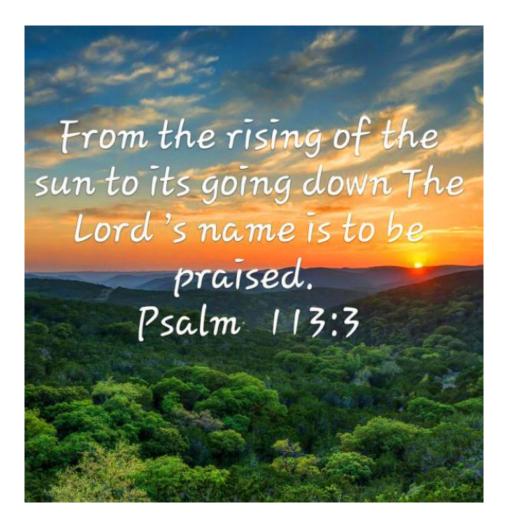
Welcome to Worship at Immanuel Lutheran Church



What Does Being Progressive Really Mean?

Sunday, September 21, 2025 9 a.m. Service Bulletin Ordinary Time Year C

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO WORSHIP WITH US!



WE BELIEVE THAT GUESTS ARE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, and we seek to make your visit positive! Please scan the QR code to the left or sign the Pew Register located in the red notebook.

WE BELIEVE THAT SERVING CHRIST MEANS SERVING OUR

NEIGHBORS. Our name, Immanuel, means "God with us." Everything we do is to welcome and serve the Lord who is here among us, in you, and in our neighbors. Our

ministries, from our Worship to our Soup Kitchen and Food Bank, from our Jail Ministry to our Women's Drug Recovery house, from our Homeless Children's Ministry to our Campus Ministry at Lander University, are all designed and carried out to share "God with us" with our surrounding neighborhood and city. God's Love is inexhaustible! People from all around town work alongside us to share this Love with our neighbors. You can too!

WE BELIEVE THAT CHURCH is where disagreements may occur, and the love of Christ draws us together to worship and work together. We do not all agree on everything, but we do love God and each other, and that is enough!

WE BELIEVE THAT GOD LOVES EVERYONE, so we do too! ALL are welcome here!

HOSPITALITY

RESTROOMS - Our Handicap Accessible Restroom is located just outside the door by the pulpit. We also have nearby restrooms downstairs.

THE CHILD CARE ROOM IS OPEN! - We have a room for parents that offers a private, quick, and convenient space for caring for children. The room is located just outside of the sanctuary through the door beside the pulpit.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Today, we are encouraged to consider the meaning of acting as a manager rather than an owner of ALL we possess. We are bought with a price. Christ Jesus, divine AND fully human, sacrificed a ransom for ALL. Apart from the generosity of God, we have nothing. We are nothing. By God's gracious favor, we have ALL we need.

Order of Worship

As the prelude begins, please prepare your heart and mind for Worship in SILENT meditation.

+ THE PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision Don Wyrtzen / Robert W. Thygerson Dr. Will Cleveland, Organist

+ THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

During the chiming of the hour, please stand for the Processional Hymn.

Please stand, as you are able.



Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1690; tr. composite

Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, Ernewerten Gesangbuch, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

Text © 2000 Augsburg Fortress

+ THE WELCOME The Rev. Chris Christopher, Pastor

+ THE CONFESSION

Please be seated or kneel.

Pastor Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

ALL AMEN.

Pastor Trusting in God's mercy, let us offer our confession.

Pastor Most merciful and loving God,

ALL We confess that we have not fully lived out your call to share in abundant life and

unconditional love. We ask you to provide us with the courage to change as well as the energy, imagination, and love to be your people in ALL we say and do. We ask for your help, your power, and your Spirit to grow more each day into the image

of Christ. AMEN.

♣ THE ABSOLUTION (Declaration of Forgiveness)

Pastor Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world

to save ALL. You who were lost have been found. In the name of + Jesus, your sins

are forgiven!

ALL AMEN.

