

For
IN HIM
all the fullness of God
was pleased to dwell,
and
THROUGH HIM
to reconcile to himself
all things ...
MAKING PEACE
by the blood of
his cross.

Colossians
1:19-20, ESV

Last Sunday of the Church Year

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lakefield, Minnesota ~ LCMS
November 23, 2025

As We Gather *They Shall Be Mine*

There is a phrase familiar to both preschoolers and powerbrokers. When they see that someone else has something they want, they declare, "That's mine!" seizing either toys or territory for themselves. This phrase is not unfamiliar to our God either. But where humans are motivated by selfishness, the Lord acts out of love. He claims you as His own because He loves you and He wants you to be with Him for eternity. You are His treasured possession! He will never leave you behind like a toddler may accidentally abandon her teddy bear, or neglect you like a king would treat those who supported his rival. When the Lord says, "You are Mine," you have His pledge of enduring faithfulness, today and unto eternity!

Preparation

Hymn: 905 Come, Thou Almighty King



1 Come, Thou al - might - y King, Help us Thy
 2 Come, Thou in - car - nate Word, Gird on Thy
 3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, Thy sa - cred
 △ 4 To Thee, great One in Three, E - ter - nal



name to sing; Help us to praise; Fa - ther all -
 might - y sword; Our prayer at - tend. Come and Thy
 wit - ness bear In this glad hour! Thou, who al -
 prais - es be Hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign



glo - ri - ous, O'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
 peo - ple bless, And give Thy Word suc - cess,
 might - y art, Now rule in ev - 'ry heart,
 maj - es - ty May we in glo - ry see,



Come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 And let Thy righ - teous - ness On us de - scend.
 And ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
 And to e - ter - ni - ty Love and a - dore.

Text: English, before 1760, alt.

Tune: Felice de Giardini, 1716-96

Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences *Psalm 118:24; Psalm 22:27; Isaiah 43:1*

P This is the day that the LORD has made;

C let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,

C and all the families of the nations shall worship before You.

P Now thus says the LORD, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you;

C I have called you by name, you are Mine.”

Confession and Absolution

Colossians 1:13–14

P The Lord has delivered us from the domain of darkness

C and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

P Almighty God and King,

C we confess that we have broken trust with You. We have doubted Your goodness, neglected Your ways, and sought to satisfy our sinful nature. We do not think, speak, or act like Your treasured possession. We bring before You our faults and failures, honestly and humbly recognizing that we deserve to be cast out of Your kingdom. Have mercy, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Spare us from Your wrath, deliver us from death and darkness, and cleanse us from sin, that we serve You in righteousness, innocence, and blessedness now and always. Amen.

P On His cross, Jesus Christ, your Savior, was crowned with shame and given unto death for You. His blood pays the price Your sins deserve. Now crowned with glory, the risen and reigning Christ lives to declare sins forgiven. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Introit

Psalm 134; antiphon: Psalm 33:8

Let all the earth fear the LORD;

let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!

Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD,

who stand by night in the house of the LORD!

Lift up your hands to the holy place

and bless the LORD!

May the LORD bless you from Zion,

he who made heaven and earth!

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.

Let all the earth fear the LORD;

let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!

Immanuel Ringers

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Word

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You reign among us by the preaching of Your cross. Forgive Your people their offenses that we, being governed by Your bountiful goodness, may enter at last into Your eternal paradise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 3:13–18

“Your words have been hard against me, says the LORD. But you say, ‘How have we spoken against you?’ You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts? And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.’”

Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name. “They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Colossians 1:13–20

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

Luke 23:43

P Alleluia, alleluia!

C Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.

P Alleluia, alleluia!

Holy Gospel

Luke 23:27–43

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-third chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

And there followed [Jesus] a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. But turning to them Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” The soldiers also

mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

P God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.

Children's Message

Hymn: 456 Were You There



1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you
2 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you
3 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Were you
4 Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb? Were you



there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh ...
there when they nailed Him to the tree? Oh ...
there when they laid Him in the tomb? Oh ...
there when God raised Him from the tomb? Oh ...



Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?

Text and tune: African American spiritual, 19th cent., alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Offering

Prayer of the Church

P As those delivered to the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us confidently approach His throne of grace with our prayers and intercessions, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P King of all creation, the whole earth is full of Your glory, and we are awed by Your creative majesty. Deepen our appreciation of Your care and keeping and dedicate us as faithful stewards of Your earthly gifts. For the sake of Your kingdom,

C love us and lead us, O King.

