Immanuel LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA
726 Fuller Avenue
Big Rapids, MI 49307
immanuelbigrapids726@gmail.com
231-796-8273

www.immanuelbr.com
Instagram: ILCbigrapids
Facebook: @immanuelbr

Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Worship Service September 13th, 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.

Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost

Evangelical Lutheran Book of Worship Holy Communion Setting #10
September 13th, 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: In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

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.

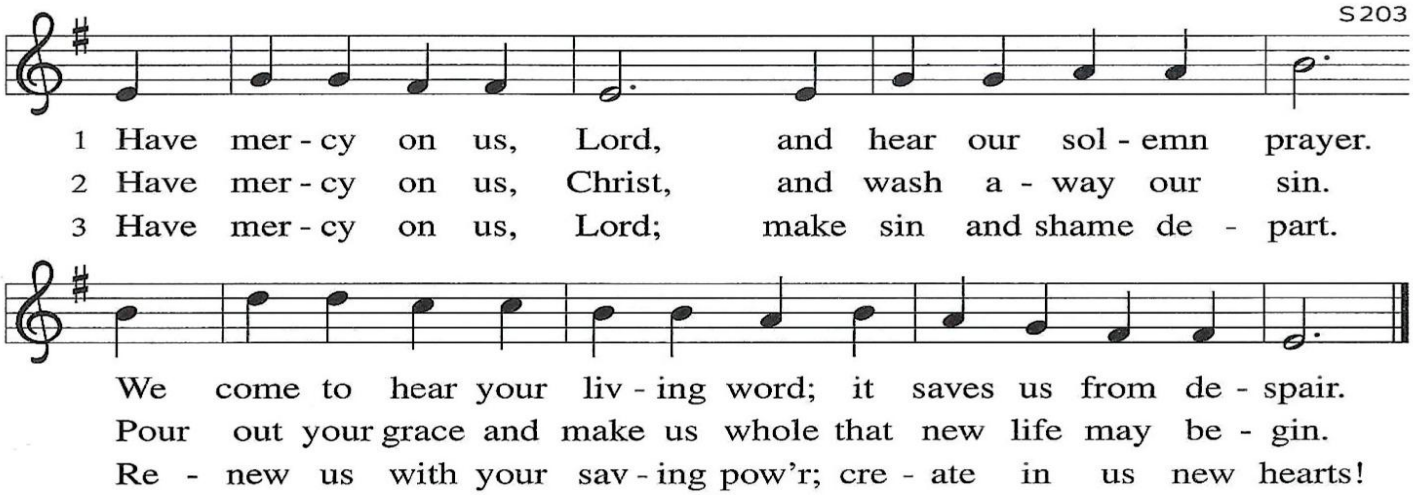
C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "All Creatures of Our God and King" LBW 527 Green Hymnal

