



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

125th Anniversary Weekend #4



Saturday, October 17, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 18, 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 cardholder on the back of each pew 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 so 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 One

(Lutheran Service Book, pg. 151)

Preservice Music [Preservice Selections by Betty Anne Demski]

[10:15 a.m. – Agape Ringers, “Thy Strong Word,” arr. J. Behnke]

Bells

Welcome / Greeting

Please stand

Opening Hymn, “In Christ Alone” (Townend/Getty)

**In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my Light, my Strength, my Song
This Cornerstone, this Solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone! Who took on flesh;
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied;
for every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine—
bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

No guilt in life, no fear in death—
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

✠ Confession and Absolution ✠

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

C Amen. Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 1 John 1:8-9

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. 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

Psalms 121:1-4, 7-8; antiphon: v. 5

The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come?

My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved;

he who keeps you will not slumber.

Behold, he who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD will keep you from all evil;

he will keep your life.

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.

✠ **Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

and to the Holy Spirit;

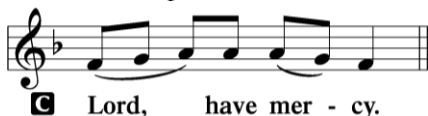
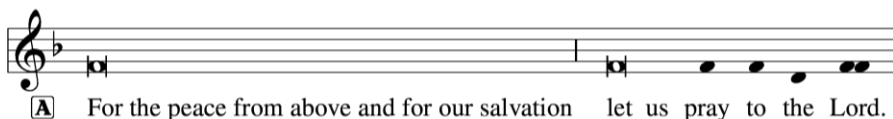
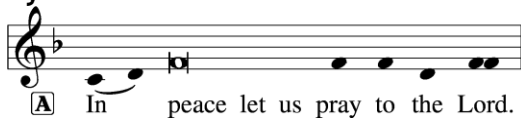
as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47





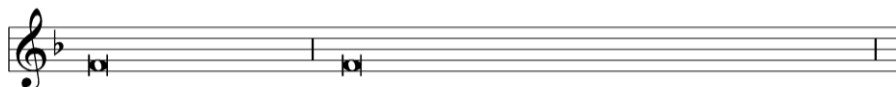
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



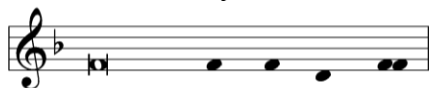
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



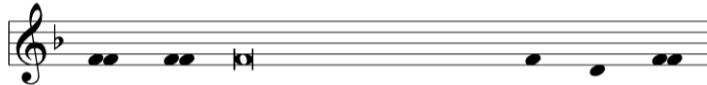
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



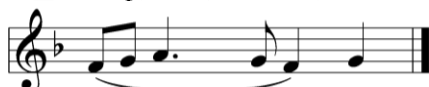
let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

This Is the Feast

Refrain



C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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



1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb — who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

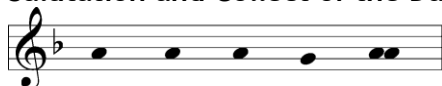


This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



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

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on us that with You as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Please be seated

(10:15 a.m.) **Choir Anthem, “Lord, You Call Us”** (Haugen/Burkhardt)

*Lord, You call us, as Your people, out of darkness into light.
You created and redeemed us, made us precious in Your sight.
Give us faith to trust You boldly and to love You steadfastly.
By Your Spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be.*

*Lord, You call us, as disciples, walking on Your pilgrim way.
Crucified and risen Savior, You are with us ev'ry day.
Give us wisdom; give us courage--as You teach us patiently.
By Your Spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be.*

*Lord, You send us to the harvest in Your Great Commission's call,
Reaching out to all the nations, bringing life and hope to all.
Give us boldness and compassion; bless us with Your eyes to see,
By Your Spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be.*

*Lord, You call us to new ventures by a pathway yet unknown--
Though we cannot see the ending, we will follow You alone,
Your hand is guiding, and You love us faithfully.
By Your Spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be.*

*Lord, You call us as Your people, joined in faith we sing Your praise;
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Alleluias to You raise.
Hold us in Your gracious power, blessed Holy Trinity,
That rejoicing we will ever faithful to our callings be.*

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 45:1-7

¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed: ²“I will go before you and level the exalted places, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, ³I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me. ⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, ⁶that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. ⁷I form light and create darkness, I make well-being and create calamity, I am the LORD, who does all these things.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 91:11; 103:1

He will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.

**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name!**

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

Gospel Verse

John 6:68



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P You have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.



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

Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:15-22

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 22nd chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle [Jesus] in his talk. ¹⁶And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” ²¹They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²²When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day, *LSB* 655, “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

Sermon, “God’s Stuff” based on Matthew 22:15-22

Please stand

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 worshipped 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.

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.

P (*Special petitions...*) 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.*)

[10:15 a.m. – Agape Ringers, “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast,” arr. L. Delancy]

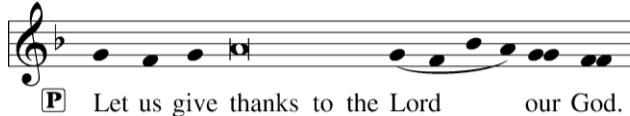
✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

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

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136



Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. 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

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
✠ san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

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

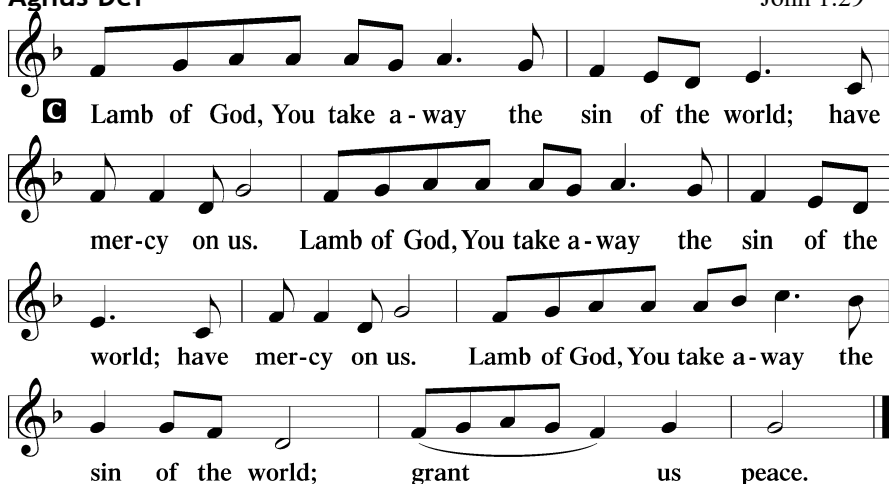
John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



☐ Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please be seated

Distribution

LSB 733, "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

LSB 647, "Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head"

LSB 828, "We Are Called to Stand Together"

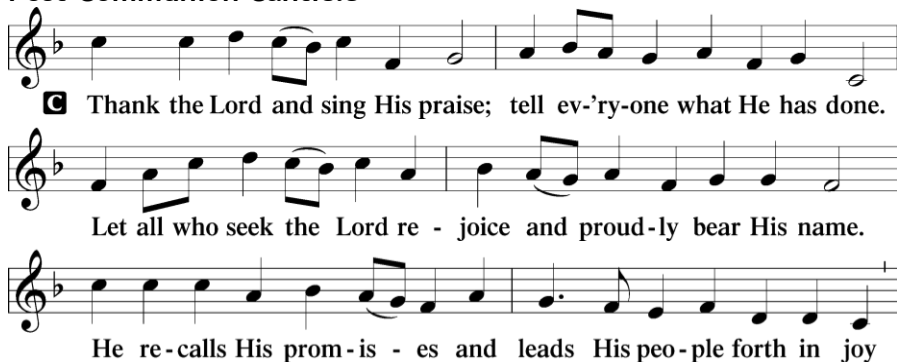
Please stand

Dismissal

☐ The body and blood... Depart ☩ in peace.

☐ Amen.

Post-Communion Canticle



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'-ry-one what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear His name.
He re-calls His prom-is-es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Post-Communion Collect



Let us pray.

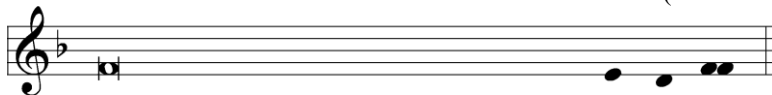
O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Benediction

(Numbers 6:24-26)



P The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.



C A - men.

Closing Hymn, *LSB* 795, “Voices Raised to You We Offer”

Bells / Postlude

Worship Helpers

Saturday, October 17, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.

Preacher - Rev. Merritt Demski
 Celebrant/Liturgist - Rev. Benjamin Hayter
 Altar Guild - Cally Killian
 Media - Lorelei Griffin & Quinn Menke

Music Director - Ann Frank
 Server - Ranley Killian
 Acolyte - Avery Griffin

Sunday, October 18, 2026 - 7:45 a.m.

Preacher - Rev. Merritt Demski
 Celebrant/Liturgist - Rev. Benjamin Hayter
 Acolytes -
 Altar Guild - Debbie Olsson

Music Director - Ann Frank
 Server - Jason Valerius
 Lector/Media - Don Birrittier

Ushers - Larry Taake, Dawn Rubemeyer, Glen Muench

Sunday, October 18, 2026 - 10:15 a.m.

