

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Fellowship Sunday

February 16, 2025

10:00 a.m.

THE VISION STATEMENT FOR IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

As the body of Christ, renewed by the Holy Spirit as a living community of believers, we are committed to sharing the love of Christ and the good news of salvation.

*We build relationships with others in the **Community Around Us**, while nurturing the **Community Among Us**, so all may know of and grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.*

Building on Christ, Equipping for the Future

The Five-fold function of the Church: **Worship, Education, Fellowship, Service, and Evangelism**

WELCOME VISITORS!

The Immanuel Lutheran congregation is pleased that you have joined us today. If you have no church home, we invite you to make your home among us.

Gathering as God people (The Church) is essential to the life of disciples. It is not optional. As disciples gather, we love and are love. Life in community is a hallmark of Christian life.

ORGAN PRELUDE ~

“Partita on Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Opening Hymn #684 – “Come unto Me, Ye Weary”



1 “Come un - to Me, ye wea - ry, And I will give you rest.”
 2 “Come un - to Me, ye wan - d’rers, And I will give you light.”
 3 “Come un - to Me, ye faint - ing, And I will give you life.”
 4 “And who - so - ev - er com - eth, I will not cast him out.”



O bless - ed voice of Je - sus, Which comes to hearts op-pressed!
 O lov - ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to cheer the night!
 O cheer - ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to aid our strife!
 O pa - tient love of Je - sus, Which drives a - way our doubt,



It tells of ben - e - dic - tion, Of par - don, grace, and peace,
 Our hearts were filled with sad - ness, And we had lost our way;
 The foe is stern and ea - ger, The fight is fierce and long;
 Which, though we be un - wor - thy Of love so great and free,



Of joy that hath no end - ing, Of love that can - not cease.
 But Thou hast brought us glad - ness And songs at break of day.
 But Thou hast made us might - y And strong - er than the strong.
 In - vites us ver - y sin - ners To come, dear Lord, to Thee!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt.

Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–after 1857

Text and tune: Public domain

Divine Service

Invocation

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

It is in the Sacrament that God gives us His undeserved love. We begin the Divine Service with a remembrance of that moment when God gave to us all the blessing of Jesus life, death, and resurrection. We may gather before God in hope because of what God has done for us.

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

C Amen.

Christians are not perfect people. We are forgiven people. Here we again seek to lay our sins at the cross of Jesus and hear the Words of God that give forgiveness and peace.

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

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

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

The pastor speaks the absolution not because he is holier than the people of the congregation. He does so because the congregation has appointed him to the office of the public ministry. His is to speak to the people God's Word as He has revealed it in Scripture.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

The Divine Service is divided into two parts. The first is the Service of the Word. And the second is the Service of the Sacrament. We will not have the Service of the Sacrament today. In the Service of the Word, we focus on the Bible, which is God speaking to us today. Through His Word, our faith grows because He is active in His Word.

Introit means to enter. After the confession of sins and the hearing of God's forgiveness with his people, the pastor enters the railing that separates the Altar from the rest of the Church. Through God's forgiveness and love we can come directly into God's presence without fear.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5; antiphon: v. 7



I will praise you with an | upright heart,
when I learn your just and righ- | teous decrees.
Blessèd are those whose way is | blameless,*
who walk in the law | of the LORD!
Blessèd are those who keep his testi- | monies,*
who seek him with their | whole heart.
You have commanded your | precepts*
to be kept dil- | igently.
Oh that my ways may be | steadfast*
in keeping your | statutes!
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
I will praise you with an | upright heart,
when I learn your just and righ- | teous decrees.**

Having entered the Altar area we greet our King, Jesus. The Kyrie was a common greeting when meeting a King and asking for his blessing.

Kyrie



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

The Hymn of Praise is a song we offer to God in thanksgiving and worship for the forgiveness and compassion shown to us. Hymns (songs) in the Lutheran Church were written also to teach the faith and to remind believers of God's Word.

In "This is the Feast" we praise God for His invitation to us to join the eternal Feast.
The hymn also tells how the invitation is possible through Christ.

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*

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.

The Salutation is the greeting of disciples to one another. In the first century church, this was how believers said “hello.”

The Collect of the Day is a prayer that sums up the needs of the people of God for that Sunday. It is a “collection” of the thoughts for the day.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

A The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

A Let us pray.

O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Our Divine Service typically has three readings from the Bible. One is from the Old Testament (written before the Birth of Jesus), one from an Epistle (epistle means letter. These are letters written by the Apostles to the early congregation), and one from a Gospel (Gospels are the written account of Jesus life and work). The Bible is how God speaks to His people today. The Scriptures are of divine origin and inerrant. God speaks through them now to instruct, bless, and comfort His people.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 17:5-8

⁵Thus says the LORD:

“Cursed is the man who trusts in man
and makes flesh his strength,
whose heart turns away from the LORD.

