION ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 will now be walk-through communion. It is Sunday School Teacher Dedication, plus Pastor will be handing out Bibles and Catechisms to our 1st and 3rd grade students during the service. We also have Sunday School Rally Day following the service.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ANNUAL USED BOOK SALE is held at the Jackson County Fairgrounds in the big blue building on these days:

- Thursday, September 11: 10:00-8:00
- Friday, September 12: 10:00-6:00
- Saturday, September 13: 9:00-1:00 (\$3 bag sale all day) Proceeds of the sale assist our Jackson County libraries (Jackson, Lakefield, Heron Lake) with supplemental funds for programs, materials, and extras at the libraries.

Wondering where you can watch this service?

- 1. Facebook: "Immanuel Lutheran Church" on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. or any time after.
- 2. YouTube: "Immanuel Lutheran Church and School Lakefield" on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. or any time after.

Acknowledgments

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POINTS OF INFORMATION August 24,	, 2025
Current Fund received this past week	\$21,645
Needed each week	\$17,035
Debt Reduction	\$0
Non-Budget Giving	
Lutheran Hour	\$100
Bibles	\$70
Teacher Salary Fund	\$25
Building	\$2
Memorial given in memory of	
Martha Buresch to Immanuel School	\$1,060
Current Fund needed for July	\$74,016
Offering Received in July	\$34,180
+ Tuition Received in July	\$3,468
= Current Fund Total July	\$37,648
Year to date Offerings/Tuition minus Expenses: -	\$83,154
as of	5/15/2025
If you have any questions, please call Jesse Ack	ermann

Worshipping on Sunday, August 24: 156

THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL...

Sunday, August 31

ILS Staff Dedication

9:00 AM Worship

10:30 AM Board of Finance Meeting

10:30-1:00 Sweet Corn and Pork Burger Fundraiser for ILS at North City Park

Monday, September 1

LABOR DAY - OFFICES CLOSED

Tuesday, September 2

First Day of School

8:30 AM Opening Chapel

Wednesday, September 3

2:10 PM Confirmation

Thursday, September 4

6:00 PM Parent Teacher League (PTL)

Saturday, September 6

10:00-4:00 LWML Walking Tacos and Nachos at Prairie Winds Kite Fly, Jackson Airport

Sunday, September 7

Sunday School Teacher Dedication

9:00 AM Worship with Communion

10:15 AM Sunday School Rally Day

Monday, September 8

5:15 PM Board of Congregational Services Meeting

Wednesday, September 10

8:20 AM Chapel

2:10 PM Confirmation

5:00 PM LWML Favorite Hymn Sing at Valley View with meeting to follow at church

Immanuel Lutheran Church and School 604 Bush Street, PO Box 750, Lakefield, MN 56150 507-662-5718 www.immanuellakefield.com immanuel@immanuellakefield.com