



*Fourth Sunday in Lent
With Holy Communion
Immanuel Lutheran Church
March 30, 2025*

Welcome to this place of praise and prayer.

We gather today in celebration of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, as part of God's family. We would appreciate having you sign our guest book so that we can remember your presence with us. Please note that in the ELW the page numbers are printed at the bottom of the page and hymn numbers are located at the top. The order of worship is outlined on the following pages.

The offering reminds us that all of life is a gift of God. We are stewards of that gift. In response, a portion of our income is given as an act of worship to do God's work in the world. Immanuel is a first-fruits congregation. That means that every Sunday when the offering is taken in, we give first to the mission and the ministry of the ELCA. We don't wait to see if we can pay our bills before we give away for God's mission. It is our hands doing God's work, for the sake of the world our Lord loves.

We serve Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month and at all festivals. We offer an open invitation to all baptized believers to participate. It is our understanding that Christ offers his body and blood with the bread and wine to forgive sin and strengthen faith and life. If you receive communion in your home church, you are welcome to receive communion here.

FIND US ONLINE



immanuelcaledonia.org



www.facebook.com/immanuelcaledonia



www.lacrosseareasynd.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Steven E. Meyer

pastormeyer@acegroup.cc

507-725-8636

Church Office, Chelsey Kruckow

churchoffice@acegroup.cc

507-725-3123

Organist/Choir Director, Emily Riley

rileem01@gmail.com

Copyright permissions:

Liturgical Text & Music: From Sundaysandseasons.com

Copyright© 2025 Augsburg Fortress

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please stand as you are able)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Our forty-day journey through Lent recalls Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. Three times, the devil coaxed Jesus to rely on himself instead of on God. Jesus resisted, trusting God to give him all he needed.

Friends, we are not Jesus. We don't recognize relying on ourselves instead of God as temptation; we even extol self-reliance as a virtue. Join me in confessing this to God, and asking for compassion.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

God, I confess that I struggle to confess. I want to delight you by doing all the right things. I don't want to admit that I can't. To receive your forgiveness, I must confront my failure.

God, I confess that I struggle to confess: I'm afraid of being a burden to others. I don't want to need them too much, so I try not to need them at all.

God, I confess that I struggle to confess: just like I turn away from my own vulnerability I turn away from the vulnerable. I have rejected my weakness and avoided those who are weak. I have denied my frailty and looked down on those who are frail. I have resisted my dependence and thought less of those who depend on others.

God, forgive us, because we struggle to forgive ourselves. We build a wall of self-reliance that separates us from your love.

Jesus once said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician.” Jesus didn’t come for those who didn’t need him: he came for me and for you and for everyone who has fallen short. Feel how Jesus’ power is made perfect in our weakness. In Christ’s name, I tell you that you are completely and entirely forgiven. You are imperfect, and you are forgiven, and you are entirely loved.

Let that forgiven-ness rest in your bones not as a sign of our failure to win the fight against sin, but as the realization that God already has. Let us shout with the psalmist:

My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust! Amen.

GATHERING HYMN	<i>Our Father, We Have Wandered</i>	#606
GREETING		Page 138
KYRIE		Page 138
LENTEN HYMN (with intro)	<i>Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church</i>	#321
PRAYER OF THE DAY		

God of compassion, **you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

HYMN (INTRO)	<i>Jesus Loves Me</i>	vs. 2	#595
WORD FOR KIDS			
SUNDAY SCHOOL DISMISSAL	<i>Go, My Children, with My Blessing</i>	vs. 2	#543

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching and song.

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

⁹ The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal, they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and roasted grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ’s resurrection. This is Paul’s strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

(Please stand as you are able)

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord. Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The holy gospel according to Luke, chapter 15. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he

heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

This is the gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

(Congregation may be seated)

SERMON

Pastor Steve Meyer

HYMN OF THE DAY

Amazing Grace vs. 1-4

#779

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The response to each prayer will be, "Lord, in your mercy,"
Congregation reply will be, "**hear our prayer.**"

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
You are welcome to send a text or email to share peace with others.