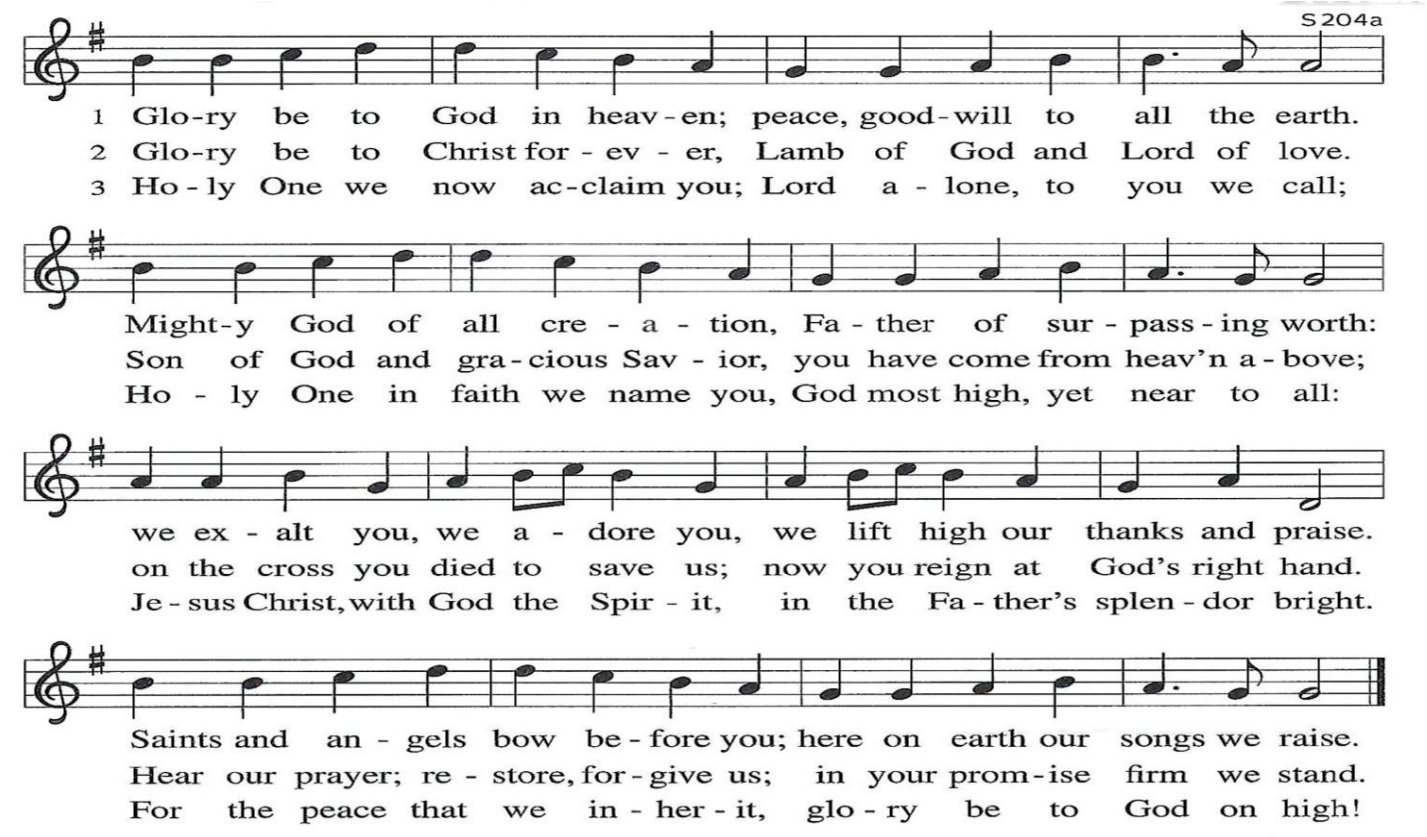
GREETING

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

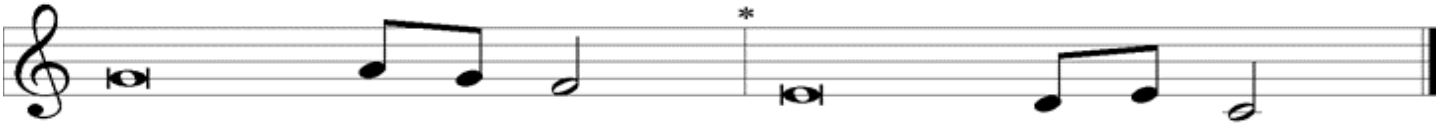
P: O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: Amen.

**(Please be seated)*

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

15 Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a
grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" 16 So they
approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 17 'Say to
Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming
you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father."
Joseph wept when they spoke to him. 18 Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him,
and said, "We are here as your slaves." 19 But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in
the place of God? 20 Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good,
in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. 21 So have no fear; I myself will
provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to
them.

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



PSALM: Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13 (We sing the Psalm)

[1 Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.
2 Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and forget not | all God's benefits—
3 who forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your diseases;
4 who redeems your life | from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy;
5 who satisfies your desires | with good things
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.
6 O LORD, you provide | vindication
and justice for all who | are oppressed.
7 You made known your | ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.
] 8 LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;

9 you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.
10 You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.
11 For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.
12 As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.
13 As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD.