P King of love, You devote Yourself to Your people and never fail to keep Your commitments. Bless those who have committed themselves to one another in Christian marriage that their relationships might be reflections of Your heart. For the sake of Your kingdom,

C touch us and teach us, O King.

P King of kindness and grace, who attends to our hurts of body and soul, show compassion to all who are facing sorrow, sickness, or adversity, embracing them in Your tender care, [*especially . . .*]. For the sake of Your kingdom,

C hear us and heal us, O King.

P King of Your church, You uphold all those who serve in Your name. Grant holy satisfaction to those who volunteer their time and offer their gifts to our congregation. Raise up others to serve and prevent us from stealing Your glory for ourselves. For the sake of Your kingdom,

C prepare us and protect us, O King.

P King of justice, You rule Your world with wisdom and faithfulness. Give those chosen as our earthly authorities patience, perspective, and a heart that pursues Your will, that we might be led into peaceable prosperity. For the sake of Your kingdom,

C defend us and direct us, O King.

P King of all kings, You have authority over all things. Allow us to see Your authority as a blessing, that we might recognize Your preeminence in our lives and rest in Your merciful rule, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

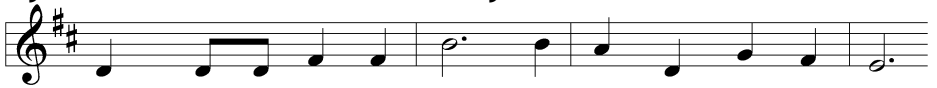
**C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;**

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** To God—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—be all honor and glory in His holy church, forever and ever.
- C** **Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ shall come again!**
- P** Lift up your heads and open your eyes,
- C** **for He is coming!**
- P** Who is coming?
- C** **The King of glory!**
- P** Who is this King of glory?
- C** **The Lord of hosts; He is the King of glory!**
- P** Blessings on Him who comes as King,
- C** **who comes in the name of the Lord!**
- P** The almighty and merciful God—the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless and preserve you, and lead you into everlasting life.
- C** **Amen, amen, and amen!**

Hymn: 525 Crown Him with Many Crowns



1 Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;
2 Crown Him the vir - gin's Son, The God in - car - nate born,
3 Crown Him the Lord of love. Be - hold His hands and side,
4 Crown Him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave
5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, En - throned in worlds a - bove,



Hark how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own.
Whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won Which now His brow a-dorn:
Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those He came to save.
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The won-drous name of Love.



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And
Fruit of the mys - tic rose, Yet of that rose the stem, The
No an - gels in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But
His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who
Crown Him with man - y crowns As thrones be - fore Him fall; Crown



hail Him as thy match-less king Through all e - ter - ni - ty.
root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, The babe of Beth - le - hem.
down-ward bend their won-d'ring eyes At mys - ter - ies so bright.
died e - ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.
Him, ye kings, with man - y crowns, For He is king of all.

Text (sts. 1-3, 5): Matthew Bridges, 1800-94, alt.; (st. 4): Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93

Text and tune: Public domain

Assisting with the Service

Preacher Rev. Eric Obermann
Elder Jim Berkevich
Organist LaDonna Peterson
Acolyte Nora Freking & Simeon Peterson
Usher Dave & Carolyn Hansen

We Remember in our Prayers

Lila Voehl dealing with health issues

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*

*Jan Bakalyar, Merlyn Rossow, Keith Kolander, dealing with health
issues*

*Mary Beth Baumann, sister-in-law of Myleen Swanson & LaNell
Rossow; Mackenzie Erickson, friend of Amber Liepold; 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; Denny Daberkow;
dealing with cancer*

*David Morrison, brother of Jan Bakalyar; 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

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.

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.

ADVENT DEVOTIONS from Lutheran Hour Ministries are available in both regular and large print on the welcome center in the narthex. This year's devotions are called "Born to You... a Savior". Please help yourself to a copy.

There are also Advent Devotions available from Martin Luther High School, Northrop. This one is called "There's More To It" and the devotions are written by Martin Luther High School staff and students. Please help yourself. Advent begins on Sunday, November 30th.

VOTERS MEETING will be on Sunday, December 14th right after church around 10:15 a.m. On the agenda is the election of officers. If interested in running for any office, please contact one of the elders or Amy in the church office.

