Immanuel LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA

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Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Worship Service September 6th, 2026

Welcome! We're glad that you are here, and we hope this service of worship will be a blessing to you. Welcome Packets are available in the entryway

In the ELCA we welcome all believers to receive the Holy Communion. Communion elements for our service include: Pre-packaged wafers (they are also gluten free), individual cup of wine or grape juice.

Restrooms are located through the entryway and to the left (signs are posted).

Assisted Listening: The Hearing Loop system in place for the hearing impaired will allow hearing aids equipped with a telecoil to serve as wireless loudspeakers, delivering sound right inside the ear. By activating a switch on your hearing aid, the sound is transmitted directly to your ears.

MISSION: To inspire members to grow in loving devotion to Jesus Christ, caring concern for one another, welcoming outreach, and loving service to our neighbors.

VISION STATEMENT: Immanuel Lutheran Church will be known for welcoming hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity.

Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost

Evangelical Lutheran Book of Worship Holy Communion Setting #10
September 6th, 2026

GATHERING

PRELUDE
BELLS
SHARING TIME
PASSING THE PEACE
CANDLE LIGHTING (While We Sing the Transition Song)

Transition Song: "God Is Here!" ELW #526

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share;
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

**(Please stand as you are able)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

A: 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. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.
C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

P: Compassionate God,
C: 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.

P: 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.

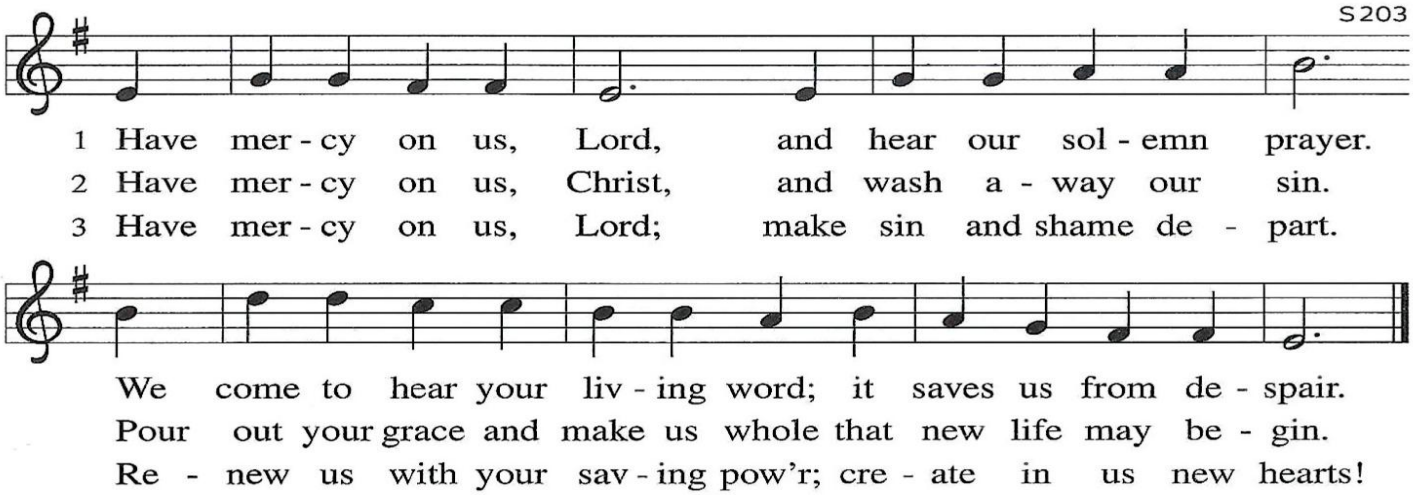
C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Earth and All Stars" ELW 731 Red Hymnal

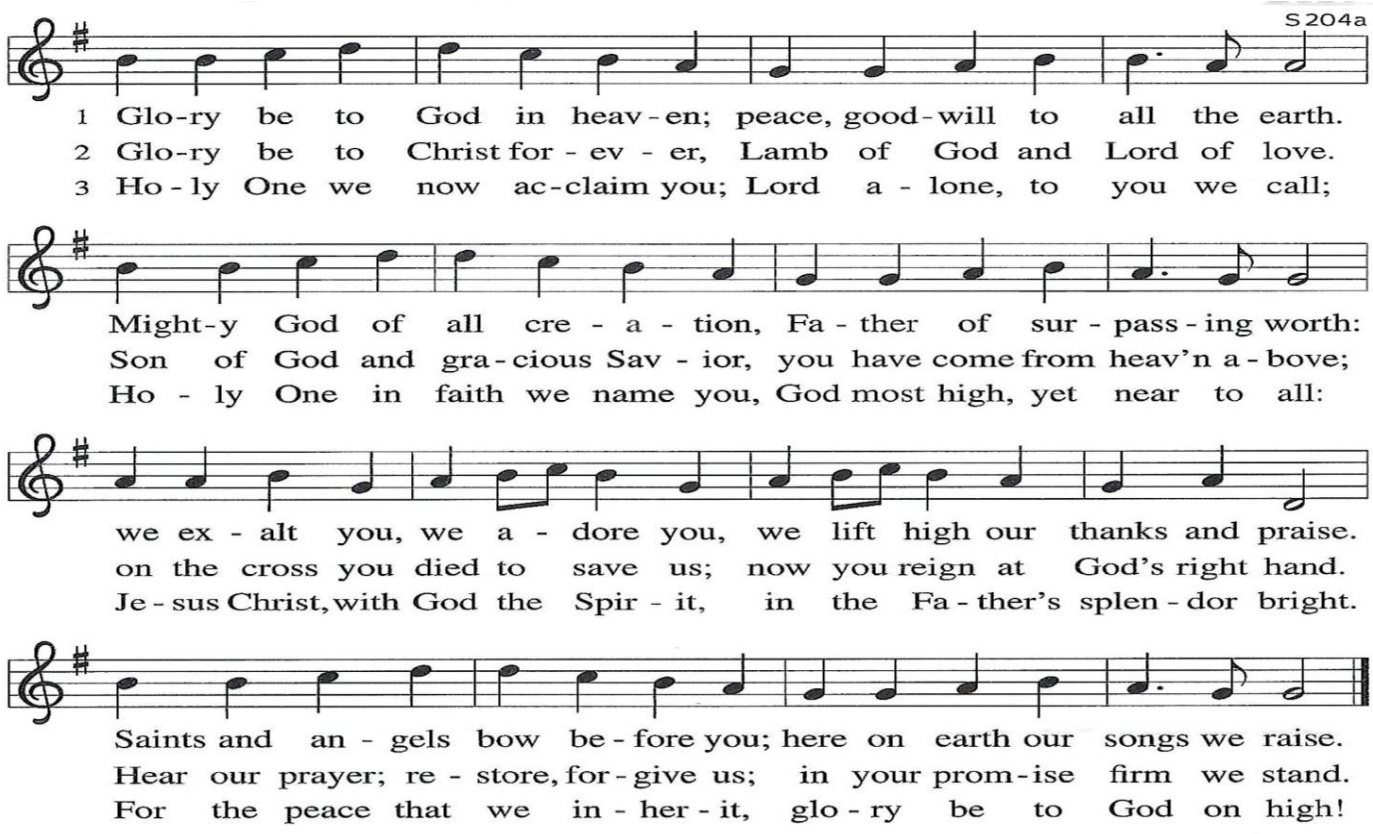
GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: And also with you.

KYRIE



CANTICLE OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

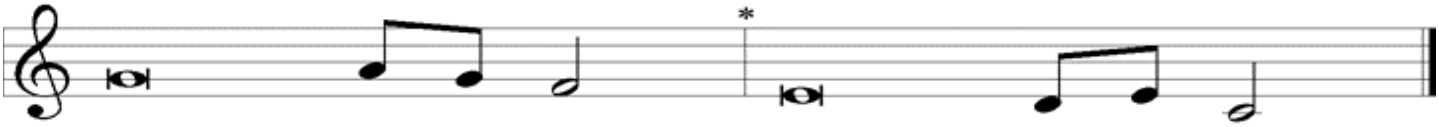
P: O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: Amen.

**(Please be seated)*

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

7 So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word
from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. 8 If I say to the wicked, "O wicked
ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their
ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. 9 But
if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the
wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. 10 Now you, mortal, say to
the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us,
and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" 11 Say to them: As I live, says the
Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their
ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of
Israel?

A: The Word of the Lord
C: Thanks be to God.



