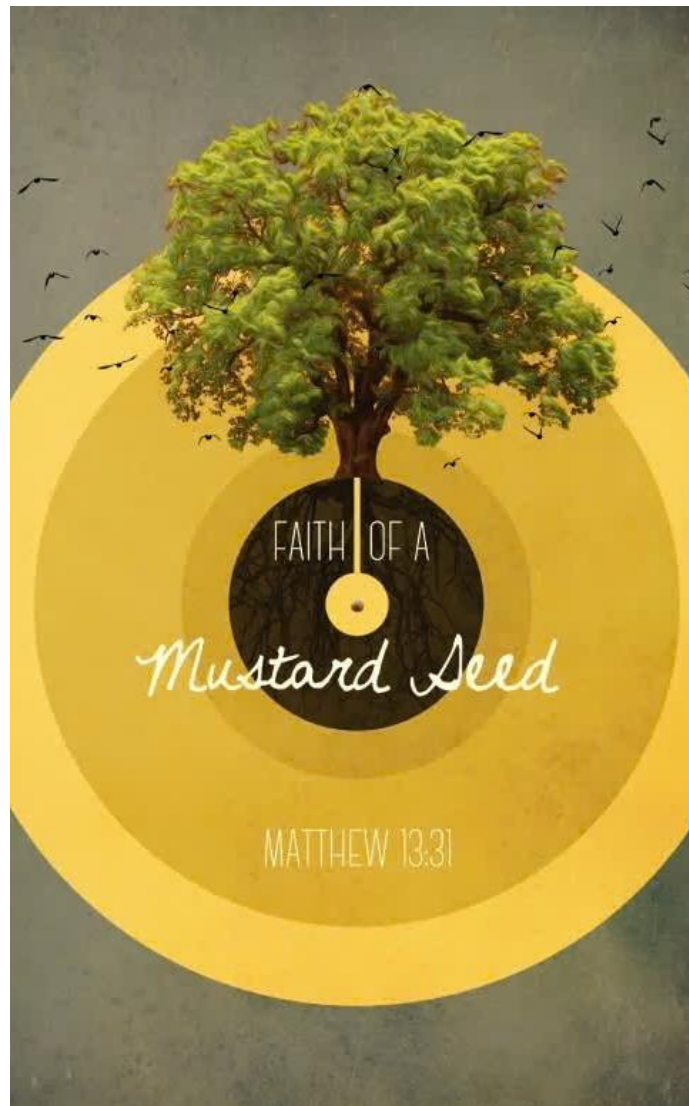


Welcome to Worship at Immanuel Lutheran Church



July 26, 2026
9 a.m. Service Bulletin
Ordinary Time
Year A Lectionary

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 faithful and positive! Please scan the QR code to left or sign the Pew Register (red notebook) as it is passed down your pew.

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 restrooms downstairs nearby.

CHILD CARE - 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

In today’s Gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God’s reign, the great surprise is that God’s grace finds us first!

✙ THE WELCOME Kim Leemhuis, Council Member of the Day

✙ THE PRELUDE *Mass for the Convents, Tierce en taille* François Couperin
Dr. Will Cleveland, Organist

✙ THE LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES
Hendricks Bowen and Graham Bowen, Acolytes

✝ THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

The Rev. Chris Christopher, Pastor

Pastor Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

ALL AMEN.

Pastor Please be seated or kneel as we offer God our confession.

Confession is a time to clear our conscience, acknowledge shortcomings, and receive God's assurance of forgiveness before hearing the Word and sharing Holy Communion.

✝ THE CONFESSION

Please be seated or kneel.

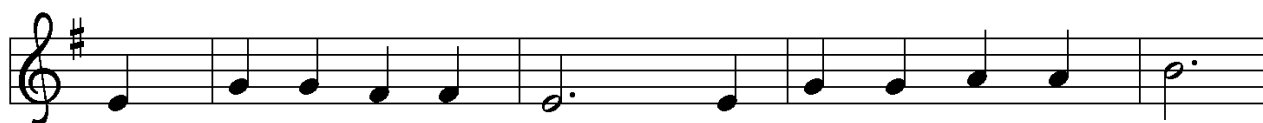
Pastor Most Merciful God,

ALL We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.

✝ THE KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy

ELW Setting 10



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



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!

✝ THE ABSOLUTION (Declaration of Forgiveness)

Pastor God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that the Love of Jesus, and the Kingdom of God may spread in the world through you.

