



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
125th Anniversary Weekend #3



Saturday, July 18, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, July 19, 2026 – 7:45 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.

“Making more and stronger disciples of Jesus Christ
through the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Welcome to Immanuel!

Please turn off your cell phones and/or paging devices. Thank you!

If you are a guest, please fill out a guests' card located in the pew holder and then place it in the offering plate. We look forward to meeting you!

Members, please help us love and care for one another by filling out an attendance card. Remember to include all the members of your family who are present in worship today. If you are communing, please check in the appropriate place. Thank you for filling out an Attendance-Communion card every time you attend Church.

We celebrate Holy Communion today! In this Supper of our Lord, we receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the earthly forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. This Holy Communion is also a sign of our shared confession of the Christian faith. If you have not communed with us before, please speak with one of our pastors before doing so.

During the communion service: If you're not able to drink wine, the lighter colored glasses in the center of the tray of individual cups contain water with a drop of wine. These special glasses allow communicants to celebrate the Lord's Supper according to Christ's institution but have a very small amount of alcohol.

Worship at Immanuel is...

Christ Centered. We believe that at the heart of worship is the Good News that God has rescued us from our sins through Jesus' death on the cross and rising to life again.

Trinitarian. We believe that the object of worship is the only true God—The Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Multigenerational. We believe that it is a great blessing for family members to worship together. Taking seriously Jesus' words, "Let the little children come to me and do not forbid them" (Mark 10:14), we encourage children to worship with their parents and grandparents and provide resources such as children's bulletins and children's sermons.

Eclectic. Eclectic means, "selecting what seems best of various sources." We believe that we should strive to use the best hymns and practices that the church has to offer. Our worship may include hymns written 500 years ago as well as pieces written 5 months ago.

In preparation for worship we ask that you silence your cell phones and/or paging devices. Thank you. The time before service begins can be a good time to pray and prepare your heart and mind for worship. You will find helpful prayers on the inside cover of the hymnal located in the pew in front of you.

Divine Service, Setting Four

(*Lutheran Service Book*, pg. 203)

Preservice Music (10:15 a.m. – Youth Bell Choir, “Trumpet Tune in C”
(arr. Lynn Thompson), “Ring a Joyful Song” Michael Helman)

Bells / Welcome / Greeting

Please stand

Opening Hymn, “In Christ Alone” (*See the screens for the words.*)

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen. Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

✠ Confession and Absolution ✠

Please stand

P Our help is in the name of the Lord, Psalm 124:8; 30:3-4
C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of 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. John 20:19-23

C Amen.

✠ Service of the Word ✠

Introit of the Day

Psalm 86:11-15; antiphon: v. 6

Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;

listen to my plea for grace.

Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth;

unite my heart to fear your name.

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,

and I will glorify your name forever.

For great is your steadfast love toward me;

you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless

men seek my life,

and they do not set you before them.

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

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.

Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;

listen to my plea for grace.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good - will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated

(10:15 a.m.) **Choir Anthem**, "One in Christ and One in Spirit"
(Clark/Weber)

*One in Christ and one in Spirit,
One in Christian unity.
From our Father, we inherit
Life with Him eternally.
Made anew in Word and water,
Freed from death and cleansed from
sin.
Perfect son and holy daughter
Hearts made pure and whole within.*

*Christian sisters, Christian brothers,
Reaching out to those in need,
We proclaim Good News to others
As we boldly share our creed.*

*In our learning and our growing,
We are strengthened in the Word.
In our coming and our going,
We live out what we have heard.*

*One in Christ, now and forever,
With one voice, we gladly sing.
Neither life nor death can sever
Christians from their loving King.
As we learn of His salvation,
May we tell of Jesus' grace
To each future generation,
At all times, in ev'ry place.
One in Christ, now and forever,
With one voice, we gladly sing!*

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: “I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. ⁸Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.”

[L] This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn, LSB 507, “Holy, Holy, Holy” (See the screens for the words.) (10:15 a.m. – accompanied by the Youth Bell Choir)

Epistle

1 Corinthians 3:1-11

¹But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? ⁴For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human? ⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. ⁹For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s field, God’s building. ¹⁰According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. ¹¹For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Alleluia and Verse

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



- P** I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.



Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th chapter.

- C** Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁴[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ ²⁸He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’” . . . ³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

- C** Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

- C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated

Children's Message (Parents of young children may also come forward with their children.)