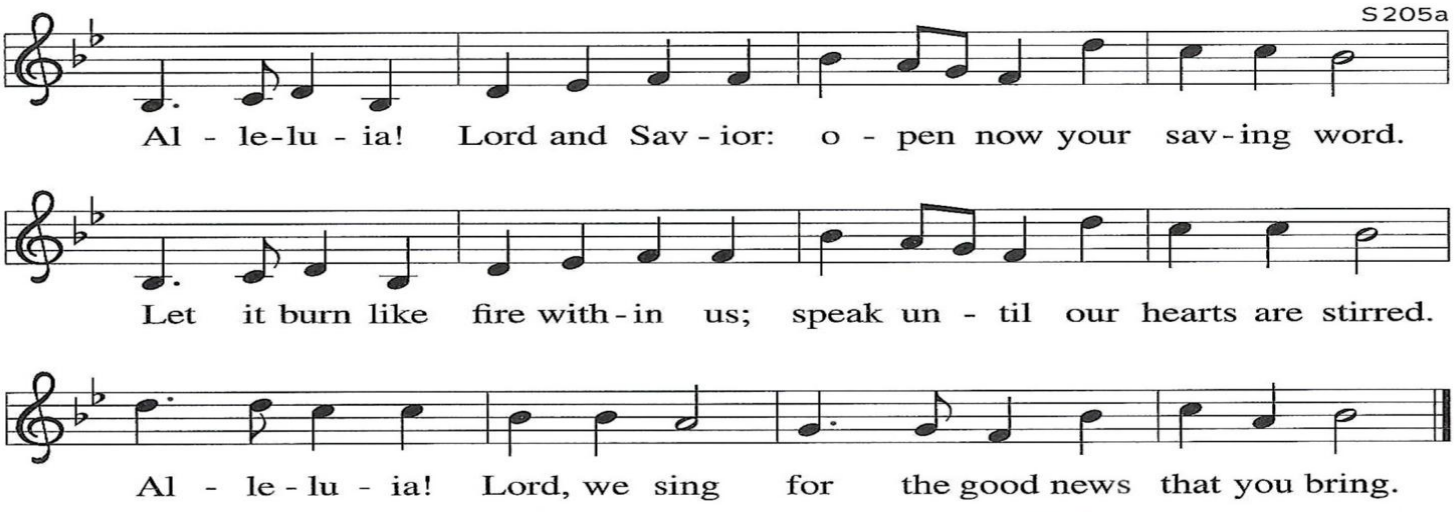
SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

1 Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over
opinions. 2 Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. 3 Those who
eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on
those who eat, for God has welcomed them. 4 Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of
another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the
Lord is able to make them stand. 5 Some judge one day to be better than another, while
others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. 6 Those who
observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give
thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God. 7 For
we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 8 If we live, we live to the Lord,
and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the
Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the
dead and the living. 10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do
you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of
God. 11 For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every
tongue shall give praise to God." 12 So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

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.

<u>GOSPEL</u>: Matthew 18:21-35

21 Peter came and said to [Jesus,] "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often
should I forgive? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell
you, seventy-seven times.23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a
king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 When he began the reckoning, one who
owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, 25 and, as he could not pay, the lord
ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and
payment to be made. 26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with
me, and I will pay you everything.' 27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released
him and forgave him the debt. 28 But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his
fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay
what you owe.' 29 Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with
me, and I will pay you.' 30 But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he
would pay the debt. 31 When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly
distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32 Then his lord
summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you
pleaded with me. 33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on
you?' 34 And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire
debt. 35 So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your
brother or sister from your heart."

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

**(Please be seated)*

SERMON: Pastor Kate Van Valkenburg

**(Please stand as you are able)*

<u>HYMN OF THE DAY</u> : "Where Charity and Love Prevail" ELW 359 Red Hymnal

**(Please be seated)*

<u>New Member Welcome/Induction</u>

P: We would now like to welcome our new members. Would the new members please come forward?
(*New members proceed to front of sanctuary*)

P: We are here this morning to welcome these new members into the community which is Immanuel Lutheran Church. We are not a building, but the gathered family of God. We are siblings in Christ, given this new identity through our baptism into Jesus' death and resurrection. In our Baptism, we promise to **Live** among God's faithful people, To **Hear** the word of God and **Share** in the Lord's Supper. To **Proclaim** the good news of God in Christ

through word and deed. To **Serve** all people, following the example of Jesus. To **Strive** for justice and peace in all the earth. Today we welcome you as members of this family in the larger body of Christ, upholding the promises with you.

And so we ask, do you desire to join the membership of Immanuel Lutheran Church? If so please answer: "I do." *(New members respond)*

P: I ask the congregation to stand and join in confessing our faith.

**(Please stand as you are able)*

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

C: 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.

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

C: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.
Amen.

P: Having together confessed out faith in the Triune God, we now welcome you into the family of our congregation and into the ministry of the church. As active followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to spread his Good News. We encourage you to accept that call through your involvement in the church.

C: We welcome you as siblings in Christ, and thank God for this unique opportunity to serve God and one another. May the God to whom we belong equip us for every good work that we do together in his name.