FUDGE FUNDRAISER: Our 7th-8th grade students are selling fudge as a fundraiser for their class trip in May. In addition to the many varieties of half-pound fudge, there are also individually wrapped caramels. Cost is \$10 for both. If you are not asked, but would like to order, either call Amy at 507-662-5718 or stop by the church office. You can also order online (it can even be delivered to your house), here's the link: <https://walnutgrovemerc.com/fundraising/business/immanuel-lutheran-school/>. Last day to order is November 30th with delivery on December 19th.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING: Join the Lakefield Police Department for a heartwarming community-wide Christmas caroling event on Main Street in front of City Hall! Experience a moment that captures the spirit of the season, as we come together to sing and create lasting memories this Christmas! Invite your friends and family to join in the holiday celebration. The event will take place on Sunday, November 30th at 6:30 p.m. in front of City Hall and will be broadcast live on Facebook. Hot chocolate will be served at the event. If any group within the church would like to make and serve the hot cocoa, they can use it as a fundraiser. The selected songs are "Jingle Bells", "Away in a Manger", "Silent Night", and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas". Directed by LaDonna Peterson.

OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED on Thursday, November 27th and Friday, November 28th so our staff can spend the Thanksgiving holiday with their families.

**SPECTACULA
VIRTUOSO
CHRISTMAS
CONCERT**

on DUELING PIANOS



**Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School
in Northrop**

Sunday, December 7th at 2:00 p.m.

Concert features the talents of Jayson Matasovsky (our organist & Martin Luther High School Senior) and Glenn Henriksen (member of the Galaxy 500 Band & keyboard entertainer) who will perform together! Be carried away by the amazing debut performance of these 2 pianists.

Come and sing along, enjoy Christmas treats, and walk in a winter wonderland.

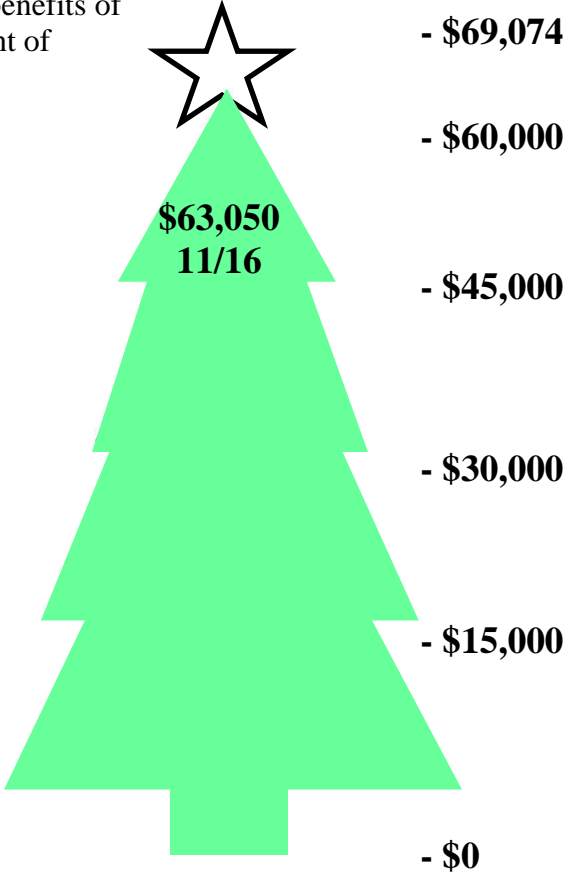
Online advance tickets can be purchased for \$15 at martinlutherhs.com. Children age 12 and under are free. After November 30th, tickets are \$20 and can be purchased in person at Martin Luther High School.



Concert is a benefit for the student tuition fund at Martin Luther High School. The school is located at 315 Martin Luther Drive in Northrop.

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 along plus this Christmas tree in the bulletin.

Don’t forget to mark your offering envelopes “TSF or Teacher Salary Fund” when giving.



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

- NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING BREAK – 11/26-11/28
- Upcoming Basketball:
 - Monday 12/1 at 4:15: B at home vs. St. John Vianney
 - Friday 12/5 & Saturday 12/6: A tournament at Zion Alexandria

NO PLANS FOR THANKSGIVING THIS YEAR? KIDS NOT COMING HOME?

Here's an option for you instead of heating up that TV dinner. Ken and Pat Pohlman invite you to Thanksgiving at their house. Give Pat a call 507-227-8564. Dinner is at 12:30. They would love to spend the holiday with you.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SERVICE PRACTICE starts today. We will practice during Sunday School every Sunday until the service, which is on Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th at 4:00 p.m.

FOOD DRIVE for the Lakefield Food Shelf is going on right now. You are invited to bring items to the church any time during November and place them right on the Thanksgiving display or in the narthex. Your items may also be taken to Maynard's. Monetary gifts are also appreciated and can be dropped off here at the church (give to Amy), at City Hall, or mailed to the Lakefield Food Shelf, PO Box 115, Lakefield, MN 56150.

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER need to be turned in to Amy in the office by November 25th.

REDCROSS BLOODMOBILE is in Lakefield at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Tuesday, December 2nd from 1:00-6:00. For appointments call 800-733-2767 or schedule online at www.redcrossblood.org.

JACKSON COMMUNITY TABLE is a shared meal organized by the Jackson County Ministerial Association offered especially for those facing the pinch of the government shutdown. There is NO COST and all are welcome. It is weekly on Sunday nights in November from 5:00-6:00 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 614 Logan Ave., Jackson.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Windom has hosted a Community Thanksgiving Dinner for several years. Due to a shrinking number of available volunteers, they are reaching out asking for volunteer assistance with serving the Thanksgiving meal. If you would be interested in helping, please contact the church office at 507-831-3522. The meal is served from 11:00-1:00 on Thanksgiving Day. The church is located at 1157 3rd Avenue in Windom. Thank you in advance for considering sharing some of your time for this important event.

Lutheran Church of Our Savior Faith in Action Committee

THANKSGIVING CARDS AND CHRISTMAS CARDS are now available at the bookstore. Come check out the wonderful selection. You can either pay Amy in the church office or leave your money in the empty box by the cards. *There is also a variety of Christmas gift bags with a religious theme available. Stop and take a look!*

Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday, November 26

7:00 PM

Advent Services

Wednesday, December 3

Wednesday, December 10

8:30 AM & 7:00 PM

ILS Christmas Service

Wednesday, December 17

12:30 PM & 6:30 PM

Sunday School Christmas Service

Wednesday, December 24

4:00 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

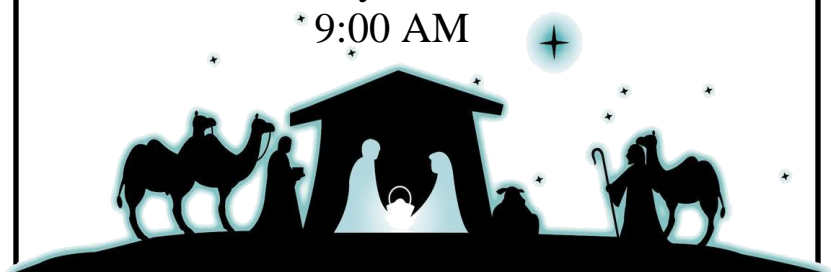
Wednesday, December 24

8:00 PM

Christmas Day Service

Thursday, December 25

* 9:00 AM



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

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 4.
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POINTS OF INFORMATION November 16, 2025

<i>Current Fund received this past week.....</i>	<i>\$7,074</i>
<i> Needed each week.....</i>	<i>\$10,112</i>
<i>Non-Budget Giving</i>	
<i> Debt Reduction.....</i>	<i>\$150</i>
<i> Teacher Salary Fund.....</i>	<i>\$90</i>
<i> Immanuel School.....</i>	<i>\$10</i>
<i>Memorial given in memory of</i>	
<i> Bev Hall to Teacher Salary Fund.....</i>	<i>\$100</i>
<i>Current Fund received in October.....</i>	<i>\$40,448</i>
<i> Needed in October.....</i>	<i>\$41,914</i>
<i>If you have any questions, please call Jesse Ackermann</i>	
<i> Worshipping on Sunday, November 16: 159</i>	

THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL...

Sunday, November 23

9:00 AM *Worship*
10:15 AM *Sunday School*
10:15 AM *Youth Group Bible Study*
10:15 AM *Bible Class*

Wednesday, November 26

NO SCHOOL
7:00 PM *Thanksgiving Worship with Communion*

Thursday, November 27

NO SCHOOL - OFFICES CLOSED
HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Friday, November 28

NO SCHOOL - OFFICES CLOSED

Sunday, November 30 First Sunday in Advent

9:00 AM *Worship*
10:15 AM *Sunday School*
10:15 AM *Youth Group Bible Study*
10:15 AM *Bible Class*

Monday, December 1

4:15 PM *B BB at home vs. St. John Vianney*
6:10 PM *Immanuel Ringers*
7:10 PM *Choir*

Wednesday, December 3

8:30 AM *Advent Chapel*
2:10 PM *Confirmation*
7:00 PM *Advent Worship*

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