PSALM: Psalm 119:33-40 (We sing the Psalm)

33 Teach me, O LORD, the way | of your statutes,
and I shall keep it | to the end.
34 Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with | all my heart.
35 Lead me in the path of | your commandments,
for that is | my desire.
36 Incline my heart to | your decrees
and not to | unjust gain.
37 Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood;
give me life | in your way.
38 Fulfill your promise | to your servant,
which is for | those who fear you.
39 Turn away the reproach | that I dread,
because your judg- | ments are good.
40 Behold, I long for | your commandments;
by your righteousness en- | liven me.

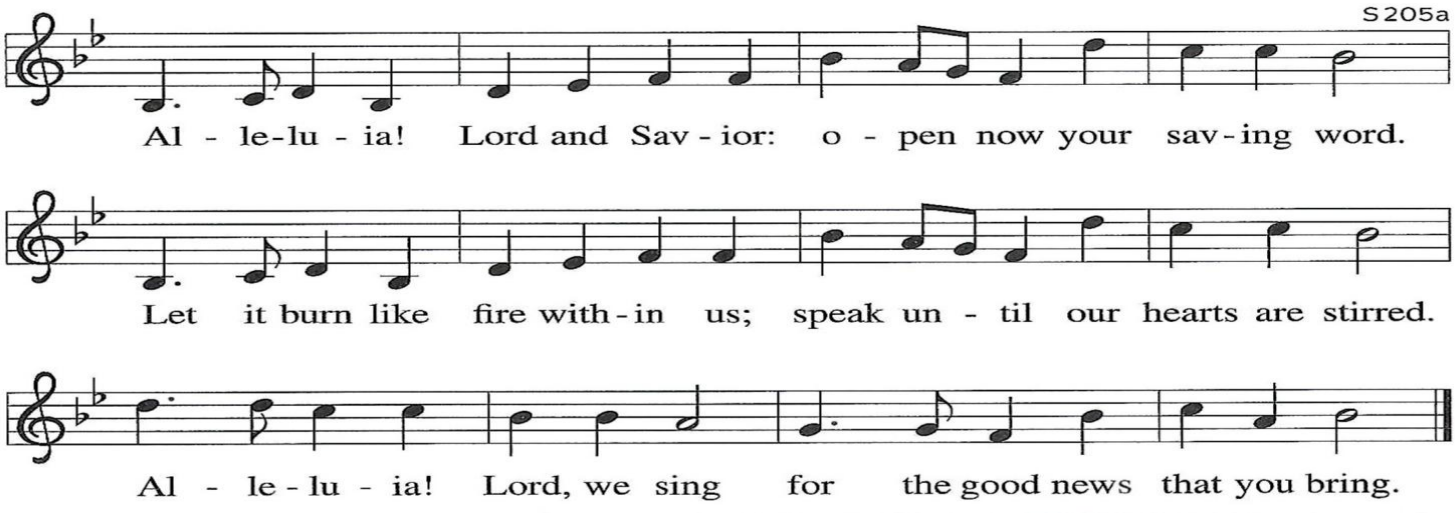
SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

8 Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has
fulfilled the law. 9 The 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." 10 Love does no wrong to a
neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. 11 Besides 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; 12 the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw
off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; 13 let us walk decently as in the day,
not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and
jealousy. 14 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to
gratify its desires.

A: The word of the Lord
C: Thanks be to God

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 18.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

[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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

**(Please be seated)*

SERMON: Pastor John Brown

**(Please stand as you are able)*

HYMN OF THE DAY : "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God" WOV 783 Blue Hymnal

P: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle's Creed.

C: APOSTLES' CREED
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

**(Please be seated)*

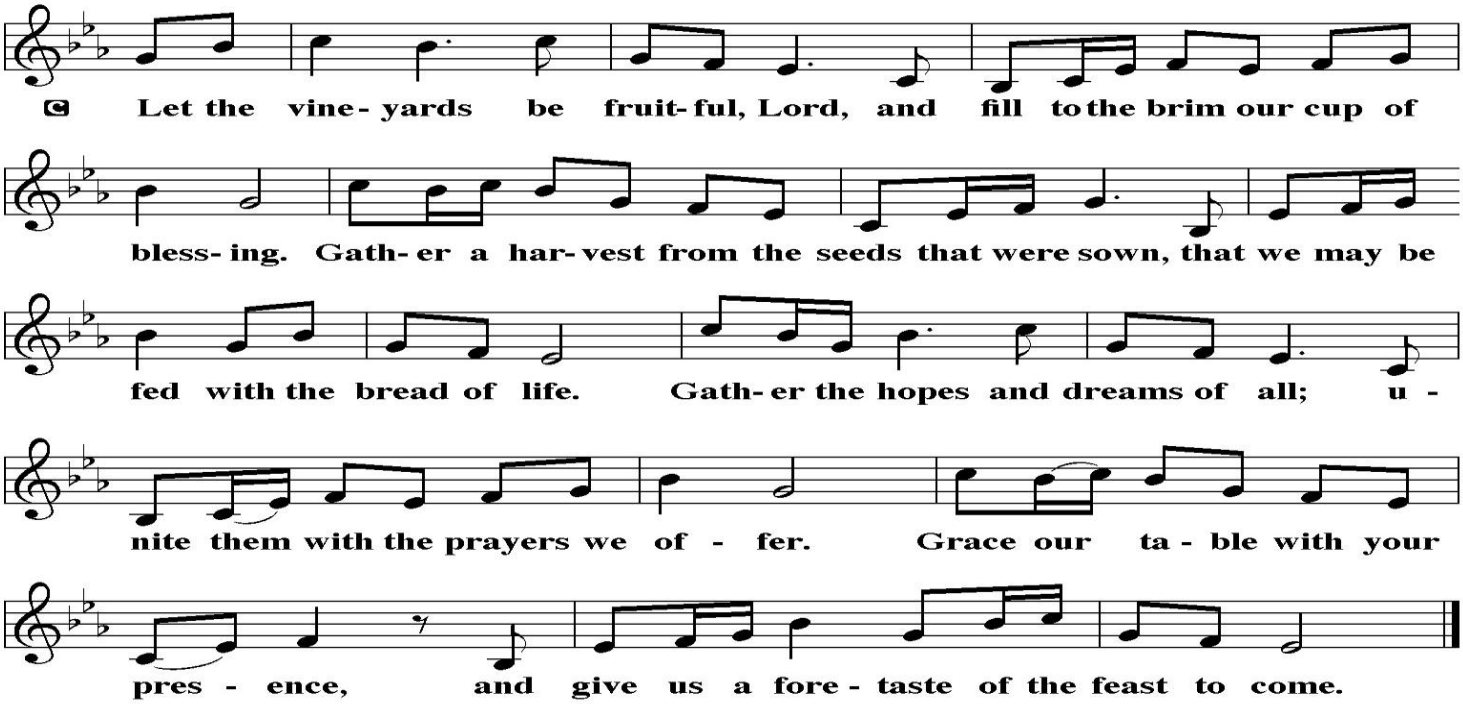
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response following each petition:

A: Hear us, O God,
C: Your mercy is great.

**(Please stand as you are able)*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR OFFERINGS
****LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL****



A: Let us pray.
God of creation,
C: 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.

MEAL

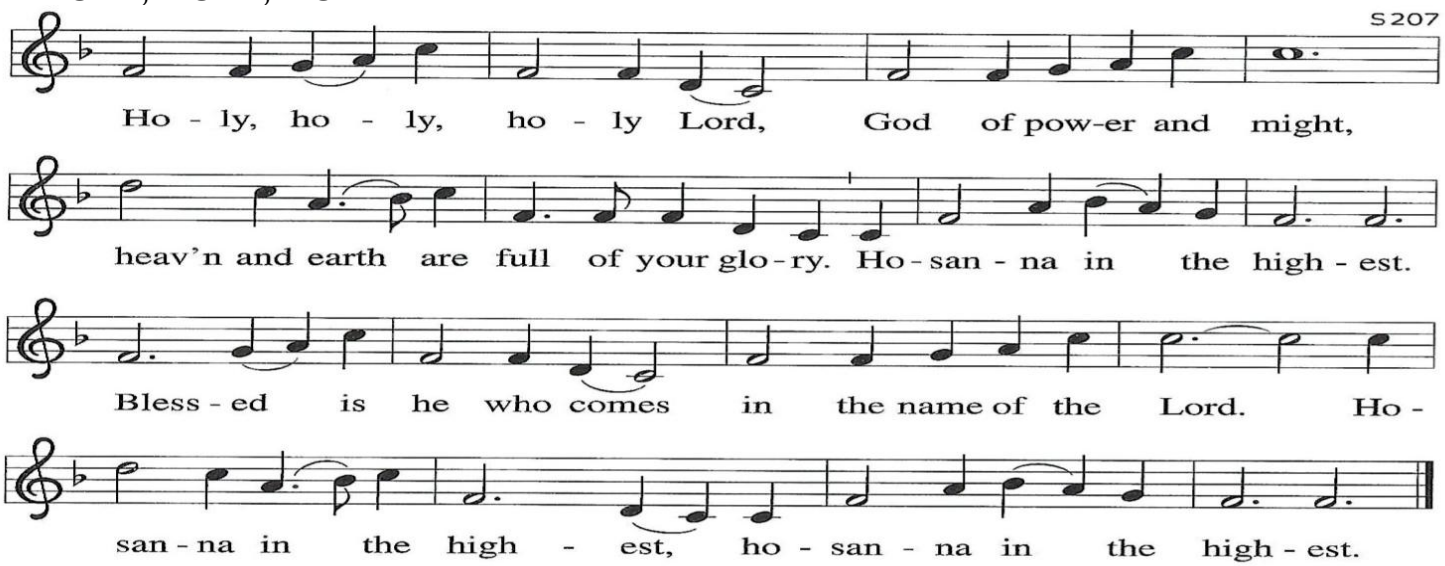
GREAT THANKSGIVING
P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
P: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them to the Lord.
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE:

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting

life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



CONSECRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take this and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."
Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.
C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

C: 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.

(Please be seated)

COMMUNION

In the ELCA we welcome all believers to receive the Holy Communion. Communion elements include this morning: Pre packaged wafers (they are also gluten free), individual cup of wine or grape juice.

LAMB OF GOD

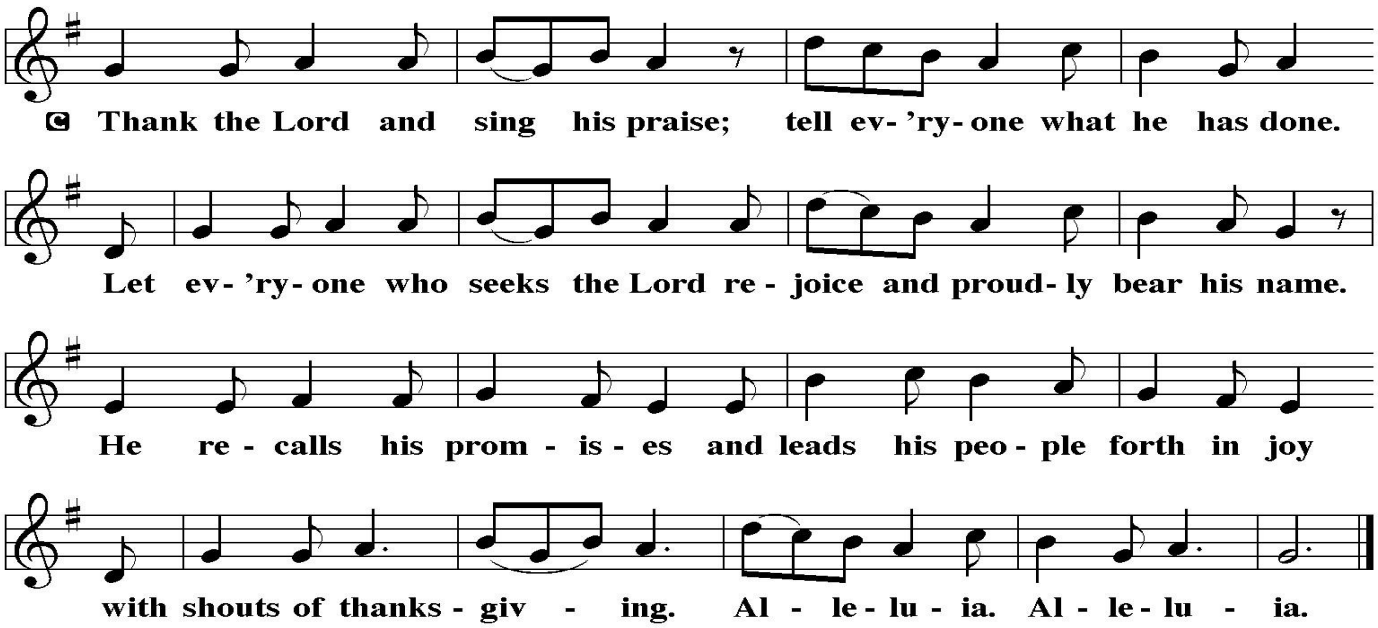
<u>COMMUNION HYMN</u>: "I Received the Living God" ELW 477 Red Hymnal

***(Pease stand if you are able)**

<u>COMMUNION BLESSING</u>

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: Amen.