<u>New Members</u> **state: "We welcome and accept your invitation and commit ourselves to using our time and talents for the good of the congregation. We will strive to live lives worthy of the title 'Christian' and will work with you to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ".**

P: Let us pray.
Heavenly Father, as you called James and John, Simon and Andrew to fish for people, so you have called us to serve you with our own talents and resources. We thank you for bringing these new members of Immanuel Lutheran Church. You have told us that wherever two or

more are gathered in your name, there you are with them. Help us, we pray, to see and feel that presence and that others may come to know you through their interactions with us.
C: Amen.

(New members receive certificates from pastor and return to their seats)

**(Please be seated)*

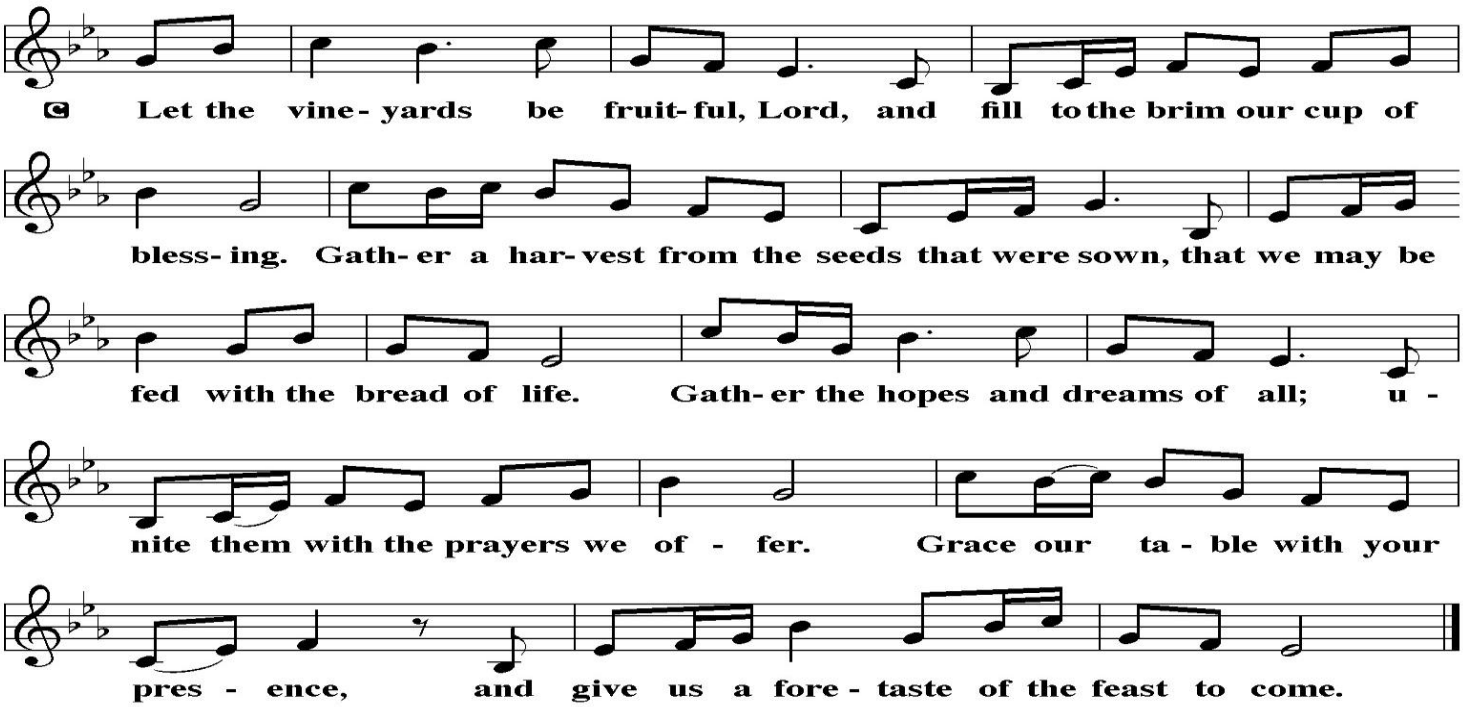
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