ALL AMEN.

✝ 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.

✝ THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the Highest

ELW Setting 2



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



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



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



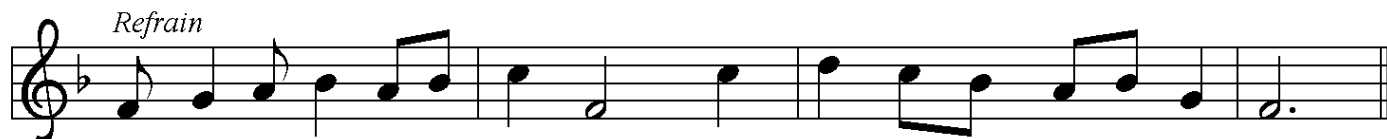
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



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



3 For you a - lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



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

✠ THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Rev. Chris Christopher, Pastor

Pastor Beloved and Sovereign God,
ALL through the death and resurrection of Jesus you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

✠ THE LESSON Romans 8:26-39

Summary

Lector *Today's lesson reveals words that celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love. Now, the lesson from the book of Romans in the New Testament.*

Lector ²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lector Here ends the lesson. For the word given to us,
ALL Thanks be to God.

✚ THE PSALM 128

Congregational Refrain



From *A HymnTune Psalter, Revised Common Lectionary Edition* © 2007 by Carl P. Daw, Jr. and Kevin R. Hackett. Church Publishing Incorporated. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Cantor The LORD bless you from Zion all the days of your life.
ALL The LORD bless you from Zion all the days of your life.

Cantor ¹ Happy are they all who fear the Lord, and who follow in God's ways!
² You shall eat the fruit of your labor; happiness and prosperity shall be yours.
ALL The LORD bless you from Zion all the days of your life.

Cantor ³ Your home will be a source of abundant life and nourishment; your community and loved ones will flourish around your table. ⁴ The one who fears the Lord shall thus indeed be blessed.
ALL The LORD bless you from Zion all the days of your life.

Cantor ⁵ The Lord bless you from Zion, and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. ⁶ May you live to see your children's children; may peace be upon Israel.
ALL The LORD bless you from Zion all the days of your life.

✚ THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Setting #10

Please stand, as you are able.



✝ THE GOSPEL READING Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew the 13th chapter.

ALL **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Pastor ³¹ Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

ALL **Praise to you, O Christ.**

✝ THE SERMON

Please be seated.

The Rev. Chris Christopher

✚ THE HYMN OF THE DAY

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

ELW # 588

Please stand, as you are able.



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.
Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

✚ THE APOSTLES' CREED

AM = Assisting Minister

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 Trusting in God's steadfast love, let us pray for the church, the world, and ALL of creation.

Silence for preparation

AM God our wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way. God of grace,

ALL **hear our prayer.**

AM God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from ranches to wild places. God of grace,

ALL **hear our prayer.**

AM God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated. God of grace,

ALL **hear our prayer.**

AM God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. God of grace,

ALL **hear our prayer.**

AM God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us. God of grace,

ALL **hear our prayer.**

AM God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our community's part in the ongoing gift of creation, and for the riches of faith and hope which came before, we give you thanks. God of grace,

ALL **hear our prayer.**

AM Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

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 worshipping 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 MEDITATION

Biblical Songs, Op.99 Antonín Dvořák
No. 4 God Is My Shepherd
Laura Margaret Fennell, Soloist

✝ THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Please stand, as you are able.

Musical notation for the Doxology, consisting of three staves of music in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are written below the notes.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

✙ THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor Loving God,
ALL we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. 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.

The Pastor continues with the Words of Institution.

✙ THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

✠ THE AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God

Dm Gm⁷ C Fsus F F C F B $\flat$ C

O Lamb of God, you take a - way the

5 F C F/A Am B $\flat$ C Dm

sins of the world; have mer - cy on us,

8 B $\flat$ F C Dm Gm⁷ C Fsus F

Lamb of God, and grant us your peace.

from *Land of Rest Acclamations* by Richard Proul

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✙ 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 Compassionate God,
ALL through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of
 your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love
 freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the
 Spirit nourishing us now and forever. AMEN.

✙ THE BENEDICTION

Pastor Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✙ one God, bless, heal, and hold you
 today and always.

ALL AMEN.

