

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Psalm 27**SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17—4:1**

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

^{4:1}Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³²He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"



How often
have I desired
to gather
your children
together
as a hen gathers her
brood under her wings

LUKE 13:34

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9.

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Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Church Secretary: Cindy Wilson 309-825-4099 ckwilson1983@gmail.com

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

Welcome to Worship at Immanuel - May God's grace nurture and strengthen you each day as we journey through our lives, seeking to grow in faith, hope and love.

Prayer before Worship: Lord, prepare our hearts for worship. Still our souls. Ground us in your grace. 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.

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, (offered on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month) the Eucharist, or Holy Communion is a means of God's grace whereby the real presence of Christ is offered. *If you would rather receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion, please come forward and cross your arms to your shoulders as indication of needing a blessing today. 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

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This Week at Immanuel 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship

Sunday, March 16, 2025

WORSHIP LEADER: PASTOR NATHAN FEIG

Lay Reader: Suzie Kukuck

Greeters: Kent & Rebecca Casson

Ushers/Acolytes: Rylee Kukuck, Acer K.

Communion: Rebecca Casson, Angie Kratochvil

Organist: Cindy Wilson

Sunday, March 23, 2025

WORSHIP LEADERS: PASTOR NATHAN FEIG

Lay Reader: Elton Mau

Greeters: Norman & Karen Harms

Ushers/Acolytes: Dan & Ty Harms

Organist: Kimberly Petersen

Please include the following people in our prayers:

Virginia Winterland, Gary Kessinger, Lucy McKinley, Cheryl Poppe, Robert Ruff, Jeannie Weber, Tim Dawson, Nancy Lasser, Bob & Judy Logan, Kevin and Chad Allen (family members of Von Becker), and Daviney Steidinger-Reynolds (a student at Ridgeview)

Announcements

Today we will include the Installation of Council members and Parish Education members in our service. We graciously thank them for their dedication to our congregation.

Sharing the duties of our services –

During the Annual Meeting, it was decided that serving communion requires a few extra helpers. Starting this week (and including Ash Wednesday) those who are assigned as Ushers are also asked to come forward to assist in the distribution of Holy Communion. We would also ask for a few more volunteers to be included as Communion Assistants and Ushers/Acolytes. There is a sheet on the counter at the kitchen for those who would be willing to help those already on the list. Thank you.

Please join us each Wednesday in Lent when we will offer Soup Suppers at 6:00 pm followed by discussions around the tables led by Pastor Nathan.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

What is it? What happens there? Why do Lutherans Practice this in Worship?

How do we take Holy Communion? All are great questions. Let's get together and talk about this. If you are new to being a Lutheran or Immanuel or are a seasoned attender and would like a little refresher on this topic, come join me in a three session faith building, discussion, and learning class.

If you are interested, we will meet on Sunday March 23, March 30, and April 6, 2025. Topics will include What is a Sacrament? What is the Passover? What is Holy Communion? We will meet right after worship and allow up to 1 hour per session, unless you have more questions. Let's learn together!

~ Pastor Nathan Feig

Lent 2025

Please join in worship and learning during the season of Lent when we will look at *Mission, Vision, and Purpose as we Practice being Communities of Disciples*

Join us each week for a discussion of several topics:
strategic priorities and goals:

March 19 - **CONNECTING**
(building and advancing relationship and connections)
Congregations/conferences/clusters/synod

March 26 - **CROSSING**
(renewed engagement of youth and young adults through
cross-generational faith formation)

April 2 – **COMMUNICATING**
(strengthen communication)

April 9 – **CELEBRATING**
(celebrating our shared service and mission)

Please invite your friends and neighbors to join you. Come for some supper and stay for some great discussion. May God bless your faith journey this Lent Season!

All Women of the ELCA are invited to the Spring Gathering on Saturday, April 5, 2025 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sibley, Illinois beginning at 9:00 am. The cost of \$10 includes lunch. A monetary offering will be divided between the Central Illinois Synod WELCA and Lutheran World Relief. A physical offering of personal care kits for LWR can also be brought. Reservations are requested by March 28 by calling or text 217-649-9974.

Second Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2025

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

PRELUDE / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gathering

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

**Congregation may remain seated or stand as you are able*

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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 forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate One,

C: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

ELW 596

*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.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Congregation may be seated.

Word

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

READING Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 back of bulletin

God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.

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

PSALM Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh, they, my foes
and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear. Though war
rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

**One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house
of the Lord all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to seek God in the temple.**

For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me
in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing;

I will sing and make music to the Lord.

Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

**My heart speaks your message – "Seek my face." Your face, O Lord,
I will seek.**

Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me
not away – you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

Though my father and my mother forsake me, the Lord will take me in.

Teach me your way, O Lord; lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

**Subject me not to the will of my foes, for they rise up against me,
false witnesses breathing violence.**

This I believe – that I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!

Wait for the Lord and be strong. Take heart and wait for the Lord.

READING Philippians 3:17 – 4:1 back of bulletin

Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW page 142

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

*GOSPEL READING

Luke 13:31-35

back of bulletin

The Gospel is announced:

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

Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.

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

Congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Nathan Feig

HYMN OF THE DAY

Thy Holy Wings

ELW 613

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND PARISH EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*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.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESION

P: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

After each petition: P: God in your mercy, **C: receive our prayer.**

P: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **C: Amen.**

WE GATHER OUR OFFERING

*OFFERING SONG *Please stand as you are able.*

ELW 182

Let the vineyards be fruitful Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now.

Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

*OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray... Gracious Provider,

C: you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen, amen, 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.
Congregation may be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All are invited to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's table. The inner circle of cups contain grape juice, the rest are wine. Please follow the directions of the ushers. If you would rather receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion, please come forward and cross your arms to your shoulders as indication of needing a blessing today. All are welcome at the Lord's table.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Lamb of God
Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound
Have No Fear, Little Flock

ELW, page 146

ELW 779

ELW 764

After all have returned to their places, please stand as you are able.

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

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: Generous Host,

C: you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending

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

BLESSING

P: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

***HYMN**

Lead Me, Guide Me

ELW 768

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM



The Rev. Dr. Greg G. Busboom
Bishop



Michael Horn
Director for Communications



The Rev. Amy Zietlow
Assistant to the Bishop for Transformational Leadership



Kim Zemaitis
Executive Administrative Assistant



Deacon Jason Fisher
Director for Evangelical Mission



Jennie Ruth
Financial Manager

CENTRAL/SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD MAP WITH CONFERENCE AND CONGREGATIONAL LOCATIONS

NORTHERN CONFERENCE
Rev. Mary Beenken, Dean

NORTHWEST CONFERENCE
Rev. Brett Gosteli, Dean

WEST CENTRAL CONFERENCE
Rev. Tom Krieger, Dean



NORTHEAST CONFERENCE
Rev. Pete Hinrich, Dean

EAST CENTRAL CONFERENCE
Rev. Julia Rademacher, Dean

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE
Rev. Marlin Otte, Dean



WE ARE THE CENTRAL/SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (ELCA).

AS PART OF CHRIST'S CHURCH IN CENTRAL/SOUTHERN ILLINOIS, WE ARE:



CHRIST-CENTERED

The life, death, and resurrection of Christ stands at the center of our identity and mission. As the Holy Scriptures bear witness to Christ, so we seek to bear witness to Christ crucified and risen in all that we say and do.
(See 1 Corinthians 1:18)



RELATIONALLY-ENRICHED

We are Christ's church together. We seek to support and encourage one another in the work of ministry, building partnerships around the one mission we share in Christ.
(See Ephesians 4:15-16)



ACTIVATED TO SERVE

As Christ first serves us, so we are sent into the world to serve others. We seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus doing God's work in the world, serving with our neighbors near and far. (See John 13:14)



GRACE-ROOTED

We are saved by grace through faith. Rooted in the Lutheran confessions, we seek to share the gift of God's love with all people.
(See Ephesians 2:8)



SPIRIT-LED

In baptism, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. As communities of disciples grounded in prayer, we seek to be led and guided by the Spirit for the sake of Christ's mission in the world. (See John 14:26)



Central/Southern
Illinois Synod, ELCA

"The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11-12).

OUR MISSION WHAT WE ARE CALLED TO DO.

**NURTURING COMMUNITIES OF DISCIPLES,
EQUIPPED FOR CHRIST'S MISSION.**

OUR PURPOSE WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO.

**THE CENTRAL/SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD EXISTS TO
SUPPORT, ENCOURAGE, AND EQUIP
COMMUNITIES OF DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST'S MISSION.**

OUR VISION WHAT WE ARE CALLED TO BECOME.

**VIBRANT COMMUNITIES OF FAITH, WITH HEALTHY LEADERS, LIVING A
TRANSFORMATIONAL WITNESS TO THE LOVE, JOY, AND HOPE OF THE GOSPEL,
INVITING OTHERS TO KNOW AND FOLLOW JESUS.**



TOP FIVE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND GOALS

- 1 CULTIVATING HEALTHY LEADERSHIP, BOTH ROSTERED AND LAY**
 - Creating a culture that supports healthy leaders
 - Providing lay leadership resource development and training
 - Actively recruiting new ministry leaders
- 2 BUILDING AND ADVANCING RELATIONSHIPS AND CONNECTIONS**
 - Growing engagement of conferences
 - Growing fellowship opportunities
 - Growing shared mission opportunities
- 3 RENEWED ENGAGEMENT OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS THROUGH CROSS-GENERATIONAL FAITH FORMATION**
 - Reactivating our Synod Youth Leadership Team
 - Intentional listening with youth and young adults across the synod
 - Strengthening existing youth ministries across the synod
- 4 STRENGTHENING COMMUNICATION**
 - Growing use and engagement of technology
 - Creating more direct channels of communication
 - Creating a culture of missional storytelling
- 5 CELEBRATING OUR SHARED SERVICE AND MISSION**
 - Celebrating new and existing mission and service happening across the synod
 - Incorporating a missional story and/or action in every synod gathering
 - Grounding all of our shared service and mission in our new mission statement