⁶He is like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see any good come.

He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

⁸He is like a tree planted by water,
that sends out its roots by the stream,
and does not fear when heat comes,
for its leaves remain green,
and is not anxious in the year of drought,
for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ~

“Blest Are They”
David Haas (b. 1957)

Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:1-20

¹Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

The alleluia verse is a special act of praise just before we hear the Words of Jesus in the Gospel.

Alleluia and Verse

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



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



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



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

Holy Gospel

Luke 6:17-26

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁷[Jesus] came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.

²⁰And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

²²“Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! ²³Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

²⁴“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

²⁵“Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry.

“Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

²⁶“Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

The Apostle’s Creed was not written by the apostles themselves. It is a summary of the teaching of the apostles. This creed served as the first “textbook” on teaching the Christian faith to new Christians and to children being raised in the faith.

Apostles' Creed

**☐ 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.**

Sit

The Hymn of the Day is chosen by the preacher to give additional insight to the message he will deliver. Note again how the song teaches faith.

Hymn of the Day # 394– “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
2 Man - i - fest at Jor-dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su-preme;
3 Man - i - fest in mak-ing whole Pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;
4 Sun and moon shall dark-ened be, Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres - ent in Thy ho - ly Word—



Man - i - fest-ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far,
And at Ca - na wed - ding guest In Thy God-head man - i - fest;
Man - i - fest in val - iant fight, Quell - ing all the dev - il's might;
Christ will then like light - ning shine, All will see His glo - rious sign;
Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;



Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
Man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, Chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
Man - i - fest in gra - cious will, Ev - er bring-ing good from ill;
All will then the trum - pet hear, All will see the Judge ap - pear;
That we might be - come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny



An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
Thou by all wilt be con-fessed, God in man made man - i - fest.
And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, alt.

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93

Text and tune: Public domain

The sermon is a message composed by the pastor to teach the message of the Day's reading or, as today, a special verse chosen by him. His goal is that the hearers receive the same message the original hearer of the passage heard with the same understanding. The pastor will only teach what is God's Word, as given in the Bible.

Sermon *Love you neighbor (especially friends) as yourself*

VOLUNTARY ~

“I Love to Tell the Story”

arr. **Dorothy Wells** (1926-2008)

Offering

(We join with Christians all over the world in worshipping God through the giving of our financial resources. If you are a first-time visitor, you are our guest and we do not expect you to give an offering. For members and friends, the ministry of this congregation is

completely dependent upon your generous giving. Our offering is a significant act of worship.)

Stand

The Offertory is a song where we offer not just treasure to God but our entire selves to Him as His disciples. It is an act of love which is a response to His love.

Offertory

C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Prayer is our speaking to God at His behest. God has spoken to us in His Word and desires for us to speak to Him in prayer. Communication is crucial to any healthy relationship. Faith is a relationship with God. Disciples may bring any praise, thanksgiving, and request to God for anyone.

Prayer of the Church

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

Brief silence

Heavenly Father, Your kingdom has been made manifest in the preaching and miracles of Jesus Christ. Gather together a great multitude from every Gentile nation and from Judea's

remnant, that many may know Wisdom come in our flesh. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, preserve us from the ways of the wicked, and prosper us in Your paths. We commend to You all who bear office in our land and ask You to make them a blessing to those they serve. Grant to us every joy in the calling You have given to us, that we would render service to You in our works of love toward our neighbor. Remember those in need of honest labor and daily bread, and give them gainful employment according to Your good and gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, hear our prayer for those who are troubled by any unclean spirit, memory or thought; for the sick; and for all who need Your healing [*especially _____*]. Send forth Your power in the name of Christ Jesus, that they would hear Your Word and be cured. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, Your Son is risen from the dead and has promised that He is the firstfruits from among those who sleep. Preserve us in Christ Jesus with hope beyond this life. Comfort those who mourn [*especially _____*] with the certainty of Christ's resurrection, and grant us to live in confident expectation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, plant us as trees by the stream of Christ, our Savior. Root us securely in His Word and wisdom. Do not let us turn from You, nor put our trust in man and this flesh, which fail. Preserve us from all anxiety, and take our fears away through right fear of You. Cause us, by Your Holy Spirit, to bear much fruit and, when affliction and persecution come, to stand firm and rejoice at the great reward that is laid up for those who trust in You; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

A Prayer of Thanksgiving for loved ones on a pilgrimage with us.

A Prayer of Remembrance for loved ones who are home with the Lord.

