

Welcome to Worship at Immanuel Lutheran Church



By the grace of God, we are disciples growing in faith,
serving our communities and connecting others to Christ.

September 6, 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!

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus’ words in today’s gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. In today’s lesson, Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that Christ is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

Order of Worship

✝ THE WELCOME John Kinard, Council Member of the Day

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

✝ THE PRELUDE *Ricercar secondo tono* Andrea Gabrieli
Dr. Benjamin Dobbs, Guest Organist

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

✚ THE OPENING HYMN

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ELW # 632

Please stand, as you are able.



- 1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
- 2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
- 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
- 4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

✚ THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

The Rev. Chris Christopher, Pastor

Pastor Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the Earth.

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 Compassionate God,
ALL we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

✝ THE ABSOLUTION

Declaration of forgiveness

Pastor Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
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.

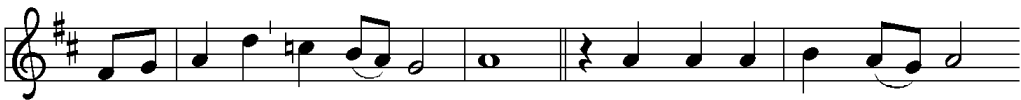
✚ THE HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW Setting #3

Refrain



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

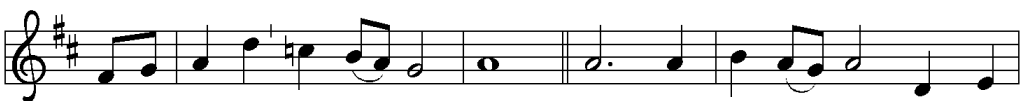


who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev - er. A - men.

Continues on page 6

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - 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.

✝ THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy.

ALL Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN.



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please be seated.

✙ THE LESSON Romans 13:8-14

Summary

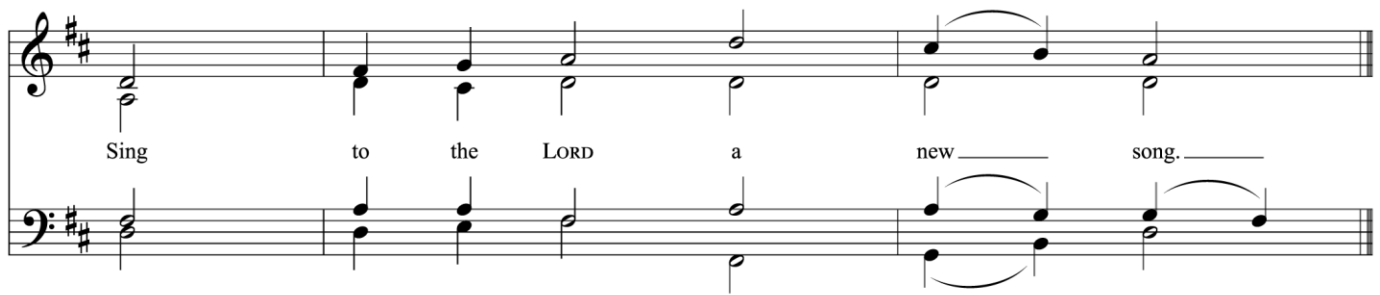
Lector *Today's lesson reveals the obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and live today in light of the future God has in store for us. Now, the lesson from the book of Romans in the New Testament.*

Lector ⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

Congregational Refrain



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Cantor Sing to the LORD a new song.

Refrain Sing to the LORD a new song.

Cantor ¹ Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song; sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful. ² Let Israel rejoice in his Maker; let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. ³ Let them praise his Name in the dance; let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.

Refrain Sing to the LORD a new song.

Cantor ⁴ For the Lord takes pleasure in his people and adorns the poor with victory.

⁵ Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; let them be joyful on their beds.

Refrain Sing to the LORD a new song.

Cantor ⁶ Let the praises of God be in their throat and a two-edged sword in their hand;

⁷ To wreak vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples;

Refrain Sing to the LORD a new song.

Cantor ⁸ To bind their kings in chains and their nobles with links of iron;

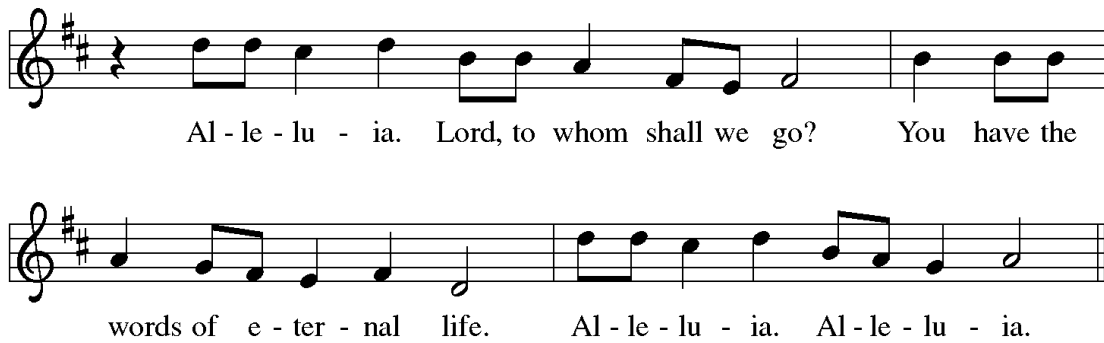
⁹ To inflict on them the judgment decreed; this is glory for all his faithful People. Hallelujah!

Refrain Sing to the LORD a new song.

✝ THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Setting #3

Please stand, as you are able.



✝ THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:15-20

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew the 18th chapter.

ALL Glory to you, O Lord.

Pastor Jesus said to the disciples: ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

ALL Praise to you, O Christ.

✝ THE SERMON

The Rev. Chris Christopher

Please be seated.

✠ THE HYMN OF THE DAY

In All Our Grief

ELW # 615

Please stand, as you are able.



1 In all our grief and fear we turn to you.
2 Help us to put a - side the an - gry word,
3 You did not e - ven spare your on - ly Son.
4 God, when we suf - fer all that we can bear,



O God, you know all that we think or do,
the clenched fist, the wish and will to hurt.
He lived our griefs and bore all e - vil done,
then let us know that you in truth are near



you know the pain we put each oth - er through.
Teach us the way in which love best is served.
but through his cross, re - demp - tion has been won.
and will not leave us lost in all our fear.



Refrain
Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, grant us peace.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: FREDERICKTOWN, Charles R. Anders, b. 1929

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✠ THE NICENE CREED

AM = Assisting Minister

AM Living together in joy, let us confess our faith.

ALL We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of Heaven and Earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. AMEN.

✠ THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please be seated or kneel.

AM Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

Silence for preparation

AM Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to announce the words you give us. Open us to receive your word in unexpected ways.
Hear us, O God.

ALL Your mercy is great.

AM Forming God, renew the cycles of your creation that provide for the needs of all. Protect grasslands, marshes, swamps, and all places of transition. Heal communities crying out after disaster. Hear us, O God.

ALL **Your mercy is great.**

AM Governing God, turn all who create, enforce, or interpret legislation away from selfish gain and toward your promise of good for ALL, especially the good of those who labor. Hear us, O God.

ALL **Your mercy is great.**

AM Attending God, wake us up to any around us who are in need. Restore broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry with us. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, physical, and mental illness, that they know they are not alone. Be with all in our community and the world who are oppressed. Hear us, O God.

ALL **Your mercy is great.**

AM Gathering God, resolve conflicts in this community through your righteousness and grace. Reconcile us to each other, making your good news known even through our imperfections. Hear us, O God.

ALL **Your mercy is great.**

AM Loving God, all who die in faith have life with you. We give you thanks for the nearness of your salvation for all who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

ALL **Your mercy is great.**

AM Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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 ANTHEM

Lead Me Lord Samuel Sebastian Wesley
The Chancel Choir

*Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness, make thy way plain before my face.
Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness, make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only, that makest me dwell in safety.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only, that makest me dwell in safety.*

✙ 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. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second and third staves continue the melody. The third staff ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

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 God of creation,
ALL you send rain and the Earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you;
 make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in
 service to you and in love to our neighbors,
 today and always. 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

Lamb of God

ELW Setting 3

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.

✠ 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: Maddy Bell, Linda Beveridge, Stephanie Branch, Wayne Cannon, Tom Carter, Vicky Crawford, Patricia Carteron, Steve Crooks, Oliver Conaty, Laquana Davis, the family of Spencer Franks, Cheryl Gagné, Michael Gagné, the Goodman family, Traver Gowan, Pop Pop Gowan, Chelsea Hall, Samuel Raines, John Mark Scruggs, Muriel Houde-Stickney, Tracy Koester, David Krumwiede, Juan Luna, Anna Luna, Chandler Patterson, Susan Smitty Stahley, Earl Womack, and Betty Weeks.

Those with long term needs: Gail Bouknight, Grayson Brock, Bob Brock, Rick Coker, Richard Coker, Helen Harrell, Latrosha Fuller, Bruce Kaufman, Willie Fred Kennedy, Lois Kuntz, Juan Luna, Nancy Nash, Martin Pueschel, Rodine Russell (NHC 226-D), Sara Russell, Jeanne Shealy, and

Those in the military: Daniel Darling, Nicholas Pueschel, 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: George Lee Natvig.

✝ THE INCLUSION OF COMMUNION WITH OUR HOMEBOUND

Pastor Let us pray: Gracious God, loving ALL your family with a mother's tender care:
ALL As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament and give us ALL the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN. Go forth with our greetings and prayers, that we all are one, drawn together in Christ. AMEN.

✝ 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 Sustaining God,
ALL with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. AMEN.

✝ THE BENEDICTION

Pastor The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.
ALL AMEN.
Pastor The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.
ALL AMEN.
Pastor The God of grace ✝ bless you now and forever.
ALL AMEN.

✠ THE CLOSING HYMN

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

ELW # 545



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.

Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

✠ THE 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 out in joy. Be lead forth in peace.

ALL Thanks be to God.

✠ THE POSTLUDE

Fond d'Orgue

Louis Marchand

THANK YOU to those serving in Worship today!

Council Member of the Day	John Kinard
Guest Organist	Dr. Benjamin Dobbs
Lector / Assisting Minister	Chandler Darling
Cantor	Tara Johnson
Acolytes	Hendricks Bowen and Graham Bowen
Crucifer	Parker Kinard
Communion Assistants	Danny Kinard, Bo Bowman, and Lianne Smith
Sound and Video Technician(s)	Ashley Starks and George Beveridge
Altar Guild	Carl Monson
Ushers	Chandler Darling and Alan Darling
Counter	John Kinard
Officer on Duty	Will Stroup

Altar flowers today are given by Billie Havey in loving memory of her parents, William and Frances Rogers.

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LORD, ON THIS LABOR DAY,

we thank You for the
blessing of work through
which you provide our
daily bread.

Thank you for the gifts
and abilities you provide
people to carry out the myriad
tasks that allow us to
live the lives we do.

Graciously grant us the
strength we need to meet
our responsibilities as well
as the rest we need when
we are weary.

AMEN.





CONTACT INFORMATION

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office@ilcgreenwood.com

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

*** Closed on Mondays**

CHURCH STAFF

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Dr. Will Cleveland, Parish Administrator / Director of Music
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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