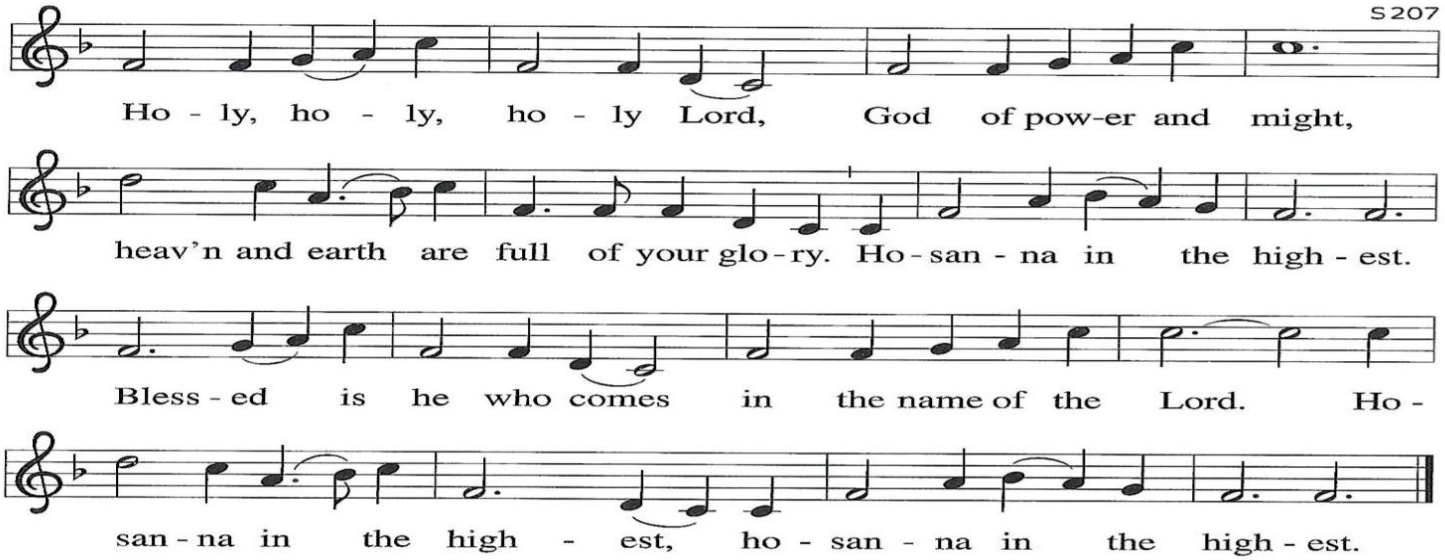
MEAL

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.

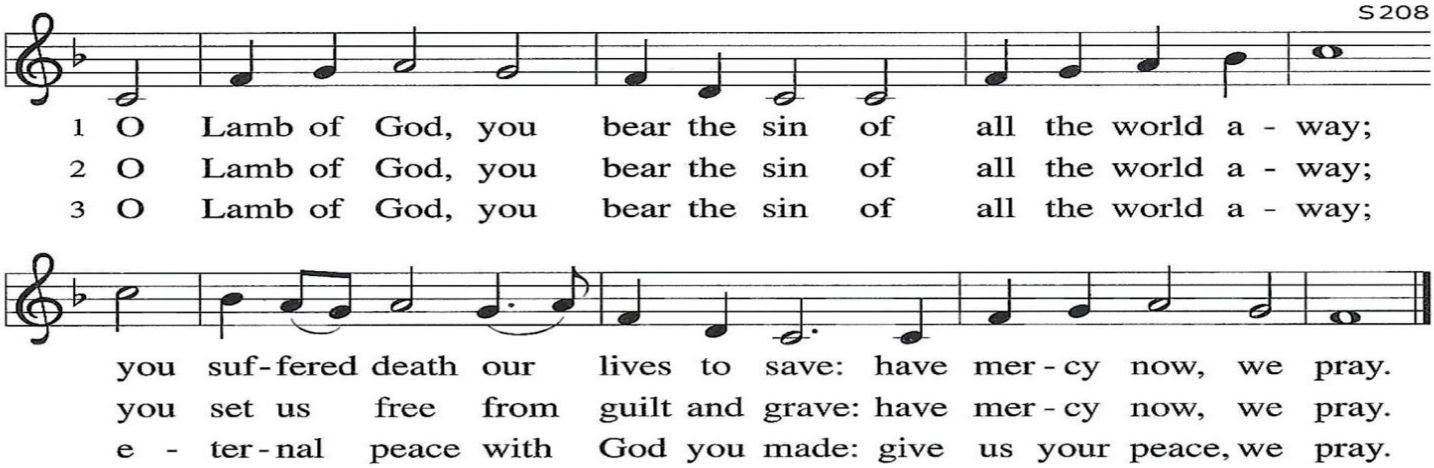
LORD'S PRAYER
P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:
C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we

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.