Preacher - Rev. Merritt Demski
 Celebrant/Liturgist - Rev. Benjamin Hayter
 Lector - Rodney Clamors
 Acolytes - Alaina Stumpf & Ava Helms
 Ushers - Alan Stumpf, Paul Broske Sr., Tom McDaniel

Music Director - Ann Frank
 Server - Seth Weinberg
 Altar Guild - Ellen Heise
 Media/Facebook Live - Ayda Eggemeyer

Ushers - Sunday, October 25, 2026

7:45 a.m. - Allen Jacobs, Don Birrittier, Mason Wilhelm, Charlotte Rodenberg
 10:15 a.m. - Kevin Whelan, Alex Whelan, Tripp Gardner, T.J. Joellenbeck

Acolytes - Sunday, October 25, 2026

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - Benjamin Braun
 Sunday 7:45 a.m. - Kate Nolte
 Sunday 10:15 a.m. - Breanna Ervin & Everly Dethrow

Servers - Sunday, October 25, 2026

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - Don Birrittier
 Sunday 7:45 a.m. - Rodney Clamors & Warren Frank
 Sunday 10:15 a.m. - Dusty Dethrow & Seth Weinberg

Media - Sunday, October 25, 2026

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - Lorelei Griffin
 Sunday 7:45 a.m. - Lisa Clamors
 Sunday 10:15 a.m. - Ashlyn/Cathy Whelan

Lectors - Sunday, Oct. 25, 2026

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - n/a
 Sunday 7:45 a.m. - Daniel Niemeyer
 Sunday 10:15 a.m. - Seth Weinberg
Altar Guild - Sunday, Oct. 25, 2026
 Saturday 5:30 p.m. - Susan Starbuck
 Sunday 7:45 a.m. - Barbara Altes
 Sunday 10:15 a.m. - Jill & Myla E.

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
 Ms. 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 10: October 18-24

Catechetical Theme: The 8th Commandment

With the Eighth Commandment the LORD protects a person's name and reputation. In love and service to our neighbor we are to speak in ways that uphold our neighbor's name and reputation. When we fail to defend our neighbor, or worse, when we speak in ways that harm his name and reputation, we sin against this commandment. The greatest violators are false preachers who, by their false doctrine, speak ill of God and His name. But every Christian is tempted to break this commandment by speaking ill of our neighbors when we're not called to do so. Certain authorities must cast judgment, but the Scriptures teach us to speak the truth in love. We do not ignore sin, but we remember that love covers a multitude of sins, and we make every effort to put the best construction on everything and to speak of our neighbors in the kindest way. God bless your time in God's Word!

Catechism: The Eighth Commandment

What is the Eighth Commandment?

Pre+

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

1st+

We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Readings for the Week

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| ☐ | October 19: Monday | Matthew 18:15-20 – How to Speak to Your Brother |
| ☐ | October 20: Tuesday | Ephesians 4:15, 25 – Speaking the Truth |
| ☐ | October 21: Wednesday | Mark 14:53-65 – False Witness Against Jesus |
| ☐ | October 22: Thursday | Proverbs 19:5 – False Witness |
| ☐ | October 23: Friday | Proverbs 18:21 – Two Uses of the Tongue |
| ☐ | October 24: Saturday | James 3:5-12 – The Tongue Is a Fire |

Questions to Discuss in the Home

- Mon:** How does this passage teach us to treat our fellow Christian, even if he or she would sin against us? Are we encouraged to go tell everyone about it? How does this protect the reputation of our neighbor? How is this a loving work?
- Tues:** How do these passages encourage us to speak to our neighbor? What does it mean to speak the truth “in love”? Do we speak in such a way as to harm our neighbor, or to help him?
- Wed:** What was the goal of the council; what did they intend to do to Jesus? What sort of witnesses were provided to speak against him? Who is the only person to speak the truth in this account?
- Thur-Fri:** What does this proverb teach us about speaking falsely? Does this affirm Luther's meaning of the 8th Commandment? How should we use our words in light of this Proverb?
- Sat:** How does James describe the tongue? How is it that the tongue is dangerous? How can the tongue be used for good? How might we learn to control our tongue? What sort of words do we desire to speak to our neighbor?

Verse of the Week: Proverbs 19:5

A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will not escape.

Hymn of the Season:

A Mighty Fortress is Our God (LSB 656)

A bit about Pastor Demski...

The Rev. Merritt M. Demski, pastor at St. John Lutheran Church (Hanover) in Alta, Iowa, was born March 30, 1987, in Libertyville, Illinois and raised in Grayslake, Illinois. He served as a Vicar at Immanuel Lutheran Church and Preschool in Waterloo, Illinois, in 2014. He continued serving Immanuel during his final year at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and then accepted the



Call to Immanuel Waterloo as the Associate Pastor in 2016. In 2019 he became the Administrative Pastor at Immanuel until 2024 when he accepted the Call to St. John, Hanover. Pastor Demski and his wife, Veronica, have been married since June 14, 2009. Veronica has a degree in Junior High and High School language arts. She has taught at various church preschools and now homeschools their two children, Betty Anne and Merritt Manfred, who are in 3rd and 1st grade. She enjoys reading, quilting, stitching, scrapbooking, and other crafts.

Rooted and built in Him...

Colossians 2:6-7



Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Colossians 2:6-7