<u>POST COMMUNION CANTICLE</u> "Thank the Lord and Sing His Praise"



POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray.
Sustaining God,
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.
C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.
C: Amen.

P: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.
C: Amen.

P: The God of grace ✢ bless you now and forever.
C: Amen

SENDING HYMN: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" ELW 543 Red Hymnal

PRAYER

A: Let us pray together Immanuel's Congregational prayer.
C: Dear Lord, we thank and praise you for your everlasting love and enduring mercy. Continue to send your Holy Spirit to bless us, to watch over us and to guide us in all that we do so that we grow in our love for you, our love for each other and our love for those in our community.
Grant us the courage to be bold in opening doors by inviting and welcoming others in our community to Immanuel, and by supporting and serving those who are struggling. Give us strength: To trust in you and to have faith and hope in your plans for your church. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

DISMISSAL

A: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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The congregation and ministries of this church rely on your weekly offerings and gifts. We encourage you to continue your tithing to Immanuel. If you have a key, you may stop by & leave them in Cindi's mailbox or slip them under her door. You may also mail them to Immanuel at 726 Fuller Ave. Big Rapids, MI. Thank you to everyone who has been sending in your offerings.

~Stewardship Committee

Please join us for fellowship in the Fellowship Hall following Worship today! (on 3rd Sunday of month, cake will be served for all birthdays celebrated in the month.)

SERVING IN SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Musician: Janet Mallett
Altar Duty: Carol Zimmerman, Phyllis Cousineau
Presiding Minister: Pastor John Brown
Worship Assistant: Jim Lindsey
Greeter: Phyllis Lindsey
Cantor: Vicky Scott
Reader: Linda Greene
Usher: Steve Neumann
Sound Technician: David Scott
A/V Projection Technicians: David Scott

Birthdays this week – Steve Neumann (9/6), Ron Decker (9/7), David Misoni (9/8), Helen Engstrom (9/9)

Happy Anniversary – Tom & Diane Manor (9/10)

Altar Flowers – by Carol Zimmerman; to the glory of God

Readings for September 13th:

Genesis 50:15-21	**Romans 14:1-12**
Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13	**Matthew 18:21-35**

Upcoming In Person meetings:

Office Staff Meeting **Tue September 8th at 10:30am**
Council Meeting **Tue September 8th at 12:30pm**
Worship & Music **Tue September 8th at 2:00pm**
Tuba Bach **Sat September 12th at 7:00pm**

Helpful Hints from Parish Nurse Phyllis Lindsey –
Sept 6: September is Childhood Obesity Awareness Month. One in three children in the United States has a problem being overweight or obese. Childhood obesity puts children at risk for health problems usually only seen in adults, like type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease. The good news is that it can be prevented. Encourage families to go on walks together, keep low calorie fruits and vegetables available for snacks and keep a weekly record of weights.

Shepherd's Hooks & Needles now meet on the third Tuesday of the month. The next session is **Tues September 15th at Noon.**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Manna Pantry:

SEPTEMBER	Canned corn
OCTOBER	Canned carrots

Project Starburst:

Mushroom soup
Sweet potatoes

Grade School
Kleenex, glue sticks, markers, colored pencils, pencils, sanitizer, head phones, wet wipes, erasers, and post-it notes. Also hats, gloves, mittens and sweat pants in unisex colors to fifth grade sizes.

Stewardship Appeal – Lee Wolken

The theme for this fall's stewardship appeal is **"The Joy of Generosity"** and is based on Acts 20:35 "There is more happiness in giving than receiving" (Good News translation). Our theme last year was "Live Generously' and I thank all of you for your continuous support of our ministry. The modern English word "generosity" is derived from the Latin word "generōsus," which means "of noble birth." Generosity is an aspect of one's character; it is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). God knows what is good for us and generosity is good for us!

The world sends the message that "happiness" is achieved in striving for more wealth and accumulating things that more money can buy. Luke 12:15 says "One's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions". In 2 Corinthians 9:11 Paul writes "You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity'.

You will be receiving in the mail in late September a stewardship letter and the estimate for giving document. **On October 11** we invite you to bring the Estimate of Giving document with you to worship and join us in offering them to God as our expression of thanksgiving and joy for God's generosity to us.