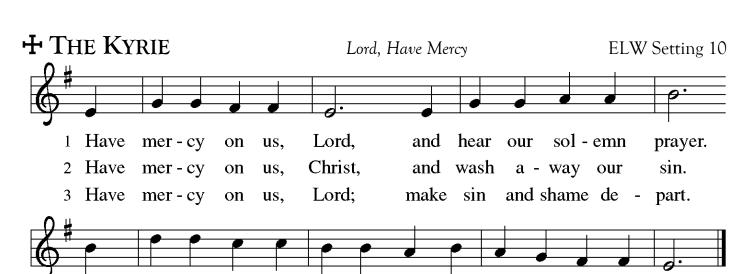
4 THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

Please stand, as you are able.

Pastor The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the

Holy Spirit be with you ALL.

ALL And also with you.



We come to hear your liv-ing word; it saves us from de-spair.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.

Re - new us with your sav-ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!



5



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

+ THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Let us pray: God among us,

ALL we gather in the name of Christ to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN.

The children may come forward for a short message, then go downstairs to Children's Church and return during Communion.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please be seated.

+ THE LESSON Amos 8:4-7

Summary

Lector In today's lesson, we learn that the Prophet Amos was called by God to prophesize in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation. Now, the lesson from the book of Amos in the Old Testament.

Lector

4 Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
5 saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the
Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah smaller and
the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances, 6 buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat." ⁷ The
Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely, I will never forget any of their deeds.

Lector Here ends the lesson. For the word given to us,

ALL Thanks be to God.

+ THE PSALM 113:1-8

Lector ¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the Lord; praise the name of the Lord.

ALL ² Let the name of the Lord be blessed, from this time forth for evermore.

Lector ³ From the rising of the sun to its going down let the name of the Lord be praised.

ALL ⁴ The Lord is high above all nations; God's glory above the heavens.

Lector ⁵ Who is like the Lord our God, who sits enthroned on high,

ALL ⁶ but stops to behold the heavens and the Earth?

Lector ⁷ The Lord takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts the poor from the ashes,

ALL 8 enthroning them with the rulers, with the rulers of the people.

+ THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION AND READING Luke 16:1-13

Please stand, as you are able.

Lector Alleluia! Hear the Good News!

ALL Alleluia! Live your life in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ; strive side by

side for the faith of the Gospel. Alleluia!

Lector The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the 16th chapter.

ALL Glory to You, O Lord.

The Parable of the Dishonest Manager

Pastor

¹ Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' 5 So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' 8 And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

ALL Praise to you, O Christ.

+ THE SERMON

Is Being Progressive Bad?

The Rev. Chris Christopher

Please be seated.

+ THE HYMN OF THE DAY

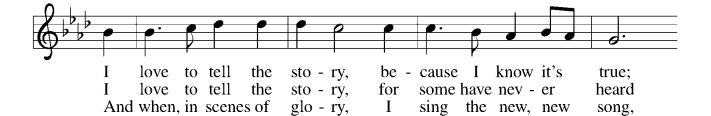
I Love to Tell the Story

ELW # 661

Please stand, as you are able.











I love to tell the sto-ry; 'twill be my theme in glo-ry



Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911

Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

廿 THE APOSTLES' CREED

AM Together, let us profess our faith.

ALL I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of Heaven and Earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

+ THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please be seated or kneel. AM = Assisting Minister

AM Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and ALL in need.

Silence for preparation

- AM O God, teach your church to act in solidarity with the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy and practicing justice in our own life and community. God of grace,
- ALL receive our prayer.
- AM Almighty Creator, we pray for an end to the misuse of the Earth and its resources, that ALL people may benefit from your abundant gifts and that our stewardship of creation would be marked by justice and sustainability. God of grace,
- ALL receive our prayer.
- AM Holy One, embolden elected leaders to pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of ALL, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Persuade them by your example of generosity and compassion. God of grace,
- ALL receive our prayer.

AM Compassionate God, we pray for ALL facing illness, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones. May they find comfort and strength in your love. Prepare us to surround them with your healing care. God of grace,

ALL receive our prayer.

AM God of love, motivate our congregation to enact economic justice through tangible action, prioritizing the needs of our community and sharing resources generously through our outreach and justice ministries. God of grace,

ALL receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

AM Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life. God of grace,

ALL receive our prayer.

AM We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer.

ALL AMEN.

+ THE PEACE

Please stand, as you are able.

AM The peace of the Lord be with you always.

ALL And also with you.

AM Let us turn to our AV Team and those worshiping with us on-line and on the radio and say together,

ALL the peace of the Lord be with you.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Holy Communion *Please be seated.*



*During this time the ushers will pass the offering plates. If you prefer, you may give remotely by scanning the QR code to the left or visiting our website www.ilcgreenwood.com and selecting GIVE from the menu. THANK YOU for your generosity.

+ THE OFFERTORY

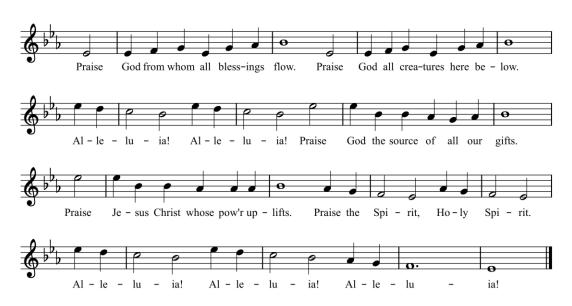
Come Christians Join to Sing
The Handbell Choir

Sandra Eithun

♣ THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Please stand, as you are able.



+ THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor

Let us pray: Creator God,

ALL

in your wisdom you bring forth ALL that is good, and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the Earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of ALL, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. AMEN.

+ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor The Lord be with you.

ALL And also with you. Pastor Lift up your hearts.

ALL We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor continues with the Words of Institution.

+ THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

+ THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Please be seated.

ALL are invited regardless of your understanding, your faith background, or sense of worth. Christ invites you. Jesus gives himself for you; Yes, for YOU. So come, come to the Table of the Lord. Communion is distributed by intinction, the dipping of the bread into the cup. The metal cups hold wine. The stoneware cups hold grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request; please ask for gluten free as you approach the server. Prepackaged elements are available inside a bowl at the head of the aisle. ALL are welcome to use the chancel rail for private prayer during the distribution.



from Land of Rest Acclamations by Richard Proulx

+ THE COMMUNION ANTHEM

Help Us Accept Each Other John Ness Beck The Chancel Choir

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us; teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace. Be present, Lord, among us and Bring us to believe: we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith. Teach us to care for people, for all not just for some, to love them as we find them or as they may become.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need, who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread, we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on: renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

+ THE BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand, as you are able.

Pastor The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in

God's Grace!

ALL AMEN!

→ THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor Let us pray: God of abundance,

ALL with this bread of life and cup of salvation, you have united us with Christ, making us one with ALL your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

+ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS Please see page 19.

+ THE BENEDICTION

Pastor The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the

hungry, who sets the prisoners free, \pm bless you now and forever.

ALL AMEN.



Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

+ THE PROCLAMATION OF OUR MISSION AND DISMISSAL

AM We proclaim together:

ALL By the grace of God, we are disciples growing in faith, serving our communities,

and connecting others to Christ.

AM Go in peace.

ALL Thanks be to God.

+ THE POSTLUDE

Gavotte

Samuel Wesley

THANK YOU to those serving in Worship today!

Presiding Minister The Rev. Chris Christopher

Crucifer Parker Kinard
Lector / Assisting Minister Daniel Kinard

Communion Assistants Carl Monson, Sue Kaufman, and Sue Frantz

Organist and Pianist Dr. Will Cleveland

Sound and Video Technicians George Beveridge and Ray Lorick Ushers Lynn Isenhower and David Isenhower

Altar Guild Elaine Rosenbaum

Counter John Kinard
Officer on Duty Kevin Reeder

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^{*}After Worship, please join us downstairs in the Old Fellowship Hall for refreshments and Adult Christian Education.

+ THE PRAYER LIST

*Please email Dr. Will to add or remove names. If anyone needs visitation, please contact Pastor Chris.