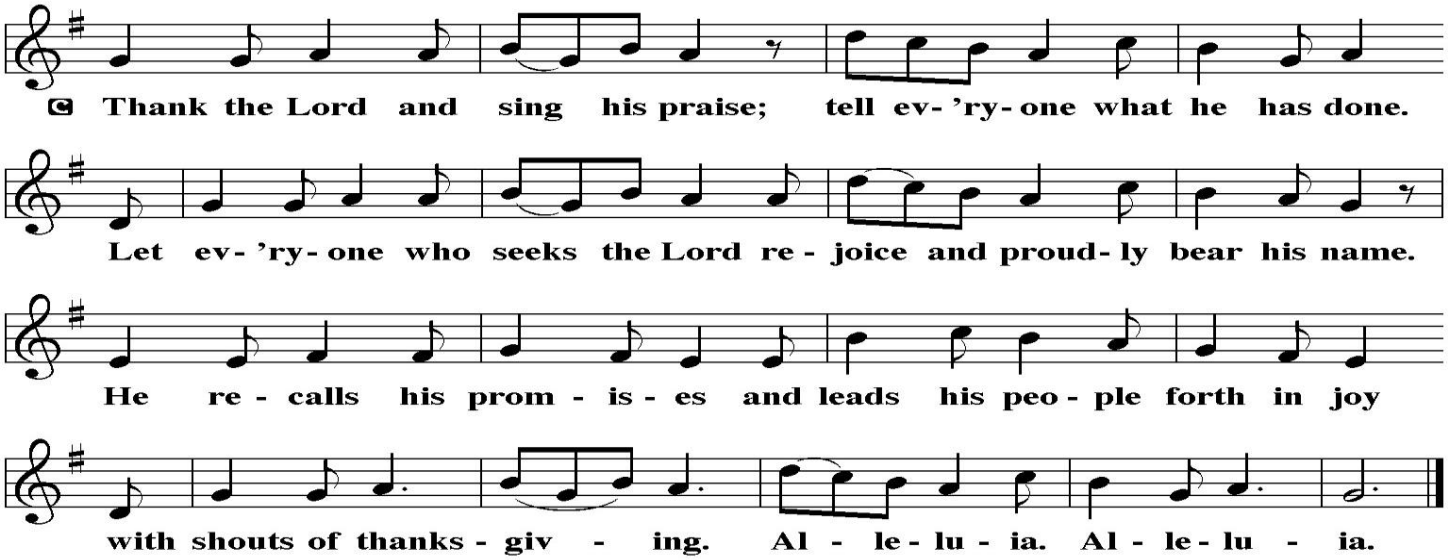
LAMB OF GOD

COMMUNION HYMN: **"Blessed Assurance" ELW 638 Red Hymnal**

**(Pease stand if you are able)*

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE **"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: "O God of Mercy, God of Light" 714 Red Hymnal
Verses 1-4

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: Michelle Kauffold & Nedra Neumann
Altar Duty: Carol Zimmerman, Phyllis Cousineau
Presiding Minister: Pastor Kate VanValkenburg
Worship Assistant: Lee Wolken
Greeter: Phyllis Lindsey
Cantor: Vicky Scott
Reader: Carol Wilson-Jungck
Usher: Cindi Neumann
Sound Technician: David Scott
A/V Projection Technicians: David Scott

Birthdays this week – Donald Schuberg (9/14)

Happy Anniversary – None to report

Altar Flowers – by Tom & Diane Manor, in honor of their Anniversary (9/10).

Readings for September 20th:

Jonah 3:10 – 4:11	**Philippians 1:21-30**
Psalm 145:1-8	**Matthew 20:1-16**

Upcoming In Person meetings:

Tuba Bach **Sun September 13th at 4:00pm**
Office Staff Meeting **Tue September 15th at 10:30am**
Knitting group **Tue September 15th at noon**
Tuba Bach **Sat September 19th at 7:00pm**

Helpful Hints from Parish Nurse Phyllis Lindsey –
Sept 13: September National Cholesterol Education Month. Cholesterol is a waxy fat found naturally in the human body and in many foods. Our bodies need cholesterol to function normally and make all we need. Too much cholesterol can build up in our arteries. After a while these cholesterol deposits narrow our arteries and put a person at risk for heart disease and stroke. High cholesterol usually doesn't have any symptoms, but a simple blood test your doctor can order will let you know if it is high and what can be done about it by life style changes and/or medications. Even children, especially if obese, can have high cholesterol.

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.

THE WELCA 2026 FALL GATHERING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH AT THE EVERGREEN RESORT IN CADILLAC, MI. FROM 10:00AM – 3:00 PM.

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL..