

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10—4:11
When God saw what [the people of Nineveh] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

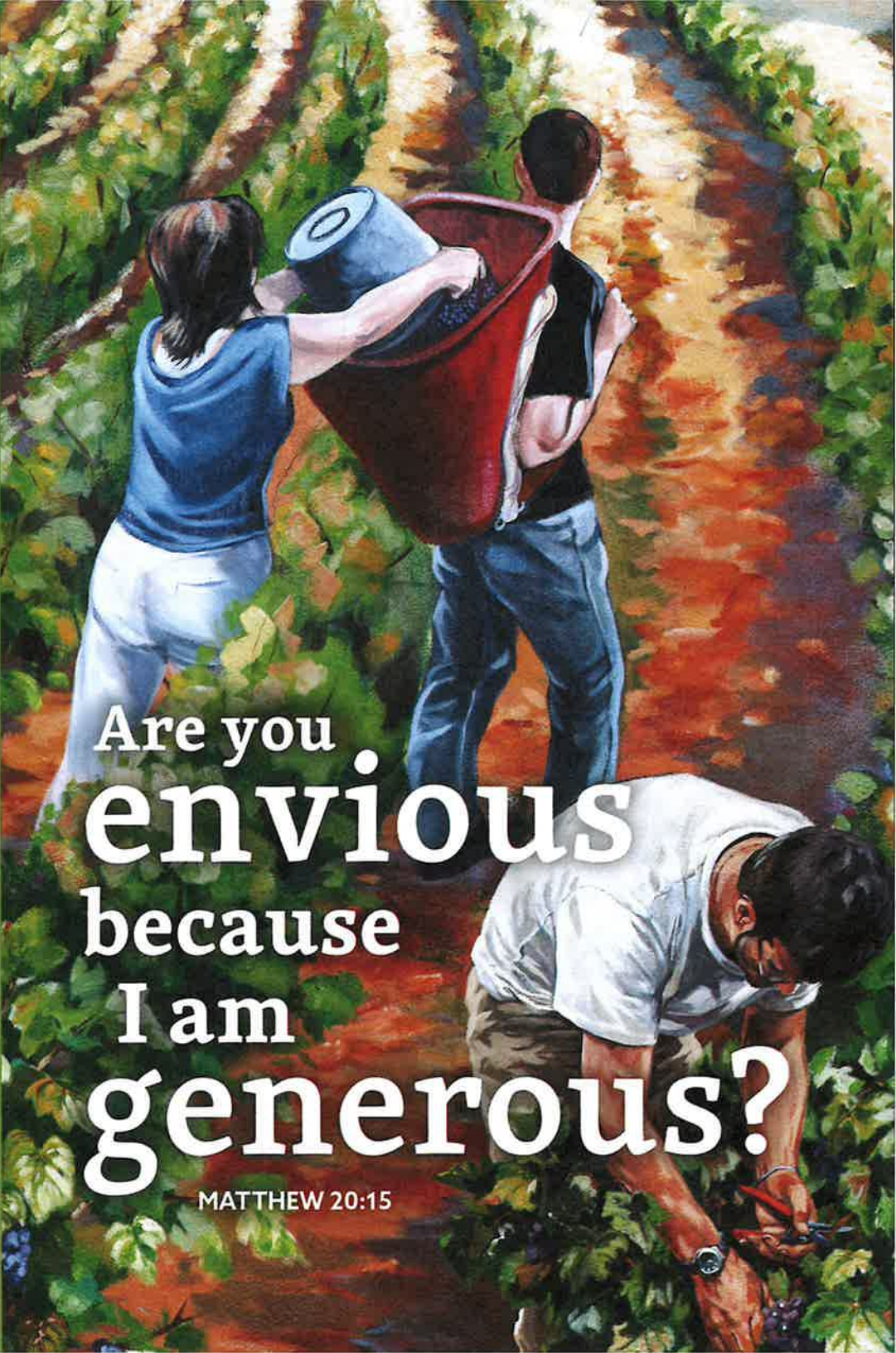
^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

Psalm 145:1-8
SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30
[not printed]

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16
[Jesus said to the disciples:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”



Are you
envious
because
I am
generous?

MATTHEW 20:15

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 - With warm hearts and hands, we welcome all who have come to worship the Lord. May this be a time of encouragement and inspiration for us all.

Prayer before Worship: Lord, quiet the distractions within us and around us as we gather in Your presence. Open our hearts to Your Word, fill our minds with Your truth and lead us to worship You with sincerity and joy. In Jesus' name we pray. 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 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, beginning October 2026).

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 - Sunday School

Sunday, September 20, 2026

WORSHIP LEADER: PASTOR MICHAEL JONES

Lay Reader: Amy Winterland

Greeters: Jerry & Suzie Kukuck

Ushers/Acolytes: Dan and Ty Harms

Communion: na

Organist: Cindy Wilson

Sunday, September 27, 2026

WORSHIP LEADER: PASTOR MICHAEL JONES

Lay Reader: Dee Winterland

Greeters: Elton & Spring Mau

Ushers/Acolytes: Rylee Kukuck, Kasen Casson

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, Shelby Hall

Announcements

It's a big birthday! On September 21, Norman Harms turns 80. Please wish him a happy birthday and enjoy donuts from his family in celebration.

There will be an informational meeting for high school students on September 20th following worship. We will discuss plans and ideas for High School Sunday School and Luther League for the upcoming school year. If you cannot attend on the 20th and would like more information, contact Erin Ifft 815-848-1090.

Volunteer sign-up sheets for Lay Readers, Greeters, Usher/Acolytes, and Communion Assistants can be found on the small lectern at the back of the church. Please add your name if you are able to assist with our worship services or remove your name if you are no longer available. Thank you to everyone for your service.

Attention Readers: A large print bulletin will be available on the lectern each week for easier reading, but sorry, we still can't make some of the names easier to pronounce.

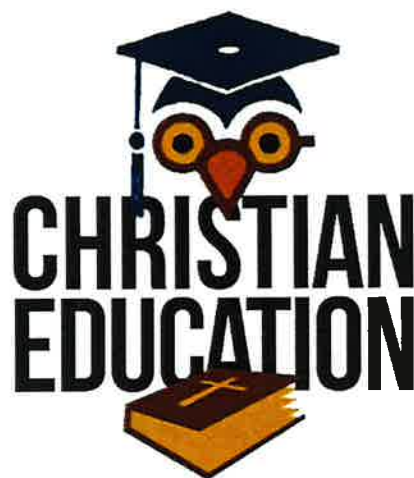
Isabella Helmig is a former Ridgeview student serving a 2-year mission trip in Ecuador. She is looking for sponsors. If anyone is looking for a Mathew 25 donation match this could be a great option. Please look for the **NEW Matthew 25 binder** on the information table in the fellowship hall.

LWR Quilting - We will be knotting quilts on Tuesday, September 22nd from 1-3:30 p.m. There are still a number of quilt top packages in the boxes in the fellowship hall. Please use ½" seams, pressed open or to one side.

Confirmation Class will begin Sunday, October 11 at 10:15 am

Letters will be mailed soon to parents of current and new Confirmation students. The class will consist of students who met last year and is now open to students in grade 6 through high school. They will meet every other week beginning October 11 at 10:15 am for approximately 90 minutes.

Our current roster of Confirmation students includes **Blake Harris, Ty Mosier, Holden Myers, Levi Wilson, Kenedee Casson**. If you are aware of someone not included at this time, please contact Pastor Michael, Erin Ifft, or Cindy Wilson as soon as possible. Catechism Books will be provided for each student.



Bible Study will begin Sunday, October 18 at 10:15 am

On the weeks that there is no Confirmation Class, an "Adult" Bible Study Class will meet to discuss topics that you help decide concerning our religion and our faith, beginning with the Holy Trinity. The class is open to anyone who wants to participate – not just "Adults" who would like to learn more about our faith and teachings through the Bible and Catechism. Pastor Michael will lead this class every other Sunday, beginning October 18.



Fall Potluck & Bonfire

Join us for an evening of fellowship filled with food, laughter, and the beauty of the season. Please bring a dish to pass, lawn chairs & roasting sticks. Meat, table service & s'more supplies will be provided.

Food – Music – Activities

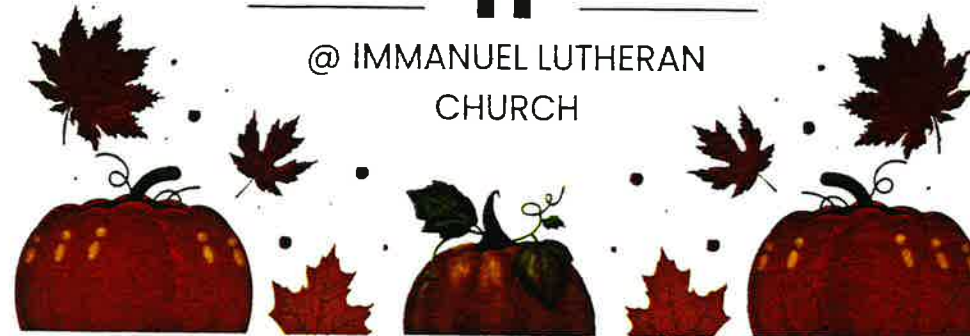
OCTOBER

SUNDAY

11

AT 5 : 00 PM

@ IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH



The church will provide hotdogs and buns.
Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass and your lawn chairs.
If you have any yard games you could provide or activities for the younger kids that would be appreciated also.

17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

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, 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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

The congregation may be seated

GATHERING SONG

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 685

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. Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, 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 Jonah 3:10 - 4:11 back of bulletin

After Jonah’s short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn’t I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

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

PSALM Psalm 145:1-8

I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.
One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.
I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.
They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.
They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.
The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

READING Philippians 1:21-30 back of bulletin

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God’s doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 20:1-16 back of bulletin
The Gospel is announced:
P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew ... **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**
Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.
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 ***O God of Mercy, God of Light*** ELW 714

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... **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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
P: Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.
After each petition: P: Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**
P: 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. **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: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**
P: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**
P: The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

HYMN ***Now Thank We All Our God*** ELW 840

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

POSTLUDE