Those in need of healing: Linda Beveridge, Peggy Bowman, Stephanie Branch, Wayne Cannon, Tom Carter, Vicky Crawford, Patricia Carteron, Steve Crooks, Oliver Conaty, Laquana Davis, Michael Gagné, Traver Gowan, Pop Pop Gowan, Torsha Hicks, Suellen Holmes, Tracy Koester, David Krumwiede, Juan Luna, Chandler Patterson, Steve Presley, Charlie Sayer, Charles Stark, and Betty Weeks.

Those with long term needs: Gail Bouknight, Rick Coker, Richard Coker, Brenda Donahue, Latrosha Fuller, Jaquie Haymond, Willie Fred Kennedy, Mary Kenzie, Lois Kuntz, Sara Russell, Jeanne Shealy, and Deanna Whitt.

Those in the military: Daniel Darling and Devin Rosenbaum.

Expectant and new again parents and siblings, the women of Kinard Manor and ALL in recovery, the people fed through our Soup Kitchen Ministry and Food Pantry Ministry, the people participating in our Jail Ministry, the people of our Matthew 25:40 Ministry, along with the people they continue to help in Guatemala, and

The families of Saints who have been received into their eternal rest:

Kristen Antley, Robert Beveridge, Mary Butler, Nancy Bollinger, Kenneth Bowen, Peter Dubuque, Suzanne Crowder Han, Phyllis Hartley, Tommy Hipp, Sabrina Hood Kumar, Fred McDowell, Lee Peterson, Jane Shealy Putnam, Jean Roberts, Francine Sheppard, Juna Wergin, and Carolyn Brammer Wolfer.

+ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS (Week of 9/21/2025)

- Fellowship Committee meeting TODAY after Worship. (McCombs Meeting Room)
- Church Council meeting TODAY at 11 a.m. (McCombs Meeting Room)
- Pickleball Monday, September 22, at 6:30 p.m. ALL are invited. If interested, please contact Larry Hammond at (landkhamm@gmail.com) or just show up.
- Campus Ministries Monday, September 22, at 6:45 p.m.
- October Messenger materials due to Dr. Will by Tuesday, September 23.
- Choir Practice Wednesday, September 24
 4:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
 5:15 p.m. Handbell Choir
- Matthew 2540 next year's mission trip will be May 21-29, 2026. Interested people are encouraged to reserve their spot ASAP. Also, the photos in the pew folders have been updated to reflect this past year's mission trip. Please take a look.
- Devotion books October, November, and December are now available.
- Veterans Stand Down Wednesday, October 1, 9 a.m. 1 p.m. at Immanuel. This event is for any veteran that needs help. Please bring your DD-214, VA Card, or ID Card. Resources and services provided include FREE lunch, FREE haircut, housing, job training, and more.



- Baked Goods Needed or other homemade goodies needed for the Fiesta de Guatemala on Friday, Oct. 3. Smaller portions or individual ones are preferred so people can purchase more than one kind of goodie. Contact Lynn if you can help. (lbisenhower@gmail.com) 864-993-671
- Altar Flowers given today by Sue Frantz to the Glory of God and in memory of her mother, Phyllis Herzog Hartley (8/19/1930 – 6/17/2025)



Please make sure you are registered to receive Immanuel's electronic communications and weekly newsletter by scanning the QR code. Announcements for the Sunday bulletin and the weekly newsletter are due to Dr. Will by Wednesday at 10 a.m.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Immanuel Lutheran Church

501 East Creswell Avenue, Greenwood, SC 29646 864-223-0590, Church Web Site: www.ilcgreenwood.com office@ilcgreenwood.com

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. * Closed on Mondays

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Chris Christopher, Pastor pastorchris.ilcgreenwood@gmail.com

John Kinard, Congregation President jlkinard29@yahoo.com

Dr. Will Cleveland, Parish Administrator / Director of Music will@ilcgreenwood.com

George Beveridge, Parish Sexton glblsb@outlook.com

Trey Morris, Campus Ministry Coordinator treyorville@icloud.com

Kristen Metts, Parish Custodian

SERVING THE CHURCH IN GREATER CAPACITIES

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop, ELCA (The Rev. Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop - Elect)
The Rev. Ginny Aebischer, Bishop, South Carolina Synod