OFFERING

(Offerings may be placed in the wooden offering box as you leave the sanctuary)

OFFERING RESPONSE*Create in Me a Clean Heart***Immanuel Choir**

JA Freylinghausen, arr. Paul Christiansen

Vs. 1: Choir Only

Vs. 2: Choir & Congregation (Hymn #188):

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious Provider, **you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

MEAL*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ***GREAT THANKSGIVING (SUNG)**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God our thanks and praise.****HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *INTRODUCTION BEFORE SUNG*****#190****WORDS OF INSTITUTION****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, for ever and ever. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD**Page 146****DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

COMMUNION HYMNS

Just As I Am, without One Plea
Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

#592
#608

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This

#666

SENDING

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Thank you to Today's Volunteers!

We would love to have your help during our worship service. Please sign up at the kiosk in the church narthex or on the church website under the sign-up link on the home page. Thank you!

Greeters: Nicole Flugge, Crystal Flugge

Ushers: Dave Renslo & Dean Schutte

Reader:

Presentation Clicker: Crystal Flugge

Communion Servers: Mary Frank

Live Stream: Cheryl Kuennen

Acolytes:

Coffee and Refreshments:

Additional Announcements

Church Cleaning Week!

Mark your calendars for April 6-12, 2025 for a church cleaning week!

The main goal will be dusting and cleaning windows throughout the building. It will be nice to have a clean church for upcoming Easter services. Cooperation among multiple people can make tasks easier to accomplish. We may have an event with both day and evening hours. Sign up on the kiosk in the Narthex for jobs.

Thank You Very Much!

David Erickson, Property Manager

2025 Lenten Schedule

Please join us on Wednesday's during Lent at Immanuel Lutheran Church for Holden Evening Prayer and weekly Mid-Week Series "Returning Home: Monologues Based on the Prodigal Son".

Services at Immanuel begin at 6:30 pm on the following dates:

- Wednesday, April 2: The Mother
- Wednesday, April 9: The Servant

Palm Sunday:

- April 13: 9:00 am at Immanuel
- April 13: 10:15 am at Wilmington

Holy Week:

- Thursday, April 17: Maundy Thursday
- Friday, April 18: Good Friday Services at Immanuel at 1:00 pm
Good Friday Service at Wilmington at 6:30 pm

Easter Sunday

- April 20: 6:30 am Immanuel Sunrise
- April 20: 9:00 am at Immanuel
- April 20: 10:15 am at Wilmington



The spring rummage sale will be held the first week in April this year.
When: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday - April 2, 3, 4 from noon to 6 pm each day.

SET UP - we will begin set up on Sunday, March 30 immediately after church service.

DONATIONS - we will start accepting donations on Sunday, March 30 to the church social hall or foyer. We would prefer donations be dropped off by Tuesday at 6 pm, if you know you need to bring donations later than that, please just let us know. Donations can be left on Sunday until 1:30 pm. Monday and Tuesday 8 am - 6 pm. If you need a time outside this ask.

CLEAN-UP will happen on Friday at 6 pm. With a takeaway of Saturday morning to Decorah. If you are interested in driving the trailer to Decorah, let us know.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING items prior to SUNDAY, March 30.

We CAN NOT accept: VHS tapes, dirty clothes—torn or stained, Tupperware or plastic containers without lids, outdated or broken electronics and televisions, opened toiletries and cleaning supplies. Anything broken or moldy. No Mattresses. Please ask about large exercise equipment. PLEASE ASK about large furniture pieces. All of these things are items the Immanuel will have to pay to dispose of as donation stores will not take them if they do not sell.

Clean, gently used household goods, clothing (please make sure clothes are washed and free of animal hair), baby items, bath mats, working appliances, sheet sets, comforters, usable shoes, seasonal outerwear, and furniture are appreciated.

Basically - if you would buy it in the condition it is in we will accept it. If you would not buy it in its current condition - either clean it or dispose of it somewhere else. The church pays for all the extra trash we need to throw away from unsellable items.

We could really use your help any time between 9 am and 6 pm Monday-Friday and especially during the sales hours. Closer to the date - A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex or you can call the church office. If you need assistance getting donations to the church please call the church office. Any questions can be answered by Tricia Babinski (tricia@jtbabinski.us) and Priscilla Jacobson.