# Welcome to Worship at Immanuel Lutheran Church



## Finding Contentment Today

Sunday, August 31, 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 faithful and positive! Please scan the QR code to the 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 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.

#### **ORDINARY TIME**

The Season after Pentecost is the longest in the church year, extending from Pentecost (50 days after Easter) for 27 Sundays in a row until the Season of Advent. It's called "ordinary" time because the Sundays are numbered in an ordinal pattern. Perhaps even more meaningful is that the lessons shared in the liturgy of the Season after Pentecost are focused on how we live each ordinary day as followers of Christ. How do we, how can we, grow more like Jesus in our everyday habits, routines, and interactions? It takes a long period of concentrated awareness to live as Christ wants us to live. For 27 consecutive Sundays, we hear stories inviting us to grow into a bigger understanding of the Kingdom of God.

A Prayer for Ordinary Time: God of Eternity, As I walk the path of Ordinary Time, help me to count the many ways you are present-in the comings and goings of family, friends, coworkers, and acquaintances; in the sounds of summer and the beauty of your magnificent creation; in the daily routines and responsibilities that make up the rhythm of my days. Make ALL time extra-ordinary as I seek to become more attuned to your presence. AMEN.

### Order of Worship

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

+ THE PRELUDE

In Quiet Mood

Florence Price

Cheryl Duerr, Guest Organist

If you are able, please use the *QR code* on pg. 2 to register your attendance.

### **+** THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

**+** THE WELCOME The Rev. Chris Christopher, Pastor

### + THE CONFESSION

Please remain seated or kneel.

Pastor In the name of the Triune God: Creator, Redeemer +, and Holy Spirit.

ALL AMEN.

Pastor Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin. Merciful God,

ALL you free us to love others, yet we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.

You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, yet we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, yet we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us, heal us, and guide us

through the path of life. AMEN.

## + THE ABSOLUTION (Declaration of Forgiveness)

Pastor You belong to Christ Jesus, and you are God's children through faith. In the cross

of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven.

Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

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.

#### Lord, Have Mercy

ELW Setting 2

Dialogue between cantor and congregation Dr. Keith Jameson, Cantor

Cantor

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**ALL** 



Cantor

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**ALL** 



Cantor

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**ALL** 



Cantor

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**ALL** 



Cantor

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

ALL





## **廿** THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Let us pray: O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are

humble.

ALL Give us the humility of Jesus, that we may embody the generosity of 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 FIRST LESSON

Proverbs 25:6-7a

#### Summary

Lector Today's first lesson focuses on humility. The book of Proverbs comes from a part of a collection

of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature provides directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Now, the lesson from the Old Testament.

Lector <sup>6</sup> Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the

great, <sup>7a</sup> for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the

presence of a noble.

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

ALL Thanks be to God.

## **廿** THE CHOIR ANTHEM

Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast Richard Tcorrans
The Chancel Choir

Come, sinners, to the Gospel feast; let every soul be Jesus' Guest. Sent by my Lord, on you I call; the invitation is to all.

Come, all the world! Come, sinner, thou! All things in Christ are ready now. Come, all ye souls by sin oppressed, ye restless wand'rers after rest; ye poor, and maimed, disabled, and blind, in Christ a hearty welcome find. Come and partake the gospel feast, be saved from sin, in Jesus rest; O taste the goodness of our God, and eat His flesh and drink His blood.

This is the time, no more delay! This is the Lord's accepted day. Come thou, this moment, at His call, and live for Him who died for ALL.

## **+** THE SECOND LESSON Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

#### Summary

Lector

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ. Now, the second reading from the New Testament.

Lector

<sup>1</sup> Let mutual affection continue. <sup>2</sup> Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup> Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. <sup>4</sup> Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. <sup>5</sup> Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." <sup>6</sup> So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>15</sup> Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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

ALL Thanks be to God.

## + THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION AND READING Luke 14:1, 7-14

Please stand, as you are able.

Pastor Alleluia! Hear the Good News!

ALL Alleluia! Lord, You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia! Pastor The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

ALL Glory to You, O Lord.

#### The Parable of the Wedding Feast

Pastor



n one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you

may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup> But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. <sup>11</sup> For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." <sup>12</sup> He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup> And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Pastor

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

ALL

Praise to you, O Christ.

+ THE SERMON

Please be seated.

The Rev. Chris Christopher

8

## **+** THE HYMN OF THE DAY As We Gather at Your Table

ELW # 522

Please stand, as you are able.



Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855–1932 Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

### **+** 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 Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God.

Silence for preparation

AM For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip ALL the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God.

ALL Your mercy is great.

AM For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and ALL who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God.

ALL Your mercy is great.

AM For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations, we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for ALL. On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God.

ALL Your mercy is great.

AM For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany ALL who need reassurance of your loving presence Hear us, O God.

ALL Your mercy is great.

AM For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Provide ushers and greeters with a spirit of welcome for visitors and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us. Hear us, O God.

ALL Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

AM For ALL the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. Hear us, O God.

ALL Your mercy is great.

AM Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

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.

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## 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.

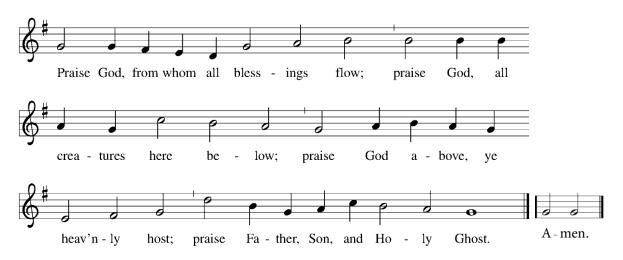
**+** THE OFFERTORY

When We Are in Utmost Need, BWV 641 Johann Sebastian Bach

### **+** THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Please stand, as you are able.



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, alt.

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

### **+** 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.

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 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 HYMN Lord, I Want to be a Christian in My Heart



Text: African American spiritual Music: IN MY HEART, African American spiritual

### + THE INCLUSION OF COMMUNION WITH OUR HOMEBOUND

Pastor I invite our Ministers to the Homebound to come forward. Let us pray:

Gracious God, loving ALL your family with a mother's tender care: 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.

ALL 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.

## + 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 May the love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your

hearts; and the life of the Spirit + bless you and give you peace.

ALL AMEN.



Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955
Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813
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### + 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. Live by the Spirit.

ALL Thanks be to God.

## **+** THE POSTLUDE

Canzonetta in G Major, BuxWV 171

Dietrich Buxtehude

## **+** 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, Charles Stark, and Betty Weeks.

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

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, Sabrina Hood Kumar, Fred McDowell, Lee Peterson, Jane Shealy Putnam, Jean Roberts, Francine Sheppard, Juna Wergin, and Carolyn Brammer Wolfer.

#### THANK YOU to those serving in Worship today!

Presiding Minister The Rev. Chris Christopher

Lector / Assisting Minister Will Stroup

Cantor / Guest Conductor Dr. Keith Jameson

Communion Assistants Carl Monson, Stacy Volpone, and Danny Kinard

Guest Organist Cheryl Duerr

Sound and Video Technicians Ray Lorick and George Beveridge Ushers Joey Holmes and Suellen Holmes

Altar Guild Carl Monson
Counter John Kinard
Officer on Duty Will Stroup

## + THE ANNOUNCEMENTS (Week of 8/31/2025)

- WELCA no meeting Monday, September 1, due to the Labor Day holiday.
- AV Team New members needed. No experience necessary. Flexible schedule. Please contact Larry Hammond if interested at (landkhamm@gmail.com)
- Food Pantry Help ILC's food pantry still needs help with food delivery on Mondays from 10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. Please contact Cile Davis if interested. (ciledavis@embarqmail.com)
- Soup Kitchen Help ILC's soup Kitchen is still in need of help on Sundays from 11:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. Please contact Sandie Wanto if interested. (sandiewanto@gmail.com)
- Choir Practice Wednesday, September 3

4:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

5:15 p.m. Handbell Choir

- **September Messenger** will be distributed Friday, September 5.
- Pickleball resumes NEXT Monday, September 8, at 6:30 p.m. ALL are invited. If interested, please contact Larry Hammond at (landkhamm@gmail.com) or just show up.
- Fellowship Board will meet after Worship on Sunday, September 21, in the McCombs Meeting Room. There are several upcoming events that we need to start planning.
- New Members Please make sure you have emailed Dr. Will your contact information. (will@ilcgreenwood.com)
- Altar Flowers given by Carl and Gail Monson to the Glory of God and in honor of Immanuel's Youth / Children 's Handchime Choir.



Please make sure you are registered to receive Immanuel's electronic communications and weekly newsletter by scanning the QR code.

<sup>\*</sup>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: <u>www.ilcgreenwood.com</u> 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. Ginny Aebischer, Bishop, South Carolina Synod