Hymn of the Day, *LSB* 645, "Built on the Rock"

Sermon, 1 Corinthians 3:1-11, "Built to Last"

Please stand

Prayer of the Church

1 Timothy 2:1-4

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

After each portion of the prayer:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Offertory Hymn [Tune: Townend/Getty; Text: Scheibe/Frank]

**Immanuel, our Lord and Friend
You are the Prince of Peace, Amen.**

**Immanuel, our Cornerstone
You shed Your blood for us alone;
While on the cross, was crucified
Now we're Your saints, all sanctified:
Called now to serve, our gifts we bring
Praise to our God, the Glorious King.**

**Immanuel, our thanks and praise-
It is to You our hearts we raise.
United now in one accord
Ever more thanking You, our Lord.
Faith and foundation strong and firm-
Our future plans secure in You;
Eternal life we can proclaim
To many more in Your Holy Name.**

Please be seated

Offering *(During the Saturday service, please place your offering and attendance card in the plate in the narthex before or after the service.) [7:45 & 10:15 Piano/Organ Duet "God Loved the World So That He Gave" (arr. E. Grimpo)]*

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

In this Supper of our Lord we receive the true body and blood of Jesus Christ under the earthly forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. Since this Holy Communion is also a sign of how we commonly confess the Christian faith, we welcome to the Lord's Table those who are confirmed members of congregations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Please stand

Preface

P	The Lord be with you.	2 Timothy 4:22
C	And also with you.	
P	Lift up your hearts.	Colossians 3:1
C	We lift them to the Lord.	
P	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.	Psalms 136
C	It is right to give Him thanks and praise.	

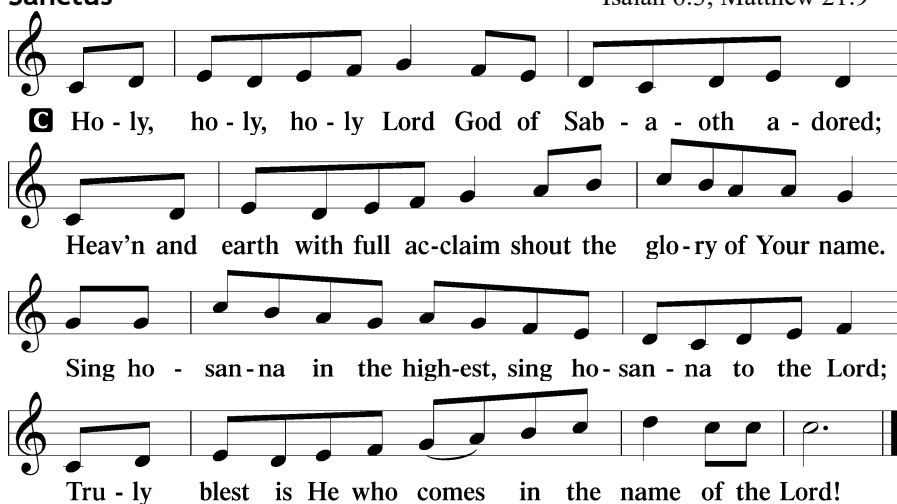
Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-

begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
 Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
 Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;
 Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

Words of Our Lord (Matt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25)

Pax Domini

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Please be seated

Distribution

LSB 728, "How Firm a Foundation"

LSB 575, "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

LSB 805, "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Please stand

Dismissal

P The body and blood... Go in peace.

C Amen.

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32

C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the Son,
All glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the Son.



glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect



Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Amen.

Benedicamus



Let us bless the Lord.

Psalms 103:1



Thanks be to God.

Benediction



The Lord bless you and keep you.

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.



Amen.

Closing Hymn, LSB 912, “Christ Is Our Cornerstone”

Bells / Postlude

We invite you to take the service folder and announcements home with you as you leave today so you can see what's happening this week as well as meditate on the Scriptures, prayers, and hymns from today's service as you go through the week. You can also find helpful information on our church website: immanuelwaterloo.org.

Worship Helpers

Saturday, July 18, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Matthew Clark
Liturgist/Celebrant - Rev. Benjamin Hayter
Server - Jason Valerius
Altar Guild - Sally Thorburg

Music Director - Ann Frank
Media - Clark Deptula
Acolyte - Amelia Deptula

Sunday, July 19, 2026 - 7:45 a.m.

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Matthew Clark
Liturgist/Celebrant - Rev. Benjamin Hayter
Server/Lector - Adam Eggemeyer
Acolytes - Cason Birkenmeier & Mason Wilhelm
Ushers - Larry Taake, Dawn Rubemeyer, Glen Muench

Music Director - Ann Frank
Media - Don Birrittier
Altar Guild - Pam Nagel

Sunday, July 19, 2026 - 10:15 a.m.

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Matthew Clark
Liturgist/Celebrant - Rev. Benjamin Hayter
Server/Lector - Seth Weinberg
Acolytes - Kennedy Filipiak & Rosie Fink
Ushers - Dusty Dethrow, Davin Dethrow, Collin Dethrow, Jacob Dethrow

Music Director - Ann Frank
Altar Guild - Angie Broske
Media/Facebook Live - Everly Dethrow & Lisa Clamors

Ushers - Sunday, July 26, 2026

7:45 a.m. - Allen Jacobs, Don Birrittier, Mason Wilhelm
10:15 a.m. - Alan Stumpf, Paul Broske Sr., Tom McDaniel

Acolytes - Sunday, July 26, 2026

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - Kenzie Wiegand
Sunday 7:45 a.m. - Olivia Rusteberg & AJ Helms
Sunday 10:15 a.m. - Jase Gregory & TJ Joellenbeck

Servers - Sunday, July 26, 2026

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - Greg Wiegand
Sunday 7:45 a.m. - Rodney Clamors & Jason Valerius
Sunday 10:15 a.m. - Doug Simms & Seth Weinberg