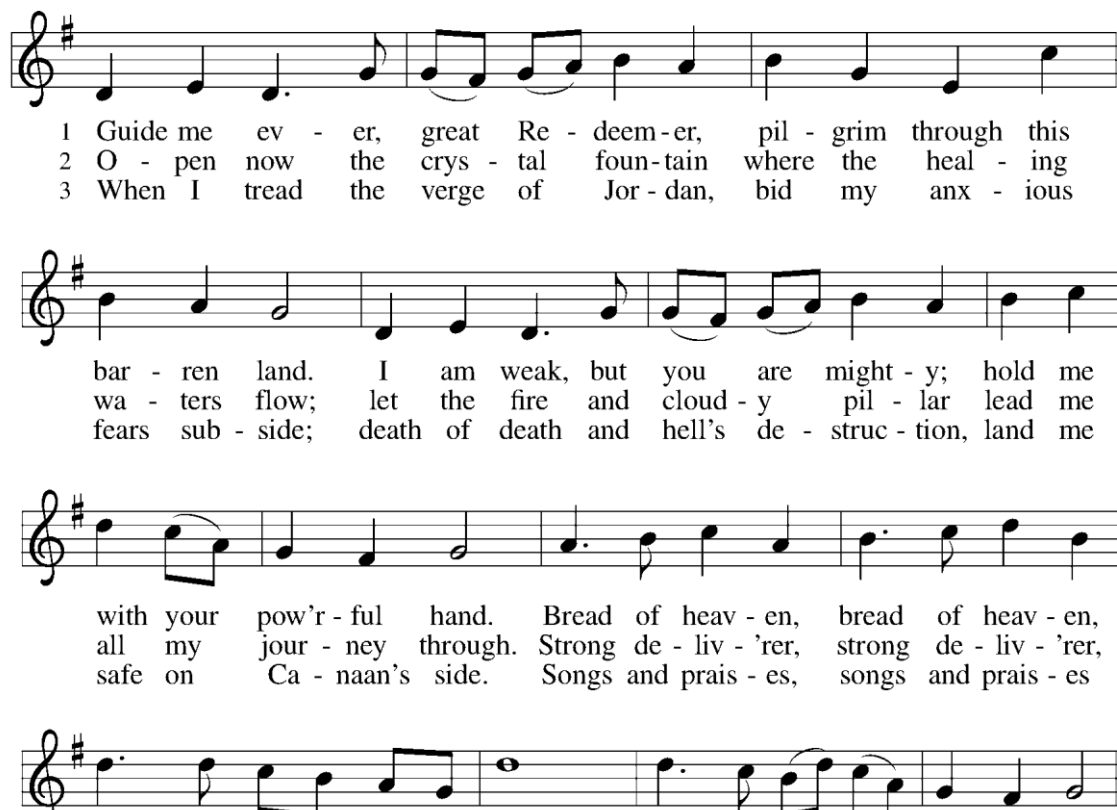
THANK YOU to those serving in Worship today!

Council Member of the Day	Lianne Smith
Lector / Assisting Minister	Kim Leemhuis
Cantor	Laura Margaret Fennell
Acolytes	Hendricks Bowen and Graham Bowen
Crucifer	Parker Kinard
Communion Assistants	Max Divilbiss, Ruth Divilbiss, and Olive Divilbiss
Sound and Video Technician(s)	Larry Hammond and Ashley Starks
Altar Guild	Kim Leemhuis
Ushers	Elaine Rosenbaum and David Rosenbaum
Counter	John Kinard
Officer on Duty	Will Stroup

Altar flowers today are given by Stacy Volpone to the Glory of God.

✚ THE CLOSING HYMN

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer ELW # 618



1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es

feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
 shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
 I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

✚ THE PROCLAMATION OF OUR MISSION AND DISMISSAL

CM = Council Member of the Day

- CM Let us proclaim together:
 ALL By the grace of God, we are disciples growing in faith, serving our communities,
 and connecting others to Christ.
 CM Go in peace.
 ALL Thanks be to God.

✚ THE POSTLUDE *Mass from the Convents, Dialogue sur les Grands Jeux*

François Couperin



CONTACT INFORMATION

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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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
jkinard29@yahoo.com

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

Juan Luna, Sexton
Samuel Hurley and Kristen Metts, Parish Custodians

SERVING THE CHURCH IN GREATER CAPACITIES

The Rev. Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Ginny Aebischer, Bishop, South Carolina Synod