

FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-6

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD.
Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.
²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.
³For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.
⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.
⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

Psalm 138

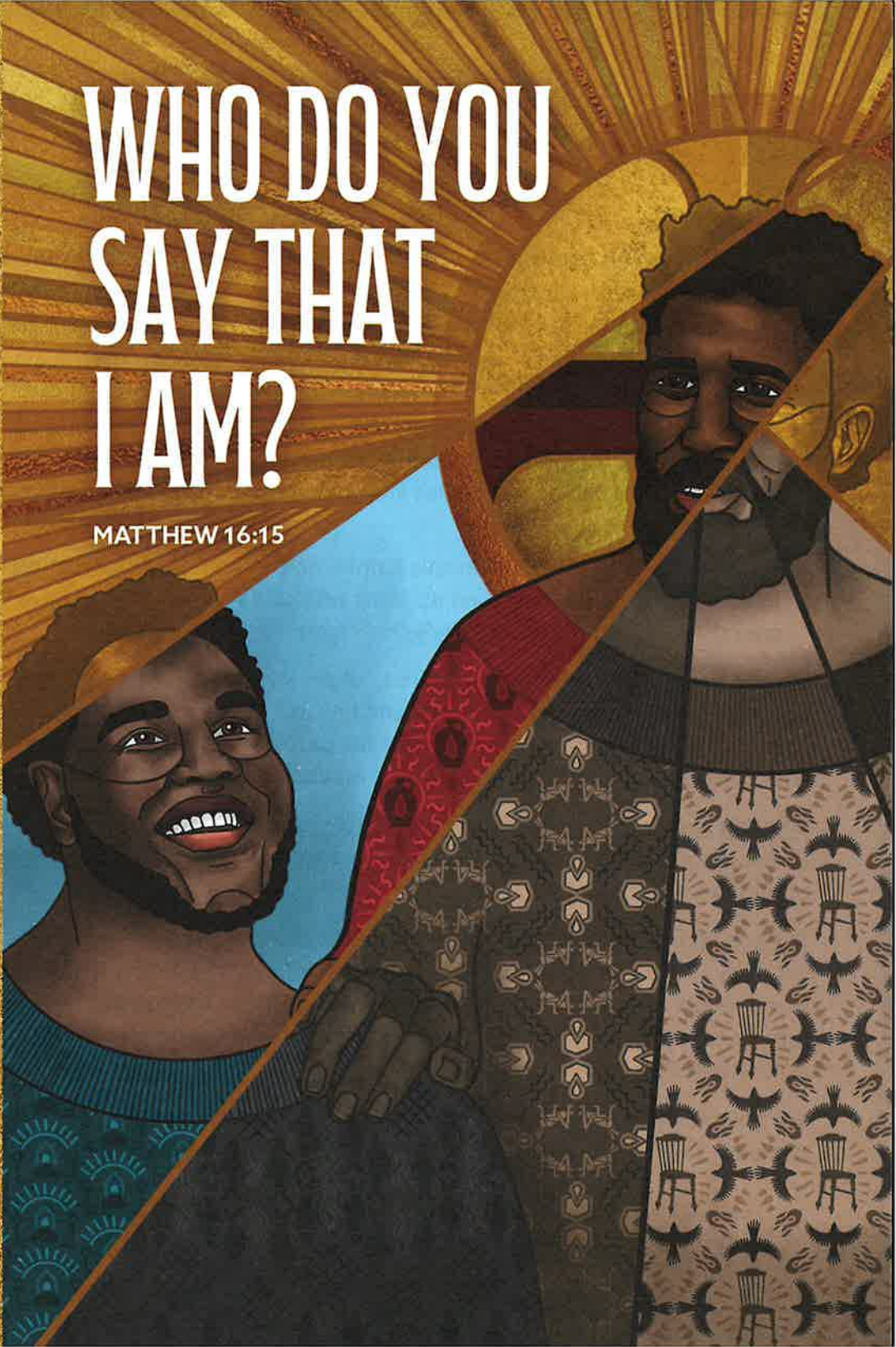
SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters,
on the basis of God’s mercy, to present your
bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable
to God, which is your reasonable act of wor-
ship. ²Do not be conformed to this age, but be

transformed by the renewing of the mind, so
that you may discern what is the will of God—
what is good and acceptable and perfect.
³For by the grace given to me I say to every-
one among you not to think of yourself more
highly than you ought to think but to think
with sober judgment, each according to the
measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For
as in one body we have many members and
not all the members have the same function,
⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ,
and individually we are members one of an-
other. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to
the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion
to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher,
in teaching; ⁸the encourager, in encourage-
ment; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in dili-
gence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of
Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples,
“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”
¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but
others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one
of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who
do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered,
“You are the Messiah, the Son of the living
God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are
you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood
has not revealed this to you but my Father in
heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on
this rock I will build my church, and the gates
of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give
you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and
whatever you bind on earth will be bound in
heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will
be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he sternly or-
dered the disciples not to tell anyone that he
was the Messiah.



Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Our mission is to invite people to know Jesus Christ so that we may all share God's love.

Welcome to Worship at Immanuel - Greetings and welcome to all! Families and friends, visitors from far and near are all welcomed in the name of Christ. Let us join with hearts and hands, bodies and spirits in worshiping the Creator of us all - with rejoicing!

Prayer before Worship: Heavenly Father, help us to remember that we belong to you. Touch us, heal us, bless us. Walk with us daily that we may have the courage and faith to meet all life's challenges. Amen.

Prayer Requests: We welcome requests of prayers for our members, friends and families throughout our communities and beyond. Anyone is welcome to leave a note on the desk in the office or contact the pastor. **There is also a prayer box with cards to use on the table under the mailboxes for prayer requests.**

Offering envelopes are located and available on the table in the entry.

Please designate how you would like to have your offering used if for anything other than general funds.

The Lord's Supper, the Eucharist, or Holy Communion is a means of God's grace whereby the real presence of Christ is offered (on the 1st Sunday of the month). ***If you would rather receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion, please come forward and cross your arms to your shoulders as indication of wanting a blessing. All are welcome at the Lord's table.***

We have Children's Bulletins for those who wish to enhance the worship experience for the kids. They can be found each week on the table with the regular Sunday Bulletins.

Newsletter, bulletin, and member information or changes may be sent to ckwilson1983@gmail.com or immanuelcolfax@hotmail.com

This Week at Immanuel 9:00 am - Worship 10:00 am - Fellowship

Sunday, August 23, 2026

WORSHIP LEADER: PASTOR MICHAEL JONES

Lay Reader: Elton Mau

Greeters: Norman & Karen Harms

Ushers/Acolytes: Phil & Angie Kratochvil

Communion: na

Organist: Cindy Wilson

Sunday, August 30, 2026

WORSHIP LEADER: PASTOR MICHAEL JONES

Lay Reader: Tiffany Myers

Greeters: Dan & Tracy Harms

Ushers/Acolytes: Ty Harms, Rylee Kukuck

Communion: na

Organist: Kimberly Petersen

Please include the following people in our prayers:

Lois Barker, Cheryl Poppe, Jeannie Weber, Bob & Nancy Lasser, Cindy Harris,
Rebecca Casson, Kris Barnett

Announcements

Are you looking for a way to be more active in the life of our congregation?

Volunteer sign-up sheets for Lay Readers, Greeters, Usher/Acolytes, and Communion Assistants are on the tables in the fellowship hall. Please add your name if you are able to assist with our worship services or remove your name if you are no longer available.

Please take a minute to review the insert **For The Work of the Ministry Synod Workshop**. The registration deadline is Monday, Aug. 24 and see Pastor Michael if you have any questions.

It's back-to-school time! We are trying to fill **20 school kits** for Lutheran World Relief this fall. Items needed include **spiral notebooks** (70-80 sheets each, college or wide ruled), **30 cm rulers** (inches on one side is good too!), **handheld pencil sharpeners**, **unsharpened pencils**, **blue or black pens**, and **crayon boxes** (16 or 24 crayons each). Please bring items to church by **August 16th** for kits to be completed. If you have any questions, reach out to Angie Kratochvil. Thank you!

LWR Quilting - We will be knotting quilts on Tuesday, August 25th from 1-3:30 p.m. Newcomers are welcome to enjoy some conversation and help others in need at the same time! Questions, see Dee Winterland.

Newsletters will be published soon. Please send reports or information to be included to Cindy by this Tuesday, August 25th. Thank you.

Holy Communion Preference Survey

*Please take a minute to mark your preference for how often and where Immanuel would share Holy Communion. This is not a vote, but rather a **request for congregation opinion.***

We currently offer Holy Communion on the 1st Sunday of each month, either at the Communion rail or in a standing, continuous fashion. Additional comments or thoughts may be shared at the bottom or back of the page. A box for this completed survey can be found at the back of the church.