Media - Sunday, July 26, 2026

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - Gwen/Melissa Wiegand
Sunday 7:45 a.m. - Lisa Clamors
Sunday 10:15 a.m. - Ayda Eggemeyer

Lectors - Sunday, July 26, 2026

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - n/a
Sunday 7:45 a.m. - Rodney Clamors
Sunday 10:15 a.m. - Seth Weinberg
Altar Guild - Sunday, July 26, 2026
Saturday 5:30 p.m. - Marilyn Collette
Sunday 7:45 a.m. - Debbie Olsson
Sunday 10:15 a.m. - Ceely Sues

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL – WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

immanuelwaterloo.org

e-mail: immanuelwaterloo@gmail.com

Rev. Benjamin Hayter, Administrative Pastor
Seth Weinberg, 1st year Field Education Student
Mrs. Lisa Clamors, Office Admin.
Mrs. Ann Frank, Music Director
Mrs. Delana Whelan, Preschool Director

618-939-6480 or 734-625-1023
618-939-6480 or 618-719-4954
618-939-6480 or 618-282-6597
618-939-6480 or 618-443-8353

DAILY PRAYER

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

Amen.

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

Make haste, O God to deliver me;
make haste to help me, O Lord.

**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.**

Praise to you, O Christ. Alleluia.

The Hymn of the Season, or another appropriate hymn or psalm, may be sung or spoken.

The appointed reading from The Family at Prayer is read and discussed using the accompanying questions.

A portion of the Small or Large Catechism from The Congregation at Prayer is read and/or recited.

O Lord,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ,
have mercy upon us.

O Lord,
have mercy upon us.

Lord's Prayer

Prayers for others and ourselves

Concluding prayer:

O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Week 6: July 19-25

Catechism: The Small and Large Catechisms

What is the Fourth Commandment? Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them. (SC, Fourth Commandment)

Therefore, it is the duty of every father of a family to question and examine his children and servants at least once a week and see what they know or are learning from the catechism. And if they do not know the catechism, he should keep them learning it faithfully. (LC Short Preface, 4)

Readings for the Week

☐ July 20: Monday	Ephesians 6:1-4 – Children and Parents
☐ July 21: Tuesday	Colossians 3:18-21 – Christian Households
☐ July 22: Wednesday	Luke 2:41-51 – Jesus Submits to His Parents
☐ July 23: Thursday	Hebrews 12:5-12 – Fatherly Discipline
☐ July 24: Friday	Proverbs 3:11-12 – The Lord's Discipline
☐ July 25: Saturday	Deuteronomy 11:18-21 – Passing on the Faith

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Mon: What relationship does Paul teach about in the previous chapter? How does this section (on parents and children) naturally follow what came before it? How does Paul instruct parents and children? Discuss the difficulties associated with each.

Tue: What two sets of relationship go together in these verses? How is this similar to the passage from Ephesians? What does Paul instruct parents and children to do? Discuss the difficulties associated with each office.

Wed: This is a familiar Bible story. How does Jesus keep the 4th Commandment? Look specifically near the end of the reading. How does Jesus keep the Law on our behalf? How does Jesus serve as our example?

Thur: How does God the Father discipline us, His children? Is His discipline good for us? How does this serve as an example for parents today?

Fri-Sat: What does today's passage teach us about the parental vocation?

Verse of the Week: Ephesians 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (This is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

Hymn of the Season (Trinity): *Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord (LSB 497)*

Welcome back, Pastor Clark!

Rev. Dr. Matthew Clark grew up attending Our Savior Lutheran in Fenton, Missouri. He graduated from Lutheran High School South in 1998. He then entered the Pre-Seminary program at Concordia



University in Nebraska. Following graduation from Concordia Seminary in 2007, Pastor Clark was called to serve at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Waterloo, Illinois.

Pastor Clark has served as pastor at Ascension Lutheran Church in St. Louis since October 2013. In addition to serving at Ascension Lutheran Church and Word of Life Lutheran School, Pastor is also involved with KFYO radio AM 850, where he is co-host of “Wrestling with the Basics” which airs on Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Pastor occasionally writes for Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish. He also serves as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Lutheran High School Association and Chairperson of Christian Friends of New Americans. Pastor completed the Doctor of Ministry program at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, in 2025. He currently serves as a guest instructor for Concordia Seminary teaching in the Specific Ministry Pastor program and Doctor of Ministry program. When not eating Ted Drewes frozen custard, Pastor enjoys family time, hiking, gardening, and cheering on the St. Louis Cardinals.

Pastor’s wife, Lisa, serves at Concordia Publishing House as Senior Editor of Curriculum Resources and writer. In 2025 she earned a PhD in Creative Writing at the University of Bristol in England. Pastor and Lisa have been blessed with two children, Noah and Anna. Noah is a graduate of Concordia University in Chicago and a teacher at the Lutheran High School in St. Charles, MO. His wife, Addie, is in graduate school studying Public Health at Washington University in St. Louis. Anna is attending Concordia University in Nebraska where she is studying Studio Art and in the Pre-Deaconess program.