Lighting of candles

"Song of the Bells"

Carl Simone (1918-2003)

This particular prayer is the one Jesus taught to His disciple when they asked Him to teach them how to pray. While it is an example of prayer, it holds a special place in the hearts of believers.

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.

Announcements

Salutation And Benedicamus

We are nearing the end of the Divine Service. God has given to us richly today and we are lifted up, healed, and depart with Joy to serve Him by loving all others in our daily life. The Benediction is from the Old Testament. It is one we share with millions of Christians around the world. It reminds us that God is with us every day and everywhere.

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

A Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn #741 – “Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense”



1 Je - sus Christ, my sure de - fense And my Sav - ior, now is
 2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, lives; Like - wise I to life shall
 3 No, too close - ly I am bound By my hope to Christ for -
 4 I am flesh and must re - turn To the dust, whence I am



liv - ing! Know - ing this, my con - fi - dence
 wak - en. He will bring me where He is;
 ev - er; Faith's strong hand the Rock has found,
 tak - en; But by faith I now dis - cern



Rests up - on the hope here giv - en, Though the
 Shall my cour - age then be shak - en? Shall I
 Grasped it, and will leave it nev - er; E - ven
 That from death I shall a - wak - en With my



night of death be fraught Still with man - y an anx - ious thought.
 fear, or could the Head Rise and leave His mem - bers dead?
 death now can - not part From its Lord the trust - ing heart.
 Sav - ior to a - bide In His glo - ry, at His side.

5 Glorified, I shall anew
 With this flesh then be enshrouded;
 In this body I shall view
 God, my Lord, with eyes unclouded;
 In this flesh I then shall see
 Jesus Christ eternally.

Text: Otto von Schwerin, 1616–79; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
 Text and tune: Public domain

**ORGAN POSTLUDE ~ “Postlude on Olde Hundredth”
 Fred Bock (1939-1998)**

Those Serving Today:

Pastor	Rev. Charles Minetree
Officiant	
Liturgist	Denise Waicker
Lay Reader	Mark Smith
Director of Music	Muriel Hopkins
Altar Guild	Sharon Minetree/Phyllis Rebstock

Birthdays This Week:

17 Pastor Minetree

21 Phoebe Clark

This Week at Immanuel:

Sunday February 16

Friendship Sunday

9:00 am

Sunday school, ages 3-12

10:00 am

Worship & Holy Communion

Post worship

Reception

Tuesday February 18

7:00 pm

LRIA General Meeting

Wednesday February 19

6:30 pm

Council meeting

Thursday February 20

7:00 pm

Choir practice

Sunday February 23

9:00 am

Sunday school, ages 3-12

10:00 am

Worship & Holy Communion

Post worship

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

CANCELLED

Flowers were given to the Glory of God today by Laura Pickering in remembrance of the birthday of her late husband, John Pickering

A donation to the Cemetery Fund in memory of Bill Hermann was received from John and Olivia Cavaluzzi, and Mary F. Shock

Ministry Notes

LCEF Real Estate Campus Planning - Town Hall Meeting Set for Tuesday, February 25 at 6PM

Immanuel is taking a significant step to establish a new source of income in support of our current ministry. At the special Voters Assembly Meeting held on 11/24/24, the congregation approved an Agreement with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund to explore using vacant space and land to create a new source of revenue for the congregation. This process begins with a market analysis to determine the highest and best use of land and building and potential customers for that space.

There will be a Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, February 25 at 6 PM to which all members and friends are invited to attend. Mr. Tom Campbell (LCEF Senior Vice President), Mr. Kirk Hymes (LCEF Southeastern District Vice President) and Mr. Jonathan Ward (Project Leader) will be with us to provide information on the process that lies ahead and to answer your questions. Please make every effort to attend this Town Hall Meeting and be part of this effort to set a new direction for Immanuel.

Sunday Adult Bible Class – *CURRENTLY CLASS HAS PAUSED UNTIL SUNDAY, MARCH 9th*

We meet immediately after 10 AM Divine Service in the conference room. Our topic will be examining insights given in the book: **Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes**, Cultural Studies in the Gospels by Kenneth E, Bailey. We will gain insights into some of the Bible passages that are covered in the gospels.

Wednesday Lunch Bible Class. Cancelled beginning Wednesday, February 26, and through the Lenten season.

SAVE THE DATE, Saturday, April 5th, Flea market (rain date, Saturday, April 12th)

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Chip Powell, Pastor's brother-in-law, who is having back problems
- Rosemarie Wilson, the daughter of Filleseta James, for return of strength in her left leg
- Elaine Mueller, who had hip surgery and is recovering well
- For peace in Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, and Russia
- Bonnie and Joe Castrilli as she cares for her husband who has dementia
- Joseph Woah-tee missing, and whereabouts unknown