I would prefer to be offered Holy Communion
_____ times per month.

Please circle which Sundays you would prefer to
receive Holy Communion:

1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th

and / or church festival days

_____ I would prefer to receive Holy
Communion kneeling (or standing) at the rail.

_____ I would prefer to receive Holy
Communion in standing, continuous manner.

My thoughts or comments:



FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY

2025 Central/Southern Illinois Synod Days

Northeast Conference

- Saturday, Sept. 12, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- St. Paul Lutheran Church, 210 North Deerfield Road, Pontiac
- Registration closes Aug. 24

Each synod day includes:

- Cross-generational worship
- Activities for children and families
- Shared meal
- State of the synod video
- Q&A with the synod staff
- Mission moments from each conference
- Four "Spirit Labs" workshop options (each person will choose two)

Spirit Lab workshops

The Foolishness of Trying to Save Your Church: Letting Go So We Can Go!

Led by Bishop Greg Busboom

Jesus Journeys and Faithful Field Trips

Led by Deacon Jason Fisher, Director for Evangelical Mission

Body Building with Love: Tools for Adaptability

Led by Pastor Kristen Schmid, Assistant to the Bishop for Transformational Communities

Here I Am, Send Me! A Vocational Workshop

Led by Pastor Amy Zietlow, Assistant to the Bishop for Transformational Leadership

Registration

The cost is \$10 per adult (18 and over), \$5 for youth (3-17), and free for children under 3, capped at a total of \$25 per family. Registration is open now at CSIS-ELCA.org/synoddays26.

If your schedule conflicts with your conference's Synod Day, you are welcome to attend another conference's day.

Synod Days are open to ALL in our synod, not just those who participated in the Synod Assembly.

13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gathering ~ The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *Please stand as you are able*

All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism as the worship leader begins -

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

C: Amen.

The congregation may be seated

GATHERING SONG

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

ELW 597

GREETING *Please stand as you are able*

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.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

Assisting minister

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

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.

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.

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen. *The congregation may be seated*

Word ~ God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

READING Isaiah 51:1-6 back of bulletin

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God’s deliverance will come soon and will never end.

After the reading . . . L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 138

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods
I will sing your praise.

**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified
your name and your word above all things.**

When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

**All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord, when they have heard
the words of your mouth.**

They will sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord.

The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth
your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

**You will make good your purpose for me; O Lord, your steadfast love
endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

READING Romans 12:1-8 back of bulletin

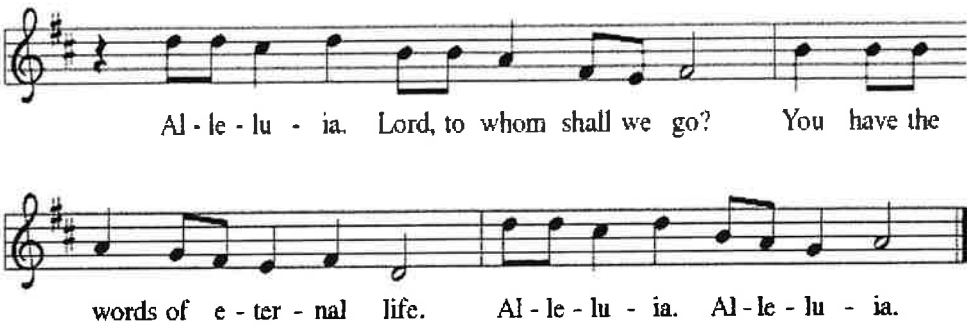
*In response to God’s merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing
lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are
transformed by the Spirit’s renewing work. God’s grace empowers different forms of
service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.*

After the reading . . . L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW, page 142



GOSPEL READING Matthew 16:13-20 back of bulletin

The Gospel is announced:

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

*At a climactic point in Jesus’ ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is “the Messiah, the
Son of the living God,” and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will
overcome the very gates of Hades.*

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

The congregation may be seated

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON Pastor Michael Jones

HYMN OF DAY *The Church’s One Foundation* ELW 654

Please stand as you are able

*APOSTLE’S CREED ELW page 104

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 was 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.**

The congregation may be seated

WE GATHER OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERING SONG *Please stand as you are able*

ELW 186

***Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.***

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray... **Loving God,**

C: 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

After each petition: P: Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

P: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Sending ~ God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **C: Amen.**

HYMN

On Our Way Rejoicing

ELW 537

DISMISSAL

P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **C: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE